

# The Flash

Volume 45 Issue 1

## Senior Spotlight

Deep in the boys dorm, in room 211, sit two best friends, with a microphone between them. Two boys, one with a love for music and guitars, the other with a love for frosted flakes and fruit snacks. Over the past 11 years they have had their fair share of ups and downs, trials and tribulations. The ridiculously short Joshua Jeffrey Stifter and the strangely tall Daniel Peter Degnan, Jr. have seen and done it all. This is their story.



**Dreyer:** I need that interview done before study hall is over. It's already 4 days late.

*He storms off angrily and slams the door.*

*Both sit quietly trying to think of something until finally Daniel breaks the silence.*

**Daniel:** Knock...Knock

**Josh:** Whose there?

**Daniel:** Orange...

**Josh:** Why isn't there any ding dong jokes? You know, like a doorbell.

**Daniel:** Orange you glad I didn't say banana?

*Both laugh hysterically.*

*David Dreyer pokes his head in the door.*

**Dreyer:** I don't hear interviewing!

**Both boys:** We're getting to it.

**Josh:** Okay, first question. What are your plans for next year?

**Daniel:** I plan on coming back here. Maybe do some writing for the Beacon...

**Josh:** Cool, now ask me a question.

**Daniel:** Umm, we've been roommates for 4 years, don't you ever get sick of me?

**Josh:** Actually, I'm sick of you right now!

A tear drops from Daniel's eye.

**Josh:** I'm kidding! I grow fonder of you by the day.

**Daniel:** Good save.

*The two hug affectionately.*

*Daniel sees the sheet of questions to ask lying on the floor.*

**Daniel:** I can't believe Dreyer didn't trust us to ask good questions.

**Josh:** I know! Let's see...what's a good one?  
*The boys look at the sheet.*

**Daniel:** Which one of us is lazier?

**Josh:** That's easy, it's me.

**Daniel:** (laughing) Yeah right, you now it's me...

**Josh:** Whatever!

**Daniel:** Remember the time I didn't do my history report for Kranz and went up in front of the class and gave a 30 second report?

**Josh:** Well, what about the time I watched all the episodes on the family guy DVD straight!

**Daniel:** That's nothing.

*The two boys argue about who is lazier for a while, then they decide to change subjects.*

**Josh:** Dude, you've given me some great advice over the years...What advice do you have for the young'ins here at Immanuel?

**Daniel:** Have fun, stay safe, and of course, do as I say, not as I do.

*Dreyer pops his head in again.*

**Dreyer:** c'mon! Wrap it up guys. You can't have the entire FLASH.

*They wait until Dreyer leaves.*

**Josh:** Remember that time we went and saw *A Night at the Roxbury* and there wasn't anyone there?

**Daniel:** Yeah! And we did somersaults in the halls and...

**Josh:** And we talked the whole time.

**Both:** Good times....good times.

# I Need A Sign

Permit me to share a few observations from my recent sign-holding experience at the vehicle entrance to Sam's Club. The event was a volleyball team carwash and I was advertising it. Although I was given the opportunity to do something else, I chose to stay. I liked my sign. I liked my corner. This joy stems from my fascination with the study of human beings and their reactions to sign people. My findings follow.

Eau Claire people, at least those going to Sam's or Wal-Mart on a Sunday afternoon, are nice. (Maybe it's the free food samples they anticipate.) Not once did I detect any hostility or snobbery on the faces of those viewing my sign. Not once did I get the feeling that they thought it odd for a middle-aged man to be holding a hot pink sign. Some avoided eye contact, but maybe they were just shy. Some had a silly grin on their faces as if they knew something I didn't (perhaps that they had no intention of having their car washed.) But most smiled and waved. The elderly folks were often very encouraging with their thumbs-up gestures. I think they were just happy to see people from the younger generation working. The kids were my favorite though. They love signs, especially my hot pink one. They stared with delight trying to figure

*"Not once did I get the feeling that they thought it odd for a middle-aged man to be holding a hot pink sign"*

out what it was all about. They almost always smiled and waved or scrunched up their noses. Long after their car had passed, you could still see their lively, cheerful eyes transfixed on the sign.

