

THE FLASH

—SEPTEMBER—

Modern History,
Mr. Steve Sydow

*Have you met CHRIS
KOCH yet?! He's from
Mankato.. That ex-
plains everything :)*

apple coffee cake
and hot cocoa !!

INTRODUCTION to
the new South Hall
Supervisors, Rob
and Kate Sauers!

**PROF. LAU'S
ANCIENT ROOTS
REVEALED !!**

(read his first article of
all time, from 1984!)

cover art by Deanna Kelly

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE & SEMINARY

THE FLASH

Volume 53, Issue 1

Let's Not Be Cliché...

A New Perspective on This Season! **By Melanie Hallstein**

Fall is here! Almost. It's a bridge into the inevitable chill that will gnaw at our skin and weaken our motivation for exercise. I have a theory that the icy temperature of winter has an effect on gravity. Hence, everyone living in WISCONSIN during the winter will be a bum on the couch for at least 4 months. It's okay, we'll all embrace it. We'll daintily skip across that bridge when we get to it. But NOW..? We have our last few weeks of tolerable temperatures! Cross country takes full advantage of the slightly cool weather. It definitely isn't easy when autumn's breeze becomes a chill, but they sure put the "I CAN" in DEDICATION.

SO... Immanuel students? Get outside---go fishing, play hacky-sack, eat candy corn, wear skirts, play frisbee, walk in the woods, toss a friend in the fishpond. Get all this FUN (this is questionable) stuff out of your system! Soon, brutality of mister winter will set in, your fingers will stick to the poles outside the Commons, candy corn will be expensive again, your legs will be cold and white, frisbees will get buried in snow, you'll need snowpants to walk in the woods, and the fishpond will be frozen over. Make the most of these beautiful up-and-coming autumn days!

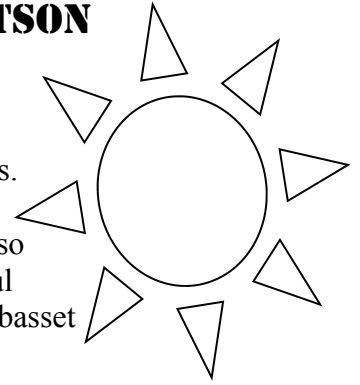
If these ideas aren't sufficient enough for you, (which they really should be) come to my room---I'll make you coffee and we'll have a discussion. I pledge to help you enjoy your fall season! And any senior (I should hope) will be MORE THAN HAPPY to spend their last IMMANUEL AUTUMN with you! :) Enjoy the season, and don't forget to make time to jump in the leaves!



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WHAT A VACATION! BY HANNAH KNUTSON



This summer a group of kids (including myself) went to Houston, Texas. We, however, did NOT go there to get a tan. We went to distribute fliers for TVBS (Traveling Vacation Bible School). It was a very cool experience and also extremely hot. Emily Marzofka, Rhiannon Roehl, and I stayed with a wonderful woman named Sara for the week. She and her husband had two Chihuahuas, a basset hound, and another dog.

Before we went out “flier-ing,” Pastor Luke Bernthal gave us a devotion and there were introductions. There was Rigo (who LOVES ducks), Johnny (very random), Miguel, and U-Seven (who was pretty cool). And of course, Ella Bohde (who, well... ask Mary Bruckbauer ‘cause there’s not enough space)! Going to the mall with everyone was SO awesome. Rhiannon, Emily, and I got a ride on the carousel! Johnny bought a pillow pet-panda and named him Walter, and got a bunch of people to say hi to him! Good times! Then, at the Disney store, Buzz Lightyear came in the form of Rigo as he tried on a kids’ costume. At Old Time Springs, U-Seven convinced us to try fried Oreos, which are actually amazing! (Who’s counting calories on vacation anyway?!) We also went boogie boarding with Pastor Luke, and with two coats of sunscreen, Ella and I could not escape the sun’s heat!

Pastor Luke Bernthal, who had his last year there (now preaching in Nebraska) said, “We [Bethel Church] were grateful once again for the help received from the TVBS flier team. The volunteers braved the high heat and humidity of the Houston summer admirably and delivered 7,750 fliers! We were all very impressed with how well the volunteers and their chaperones (the Wirths) represented Immanuel, and more importantly their Savior, while they were here with us. It wasn’t all work and no play, however. We also had the opportunity to go the Galveston Island to swim and boogie board in the Gulf of Mexico, spend time at one of the area malls, and have an end of the week pizza party with games and prizes at Incredible Pizza Company. The Lord blessed our efforts tremendously

once again this year as we had 36 students come to our VBS in early August (most were non-members)! I would encourage anyone to consider signing up for one of the TVBS flier or teaching trips next summer. You won’t be disappointed!”

