

Arlingtonian

NEWSMAGAZINE



**The new epidemic:
UAHS students face
the consequences
of "sexting"**



5



7

SPORTS

FEATURE

Creative ways to raise funds for college profiled

Students exceed expectations for Senior Thesis project

Columnist decries elimination of steroid prevention program

Girls swimming and diving team secure fifth state championship in a row

CONTENTS

ARLINGTONIAN
APRIL 2, 2009
VOLUME 72, ISSUE 7

4

6

8

12

14

18



8

NEWS

Student Venture group travels to Russia

Scotland exchange program deemed a success



13

ARTS

Columnist deems *Watchmen* an excellent book-to-film adaptation

Recent indie films reviewed

Changes to talent show welcomed

VOICE

Eight in Eight: Who would be your ideal prom date and why?

Columnist describes an unorthodox method for finding love



15

FOCUS

"Sexting" epidemic has unseen consequences

Editorial: Cyberbullying is damaging to school environment



18

COVER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY HANNAH BILLS | CONTENTS PHOTOS/ GRAPHICS (FROM TOP) BY HANNAH BILLS, EMILY BRAATEN, HANNAH BILLS, DAN COMER, FOCUS FEATURES, ALDO CORONA | COVER AND CONTENTS DESIGN BY LARA BONNER, RATHI RAMASAMY

“Sexting is just not classy”



Part of the reason that this issue is so widespread is due to the lack of awareness about the consequences. For example, most do not know that possession of inappropriate pictures of a minor, even those received by text, can result in a fifth-degree felony.

In the digital age, technology has become a buffer that allows us to communicate things that we might never say to someone face-to-face. We must remember that we are still accountable for the things we send in a text message, perhaps even more so than in a normal conversation. A single picture may not seem like a big deal, but if it gets into the wrong hands it could damage a person's reputation beyond repair. A text message is a concrete form of communication that can easily be linked back to the sender, so it is important to think about how the things we say reflect on us before we say them.

When considering the effect sexting can have on your reputation and the legal trouble which could result, it becomes clear that it is not worth it. Most importantly, sexting is just not classy. Sending someone inappropriate pictures of yourself will only reflect badly on you and cause rumors to spread. Make sure your defining high school moment is not your registration as a sex offender.

Sometimes the worst situations can have the most innocent of beginnings. A message meant just for a friend can turn into a school-wide announcement. A picture sent to your significant other can suddenly escalate into becoming the latest scandal. A video meant to be private can suddenly end up on YouTube for the whole world to see.

Although these are all worst-case scenarios, they are a lot more common than you would think—even in our own school. This issue we chose to focus on the surprising pervasiveness of “sexting,” and the severe ramifications that can result from it.

Rathhi Ramasamy

Rathhi Ramasamy, Editor in Chief

EDITORIAL POLICY

Arlingtonian is a student-produced newsmagazine published approximately every four weeks by Journalism III-A students at Upper Arlington High School. The publication has been established as a public forum for student expression and for the discussion of issues of concern to its audience. It will not be reviewed or restrained by school officials prior to publication or distribution.

Since *Arlingtonian* is a forum for student expression, the editorial board, which consists of the staff's top editors, will determine the content of the newsmagazine and all unsigned editorials; therefore, material may not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of Upper Arlington school officials.

Arlingtonian welcomes letters to the editor, guest columns and news releases from faculty, administrators, community residents, students and the general public. The *Arlingtonian* editorial board reserves the right to withhold a letter or column and return it for more information if it determines the piece

contains items of unprotected speech as defined by this policy.

As a public forum, all letters and columns meeting the above criteria will be posted in full on the *Arlingtonian* web site at www.arlingtonian.com for a minimum of four weeks. *Arlingtonian* and its staff will strive to publish only legally protected speech following the legal definitions for libel, obscenity and invasion of privacy.

The staff will also refrain from printing stories that create a material disruption of school activities. Because the *Arlingtonian* staff will determine content of the publication, it will therefore also take complete legal and financial responsibility for what is printed. *Arlingtonian* will not avoid publishing a story solely on the basis of possible dissent or controversy.

The *Arlingtonian* staff raises and pays all printing and production costs through advertising sales, subscription sales and other fundraisers. The editor or co-editors shall interpret and enforce this editorial policy.

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Rathhi Ramasamy
MANAGING EDITOR
Lara Bonner
COPY EDITOR
Amanda Jones

Writing Staff

NEWS EDITOR
Corey McMahon
FEATURE EDITOR
Leah Johnston
FOCUS EDITORS
Jessica Banchevsky
Sarah Watson
SPORTS EDITOR
Lindsay Gardner
ARTS EDITOR
Kim Weisenberger
VOICE EDITOR
Jamie Arkin
STAFF WRITERS
Mitch Lex
Kristy Helscel

Design Staff

DESIGN EDITOR
Kerry Sullivan
GRAPHICS EDITOR
Aldo Corona
GRAPHICS REPORTER
Brandon Sega
PHOTO EDITOR
Susan Dappen
PHOTOGRAPHERS
Hannah Bills
Andrew Hedden
Gunnar Samuelson

Business Staff

BUSINESS MANAGER
Darcy Fishback
ADS EDITOR
Katie Hyre
PRODUCTION MANAGER
Megan Stucko

Additional Contributors

ADVISER
Carol Hemmerly
PRINTER
Beckman XMO
COURIER
Jake Borelli

Have something to say?
Email us at arlingtonians@yahoo.com
or visit www.arlingtonian.com

Russia trip results in personal, spiritual growth

BY JESSICA BANCHEFSKY

Most students head south for spring break, hoping to escape Ohio's frigid winter temperatures in exchange for sunshine and tans. However, a small group of students involved in Student Venture, the high school ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ International, instead embarked on a journey across the globe to the bitterly cold St. Petersburg, Russia from March 20 to April 4 in order to interact with Russian students, share their faith and experience a new culture.

Senior Daniel Stands made the decision to spend his spring break in Russia months ago. He said he wanted to share his life with the Russian students.

"I [hoped] to share the purpose in life that I found through Christ, as well as simply interact with the students," he said.

Chelsea Shera, a Student Venture volunteer who went to Russia for the fifth time, said she returned because of the relationships she developed on past trips.

"I [worked] with some of the same Russian students that I [had] already built and maintained relationships with," she said. "I [was] excited to meet new students and see old friends."

In order to take part in the trip to Russia, a lot of preparation had to take place. According to the Student Venture International Mission Projects office, students read materials which helped prepare them physically, mentally and practically for the experience, as well as developing personalized classroom talks to give at various outreach opportunities.

Stands said he spent seven weeks training and preparing for the trip.

"We [met] with our team from Ohio three-to-four hours a week, and [kept] in contact throughout the week," he said. "We [worked] on techniques for sharing our faith with students, relating to their lives and understanding their culture."

Shera said one of the biggest challenges in the preparation process was raising the funds to go on the trip. In order to prepare for the two-week trip, students had to raise \$3,500 with the help of family and friends.

