



# Students build their homework

**Taylor Gusman**  
Staff Writer

Building Trades, a class that juniors and seniors can take during their third, fourth, and fifth hour classes, if off to a great start this year. The class consisting of 18 students is currently working on a 1,850 square foot building trades house that is located on 500 W off of HWY 2, across from the Pinola gas station.

Students take this class for very similar reasons.

Junior Justin Mosley said "I took Building Trades to get more experience in construction and to learn new things."

Most of the students seem to like to have hands on experience in the classroom, or outside of the classroom in this situation.

Senior Larry Howard said, "I took Building Trades because I thought it would be a good skill to have. I also like to work with my hands, and this is a good way to do so."

To be able to take

this class, students have to put in an application during the time they are scheduling for their next year classes. Then the BT teacher, Mr. Lawson, will interview them and then recommend the students for the class. Girls can also take this class,



2003-2004 Building Trades House

although there were no girl participants this year in the program.

The students learn all of the trades it takes to complete a house such as roofing, plumbing, and wiring electricity. The class does all the work on the house they are constructing. Students are encouraged to take this class if they are interested in residential construction because they can use their experiences in this class to help them get a job af-

ter graduation.

Devin Ingles said "It's [Building Trades] a great idea if you have your future planned out. If you work hard and keep busy, Mr. Lawson can help you with your goals."

There are many rewards mentioned in taking BT. One being the students get college credit for the trimesters accomplished.

Ingles said, "The pros of the class is that I get building experience and by the end of my senior year I'll have 12 college credits [through IVY Tech]."

Howard said, "The pros of the class is we get to get out of school early to learn a good quality."

However, with pros there are always cons.

Senior Fred Hamm said, "I believe the only con is being in trades and not learning anything. If you don't know something, everyone is willing to help, and the second year guys are helpful."

Howard said, "Even though you don't get money for it, you do get paid in the long run with the knowledge that you can learn."

# Seniors attend LPHS and PNC

**Anna Tennis**

## Advertising

There are a number of students here at LPHS who chose to take classes at PNC their senior year to get a jump start on their college education.

"So far, I really enjoy PNC," said Samantha Mendelowitz, who is taking Math 223 (Calculus) at PNC this semester.

Brett Tyburski, who also attends PNC, said, "PNC is a lot different from LPHS. PNC is a lot more of a real life situation. There isn't an ISS and if you don't go to class there, you just don't pass."

Senior counselor Mrs. Susan Knop said that students need to apply in order to attend PNC.

"PNC has to accept the student. PNC has requirements that need to be met by the student. Of course, students also need to consider graduation requirements at LPHS when making their decision. There are choices students can make as far as classes at PNC, but the student must have their choice approved both here and at PNC. Plus, students are responsible for all fees and tuition," said Mrs. Knop.

With respects toward tuition, senior counselor Mr. Caleb Hunter said, "This is a wake-up call for some when they [seniors] realize that education is quite expensive, even if it's just for one class."

Tyburski said, "Classes at PNC run about \$500 a piece, not including books, so make sure you're prepared before signing up."

Students may fear that the extra work might be too challenging. However, some students feel they are up for the challenge.

Mendelowitz said, "We move at a faster pace and we're expected to do more homework. I don't mind the work though, because it gives me an opportunity to prepare myself for college."

"It's nice to be treated like an adult, and be able to feel like you're getting something accomplished. I still have fun at high school, but PNC is sort of a break from the environment we have here at LPHS," said Tyburski.

Mr. Hunter said, "Some students are motivated to take a course that would not be available at LPHS, and if that's the case, I would suggest PNC."

"Honestly, I really enjoy going there and recommend

it for any senior who is looking for a little more of a challenge, and a break from the usual school day," said Tyburski.

Mendelowitz said, "I enjoy meeting people from different areas of Indiana."

Seniors in high school often have a hectic schedule to follow. Some students feel that the extra college work might be a hassle to arrange.

Mrs. Knop said, "It depends on what the student is taking - if they want an afternoon course at PNC and they've also expressed the desire to take a class that meets only in the afternoon at LPHS, like choir, they will have to make a choice."

"It all comes down to choices and consequences," said Mr. Hunter.

As a final point, Mrs. Knop would like to inform the student body that if any student has a question, they should see page 11 in the LaPorte High School Program of Studies.

If students have any further questions, please see a counselor in the guidance office.

# Has the fun been banished from school forever?

-A three issue scoop on the lack of school spirit, parties, dress codes, and field trips at LPHS

**Dan Teets**

## Photography

During a recent *Hi-Times* staff meeting, members discussed just why there is a lack of participation in school activities. After much discussion, we have decided to print three different views on the issue that we will run in our next three papers.

### LPHS School Spirit

The sizzling crack of a roaring fire; the faint whisper of a small

group of people talking; it seems just a little bit too quiet. This scene seems straight out of a *Halloween* movie, however that is not the case. It was the LPHS bonfire held during Homecoming week. A smaller than usual amount of people showed up and only a very small fraction of them participated in the class games. It's clear that many students did not get as pumped for the festivities as was hoped for.

"I didn't really have much fun. The only fun part

was hanging out with the other candidates and playing cards in the back of the crowd," said Senior Niraj Lakhia.

Still, there were those who were pleased with the bonfire. They liked the class games, cheers, dance routines, and people who did show up.

Senior Blake Hindsley said, "It was fun. There was a lot of people there that I didn't think were going to be there. The fire needed to be bigger, though."

The pep rally also came back with some mixed feelings. While many were yelling and screaming for their respective classes and cheering on their football team to an impressive victory, others chose just to sit back and imitate a bump on a log, not participating at all.

"I think the pep rally's pointless because no one gets into it. If people got into it, it would be more worthwhile," said Junior Caitlin Dilloway.

However when asked her thoughts on the pep rally, Junior Brianna Stringham said, "I think the pep rally is awesome cause we get to get out of class early and we get to have a lot of fun cheering for our school."

All these events happened during the one week out of the year where students are asked to show their spirit with extremity, Homecoming Week. The chance to show our school spirit, have the twin you never had, celebrate Halloween early, and flash back to older days came as a fulfilled activity to some.

Junior Janice Koch said, "I think [spirit week] gets everyone ready for the football game. It's a great activity."

Although there were a number of people clad in different school colors and bizarre costumes during the week, some thought it was still not enough.

Junior Abby Long said, "I think the school needs to do more for the students."

And while talking about Homecoming Week, what ever happened to the post game party at the High School with the loud music, flashing lights, packed dance floor, and hip D.J.? What happened to the macarena lines, the funky chickens, dancing circles, and couples slow dancing all in celebration of our football victory? Where is our post-game Homcoming Dance? Well, it doesn't exist anymore. The Homecoming Dance, like all other school dances, has vanished without a trace.

When asked why, Mr. Menne said, "It's because of a lack of participation. The last dance that we held had about 30 people. You can't make a profit if no one comes."

Spirit week has less participants every year, the bonfire doesn't have quite the loud roar anymore, pep rallies have lost their pep, and school dances are a thing of the past.

There are those from past years who remember more spirit filled times, such as Mrs. Hunt who said, "I would say that the major difference is the

emphasis on Junior/Senior Wars. We spent all that time and energy on decorating the school and creating different spirit day costumes. Also, people didn't really decide if they were going to school events, it was just a given that everyone would be there."

So in answer to the question of is our school fun, we have no definite answer.

Senior Andy Weeks said, "They need to find ways to keep our attention better. You get in trouble whenever you try to have make a little fun for yourself."

But, for every student who says that school isn't fun, there is someone that still manages to have fun with school and the events that they plan for us.

"Me and my friends make it fun for ourselves. You just got to have your own fun with it," said Senior Allie Novak.

And of course there are always those who are somewhere in the middle of the two. The ones who live by their own personal motto.

Senior Larry Crittendon said, "School is as fun as you make it."

## What's Happening at LPHS



### Homecoming King and Queen 2004

### Congratulations to Troy Tonagel and Amy Jones!

## Look Inside...



### Meet the Press #2



### Band Review #3



### Elections #4-5



### Halloween #6



### DVD Review #7



**Allie Bessegato**  
Staff Writer



Counter Point



**Allegra Carpenter**  
Staff Writer

This year's Junior/Senior Wars started off with a bang. Is it necessarily right? No. I mean having a little fun here and there is alright. There is no need, however, for complete destruction of property. But if its all fun and ames, then I guess that some people take it too far.

"I think that Junior/ Senior wars are in good fun but only if they are done between juniors and seniors and no serious damage is done," said Senior Nikki Tricker.

The point of the war is to prank the opposite grade, not their families. Small pranks are always fun. But when students are cleaning up their front yard and mailbox for two hours the next morning, I don't see how that's very appealing.

"I think its crappy that people want to mess with people belongings. But I think its funny when you know or find out who it is," said Senior Justin Sule.

I understand the need to retaliate after something of yours has been "gotten". Eggs, flour, syrup, toilet paper, water balloons, confetti – all common objects used. Road kill, unfortunately, is now becoming more and more popular. First off, why would anyone want to touch those poor deceased rodents, and even deer, have been used. Are we not bright enough to realize that those types of things should be left alone?

Junior Lindsay Kesling said, "I think its really fun, but when I get dead animals in my yard that's not too fun, but if you're going to be in the wars then I think that you can't get mad when your house gets done, that's what its all about."

