

# The Observer

## Weekly

Cloverleaf Inside and Out

March 3, 2011

## Borders Hits Bankruptcy; Many Stores to Close

*By Megan Savick*

In recent news, the second-largest bookstore chain in the country, Borders Group Inc., has filed for bankruptcy. Many stores across the country are already closing due to Borders' current financial state.

Borders has, at this time, filed for bankruptcy protection. In addition, Borders is set out to close about one-third of its bookstores after many years of its withering sales.

Due to Borders' current financial crisis, an estimated 6,000 jobs will be affected, and the company has the option of closing up to 275 of the bookstores across the country.

The chapter 11 filing that Borders completed will give the bookstore chain a chance to fix its finances in an attempt to overcome the high-rise popularity of buying books online.

President of Borders, Mike Edward, said that Borders filed for chapter 11 because it "provides the best route to have the opportunity to reorganize and, in turn, reposition the Company to be successful for the long-term."

Borders still faces questions about its long-term survival in relation with its rival, Barnes and Noble Inc. Consumers have grown accustomed to buying books online or downloading books to electronic devices. This has been a downfall to Borders,



The average Borders like many going through bankruptcy. *Photo courtesy of Wikipedia Commons*

since some people would rather buy books online than enter the bookstore and buy them there.

Edward also explained that the bookstore "does not have the capital resources it needs to be a viable competitor." He also explained how the bankruptcy Borders is facing was important so that it can restructure its debt and still continue to operate given the current circumstances.

Barnes and Noble, the largest bookstore chain in the United States, has been successful with its Nook e-reader and online store. However, Borders has not been up to its wanted standards. The company had made a strategic error back in 2001, when the bookstore handed off its online business to Amazon. Borders.com was re-

launched in 2008, but it was too little too late as online sales barely made 2.3 percent in revenue.

Borders' sales declined by double-digit percentage rates between 2009 and 2010. During the first nine months of 2010, sales were only estimated at \$1.54 billion.

Edward also shared information on the many bookstores that are closing nationwide.

"Borders will continue to maintain its strong national presence," Edward stated. "[Borders] will be closing underperforming stores within our network over the next several weeks."

To find out if your local Borders store has been affected, you can visit Borders.com to find listings, along with other Borders stores near you.

## Why is Justin Bieber so Popular?

By *Haley Ploucha*

If you haven't heard of Justin Bieber, you are obviously living under a rock, or you have serious pop culture issues. With his new documentary out in theaters and several billboard hit songs, the 16-year-old from Canada is definitely becoming a household name.

"He's so sexy!" junior Heather Buckwald exclaimed.

Hoads of pre-teens and high school students cannot get enough of this sensation. From his popular songs to his arguably more popular hair, the "Bieber Fever" is spreading. However, there seems to be a great divide between those infected with the fever and those who apparently got a vaccine at the door.

"He looks like he's 12 and sings like a girl," says Cyanne Horner.

To the loyal Bieber followers, Justin is cute, funny, talented, and his smile is sure to gasping for breath. But what makes him so special? Before his big-time career, Justin was

lucky enough to capture the attention of some very powerful people, including Usher, in the music business due to his YouTube videos he posted when he was only 12 years old.

"I think he's like Taylor Swift," says junior Annie Maddamma. "He got famous way too fast."

Since most of Bieber's fans are teens, changing trends and raging hormones could be considered why any teen would latch onto the image of a young, man who has the ability to sing his little heart out about how there will be no more lonely girls in the world. In his own way, Justin is speaking in a way that teenaged girls can relate to, "eenie-meenie-miney-moe lovers."

Speaking of his fan base, these girls are very, well, devoted to say the very least. They will defend him to the end, plaster his face up on their bedroom walls and wait in ridiculously long lines just to hear him sing live.

"I'm in love," junior Shelby Dearth

said. "My room is wall-to-wall posters of his sexy, beautiful self. Just call me Mrs. JB."

Social media has also been a very powerful tool for the "Biebs" to further propel him into fame. From sending out amateur videos of himself singing popular hits from Chris Brown, Ne-Yo, and Usher to his biggest social media tool: Twitter. By tweeting, Bieber keeps all of his die-hard fans up-to-date and makes them believe that they have a connection with the superstar. Also, by "retweeting" messages from his loyal fans, he proves to be a down-to-earth teenaged boy, except for the fact he has millions of fans, endless screams from girls, and a haircut that is becoming more popular for boys.