And he is completely right! Ask anyone who’s gone on one, or go on one for yourself!



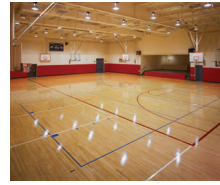
TVBS 2010 FLIER TRIP
—HOUSTON, TX—



OUTDOOR STUDY???

By Bryan Kottke

We are very blessed to live on a campus with such natural settings. But wouldn't it be great if we could enjoy the outdoors even more? Studying outside is a peaceful and meditative experience, much less stressful than the dorm scene. The problem is that we don't have a good spot outside to do this. The addition of **picnic tables** outside the commons would provide a more comfortable environment for studying, eating, and socializing. If this idea appeals to you, talk to your student council representatives and we can make it a reality!



New Gym Floor!

By Caleb Gerbitz

One of the first things that you probably noticed upon your return to Immanuel this school year was our shiny new gym floor and the new pads on the walls at the baselines. Over the summer, a lot of money was spent to resurface the gym floor and buy the new pads. While the floor has been resurfaced several times before, this is the first time that this has been done in about twenty years. The hope is that this floor will last at least as long. With that in mind, please remember not to wear street shoes on the floor. They wear down the floor and leave behind ugly black marks. We are looking forward to many great basketball and volleyball games on our new floor this year and in the upcoming years.



SUMMER

— well, sort of :)



Compiled by Paige Louderman

Drain Notes - The Ready Set

Fool Everyone - A Rocket to the Moon

Backbone - There for Tomorrow

Your Voice - The Downtown Fiction

On the Brightside - Nevershoutnever

Queen of the Broken Hearts - The Bigger

Love Like Woe - The Ready Set

TGIF - The Secret Handshake

I Just Wanna Run - The Downtown Fiction

Nine in the Afternoon - Panic! At the Disco

Upsets and Downfalls - The Ready Set

Mother May I - EatmewhileImhot



Dwight Krause

Interviewed by Emily Baker and Hannah Tiefel

EB: What is your name?

DK: Hmm...Dwight Krause. Whatcha expect, Peter Pan?

HT: Middle name?

DK: Christian—ya know, Christian?

HT: Where are you from?

DK: Markesan, WI

HT: Anything interesting in Markesan?

DK: Hahaha! 1,369 people live there. There is June Dairy Days which is like a three (?) milk party! Don't say its boring—Alyssa will kick you.

HT: Tell us something interesting about yourself.

EB: How many rubix cubes do you have?

HT: Wow, they are talking nerd... Emily's really interested :) Back to my question?

DK: Umm, I like to unicycle.

EB: I heard you have an old violin?

DK: Yeah, its 110 years old.. but I haven't had it for that long of course.. hahaha

HT: Do you live on a farm?

DK: No! My dads a pastor?!

EB: What's your favorite part about ILC?

DK: Messing around in the Commons!

HT: That's boring! Give me a better answer or I'll put my foot in your face.

DK: David Rehm! Save Me! Yo!

HT: Favorite color?

DK: Deep navy blue.

HT: Shoe size?

DK: Hmm..6 1/2 to 8

EB: What? You don't know your shoe size?!

HT: Are you growing a beard?

DK: No! Maybe I forgot to shave!! You're as bad as the Liberal Media.

EB: How's the dorm?

DK: Are you recording me?

EB: No? Do you like your roommate Bryan?

DK: Yeah. If I say anything else he will kill me...

HT: Favorite world thing?

EB: Your sister, right?!

DK: POTLUCK!!

EB: I'm confused.. what?!

HT: Favorite celebrity?

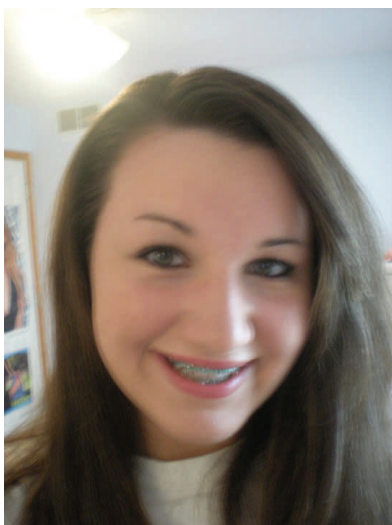
Ben Mueller: MEGAN FOX

DK: umm.. no, I don't say.



