



The Flash



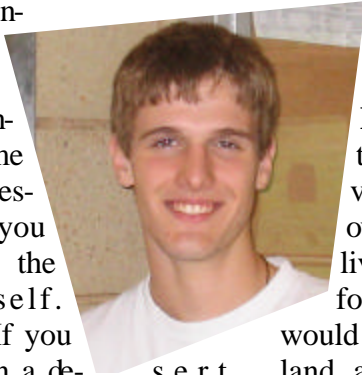
Senior Spotlights

Danielle: Here he is, the man himself, Brandon Gilmore. First of all, for the record, what is your full name?

Brandon: Brandon Paul Gilmore

D: Okay Brandon, I have some pretty nifty questions for you thought up by the editor herself. Ready? Okay. If you were trapped on a desert island, what 3 items would you bring (assuming that you already have a Bible)?

B: A buffalo, an old man, and a partially used handkerchief. No, wait, and a fire hydrant--



D: Sorry, only three items.

B: I need a fire hydrant-- it's essential to my survival!

D: Moving on... If you and your friends were alone on campus for a day, with no rules, what would you do?

B: I'd probably end up just taking a nap and playing video games. I'd order an out-of-state pizza to be delivered from England, on foot, so that the person would have to swim from England across the ocean and run here with the pizza, with the pizza in 8 ziploc bags for protection. When he gets here he'd be so exhausted he'd drop into a coma so the pizza would be free

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Full name: Nathaniel Ruben Ude

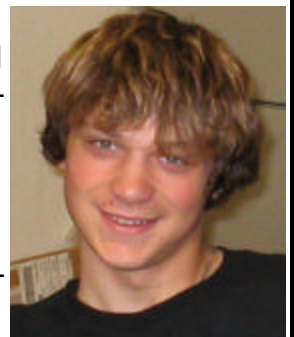
If you were trapped on a desert island, what 3 things would you bring and why?: 3 very, very long, very good books

If you and your friends were alone on campus with no rules what would you do and why?: TP the mormon church

But that's not on campus...: TP THE MORMON CHURCH!!!

If you had to lose one of the 5 senses, what would you chose and why?: Who thought of these questions?!

If you could have one super power, what would it be and why?: Destroying these questions.



How weird was this senior survey?: It made no sense what-so-ever!

Advice for the young-ins?: Trust in God...(ponders question) ignore all Flash personnel!

~ Kristin Traub

* Note from the typist, as you can very well tell Nate was not being cooperative in this survey. Please ignore his stupidity.

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cause he wouldn't be conscious to take the money. But I'll pay for his medical bills, even though I'd have to join the mafia in order to raise enough money to pay them...

D: Yeah, okay, stop cause I'm not writing anything more for that. Next question. If you could move anyplace, where would you choose to live and why?

B: I'm happy enough with my dorm room. It's a great place and God says you should be content with where you are.

D: If you had to lose any of your 5 senses (taste, touch, sight, smell, and hearing) which would you choose and why?

B: Well, everyone says taste and smell so I won't say those.

[However, after the influential

advice from Stuart, he changes his mind...]

I'd chose taste, so I could eat sardines all day long-- bones and all.

D: Lovely. If you could have any super power, what would it be and why?

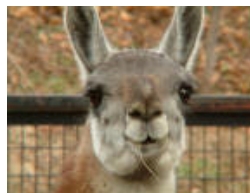
B: To be able to teleport, cause then I could live in California and go to school here. And I could grab people while I teleported so that they could come with me.

D: How weird was this senior survey?

B: Eh, pretty normal for me.

D: I figured you'd say that. Anyways, do you have any words of wisdom?

B: I don't even trust my own advice so I don't really have any.



D: Come on, you've got to have something to say to everyone.

B: Don't eat cheese jell-o [and Danielle heartily agrees.] Everybody should grow their hair out cause it keeps them warm in the winter and it's way in style! Cavities are no fun so brush your teeth, but no need to floss-- it's just too much work. Eat at

Quizno's everyday!

D: Any last comment you'd like to add?

B: I like llamas.

D: Well, thanks for your time-- it was quite memorable. Have a great senior year-- we'll really miss you next year!

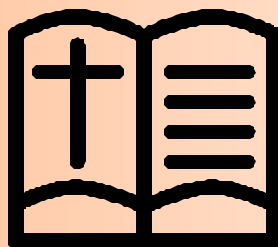
~ Danielle Ryan

We Are Not Alone!

By: Sophomore Editor Jackie Beekman

Look around you. Is there anyone there? Maybe there is, maybe there isn't, or so you think. No matter where you are there is always someone there even if you think you are completely alone. Who is this mystery person? Well, it's not really a mystery, and technically it's not even a person. Jesus. Always there, 24/7/365. It's a comfort, but sometimes we forget He's always there, right by our side. He sees our actions, hears our words, and knows our thoughts and secrets. When you "accidentally" swear, or do something sinful, maybe even purposefully, like teasing and picking on

someone, He hears and sees what you did, even though a teacher may not have. When you gossip about people, He's standing there, listening to your every word. When nasty



thoughts cross your mind, though you may not tell anyone, He knows. He hears. A feeling of guilt might be weighing on you right now. I'm feeling it even as I write this. If you don't, does that mean that sin doesn't bother you? It should.