"We asked people to partner with us in our ministry to Russian students," she said. "[This meant] sending us money in hopes that the Lord continues to use us to build relationships with the Russian students as well as giving them the opportunity to hear what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus."

She also said there were an incredible number of opportunities available to the students going on the trip.

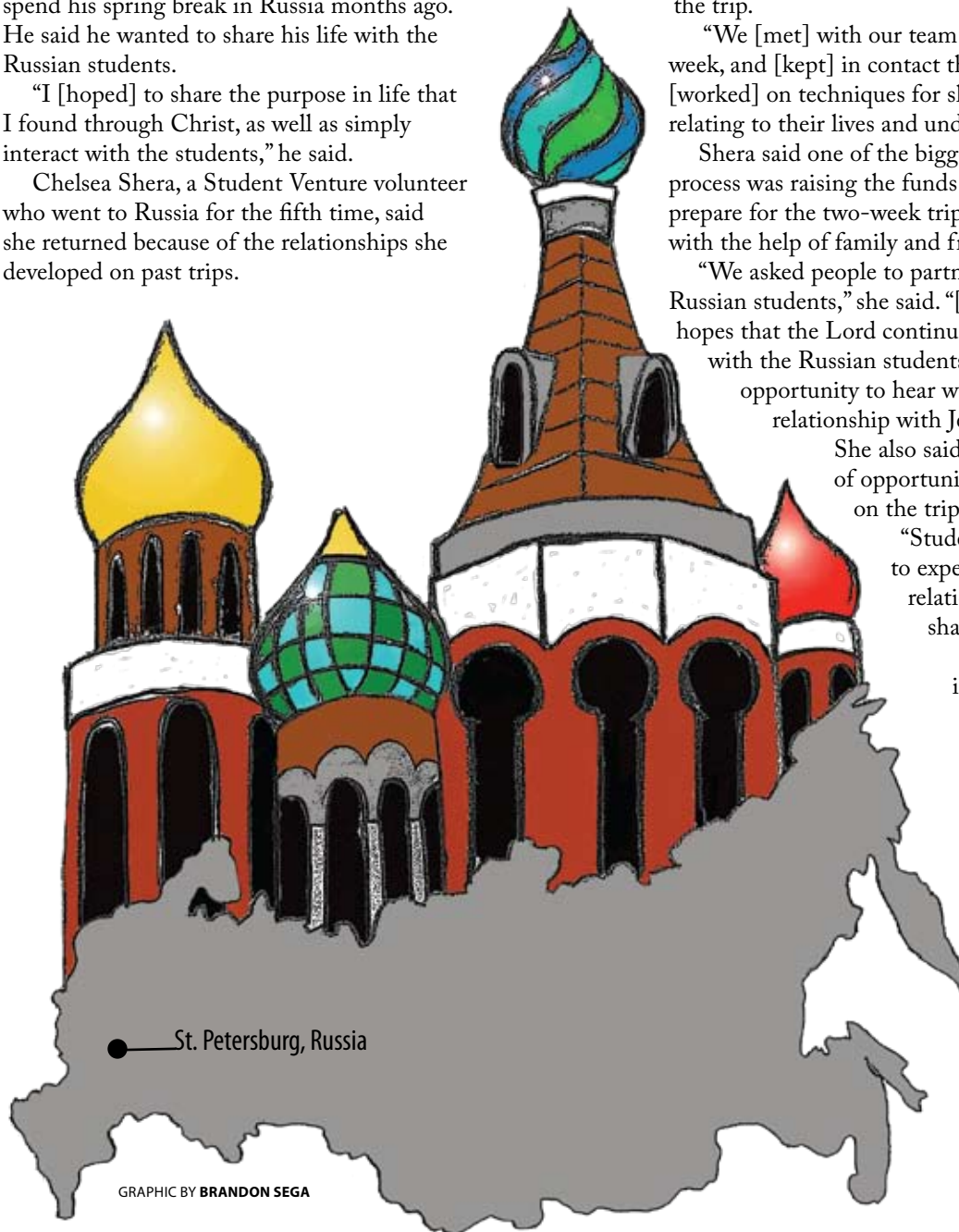
"Students [were] given the opportunity to experience a culture, build a relationship with Russian students and share their faith," she said.

Overall, Stands said the international project opened his eyes to a new culture and will definitely continue to benefit him in the future.

"I hoped to develop a better understanding of how to reach different groups of people," he said. "[The Russia trip was] also a good experience because [ministry] is what I want to do with my life."

Shera had similar expectations for the trip and said she wanted to gain a clearer understanding of her faith while in Russia.

"I hoped my own relationship with the Lord would grow," she said. ♦





PHOTOS BY HANNAH BILLS
GRAPHIC BY BRANDON SEGA

Students gain cultural perspective through exchange trip to Scotland

BY JAMIE ARKIN

On Monday, Feb. 16, senior Jen Marchese woke up at 7:30 a.m., had breakfast and got ready for school, just like most UA students do every morning. There were only two differences in her normal routine: one, she was taking the bus to school, and two, that day she would be attending school in Scotland.

Marchese was one of 15 students who participated in this year's student exchange trip to St. Andrews, Scotland. The Scottish students came to UA for a week in early October, and the UA students traveled to Scotland from Feb. 14 through Feb. 22.

Marchese said she heard about the trip through students who had participated in the exchange the previous year and decided that it was something that she was interested in doing.

"I had been to Europe [one other time]," she said. "But I thought this would be more of an immersion into their culture instead of just going there and touring."

Senior Akanksha Jayanthi, another student who went on the exchange, said she loves to travel and hoped to use this trip as a way to experience a new place.

"This was another opportunity for me to see more of the world," Jayanthi said. "It was a real inside look into the way of life in Scotland."

Government teacher Kelly Scott decided to chaperone the trip for the first time this year after taking a trip to the British Isles over the summer. Scott said she was interested in returning to the Isles to explore the many cultural differences of Scotland more closely.

"I was very interested in exploring the many differences and similarities between the high school experiences," she said.

Marchese, who spent a day at the high school with her host student, said these differences were the most profound for her.

"[The biggest difference I saw while we were there] was going to their school for a day," Marchese said. "Noticing all the differences in their school structure was interesting. They go to class when they feel they need to, and have only a final exam grade. It was a nice preview of the independence we will have next year in college."

Scott said the main differences she noticed while on the trip were related to the lifestyle.

"They don't try to cram as much into a day as we do," Scott said. "For the most part, it is a slower pace of life."

Jayanthi agreed. She thought differences in lifestyle were fairly evident, she said.

"Everyone is a lot more open with each other there," she said.

It was the similarities, however, and not the differences, that really stuck with Jayanthi.

"A teenager is a teenager across the world," she said. "Hanging out is universal, and it was really cool to see them hang out with each other and spend time together just like we do."

While the students on the trip noticed many similarities between the cultures, the cultural differences posed some challenges.

