



What's Bruin

The Middle School Student Newspaper of the Park School of Baltimore

2006-2007, Issue #2

Roving Reporter: What will you remember most from this school year?

What's Bruin asked around the halls, and here are your answers:



"When we all got our pen pal letters from Malawi."
(Ms. Hollister)



"Getting muddy in the salt marsh in Chincoteague."
(Ms. Baker)



"Scarlet." (Jean-Claude)



"Going to Chincoteague."
(Dana)



"Chincoteague."
(Jenny, Nomi, David, Sean)



Good Luck, 8th Graders!

Moving on to ninth grade this morning

The eighth grade class's closing ceremony takes place this morning in the Meyerhoff Theater. After performances by some class members and speeches from a classmate and a teacher (both selected by the 8th grade), the students will be dismissed for lunch and recreation. We wish them the best!



New Middle School Student Government Officers Elected

After two days of speeches to the assembled fifth, sixth, and seventh grades, the following people were elected to head up student government next year:

- President: R. J. Gitter
- Vice President: Rebecca Schwartz
- Secretary: Elana Bell
- Treasurer: Eli Block

Thank you to all the candidates; you all did a great job!



Opinion

An Eye for an Eye?

by Sophie Nieman

Newspapers lie open on the kitchen counter, their headlines blaring through my brain. Magazines fall before my eyes, and the words of my classmates repeat themselves over and over in my head.

“I think that the death penalty is necessary but it is not right to take an eye for an eye. It is better for someone to die than to suffer with alternative punishment.” (Katelyn Greller.)

“I think people can change, the death penalty is wrong!” (Stefania Gheorghiu.)

I wonder what justice really is. I have always been completely opposed to what we’re doing in Iraq and the war against “Terrorism” and Al Qaeda. Now, after we have achieved our “goal” (Saddam Hussein’s execution), I know we have achieved nothing but injustice and hypocrisy!

Ever since John Muhammad was convicted and put to death for the sniper attacks, I have had my doubts about the death penalty. But now, after Saddam Hussein’s execution, I am completely opposed. I can only imagine a criminal waiting and watching as people get ready to kill him. No matter how horrid the crime he committed, does anyone really deserve to go to bed one night knowing that the next day he is going to be killed? Would you steal from a thief? It’s like if a child hits a child and immediately the parent will reach out, slap the child, and tell him or her not to hit. Is it any different with the death penalty? Is it correct

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An Eye for an Eye?

to kill someone because he killed? Is it justice to give someone the crime he committed as punishment?

In the case of Saddam Hussein, an informal poll among Park School students revealed that most thought it was perfectly fair that Hussein was hanged. A few even commented on watching and enjoying the hanging on YouTube. A number almost as large believes that the hanging was, for lack of a better word, bad. Many gave passionate opinions, such as Olivia Chalkley: “I think executing Saddam Hussein was completely hypocritical.” Some simply think that it is downright wrong. But what is a fair punishment for a person guilty of murder? A life of solitude behind bars, a ride in the electric chair, or a lethal injection?

After the 9/11 terror attacks many Americans wanted immediate revenge, an eye for an eye. And now, I wonder, what if I lost a family member in 9/11 or to Saddam Hussein? Would I want him dead, or would I be as strongly opposed to his death as I am now? What if Hitler had not poisoned himself, and was sentenced to death? I, being Jewish, know a lot about that terrible time. Having relatives who fought in World War II, as well as having met survivors who lost all their family members in the Holocaust, I feel a small inkling of connection to the survivors. I wonder whether if I would have agreed with Hitler being killed. The question won’t leave my mind.





Got a problem?

Ask Teddy B.!

Dear Teddy B.,

I have an advisee who is so troublesome and mischievous that I have had to give him four weeklies in house! He will not stay quiet while we are reading announcements and once he even hit me with a banana! What should I do?

Troubled Advisor

Dear Troubled Advisor,

The situation between you and your advisee definitely seems to have gotten out of hand. It's not very kind to have given your advisee four weeklies for just being mischievous. I think that you should talk it out between each other and see what is going on. It would make much more sense than hitting each other with bananas! Talking could really help you and your advisee to get along better, and stop troubling you.

Teddy B.

Dear Teddy B.,

I really don't like my advisor. He keeps saying that I always get in trouble, maybe its because I accidentally hit him in the head with a banana. He has given me four bad weeklies just for house!! I'm really confused; what should I do?

Troubled Student

Dear Troubled Student,

You should try being more careful with your bananas. Maybe the reason that you received those bad weeklies from him is because you may be disruptive during announcements (that seems to really get under their skin), or you're really crazy during house (that seems to annoy them, too). To solve these problems you could try to be quieter during announcements, and if you think that this house isn't right for you, you can switch. I think that maybe your advisor is too strict for you and your personality. You could try talking to your parents or a teacher you trust about switching advisors. Hope this advice is useful to you!