Here's what we've all been waiting for.....

RACHEL'S RIDICULOUS RECIPES!



Apple Coffee Cake

BATTER:

- 2 cups Bisquick® baking mix
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 egg
- 2/3 cup water or milk
- 1 cup finely chopped apples

TOPPING:

- ¼ cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons Bisquick® baking mix
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons butter/margarine ~ firm

(by Rachel Mackensen)

Hey guys! So we've embarked on yet another school year, and since this will be my last year writing for the Flash, I will try and go out with a bang and put some amazing recipes in here for you guys to try.

Since September is here, I thought I would start off with some recipes that will keep you warm when the cold weather comes. Enjoy! Also, I encourage you guys to give me some of your favorite recipes so they can be shared with everyone! :)



Heat oven to 400°. Grease round layer pan, 9 x 1-1/2 inches, or square pan, 8 x 8 x 2 inches.

Mix first four batter ingredients and beat vigorously for 30 seconds. Then mix in apple. Mix all topping ingredients until crumbly, and then drop onto cake batter. Spread batter in pan. Bake until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean, 20 - 25 minutes. Refrigerate any remaining coffee cake.

Snow Flake Cocoa

Even though it's not winter yet... this may mentally prepare you for the season!

ALLYOU NEED IS:

2 cups whipping cream

6 cups milk

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 (12 ounce) package white chocolate chips

AND GARNISH:

Whipped cream

Candy canes

Stir together: whipping cream, milk, vanilla, and white chocolate chips in a slow cooker.

Cover and cook on low for 2 to 2 1/2 hours, stirring occasionally, until mixture is hot and chocolate chips are melted. Stir again before serving. Garnish with the whipped cream and candy canes, as desired.



umm.. yum :)

MEET CHRIS !

Ahem Chris "Coke"

Chris Koch is one of the new colleagues on campus—I'm sure you have all seen him around, whether he was skateboarding or playing hacky-sack. But there's more to him than meets the eye. Here's what he had to say when I interviewed him.

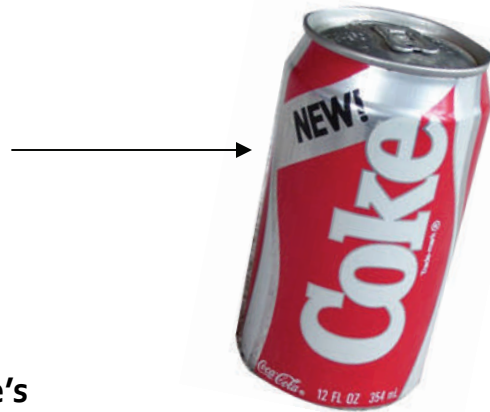
S: Where are you from?

C: Like, where was I born? Colorado.

S: Where do you live now?

C: West hall. =]

S: When you aren't on campus?



(but.. he doesn't drink coke)

By Sarah Gerbitz

C: I'm never at home, so, all over the place.

S: Ok then, why did you come to Immanuel?

C: Because my grandpa is paying for it.

S: Nice. What are your future plans then?

C: Only time will tell.

Trying to learn more about Chris, we moved on to the “favorite things” part.

S: What do you do with your free time?

C: Activities...

S: Mhmm, and what’s your favorite color?

C: ...green?...

S: And your favorite food?

C: I don’t have favorites. Chicken? Anything edible?

S: How about movies?

C: I can’t tell you because it shouldn’t be published. (Thank you for your discretion.)

S: You have to like music. Who is your favorite band?

C: Pink Floyd

S: Favorite T.V. series?

C: I don’t really watch T.V. I know Spongebob is a show. Does that count as a series?

S: Sure, Spongebob is a series. What’s your favorite kitchen meal so far?

C: Thanksgiving dinner was pretty good.

To close things off, we got a little more in depth.

S: What is your favorite Bible passage?

C: “Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

S: And how about some words of wisdom for our readers?

C: Wherever you go, you’ll always be there.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: GRANT NAUMANN

Q: Where were you born?

A: San Francisco, CA

Q: What's your full name?