If students get caught in the act of it, hefty consequences will follow. Destruction of property or breaking and entering onto a property both face large fines. For those five minutes of satisfaction, is all that really worth it in the long run? Will having charges that shallow on your permanent record be something that might keep you from other things later in life?

"It's a bunch of fun but sometimes it may a little too far," stated Junior Holly Patterson.

So next year, when this time comes around, just make sure to think of all the repercussions and rules.

A prank is defined as a mischievous act. Mischievous is something that anyone is doing, where someone is going to get into trouble for it.

I do not think that pranks have gone too far. No one has gotten hurt or killed, so therefore there is no problem with pranks.

Senior Jon Bryan said, "I don't think they have gone too far, unless someone gets hurt." He also said that he thinks pranks are supposed to be something fun to do, but not to hurt anyone.

Usually people just throw eggs or toilet paper someone's yard. I do not see anything hurtful in that. Yeah, you have to clean the mess up, but a little hard work never hurt anyone. There are many other things that are used to create a problem for the owner of the property, but those are usually the products that are used. I do not think that anyone purposely tries to damage people's properties. If they they do, it is only by accident. These pranks have gone on for a long time, almost as long as from some of the teachers graduating from the school.

Obviously in certain cases people are going to have a prank done to them. For example, if someone is a junior or senior, they are going to get a prank done on them because they are a junior or a senior and because of the junior-senior wars. It is something that no one can avoid because if they pertain to the description, they are going have it happen to them. Anyone should expect to have something done to their property. Pranks are done to be funny.

Sophomore Amanda McVay said, " I don't think pranks have gone too far. It is just kids having fun. Let kids be kids. As long as no one gets hurt, we should continue the tradition."

Some people have different viewpoints on what funny is.

Mrs. Irk, a teacher at LPHS said, " It's all fun and games until somebody gets hurt or arrested."

Usually people think that a prank is funny to be done to someone else, but then when it happens to them, it's not funny anymore.

### Hi-Times Staff

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## Statement of Purpose

The La Porte High School Hi-Times provides a forum for student views. The newspaper aims to inform and entertain the students, faculty, and community of La Porte High School. The pages contain news, editorial, feature, and sports writing pertinent to student life in the school, community, nation, and world. Editorial policy is determined by an editorial board consisting of the editor-in-chiefs, copy editor, sports editor, business manager/advertising manager, and photography editor.

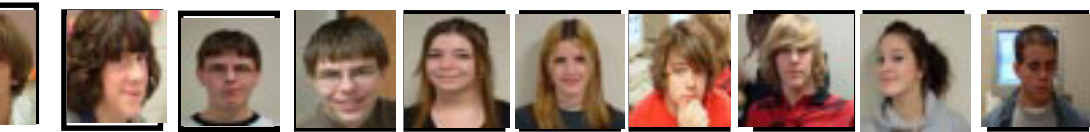
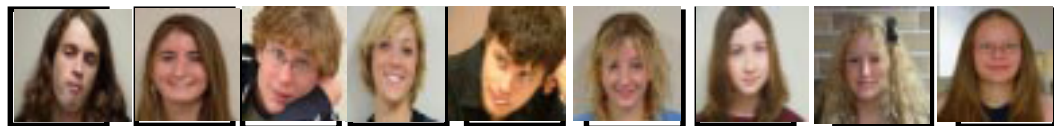
The function of this editorial board is to review editorials, editorial columns, letters to the editor, and advertisements to insure that they meet the legal and ethical standards of responsible press with respect to material that is libelous, obscene, invasive of privacy, or likely to cause substantial disruption to the educational process. The Hi-Times has the right to accept or reject any advertisements.

The La Porte High School Hi-Times encourages students, teachers, parents, and other readers to publish their opinions about relevant topics in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must be signed although authors' names may be withheld in cases of personal jeopardy. The staff hopes that this opportunity will be used by all members of the La Porte High School community. The editorial board reserves the right to edit letters in the interest of conserving space.

The opinions expressed on the editorial pages are those of the signed author of the writing and not necessarily those of the entire Hi-Times staff, the La Porte High School faculty, or the administration of the La Porte School Corporation. Staff editorials are written by different members of the Hi-Times and express the views of the entire staff

Funding for the paper comes from advertising, and the paper is distributed free of charge to

## Meet the Press: Hi-Times Staff



Read below more about the fabulous *Hi Times* staff members. If you see them in the hallway, say "hi", suggest a good story, and ask for an autograph.

Senior **Broc Holmquest** enjoys reading and playing the bass guitar.

Senior **Daniela Madiol** is the Editor In Chief of the *Hi-Times* newspaper. She plays tennis for LPHS and plans on attending Indiana University next fall.

Senior **Matt Prellwitz** spends his time rollerblading and playing the guitar for his band, Midwest Hype. In the future he hopes to be successful.

Senior **Taylor Gussman** enjoys reading, writing, and listening to music. She plans on attending college in Fall 2005.

Senior **Greg Konieczny** enjoys playing the guitar with the band Heir To The Throne.

Senior **Rachel Surowiec** is the managing editor of *Hi-Times* newspaper. She plays tennis and plans to go to college to become a physical trainer.

Junior **Lauren Lockridge** enjoys reading books, riding bikes, and kayaking.

Junior **Brittney Ellis** likes to make jewelry and other arts and crafts as well as play the piano.

Junior **Anna Tennis** enjoys reading books,

making jewelry, and singing in her spare time.

Junior **Sam King** is a member of the cross country team, the track team, show choir, and mixed chorale.

Junior **Donnie Williams** spends his time hanging out with friends, playing cards, and watching sports. Sophomore **Shawn McFrederick** enjoys playing soccer, basketball, and going to gym class.

Sophomore **Mike Konieczny** likes to collect keychains, Peanuts memorabilia and Italian charms. He likes working on his websites.

Sophomore **Allegra Carpenter** likes watching football, the color blue, and is a member of G.R.

Sophomore **Jessica Miller** plays the cello in orchestra and is a member of G.R. She likes listening to music, being with friends at Java Jim's, and going online.

Sophomore **Stephen Ruminski** enjoys photography, video games, and music.

Sophomore **Zach Marovich** likes to play bass guitar and sleeping.

Sophomore **Allie Bessegato**, who is from California, likes to surf and hangout at the beaches.

Senior **Dan Teets** is a layout designer and a staff writer for the *Hi-Times* newspaper. He enjoys music ,reading, drawing , writing, and poker.

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## News Briefs

### Special Education

Unlimited ACT will be in November for students whose accommodations allow them to take the test. See Mr. VanDekeere in rm. C-19 for date and time of testing.

### Administration

**Oct. 27** G.R. Food Drive in cafeteria 3-5 p.m.

Girls can bring 10 canned food items or \$5.00 to cafeteria after school on the date it is due. They will receive two points for participation. Failure to participate may result in loss of dance privileges.

**Nov. 1** Fall Sports Banquet #1 in cafeteria at 6 p.m.

**2-3** Senior Picture Retakes

**3** Fall Sports Banquet #2 in cafeteria at 6 p.m.

**4** Winter Sports- Parents Meeting #1 in cafeteria at 6 p.m.

**11** Winter Sports- Parents Meeting #2 in cafeteria at 6 p.m.

**12-13** Fall Play in Auditorium

### Foreign Language-German

**Oct. 29** Breakfast in rm. 5.10 at 7:00 a.m.

**Nov 1-30** Advent calendar sales. They will cost \$3.00.

**17** Movie Event after school

**Dec. 9** After school-bake Christmas cookies

**11** Chicago Christkindl Market- travel by train

### Foreign Language- Spanish

New members are still welcome to join. Jane Kaminski, Jordan Amor and Ashley Bigg spoke at the after-school pizza party on October 27. A Mexican breakfast provided by Colima, a Saturday trip to a Chicago museum, a field trip on Dec. 6 to attend a forelore music and dance presentation, and a trip to Don Quijote in Valparaiso are in the works.

**French-** French Club members are invited to see the "Little Mermaid" in French on Thursday, November 4 at 3 p.m. in Rm. H15. Cost is \$1. and bring your own soda.

### English

National Issues Forum was October 20. See next paper for details. Freshmen will be taking three trimesters of English next year. This school year's yearbooks will begin its ordering process in November. Listen for announcements.

### Student Council

Operation Christmas Smile is coming soon. Listen for announcements in December. Read the Student Council story on Election 2004 centerspread.

### Social Studies

The department will work with the local American Legion post in November giving the "Americanism and Government Test" to interested seniors. The local legion awards savings bonds to the top boys and girls scores.

### Guidance

Sophomores- The Plan Test (pre-ACT) will be given Saturday, November 13. Charge is non-refundable \$4. Money will be collected Nov. 2 and 3 in the cafeteria. Sophomore and Junior students interested in Voc. Ed-- sign up in Guidance Office for informational meeting to inform you of application process.

# The sound of the school: Our mighty marching band *Hitting All The Right Strings and Notes*

**Shawn McFrederick**

**Staff Writer**

In the halls, in the parking lot, on stage, or on the field, their skills shine through. The band add their own touch of class to this crazy place we call school.

This year, the marching band performed selections from Cirque du Soleil's "La Nouba". These selections included "Disturbed", "A La Lune", "Reeve Rouge", and "Urban".