So it is his hair, voice, celebrity endorsements, or the impact of social media? Well, whether you like him or not, Justin Bieber is going to be entertaining the world for many years to come.

## Captain America: The First Avenger

By *Marc Frary*

Finally, one of America's true patriotic soldiers, Captain America, comes to theaters to have his shot at being a box office hit. *Captain America: The First Avenger* hits theaters July 22, 2011. The first trailer for this movie was played during the Super Bowl, and over a million people saw it. So many people are looking forward to see if the movie will be a boost or bust, for the *Marvel* movie reputation.

Chris Evan is taking on the role of the most patriotic comic book character of all time, Captain America. Evans has proven that he can take on the role of hero pretty well when he played the Human Torch in the *Fantastic Four* movies. Does he the

skills to play such a serious role though?

The movie will be directed by Joe Johnston. Evans isn't the only celebrity to make an appearance in this movie. Tommy Lee Jones and Samuel L. Jackson are also showing up. It's not clear yet what parts they will play, but as always, they will give a fantastic performance.

The movie takes place during the World War II era. Steve Rogers (Evans) is ready to go fight for his country. The only problem is that his application is rejected by the military. Rogers is too fragile and weak from his sickness. After his rejection, he is offered the chance to be a part of an experiment called Operation: Rebirth.

He decides that he is going to participate, and then he is given something called the super soldier serum. Now, he is fit and healthy, the serum improves practically everything about him. Rogers is given a new suit that will go along with his new found strength. The traditional red, white, and blue costume we all know. Now, he is waging a war against evil with his indestructible shield.

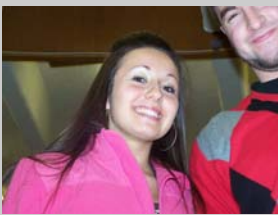
Rogers has become Captain America, a superhero dedicated to defending America, and all its ideals. But when a hero is born, a villain will stand up to challenge them. The Red Skull steps up with a plan to attack America and all its citizens. It's up to Captain America to stop the Red Skull and save America.

## Quiz & Quotes

How are you feeling about final exams?



**Courtney Andel (9):**  
“Ok ‘shrug.’”



**Sam Harris (11):**  
“They are horrible!”



**Rachel Molnar (11):**  
“I enjoy bettering myself through the process of hard work.”



**Anthony Sims (12):**  
“We have finals?”

## Girls’ Take Their Shot at Top-Seeded Westlake

*By Mackenzie Greer and Adrea Baughman*

On Saturday, the Cloverleaf girls’ basketball team defeated North Ridgeville at Medina High School, 60-38, to earn them a spot in the District Semifinals.

The girls now (13-9) will face top-seeded Westlake (19-3). They will face off tonight at 6 p.m. with a trip to the District Finals on the line.

“It is definitely a game we can win,” stated head coach John Carmigiano. “If our girls play with defensive intensity, and can score some easy baskets in transition, I think our chances of winning will get a lot better.”

Westlake’s superstar Ohio State recruit, Kalpana Beach, leads the team in points and rebounds. In their last playoff game, Beach had a game-high of 16 points and a season-high of 15 rebounds against Highland.

The Colts are paying special attention to the 6’1” center, and are going to use a 2-1-2 defense to control her in the paint and keep her off the boards.

Keeping Beach from putting out too much damage will be the key to their success in advancing in the tournament.

“If we play hard and shut down Beach, I think we will be able to pull out a win. We just have to be mentally focused and physi-

cally ready,” said junior guard Haley Ploucha.

The Colts are now 5-1 at Medina the past two seasons, and are playing off the fans’ support and each other. Unfortunately, not being able to play her senior year, Ashley Albright will be able to return to the court if the girls get a few more victories. This has pumped the team up and has made them want a win that much more.

“I have no doubt that we will do great and bring the pressure. When it comes to tournament play, we give it our all,” said Albright. “I know we will win and I am looking forward to getting back on the court in the next few games with my teammates.”

The girls’ basketball team has never hung a banner in the gym. The goal for the team is to make history for Cloverleaf, and do what has never been accomplished before, by winning Districts.

“What is going to drive us is the fact of hanging a banner on the wall, and we are not going to fall short in Districts,” said junior post Katie Simpson.

With a lot on the line for the Colts, they will have to bring all they’ve got and leave it all on the floor to defeat a solid Westlake team and advance.