Maybe if we think about the fact that Jesus is al-

ways with us, knowing everything we do or think, the sins of gossip, teasing, etc. will stop. Knowing Jesus is always with us, also brings up the fact that He is always forgiving us over and over. I've heard people say how they feel so alone, no one cares, and they can't trust anyone. If you have ever felt like that, you thought wrong. Jesus is always there, loves you more than words can tell, and you can always trust Him with anything and everything. So remember this: Pray to God whenever you have troubles and He will listen. You are never alone, and there is no greater comfort.



So Close!

One place short of going to state. Only seconds away. In the sectional race at Boyceville with over 100 area participants, Immanuel's Josh Gurgel came up just shy of qualifying to participate in the State Cross-Country Meet this weekend in Wisconsin Rapids. If that wasn't heartbreaking enough, Josh was initially told that he had qualified, only to find out minutes later that "there had been a little mix-up" and that his 18:25 11th place finish was not good enough.

In spite of the disappointment, Josh was pleased with his team's 4th place finish. The top two teams, Boyceville and Fall Creek, qualified for the state meet as teams. Going into the sectional meet, the Immanuel guys were expecting to finish in the middle of the pack, but they clearly exceeded their expectations. With no seniors on the team this year, perhaps the Lancers will challenge for the sectional championship next year.

Gurgel, a junior, claims he had "no strategy" entering the sectional race, but an observer



couldn't help but notice that he had picked off at least ten runners after the first mile. Maybe next year it will be eleven and we'll see him at state.

Congratulations to Josh and the rest of the cross-country team on a fine season.

By: Prof. Joe Lau

2004 Immanuel Football - Final Chapter

Final Standings

- Razors 8-4-0
- Sharks 7-3-1
- Bears 5-6-1
- Hawks 3-8-0

Season Playoffs

- Bears 20 - Sharks 13
- Razors 32 - Hawks 12

Championship Game

- Bears vs. Razors
(cancelled, weather)

Bears - Co-Champions - Razors

2004 Football Awards

- Rookie of the year- Eric Dreyer
- Play of the Year- Jordan Albrecht
- Lineman of the Year- Jesse Bailey
- Defensive Player of the Year- Paul Tiefel
- Co-Champions of the Year - Bears and Razors
- Most Valuable Player of the Year- Caleb Schaller

Specials

- Sacks- Erik Nelson
- Interceptions - Paul Tiefel
- Personal Best Award - Mike Lueck
- Bulls-eye, Target Eichstadt - Stephan Eichstadt
- Flag Retirement - Ryan Hammett
- Flag Retirement - Caleb Schaller

By Don Skinner

Five Years Running...

By Shannon Roehl

I know everyone thought that you would go a whole year without a cross country article, but guess what? It simply wouldn't be the same FLASH without one. Plus, since the season is over, you know it won't be a "Hey! We don't have enough runners, come run with us!!!" article. I just felt that there were some accomplishments that were worth mentioning.

First of all, a big congratulations to our varsity boys for winning their conference meet for the 5th year in a row. Way to go guys! Second of all, Emily Roehl had an incredible first year. I don't know how many people know how well she did, but she ended up getting 5th place in one varsity race and routinely ran the 4K (about 2.6 mi.) in 18 min. or less. Awesome job to both the guys and Emily. Oh, and who could forget our loyal, dedicated fans, Liz and Becca B? Thanks you two for your wonderful support.

For those of you who aren't planning on running, you should come with sometime, just to watch. Better yet, give up volleyball and come run. (Okay, so I was wrong about this not being a "come run" article.) Either way, Cross Country season was great, we're glad it's over, and now we get to eat junk food again!!



Are You Ready For Some Futbol?!

By Coach Sippert

This year's version of the Immanuel Lutheran Soccer Club has finished a fourth season of the team's young existence and in less than eight short weeks has achieved a number of firsts. The 2004 team was the first to...

- Win 10 games in a fall season of play
- Lose only one game in the process
- Give up 6 penalty kicks
- Have a keeper save three of them (way to go Ben!)
- Have a 20+ goal scorer (way to go Gideon!)
- Win a game after falling behind by two goals in the second half
- Get the coach wet (Erik Nelson, I know where you sleep!)

As unique as this team truly was, they still had plenty in common with their predecessors of the past three seasons. I'm talking about characteristics such as these:

- The desire to be a WIAA varsity team within the school's athletic program and compete in the Division 3 playoffs (do the Board of Regents read the FLASH?)
- A JV attitude during practice (or maybe it's a C team attitude...depends on the day)
- A growing aversion to practice as the season wears on
- A hesitancy to pay their fees
- A willingness to play the "world's game" (are you ready for some futbol?!)