A: Grant

Q: When's your birthday?

A: February 6th, 1993

Q: How do you like ILC so far?

A: I really like it. I think it's awesome.

Q: Are you on a diet?

A: Yes, the avocado diet. It works for me!

Q: If you could be any animal, what would you be and why?

A: I'd be a penguin, because penguins are birds and they can swim! And they always look like they're wearing tuxedos.

Q: Which do you prefer?



Cats or Dogs: Dogs

Chocolate or Vanilla: Chocolate

Garlic or Cinnamon: Depends

Soccer or Basketball: I like to play soccer, but I like to watch basketball more.

Rain or Snow: Snow

Mankato or Eau Claire: No comment

Hugs or Kisses: Both! lol

Superman or Batman: Batman

Chick flicks or mind bogglers: Mind bogglers

Twins or Brewers: Twins

Country or Rock: Rock

Q: What are your plans after high school?

A: College

Q: What would you like to pass on to all those people just starting high school?

A: Even though it seems lame, sucking up to teachers helps you. Sometimes.

By Cora Gerbitz
and Abbie Hein



GRANT'S FAVORITES

Food: Cinnamon rolls

Color: Green

Prof: Roehl

Class: General Business

Sport: To play? Soccer. To watch? Football.

Bible passage: Rev. 2:10

Interview With Steve... σφς! Mr. Sydow :)

By Valerie Barthels

As all of you have hopefully noticed by now, we have a special new teacher here on campus! He's not necessarily an unknown face, as he's our frequent honorable bus driver ("tha-a-ank you, Ste-e-ve, Ste-e-ve..."), but now he's become a crucial part of the class curriculum at Immanuel. Steve Sydow is passionate about what he teaches; through his accounts of past events, we learn to appreciate the struggles and achievements the nations of the world have powered through, to become strong as we know them today. Mr. Sydow does an excellent job portraying God's work in our society... and we wanted to find out a little about this man, who finds such fulfillment in his life. Here's a couple Qs&As. Hopefully they can spark a conversation of your OWN with Mr. Sydow—take the time to talk to him; he's definitely worth it!
—Melanie :)



V: What do you like to do on the weekends?

S: Well, I normally work on remodeling, but I don't really *like* to do that. I like to do things with my family, spend time with them.

V: What type of music do you listen to?

S: All kinds. I listen to contemporary Christian, country.. My most recent songs are from *Glee*.

Valerie: How do you like teaching history?

Mr. Sydow: I really like it, love it. I don't know if the students are enjoying it as much as I am, but it's great.

V: What made you want to be a teacher?

S: Well, my parents were both teachers and I guess I always enjoyed it.

V: What's your best childhood memory?

S: Um....that's a tough one. I'd say making the game winning shot in a basketball game. It was one of those last second shots and it was a game here at Immanuel.

V: That is pretty sweet. So where do you like to go on vacations?

S: The Rocky Mountains. It is just great up there. I like going for hikes and camping and it's just really nice there.

V: Oh, cool! I have a few of those songs too. Now, what sports do you like the best?

S: I like all sports. If I really had to choose I would say basketball because I enjoy coaching and playing it.

V: What is your favorite state?

S: Colorado, because I really like the mountains and it's very nice there.



FLASHBACK!!

Recovered
by Hannah
Hulke, this
is Prof.
Lau's first
article
EVER!

ALBUM REVIEW by Joe Lau

Greetings, music lovers, music likers, and those indifferent to music altogether. This year I will be attempting to do an album review column for Flash Productions Inc.

In this column I will be reviewing certain albums and various artists, from by-gone days to the very present, and giving my opinion of these albums and artists.

In this, my first article, I decided not to do an album review, but rather to give a short sketch as to where I think music has gone and where it is heading today.

I agree with whomever said that things of value endure the test of time. I think most, if not all of the "arts", fall into this value system; such as the art of music, literature, sculpture, painting, etc. Therefore, I believe that the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods in history and has endured the test of time, is of great value. People have enjoyed the music of great composers such as Bach, Mozart, Brahms, etc., for generations and chances are

that generations will continue to enjoy them in the future. Can we say that about the popular music of today? Will it be listened to for generations after us?

We are living in a time when popular music seems to be here today and gone tomorrow. I think a major reason for this is that our society is constantly looking for something new and different. This is even more plainly illustrated by the clothes people wear. Fashions and the "in" things seem to change overnight. Thus our music changes. What is number one on the charts one week may not even be on the charts 6 months later. Do you think this music last for generations? Highly doubtful.