I also had cause to laugh at some people's reactions. Invariably people have to mouth the words of your sign as they are reading it. That's funny, especially when they realize that you see them mouthing it. I started to mouth it too just to help them out. My favorite couple was the one who until they read the sign thought I was one of those who was willing to 'work for food.' Being hungry, I told them I would accept food donations as well. Some expressed concern that I was missing the Packers-Vikings game. They were more than willing to give me updates. I would feign to be mortally wounded when they indicated the Packers were losing. I didn't want my team allegiance to negatively impact our business.

In conclusion, holding signs is fun. Car washes are fun when you are busy. Profits are fun. Bees are attracted more to sugar pop than diet pop.

Signing off, Prof. J Lau



## Cross Country Contemplations

If you were to ask a typical cross country runner why they run, the answer you would get is "I don't know." So here lies the problem. No one really knows why people run cross country.

There could be the answers such as, "I am getting in shape for basketball", "I really like the shorts," or "I love the feeling that I might lose my lunch," or "I just love to run," but like I said before, you never hear any of those. So why do people run?

One reasonable explanation might be the rewarding feeling you have when you finish and get your breathing back and use the bathroom. The feeling is that of conquest, self-confidence, the feeling that you can do anything.

Is that feeling really worth all the pain and suffering one goes through? Is it worth the complaining and the hatred to know how much pain you will be in? No runner likes to run, so why do they? This is just one of those unsolved mysteries of the world.

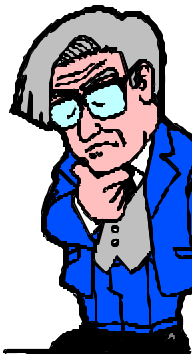
-Elease Thompson

## Ponderings to Ponder Ponderingly

OK, I am a naive freshman who has experienced the epitome of brain-deadness, so bear with me. Yes, this may be dumb and stupid but I really need something to write about!! Here goes: Have you ever thought of the word ponder? It is actually just a smarter word for thinking. For example, you're so bored that you're actually thinking about cutlery. Rather than say, "I'm thinking about forks!" which could make you sound extremely dense, try "I'm pondering the origin of the fork." This will be answered by ooh's and aah's, because only the most intelligent people can PONDER (i.e.: think). Don't use this too often, though. Pondering could turn into something for ordinary mortals and lose its impressive qualities. So the point of this article: When you want to sound smart and bright, ponder, don't "think."

Now I have to go ponder.

-Vanessa Meyer



## A Baby Can Live Without It.

Where is the most dangerous place on earth? In POD, Prof. Sydow asked us this question. Some answered, "the hospital," others guessed, "the bathroom," neither answer was correct. The answer to this question is horrific. The mother's womb. The mother's womb is the **most** dangerous place on earth. Does this surprise you? It shocked me. A child resting in her mother's womb, yet facing a most perilous danger is unsettling. Even sadder is the fact that God expertly designed the womb to be a safe and protected place for the growing child, Yet man, in his infinite foolishness, disregarded God's law. "Thou shalt not murder." Plainly stated, yet blatantly disregarded. Babies everywhere face the death sentence by their own mother's hand. Our country harshly punishes thieves, kidnapers, and murderers. But this coldest form of murder goes unpunished. Not only overlooked, but *supported*. The tiny miracle is snuffed out, and people turn their cheek. "It's her choice. If she can't support this baby, then both mother and child are better off this way." Excuses are endless. God bestows the gift of a baby, and humans have the gall to deny the existence of a child. "A 'fetus' is not a baby. It's just a hunk of flesh that mother must decide what to do with." Never mind the heartbeat and the pulse of life. The baby dies to advance the interests of the mother.

It's hard to imagine, but politicians use abortion rights as a way to gain votes. Claiming to be 'pro choice', they hope to appease the masses, masses who want someone to tell them that it's acceptable to murder. Our leaders are telling women that taking the life of an unborn child is neither wrong nor shameful. Instead, they claim it's a way for women to take charge of their life and not be bound by motherhood.

It is up to each of us to speak out against abortion. We need to stand up for those who can't speak for themselves. Let's exhibit Christ's love and speak out against murder of little children.

~Becky Povolny

# A note from our beloved Editor...



So, it's time again to start that long, arduous task that we, as students at ILC, have been burdened with, known as sleeping during classes while our professors ramble on about protons, photons, quons, and the frequency with which they use toilet paper (thanks for the update Prof. D. Lau.) And I know that there is one thing that every single one of you is wondering. Will the Vikings get at least close to the playoffs this year??? Well, in all my wisdom, I happen to know that the answer is yes. That is, of course, if all the other teams in the NFL die from an explosion at the National NFL Conference, except for the Vikings because they weren't invited. Ok, to be honest, I don't know the answer to that question, but I will answer a question that none of you have probably thought about or even care about for that matter.