Congratulations, futbolistas, on your 2004 season. As for the new sweatshirts- I have to say that I like the front side, but the back is very suspect.



Full Name: *Christopher Harold Higgins*

Where are you from?: *Seattle, Washington*

If you and your friends were alone on campus for a day with no rules, what would you do?: *Probably nothing much different than we usually do, stay up late and just mess around.*

If you could move anyplace, where would you choose to live and why?: *Hmm, I would probably live in Montana. It would be nice to be away from everything in the big city. I would get a bunch of land and live right in the middle of it. You can pretty much do whatever you want out there.*



If you had to lose one of the 5 senses, which would you choose and why?: *Taste, because the things you experience with taste aren't that important compared to the things you experience with the other senses.*

If you could have any super power, what would it be and why?: *I would want to be able to teleport, because then you could go wherever you want to whenever you want to.*

If you were trapped on a desert island, what 3 things would you bring?: *A knife, something to make fire with, and somebody to keep me company.*

Advice for the youngins?: *Count on your friends to get you through, but above everything else count on God.*

By: Rachel Winters



YEAH, THAT'S KINDA WEIRD!

By Jackie Beekman

The other day, I was sitting at my kitchen table looking at a jar of Milwaukee Dill Pickles, and I became very puzzled about some things. I started thinking about how in the world anyone thought about sticking cucumbers in a jar with vinegar and some other stuff, and then it would make, TA-DA, a pickle! Did someone just get really bored and decide to try it or what? How weird! But as my mom and I began discussing this rather captivating topic, she shared with me some strange, not to mention sick and wrong, items that have been pickled.

Apparently some people pickle watermelon rinds. When I heard that, I was at a loss for words... almost. What in the world would possess anyone to pickle watermelon rinds? Why would you want to eat that? It's just not right! But if you thought that was weird, keep reading! Some people pickle beets, my mom being one of them. I've never tried them. I don't like regular beets,, so what would make



Yeah, That's Kinda Weird...

me like pickled ones?! It just makes it sound gross when you put the word pickled in front of it...or anything for that matter!

I guess some people pickle green tomatoes. Now, those are like the jars of... whatever it is in Italian restaurants, like Fazoli's and Papa Murphy's. They're neat to look at but would you really want to eat 'em? Talk about nasty. But wait, it gets worse. I was flipping through a cookbook and saw a recipe for pickled shrimp. Shrimp are kind of

shriveled up the way it is, but can you think about what they look like after you pickle them in a jar for a few years? Eww. That's like the only word to describe the picture in my head right now. Some people pickle herring! Fish and pickled aren't exactly two words I'd want in the same sentence. Fish smells weird the way it is, but if it was pickled? I get nauseated thinking about it. But guess what? We're just getting to the good stuff.

Did you ever think it was

possible to pickle something that's already in a container?

Well it is. There are actually people who make pickled eggs. I'm having difficulty trying to think about how that would taste and smell...and I'm pretty much at a loss for description on that one. So, we will move on to our grand finale. This last one can be witnessed in the meat section of you local Mega Foods. It is none other than pickled pigs' feet. Why would you want to consider eating them? And don't they have hooves? But still that's not the point. The fact that someone would think about putting little piggy feet into a jar in order to preserve and eat them is just... grotesque. I personally think that whoever thought of that one was a little bit off...like something snapped, because that is so wrong. So, yeah...I think that the above mentioned pickled items are a little bit weird. Especially the whole pig feet thing. That just ain't right! I don't even know how you could eat pig's feet. If there is a motto or lesson to be learned from this article, it is this: There are just some things that weren't meant to be pickled. What walks on the ground should stay on the ground, not go into a jar!

TO VOTE OR NOT TO VOTE?

By Lisa Murch

Voting. The word usually brings to mind someone standing in a booth punching holes in a ballot. But why is that person there in the first place? As Christians, I think our reasons for being there should be different than everyone else's. At times, I've gotten the impression from some Christians that it doesn't matter if we vote because God's will will be done whether we vote or not. I'm not trying to say that God's will won't be done, of course, but I think we need to realize a few things. First of all, God is the One who put the government over us. He is the One who oversaw the plans for the system that we have in place. Although God still does miracles, He uses earthly means to carry out His will. By hav-

ing the type of elections that we do, I think it's not only our civic duty, but our God-given duty to go vote if you are eligible. Voting is a way that God has given us to play an active role in our government. If all we do is sit and complain about the things that are wrong with this country, but then don't go do something about it when we get the chance, we aren't being very proactive. If we don't want to see millions of babies continue to be killed every year, or the institution of marriage be challenged any further, we need to stand up and do something! I realize that by the time this comes out that the election will be over, but I hope that everyone that can will go vote in the next election.



The Triumph of The Nerds!!