--Teddy B.



Is The Health Committee Going Too Far???

By Tess Langrill-Miles

We are still adjusting to the new food the cafeteria has been providing. Some of the changes were okay, but most everyone thinks it has changed from totally junky to totally healthy. Why can't it be somewhere in the middle? Is Park trying to be so politically correct that they turn Cookie Monster into Veggie Monster? Sheesh! What next? Changing Cookie Monster's name to "Carrot Monster" or maybe a more generic "Healthy Snack Monster." And what about the negative connotation of "monster"? Maybe we're looking at poor Cookie becoming the "Fuzzy Blue Food Guide Representative"? Not to mention what will happen to Oscar the Grouch - the whole homeless thing and likely a prescription for antidepressants so he's not so grouchy....



Will Cookie Monster turn into Veggie Monster?

The cafeteria has many great foods. The salad bar is great because you are able to control how much salad you want and what you want on it. The sandwich line is great because basically, you could get any sandwich (rumor has it, they are removing salami!). The hot foods section is great too except some of the food is so healthy, it is disgusting. The prepared section is good because if you are in a hurry and need a quick sandwich without waiting in line, you will most likely find something you like.

If every week the cafeteria serves fries, or some tasty "junky" food, most everyone would be happy. Even the "no trans fat" fries might be good!

Spirit the Dolphin

By Hilde Wulf

People are sitting in the stands surrounding the performance tank, expectant faces peering at the dolphins about to perform. They are all excited, but nowhere near as thrilled as me. I was chosen to be the audience member who would touch a dolphin!

The lights slowly dim and the show begins; a voice from a speaker announces the performance, and a movie comes on about the marvelous creatures that dolphins are. I put on the special boots that were given to me. I wipe my hands with a special wipe so that I won't hurt the dolphin, and stand up. Next thing I know, I'm stepping into the shallow end of the performance tank and getting ready to give the signal I have been taught.

"*ONE, TWO, THREE!*" I give the signal and Spirit the dolphin flips over, slices through the water, and *leaps!* She touches a small orange ball fifteen feet above the water, dives down and comes over to the trainer standing next to me. The trainer tosses her a fish, and then sends her over to me. Spirit rolls over on her back and I rub the slippery surface of her stomach, it feels like smooth, wet rubber, and is surprisingly squishy. I stand up and go back to my seat, my part is over, and I've just touched a dolphin.



Dane-gerously Funny?

By Cody Tracey

Although neither a dog NOR a chef of some sort, stand-up comedian Dane Cook is most likely capable of making both laugh! As you can see, I lack the comic ability that Dane Cook has. He has quite the knack for his job, which is to make people laugh. One of his recorded live shows is entitled *Harmful If Swallowed*. Although released in 2004, it still deserves a review. That album (along with his performance on "Comedy Central Presents...") has probably made Dane Cook one of the most renowned comedians today—with a perfect touch of a lisp when necessary, along with a ridiculous/illogical (yet freakin' hilarious) stage presence. For lack of a better sentence, Dane Cook is laugh-out-loud funny. Whether he's roasting the Kool-Aid Man, remembering the misery in getting tickled, working drive-thru at the BK-Lounge (Burger King), or explaining (in complete detail) the horribleness of public bathrooms, my sides are split.

If you're more of the uptight kind, you probably won't be laughing as hard as some. Humor tastes can vary; some may find this incredibly rude and ridiculous, and one reason some might think this, is (other than the fact it's targeted towards young adults/college kids), well...it is quite vulgar. I thought you should be warned before you're shocked when you buy the CD... so you don't stop reading my articles when you're furious because I don't keep you fully informed and your mom confiscates your CD☺.