Marchese said she felt the biggest difficulty in adjusting to the other culture when attempting to catch on to their dialect.

"Catching on to their dialect was one of the hardest parts. Once you got it though, it really stuck with you. I still find myself using parts of their dialect when I talk."

Apart from dialect, another issue in adjusting to the culture was the food. Jayanthi, a vegetarian, said she had difficulty finding things to eat.

"They eat a lot of meat there," she said. "We rarely ate out, so it was difficult for me to find options."

Overall, Marchese said she would definitely recommend the trip to someone looking for an exchange to a different culture.

"It was easily one of the best trips of my life," she said. "I was really connected to the culture, especially the teenage culture, and I really felt like I was accepted and welcomed as a young person there. I would definitely recommend this trip to anyone." ♦

Pictured above and below are an array of photos senior Hannah Bills took while in Scotland with the exchange program. The students taking part in the program visited many historic buildings and landmarks.



THE FEATURE PAGE

Funding for the future

BY LEAH JOHNSTON

With the rising costs of college tuition and the economic recession, many students are left scrambling to pay for their education. There are a variety of traditional ways to help pay for college; some students apply for scholarships while others get a summer job to help cut the costs of tuition. However, many other unique ways to help reduce the costs of tuition are out there.



GRAPHIC BY ALDO CORONA

GradeFund.com

GradeFund.com is a unique website that aides students hoping to pay off college tuition in a creative way—rewarding good grades with money. Using the website, students create a profile and find sponsors to donate money for their grades. The students choose the amount for each grade with the minimum being \$5. Although this seems like a small amount, with enough sponsors and good grades students can raise a significant amount of money for tuition. The organization then works with the student to verify transcripts and find more sponsors. Once this is done, the organization sends the money to the desired college allowing students to significantly lower their loans.

The internet serves as a powerful tool of communication. Over the past few years, there has been a rise of popularity in blogging. Blogging provides individuals a way to share their views and get paid for it. Popular bloggers can earn money from sponsors who advertise on their site. Celebrity blogger Perez Hilton is an example of how one blog tracking celebrities became an internet sensation. The blog is so popular that it has become Hilton's full-time job, earning him revenue from the various advertisers on the site. While blogging may seem an unusual pastime, it provides a platform for self-expression while also earning money for college tuition.

Blogging

GradFree.com

High school graduation is a noteworthy accomplishment which inevitably results in gifts from family and friends. However, instead of the usual presents the website GradFree.com offers an alternative. The website allows any college student, grad student or individual with a student loan to be paid off to register for free and let family and friends donate money for tuition. The website works similarly to a wedding registry, touts itself as completely secure and has helped thousands of students pay off their college tuition.

A PICTURE'S WORTH 1,000 WORDS...



Junior Tom McGeoch engages the crowd while playing with his band Pax Romana. The band performed for Madison Ryan's senior thesis "Rock Chari" concert.

PHOTO COURTESY MARGARET WUNDERLICH

Q: So Maggie, what are you most looking forward to for the end of the year?

MAGGIE: Well, I can't wait to finally be a senior and having all the perks of being the oldest in the school.

Q: Anything in particular about senior year?

MAGGIE: I mostly just want a parking spot and open study hall. Also, I like being the oldest and knowing the ropes.

Q: That sounds pretty nice. Do you have any ideas for a senior prank?

MAGGIE: Well, I think it would be really funny if all the seniors with parking spots parked on the street one day and left the underclassmen with nowhere to park.

Q: That is quite devious, but also brilliant. Well, it has been nice chatting with you.

MAGGIE: Stay sassy.

Q: Err, thanks. See ya around, Maggie.



JUNIOR
MAGGIE MINOR

Q & A

Seniors excel at annual project

BY KIM WEISENBERGER

Senior Emily Braaten always believed in going the extra mile. For her senior thesis, she went the extra 26.2; Braaten trained for and ran the Mercedes Marathon in Birmingham, AL in mid-February.

Braaten said she decided to run the marathon because she has participated in both cross country and track during the school year, and she thought it would be a good experience for her.

"I'm the kind of person who is trying to do a little bit more," Braaten said. "I was really drawn to running a marathon because it's a feat that none of my peers have accomplished. I don't [personally] know any other 17-year-olds who [have participated in a marathon.]"

Braaten said she was one of the youngest people participating in the event. To prepare, Braaten trained diligently, running almost every day for close to four months.

"Between the very end of October and mid-February I logged over 400 miles [running,]" Braaten said.

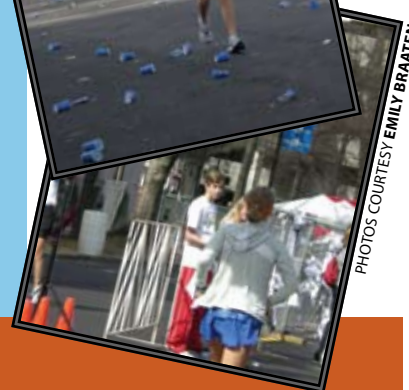
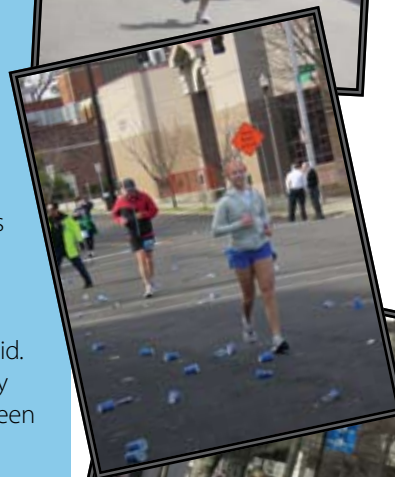
Along with training physically, Braaten also received advice from her father, family friends and peers. After all of her training, Braaten drove to Birmingham with her mother and sister for the Feb. 15 Mercedes Marathon. Braaten said the first 16 miles of the race were easy, but the last few miles were a challenge.

"The last mile was the longest mile of my life," Braaten said. "It was unbelievably painful and seemed to go on forever."

However, Braaten said the struggle was worth the sense of accomplishment she felt at the end of the race.

"Right after I crossed [the finish line] I wanted to break down in tears," Braaten said. "It took me a while to believe I had actually done it, because it was everything I had been working for [over] the past three months."

As for later plans in running, Braaten said she will not be doing a full marathon anytime soon, but she plans to run a half-marathon in the near future. ♦



PHOTOS COURTESY EMILY BRAATEN

Senior Ben Williams saw an opportunity for his senior thesis through a camera lens. An avid fan of the film industry, Williams decided to write a 120-page screenplay and create a trailer for the film he wrote.

Williams said he began collecting ideas for his screenplay during his sophomore year and originally planned to write a short 20-page script. However, after viewing "The Corner," a short film done by 2002 UA graduate Daniel Erdman, Williams said he was inspired to stretch himself.

"I watched it and felt I could do more," Williams said. "I thought, 'Why just stop at 20 pages?'"