By: Roberta Abbott, Shannon Roehl, and Danielle Ryan

Due to the fact that the Quizbowl was a rather new event for this generation of Immanuel students, we decided to give you the lowdown on these mental Olympics that took place last October 20.

This year's Quizbowl was hosted by Alma Center Lincoln High School and was organized like so... Each of the ten high school teams drew numbers to determine who their opponents would be. Each of these 5 member teams would pair off to face each other in head to head intellectual combat. Each match consisted of 3 rounds— including toss up questions for individuals, team questions, and a speed round— and lasted 30 minutes. Each team played 4 matches with a lunch break and individual written tests.

Immanuel was represented by Juniors Ben Meyer, Danielle Ryan, and Shannon Roehl, and Seniors Roberta Abbott and Chris Higgins. Throughout the course of the day, our team worked well together (we soon discovered letting Higgins answer most everything was the best strategy) but we all did contribute our share of brainpower. Without a doubt, Higgins was simply the "Master Nerd," earning the highest score out of 50 plus students on the individual written test. Another key part of our strategy was the ability to guess well. If in doubt, the answer to a sports question was usually 'football' or 'track and field,' the answer to a literary question was 'Steinbeck' or 'Shakespeare,' and the answer to a Presidential question was almost always 'Kennedy.' Hey, at least our guesses beat opponent's random ones, such as

"snoozle" and 'Mt. Zimbabwe.' It was always a great feeling when your guess somehow was correct, for example: "What is the only restaurant chain in the DOW Jones Industrial?" "Uh..... I don't know, just say something... McDonald's?" "Correct."

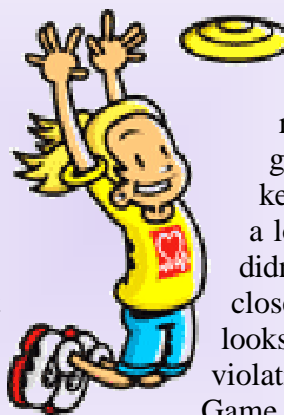
Having a Christian background was both a help and hindrance. The moderator seemed astonished when Roberta correctly

identified the 'Torah' as 'Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy' (the answer she was looking for was simply 'the first 5 books of the Bible'). However, when asked the question "during which prehistoric era did birds first begin to take flight?" we simply looked at each other and laughed. It figures that the only Christian school there would be asked the only evolution based question— and in the Champi-

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The Spirit of The Game

I can feel myself darting in and out of lanes, cutting off the flow of traffic, getting there first. I'm not talking about driving— I'm talking ULTIMATE. [Editor's Note: *ULTIMATE* refers to *Ultimate Frisbee*.] Perhaps some of you have seen me around campus wiggling my fingers when I talk, bobbling on the balls of my feet. When this happens, I must be thinking about ultimate. What is it about the sport that gives me a wild glint in my eye and makes me almost drool at the thought of playing? Maybe it's the feel of turf or grass under my toes, maybe it's the satisfaction of beating a man half again as tall as you and with twice as much muscle as you to the disc, slapping it down in front of his face for the golden turnover. Mostly, though, I would say it's all about the attitude and atmosphere of the sport. Ultimate



has greater bonds than other activities— ultimate isn't a sport, it's a community. When someone joins the ultimate community, the first rule they learn is something called the "Spirit of the Game"— be civilized, nice, don't cheat, be a good sport, and fulfill the purpose of the game (have fun). Since ultimate is self-refereed, honesty and good sportsmanship is key. If someone calls a lot of fouls that really didn't occur during a close game, everyone looks down on them for violating the Spirit of the Game. In this respect, playing ultimate is a great way to represent the Lord— play calmly, call fouls only when they occur, and generally just play like a Christian— play with the Spirit of the game and the Spirit of God in mind.

By Roberta Abbott



Bedtime? YOU Need It!!!

By Prof. Joe Lau

This is written in response to the article in the last FLASH entitled "Bedtime? Who needs It!" As a member of the ILC faculty and as the Assistant to the Dean of Students, I feel obligated to justify the school's current bedtime policy. (Besides that, debating Danielle is way too much fun.)

I acknowledge that in an ideal world many of the things the author stated would be true. Students would be conscientious about their homework. Students would recognize when they haven't had enough sleep and make appropriate changes. Students would only stay up past 10:00 PM for studying purposes and not bother their roommates or supervisor who wish to sleep. Students would be able to participate in all extra-curricular activities, take all the most challenging courses, have time for a meaningful and full social life, and get the recommended 9-10 hours of sleep per night. Reality and experience has proven otherwise.

In an ideal world, ILC would also be able to individualize study hall and bed time in accordance with the maturity level and responsibility of each student, in a way parents may at home. We recognize that some students may operate just fine without supervision and bedtime monitoring, but when you have a limited staff and a large dorm population, rules are necessary to provide consistency in supervision. Being a dorm parent is difficult enough without having to deal with individual bedtimes and study halls, or monitoring "stay-in-your-room-and-be-quiet" time until everyone is finished with their homework.