The band is

through out the fall season against other high school bands. The marching band competed in seven performances these past few months. They performed at Merrillville, Concord, District at Concord, Homestead, Plymouth, Regionals, and Downersville North High school. At Merrillville, they took second place. At Concord, they took

When they performed at Homestead, they took home the fourth place award. At Plymouth, they got second place. When they went to regionals, they also got a Gold Rating. At Downersville, they took first place.



The band went on to state competition this past weekend and placed 10th.

"We did very well. We



LPHS Marching Band performing at Regionals in Carmel

directed by Mr. Stisher and has three assistants, Mr. Quarles, Mr. Steck, and Mr. Zeigner.

"The theme this year is a mix of French and American," Mr. Stisher said.

The marching band not only entertains at half-time but also competes

fifth place. When they were at District, they received a Gold Rating, which allowed them to advance to state.

"I was very excited [about advancing to State]," said Senior Jena Jones. "I was really shocked that we qualified for State," said Senior Adam

could have not done any better. It was the best performance of the season," said Jones.

"We did really, really well regardless of the placement," said Wiencken.

Adam Wiencken is the band major, Shelli Hilton and Kaci Lamb are the color guard captains, and the band is comprised of 51 winds, 15 percussion, and 18 color guards.

"This year's marching band is the best it has been in recent years," said Mr. Stisher.

Wiencken.

# Winter Play Preview: Have You Roared Today? *Upcoming Winter Play's Cast Announced*

**Jessica Miller**

**Advertising**

This fall's school play, *Androcles and the Lion*, is the first musical in years to be performed at the LaPorte High School.

*Androcles and the Lion* has a unique style to it called Commedia dell'Arte (art of comedy), which has historical relevance. Many of the actions are done by improvisation.

"This play skyrockets with zany comedy. It glows with the warmth of 'friendship'," said Ms. Fridh, the director of this play.

*Androcles and the Lion* is not only a musical, but has a romantic twist and is one of the most popular children's plays ever written. The characters include two romantic lovers- Lelio and Isabella (played by Anthony Santana and Elizabeth Krieg), the miserly Pantalone (played by Nick Harmon), the bragging captain (played by Greg Konieczny), the slave boy- Androcles (played by Bethany Noble), an endearing

and a weaker character."

The characters agree that this play is a funny and enjoyable one, but "listen carefully to what the characters say," says Anthony Santana. "It is a very

would be a smaller audience than a play with a big cast. It's predicted that that won't be the case, though.

"We'll have them com-



funny play, but you might miss something if you do not pay attention."

*Androcles and the Lion* is a play to be enjoyed by an audience of all ages. Since there are only a few people in the play, some would think there

ing in DROVES," said Elizabeth Krieg.

The play performances are on Friday, November 12 and Saturday, November 13 in the LaPorte High School Auditorium with the curtain going up at 7 pm.

## Cast Members

- Androcles - Bethany Noble
- Lion - Joe Stewart
- Pantalone - Nick Harmon
- Lelio - Anthony Santana
- Isabella - Elizabeth Krieg
- Captain - Greg Konieczny

- Student Director - Hannah Borrego
- Director - Mrs. Fridh

*Androcles and the Lion* is a play to be enjoyed by an audience of all ages.

lion (played by Joe Stewart), and Hannah Borrego is the student director.

"We have really talented people and with the actions that we do it's really funny," says Nick Harmon.

All of the cast members are expected to rehearse 1 1/2 to 2 hours a day for the play.

"It's a challenge," says Bethany Noble. "Not only am I playing a boy, but a slave boy



# A Look Behind The Scenes of The Speech and Debate Teams

**Dan Teets**

**Photography**

Intellectual...intriguing... innovating... Speech and Debate. A club composed of some of the brightest minds this school has to offer, giving eloquently written speeches and persuasive arguments in front of large crowds.

Senior Grant Gussman said, "Speech and Debate helps us develop our ability to effectively construct arguments and adequately persuade people to see our point of view. It's also aided me in becoming more knowledgeable about current events."

Headed by Mrs. Linda Arney (Head Debate Coach) and Ms. Mary Fridh (Head Speech Coach), the members of the LPHS Speech and Debate teams have earned the highest award given by the National Forensic League, the Lead-

ing Chapter Award in the Northwest Indiana District, an honor only 103 out of 2700 schools nationwide had the privilege of experiencing this year. They obtained this award by having the most members and number of degrees on record in the NW Indiana District.

Speech and Debate runs deeper than just awards though. Not only do they give some of the most captivating performances that one person may ever have the chance to see in their natural lifetime, but they are also members of the National Forensic League some even participate in a nationwide discussion, "The People Speak."

"The People Speak" is a joint public debate/discussion project between the National Forensic League and the United Nation Foundation. Its goal is for NFL School all over the Country to participate on key foreign policy issues during the month of September 2004 with members of their communities," said Ms. Fridh.

Many students do not realize though, that Speech and Debate are actually two different teams. They vary in many different aspects as well including coaches, members, and number of meets. Also the context of the speeches given at competitions is different between the two. As described by Mrs. Arney, Speech is a more emotional, well rehearsed, delivery based performance, where as Debate is based more on logic, research, and , after the first speech, all speeches and arguments are developed after listening to opponents.

Although the Speech and Debate teams win many trophies, plaques, awards, and ribbons, they also earn some other things, things that will help them far beyond high school.

Junior Joe Stewart said, "Speech and Debate provides skills that are vital in today's working world. The society itself operates in a manner that reflects a higher

level of thinking which Speech and Debate can aid us in reaching."

"Debate made me more confident in public speaking and really helped me with my organization," said Senior Aaron Esposito.

Through years past, many members of Speech and Debate have earned awards, degrees, and points. The total number of points of the members and coaches this year add up to an astounding 24539.6 points (8944.6 points coming from the coaches and 15595 points coming from the students). Also, 115 students earned degrees last year and this year is showing to be equally as good."

Senior Stephen Ellis Jr. said, "It's shaping up to be a good year. We've got a lot of upcoming talent."

Coming off some impressive competitions last year, the 2004-2005 Speech and Debate teams are ready to live up to their reputations. All this

## Dividing Speech and Debate

Speech	Debate
<b>-Coaches</b> Ms. Mary Fridh Mr. John Dwyer	<b>-Coaches</b> Mrs. Linda Arney Mr. Michael Dunn
<b>- Number of Meets</b> 4 meets	<b>- Number of Meets</b> 14 meets
<b>-Types Of Speeches</b> well rehearsed emotional delivery based performances	<b>-Types Of Speeches</b> logical and researched speech developed after the first speech and listening to opponents

hard work will not keep them from having fun with these events though.

"The competitions aspect is really fun. We

meet many interesting people from other schools. And the coaches are really dedicated," said Junior Lauren Varga.



"A turkey baster."

Kim Tschida - 12



"A salsa dancer."

Holly Patterson - 11



"Patrick from Spongebob."

Samantha Cains - 10



"An angel."

Hannah Downs - 9



"A red blood cell."

Mr. Spitzmesser - Teacher

What would be your ideal Halloween costume?





# Election

## Vote or Die? Media influences youth to voice opinions

**Matt Prellwitz**

### Photography

Celebrities such as Bruce Springsteen, Andre 3000, Jamie Foxx, Ashton Kutcher, and Drew Barrymore have been encouraging the young population to vote. Sean "P. Diddy" Combs has perhaps taken to strongest approach by creating "Citizen Change," an organization with a mission to "make voting hot, sexy and relevant to a generation that

hasn't reached full participation in the political process." The organization created the ever so clever slogan "Vote or Die," and has been placed on t-shirts that supporting celebrities have been seen frequently wearing."

"I think it is awesome that anyone like him, being a rapper and well known, stands up and uses his popularity to promote voting," said Senior Ashley Bigg.

Although, not everyone is feeling Combs' message.

"It is good to encourage people but I think P. Diddy is going a little over board," said Senior Tim Gust.

The voting friendly celebrities have seen a lot of attention from the media, and have been questioned on why they have taken such an interest in encouraging the youth to vote. Celebrities such as Sean Combs and Benjamin Andre of Outkast have stressed how they want to see young adults get involved in our country, but have also admit-

ted that they themselves have not voted in the past.

"I'm glad they are encouraging kids to vote. Whether or not they have voted in the past, they are still encouraging others. Although, I think they should vote in this election to back up what they are preaching," said Senior Katie Harris.

"Any encouragement is helpful. Even if they haven't voted in the past they will this time. That's all you have to do," said Mr.

Fettinger.

Like it or not, celebrities will undoubtedly have some effect on the results of this year's election. Much of today's youth is very impressionable, and will listen to whatever their favorite star has to say.

"I think [celebrity endorsements] could work for the better, to get more people our age to vote more and take an interest in our government," said Senior Sarah Daniel.

## LPHS student offers thoughts from nation's capital

**Miles Taylor**

### Writer

If someone had told me a year ago that today I would be working in the United States House of Representatives at age 17, I would have laughed. I've realized over the past few months, though, how quickly life can change.

Before summer began this year, I decided to apply to be a Page in the U.S. Congress. After working at WCOE/WLOI radio station in LaPorte for more than a year as a news reporter, I had gotten to know Congressman Chris Chocola fairly well. After interviewing him in South Bend one evening, he recommended that I apply to the Page Program. After doing some research, I found that the program was very competitive, but I applied anyway.

