

# FROM | THE | FIELD

news, notes, and information

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## Row, Row Your Boat

BY | ABBY LUBY

PUSH. PULL. GLIDE. Propel that sleek, trim-lined racing boat over the rush of water, work those oars, gain that speed. Some 1,400 high-school students will be pushing hard on Sunday, May 3, when The Gunnery School in Washington holds the 2009 Founder's Day crew regatta on Lake Waramaug.

The annual event also marks the 50th anniversary of the Gunnery's spring regatta founded in 1959 by coach Rod Beebe, whose passion for the highly competitive rowing sport led to the race's popularity and is today's second largest regatta for high-school students in the northeast. Beebe, who died in 1997 and coached at The Gunnery for 40 years, was awarded a sterling silver trophy in 1959 for the boys' team win of Silver Team Points.

Only three schools raced in 1959: Gunnery, Choate, and Haverford, rowing a three-quarter mile course. Today 28 schools send coed teens to oar 1,500 meters in record time. "The rowing has built itself on tradition," says Rob Reinhardt, Gunnery crew coach for the last 13 years. Reinhardt says school records show cup winnings since 1959. "Everyone wants to know how we did 20 years ago. Kids are inspired by the old pictures."



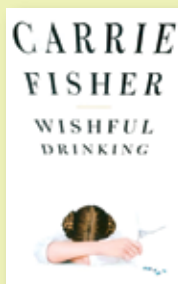
THE GUNNERY REGATTA  
TURNS 50

The 48-foot boats, or shells, hold five students. Boys and girls compete separately. The rower's feet are locked in position and the seats move back and forth in tandem with rowing. Reinhardt says the full body motion makes it feel like the boat is moving underneath the rower. "It's an accessible sport for all ages and anybody can do it." But training for the race is rigorous, says Gunnery student Andrew Caroe, who has raced in the regatta since he was a freshman with his twin brother Timothy. Now as juniors, they train for the better part of the year for the regatta. "When you're rowing, everyone has to be in sync," says Andrew. "When the boat moves fast, it can tilt and slow you down. You have to be in complete harmony."

The full-day regatta has pre-races, called heats, in the morning and the championship races in the afternoon. The flurry of activity is bolstered by students in bright wetsuits buzzing around tents sprawled along the lake's edge. Andrew's mother, Kay Caroe, says it's an exciting day for the 4,000 spectators. "Some kids come off the lake winning, some losing. It's very emotional."

Plans honoring the 50th anniversary include a commemorative program, as well as T-Shirts and oars brandishing names of all the schools that have participated over the years.

## [ BOOKS ]



### WISHFUL DRINKING

BY CARRIE FISHER

Imagine having Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher as your parents and Elizabeth Taylor as your first stepmother. The possibilities of growing up normal could be challenging and Carrie Fisher confirms that in her latest book. *Wishful Drinking* is the book form of her successful one-woman show. Reading the book is like having her in the room with you. Intimate, hilarious, sobering, Carrie is brutally honest about herself. She had a friend die in her bed, her daughter's father is gay, she's been addicted to every imaginable substance, has survived electroshock therapy, and admits she is bipolar. But her intelligence and humor have carried her through to sobriety and a reasonably sane life today. Unlike most celebrities, Carrie can actually write and is the author of several successful novels and screenplays.

### MADNESS UNDER THE ROYAL PALMS

BY LAURENCE LEAMER

Thanks to Bernard Madoff, Palm Beach will never be the same. But it is still a culture unto itself. Laurence Leamer, the bestselling author with a knack for getting the inside story on his elusive subjects, takes us behind the intimidating gates of Palm Beach's finest homes and shows us what really goes on. Leamer had the cooperation of many wealthy residents, and as a resident himself, gained access unavailable to most writers. The rich are indeed different and since its creation, Palm Beach has been a fantasyland inhabited by the wealthiest people. Leamer explores the battles between new and old money, the influx of a younger crowd, the religious prejudices, and the determination of a dying breed to hold on to its image. The best fiction writer couldn't come up with more fascinating and unbelievable characters.



### ROOMS TO INSPIRE IN THE COUNTRY

BY ANNIE KELLY WITH PHOTOGRAPHS BY TIM STREET-PORTER

You may not want to replicate Tony Duquette's extravagant pagoda for your house, but you can be inspired by the colors and attention to detail. Kelly and Street-Porter cover a panoply of interiors, from New York Victorian to Palm Springs modernism. The book includes some of the field's most talented designers and reveals how they get their ideas. The book also covers the garden and pool areas: important parts of country living. With beautiful photography and literate text, *Rooms to Inspire* deserves to be read and studied and not left in the coffee table pile. —Joseph Montebello