Williams said he began writing the full-length script during his junior year and finished the first copy in July of 2008. He researched writing screenplays and drew advice from what he found in books, he said.

"I read two books on screenplay writing," Williams said. "I researched a lot about how

to write them in the correct format, and that's how mine is written."

The final product is a story revolving around a family man who loses his job and is forced to find different means of support, Williams said.

"The man decides to go into business selling drugs with his brother," Williams said. "A deal goes bad and the man ends up owing a drug dealer a large sum of money... so he decides to rob a bank."

Upon completing the writing portion of his project, Williams said he will begin to film certain scenes using his peers as actors to construct the trailer for his film.

As for future plans, Williams plans to pursue film studies in college, working towards a career in film production, sound mixing or sound editing. Williams said his experiences this year will help him in his quest for a job later in life.

"I learned a lot of things from [writing the screenplay,]" Williams said. "I feel like I can piece together a story now." ♦



PHOTOS COURTESY BEN WILLIAMS

Teens face the permanent legal and emotional consequences of “sexting”

MESSAGE

BY SARAH WATSON AND KRISTY HELSCEL

Emily* casually flips open her phone, expecting a text to continue a semi-interesting conversation. Instead, her eyes meet with the screen to reveal a flamboyantly naked picture of a girl she sees every day. Due to the fact that this picture has been circulating throughout the school, Emily is disgusted but not really surprised. It was bound to get to her eventually. She returns to her homework after tucking away her cell phone. Little does she know, through simply possessing pictures of a naked minor Emily is now chargeable with a fifth degree felony under Ohio code 2907.322.

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS

Among teenagers, “sexting”—the sending, receiving or forwarding of nude pictures via cell phone—is a new craze that can lead to severe consequences.

Across the country, similar occurrences of mass forwards of nude pictures are giving some 15-year-olds prison sentences that put their lives on hold, and giving others reputations that scar them for the rest of their lives. The sheer number of teenagers engaging in this activity puts legislators and parents at a loss, in what is widely being

called a child pornography epidemic.

UAHS student Beth* is one of many teens who has been swept away in the “sexting” world. As is the case in many situations, Beth had a crush. Through text messaging, her conversations with the boy she liked escalated flirtatiously, eventually leading to the exchange of explicit pictures. At the time she said she was unaware of the potential legal consequences.

UAHS student Samantha*, who has also been involved with sexting, said she understands the motives behind sexting, but, having gone through a negative experience in which her nude pictures were widely circulated, she said she would not do it again.

“Girls want to be comfortable with themselves [and their relationships],” Samantha said.

According to a 2008 survey done by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, Beth is part of the 20 percent of American teens who have sent nude pictures of themselves.

“He had begged for [the pictures], and once that didn’t work, he sweet talked me into [sending them] and made himself seem really trustworthy,” Beth said. “I let the guy twist my thoughts [into making] me think it was OK.”

*DENOTES SOURCE REQUESTED ANONYMITY

SENT



PHOTO BY ANDREW HEDDEN



FOCUS



PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANDREW HEDDEN

AMERICA'S MOST WANTED

Teens can be charged with felonies for child pornography possession, creation or distribution, and under some circumstances, convicted under the same laws pedophiles are convicted under.

Samantha said a sexting relationship begins when the participants tentatively test the trust in their relationship.

“You want to trust him,” Samantha said.

Dr. Sari Locker, sex educator and professor of adolescent psychology at Columbia University, said what starts out as flirtatious may in fact speed up the dating process and turn into an invitation to advance into a sexual relationship.

“When boys receive a nude picture of a girl, they think the next time they see her they can go further with her in a sexual way than before,” Locker said.

Both Samantha and Beth had their photos circulated throughout the school. Although Beth said she was angry with the boy who forwarded the pictures, Samantha said she could only blame herself, and that she felt embarrassed and ashamed. Had she not taken the photos in the first place, she said, the forwarding of them would not be an issue.

Soon after Samantha sent the pictures, the boy pestered her for more until the relationship simply dissolved. However, Beth said some students see “sexting” as a natural part of a relationship.

A LEGAL TRAIN WRECK

The laws that were once being used to protect teens are now being used to prosecute them; under Ohio law those who create material that shows a minor engaging in sexual activity can be convicted of a second-degree felony, and those who are convicted of knowingly possessing or distributing the material can be convicted of a fifth-degree felony. Both sentences can include prison time and fines, not to mention the lingering

impression that comes with the label of sex offender. Ohio legislation held up as constitutional in a relatively recent case in 2007, *State v. Tooley*. However, the Ohio legislation, as is the case with most state legislation regarding child pornography, has broad terminology used by legislators to dodge First Amendment restrictions while still covering the many variations of child pornography cases.

The state governments are doing their best to stamp out child pornography; however, broad legislation and select prosecution are obstacles in the crack down campaign. Florida law in particular charges a third-degree felony for transmission of “material harmful to minors by electronic device.” Material is loosely defined as “nudity, sexual conduct, or sexual excitement.” Material with serious literary, artistic, scientific or political content is exempt from the restrictions.

Despite the details included in the legislation protecting artists, literary works, science and political content, according to an article printed in the *New York Times* in 1995, journalist Doreen Carvajal pointed out that artists in particular can be subject to speculation. In Michigan in 1995, photographer and Wayne State University art professor Marilyn Simmerman took pictures of her nude 3-year-old daughter, the excess prints of which were found by a janitor in a trash can in the university. The janitor, who interpreted the pictures as child pornography, reported the photos to authorities. Simmerman was not convicted, but faced other difficulties

Legislation has also created issues among the defense. Under the Adam Walsh Act, signed by George W. Bush in 2006, child pornography was claimed to be so toxic that the defendants must

view evidence in a secure government facility. Congress said the legislation would prevent child pornography being released into cyberspace, and justified the act by stating, “Every instance of viewing images of child pornography represents a renewed violation of the privacy of the

[Child pornographers] should have a mandatory sentencing—like a drug dealer does.

—UA POLICE OFFICER JOHN PRIEST

victims and a repetition of their abuse.”

Ian N. Friedman was one of the first whose case was subject to the new rules. As the attorney of David L. Knellinger, Friedman said he saw the act as illogical, in a story by Adam Liptak in 2007, entitled “Locking up the crucial evidence and crippling the defense.”

“If you were to follow the logic of it, you should not be able to present the evidence to 12 jurors,” Friedman said.

Liptak pointed out the act operates under an essential presumption: that the evidence is child pornography to begin with. Thus, many defendants are said to be possessors of child pornography before a court has ruled the evidence to be child pornography. Defendants, whether they be sex offenders in spirit or by definition, are then guilty until proven innocent.

VICTIMIZED CRIMINALS

Sycamore High School senior Jessie Logan had sent nude pictures of herself to her boyfriend—only to have them

sent to random teenage girls after they broke up. Through a TV interview, she did what she could to make sure what happened to her did not happen to anyone else, and she revealed how much she regretted her choice because of its negative impact on her life.

