One morning in Baltimore, Tracy Turnblad wakes up to a normal day like no other. She goes about her daily routine; getting ready for school, breaking into spontaneous song, getting detention and watching the Corny Collins show. This is where her tale begins.

Through hard work, sweat and tears, we arrived at a successful production of a Broadway masterpiece. From the audition and casting back in February until the dates of the production in the middle of May, we lived and breathed song and dance. Mr. Thomas O’Sullivan, our director, led us through this process. Amateurs and veterans alike, we all realized that we shared talents in many different ways. We became a family, making new friends and venturing further into the world of theater.

Though the show was female empowered, outnumbering the male cast at least four-to-one, Mitchell Marrero (Link), Joshua Southwell & Jhan Caro (Seaweed), Nikolas Mercado (Edna), Lyle Gonzalez (Wilbur), Noel Martinez (Mr. Spritzer), Larry Cruz (Principal), Emmanuel Rivera (Big Dollhouse Guard), Michael Nieves (News Reporter), Austin Harris (Dynamite), Eric Medina-Rivera (Ensemble), Nicholas Moreno (Ensemble), Nicholas Vasquez (Ensemble) and myself, Kevin Narine (Mr. Pinky) held our own pretty well.

We became working parts of the machines were Hairspray. We had a lot of help with synchronizing and harmonizing the vocals from our musicals directors Mack and Steven. The most endearing part of the show was probably the dancing. Mr. O’Sullivan who choreographed the ENTIRE show made sure we had the choreography down pat before the show. He made sure we looked good and everything was always together. I don’t think any of us can honestly say that we were unsure of ourselves for even a minute because of his guidance.

The tremendous effort put in by the stage crew and production team also has to be applauded. The lights and sound were perfect as well as the seamless scene changes and fluid movement of the show from blackout to blackout. The entire stage crew consisted of Stanley Delacruz as the stage manager along with countless other Mount students who all played a vital role in the success of the production. Everyone who had some role to play in this had a tremendous impact in a various amount of ways. Whether it be center stage or behind the scenes, we all came together to tell the story of a bunch of
revolutionary kids in Baltimore.

All of the girls involved in this production also need to be applauded. Angela Blandino & Angela Eckhoff (Tracy Turnblad), Angela Fragale & Analise Rios (Penny), Brianne Tracy & Krista Febles (Amber), Ened Patrick & Rosangelica Lopez (Ms. Motormouth Maybelle), Brittney Rodriguez (Little Inez), Brianna Ragucci (Velma), Elizabeth Wacca (Prudy), and all of the other girls made the production into the success that it was.

The controversial story of racial prejudice in the 1960s gave us all a new view into what life may have been like in those days and may give us an appreciation for the way they are now. I think we all left this production with something new learned or maybe even just happy memories. From the first curtain to the last bow we spritzed and ratted, sprayed, and combed. Just remember that You Can’t Stop the Beat!
I Hope This Article Isn’t Too Long For You...Pause

By: Vidal Woods ‘11

A few years ago, a new trend began to develop at the Mount: students began to feel the need to blurt out the words ‘pause’ or ‘ayo’ in response to various phrases that a person may say if the phrase could be interpreted as ‘sounding gay.’ The trend was entertaining and it soon spread like wildfire. Today, it is nearly impossible to get through half of the day without hearing ‘pause’ somewhere in the distance.

The trend, however, has gone far beyond being a meaningless joke. Students in today’s classrooms can not even ask to borrow a pencil without hearing someone cry “Ayo!!” Apparently, even borrowing someone else’s writing utensil can be seen as a homosexual act. This trend has left a stigma on our student body. These trigger words have struck the students with an immense bolt of paranoia. Since it is so easy for one to fall into the trap of being hit with a ‘pause’ or an ‘ayo,’ the simple dialogue that one used to be able to enjoy amongst friends is a thing of the past. Mount students in today’s hallways are so deathly afraid of ‘sounding gay’ that it is quite difficult to have a serious conversation with most of them.

Now, if someone told you that you could think about anything you wanted to think about EXCEPT for elephants, what is the only thing that is on your mind right now? It would be safe to assume that that one thing is elephants.

Now, the whole point of saying ‘pause’ is to let everyone know that you are NOT trying to say something in a way that ‘sounds gay.’ But the average person will not think that you are trying to ‘sound gay’ in the first place. It is you who puts the idea of a gay connotation into their head the moment that you say ‘pause,’ only displaying your obsession with not wanting to ‘sound gay’ and – inevitably – the fact that you are thinking about things that Ultimately, ‘pause’ and ‘ayo’ are silly terms. They were harmless fun at first, but now it just sounds silly.

Texting While Driving

By: Roman Garcia ‘12

Most people who drive —especially younger drivers— are guilty of this, but texting while driving is a serious issue which is beginning to take lives here in the united states. While on the road, trying to have a conversation with somebody and control the vehicle is very risky. This can lead to an accident injuring and or killing many innocent people.

A recent study by Virginia tech driving institute revealed that those who text while driving are 23% more likely to get into an accident opposed to those that don’t. If a text is that important that you must reply to it, a suggestion would be to pull over, reply to it, and then get back on the road. Although this may be time consuming, you wouldn’t be putting the lives of others nor yourself in danger.
We Are the Champions!

By: Justin Bodden ‘12

In a very exciting and well-played game the Mount St. Michael Academy Lacrosse team beat Msgr. Farrell High School from Staten Island to win the CHSAA city championship. The final score of 6 to 5 fails to capture the riveting play by both teams, and the hustle of the Mount players.

