

# Soundings

*"Men for Others, Delivering News to Others"*



*Spring 2013 Issue*

# Welcome

## Soundings Editorial Staff

**Jack O'Connell '13**

*Co-Editor-in-Chief*

**Tim Kiernan '14**

*Co-Editor-in-Chief*

**Frank Bramble**

*Moderator*

Dear Readers,

We hope you, in the thick of a busy spring schedule, can appreciate the change that surrounds us. With classes winding down and the weather getting warmer, there is no doubt that summer is on its way. However, it seems as though the later into the year it gets, the more hectic things become. Hopefully, this edition of Soundings can provide a means for escape and leisurely reflection.

Thanks and enjoy,

Soundings

Prep's Official School Newspaper

# Campus Life

## Prepsters and their Mothers Hit the Runway

Earlier this month, the Prep mothers got together for a decadent evening of cocktails, fine dining, and a lesson in fashion from...their sons? The Mother-Son Fashion Show was a hit yet again! Another particularly courageous group of Seniors got all gussied up to strut their stuff for their mothers on the runway. This week, by a twist of fate that can only be described as destiny, I was lucky enough to flag down one of the busiest students/leaders at Fairfield Prep, Timmy Peterson. Timmy, President of the student body, captain of the rugby team, star of the football squad, and scholarly student, will be going off to attend Wake Forest next year; but before he leaves, he decided to try his hand on the runway! Here's what Timmy had to say about his experience in the Fashion Show:



**TK:** Timmy, I understand you were a part of the Mother-Son Fashion Show a few weeks ago. How was it?

**TP:** It was a great experience! All of the mothers got to get together for some cocktails, dinner, and then the fashion show, which included some fellow seniors and myself. It was a fun night for all!

**TK:** That sounds like a blast, Timmy! What were some of the outfits the mothers decided to dress you guys up in? From what I've heard, they can be pretty silly!

**TP:** Oh, they were incredibly silly! Men's Warehouse and Island Outfitters provided the outfits. Some of them included stylish suiting, but the highlights of the night were the ever-so "preppy" Vineyard Vines attire.

**TK:** I can only imagine, Timmy! Were you nervous up there on the catwalk?

**TP:** At first I was, but once realizing that the room was filled with non-judgmental mothers, like mine, I became a lot more comfortable up there. Fashion week is my next stop! (Chuckle)

**TK:** Can I expect to see you in Vogue anytime soon?

**TP:** For now, I think I'll keep to hitting the books. Perhaps someday, though.

**TK:** Hitting the books in the classroom, and the bodies on the rugby pitch!

**TP:** Most certainly, pal! I'm not sure how much hitting I've been doing with my bum knee, but a man can dream, can't he?

**By Tim Kiernan**

# Campus Life

## The Sophomore Retreat

As a rising sophomore, I was often asked to look back to freshman year and recall my finest memory. Without a doubt, I would say, “Freshman Retreat.” Freshman Retreat was such a special time for me at the school that I had learned to call home. Not only was I able to bond with classmates that I had never been close to, but also form a brotherhood with every young man in my class. I wrote a reflection about the retreat as a freshman, and now I am here to continue writing about the Prep camaraderie that was brought forth on Sophomore Retreat.

On April 25, forty sophomores departed from Prep to go on a two-day retreat at Wisdom House in Litchfield. As I looked around the bus I noticed everyone looked a bit nervous, sort of off-kilter in a way. I was feeling the same uneasiness, although I knew at least ten of the Prepsters attending. Well, I’m glad to say that after two days of activities, food, prayer, and bonding, we all felt like we had known each other since day one at Prep. All the experiences we had throughout our time there helped create a solid group of brothers, who I believe will be friends for the rest of high school and beyond.

Once I left retreat, the world seemed so busy all of the sudden. Being on God’s time seems to pause your life. I got back to Prep and the halls seemed so different, so small. I had experienced something so incredible and immense, what was once normal had changed in my eyes. I looked on how fortunate I am with a new light. I understood that I was meant to go forth and lead as a man for others. I encourage all freshmen to go on this retreat and experience something different. Experience something so meaningful that you will wish you could go back and do it all over again.

**By Paul  
Cashman ‘15**



# Campus Life

## Appalachia

This June, one of the earliest opportunities for summer service at Prep will begin. More than thirty sophomores, along with members of the faculty, junior leaders, and one Prep graduate, will be traveling to both Fries and Barren Springs, Virginia for the annual Appalachia trip. While visiting, students will be working in the neighboring communities doing jobs such as painting houses or chopping and delivering firewood to residents. They will stay in very simple housings (an abandoned theater for one group) and will sleep on the floor in sleeping bags. The people of these two small towns have close to nothing compared to the lifestyles we are accustomed to yet still every year greet students with open arms and a big smile, not hesitating to treat their guests as if they were of their own family. The trip will serve to both strengthen our bond as a Prep brotherhood and strengthen our connection with God as Jesuit Men for Others. Wish us all luck this summer in Appalachia!