There are many rules we have on campus simply because we need to monitor the behavior of a large number of students. For example, at home you may be allowed to eat whatever you want in the living room. On campus, only certain food items can be eaten in the lounge and gymnasium. At home you may be allowed to listen to music or watch TV while you are studying, while in the dorms these activities are either not allowed or restricted. At home you may be allowed to study whenever you feel like it, to free up your evening time perhaps. In the dorm you are told when study hall will be. At home you may be allowed to drive the family car, go to places without parental permission, and leave without "signing out." In the dormitory these activities are restricted. Is the purpose of these restrictions to



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onship match nonetheless!

We entered this contest with no experience, no expectations, and no idea what was in store. To our surprise, however, we finished our first four matches undefeated—and were tied with Independence, the only other undefeated school. We were also amazed to discover that not only were we in the Championship Round with a guaranteed trophy, but we had finished above Lincoln, the home team—a team that practices regularly and even has Quizbowl t-shirts! The Championship Round took place on a stage in front of all the other teams and advisors. It was our closest match yet, but we slowly gained a lead heading into the speed round. However, that's where the tide turned and Independence won the match by an incredibly close margin of 15 points (310 vs.

325).

Even though we were so close to taking the victory, we were more than satisfied and extremely thankful to God for how the day had gone. It had exceeded all of our expectations. After the third match (and third victory), Higgins stated with glee, "I haven't been so nerdily pleased in many a year."

In the car ride home, we were all buzzing, recalling the day's highlights ("I even answered three questions that round!" Ben Meyer gloated) and frustrations ("Mariner's Trench?! It's Mariana Trench!"). The energy and tension that was high throughout the day continued the whole way back to campus. "It was such a rush," recalls Danielle. "So much adrenaline." Roberta also remarked, "Being up on stage and in the classrooms was a reminder that we were representing our school.

And afterwards Shannon and I were so drained we could barely run at cross country practice."

And to finally answer the questions on everybody's minds—yes! Yes, they did provide us free lunch—pizza! Although it was in scarce quantity it quelled our hunger quite nicely. And yes—we did miss an entire day of school (woohoo!).

All the members agree—they hope to compete again in the spring at a second local Quizbowl challenge. "If we compete again, I need to learn more about dead guys," comments Shannon. We hope to continue the Quizbowl team, eventually creating a legacy of trivia geeks. In the words of Prof Kranz, "You guys came into this as underdogs with low expectations. But next time it will be like the revenge of the master nerds."



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thoughtlessly make life miserable for students by limiting their freedom? I think you know why each of these rules is in place. That doesn't mean you agree with them, but you know why we think they are important, and perhaps you may agree.

As for the "busyness" problem, I have a few things to say. I understand that a student's life can become rather hectic, especially if they choose to be involved in many activities. One must remember, however, that these are choices. With every choice there is a consequence. Every sport one participates in, every club one joins, every band one plays in, every elective one takes, will take away from time in other areas of one's life. Social life may be a back seat if these activities require

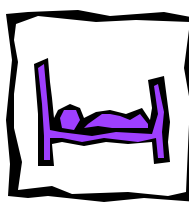
time commitments. Study time may be curtailed by involvement in extra-curricular groups. In my mind, this is one of the wonderful things about ILC. For such a small school, there are so many opportunities to participate in things. But you can't do them all! Unless, of course, you give up sleep, a social life, a great GPA, a starting spot on the team, a lead in the play, etc., etc.

Finally, I would like to address study halls. Having supervised many of them over the last nine years, I have noticed that very few students actually study during these study halls. In fact, when confronted with this observation, students usually respond with "I don't have any work to do," or "If I do my

work now, I won't have anything to do during study hall tonight." I have also asked the question of students, "Who thinks study hall needs to be lengthened?" No one yet seems to think study hall needs to be longer.

I would also like to point out that, in my experience, our dorm supervisors and RAs are reasonable people. Exceptions are granted periodically for students to study with others, perhaps even to stay up late to complete a project. Extensions have been known to be given to allow students to socialize beyond normal bed times. The administration is interested in and concerned that students have adequate sleep and a quiet environment in which to study. The rules we have in place are with these goals in mind.

Ban Bedtime? No Way!!!



Cats Are Cool? Yeah, Right!

By Jackie Beekman

I'm going to start this counter-article off by stating the ever so simple and honest fact: I HATE CATS! What good are they? I say they're a waste of money. Well, actually, you don't have to even spend money on buying a cat. You can just pick up one of the hundreds of cats at the Humane Association!! Notice there's only a few dogs, but like...a bajillion cats!!