So what I will be trying to do in this column is to weed out some popular music that just might endure, take a look at some groups whose music has endured the past 20 years or so, and discuss controversial music and music which is not so good. That's all for now.

Agree or disagree, thanks for listening.

Christina and I decided that.. His wording today is very much the same now as it was way back when.. You'll agree, he doesn't seem to have changed much. Hope you enjoy! And now you can relate to the younger version of who we know so well today!

Senior Spotlight: **LEAH FLEJSCHER** By Michelle Radtke

Leah Abigail Fleischer was born on a brisk morning on November 3, 1992 in Lamar, Colorado. Growing up, she loved playing with her HUGE collection of Barbies. Looking back on it, her favorite childhood memory is hanging with her favorite cousin, Christina, at ILC camp. Now she's here at ILC enjoying her senior year. In her free time she prefers to be off campus enjoying the outdoors. She also likes writing, watching *The Office* or *Arrested D*, or using her creativity to make wearable pieces of art :) While on campus, however, she is involved in Lance, Flash, and what used to be the Beacon. She's also on Tour Choir and can be found frequenting the stage in the high school productions and exhibiting her musical talents. She will most likely be listening to music when you visit her room and you might hear punk rock, alt. rock, or acoustic rock. She doesn't like to admit it, but she also has a newfound love for country.

When asked what her favorite high school memory was she replied, "I have a lot! My plethora of roommates, driving with Burns, Big Falls bonfire, dance parties, Tour Choir, and swimming at Half Moon Lake...even though I did get sick that day."



DESIGN: F. SOAR. ILLUSTRATION OF MUSIC BY JULIE BERSON

Leah's favorite color is **neon green** and she LOVES Mexican food. If she could choose, Leah would go backward in time for many reasons. She doesn't want to see her future and would rather go to the 40's and 50's. The craziest thing she's ever done is **shower with her clothes on**, although cliff jumping was pretty crazy too.

While interviewing her, I discovered that that Leah already has a super power; she can turn invisible! If she would have another superpower it would be to **shoot spaghetti noodles out of her eyes**. Of course, she would be a superhero because she likes to help people.

If Leah had her own country, it would be called Flykaland. If it were possible, she would be a purple Pegasus with long, flowing, hair and angel wings. Her favorite Disney movie is *Enchanted*. In five years, Leah finds herself finishing nursing school and maybe settling down.

Leah has two favorite Bible passages. The first is Hebrews 11:1 simply because. The second, Romans 8:28, has a bit more behind it. It has helped her through difficult times and always reminds Leah that God is always there and in control.

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE . . .

By Christina Hein

To gain insight about the new girls dorm supervisor Kate, I figured I'd go to the one person who probably knows more about her than anyone else on campus: her husband Rob. You've probably seen him around.. in the canteen, cheering at home games, or hanging out with his wife. When I talked to him, he was keeping up with the Phillies game online, which made for a pretty interesting interview.

CH: So, Rob, how long have you and Kate been married?

RS: Sixteen months on September 16th.

CH: What's Kate's favorite thing to do?

RS: Swing dance.

CH: In three words, how would you describe her?

RS: Joyful, serious, beautiful.

CH: What's one interesting thing that Kate does that makes people go "Wow, I never would've guessed?"

RS: She's a pilot. She flies Pipers and Cessnas (Small aircraft, prop planes).

CH: Any idea what her favorite movie is?

RS: Um, Sound of Music? She doesn't watch a lot of movies. (Kate jumps in from the kitchen: "Sound of Music, Moulin Rouge, and Wizard of Oz.")

CH: Going back to the whole swing dancing thing, how did that start?

RS: The swing dancing started in high school. She was going to a dance with a boy, and a friend of his parents taught them how. She really got into it at college. She's been dancing for about five years.

CH: If Kate could go anywhere in the world for a week, where do you think she would go?

RS: Back to Hawaii – that's where we went for our honeymoon. Or somewhere else that's warm, because she's always cold.



Continued on the next page....

. . . Continued from last page.

CH: In your opinion, what's the coolest date you two have ever been on?

