

# The Brighton Star

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## WANTED

(PREFERABLY ALIVE)

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COLUMNISTS, CARTOONISTS,  
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THE BRIGHTON STAR

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# Where We Are Headed...

## According to the Results of the MA Special Election

By Anna Goodman,  
*Political Analyst*



The tiny state of Massachusetts has always played a vital role in America's heritage. From pilgrims to the Boston Tea Party, Massachusetts has demanded notice time and time again throughout U.S. history. A few weeks ago, the small-but-mighty state once again commanded the attention of the entire country when a unique United States Senate race was held between Scott Brown (R) and Martha Coakley (D) for the purpose of finding a replacement for the late Senator Ted Kennedy. When Scott Brown became the first Republican to win a Senate seat in the deep blue state in over thirty years, it set in motion a chain of widely varied speculations about the special election's implications for the future—both during the current administration (since Brown's victory ended the filibuster proof majority of Democrats in Congress) in addition to the potential ramifications for the 2010 and 2012 elections.

Scott Brown's win was an extremely decisive victory for Republicans, and it has the potential to affect the performance of concerned Democrats both in Congress and the White House throughout the remainder of their terms. The fact that Brown could pull off such a win—especially in a highly partisan state like Massachusetts—should stand as a warning to Democrats. Unless they shape up rapidly, their days as the majority party are numbered. Through polls, the tea party movement, and other methods, Americans have attempted to send a message to Washington about their opposition to some of the Democrats main legislative efforts, such as the trillion-dollar healthcare reform bill. Although Democrats seemed to ignore the voice of the people originally, they are now being forced to listen because they are no longer filibuster proof in Congress and their seats are at risk in the coming elections. Over the upcoming months, expect to see Democrats reducing their pressure on more radical bills. At least until the 2010 elections pass, they will more than likely be trying to play it safe and regain some of the more moderate voters who have swung towards Republicans during the Obama administration. The Republican victory of Brown has already begun to affect the plans of the Obama White House and the democratic Congress. From this point on, they will face more opposition and must pick their battles carefully if they intended to maintain their majority in 2010.

2010. Every newspaper and talk show seems to be buzzing with speculations and rumors about this year's

elections. Why? Well, there are two reasons actually. First of all, this election has the potential to swing the balance of Congress to the Republicans, and secondly, everyone is looking at this election as an indicator of how the 2012 presidential race might play out. With Brown's win, it seems public leaning is definitely towards Republicans. U.S. citizens are rightfully concerned and wary of the Democrats' far left agenda and are tending to side with the relatively more conservative Republican Party. If Republican's wrest control of the House and/or Senate during this years' races, it may signal the end of Obama's ability to force through legislation. Also, many would see it as an indicator that a Republican would most likely reoccupy the White House in 2012. Considering all these factors, it is not hard to see why 2010 elections have become much-discussed topics, especially in light of the results of the Massachusetts special election.

When you extend the potential implications of Brown's election to 2012, it is easy to see why Democrats are getting a little nervous. Brown won in Massachusetts, which is an extremely liberal state, and this being the case, the chances of more bipartisan states supporting the Republican candidate for 2012 seem greatly increased. Adding to the likelihood of Obama's removal from office in the next presidential race is the fact that his approval ratings continue to drop rapidly. His job approval rating from the Gallup pole for February 8-10, 2009, was 66% while exactly one year later it has dropped to a mere 50%. Combining all these factors, then, it seems that Brown's win may be a fair indication of the direction of 2012 elections as well.

Who would have thought that the one senatorial race in a tiny New England state could have such nationwide implications? Brown's victory is already forcing Democrats to consider new strategies and more bipartisan projects, especially in light of the 2010 elections. In fact, the Democrats' monopoly on the government is greatly threatened because, if the Massachusetts race was any indication, the number of Republican Congressmen will skyrocket this year. Looking farther out, though, Brown's win could indicate the return of Americans to more Conservative politics and the election of a Republican president in 2012. The Senatorial race between Brown and Coakley is one for the books, not only because of the race itself, but because of its long term implications.▲



## Ask Annie...

Anna Goodman  
Columnist

Dear Annie,

Help! I have so much to do and seem to be behind in everything! Do you have any tips that might help me prioritize and make better choices?

Sincerely,  
*Going Crazy!*

A: Dear *Going Crazy*,

It sounds like you have a problem that is fairly common among students today. There are so many fabulous opportunities out there that it can be extremely hard to choose between them. If you are really serious about reducing your load and getting a handle on your crazy schedule, there is a formula called the **Three R's** that will help you do this, and no, I'm not talking about reading, writing, and arithmetic. The first '**R**' stands for review. In the midst of your busy schedule, try to find a half hour to an hour block to sit down and write out a schedule of all your activities. Having a master list of all your obligations can really help you evaluate your commitments more effectively. This will come in really handy during the next '**R**' step, which is rank. Look over all the activities that you have on your schedule and start two lists. First, make one list with your top 5 priorities (i.e. what is more important to you? Dance or sports? Choir or theater?). As you do this, keep in mind that you need to be realistic. For example, although you may dislike doing schoolwork, it is an important part of your life, and it needs to be on your top five list because you do spend a significant amount of time doing schoolwork each day. When you have completed that list, look again at your schedule. Make another top five list of the five activities on your timetable that consume the most of your time. Do the two lists line up? What is on your time consumer list that is not on your priority list? It is time to compare and starting cutting out. This brings us to our third and final '**R**': reduce. Anything on your

*Ask Annie continued on page 4...*

# BRIGHTLY LIT(erature)

Spotlighting Student Writers & Literary Critics

## Nightmare Academy: The Veritas Project

### A Book Review

Timothy Meigs  
Columnist



What would you do if you were walking in a meadow and suddenly began floating up into the sky? What if the sky suddenly and inexplicably became an underground hallway, and as you walked down that hallway and pass through a doorway you suddenly found yourself in the middle of a rainforest? You look behind you, but there is no doorway or hallway to be seen. When you turn back around, you see a desert, with no evidence that a rainforest ever existed there.