What changes will be made to the FLASH this year??? Well, let me tell you. It's going to be hard to succeed the best FLASH editor that I know, but we'll do our best. Jeff Kesterson was also an editor last year. One thing we'd like to see this year is more response from our

readers. Feel free to comment on controversial topics such as whether or not the Vikings should begin punting on 1<sup>st</sup> down to save time. We like to know what our readers are thinking when they read the FLASH. One notable exception to this would be Vikings fans and Eric Long. We could care less what you think. We don't need our newspaper cluttered with intelligent articles sprouting forth comments such as, "I think the Vikings are really cool, and your really dumb if you don't like them, and Randy Moss is really cool." (By the way, I am still a little bitter about Sunday's game, if you haven't noticed already) Anyways, I hope you get the point.

We're also going to try to get more articles that actually have something to do with life here at Immanuel. You may have noticed previous years where there was a plethora of articles regarding Pogs, bells, and Jon Kelly, but not many about what's going on right here. We're going to try to keep you updated.

We'd like to work more pictures into the FLASH. There's just

something about good photos that words could not even come close to describing. It should make articles more enjoyable to read with something to look at that goes with it.

We have lots of other cool ideas too, but I'm going to keep those a secret because I'm too tired and lazy to try to remember them.

Until Next issue,  
David Dreyer

## Wanted: Cross Country runners!

As you may have noticed, several of our contributors have issued desperate pleas for cross country runners...But in case you haven't gotten the message...

Its never too late to join!

Are you looking for an invigorating, healthy way to spend your time? YES...many of you are...  
Cross country is calling your name! The shorts aren't *that* short. ..well okay, they are. ...  
But the sense of accomplishment after a race well run, or just run, is well worth it.

Be sure to ask Ude about the new CC recruit prize package!

See Matt Ude for details!  
Don't miss This oppurtunity!

  
Courtesy of  
the Flash

# PERSUASIVE WORDS FROM ZACH FRANSON

Cross country runners need help! It's that time if year again. You all knew it was coming. It's the annual plea for cross country runners. HELP! They need it. They barely have enough runners to field a guys varsity team and only a handful of JV runners. The girls' team is in rough shape. They need and want as many runners as they can get.

Who wouldn't want to run cross country? You get to ride the bus for hours on end and then run for miles on end. Just think if all the fun you could have. If you don't play enough in volleyball, or simply don't do anything at all, you should definitely take a run at cross country. Look at it this way, in cross country the worse of a runner you are, the more playing time you get. In which other sport do you get to run for miles and miles, get lathered in sweat, and then after all that you end up in the same place you started. Oh yeah, and if you're lucky maybe you'll even toss up the lunch you ate while riding the bus on the way there. So if this sounds like the way you want to spend your afternoons, then quick, grab your running shoes and a pukin' pail, and meet me at the starting line.

## Auto-Biography

Hi, I'm an Eau Claire driver. You may not recognize me, but I'm that driver you're always honking your horn at. We E.C. drivers really get a bad rap, but I'd like to defend myself.

Since I live in Eau Claire, I have to follow specific local traffic regulations. At least once a day I must stop at an intersection that doesn't have a stop sign. Also, if I come to a 4-way stop sign that has three other cars that stopped before me, I must try to go first. Then I also need to pause right in the middle of an intersection and contemplate my course of action. These laws are heavily enforced by the Eau Claire Police Department. If you don't believe me, then just contact the head of the police department.

But we Eau Claire drivers really know how to drive on snow and ice. Sometimes we like to pretend we don't, just out scare out-of-town drivers. Sometimes we mess up because we're trying to decide which side of the street to park on, or whether it's an odd or even day of the month.

So just give us a break! If you think we're bad, then you should see the drivers from Fall Creek.

-Anonymous



Hi, my name is Nate Altom and I live here in Eau Claire. I have lived in Aurora, Illinois; Apple Valley, Minnesota; and Eagan, Minnesota. My favorite football team is the Miami Dolphins and my favorite basketball team is the Minnesota Timberwolves (I don't care much for baseball). When I have spare time I like to either play football, basketball, use the computer, or watch T.V. I also like watching or reading *Lord of the Rings* series. Some of the bands I like are Linkin Park, P.O.D, and Creed. One of my goals for this year is to make JV basketball.