Unfortunately, a few months later, in response to the distribution of one image, Logan took her own life.

Logan's story is one of drastic measures being taken in response to the repercussions of sexting. Although Logan was 18 at the time of her sexting scandal, thus, not chargeable under child pornography laws, many students whose sexting has become public and are underage face both the emotional consequences of Logan and the legal consequences of legislators.

The consequences of legislators are being applied to minors for the first time. However, there are glaring differences between the current child pornography epidemics, and the epidemics of the past. Firstly, child pornographers today have a major advantage over those in the past: technology. Today's technology allows child pornography to be distributed and received at the touch of a button, a

different method than the expensive film development and distribution of the '80s and '90s. The other thing that sets today's child pornography cases apart from those of previous years is that today's victims are also the criminals.

UA police officer John Priest said he believes the child pornography laws should enact harsher consequences.

"[Child pornographers] should have a mandatory sentencing—like a drug dealer does," Priest said.

Priest works with a team of thousands to uncover child pornography and the misuse of the cyber world. In UA alone, Priest has dealt with 300 conviction cases, several of which were minors who were forced to register as sex offenders for 25 years, he said.

16-year-old Arizona resident Matthew Bandy was involved in a child pornography case in 2007, in which original charge of 90 years in prison was reduced to the title of a sex offender. Although the charge of sex offender was eventually revoked as well, in an interview with 20/20, Bandy reflected on his time as a sex offender and what it meant to his everyday life.

"I [had] to stay away from children.

I [could not] go around any area where there might [have been] minors, including the mall, or the movies, or restaurants, or even church. To go to church I [had] to have written consent from our priest, I [had] to sit in a different pew, one that [did not] have a child sitting in it," Bandy said.

In response to a case in Falmouth, Maine, Locker, the education and Columbia University professor, said she believes children should not be charged with felonies for possession of child pornography and that this behavior simply reflects their attraction to each other and desire to begin dating.

"Clearly these boys are not sexual predators or pedophiles," Locker said conclusively. "They're looking at a girl who's the same age as they are, and they have a healthy curiosity."

Nevertheless, Locker's opinion clashes sharply with those of legislators and other psychologists, who are intent upon making teens face their consequences and learn from them. The debate between making teens pay for their mistakes for the rest of their lives and the fear of not making them realize the severity of their crime continues. ♦

TEXT-BACK

*Professional publications
comment on teens' technology*

Just don't imagine that you [parents] can prevail by brute force... We are fighting on their turf. They are up in the trees and underground and in caves while we march around in our bright red uniforms trying to defend their dignity and virtue. Not a fair fight.

NANCY GIBBS, TIME MAGAZINE

What are we going to do, lock up 20 percent of America's teens?

LISA BLOOM, CBS NEWS LEGAL ANALYST,
on a survey conducted by the National
Campaign to Support Teen and Unplanned
Pregnancy in which 20 percent of teens
confessed to sexting

We seem to forget that kids can be as tech-savvy as Bill Gates but as gullible as Bambi... Parents need to remind their teens that a dumb moment can last a lifetime in cyberspace. But judges and prosecutors need to understand that a lifetime of cyberhumiliation shouldn't be grounds for a lifelong real criminal record.

DALIA LITHWICK, NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE

Where are we Nazi Germany?

ROSLYN GROWSKY,
commenting on the 18-year-old photograph of her 5-year-old naked son being
taken into consideration as child pornography by legal authorities

Void of 'roids:

The long term effect of the current steroid era will be determined by the behavior of our future athletes



BY MITCH LEX

Just when you thought it would be impossible for another Hall-of-Fame career to be ruined by steroid allegations, we are now witnessing perhaps the most influential and dominant slugger of this decade become the latest and most unexpected of them all— Alex Rodriguez. Despite previously denying any illegal use of steroids or performance-enhancing drugs, a report that Rodriguez used steroids while playing with the

Texas Rangers from 2001-2003 recently emerged and was confirmed by Rodriguez himself.

After admitting to steroid use, Rodriguez further damaged his previously near-perfect image with a lackluster apology in an interview filled with questionable comments. Unlike Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and a slew of notable others, the allegation of Rodriguez's steroid use shocked many fans. The unexpected confession instantly made the steroid era even more saddening and significant to fans, coaches and the media, leaving them wondering what still has yet to be uncovered from this seemingly unending scandal.

While the steroid era will certainly tarnish the reputations of the players, coaches and commissioner of Major League Baseball, how the young athletes of America interpret this event will measure its true effect on our sporting culture. It has become quite noticeable that a large number of athletes are willing to trade their reputations and positive role model status for the benefits of HGH and other performance-enhancing drugs.

Following Rodriguez's allegations, the state of Florida announced that it was dropping its high school steroid testing

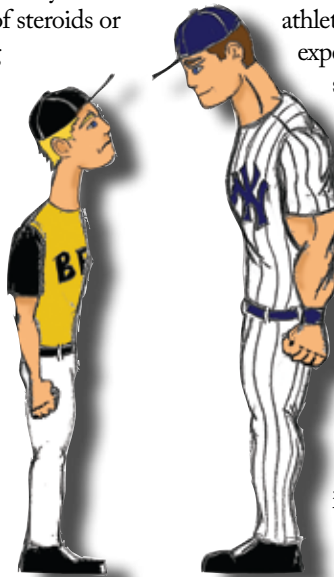
program after only one year of existence. After finding only one student athlete who tested positive for steroids out of 600 tested in 2007-08, the state concluded that the \$100,000 effort was too costly and the program was unsuccessful. While the numbers may seem to show the program to be unsuccessful, I think the state has completely misinterpreted the results.

Although the use of steroids in all high school sports across the country may not be statistically significant, programs like the one discontinued in Florida certainly prevented a number of athletes from using steroids. And as for the \$100,000 expense being too costly, I imagine if high school students who have no testing method set in place in their state (Texas is the only other) decide to follow in the steps of Alex Rodriguez and start juicing up as young teenagers, no amount of money could reverse it. The entire sport of baseball could be permanently tarnished if this were to happen. Although it may be a little extreme, most big problems start small.

While steroids are a major issue of concern across the country, their negative influence has avoided UAHS and its many athletes. Fortunately, proper health education, qualified trainers and coaches, first-rate fitness facilities and positive peer influences have all combined to help keep UAHS athletics clean and still competitive in every sport.

Our athletes, with the talent and determination to pursue sports careers, have role models and resources that keep them from taking a shortcut that could make their field of dreams a nightmare. We are fortunate that education is still valued so no one has to feel there is no other way to make a living.