**By: Mike Demakos '15**





# Arts

## Iron Man 3

Iron Man 3 was a movie that I thought took what the Avengers did well, and did it even better. The third installation brings us a different Tony Stark. He's one hit hard by the alien invasion of New York and is now concerned less about himself and his ego, and more about the people he really cares about, while still being able to show off that classic Tony Stark vibe. We can see early on how he and his suits have evolved and grown from the first movie.

So when the Anti-American terrorist who calls himself the Mandarin comes along with a goal to destroy Tony and everything around him, he leaves the hero seemingly alone and helpless. The story moves smoothly from here, a basic "take everything back from the bad guy who took it" tale, much like the Dark Knight Rises. At first, it did encounter problems in that I never felt I understood the Mandarin. The movie failed to give a good enough exposition for the character and it seemed I knew nothing about him, that he was all too cheesy, and above all that he had absolutely no motive for any of his actions. This was resolved in a clever way, eventually, but I couldn't help but feel underwhelmed and disappointed through the rest of the movie on that shaky start with the villain.

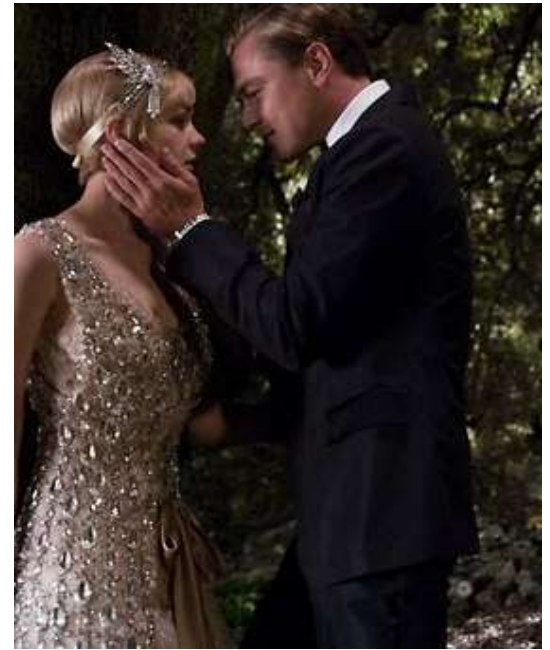
Bad stuff aside, the movie never failed to stop being entertaining. Tony's story to recover from his downfall plays out perfectly as he rebuilds himself and discovers more and more about what and who is after him. When the action stops, the humor picks up, and I never felt like the movie was trying to be so funny that it came to the point where it relied on it too much. The climax was by far the most impressive, with an end battle that I thought overshadowed that of the Avengers, any of Marvel's other tie in movies, and in fact any superhero movie I can remember ever seeing.



# Arts

## Was Gatsby Really that Great?

The cinematic adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel "The Great Gatsby" was recently released to theaters. To one who has both read the book and now watched the movie, it is obvious that the two are distinctly different. The storyline itself takes more different turns than F. Scott Fitzgerald's original work. These decisions, made by director Baz Luhrmann, created a story of lovers who meet while Gatsby (Leonardo DiCaprio) is in the military. After they are separated, Gatsby finds his lost love Daisy (Carey Mulligan), however she was already married. Gatsby's pursuit of Daisy's love is the main source of the plot throughout the movie. Leonardo DiCaprio portrays Gatsby, main character in the movie, and he embodies everything that Jay Gatsby is throughout the movie-mysterious, aloof, and shallow. Throughout the film, a modern soundtrack including songs by Kanye West, Jay-Z, Lana del Ray, and Beyonce that was infused with jazz helped create a modern vibe that held onto the culture of the roaring 1920s that it portrays. The film is visually dazzling with extravagant parties, expensive houses, and fascinating fireworks. It creates a mystique about the character Gatsby, and builds him up to be almost like a God. It possesses important lessons about the temporary nature of money and fame.



Although it is a different interpretation of the original novel, the movie embodies the themes of excess, wealth, and shallow morals that are permeated the novel. Even though "The Great Gatsby" was a visually entertaining movie, it lacked the depth and complexity of the plot that made its original novel so rich. "The Great Gatsby" was an above average film, without a doubt, but by no means was it a "movie for the ages".