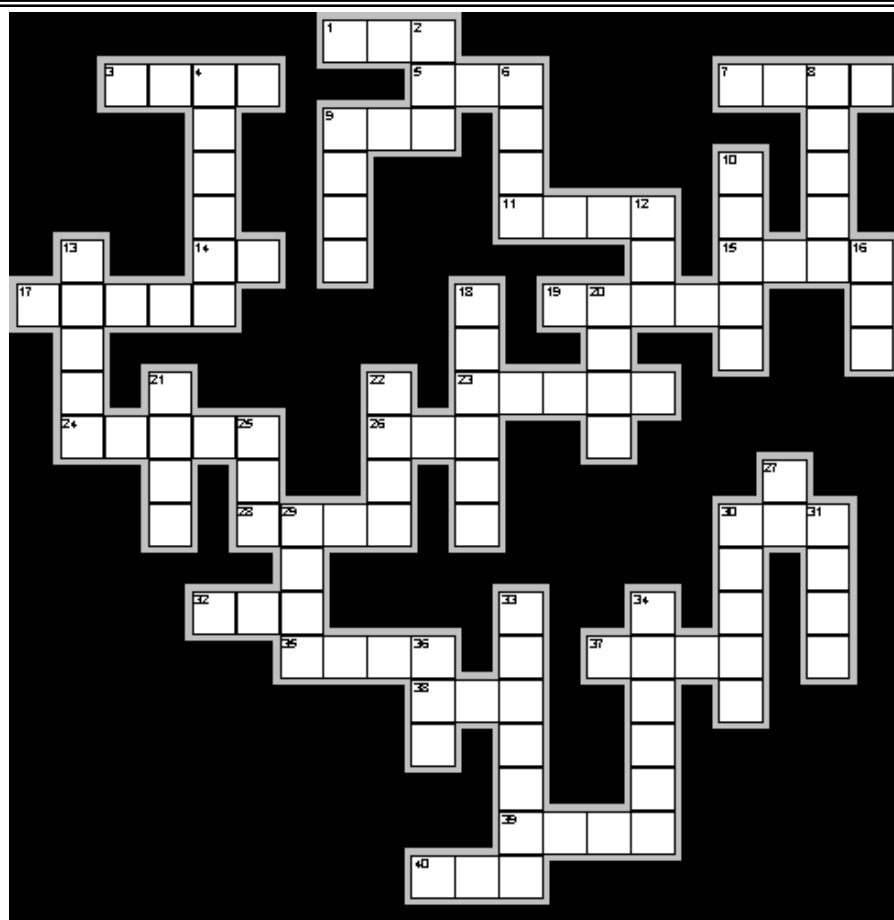
Another Dane Cook show (not quite as popular or good as *Harmful*) is *Retaliation*, which has spent 85 weeks on Billboard's top 100 comedy albums, and is currently number 2. Another is the 2 and a half hour HBO special, *Vicious Circle*, which aired in September, 2006. Whichever you choose, you *most likely* will enjoy at least some parts. I'll leave you with noting that on Dane Cook's website, he lists a number of "things" we should know. He says "The Fourth Thing: my biggest regret in life is not having a really big regret." Will yours be listening to his stuff? Because it definitely wasn't mine☺.



The Middle School Dictionary of New Words and Phrases for Everyday School Use

By Eleanor and Elana

1. COOLIO: (koo-lee-oh) *adj.* An alternate for the word "cool"; ex. *That dance was totally coolio!* Use when you are excited about something cool or fun, to add flair to your everyday words.
2. COMMONDATOR: (cah-mən-day-tour) *n.* Otherwise known as a common denominator when working with fractions; ex. *The commondator for those two fractions are 24ths.* Use preferably in math class.
3. LIGHTNINGING: (lite-ning-ing) *vb.* A verb alternative to the word "lightning"; ex. *It's thundering and lightninging outside today.* Use when talking about thunderstorms.
4. CONFUZZLE: (con-fuzz-l) *vb.* To confuse or to be confused or puzzled; ex. *That math problem is confuzzling.* Use when confused about something.
5. SARCASMISTIC: (sar-caz-m-iss-tick) *adj.* Simply an alternative for the word "sarcastic"; ex. *Why are you being sarcasmistic?* Use when you are in the presence of a sarcastic person.
6. BEAST: (beest) *adj.* Cool, awesome, amazing, interesting; ex. *Our field trip was so beast!* Use when necessary.
7. LASS: (lass) *n.* L.A.S.S., stands for Language Arts/Social Studies; ex. *I'll talk to you later, I need to go to Lass.*



Puzzle by Elana Bell and Eleanor Wright

Across (continued)

19. Cast an angry look (at)
23. Yellowish color.
24. I'm a little teapot, short and ____
26. Archaic "before."
28. An eternity.
30. Faint.
32. A rake and a ____
35. But I ____ it!"
37. Valentine "O's"
38. Period of history
39. dishonest person
40. The Pilgrims arrived in this flower.

Down

2. Insect.
4. Frozen needle
6. Sound that pigs make.
8. Deep blue.
9. Dogs and cats
10. Slimey.
12. Main character of "Evita," ____ Peron.
13. Sticks out a leg.
16. Doesn't mix with water.
18. Teeth
20. Give for a time
21. Hawaiian coffee.
22. Sharks and ____.
25. Golf ball holder
27. 3.14.
29. hot as an ____
30. Common name for a cow
31. Fast shark with Maori name.
33. On the dot
34. Shake unsteadily.
36. Droplets of water

Across

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. lie | 11. Windy day toy |
| 3. Gemini | 14. Do re, mi,fa, so, ____ |
| 5. Number card game. | 15. Chocolate and cream cookie |
| 7. Falls in fall. | 17. "You're beginning to ____ me crazy." |
| 9. Pot-bellied | |