## Cloverleaf Lip Dub Sequel

*By Miggy Smalls and Joe Ro Fo Sho*

The Cloverleaf Lip Dub in the fall of 2010 brought the “old time rock and roll” out of the students at Cloverleaf. Now, they’re “making their dreams come true.”

On March 4, the day of early release after the exams, Mrs. Jarvis’s Digital Art class will be outdoing themselves and putting together another lip dub. They are calling for all volunteers. Anyone who is interested should see Mrs. Jarvis in Room 918 for details.

Many types of volunteers will be needed. Volunteers are needed to sing, and if you don’t like singing, people are needed to help set up props. Also, people will be needed to stand in the background and go crazy.

The previous lip dub, the first done at Cloverleaf High School, was not the most organized or well put together lip dub.

“Even though it was a little messy, the lip dub was very impressive,” said junior Jake Saffle.

The lip dub was a little unorganized; people were out of sink and out of place. Some people were unexcited and made the video look bad and dull. This lip dub will change that feeling of unorganized and underrated.

“This will be the best lip dub ever created in the world,” said Jarvis.

The organization for this lip dub has involved all the students from the digital art class. They have found a path for the song, they have been brainstorming costumes all trimester, and they are all excited and can’t wait for this lip dub.

“This will be the most fun I’ve had all tri,” said sophomore J.D. Schleich. “I can’t wait to see how it turns out.”

# Lady Gaga: A Look at How She Got Here

By Marisa Romanchik and Haley Ploucha

The famous 24-year-old Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta, a singer-song writer better known as Lady Gaga, is making it big in show business. She enrolled at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, but soon later signed with Streamline Records; an imprint of Interscope Records.

In her time with Interscope Records, she worked as a songwriter and captured singer Akon's attention. In 2008, her first debut studio album was released, *Fame*. This album had many successfully singles that include, "Just Dance" and "Poker Face." In six different countries, these two popular songs remained on the top of the charts.

"I think some of her songs are good, but yet they repeat," said junior Lauren Dull.

While achieving worldwide success, Lady Gaga produced the album *The Fame Monster*. This album had many other popular songs such as "Bad Romance" and "Telephone."

Fans not only talk about Lady Gaga's music, but her sense of style. Her style was inspired by David Bowie and Queen, as well as pop artist Madonna and Michael Jackson. She has many achievements within the music industry, including 5 Grammy Awards, amongst 12 nominations and 2 Guinness World Records.

"I give her credit for being true to herself, but I definitely think she is a weirdo," stated junior Zack Rollins.

Gaga was born and raised in New York. By age four, she learned how to play piano, by age 13 she wrote her first piano ballad, and she began performing at open mike at 14. By 17, she got early admission to New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. At the school, she studied music and improving her song writing skills and constructing her own music. By her second semester of

sophomore year, she withdrew from the school and left her entire family to focus on her musical career.

By age 19, she produced her first song with RedOne and called it "Boys, Boys, Boys." The song is a mash up inspired by Motley Crue's, "Girls, Girls, Girls," and AC/DC's "TNT."

Rob Fusari, who helped her write some of her earlier songs, helped her come up with her stage name. At first, Fusari and Stefani had trouble coming up with a good name.

"Every day, when Stef came to the studio, instead of saying hello, I would start singing 'Radio Ga Ga.' That was her entrance song. [Lady Gaga] was actually a glitch; I typed 'Radio Ga Ga' in a text and it did an autocorrect so somehow 'Radio' got changed to 'Lady.' She texted me back, 'That's it.' After that day, she was Lady Gaga. She's like, 'Don't ever call me Stefani again.'" Rob Fusari had explained.

Back in Lady Gaga's earlier days, she was said to be a "refugee from *Jersey Shore*," said the *New York Post*. "By having big black hair, heavy eye make-up, and tight, revealing clothes." She once had brunette hair, but died it to bleach blonde because she would often get mistaken for Amy Winehouse.

Now Gaga's second studio album with the song, *Born This Way*, will be released on May 23, 2011. The



Lady Gaga performing in a plastic bubble outfit. Photo courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

song is already number one in seven other countries and sold more than one-million digital copies in five days, making it the fastest selling song in digital history.

"I love her!" stated Ashley Zisko. "I love her outfits. It's cool that she has enough courage to wear those crazy outfits. It really shows her inner style."

Lady Gaga is not only known for her hit songs, but her outrageous outfits. Lady Gaga has inspired many of her fans. She makes good choices, promotes good ideas, and supports many positive things.

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