

# THE SPARTAN SPEAR

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 3

MARIST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

APRIL 18, 2013

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## Pippin opens Friday



Senior Jack Lemhouse and sophomore Nikki Mirhosseyni star in Pippin. Photo by Toni Cooper

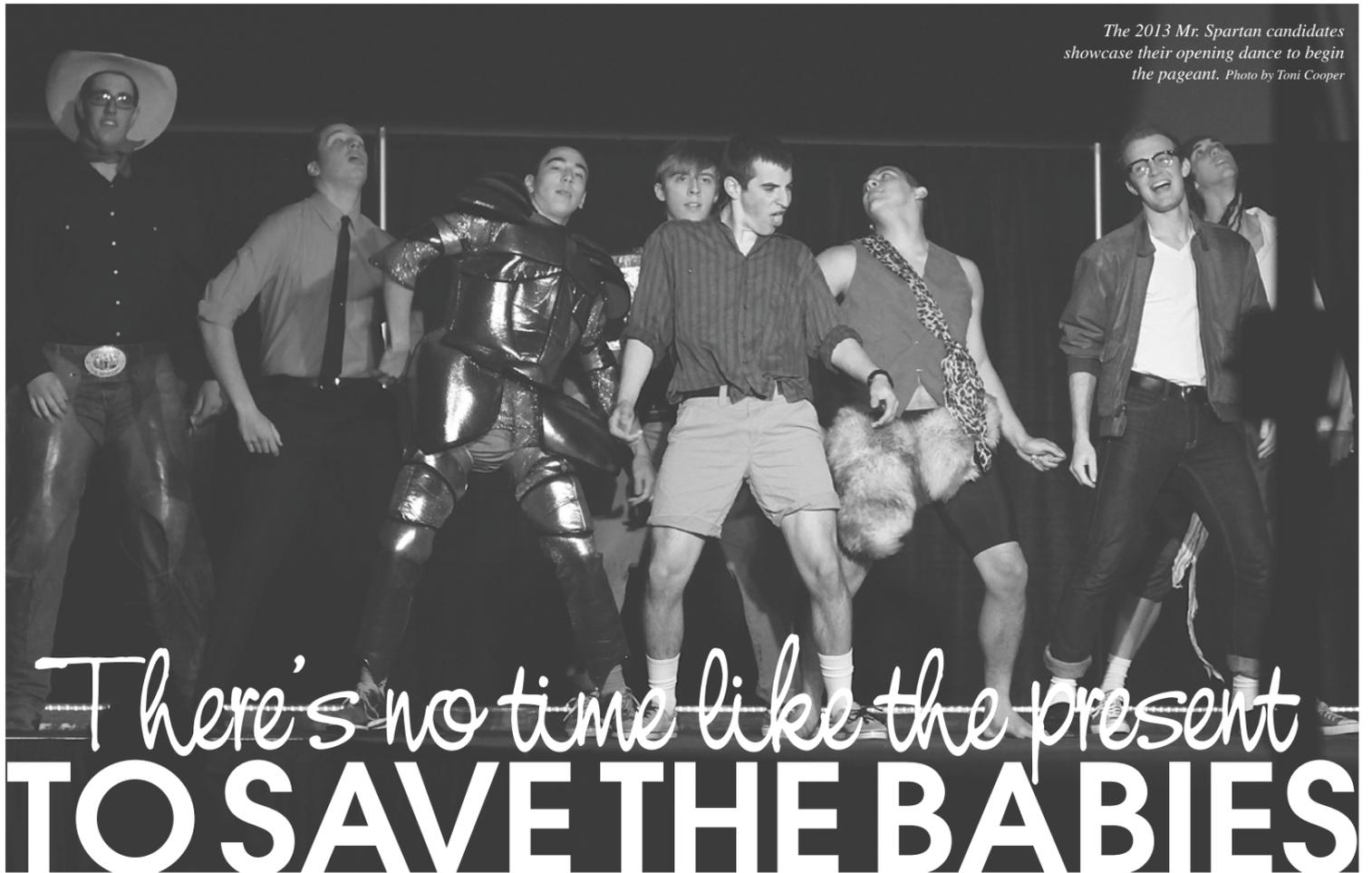
By Karlin Anderson  
GUEST WRITER

Beginning Friday at 7:30 p.m., a select cast of talented drama students will present a two weekend run of Steven Schwartz's musical Pippin filled with singing, dancing and battles all performed in whimsical costumes.

This comedic show follows Prince Pippin, portrayed by senior Jack Lemhouse, as he discovers his life's meaning while encountering a variety of extravagant characters including Tony Rust as the Lead Player. The cast is backed up with live music led by Jim Reinking. The musical promises to provide an evening full of humorous entertainment.