The longer that high schools can keep athletes from being influenced by current professional drug abusers, the better their chances of staying clean, in both their athletic and personal pursuits. We need to encourage those that will give our nation and sporting culture an image that will make us proud. ♦



GRAPHIC BY BRANDON SEGA



HUFFMAN'S MARKET

2140 Tremont Center
Upper Arlington, OH 43221
Phone: (614)-486-5336

Store Hours:
Monday - Saturday: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sunday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



SPORTS

PHOTOS COURTESY DAN COMER

The girls swimming and diving team won the state championship meet in Canton, Ohio by a margin of 173 points with 349 total points. The girls also set state records in three events to clinch their fifth straight state title.

A golden dynasty

Swimming and diving team confirms status as state powerhouse

BY LINDSAY GARDNER

On Feb. 26, 27 and 28 in Canton, Ohio, the swimming and diving teams yet again achieved monumental success at the state competition. For the fifth straight year, the girls swimming and diving team won the state swimming title, affirming their position as an Ohio swimming dynasty.

Senior Cara Colker-Eybel said continuing the team's legacy of success was important to the senior members on the team.

"The team's legacy is a testament to how hard we train and how dedicated we are to the sport," Colker-Eybel said. "It wasn't too long ago that UA rarely sent anyone to the state meet. We have come so far as a team."

Coach Dan Peterkoski said he was proud of the team's success this season and the team's dedication throughout the year.

"It is rare that you see a group of people who stay as focused and work as hard as the girls have the past five years," Peterkoski said. "Their ability to dominate the sport in such a competitive state really [shows their dedication]."

State records were set in three events: the 100-meter butterfly, the 200-meter medley relay, and the 200-meter freestyle relay. Senior captain Darcy Fishback was named the top girls performer of the meet, a title she also received during last year's state championship.

The girls diving team also achieved success at state with senior captain Taylor Anderson finishing a close second with a less than two point margin separating her from the first place competitor.

Anderson said she was pleased with the team's overall success.

"It's so exciting to be on a team where overall we've won the state championship all four years I've been in high school," Anderson said. "I'm just very happy I get to be a part of something so big."

Junior diver Christian Holstein proved that success was not limited to the girls team by taking home the boys' diving title with a margin of victory of more than 40 points. Holstein said he was proud of all of the high school's programs' success at states.

"I think that UA has an amazing swimming and diving program. On the men's side, we are a young team and we were still in medal contention," Holstein said. "I think that next year will be even better."

The boys swim team finished fourth, but first among public schools. Senior captain Eric Huffman was voted the top boys performer of the meet. Huffman, who plans to continue swimming at the University of Michigan next year, said winning the title of best male athlete was an honor, but he was also proud of the team's accomplishments.

"It was an honor being named top male performer at the meet," Huffman said. "I am also proud of my team [for setting] four school records and four pool records."

The swim team will lose various important senior members, but Colker-Eybel said she believes the team will succeed next season.

"I advise the team next year to keep up the hard work that has become UA's trademark," Colker-Eybel said. "Everybody [will] need to step up and do their part if the team wants to win another state title." ♦

The team's legacy is a testament to how hard we train and how dedicated we are to the sport.

—SENIOR CARA COLKER-EYBEL



"WATCHMEN" WOWS VIEWERS

Accurate adaptation of Alan Moore's revolutionary graphic novel stuns viewers with intense action and realistic emotion, despite flaws

Despite its only marginally good reviews and the pessimism from some hardcore comic fans who hated director Zach Snyder's few creative changes, I am going to go ahead and say it: I loved *Watchmen*. In fact, I would be hard-pressed to think of any book-turned-movie from the last several years that I liked more than *Watchmen*.

The movie opens with a historical montage set to Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changin'," which explains the movie's setting: an alternate 1985 where America has won in Vietnam and Nixon serves a third term as president. Costumed vigilantes, who became famous in the 1940s, have been outlawed, save the Comedian (Jeffery Dean Morgan) and Dr. Manhattan (Billy Crudup), both of whom are employed by the government. Manhattan is the only superhero with actual super powers, and he stands as the sole deterrent of nuclear war with the Soviet Union.

When investigating a homicide in New York, Rorschach (Jackie Earle Haley) realizes that the man killed was the Comedian, his former "colleague." This leads him to believe a plot is unfolding to kill off all of the former masked heroes. With the assistance of his best friend and former partner, Nite Owl II (Patrick Wilson), aka Dan Dreiberg, Rorschach attempts to discover the motive and perpetrator of this plot.

Overall, the cast gives a great performance, but the clear star is Haley. His menacing impersonation of Rorschach, the right-wing vigilante who looks to punish the scum of New York, is so brutal, and yet there is something relatable about it. Deep down, I think we all wish we could have the same absolute perception of good and evil and drive for retribution that he does.

However, the greatest scene in the movie does not even include Rorschach. Instead it highlights the stunning performance of Crudup as Dr. Manhattan.

Manhattan, who, as a young physicist, was locked in an "intrinsic field subtractor" and gained control over all matter and a



BY COREY MCMAHON

nonlinear perception of time, takes his recently ex-girlfriend Silk Spectre II (Malin Akerman), aka Laurie Jupiter, to Mars. There, she tries to convince him to save the United States from nuclear war. His isolation from life leads him to not care about the fate of any humans on earth.

However, his detachment from the world, seemingly absolute, is reversed by his newfound understanding of miracles he finds from the existence of every individual person. The odds of millions of cells vying for reproduction, against the odds of our ancestors meeting, is enough to consider the distinct individuality of every person a miracle.

Crudup's performance during this scene and throughout a majority of the movie is one for the books. He is detached, yet still has a commanding presence. His monotone voice is soothing, and yet it demands your attention.

Alas, the film is not without error. The weakest link of the movie lies in the sex scene between Nite Owl II and Silk Spectre II. Bad music choice along with awkwardly-funny facial expressions ruin a scene that should have been an emotional turning point for Dreiberg, as it was in the graphic novel.

Additionally the omnipresent special effects may turn you away; however, they are not so bad you cannot stand to look at them. Manhattan's blue glow is not distracting and the multiple pyrotechnic effects even look plausible.

These minor flaws are overcome by the same element that made the graphic novel so revolutionary. The flaws each hero has to overcome are so real and so relatable that viewers and readers are almost convinced that the world of masked heroes actually exists. We become transported to a world so unlike ours, while at the same time so similar.

On the whole, when deciding whether or not to see this movie, one should consider two things: First, anyone will like the movie more and be able to more clearly understand the details if they have read the graphic novel first. Snyder's faithful adaptation can confuse and at some points alienate those who have not read the comic. Second, expect a movie with more depth and emotion than other comic book movies. The heroes all have problems to which most viewers can relate in some way or another. That, however, makes the movie all the more enjoyable. ♦

The Watchmen, from left: Dr. Manhattan, The Comedian, Nite Owl II, The Silk Spectre II, Ozymandias, and Rorschach. The quality of the story comes from each individual's character flaw. PHOTOS COURTESY LEGENDARY PICTURES



Silver screen successes

Newly-released DVDs and Indie films reviewed

BY JAMIE ARKIN AND RATHI RAMASAMY

Milk

Milk tells the story of Harvey Milk (Sean Penn), the first openly gay man elected to public office. The film begins with his move to San Francisco with his lover Scott Smith (James Franco), where they are openly discriminated against when trying to open a shop. This spurs Milk into political activism, inspiring him to run several times for the office of San Francisco city Supervisor and for State Assembly. After losses in 1974 and 1975, Milk is elected to the post of San Francisco City Supervisor in 1977.