Congratulations to the team for their outstanding achievement. Practice and pure hunger for a Championship were the ingredients that fueled this turnaround season for the Mount team, according to Midfielder Timothy McDermott. The Mountaineers, through sheer hard work, changed from a sub-500 team, winning less than 50% of their games in 2010, to a 15-2 season this year.

"All the extra work people put in not only during practice, but also before and after, speaks to a dedication that cannot be matched." Said junior goalie Arben Gashi.

During the regular season in April and May, the Mount finished with strong victories against Farrell and Saint Dom’s, while Senior Captain Pat McEnaney scored 4 goals to carry the Mountaineers to victory over St. Mary’s in a thrilling overtime contest.

"Most games really haven’t been that easy, but we show a lot of heart and dedication and we are never scared to rise up to the challenge." Said McDermott who has scored 7 goals so far this year.

The team is led by coach Joseph Capalbo who for his efforts of turning the team around won CHSAA coach of the year; McEnaney who leads the team with 28 goals; Frank Madaloni; Dave Lulgjuraj, who was recently named Academic All-American and Junior Matt Visintin who leads the team with 12 assists.

The Mount’s one goal this year was winning it all. "We are championship hungry and did not accept anything less." Said Tim McDerrett.

Brother Steve catches a few zzz’s on the way back from the Saint Patrick’s Day Parade. Do you think we wore him out this year? Here’s to a restful—and FUN—summer for all of us! See you in September! the Tower Staff.
“I Don’t Speak German but I Can [be a motorbike] if You’d Like”

—Scheiße—Lady GaGa

By: Kevin Narine ’12

It’s finally here. Both Rolling Stone and USA both agree that the most anticipated album of the year has arrived; Born This Way. Did it live up to the hype? Was the year and a half long wait worth it? Does the final product meet the expectations of the Little Monsters around the world. You bet it does! Selling over 1.1 million copies in its first week alone, Born This Way is the fastest selling album of 2011. It was certified platinum by the RIAA after only one week of sales and it sits atop the Billboard 200 at number 1. The title track set the preface for the entire work which has been called “the anthem of our generation” by many critics. From sledge hammering dance beats to rugged guitar rifts and heavy metal encores, this album has it all.

GaGa says that the album is designed to “take you on a journey” starting with the avant-garde gothic pop song “Marry the Night” and ending with the 80s rock and jazz infused “The Edge of Glory.” What’s in between? There’s the new anthem about every civil rights movement known to man these days, “Born This Way”, as well as the classic GaGa sound in songs like “Scheiße”, “Government Hooker”, “Fashion of His Love” (Special Edition Only), “Judas”, and the necessary power-rock ballad “You & I.” We also hear new sounds that we’ve never heard expelled from the blonde pop icon such as “Highway Unicorn (Road to Love)”, “Heavy Metal Lover”, “Electric Chapel”, and “Americano.” These songs venture into the new genre than can only be defined as pseudo-pop.

It has elements of metal, rock, jazz, and even some americana, and mariachi influences. All in all, Born This Way turned out to be a masterpiece of pop music amongst the generic auto-tuned world we live in today. My personal favorite would have to be the song “Hair.” It’s a pop-jazz infusion with rather cheesey lyrics. They still come across in an epic way with a blaring jazz horn, a happy piano, and a hammering dance beat. I recommend you buy this album not only to experience some-
The Tower

Homelessness

By: Chris Delgado ’12

We see them everywhere. On the subway, sitting on the corner, in an alley. All are begging for money so they can eat. Just because we see them all over the place doesn’t mean that we can “see” them as they really are.

We don’t look at them and see a human being inside of them. We don’t see the emotions and thoughts that are running through their heads. We don’t see a person with a heart, a person equal to you. In fact, most people see them as inferior; the trash that Social Darwinism, that is, “natural selection”, has pushed to the bottom of the social hierarchy. They are the homeless, and they are invisible.

It is a shame, a travesty, that “normal” Americans, the “average Joe” so to speak, have stopped listening to that voice in their head, their conscience, that tells them the difference between right and wrong.

There was a time when people cared about each other more, and because of that there were fewer people classified as homeless. Back then, people would invite the homeless into their home and treat them like family; serving them dinner, conversing with them, maybe even offering them to stay over for a night. These times are long gone, and a lot of people are living on the streets. Homeless people are often stigmatized. These stereotypes include that the homeless are mentally ill, that they are sots (alcoholics), that they are drug addicts. While there are a number of homeless people who fit these stereotypes (not to mention the millions of Americans who fit this picture AND do have homes), the majority of homeless people are “normal”, albeit they don’t live anywhere. Most people who end up homeless usually have been laid off, are unable to find employment, or are simply down on their luck. Because the homeless do not own homes (or have jobs), they rely on the petty change that good-hearted people happen to give them.

This handout is used to buy food. Some homeless, however, have families that are homeless with them. There are CHILDREN who are homeless who desperately need sustenance. Have you ever seen a homeless child? Well, they DO exist and are in fact very real. About 15,000 homeless children die everyday around the world due to starvation. Do the math. That is over five million children a year starving to death. The government is not doing anything to fix this dilemma. Homeless people rely solely on the few who feel that it is their duty to help them. The homeless are in the hands of good people who are virtuous enough to be saints. It is truly a righteous act for a person to give some time to help these poor souls. They are in God’s hands, or rather the hands of human angels who provide love and extend life for society’s downtrodden invisible people. Do someone you don’t know a favor, and God will bless you for helping the forgotten, the invisible.