There will be a special collection for Project Starfish at each intermission.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Go to [www.seatyourself.biz/marist](http://www.seatyourself.biz/marist) to order them online.



The 2013 Mr. Spartan candidates showcase their opening dance to begin the pageant. Photo by Toni Cooper

# There's no time like the present TO SAVE THE BABIES

Mr. Spartan raises \$30,000 for Children's Miracle Network before Zach Silva is crowned

By Alex Seaver  
EDITOR

The 17th annual Mr. Spartan Pageant came to a close last Saturday with the crowning of senior Zach Silva as the 2013 Mr. Spartan.

The pageant showcased eight senior gentlemen—the faces of Marist's fundraising for Children's Miracle Network.

The pageant was the culmination of roughly four months of hard work. It included a choreographed dance, a video of the team's visit to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Sacred

Heart Riverbend and completely entertaining skits.

With the help of 11 junior and senior ladies and staff, their efforts raised over \$30,000. This includes pageant ticket sales, generous donors and fundraisers such as a Togas for the Tinies dance, Bowling for the Babies, a ladies bunco night, and money collected from donation jars carried by the boys.

In the final segment of the pageant, Rick Gardner, the co-master of ceremonies with Abbie Silva '08 and Marist vice principal, interviewed each candidate with randomly se-

lected questions—one serious and one funny.

With the contestants still on stage in formal wear, the scene was set for the crowning. When last year's winner, Ryan Whalen, placed the crown on Silva's head, Silva was baffled.

"I was thinking no, no way," he said, "I had no idea what to do next. Luckily Ben was there so that solved that."

Accomplishment soon surpassed Silva's initial exuberance.

"We raised \$30,000 to help the babies and that's something that I will always be proud of," Silva said.



Fellow Mr. Spartan candidate senior Ben Fusek embraces the 2013 Mr. Spartan winner, Zach Silva, in celebration. Photo by Toni Cooper

## Choices for healthy lives



Sophomores Dallin Cone and Michael Cardani enjoy Choices Day. Photo by Sami Kast '13

By Jordan Dickereel  
STAFF WRITER

Sophomores took a step back from their daily school routines Mon and Tue to reflect and converse on the relationships in their lives during the Sophomore Choices Day Away.

The day-long retreat, hosted by the theology department, transported half the class each day to St. Mary's Catholic Church, where students discussed choices they will make in their lives pertaining to their health and sexuality. The program helps attendees to make decisions that will lead to healthy and loving relationships.

## Stollargerdes victorious

With the end of one year approaching, preparations for another begin

Junior Ben Schepergerdes speaks to the student body to secure his presidency. Photo by Brittany Wong '15

By Peter Hu  
STAFF WRITER

Last Wednesday, Marist held an ASB election in the gym for the upcoming school year.

Seven candidates ran for election and gave passionate speeches about how they want to help the school and how to make the school better. Four of them

were elected.

Next year's officers will be junior Ben Schepergerdes as president, junior Garret Stollar as vice president, junior Brennan Lilley as treasurer and sophomore Josh Christian as secretary.

Beth Wirth, who is in charge of the ASB, described the current ASB members as wonderful leaders and good

managers who did their jobs.

She also explained how the new ASB members will improve the school. She said they are good candidates that want to keep a positive feeling in the school and they would like to improve student welfare. She encourages the students who have ideas about how to change the school to run for the class election next Wednesday.



## NEWS BRIEFS

**PROJECT STARFISH**

The goal for this year's Project Starfish campaign is to raise \$10,500 and has so far brought in just over \$6,500. With just over five weeks left to raise money, there are still a few events left through which people can donate money. These include a class bake sale next Thursday, the pass-the-hat donations at Pippin, Papa's Pizza Night on May 8, Carl's Jr. lunch on May 22 and the end of the year dance.

**MARIST FOR LIFE**

Saturday, Marist for Life is making the trek to Portland to be a part of the Oregon Right to Life conference, where the theme is "Children are the Heart of America." The event features workshops, an oratory contest and many unique sessions.

**STUDENTS SEE 42**

Wednesday Walt Fox took his junior history classes to see the new movie about Jackie Robinson, "42." The class has been studying America after World War II and how despite African-Americans fighting in the

war, they were not treated equally once they returned home. With that theme in mind, the class, who had positive reviews of the film, ventured to Valley River Theatre to see the movie.

**STOVE TEAM INTERNATIONAL AWARD**

The proceeds for cans and bottle collections at Marist go to Stove Team International, a program that helps create safe, efficient stoves in Latin America to help avoid burns. The director of this program, Nancy Hughes, was recently rewarded for her work and was named a Rotary Champion of Change by the White House.