Nearly three months later (this July), I received a phone call from the Congressman- I had been

accepted. I was thrilled beyond belief, and to make a long story short, today I am an employee of the federal government.

### Mile's thoughts on election

"Good luck this November, Mr. Vice President," I said to Dick Cheney as he walked out of the Speaker's Office.

"What was I thinking?!" I asked myself afterwards. I didn't really wish him luck in the election. Knowing that Dick Cheney was up against John Kerry and John Edwards, my party's Presidential ticket, how could I have said such a thing?

Later, I convinced myself that I was just being polite, which is all you can do when you are in the presence of the second most powerful man on the planet and his intimidating Secret Service protection.

This was the incident I dealt with late last month. The Vice President was visiting with the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dennis Hastert (my boss). Thinking back on it, I suppose that it wasn't the biggest problem a 17-year-old could have. In fact, most high

school juniors at that moment were worrying about their math grade or how bad they looked in front of that special someone in the hallway.

There I was, worrying about how bad I looked in front of my Vice President. Now I realize one thing: being a teenager isn't the same anymore.

I have been working in the United States House of Representatives here in Washington, D.C., since being accepted to the House Page Program this summer (more about the Page Program below).

Because this is an election year, things here in the capital and on Capitol Hill are very fast-paced. While the nervousness is obvious with increased security, the real tension is coming from politics.

As a Page in the Speaker's Office, I'm surrounded by Republicans \*\*\* (Quick Government Lesson: The Speaker is the primary leader of the House of Representatives. If the President and the Vice President die, HE becomes the President. Currently, Republican Dennis Hastert holds

this position).\*\*\* As a Democrat, this can be frustrating for me, but it has also given me a good look at this year's election- from the other side.

Of all the things I've discovered from an insider's point of view, the most important is this: Republicans are nervous. No matter what candidate you support or what happens on election day, this says a lot. In 1996, Bill Clinton didn't have to worry about his fight to hold office. Bob Dole didn't stand a chance. This year, though, Bush and other top Republicans seem sincerely worried (behind-the-scenes, of course) that there's a chance that he'll get booted out like his father.

Now I'm not jumping to any conclusions about what will happen in this election, but every voter and citizen should know how close this race is. Just look at how divisive the main issue is: Iraq. Last fall I interviewed NBC Political Commentator Chris Matthews, who hosts the show *Hardball*. When I asked him what he thought about the election, he predicted that Iraq would take center stage and Bush would

either stand or fall on his decision to go there. Now, more than a year later, Matthews is still right.

As a Congressional Page, I will be attending the inauguration ceremony for the President this January. The problem is, I don't know who it will be! Election 2000 was supposed to be one of the closest in history, but election 2004 could be even closer. Both parties have tens thousands of lawyers in dozens of states preparing for an election fight that could rival the one four years ago.

As I huddle around the television on election night with my fellow pages, I will keep in mind what our Senator from Indiana, Dick Lugar, told me over dinner a few weeks ago- that politics is a tough game. Even candidates that are almost guaranteed to win get anxious, and because this year's race is so close, one thing is for sure: everyone will be on their toes November 2nd.

Note: Miles Taylor is a *Hi-Times* writer who took the trimester off to work in D.C. Look for more from Miles in issues to come.

## Heard of LaPorte's Dr. Chuck Bladwin?

**Allie Bessegato**

### Staff Writer

**Sam King**

### Staff Writer

Dr. Charles (Chuck) Baldwin, graduate of LPHS ('71), is running for Vice President of the United States.

Under the Constitution Party, established twelve years ago in 1992, Michael Anthony Peroutka is the Presidential Candidate.

"We [the Constitution Party] are on the ballot in 40 states. We have the potential to win the Electoral College. I believe we are the party of the future," said Dr. Baldwin.

While attending LPHS, Dr. Baldwin participated in wrestling, football, track and band is his freshman and sophomore years. He also worked at Five Star grocery store.

"I became interested in

politics after becoming an adult. I am not really interested in politics, but more the ideals, principles and a way to communicate," said Dr. Baldwin.

Dr. Baldwin said he did not anticipate running for vice president, but after speaking to trusted friends and family he decided to run.

The Constitution Party, the third largest political party in the U.S., has three campaign themes: Honor God, Defend the Family, and Restore Republic. The Constitution Party strongly believes that our nation should strictly enforce immigration laws, end the war, and it is the only political party that is 100% pro-life.

"Abortion is a national holo-

caust. It has to stop. Right to life was the first thing put into the constitution," said Dr. Baldwin.

Dr. Baldwin founded the Crossroad Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida, in 1975 and currently is a host of a daily, one-hour radio show offering a Christian point of view. He is married and has three adult children.

The last time Dr. Baldwin was in LaPorte was in 1997, just after the death of his mother. He has no immediate plans to return to LaPorte, but hopes he can do so in the future.

More information regarding Dr. Baldwin can be found at [www.chuckbaldwinlive.com](http://www.chuckbaldwinlive.com).



Dr. Baldwin, 1971



Dr. Baldwin, present

## Whew, it didn't happen

**Greg Konieczny**

### Advertising

Don't worry; no one is going to get drafted after all.

It appears that the United States House of Representatives has put an end to HR 163, the bill that was supposed to "re-instate" the draft. The bill was out-voted by a count of 402 to 2, putting an end to the rumors that everyone between the ages of 18 and 26 had the possibility of going to Iraq.

There were twin bills in the House and Senate that were designed to get all males and females to register for the draft once they turn 18, and if their number was called then he/she would have to go off and serve his country, no exceptions.

As of October 31, 2003 there were 14.1 million men eligible for the draft, if one was to add women into the equation there would be more than double the

amount of people eligible for the draft.

Mr. Otis, history teacher, said, "It [the draft] is so politically unpopular, I don't think there's much chance of that [the draft] happening."

The bill, HR 163, was proposed by a Democrat from New York by the name of Charles Rangel. He felt too many minorities and lower class people were going overseas to fight for their country while white, middle and upper class people weren't doing anything for their country.

The rumors for the draft were amplified by the "Rock the Vote" campaign that is promoted by the MTV network.

Sophomore Sean Keller said, "I think instead of encouraging people to vote on their own opinion, they [MTV] give them an opinion. Don't think you have to vote because P-Diddy told you to."

## Which teacher would you choose to be president?



Zach Smith  
Sophomore  
"Mrs. Kuta."



Josh Gearhart  
Senior  
"Mr. Heric. Definitely."



Jen Albin  
Junior  
"I would want Mr. Otis to be president."

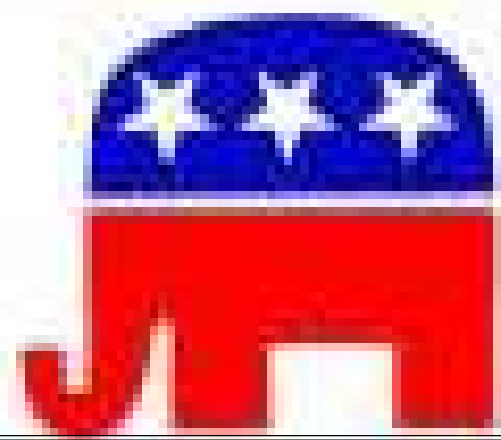


Sean Leau  
Freshman  
"I would choose Ms. Paulus."



Mr. Thomas  
Teacher  
"Mr. Fruth."

# n 2004



## Positions of Presidential Candidates

Sen. John Kerry



Opposes drilling in ANWR, supports the Kyoto Treaty and wants to raise the gas-mileage standards in cars. He also supports putting more money into developing renewable energy sources like wind, solar power and hydrogen.

Pres. George W. Bush



Wants to reduce our dependence on foreign oil by drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). He declined to sign the Kyoto Treaty, which called for industrialized nations to reduce global warming, saying it would hurt the American economy.

### The Environment

\$3.2 billion Service for College plan would give high school students four years' tuition at a public university in exchange for two years of national service in programs such as YouthBuild and the Police Corps.

### School Funding

Proposed a State Scholars program that would reward low-income high school students with extra college tuition help if they take more advanced high school courses.

Initially supported the war in Iraq, but he now says Bush misrepresented Iraq's threat to the U.S. He wants more troops sent to Iraq to help stabilize the new government, and has called for Bush to expand the U.N.'s role there.

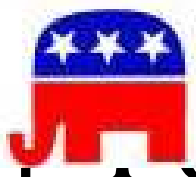
### The War on Terror

Expanded the war on terror into Iraq when he convinced Congress that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction that were an immediate threat to the U.S. Today, he stands behind his decision to go to war.

Supports raising the minimum wage to \$7 per hour and extending unemployment benefits during longer periods of job loss.

### Employment

Opposes any immediate increase to the minimum wage, which has been \$5.15 per hour since 1997. He thinks states should be able to opt out of federal minimum wage increases if they would be too costly.



## Positions of Gubernatorial Candidates

Gov. Joe Kernan



Campaigned for shorter "boot on the ground" deployment time and for more support for the families left here in Indiana.

### The War in Iraq

Mitch Daniels



Proposed a budget bill to commit most of its new spending to the needs of national defense, the war against terror, and to double the spending on "homeland defense."

Helped to ward off a waste dump proposed to be placed in Gary.

### The Environment

Wants to clean up the environment as much as possible.