# CC S.O.S

Help: The girls' cross-country needs only two more people to have a full team. Have you been sitting around in the dorms, looking forward to nothing but pure boredom?!? This is a sport where there is no bench. Everyone gets to compete the whole game! As an added bonus, there is honor, and, um, prestige in running. You don't have to get up early on weekends for practices either. And if you don't want a long season, it's still okay. We have a shorter season with fewer meets. I have never run in a meet yet, but I hear they're fun. So, please, if you're bored or especially if you've ever thought about running cross-country, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE get on the team!!!

-Vanessa Meyer



This could be you!!

Hi! My name is Katie Augustin. I am from Eagan, MN. I went to Berea for grade school. I used to live in New Mexico and then New York. I am 14 and my birthday is March 23. My favorite sport is swimming and I love music..

# The Incurable Influenza of Little Siblings

As I was speaking to some of my friends a while ago, I casually stated, “Ohhhh, you’re gonna get copped!” The reaction I received was surprising. It came in the form of, “Huh?!”, “What!?” gawks and other strange looks. Later that night, I sat and pondered why they would react in such a way. Then it hit me. I have discovered, in the latest assessment of my vocabulary, that there are words and phrases that I use very often that aren’t really words, or they aren’t used correctly. How did these ‘words and phrases’ come about? The answer is obvious: my little siblings. This category of ‘unreal’ words includes all of the following: ‘Copped’, (get arrested), ‘goompsee’, (excuse me), ‘merrshical’, (commercial), ‘a smash’, (a squash), ‘melted eggs’, (eggs sunny-side up), ‘freak in the stone’, and my personal favorite, ‘pig llama’, (which of course is referring to a pinata). My little brother Josh (8) and my little sister Joey (6), creatively decided to be original and say words differently from everyone else, at the age of about 2. Umm, no, Josh couldn’t say excuse me or commercial, so goompsee and merrshical came

about. He had no idea what sunny side up eggs were, but they look like they’re melted, thus the phrase ‘melted eggs.’ Joey didn’t know what a squash was, or how pinata was pronounced, so ‘smash’ and ‘pig llama’ were created. As for ‘copped’ and ‘freak in the stone’...I couldn’t tell you how those were brought about. After hearing Josh and Joey repeatedly use these words and phrases so often, they somehow molded their way into seemingly real words for me. And so, they have become a part of my very interesting vocabular. It’s like a virus... those words. Who knows how it starts, but it spreads, and it’s impossible to correct my ‘improper’ vocabulary. So if I am to get in trouble in Prof. Lau’s English class, for using ‘unreal’ words, then I will not blame, but credit my little siblings. And next time someone says a words or a phrase that maybe you haven’t ever heard, before giving them weird looks and laughing, just ask them, “Do you have little siblings?” Because I’m almost positive their answer will be, “Yes!”

-Jackie Beekman

## Volleyball Update

After losing no less than eight seniors last year from varsity and with several others not coming back for JV or C-team, this year’s volleyball season may have looked questionable. But with the victorious, yet rather tense opening home games, it looks like a year with promise.

The first 3 weeks of practices have been moving along and all teams have been progressing without *too* many injuries. Luckily we all had the chance to play some away games before our first home game, which was also our first conference game.

Erin Oster will be coaching C-team this year with the help of Gretchen Noeldner; Rex Morrison will be coaching JV with two

assistant coaches. And Joe Lau will be coaching Varsity with Heather Oster and Christine Dreyer assisting him. And besides these coaches there are several other people which we often fail to recognize- the managers, bookkeepers, and everyone else who contributes. How many times do we forget to thank them for volunteering all their time to make this sport possible? Thanks!

This brings me to another very important but often overlooked contributor to the sport, the fans. Yes, Prof. Reim would probably cringe to hear us yelling our voices hoarse, but let me tell you hearing those cheers really does make a difference when you’re out there playing, (or even sitting on the bench).

I could tell it was our first game because some of you seemed a little hesitant or un-synchronized, but don’t get discouraged. Heh, I’m sure with a little bit of practice and leadership, you’ll be able to cheer to your full potential. Keep up the efforts- they’re much appreciated.

This volleyball season should prove to be, at the very least, a fun one. It will be over before I know it, leaving me looking back over the year discouraged when still without answers to my questions, such as, “Why does C-team always get the cool snacks on the bus?”

Danielle Ryan

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