RS: Our first date. It was August 14th, 2007. (Kate: "He's really good with dates." I was impressed.) We had met at Arise and Shine; she was from the Twin Cities, I was from St. Louis. We talked a lot; then after, she went to India for a month. When she got back she went to Chicago for work, which was a whole lot closer to St. Louis than the Cities. So I drove four and a half hours to go see her. We went walking around downtown, took pictures by The Bean, and got hotdogs from a hotdog vendor. I dropped her off at her motel at 12:30, then drove all the way back to St. Louis, went to sleep for a couple hours, then went off to work.

CH: Do you think Kate has what it takes to be the girls dorm supervisor?

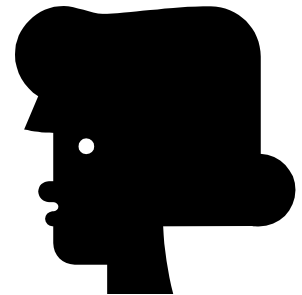
RS: Yeah, I was one of the encouragers. I think she'll be great – she IS great!~

CH: And I have to ask. . .what's it like for you living in a dorm full of "cackling" high school girls?

RS: It's (he laughed) it's a little bit different than I would have expected. It was quiet when we moved here this summer; now it feels like I'm back in college. Well, I am back in college. But yeah, I'm back in a dorm. Except last time it was full of boys. But it's good to be here.

Now *Kate* Herself...

Was Rob right about her favorites? Do they share the same hobbies, interests, feelings about the dorm..? Read on. Understand Rob and see who Kate REALLY is. In her own words :)



MELANIE: Would you ever consider living up to the title of the today's popular TV show, if I were to adjust it to your lifestyle.... Rob and Kate (plus 8) ?! Would you and Rob consider having 8 children?

KATE: Haha! I don't think we'll ever have 8 kids.... but Rob actually wants to have 9 boys. For a baseball team. And one token girl! But I don't think we'll have that many. So.. I always tell him, if you want to have that many kids... you can bear them yourself! Haha

M: What's your favorite thing to do?

K: Sleep and swing dancing! I've been dancing about 5 years; it started with a guy I was dating back in high school.

M: Does Rob like it, too? Swing dancing, that is.

K: Oh, yeah.. Rob and I went the first couple weeks we lived here in the dorm. We went to a studio in the Cities, met up with our old friends. I love the music, too!

Continued on the next page....

M: What are Rob's favorite things to do?

K: Watching Phillies baseball. After that maybe sleeping...

M: Oh! You guys are a perfect match!

K: Haha yeah.

M: How would you describe your husband in three words?

Kate had a hard time narrowing it down to three, so she immediately spouted off energetic, funny, spontaneous, loving.. I said we could compromise and try for four...

K: Okay, Good :) Fun-loving, compassionate/caring, devoted, sports-fanatic.

M: If you could go anywhere in the world for a week, where do you think you'd go?

K: Oh.. a big city, where there's rich culture, swing dancing, and a church.

M: Anything unique about Rob? Maybe something we don't already know.. or haven't figured out for ourselves.

K: He grew up in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He could eat the same thing for lunch and supper for an entire week. He is a computer GEEK!

M: How do you like the DORM so far..? Not just the building, of course, but the entire experience---living with your husband and 40-some other girls?

K: I love it! (she smiles) I've been learning a lot, and I'm still learning a lot... It's been fabulous, but (she raises a finger) I know there's stuff going on that I don't know about! .. I'll figure it out :)



CHOICES:

snickers or skittles? Totally snickers. Chocolate :)
 fall or spring? summer
 rock or jazz? jazz
 coffee or tea? Tea; sorry, no coffee for me.
 country or city? Big city. Grew up in the country.
 Packers or Vikings? Vikings
 Florida or Utah? Florida.
 dogs or cats? cats
 painting or sketching? painting
 pop or soda? soda

M: Do you think HE likes it?

K: I.. think so.

ROB (chimes in from the other room): YES, yes, yes !!

I thought he was THAT enthusiastic about living in the dorm, but after the interview, when Kate took me into her apartment, we found out that he was just really, really excited about his computer program. Mhmm.. Kate was right.

K: I think he just really appreciates being at ILC; he's always wanted to be a pastor, and now he has that chance again.

M: Okay, just a couple more... who is your role model?

K: For a long time it was my dad. He was very practical, on top of things... he had it all together. When I got older there were additional values I aspired to. Now it's Tina Eichstadt. She's just amazing. She's always willing to talk about stuff.

M: What is your favorite movie?