During his position, he has changed state policies to improve the unemployment rate and help small businesses land state contracts.

### Employment

Proposes tax cuts for farmers, a drastic change in direction of small business operations, and to help bring down the unemployment rate.

Appointed a committee to study the school funding formula, which critics say guarantees money to schools that lose students while giving no extra money to schools where enrollment has gone up.

### School Funding

Favors changing the school funding formula to reflect enrollment trends and efficiency.

## What would you do first as president?



Mrs. Kuta

"I would make the school day start at 10 AM and end at 5 PM."



Mr. Heric

"I would try to rearrange the Supreme Court."



Mr. Otis

"I would have no school on Friday's."



Ms. Paulus & future Vice Pres.

"I would raise teacher's wages."



Mr. Fruth

"I would setup a new healthcare plan."

## How to celebrate Halloween like a normal person

**Broc Holmquest**

**Managing Editor**

Halloween is the only day devoted to evil, horrible things. On no other day can *not* dressing up like a werewolf or vampire make you the target of criticism and ridicule. Indeed, Halloween should be embraced as a day to celebrate those things that scare us the most. Unfortunately, too many people want to turn it into a happy holiday. Putting up lights and giant inflatable cartoon characters is for Christmas, okay? Just because the lights are orange doesn't make it acceptable. For those of us who would like to celebrate Halloween the old-fashioned way, I've put together a few pointers to help you enjoy the day the way it was meant to be enjoyed.

If there is one universal symbol of Halloween, it has to be the jack o' lantern. We've all made one over the years, and it can often be an amusing way to pass a couple of hours. Unfortunately, there are always those goodie-goodies out there who actually spend money on

pumpkin carving kits so that they can impress all the kids who come trick-or-treating at their house. These people are completely devoted to their pumpkins; I've seen scary castles, cats, and even Bill Clinton in jack o' lantern form. However, if you're anything like me (normal) you'll appreciate the honest way of making a jack o' lantern. First of all, don't buy a special pumpkin carving knife. These things are useless. Instead, use a variety of kitchen knives. Cutting into the top of the pumpkin requires that huge butcher knife that no one seems to ever use, where as a small knife is needed for sculpting the eyes and mouth. While we're on the subject of the face, there's no cheating allowed: you *cannot* trace the eyes, mouth, and/or nose with a pencil before you begin. That was okay in elementary school, but since we're all somewhat adults now, you've got to improvise. Don't worry about it looking terrible: you don't have to be too fancy. Two circles for eyes, a triangle nose, and jagged rectangular teeth are just fine. Besides, if it ends up looking horrible, you can brag

that at least you did it the honest way. Also, the pumpkin will decompose in about a week. If that seems like too long to destroy your atrocious creation, just throw it out of your second-floor window: there's nothing quite as satisfying as a pumpkin smashing on concrete.

No matter how old you are, you have to love dressing up for Halloween. Even if you don't go trick-or-treating, this is the one day you are allowed to act like as big a freak as you want. So, by all means, go for gusto. Just one word of advice: the more expensive the costume, the cheesier it will be. There's always one guy who spends a couple hundred bucks on his King Tut costume, and he always looks like a moron. So acquire a costume the cheap way: make it yourself. Besides the obvious bedsheet for a ghost, there are numerous other sources of costume gold. Check out your parents' closets: your dad might still have that disco-suit from the seventies, so going as John Travolta a la *Saturday Night Fever* is as easy as some fake gold chains and a bottle of hair gel. Mom's closet, on the other

hand, is endless in it's possibilities. Both guys and girls can find something funny and/or scary in here. I know most guys are going to be afraid of wearing women's clothing, but a transvestite working-girl is too hilarious a costume to pass up. Grab that red latex skirt, some black frilly tank-top, a purple satin jacket, and the biggest high-heels you can find, and you're set. Just add a little make-up (actually, make that a lot of make-up) to finish the disguise. Remember, the more embarrassing the costume is, the better received it will be. If all else fails, wear all black. This is perfect for hiding in the shadows and jumping out to scare people. Just don't play in traffic.

Halloween is easily one of the best holidays around, but it has been horribly mistreated by people with nothing better to do than decorate their house for every single holiday. Use some of these tips, however, along with a little creativity, and you may just save it from being another Hallmark holiday. Enjoy being yourself on Halloween; it's the only day you're allowed to.

## LaPorte's most haunted places exposed

**Sam King**

**Copy Editor**

Halloween's immense popularity among high school students has always seemed very strange to me. Despite the fact that the watered-down, commercialized pseudo-holiday is clearly aimed towards children under the age of ten, many high school students won't let it go.

If you have grown weary of the standard Halloween procedure, I propose this solution. Whether or not you believe in the supernatural, get together with two or three friends and check out some of the many supposedly haunted places in La Porte.

First up is Posey Chapel.

"Right when you walk through the gates, you get an eerie feeling," said Saxon Stiller.

In the 1800's a chapel stood adjacent to a cem-

etry. The Chapel then burned down and the priest hung himself from a nearby tree. The cemetery is still active but the Chapel was never rebuilt. A pavilion now stands in its place.

"It wasn't the building that scared me, it was the creepy presence it gave," said Corey Kozachenko.

Many orbs have supposedly been seen on the grounds and in the woods nearby. Many people claim to have seen a large shadowy figure, too large to be a tombstone, on top of the hill. Also people claim to have heard a girl singing along with a guitar.

While Posey Chapel may be the most rewarding place on your expedition, it will probably be the most remote. It is located on 1000 North, a mile or two from Heston.

Next is Orr Lake Road. The story begins with a couple who experiences some rather untimely car trouble. The man sets out on foot looking for

help. After a while he senses he is being followed. He then starts running. After he feels that he has lost his pursuer, he feels compelled to return to the car to check on his girlfriend. When he arrives back at the car, he sees a clump of his girlfriend's hair hanging from a tree limb, blowing in the breeze. In a panic, he drives away unharmed. When he arrives safely at his destination, he gets out of his car to be greeted by a large metal hook lodged in the side of his car. This is why Orr Lake Road is commonly known as Hook Man's Road.

Just as a warning, it is probably not the best idea to stop a car on this road, or to get out of a car. There are a lot of sharp corners that people tend to take rather quickly.

Moving on, Soldier's Memorial Park also has an interesting story around it. As you go through the park, whether you know it or now, you are surrounded by a labyrinth of walking trails. Legend has it that

the ghost of a young boy who drowned in Stone Lake wanders the trail.

Next is Patten Cemetery. This is where many of the men murdered by Belle Gunness are buried. Also a murderer was executed and buried in this cemetery. It is legend that if you were to knock down his tombstone, his ghost will haunt you.

Also, The I Street clinic is said to be haunted. Doors are rumored to open, close, and even lock by themselves. Also chairs have been known to move about on their own.

Other places that may be worth looking into are: Belle Gunness's house, the Movie Theater, and 415 Virginia Street.

If you are interested in further information, I found this website to be most **i n f o r m a t i v e** : [www.theshadowlands.net/places/indiana.htm](http://www.theshadowlands.net/places/indiana.htm) .

## Trick-or-treating and the student connection

**Rachel Surowiec**

**Managing Editor**

The over-age trick-or-treating epidemic is rapidly spreading across LPHS. Grown high-schoolers are hitting the streets in large numbers on October 31 in search of Snickers and Milkyways. The epidemic will strike many students this year, from the freshman up to the seniors. This breed of students we describe characteristically has quite a bit in common. They are not the ones riding shotgun in the little red flyer wagon. Instead, they are old enough to be behind the wheel of their own car. Some can vote, most are tall enough to ride the rollercoaster, and all of them can consider themselves high-schoolers.

"Dude, I'm so going to be there. I wouldn't miss trick-or-treat for the world. Even if my mom told me I couldn't, I would. Come on, I'm 18 and yes, I'm going to vote too. Is there a problem?" said Tony Paxson, Senior.

Typically starting at age 14 and with a height of 5'3" and above, the usual overage trick-or-treater can easily be spotted strolling down the street. No matter the drastic measures taken, we can assure that they can easily be spotted, sometimes even from more than a block away. It cannot be assumed that with age comes knowledge because teenagers seemingly choose the lamest costumes and therefore one may easily identify the "twerp with the Scream mask on" as the young man attending IU next year.

"Gosh, I really don't

see the point. I mean, don't these kids have something better to do than dress up as a pumpkin or M&M or something equally as dorky?" said Sarah Sass, Senior.

It can become quite sad for those handing out candy when they see everyday 17 year olds, the ones with jobs etc., put their heart and soul into saying the three special words: "trick-or-treat". There are many hardships that come with the job, especially when the age old candy-denying factor comes into play. One would have to believe that anybody, no matter what side of the door they are on, would be a little "stingy" if they tried to withhold candy. A scientific term for this ailment would be a "hoarder". It is not healthy to do so and it should not happen on the holidays, even if it is only Halloween.

"It should be like Christmas. People should be in the spirit of giving," said Mr. James.

When faced with the snottiest of the older kids, Mrs. Christner makes a valid Point.

"Yes, [it is stingy to withhold candy]. If they made the effort to dress up and come out and then give them one

piece of the worst candy you have," said Mrs. Christner.

Mr. Fettinger, following suit, had a similar idea.

"I just give the older ones the crappy candy corn. I always hated getting candy corn," said Mr. Fettinger.