In office, Milk seeks to save and further the rights of the gay community in his city and across America. He pushes forward a citywide ordinance for gay rights and fights against a Senators attempt to pass an initiative against gay teachers in California Public Schools.

Though he meets struggles and obstacles, from death threats and violent drawings to the suicide of his loved ones, Milk never retreats from his dream of equal rights for all gay citizens.

From fighting to open a small shop on a San Francisco street to speaking of the inalienable rights in the Declaration of Independence in front of thousands, Sean Penn provides a brilliant performance as Harvey Milk that in every way, deserves his Academy Award for Best Actor.

The film makes up for what it lacks in flair through deep emotional connections between characters that allow the viewer to feel as if they are part of the movie and the struggle for equal rights.

An emotional film, *Milk* inspires pity and sympathy for those who fought for the right to live their lives free of persecution or torment and enjoy their rights as citizens. The story of Harvey Milk brings tears to the eyes and compassion to the heart; anyone watching will find themselves rooting for Harvey Milk in his fight for freedom. ♦

Pray the Devil Back to Hell

Directed by Gini Reticker, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* is a documentary about a small band of Liberian women who put their lives in danger in order to bring peace to their nation. The women, who come from various religions, generations and social classes, come together in their prayer for peace and eventually stage a silent protest outside of the Presidential Palace. Through nonviolent efforts, the women force a resolution during the stalled peace talks, overcoming the Liberian warlords with their strength and perseverance. Although the events of *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* may seem far away, this documentary is a compelling testimony of the power of unity and grassroots activism in countries everywhere. ♦

The Class

The *Class*, which could be considered a companion film to *Freedom Writers* (2007), tells the story of Francois (Francois Begaudeau) as he prepares for a new year of teaching high school in a tough neighborhood. Armed with the best intentions, Francois's classroom ethics are put to the test when his students begin to challenge his methods. As amusing as the teenaged students can be, their difficult behavior can still jeopardize any teacher's enthusiasm, and where *Freedom Writers* was optimistic and inspiring, *The Class* strives to tell the story of at-risk youth in France in a more realistic light. Although the film may seem slightly depressing and unresolved, the genuine characters and witty dialogue make *The Class* a must-see film.

PHOTO COURTESY HAUT ET COURT

Role Models

Role Models is the story of two grown men who live their life without responsibility—that is, until it catches up with them. Danny (Paul Rudd) and Wheeler (Seann William Scott) work together selling energy drinks to kids, teaching them to drink it instead of using drugs. However, on the day when Danny's girlfriend breaks up with him, their lives take a turn for the worst, resulting in Danny stealing a car and running over a school's statue, earning Wheeler and himself a choice: 150 hours of community service or jail.

The pair is sentenced to a Big Brother program with Augie, a nerdy teenager living in his own fantasy world, and Ronnie, a foul-mouthed young black kid out to make Wheeler's life living hell.

Throughout the film, the characters bond despite their differences. For example, Danny and Augie bond over their hatred of the program that paired them together, and Augie's passion for LAIRE, a real life fantasy world filled with sword fights, castles and kings.

Rudd and William Scott play their respective roles well; however, they are essentially the same roles they have played in other movies. Rudd plays a man who sarcastically struggles to find meaning in life, and takes out his frustrations on others, similar to his role in *Knocked Up*. William Scott, however, plays the role of the wild, sex-driven party animal, similar to his roles in the *American Pie* series. Though the roles seem too familiar, the actors are accustomed to them, thus portraying them perfectly.

The movie follows the same general plot of any comedy of this generation—problem, solution, screwing up the solution, fixing it with a new solution—and the humor is the same style. However, the jokes are new and good for a solid laugh. For anyone who does not like to think too much in a movie but loves clever one-liners and wildly inappropriate humor, *Role Models* is definitely for you. ♦

PHOTO COURTESY FOCUS FEATURES

PHOTO COURTESY FORK FILMS

PHOTO COURTESY INTERNATIONALE FILMPRODUKTION STELLA-DEL-SUED

Think you know everything
about computers? ...We
challenge you to teach us a
thing or two!

Teleperformance is hiring
Premium Tech Support
agents 18 years or older
with at least 18 hours
of IT-specific course
work. You can earn
\$11.75 to \$13.25
an hour!



Apply online @

Teleperformance.com/careers

Apply in person Monday through Friday, 8am to 7pm

4339 Equity Drive, Cols



Teleperformance

Talent show spotlights children's charity

BY LEAH JOHNSTON

As the school year nears its end, the annual talent show is quickly approaching. The UAHS Talent Show provides students with a venue to showcase their various talents while also raising money for a charity. This year, senior co-chair Avery TARRIER said the committee chose to donate the proceeds to Prevent Child Abuse Ohio.

"[In recent years], the talent show committee [has picked] a charity directed towards illness, but this year we decided to change it up so we chose the organization Prevent Child Abuse Ohio," TARRIER said. "April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and [the committee] wanted to acknowledge this."

Among the change in charities, adviser Greg Varner is also a new addition to the committee.

"Not only do I stand behind the work of the talent show committee," Varner said, "but as a director of our theatre program, it was a logical extension of my interest in high school production."

The charity aspect of the show was one of the reasons why he wanted to work on the talent show, Varner said.

"Perhaps the most impressive thing about the talent show is the fact that it has such a strong legacy of engaging with the

challenges others face," Varner said.

TARRIER said she and senior co-chair Alannah Raykovich believed Varner was a valuable asset to the show.

"As a director, Mr. Varner has a lot of good insight on how to run a show," TARRIER said.

Along with the other changes, perhaps the most obvious is the reduced number of emcees in the show. The emcees provide a comical and informational aspect to the show while introducing new acts. However, this year Varner said the committee came to the decision to only have four emcees.

"We'd like to see [the emcees] bring entertainment and information to the audience while keeping the show moving," he said.

TARRIER said the emcees will help create a more cohesive show for the audience to watch.

"In previous years, there were a lot of emcees and it was not always funny," TARRIER said. "This way, we can have four recognizable people to anchor the show."

TARRIER said the changes will ultimately benefit the show.

"I think people will like the new format," TARRIER said. "[The committee] hopes that the show will be entertaining for all ages and ultimately raise money for such a worthy cause." ♦

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: UAHS Talent Show
WHEN: April 17-18, 2009. 7:30 p.m.-10 p.m.
WHERE: UAHS Auditorium

SZD
 SCHOTTENSTEIN
 ZOX & DUNN, LLP

*Commitment.
 Philanthropy.
 Community service.*

COLUMBUS
 CLEVELAND
 CINCINNATI
 RALEIGH
 szd.com

Support
 our
 school!