Why get a pet that doesn't want to play, doesn't warn of intruders, and doesn't care if you are there or not?! I have two dogs, and they know when we are leaving the house. They get really depressed and lay down right by the door. Dogs are capable of expressing multiple emotions through their actions. Cats, on the other hand, only want you around so you can feed them. Dogs come when called, and can do tricks when trained to do so. One of my dogs, Ziggy, can sit, speak, dance, and go

"round and round." Cats just lay under the couch and try to eat dust. Wow. Very impressive.

If you are really serious about owning a pet, why would you leave the poor things at home? Our dogs usually come with, which makes for an interesting trip! And you don't necessarily have to walk a dog everyday. Put up a fence, and throw a frisbee around every once in a while. Most of the time they are able to entertain themselves, and exercise on their own by romping around with a stray volleyball in the backyard. And if your dog does require walking, it's just a way of ensuring yourself of a healthy lifestyle.

As far as baths go, well it varies on the breed. Our chocolate lab, Charlie, barely ever needs a bath, but when she does she just runs around outside

until she is dry. Ziggy, however, needs a bath more often, but she is entertaining. She HATES being wet, and gets really hyper, and runs around the house at full speed until she's dry. Running down the hallway, into rooms, out of rooms, on the couch, on the bed, she's everywhere. Sure she smells, but it's worth the laugh. Cats just lick themselves until they hark up a hairball. How attractive.

My dogs would cuddle right up next to you whenever you are laying around. They constantly show emotion, and love being around you. Cats...well, you're lucky if you ever see 'em. So, in conclusion, dogs rock! They love you and show it! And if you really care about them, you'll be more than willing to take the extra step to care for them!





Full name: *Joshua Lane Altom*

Where were you born and how many times have you moved? Where to?: *I was born in Aurora, Illinois (a suburb of Chicago). My family moved to Apple Valley, MN, when I was 2, then to Eagan, MN before my first grade year. The summer before my Freshman year, we moved here.*

If you could move anyplace, where would you live and why?: *I think I'd have to travel more before I can give a good answer, but I do think it would be interesting to live in Ireland for a while. (Best music in the world, what more can I say?)*

So...tell me about the Berea Riverdance?: *Bleah...do I have to? Anyway, during my 8th grade year, Becca found out that, if she tried to kick my shins in a certain pattern, my jumping out of the way would vaguely resemble a Riverdance!*

If you were trapped on a desert island, what 3 items would you bring? (In addition to a Bible):

An internet-capable computer, a sketch pad and pencil, and as many books as I could cram into my backpack.

If you and your friends were

alone on campus for a day with no rules, what would you do?: *Now that is a loaded question. There might not be a campus left at the end of the day, considering some of the friends I have.*

If you had to lose any of your 5 senses, which would you chose and why?: *I wouldn't want to lose any of them, but it seems like I'd miss my sense of smell the least. (It would make some jobs a lot easier, that's for sure!)*

If you could have any super power, what would it be and why?: *Hmm...would you count insanely awesome necromancy skills as a super power? And as to why, do you even have to ask?*

What are your plans for the future? *I'm probably going to come back here for my first two years of college, but I don't know after that.*



I've been playing around with the idea of studying archaeology at the UW-La Crosse. As far as my personal life goes, I have hopes but no concrete plans.

Have any advice for the little ones?: *Make friends early on. They can be a blessing. One more thing: Don't get caught. Life is hard enough around here without being on Sullivan's blacklist.*

A Counter Article to a Counter Article???

By Danielle Ryan

Before I begin this article I would like to say two things. First of all, I don't intend to become involved with or drag on every opinion article published in the Flash. However, I did feel rather compelled to write this because although I appreciated the original article, "A Plague on the Teenage Kind" from the first issue of this year's Flash, I fear it was misunderstood by many. Second of all, I do not exclude myself from any observations made in this article. I do not write this article trying to rebuke others while sparing myself. I also find myself guilty of the following sins and in constant awe of God's endless mercy and forgiveness.

To the author of "Don't Judge a Book by its cover: The Popular Plague of Judgment" and to readers who might have agreed:

You wrote that you were "confused and upset" by the article "A Plague on the Teenage Kind." Please allow me to try to defend and explain the message it conveyed.

First of all, you said you interpreted the article as saying "that everyone who is rich, athletic, and/or good looking is snobby, egotistical, and/or disrespectful. I disagree." I would disagree too if this had been the point made. However, that was not her argument. Instead, the original article read (regarding those generally thought of as popular by the student body) "these persons are usually disrespectful, rich, good-looking, athletic, snobbish, and/or egotistical." Notice that the author does not stereotype or assume these traits are always linked to each other. She simply makes the observation that many "popular" students have one or more of these qualities.

The next point made in the second article, "Don't Judge...", was that "everyone has his/her own group of close friends." I disagree. Not everyone has his or her circle of friends. I bet every one of you reading this can think of at least a few people that don't have any friends-- a

(Continued on page 10)



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horrible but true fact on a Christian campus where the all-accepting love of God is preached.