When exactly does the magic wear off? Is there a specific age in which it is no longer accepted to look for the houses with the porch lights on? One may argue that a quick field trip to K-Mart's Halloween aisle may prove that trick-or-treat may go to the grave with some people. Someone should point out that just because there are adult size costumes, it does not mean that they are street-ready. Instead, these students should begin to think about healthy alternatives such as throwing a costume party where a 250 pound lineman dressed as a ghost will more readily be accepted. How about getting a job and buying a bag of candy for one's own use? One may even be able to utter the three magic Halloween words to the cashier. If the Good Sa-

maritan approach is more applicable, why not toss candy to the children who still do not know their seven times table by heart, someone who can say they were not made in the 80's.

"Yeah, so what! I so went as Link from the Zelda games on trick-or-treat circa 2003. So what. I mean you can't take that memory away from me. It's been done. And do you want to know something else? I enjoyed it." said Niraj Lakhia, Senior.

## Scare your pants off!

**Lauren Lockridge**

**Advertising**

Here are the 10 scariest movies for Halloween.

1) **The Exorcist (1973)**

The original is better than the remake. What makes this movie even creepier is the fact that it was based on true events. It is about a tormented priest who tries to exorcise the devil from a young girl, but in the process unleashes some of his own demons.

2) **Psycho (1960)**

Alfred Hitchcock's black-and-white version is the best one to watch. The infamous "shower scene" is part of film history. Psycho keeps the watcher on the edge of their seat.

3) **A Nightmare on Elm Street (1984)**

This movie is both terrifying and gory. The thought-provoking script and characters set this first movie in the Freddie Krueger series apart from other films like it.

4) **The Thing**

This movie combines psychological and isolation horror and gore. There is no one to trust. The movie was based on the short story "Who Goes There?"

5) **Jacob's Ladder (1990)**

Jacob Singer is a Vietnam vet who is haunted by his nightmarish war experiences. He is convinced the military used him in a drug experiment gone bad.

This movie takes the watcher into Jacob's nightmares and is kept wondering what is real and what isn't.

6) **The Shining (1980)**

Jack Nicholson's character in this movie is very creepy. He and his family are snowbound in the Overlook Hotel where he goes a little insane.

7) **Dawn of the Dead**

The second part of the trilogy where the dead walk among the living is probably the most frightening. Dawn of the Dead sticks out more than the other two, Night of the Living Dead and Day of the Dead.

8) **Halloween**

Forget the new-aged sequels because the original is scary enough. This movie focuses more on fear rather than gore. The scary setting and freaky music help make the movie better.

9) **Hellraiser**

This is a unique movie with a cast of terrifying monsters to give you nightmares.

10) **The Haunting (1963)**

Once again the original is scarier than the remakes. An innocent and insecure character named Eleanor along with some others is encouraged to stay a night in an old mansion that is supposedly haunted. The creepiest scene is when something is pounding on Eleanor's door and she asks roommate Theo to stop squeezing her hand so tightly...but Theo is across the room.

## Halloween superstitions

**Mickaël Konieczny**

**Staff Writer**

People can be manipulated to believe anything, no matter how foolish, strange, incredible, irrational, contradictory, and inconsistent it is. Nothing is too stupid for people to believe in. Although personality is not a strong factor in developing superstitious beliefs, there is some evidence that if one is more anxious than the average person, they're slightly more likely to be superstitious.

Superstitions have been passed down from generation to generation, or culture to culture. The month of October, with its Halloween celebration, is when most people remember these superstitions.

One of Halloween's most famous superstitions is the black cat.

"Watch out for the cats. I think that they are one of the worst superstition to run into," said Alysia Bowles.

It has been said that if a black cat crosses your path, you will have bad luck. Black cats were thought to have demons and spirits residing in their bodies and having supernatural powers.

To those who have broken a mirror, seven year's

bad luck will come without fail.

Ghosts are other superstitions. Research says they are people that have passed on and have come back to settle unfinished business. "Casper the friendly ghost" they are not!

Ms. Reffett stated she lives with ghosts and also said, "I have not seen them before, but I have smelled them. I heard them too."

Friday the thirteenth is an especially unlucky day. Twelve witches are necessary for a meeting, plus the devil equals thirteen; and they always meet on Friday. The combination of Friday, a generally unlucky day, with thirteen, an especially unlucky number, can be terrifying for superstitious people.

"Friday the thirteenth has gotten to the point of so many people believing it has to do with witches, ghosts, bad omens, etc., that it's not fun anymore. Basically all I do different on Friday the thirteenth is throw a costume party," said Sara Combs.

Mankind has a history of totally ludicrous beliefs. Superstitions are among the top things to believe in. Halloween seems to remind people of superstitions, but especially, we remember; witches riding brooms, black cats, ghosts and goblins, and full moons.

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# Looking for something to do? -Attend Battle of the Bands IV

**Matt Prellwitz**

## Photography

Are you overwhelmed by all the exciting events that take place in LaPorte? Do you often find yourself with so many things to do on Fridays that you can hardly contain yourself? Well this Friday (the 29th), you might have to skip the noisy movie theatre and the hours of aimless driving, and come out to see the fourth annual battle of the bands at Purdue North Central. The event will be showcasing six area bands. The groups were chosen by a panel of judges which handpicked the best from over twenty entries.

"We listened to all the band's CD's several times before making our final decision," said P.N.C. director of student activities Gary Demski.

This event has taken place with much suc-

cess in previous years.

"Last year we brought in about three-hundred people, and we hope to see even more this year," said Demski.

The format of this year's battle of the bands is standard for this type of event. Each band will have thirty-five minutes to play their set of songs, and the winner will be decided upon the quality of their music and the audience's reaction.

"We're all about playing shows for the audience. I'm looking forward to breakin' off our jams and kickin' it like James Brown on the Atkins diet," said Midwest Hype lead singer Matt Gillon.

The bands at this year's battle are all from area cities. The organizers goal for holding this event is to showcase local bands and give them a chance to receive some recognition.

"It's good for bands to be able to play for bigger

crowds. It's a lot more fun, especially since it's a competition," said Midwest Hype drummer Max Kepler.

Two of the qualified bands in this year's event, "Midwest Hype" and "Settle for Last" happen to be from LaPorte and Michigan City, respectively. Settle for Last has played many shows in the LaPorte and Michigan City area, and are known for their catchy poser punk sound. Midwest Hype consists of LPHS alumni Chris Bendix, Max Kepler, Wayne (Matt Gillon), and yours truly, and are known for their unique live performances and are loved by any fan of Sublime or Prince.

The event takes place in the L.S.F building at Purdue North Central on Friday, October 29th. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. and the first band takes stage at 6:00 p.m. There is a five dollar cover charge at the door. Come out to hear some great music and support your favorite local band.

# Coming To a Screen Near You: Heartfelt Look at Upcoming Video Games

**Broc Holmquest**

## Managing Editor

There have been quite a few video games that have revolutionized the face of gaming. Names like Asteroids, Space Invaders, and Pac-Man have all become well-known parts of pop-culture. The current generation of consoles has also seen its share of groundbreaking games. X-Box's biggest hit *Halo* took the familiar formula of a first-person shooter and overhauled it with beautiful graphics, addictive gameplay, and an amazing multiplayer mode. One of Nintendo's best series, the *Metroid* series, brought Gamecube the 2002 Game of the Year title with *Metroid Prime*, the first ever 3-D game in the series. And the PlayStation and PS2 have both been privileged with the Metal Gear Solid series. Both the original and the sequel, *Sons of Liberty*, practically invented the cinematic approach to gaming we now see everyday. Now each of these phenomenal games are getting sequels due out in just a scant month: *Halo 2*, *Metroid Prime 2: Echoes*, and *Metal Gear Solid 3: Snake Eater*.

The X-Box hasn't offered the most or best games, but it does have one game that everyone can agree on: *Halo*. This first-person shooter launched with the system in November 2001 and has since become one of the most respected games on this generation of consoles. Most fans were engrossed in the games frantic multiplayer mode, where multiple players could compete against each other in deathmatches and other such game modes. *Halo 2*, while maintaining the original's near-perfect single player experience, has added a ton of new multiplayer modes and online play through X-Box Live, the system's online gaming community. *Halo 2* now offers a character customization ability, allowing you to outfit your character with any color combination, as well as a custom emblem. Gameplay itself has been revamped, and is now better than ever. Now your character can handle two weapons at a time, one in each hand. Also, weapons from the first game, such as the needler and rocket-launcher, have been redesigned, and a new weapon, the Covenant Energy Sword, is now available for player use. Vehicles are returning, and are, of course, better than ever. Both the Ghost and Warthog from the first game have been given new abilities. Thanks to a new lighting and bump-mapping system, *Halo 2*'s graphics are even more stunning than the original's. Multiplayer is, of course, the staple of the series, and fans will not be disappointed. With X-Box live players can go online and challenge gamers from around the world in either Arranged games or Matchmade games. Arranged games offer customization of gametype and player settings, but players will not be ranked based upon their performance. Matchmade games offer little customization, but features a ranking system to grade your playing abilities. Gametypes include Slayer, Capture-The-Flag, and Assault. Slayer is

simply a deathmatch type situation, where the first person to reach a certain number of kills wins. Capture-The-Flag is played just like it sounds, with two to eight teams all seeking the flag's of other teams while protecting their own. In Assault, players must retrieve a bomb and set it in the other team's detonation zone. With so many gameplay modes, enhanced graphics, and an all-around better playing

coins which must be collected. The player with the most coins at the end of the game wins. New upgrades have been created exclusively for multiplayer, ensuring a worthwhile experience. *Metroid Prime 2: Echoes* hits store shelves November 15th.