Join the
 UAHS PTO!

NORTHWEST EYECARE PROFESSIONALS

James C. Bieber, O.D.
 Russell S. Fillmore, O.D.
 Douglas J. Bosner, O.D.

2098 Tremont Center
 Columbus, Ohio 43221
 www.nweye.com

(614) 486-5205
 (800) 486-5206
 Fax (614) 486-0345

Custom Drawn

Home Illustration
 For Framing, Cards, & Gifts

614.440.1881
 Sue Grant

EIGHT in EIGHT *Eight students respond to a question in eight words*

Who would be your ideal prom date and why?

McLovin' because I'm pretty much in love with him.

SOPHOMORE ADRIANE GHIDOTTI

A good friend or girl I know well.

SOPHOMORE KYLE VESPER

Bigfoot, so I could dance on his feet.

JUNIOR MORGAN SMATHERS

Shorty with Applebottom jeans, boots with the fur.

JUNIOR COLLIN GABRIEL

Robert Pattinson because of his perfectly tousled hair.

SENIOR AKANKSHA JAYANTHI

She's classy with a good sense of humor.

FRESHMAN ERIC GAINES

Mr. Tall, handsome, funny, confident who I love.

FRESHMAN SUMMERS HUMMEL

Jennifer Aniston because she is really, really hot.
SENIOR ADAM TEACH



A+B=C

BY ALDO CORONA & BRANDON SEGA



Use of technology for communication results in a negative change in interaction

STAFF EDITORIAL

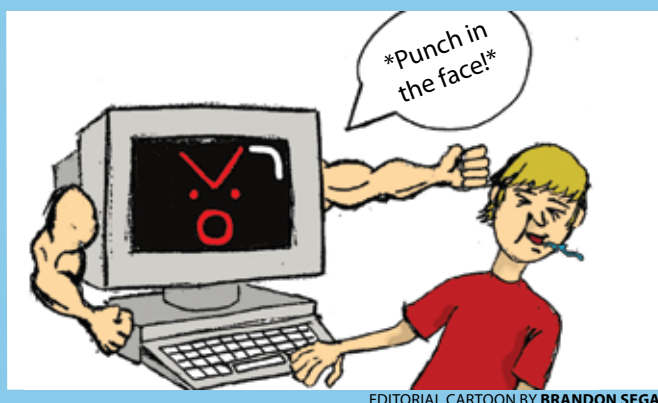
Modern technology is as much a curse as it is a blessing. While the convenience of cell phones, texting and the internet allow for speedy and efficient communication, this convenience sometimes debilitates our ability to communicate honestly with others. Using technology as a form of communication does not allow people to express emotion as they would in a face-to-face conversation which subsequently causes a change in interaction.

Technology provides us with a shield of anonymity. While it is hard to admit, we are all guilty of sending snide text messages mainly because we do not have to directly face the person to whom we are being rude. However, anyone on the receiving end of a nasty message knows that the effect is just as devastating as being bullied in person.

Furthermore, because the internet allows for such impersonal communication, people tend to overlook and ignore instances of cyberbullying. Many groups, such as the groups people create on Facebook, serve as a forum for people to express their opinions on various people and social issues. While we are all entitled to freedom of speech and our personal opinions, we must remember not to get carried away. If you would not feel comfortable saying something to the person directly, then it probably should not be said at all.

Finally, if you come across instances of bullying online, do the right thing and take a stand against it. Hopefully no one would allow their friends to get pushed around right in front of them; similarly, no one should be subjected to abuse from the internet.

So next time your online, remember cyberbullying is just as serious as other types of confrontations and it should not be ignored. Remember the Golden Rule—treat others as you would like to be treated, whether in person or on the web. ♦



One, two, three, he's yours: Finding the perfect man

The name of the game is "One, two, three, he's yours" and look who's playing?

That's right, you. You're sitting in a doughnut shop. No, wait—not classy enough. How about a coffee shop. That's where all the sophisticated guys hang out anyway, right? Anyway, here you are in this coffee shop. This is how the game works:

The first guy to walk in will be labeled "Number One." You can choose him to be your one-and-only or pass him up in the hopes that Number Two will be a better candidate. Same routine for Number Two. But once you get to Number Three, he is yours. There is no one else and no going back.

You wait in anticipation, eagerly awaiting guy Number One to enter the coffee establishment. Suddenly, the door bursts open. You hold your breath, ready to see the guy of your dreams, and—!

He is... uh... well. Mediocre, at best. A little short. Weird hair. But, he is alright, I guess. You choose to pass on this one. Surely the next guy who comes in will be better. He could be gorgeous, even.

The next guy takes a little longer. You begin to drift off in your seat, slumped over on the coffee table.

When the bell on the door suddenly jingles, indicating someone has entered, you jolt upright, spilling some coffee on yourself. Very attractive, good job.

Guy Number Two is... well, let's just say he slightly resembles Santa Claus. He can't be more than 50, though. Let's say he's St. Nick in his prime, a silver fox (I believe that's the correct term). Kris Kringle saunters past your table.

He winks.

You suddenly feel extremely uncomfortable due to this pedophilic gesture. You shudder, recuperate, and stare toward the door. Come on, Number Three. You better not let us down.

Now, in an ideal world, Number Three would be a delicate mixture of two parts James Franco, one part Edward Cullen, with a subtle dash of Michael Cera. Flawless.

But reality is not so generous.

Number Three enters the establishment.

Number Three... is a baby.

So. NOW who is the pedophile?

Disappointed and disgruntled, you get up to leave. You practically kill your half-empty coffee cup with the force you use to shove it in the trash can.

Screw this game, you think.

Right now, mediocre boy is not looking half bad. But, rules are rules. Looks like you got yourself a hot date with a baby tonight.

Sucks to be you, I guess. ♦



BY LARA BONNER

DANIEL LEE RANKIN, DDS

General Dentist
5515 Scioto Darby Rd.
Hilliard, Ohio 43026
Tel: 614.876.4224



Arlingtonian
1650 Ridgeview Rd.
Upper Arlington, OH 43221

nail.

Nail down your home or office projects with the experts at Tom the Handyman.

What do you need done?



Home & Office Maintenance
www.tomthehandyman.net

Dr. Mark Pierce

*Specialist
In
Orthodontics*



2072 Arlington Avenue
Near the Mallway at Jones Middle School
488-2288

Experience a taste of Italy in U.A....

3080 Tremont Rd.
Columbus, Ohio
43221



459-9945 Phone
459-9944 Fax

Kim and Tina Elsea

DINE IN • CARRYOUT • CATERING

OFFICE HOURS
BY APPOINTMENT
TELEPHONE (614) 457-6734



HEATHER P. GRANT, D.P.M., FACFAS
PHYSICIAN & SURGEON OF THE FOOT AND ANKLE

1660 N.W. PROFESSIONAL PLAZA, STE. K
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43220
FAX (614) 457-6737