Moving on to the next point: "Second of all, why is it said that people who do bad or disrespectful things are 'popular?' I, personally, don't think that someone like that is 'so awesome.'" I think all of us might agree with this initially, but after further examination eventually we realize how guilty we all are. How many times has somebody made a disrespectful comment to a Prof and received laughter and admiration? (Don't think this disrespect occurs only with respect to our actions towards Professors, but it is evident in how we treat all of our classmates as well-- to their faces and behind their backs.) Who is more accepted by and "popular" with the class-- the student who gives the Prof a hard time or the student who speaks up for the Prof and rebukes his or her disrespectful classmates? Admit it, we all enjoy watching the student who gives Profs a hard time, and the example of the latter student is practically nonexistent-- it's almost hard to imagine.

Now, perhaps I'm not being entirely fair. There are times when everyone, including the Professors, seem to enjoy a little harmless joking around. That's not what I'm talking about. I'm talking about flat-out disrespect and negative comments in class. Perhaps you might also complain that I'm assuming that everyone thinks this disrespect is "cool." Let me once again reference the first article written. In the opening line she defined popularity as "being widely liked or accepted." Although these smart-alecks might not be liked by everyone, they are usually at least accepted. Aren't there many

"popular" people at school here that, although you don't necessarily like them that much or agree with what they do, you don't want to stand in their way or reprove them because of their popularity? If so many of us claim that we don't like fellow students mouthing off in class, why is it such a recurring event?

The first author explains why: *'because of our sinful nature, most people enjoy being entertained by another's disrespectful nature.'* No matter how guilty or squeamish we might feel about that statement, we cannot deny it. She goes on to say, "To the sinful world, the law of the popularity states-- If you're a miscreant you are popular, if you're a compassionate soul you're not even on the radar." Perhaps she uses slight hyperbole to make a point, but according to the sinful nature in the sinful world, this is all too true.

Although I don't entirely agree with the rest of the paragraph (from the article "Don't Judge..."), I'll spare you readers my thoughts and try to cut this article short. (For some reason I simply do not have the ability to write short articles, as you might have observed. My sincere apologies...)

Moving on... the next thing that I wish to clear up was the fourth paragraph in the article "Don't Judge..." You claim, "Thirdly, I was particularly bothered by the comment that good looks and athleticism are a trait of 'popularity.' God gave us all the looks that we have, and no one should be boked up to, or down on, for them." I agree with you mostly up to this point. God has blessed us all by planning us with love. "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb" Psalm 139:13. But,

remembering that popularity is defined by being well-liked or accepted, it is not surprising that many people who are considered popular are also good looking or athletic. You go on to say, "But if sports aren't everyone's strong suit, it doesn't mean that they don't have friends." I am actually rather confused where you concluded this from. The original writer in no way links sports skill to number of friends. I hope you didn't get the wrong impression from her article.

What confused me the most is that both of you seem to come to the exact same conclusion. You both agreed that although the Lord made all of us equal, he also made us to be unique creations with different gifts. You also both accuse others of using stereotypes and liking or disliking others without getting to know them better.

I hope that I have helped clear up some confusions. What it all comes down to is this-- Christ loves us and wishes us to love others unconditionally. He has taught us that revolutionary new idea that our sinful nature cannot understand. We should not love based on the personality, or popularity, of others. Instead we should follow Jesus, who loved and dwelt with even the *most* unpopular people during his life on earth, and who loves all of us. God help us all to love others like this and to strive to become popular-- not in the eyes of this world, but in the eyes of God.

Galations 6:9-10 "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."



And the Winner Is...

By Liz Polvolny

We all waited for it, we all watched it, and we all held our breath as the hours rolled on inconclusively... The 2004 election. Claimed by both parties to be the most important election of our lifetimes, the race between John Kerry and George W. Bush was too close for comfort. Tuesday, November 2nd, came and went inconclusively. Just as many began to wonder whether there would be a recount, John Kerry conceded to President Bush.

I'm pretty sure that everyone reading this already knew the outcome of the election. You might be wondering why I'm bothering to write about it since it's old news now. Well, the debates might be over, the campaign advertisements aren't going to show at commercial breaks anymore, and we don't have to argue about who should win, but we still need to pay attention to the impact that Bush's reelection will have on our nation. After all, we didn't just elect him because he's a Republican or because he's a nice guy from Texas. There were morals at stake, there were plans we wanted to see put in action, there were reasons. What *does* Bush stand for? What will he do with the presidency?

Bush has laid out a very ambitious plan for his second term. Here is a look at his proposals for domestic policy. One of his biggest goals is to overhaul Social Security- we don't have the exact details of his plan

yet, but will see what he intends soon. One part that he has shared of his plan is to add voluntary personal investment accounts to Social Security, so that some of people's taxes can go to stocks and bonds for their retirement.