*Metal Gear Solid* is still considered by many to be one of the PlayStation's best games. *MGS* ushered in a new era of cinematic style games. The stealth gameplay, engrossing characters, and dramatic story made it a groundbreaking and innovative gaming experience. *MGS2: Sons of Liberty* for the PS2 offered the same engrossing play and story, but was controversial due to a surprising character change from fan-favorite Solid Snake to the infamous Raiden. In *Metal Gear Solid 3: Snake Eater*, the main character is a Solid Snake look-a-like referred to as Naked Snake. Rumors on Naked Snake's true idea are already running rampant. Set in the 1960's, *Snake Eater* finds Naked Snake in a jungle-type setting, trying to extract a Russian scientist named Sokolov, who has designed a new weapon. Of course, we can easily guess that this is the first Metal Gear. The story is still tight under wraps, but this is *Metal Gear Solid*. Expect huge plot twists. *MGS3* changes some of the familiar gameplay dynamics, offering even more stealth action. Most noticeable, of course, is the new camouflage system. Players can now change their clothing and add face paint so that they can better blend in with their surroundings. A small percent bar at the top-left of the screen shows how well-hidden you are: 0% means you can be seen from miles away, 100% means you are completely invisible. There are a lot more weapons that players can use, but since this takes place in the 1960's, expect older weaponry like shotguns, handguns, and rifles. The radar that so many fans have come to rely on is gone. Now Snake will have to use his senses to detect the presence of enemy soldiers. Also, there is now a stamina meter that you must keep filled. If the meter gets too low, your aim will be off, your body will shake, and your performance will suffer. In order to keep the stamina meter full, *Snake Eater* now features an inventive hunting system. Players set traps and hunt for animals to eat. Once you trap and kill an animal, it will appear in your inventory. You won't have to worry about this too much, however: the bar decreases fairly slowly. There are an insane amount of animals you can hunt, including different species for each animal. Of course, the action is also a big part of the game, and *MGS3* features an entirely new close quarters combat system. This new system will include a wider array of throws, kicks, punches, and knife combat. Enemies have a new AI system that is impressive in its authenticity. Wounded soldiers will run for cover and call allies for help, while other enemies will pin you down with fire while another soldier creeps up to your position. The AI is sure to present a challenge in *Snake Eater*. Graphically, this game is above nearly every title available on PS2. Every element of the jungle, including grass and mud, reacts realistically to your movements. *MGS3* is shaping up to be a milestone in gaming. Get it November 1st.

Regardless of which gaming system you call your own, everyone has to admit these are the three games that will define video gaming for years to come. Few games are guaranteed to be classics before they are even released, but *Halo 2*, *Metroid Prime 2: Echoes*, and *Metal Gear Solid 3* have already earned that title.

"These are the three games that will define video gaming for years to come."

experience, *Halo 2* is sure to be on every X-Box owners wish-list, and rightfully so: you won't be seeing a game as amazing as this for a long time. Look for it November 9th.

Fans of Nintendo's *Metroid* series have always loved the 2-D side-scrolling gameplay the series is best known for. With Gamecube's *Metroid Prime*, however, Nintendo gave the series new life with a fully 3-D first-person experience. *Prime* manages to redesign the look of the game while keeping the gameplay experience fairly close to that of the classic *Metroid* games. *Metroid Prime 2: Echoes* is taking the same basic approach. This time around, galactic bounty-hunter Samus Aran is trapped on an area that contains two-separate worlds: a Light World and a Dark World. Enemies are, naturally, different on the two worlds, and two new types of beams have been created to combat these enemies: the Light Beam and the Dark Beam. Of course, there are also upgrades available to Samus' power-suit so that she can contend with the two worlds. This new layout is sure to offer a more strategic and gratifying experience. The graphics have undergone little change, but since the first *Prime* is still one of the best looking games available, that's not a problem. The single-player experience is very similar to the first game. Players will control Samus Aran from a first-person perspective, navigating labyrinth like areas and blasting an insane number of enemies. Along the way you will find weapon and power-suit upgrades that will grant you new abilities, such as the missiles, wave-beam, and power-ball. While this game may look and play a lot like the original *Prime*, new features have been added to make the game even more enjoyable and worth playing. The most notable addition is the new multiplayer feature. No *Metroid* game has ever offered this before, and fan's have been eagerly anticipating the game's release for just this reason. Now up to four players can battle it out in at least two modes: Death Match and Bounty Mode. Players can control either Light Samus or Dark Samus in these multiplayer modes. Death Match is a free-for-all battle, where the last player standing is declared the winner. In Bounty Mode, damaged characters will drop

# Infamous Jim Carrey in a New Role: Eternal Sunshine of a Spotless Mind

**Steve**

## Photography

"How happy are the blameless Vesta's lot! / the world forgetting, by the world forgot / Eternal sunshine of the spotless mind! / Each pray'r accepted, and each wish resign'd."

The DVD recommendation for the issue is *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. *Eternal Sunshine* is an odd but original movie. It's a refreshing departure from the typical 'Hollywood' love story/drama.

The story of

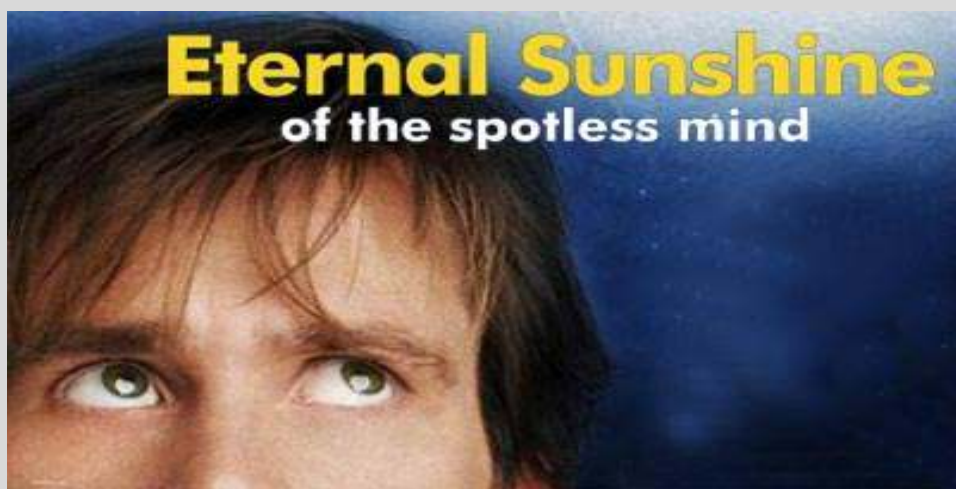
boyfriend behind the counter. Joel then finds out from his friends that Clementine had Joel erased from her memory by a company called Lacuna Inc. Joel then decides that he will go and have Clementine erased from his memory. While having his memories erased Joel relives all his moments with Clementine and regrets that he's having them erased.

Meanwhile, Clementine is dating a technician from Lacuna named Patrick, played by Elijah Wood (*Lord of the Rings*). When a person gets a memory erased from their mind they have to get rid of all the things they

own that are associated with the memory like photos, notes, gifts, etc. So, Patrick takes all of the things Joel had that reminded him of Clementine and uses them on her again to make her fall in love with him. He gives her a ring Joel had for Clementine. But, Clementine is unsure of the romance and does not fully commit to Patrick even though he is crazy for her.

The ending of the movie is kind of what one would expect but, not corny like a typical love story. Every character's situation is resolved and there are no unanswered questions. The movie is set in the Long Island area of New York during the winter around St. Valentine's Day, which gives it a dark and cold feeling at some points.

*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* features a solemn and reserved Jim Carrey which is rare to see in almost any



*Eternal Sunshine* centers around Joel Barish, played by Jim Carrey (*Bruce Almighty*, *The Truman Show*). The character Joel is much more calm and normal than the other characters Jim Carrey usually plays. Joel's life is changed for the worst when his girlfriend, Clementine Kruczynski, played by Kate Winslet (*Titanic*, *Heavenly Creatures*), breaks off their relationship. Things get worse when Joel approaches Clementine where she works to mend the relationship. She acts like she doesn't even know him while she flirts with her new

own that are associated with the memory like photos, notes, gifts, etc. So, Patrick takes all of the things Joel had that reminded him of Clementine and uses them on her again to make her fall in love with him. He gives her a ring Joel had for Clementine. But, Clementine is unsure of the romance and does not fully commit to Patrick even though he is crazy for her.

The movie has a somewhat annoying habit of going back in time to when Joel and Clementine first meet, then forward in time to when they both have their memories erased, and then moving back to during Joel's eraser proce-

film he does. He shows that he does not always have to over act to be good in a role. Kate Winslet plays almost the opposite of Carrey's role. As Clementine she is crazy and unpredictable and sports different hair colors regularly. Elijah Wood, Kirsten Dunst, Mark Ruffalo, and Tom Wilkinson hold up a strong sub-plot and round out an excellent cast.

