

## The pros and cons of taking college courses

*Students may take more course offerings yet are not eligible for ARHS credit*

By Liana Burgos

At ARHS many students with senior option choose to take college classes at UMass or Amherst College. Students are able to earn college credits and understand the academic level that colleges expect. College courses can also strengthen a college application

However, some may argue that the classes are pointless. The classes do not amount to credits at ARHS and are not averaged into a student's GPA. The classes don't show up on transcripts when applying to colleges as an extracurricular. The classes can also add more stress and work in an already stressful senior year, and without scholarships or financial aid to cover the fees, some of these classes can be expen-

sive.

Surya Murty, '10, is currently taking a computer science class at Amherst College and a multivariable calculus class at UMass. Murty

classes. They just have more depth and variety."

According to Murty, there is a lot less work but, "a lot of studying for exams which are 60%-80% of your grade

quite easy to get free tuition for these classes. Amherst College has a program with ARHS allowing high school students to take free college classes. "By just talking to Ms. Gromacki you can get into the classes for free," said Murty.

UMass free enrollment is a little bit harder, "You have to apply through dual enrollment," he said.

There are a variety of interesting classes offered at the two colleges such as, "Race, Gender and Class," "20<sup>th</sup> Century Culture and Politics" as well as a variety of math classes and "Photography II," a class our school no longer offers.

Going through the process of signing up for the college classes takes a lot of initiative and independence from the students.

*"Colleges favor the students who go above and beyond by taking college classes."*

*-Surya Murty*

is convinced of the benefits. "Colleges favor the students who go above and beyond by taking college classes." What about the extra work added onto an ARHS students load? Don't worry, "They are not too much harder than high school

in these classes."

With all these mandatory study halls at ARHS, Murty said, "These classes are a lot better and less of a waste of time than staying in a room for an hour."

Since tuition is an issue for many families, it is

## An ATV is better than a TV

By John Ferola

600 pounds of gut-wrenching machine tear through a rough Leverett trail as the guttural bark of a Can-Am Renegade reaches a rumbling crescendo and fades into the distance. Some might find piloting 800 cc's of All-Terrain Vehicle a frightening prospect, but for Nic Perreault, '10, there's nothing better. "It's one of the best feelings in the world, riding quads."

Not all forest-goers share Perreaults enthusiasm for ATVs and most trails in the valley are closed to quads. If riders such as Perreaults choose to travel on the trails, they face possible persecution by forest rangers. The rules are simple-if the sign says no ATVs, then no ATVs are allowed on the trail. This puts riders in a difficult situation. "Finding good legal spots to ride is hard," said Taylor Parker, '10, an avid power-sports enthusiast.

Hikers and trail-goers complain about the loud noises that unrestricted ATV exhaust systems emit, and the effect they have on trails. ATV Riders complain that they have very limited options as to where they can enjoy their hobby. "I have just as much right to ride on a trail as a hiker does to hike. If I told hikers that they couldn't hike on trails because I ride my ATVs on them, they'd be angry too," said Perreault.

Many ATV riders also enjoy other outdoor activities, and can be seen hiking the same trails they ride on. Parker aptly sums up the opinion of countless Western Mass riders, "The bottom line is we're going to ride whether or not it's legal, so why not change the laws so we can share the woods, there's plenty of space," he said.

## Vaccine now available to everyone who wants one

*Stick it in your arm or up your nose: the choice is yours*

By Harmony Waters

In October 2009, a pandemic-like sickness spread through the walls of ARMS and ARHS, leading to the absence of 124 high schoolers and 123 middle schoolers. Furthermore, flu season had not even begun.

As an outcome of the early arrival of H1N1, also known as the swine flu, citizens of Amherst and surrounding towns have been extra cautious this winter. Several free walk-in clinics have been held. "The clinics are fast and efficient," said Isabella Gutierrez, '10, who went to a free clinic on December 12 at Wildwood Elementary School. Employees were trying to move people along quickly. "It was difficult because although they were

friendly, they also wanted to get their job done rapidly and efficiently," said Gutierrez. "It

to fill out. It is there so that the medics can know some of your medical background.

*"The inhaled version is a tube that they inject into your nose. It's easier than getting a shot, also less nerve wracking,"*

*-Isabella Gutierrez*

was complicated because they had a huge loop of rooms and hallways to go through before getting to the room with vaccines."

The only preparation needed before getting the vaccine is to fill out a form. "It is easy

They also want to know if you are pregnant or sick, and your type of medical insurance, if you have any," said Gutierrez.

"I intern at Wildwood everyday where there are kids who may be sick, I go to the high school, and work with

college students. Sick is not something I want to expose or be exposed to, caution is key," said Gutierrez.

The clinic that Wildwood held was full of children and parents, followed by only a few elderly people because many of the elderly received the first round of care. Gutierrez went with her father. He got the shot, while she got inhaled version. "The inhaled version is a tube that they inject into your nose. It's easier than getting a shot, also less nerve wracking," Gutierrez said.

The clinics are provided by the University Health Services at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. For more information, feel free to contact them.