K: Sorry, I have three. White Christmas, Sound of Music, Moulin Rouge, Wizard of Oz. Are they all.... musicals? They're all musicals. Haha!

M: Who is your favorite dorm girl....?!?! Hahaha, totally kidding.

On behalf of all the girls in the dorm, I can pretty much say we LOVE her. She's put in 110% already, a sure promising sign for the many days we have left in the school year to get to know her. Kate has stepped up to the high standard Alana has set, yet has a laid-back approach.



Getting Old, I See

By Prof. Lau



A sad chapter in my life began towards the beginning of this past summer. The doctor said to me, "It won't be long before you'll need to use them." Images flashed through my mind of people I know who have had this happen to them.

They all seemed much older than I. Can this really be happening to me?

I'm talking about reading glasses, the kind the "older generation" is required to wear. You see, something happens to the eyes of many people as they age. The muscles of the eye lose their elasticity, and with it goes the ability to focus on things "up close."

Contacts have been a friend to me. I got my first pair in my early 20's. Before that I wore glasses. Some of you have seen my "bottom of a glass Coke bottle" lenses I sometimes wear in the evenings. They are usually greeted by students with a snicker and then a sympathetic gaze. "Are those your glasses?" they say with a smirk. The fact that they are on my face apparently isn't clue enough. I go on to share with them the story of how twenty years ago a grade school student of mine entered my name into a drawing at his optometrist's office for a free pair of glasses. I won. Those are the glasses I still wear.

I am thankful that my eyes have experienced little change in the last 20 years except for this new phenomenon. The reason for going to contacts in the first place was not cosmetic, believe it or not. I simply got tired of breaking my glasses and sports glasses (you would have loved them) so many times while playing basketball. Contacts have been great for that part of my life.

Continued on next page

The day it struck home that I needed reading glasses was the first Lit Day in English 9 (Wednesday, August 25, 2010) this year. I had opened my text to read to the class “The Most Dangerous Game.” With my book resting on the lectern I found that I could barely make out the words on the page. I moved back far enough to “get by” that day, although I was not pleased with the quality of my first public reading performance of the year. As you may have noticed, high school students are quick to find weaknesses in their teachers, and I refuse to give them fodder.

Since the likelihood of my arms growing longer to compensate for my eyes seemed slim to none, I went shopping for reading glasses, or “cheaters” as many people call them. Even Walmart's selection, though vast, seemed too expensive to me for my initial experiment. I decided to shake down the “Dollar Tree” to see what fell. Sure enough, they had many varieties there as well, all for \$1. Ironically, when I asked the cashier where the reading glasses were located, she pointed in the direction I should go. When I began walking that way, she stopped me and said, “No, right there.” There they were, right in front of my face. I told her, “Now you see my problem.”

So now I own a \$1 pair of reading glasses. They work, but they aren't very attractive I've been told. I'm not even sure if they are “male” glasses. But I don't really care what people think. I suppose that's just another sign of old age.



EDITORIAL

Lovely. The sound of rain trickling down from the branches outside my window.. But even lovelier? Waking up to thunder. Sam Rodebaugh claims he awoke with such a fright that he popped right out of bed, EYES WIDE OPEN, to thunder's merciless harrassment. I think that sounds like a bit of a stretch, but I know for certain that I can picture it. Perhaps a little too well.

When I was a little girl, I distinctly remember absolutely FREAKING OUT when it came to rain. Like, in a good way. (OOPS---did I just say "like?") There was a distinct group of about 7 of us girls in the neighborhood, around the same age, who would hang out every single day, for hours at a time. And I have so many memories of calling each other (we were like 6! how could we use the phones..?!) during a thunderstorm, meeting in the middle of the street in our swimsuits and sitting in the flooding gutters. We would sing and dance and make little shelters out of leaves and rocks for the ants who were frantically trying to



protect their anthills. If this isn't inspiring enough for you... I actually didn't stop doing this when I was 6. Christina and I snuck out Wednesday night... (Totally kidding. If I was serious, I wouldn't have admitted to that! I know, though, it's a really good idea!)

Thanks for reading---hope I inspired you to sneak out of the dorm in the middle of the night in your swimsuit to dance in the rain. If I didn't.. hmph. There's something wrong with the feelers in your heart. Happy fall! Think of me next time you dance in the rain, and know that I'm with you in spirit! And now, if you ever want a rain buddy, you know where to find me... :)

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