**By Stephen Walsh '14**

# Sports

## **Baseball**

Prep baseball hasn't historically been a big team in the state tournament, but that could change this year. The Jesuit baseball team is having a tremendous season. They have key wins versus ND West Haven, West Haven, and Sheehan this year. When asked about the season, junior Austin Crane said, "We are 13-5 and are looking forward to being successful in the state tournament." The state tournament will be after the SCC tournament in which Crane said the team is hoping for the third or fourth seed. When asked what the team needs to do to improve their state tournament chances, Crane replied, "We just have to focus on getting better each day as a team." This could be a big year for Prep baseball and all students are encouraged to go out to Alumni Diamond and support the team in the upcoming games.

By Austin Cantwell

## **Lacrosse**

Fairfield Prep Lacrosse is looking to be a powerhouse in state once again, with an 8-4 record and great experience as they have already played against some of the most powerful programs in New Jersey and Massachusetts. Fairfield Prep Lacrosse is ranked second in the state and hopes to only improve as the year continues.

By Will Clyne

## **Rugby**

Fairfield Prep Rugby is hitting their stride right in the most important part of the season. This exact scenario played out last year in which Fairfield Prep lost to FRC only to defeat them in a rematch in the state semi final game. If all goes according to the captain's plan, this same situation will play out once again, only with a better result in the state final.

By Will Clyne



# Op-Ed

## Junior Prom

With Junior prom in the books, it is interesting to reflect. Before, the most stress-inducing factor was probably the quest for a date. "Who do I ask? How do I ask her?" echoed within Prep's walls. Once everyone had his date, the thoughts of where to go after the dance and how the actual night would play out gnawed at the minds and hearts of most who planned on attending.

I discussed the prom with some classmates and amassed some information regarding dominant feelings. Some saw it as a bleak night of obligation, while others saw it as a promising night, which could entertain even the wildest of whimsies. The levels of concern or excitement were usually directly correlated with the nature of the relationship with one's date. Some were taking a girlfriend or a girl they feel confident around on an intimate level. Most of the people who fit this category were looking forward to the dance. Others were taking friends. Granted, some were hoping to transcend the friendship and "get lucky." This is a bold and admirable decision. Many boys and girls try this. Some succeed, some fail. Another type of relationship with a date is the "reach." This may be a girl whom one has never really had a chance with. Maybe she's spent most of her time around older, stronger men and this is the time follow the heart. Phil Lynch '14, on this topic, said, "One of my foremost fears was that my date wouldn't find me physically adequate." Prom, for girls, according to Ludlowe Junior Molly Roach, is a big occasion because it is one, "society has built up to be a highlight of junior year." When asked why prom is a big deal for boys, Darien High Junior Izzy Sellhausen commented on the hope-inspiring aspect of it all, saying, "Prom is a night of rationalization for a lot of girls. The tensions are higher." Many boys see it as an opportunity to start anew.

In my opinion, dances are bit more about frenzy than the actual time spent there. Worth going? Sure. Either way, I'd say it's an experience that you should define, not an experience that should define you. Whether you had a better night than you ever could have dreamed of or your date spent the night in the embrace of another boy, it's only one night.

**By Jack O'Connell '14**

# Op-Ed

## **Wisdom from Prep Senior, Peter Riley**

- 1.) Forget all of the rumors you hear about seniors hazing freshmen in the hallways. We may appear intimidating, but are really quite approachable and friendly.
- 2.) Do something you have never done before and take a risk. Prep is a fresh start, so why not try something new? Try not to leave Prep at 2:30; get involved with clubs, plays, and sport teams.
- 3.) Try not to get in trouble. Mr. Brennan and Mr. Magdon will help you out if you have a problem, so it's nice to be on their good side.
- 4.) Show the utmost respect for your teachers, and they will show you the same respect in class. They only want to help you! A good relationship with your teachers is imperative at Prep, and will often go a long way.
- 5.) Prep is a lot of work, so stay on top of your grades. A good GPA freshman year can really help you out when your classes get harder, in your junior and senior years.
- 6.) However, there is always time for fun. Go out and cheer in the bomb squad, watch one of the plays performed at the Quick Center, go to a Prep orchestra concert, or instead of watching be a part of a team, play, or orchestra!
- 7.) Mixers are a fun time. Many a classy lady attend, so try to be as classy as possible, and who knows what could happen? Girls always like a gentleman.
- 8.) Treat your shadows with respect, and show them a good time. Remember you were in their shoes once too.
- 9.) Prep goes by way too fast; in fact, I wonder where the time has gone. Savor and cherish every moment here. Never take a day for granted.
- 10.) Find what you love to do at Prep, whether that be a club, sport, music or theater, and stick with it all four years. Trust me when I tell you, you will meet your best and closest friends in doing so, and will be greatly impacted by the level of commitment and determination you have shown sticking with it through your Prep career. However, you need to do this from day 1, so go out and find what you love! You are going to have an amazing four years here.

Wishing you all the best.

Peter Riley

Class of 2013



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