The screenplay was written by Charlie Kaufman and Michel Gondry. Kaufman is famous for his similarly odd *Being John Malkovich* and *Adaptation*. Gondry directed the film.

*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* is rated R for language, some drug and sexual content.

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# Slicer Sports



## Girls Soccer

**Lauren Lockridge**

**Advertising**

The Girl's Soccer team finished up a great season Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. With a record of 10-5-1 the team headed for sectionals.

Senior Sam Mendelowitz said, "This year was probably the best, not only record wise, but also with team camaraderie. We were all friends and got along great."

The first sectional game was held on Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup> against Portage. The final score was 3-0 Portage.

"The girls were a lot of fun. We may not have won every game but we made every one count," said senior Missy Lee.

The team beat Chesterton for the first time in 12 years. Sophomore Kim Lienhoop said, "We did great, really stepped it up from last year."

Coach Hans Scheller made some changes this year including a different line-up and a new formation.

"We had a good combination of skill and leadership in the team this year," said Coach Scheller.

"The season has been tough but we got through it so I'm happy," said freshman Ashley Lauver.

The team did a great job this season; best of luck to the seniors and the team next year.

## Girls Golf

**Shawn McFrederick**

**Staff Writer**

The Girls Golf Team has ended their season, but it wasn't short lived. The team's final record was ten wins and two losses, not to mention, the girls placed 13 at state.

Mr. Wilson, the coach, said "Valpo and Penn were the only two teams to beat us. Thankfully, we were able to beat Valpo when it really counted at regionals in order to advance to finals."

At state, as a coach, there are many experiences to be found.

Coach Wilson said, "I had an absolute blast. It was a lot of fun watching the LaPorte girls against the 21 best teams in the state. Finishing 13th in the state really allows us to set high goals for next year."

Whenever anyone coaches a sport, there will be some very special memories from the season.

Coach Wilson said, "My favorite memory of the season was waiting for the final results at the regionals at Beechwood. We knew that the final scores of LaPorte, Valpo, and Crown Point would most likely be very close. What we didn't expect is that we would eventually beat Valpo by just one stroke. Our players, parents, and fans were very excited once the final results were posted. Our goal all season had been to advance to state. Watching it happen before our very eyes was a great feeling."

Even though the season is over there is always next year to improve. Great job to all the girls and to the coach.

## Boys Tennis

**Greg Konieczny**

**Advertising**

The Slicer Boys Tennis Team had a positive season with a record of 12 wins and 8 losses. The season for the team ended with a loss at Sectionals to our arch-rivals Michigan City. Corey Kozachenko and Kyle Ahlgrim advanced to Regionals in doubles.

The team was obviously a very young team. Junior Josh Kutch is looking forward to a very successful season next year. Kutch said, "We are all very excited to start next year since 5 of the 7 varsity spots will be seniors."

To sum up this year's boys tennis season, Greg Larson said, "We came, we saw, we hit the ball hard."

## Boys Soccer

**Allegra Carpenter**

**Staff Writer**

The Boys Soccer season ended on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup>. They lost in Sectionals to South Bend St. Joseph's squad with a 2-0 score. LaPorte had an advantage to kick the ball with the wind to make a goal, but the shots were too wide or came up short. The loss ends the careers of seniors Marcin Fryda, Brett Tyburski, Steven Hinshaw, and Jesse Kousen.

The most memorable night of Boys Soccer was Senior Night, which started off with a bang. Brett Tyburski rode onto the field on a lawn mower, escorted by police. Although that happened they knew that they could not mess around and had to get the job done. Unfortunately, the Slicers lost to the Valparaiso Vikings, 4-0.

Junior Nick Edquist said, "Getting penalties was our biggest problem all season long."

The entire team worked hard to get to the victories they experienced.

Justin Heinhold said, "I tried my hardest, pushing myself all the time to help the team out. I liked to incorporate all of my team members."

Heinhold also said, "Overall the entire team worked together as we progressed through the season."

Many of the players are friends outside of school and off the field. They proved that they could work as a team and not as individuals. As the saying always goes, "There's no 'I' in 'team.'"

Corey Mofield said, "I think the team works well together. We all get along and hang out off the field and that carries over onto the field. We play well together."

The 2004 Boys Soccer Team finished with a record of six wins and eleven losses.

## Boys Cross Country

**Sam King**

**Staff Writer**

The La Porte Boys Cross Country team is finished with their post season. On Saturday October 2, the boys placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the Duneland Athletic Conference meet.

Senior Keith Ludwig won the race, earning him the title of DAC Champion. Keith also set a new personal record (16:02) in the race. Also running personal records were Senior Drake Sterling (16:56) and Sophomore Jake Hojnacki.

"DAC was an exciting race, and the team did O.K.," said Sterling.

At the Sectional meet in New Prairie, the boys narrowly defeated New Prairie by one point to win the Sectional championship.

"It was very satisfying beating New Prairie at sectionals," said Hojnacki.

Once again Ludwig set the pace for the 10 team field, finishing the course in 16:32. Nick Gross and Drake Sterling crossed the line next for the Slicers in fourth and fifth place, both in 17:13. Mike Fout also ran well finishing 9<sup>th</sup> in 17:29.

At the Regional meet in New Prairie, the Slicers came in fourth as a team, qualifying for the semi-state meet in New Prairie. Keith Ludwig believed he ran a disappointing race, coming in fifth place individually, once again in 16:32. Gross and Sterling both ran well again coming in 20<sup>th</sup> (Sterling) and 22<sup>nd</sup> (Gross). Phil Savich and Jake Hojnacki rounded out the Slicer's top five.

The Slicer's season finally came to an end at semi-state, also in New Prairie. The team ended up in 13<sup>th</sup> overall, after disappointing performances from many team members.

"We could have done so much better," said Junior Anthony Hilb, "Next year will be a whole different story."

Despite the team not qualifying, Ludwig managed to take one of the 15 qualifying positions, and will be going to the State meet in Terre Haute on October 30. Good Luck, Keith!



## Football: Staying Strong

**Donnie Williams**

**Sports Editor**

LaPorte Football has always been a major fall tradition. As of late, the Slicers have been on fire. They are on a four game winning streak, most recently capitalizing on their first Sectional opportunity, Elkhart Central, last Friday.

In response to the Elkhart Central game, Coach Schellinger said, "We played very well on all 3 phases of the game. We performed very well on Friday night."

On the road to the Sectional Semi-Final, three senior leaders, Brad Ebach, Rocky Buchta, and Gerald Sims, had this to say about their upcoming bout against Penn.

"Our goal is to keep the team enthusiastic and pumped up for the game and the task at hand," they said.

With Sectionals approaching rapidly, the Slicers have been working especially hard in practice.

When Coach Schellinger was asked his goals for the Penn Sectional Semi-Final, he stated just one, "Win!"

Junior kicker Nick Ford said, "We're going to try our best and see what happens."

"I'd like to bring a Sectional Title to L-Town," said Brad Ebach.

With the amount of excitement sectional time is bringing to LaPorte, we can only wish our Slicer Football Players the best of luck, because they not only represent our school, but our community, our town, and ourselves.

On a final note, Sims commented, "Sectionals ain't nothing but a G-Thang!"

## Girls Volleyball

**Jessica Miller**

**Advertising**

The LaPorte Slicer Volleyball Team prevailed over South Bend Clay in the Sectional game on Thursday, October 21.

In the first game, the Slicers had a close victory with the score of 25-23. They fell behind in the second game losing 18-25, but they held strong the rest of the way winning 25-7 and 25-15.

"I thought our serving was really good," Varsity Coach Lebo said. "They served exceptional in the third and fourth game, too."

Leading the way were Freshman Emily Parks and Sophomore Sarah Dermody with nine kills each, and Juniors Cassie Yates and Michelle Werner with eight each.

"I thought Emily Parks was outstanding," Lebo said. "For a freshman in her first Sectional, she did some outstanding things."

The team had been working hard, practicing twice a day in Sectional preparation. The Slicers had 11 aces overall and many great serves, leading them to victory.

The La Porte Varsity team went on the face the Michigan City Wolves on October 23. The scores were 25-12, 19-25, 25-17, and 25-22, leaving Michigan City to go on and face Penn in the Regionals. Congratulations on a good season girls. Their final record was 24 wins and 11 losses.

## Girls Cross Country

**Sam King**

**Staff Writer**

The La Porte Girls Cross Country team ran in the DAC meet on October 2. The team ran well and ended up in 7<sup>th</sup> place.

Senior Rachel Hojnacki barely missed all DAC honors (top 12) with her 15<sup>th</sup> place finish. Rachel's time was 15:51.

"I was hoping for Rachel to make it into the top 12, but she got caught up at the beginning of the race," said Coach Rice. "We had 9 of 13 runners set personal records today. Overall it was a good race," said Rice.

In the sectional meet in New Prairie, Rachel Hojnacki came in third individually (15:55). As a team the girls came in fifth, qualifying for the Regional meet in New Prairie.

The La Porte girls came in 10<sup>th</sup> place at the Regional meet, failing to qualify for the semi-state meet.

Hojnacki once again led the way for the Slicers, coming in 24<sup>th</sup> place. Rachel got out to a slow start, and was unable to make up ground on the lead pack. Also running well were Freshman Nicole Komaskinski, and Sophomore Natalie Sprik.

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