What would you do if you couldn't trust anything? What if the very things you take for granted—gravity, sunshine, the laws of physics, the solidity of planet earth, morals, right, wrong—what if these things suddenly could not be trusted?

When a boy goes missing, family and authorities grow increasingly worried for his well-being. But when he mysteriously reappears some time later with his mind effectively blank, puzzling doctors, family and authorities become even more alarmed. Then, after he is suspiciously murdered, the authorities take action.

Enter the Springfield family. After investigating the series of incidents at Rogers High School in Hangman's Curse, Nate, Sarah, and their twins Elijah and Elisha are sent to investigate Knight-Moore Academy to learn what it was that happened to the amnesiac boy.

In Nightmare Academy, sequel to The Hangman's Curse, Frank Peretti paints a world where good and evil are merely fictional concepts, right and wrong do not exist, there are no absolutes, and nothing— and no one— can be trusted. A world where there are no rules, there is nothing to govern, and everyone decides for themselves what is "right" and "wrong". A world that shows what it would be like if the present generation had its way and absolutes could be put away in historical textbooks and works of fiction. A world that may not be as far away as we think.

Welcome to Nightmare Academy.▲

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Reporters: Anna Goodman, Katie Wells



Ask Annie...continued

list of most time-consuming activities that is not on your list of high priorities should be the first to go. Depending on how crazed your schedule really is, this might be more than enough to cut your work back to a manageable load. If not, start cutting any activities that did not make your high priorities list. Everyone can handle a different amount of activity, and you will have to decide for yourself when you have accomplished your goal of getting your schedule back under control. I hope this helps you in your pursuit of better time management!

Now, go get organized!

Sincerely,  
Annie

Would you like to see your question in an upcoming issue of the Brighton Star?? Submit your thoughts and questions to Ask Annie @askannieatbrighton@gmail.com▲

# TEACHER FEATURE

## ★ Daniel Schwabauer ★

Katie Wells  
Reporter

Mr. Schwabauer, (pronounced shoe-WA-bow-er) also known as Mr. S, is one of the new teachers that came to Brighton this past year, but his class is already one of the most popular ones of all. I asked around to get some kid opinions. "One of the best things about Mr. S is he really gets you into a story when he's reading it aloud in class. I enjoy that so much!" says Sarah Wacker. "Mr. S is brilliant." - Jacob Wildman. "My favorite thing about Mr. S is he is easy to work with/for. If you don't understand something, he's happy to help you understand." Now you can see what a great teacher he is! ☺ Here are some of the questions I asked him:

1. Name? *Dan Mark S.*
2. What inspired you to write Runt the Brave? *My daughter.*
3. Where is the farthest you have been from home? *Guatemala*
4. What's the scariest thing that's ever happened to you? *When I was a kid I broke a bone in my face.*
5. How long have you and Mrs. S been married? *17 years.*
6. Who were the first people to ever take the OYAN course? *A class of 8 people, Lydia DeWolf was one of them.*
7. Pets? *Two Dogs, a collie that looks like lassie and a Yorkshire terrier who I take on walks and is pregnant.*
8. What are you going to do with the puppies? *We will probably sell them.*
9. How did you come to Brighton? *Lydia DeWolf's mom recommended me.*
10. What is your favorite food? *Mexican, I'm allergic to wheat and Mexican gives me lots of choices. (He also mentioned a theory that guys that are allergic to wheat tend to look better)*
11. What was your first impression of your Brighton class? *Let me out a here! =)*
12. What's something interesting about yourself that no one knows? *I used to take Karate but then I broke my back (I'm assuming in a NOT fatal way because he can walk) and my doctor told me that if I wanted to walk as an old man then I would have to quit. So I walked up to a different hospital where my dad was staying and I was feeling sorry for myself when I saw this lady with mangled arms and I realized no matter what happened, there is ALWAYS someone worse off than you.*
13. What is your favorite music? *Rich Mullens*
14. When did you get saved? *In college I was reading the Bible and I realized that if there was one God to believe in than it was Jesus.*
15. In the story of life, who was your mentor? *My Karate teacher, who first told me about Jesus. And my pastor of the church I go to.*
16. Describe what you looked like in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade? *Lots of hair, plaid shirts, and corduroy bellbottoms.*
17. If you could change your name what would you change it to? *Stone Bailey, (and He started off on this pirate pirate accent.)*
18. Pick one word that you think describes you? *Irritating. (But I asked Mrs. S and she said Mr. S is thoughtful)*
19. What inspired you to be a writer? *I loved to read stories and I couldn't be a Jet fighter Pilot.*

So Mr. S is a great teacher and I name him epic person of the month. ☺