Another thing he wants to implement in his second term is having tougher educational standards for high schools. He wants to limit lawsuit awards against



doctors as well. A huge undertaking will be to re-write the tax code. There are many options for how to do this, so a bi-partisan commission will look at all angles to decide which will be best for the country. Some ideas are to have a national sales tax or a single-rate flat tax. The commission will hopefully report in early 2005. Overall, George W. wants to reach out across the party lines and draw the nation together after the harsh divisions brought on by the election campaigns.

Bush's theme for foreign policy is simple: he wants to spread freedom and democracy to fight terrorism and its causes. He plans to continue plans for a US/Iraqi offensive against insurgents in Iraq. He said at a press conference, "in order for Iraq to be a free country, those who are trying to stop the elections and stop a free society from emerg-

ing must be defeated." 125,000 Iraqis will be trained as security forces for the Iraqi elections in January. He hopes to be able to bring peace between Israel/Palestine, which will be a huge undertaking after so many years of strife. Finally, Bush wants to break the impasse between the House of Representatives and the Senate on legislation about having a national intelligence director. Overall, we will continue with a strong foreign policy, but he also plans to pay more attention here at home.

We can thank God that our new President doesn't stand for abortion or gay rights as John Kerry did and hopefully we will see great things coming from the White House. We pray that President Bush will continue to guide our country with God-given wisdom and justice in his second term. The Lord will bless George W. Bush's efforts to lead our country to the best of his ability.

Brought to You By...

Contributors: Danielle Ryan, Kristin Traub, Jackie Beekman, Prof. Joe Lau, Don Skinner, Shannon Roehl, Prof. Sippert, Rachel Winters, Roberta Abbott, Samantha Barthels
 Editors: Rachel Libby, Lisa Murch, Jackie Beekman, Nick Marzofka
 Faculty Advisor: Prof. Joe Lau
 Typists: Amanda Hulke, Shannon Roehl, Kristin Bomber, Becca Friedrichs
 Layout: Rachel Libby

COPY AND ASSEMBLY:

MARK TIEFEL (Sorry about the past two issues, Mark.)



Editor's Notes

Does Brandon *really* need a buffalo on his desert island? Could Nate Ude have been a touch more cooperative? The point of the Senior Spotlights this issue was to show everyone the "real personality" apart from most inside jokes and whatnot. I do believe that Nate's personality shined through beautifully. Soccer went pretty well, and for those of you who are out of the loop, (internet readers and whatnot) the soccer sweatshirts say "All Day I Dream About Sipper!" on the back. Clever. Thanks to our "nerdy" buddies for writing a Quiz Bowl article. I wonder if taking tests all day and wringing your brain of every ounce

of intellect is honestly worth missing a day of school for? What is with the rebuttal articles this issue?! Man alive! And also, apologies to Kristin Traub for not getting her counter article to the popularity thing in, but Danielle's page and a half pretty much covered about everything, I think. I believe it was definitely just Prof. Lau's duty to respond to Bedtimes, so that has an excuse. Cats are better than dogs?? I don't think so, but who am I to judge? You knew that there had to be *something* written about the Election, didn't you? It's one of the biggest decisions of at least the next four years in our country and it could have a huge impact on all

of our lives. (When you say it like that, politics are almost exciting.) I would like to make sure that everyone knows that Mark Tiefel hasn't been in the credits the last few times around, and he definitely is a huge part of the FLASH. Without him, there *might* be a FLASH but it's not very likely. And there would only be about one copy of it, and that wouldn't be a whole lot of fun. So next time you see Mark, say "Thank you!!" because if it weren't for him, you wouldn't even be having so much fun reading this right now. I know that I appreciate all of his hard work.

SHOPPING SPREE!

By Rachel Libby

Have you ever really wanted to go shopping, but you really couldn't justify "wasting" your money? Have you ever wanted to go to a movie, but then spent the night bored in your room, because you should really be "saving your money" or giving to charity or something? (Okay, maybe giving to charity is a stretch, but just stay with me, here.) Well, now, you finally have a good excuse!

Messiah Lutheran School now has a receipt locker at Oakwood Mall! This means that all you have to do to give cash back to kids, is deposit your receipts into one of the lockers on your way out! How great is that? If you have any old receipts,

dating as far back as July 30th, 2004, they can also be submitted for cash back. So search through your purse or wallet, because all those slips that you've been meaning to throw away are worth something now! Each and every receipt that's turned in is point worthy. Anything from shopping at your favorite store, to going to a movie counts. Just ask them for your receipt and turn it in! If you wanted to keep your receipt, then all you have to do is go to the customer service desk by JCPenney's and they'll rack up the points for you. How handy is that? Even if you're eating at the Food Court or in TGIFriday's, you

can receive points. If you've bought anything big recently, like a refrigerator at Sears, or particularly expensive shoes at Scheels, those will really rack up the points. But, please, HURRY with your receipts! **Our deadline is November 28th** to meet our first

goal! Just take that extra few seconds and drop them off. The more you spend, the better, so get that Christmas shopping done now. Thanks, and happy shopping!