**SPEECH AND DEBATE TOURNAMENT**

On Saturday April 6 Marist hosted the district Speech and Debate tournament. The team qualified four individuals for the state meet which begins Friday at Western Oregon University. Sophomores Heather Clarke and Abby Pandina

each qualified in expository, and Pandina also advanced in dramatic interpretation. Sophomore Jacob Kiefer will compete in the student congress division and freshman Jessica Lynch will compete in original oratory.

**VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN**

Last week at the senior class meeting, it was announced that Brooke Gemmell will be the valedictorian and Monica Anderson the salutatorian for the class of 2013. Gemmell and Anderson will both be speaking at graduation in addition to ASB president Ben Fusek and class speaker Simon Olson.

**AUCTION PACKAGES ANNOUNCED**

A select few packages have been announced for this year's Marist auction on May 11. These packages include season tickets to the Oregon Duck football games this coming fall, tickets to Taylor Swift's concert August 30 in Portland and tickets to the Cincinnati Reds 2014 Spring

Training in Arizona.

**MATH FIELD TRIP**

Today the students of Grant Gilchrist's 7th period Algebra 1A class are travelling to a hangar at the Eugene Airport to learn about the math involved in making airplanes.

**MATH COMPETITION**

Last Thursday the Marist Mathletes competed at the Math Skills Fair with six other area schools at Lane Community College. Freshman Jameson Collis was the lone Spartan winner as he tied for first in the quiz division.

**FRESHMAN MOMS NIGHT**

Next Wednesday, the moms of the freshmen will be meeting to support the Marist Auction. This event will allow moms to get to know each other while allowing them to be a part of the auction. The mothers are encouraged to bring an item for one of the following baskets: salon and spa, baking and kitchen or family fun night.

**Lead penguin steps aside**

Father David Cullings, chaplain at Marist for 20 years, enjoys the early stages of the 2012 Freshman Lock-in. Photo by Tanner Lloyd '14



By Zachary Silva  
EDITOR

After a successful 20 years, Chaplain Father David Cullings has declared that this spring will bring about the end of his time at Marist.

Cullings will devote his time off to caring for his ailing mother.

Despite the fact that he will be gone, Cullings will still be in the area and plans to make appearances at Marist.

While here, Cullings was woven into the fabric of the Marist community. Whether that was presiding over Mass or making appearances at retreats, he prided himself on impacting the lives of as many students as he could.

**Spartans attend Sample installation**

Students and staff experience a Portland Mass to welcome the new archbishop



By Hayley Olson  
STAFF WRITER

A handful of Marist students and staff attended the installation Mass of 52-year-old Archbishop Alexander K. Sample of the Archdiocese of Portland at the University of Portland's Chiles Center April 7.

The students appreciated the opportunity to be involved in the installation of their new archbishop.

"I got to go up on stage and shake his hand, and that was pretty cool," junior Darren Nelson said.

On Jan. 29, 2013, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, then the reigning pope, appointed Sample to be Archbishop. This is a step up from Sample's previous position as bishop in Marquette, Mich.

Sample is now the eleventh Archbishop of the Diocese of Portland and oversees over 124 Catholic parishes in western Oregon, ranging from the coast to the Cascade Mountains and from the Washington border to the California border.

Despite the Mass being centered on his new position,



Theology teacher David Haggard and freshmen Ryan Helbling and Caleb Coulombe attended the installation of Archbishop Alexander K. Sample in Portland on April 7. Photo courtesy of Caleb Coulombe '16

Sample wanted to deflect attention from himself.

"You see, there is the danger on such an occasion to think that this is somehow all about your new Archbishop or this local Church," he said, "We must always keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. It is not about me. It is always about him, and we must never lose sight of that."

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**Preceptorship opportunities expand**

The auction increases its options for student observation and experience in medicine and science



By Clara Lee  
STAFF WRITER

The Marist Auction will once again offer preceptorship opportunities for interested students.

Last year the Marist development office auctioned off five opportunities to work alongside the doctors at orthopedic hospital Slocum for 40 hours.

This year they are offering even more opportunities in the science field, such as general surgery and forensic science.

"We are just here to give you one more piece of a puzzle of you might want to do," 2013 auction coordinator Debbie Jewett said, "And you get a cool lab jacket!"

The five students who won the preceptorships last year looked into many more jobs than just a surgeon at a hospital. The students worked alongside the nurses, physical therapists, X-ray technicians, anesthesiologists, and physician's assistants. All five students were awarded the certificates of the preceptorship, which can be used in their college applications.

The 2013 Marist Auction--"A Splendid Cellarbration"--will take place on May 11.

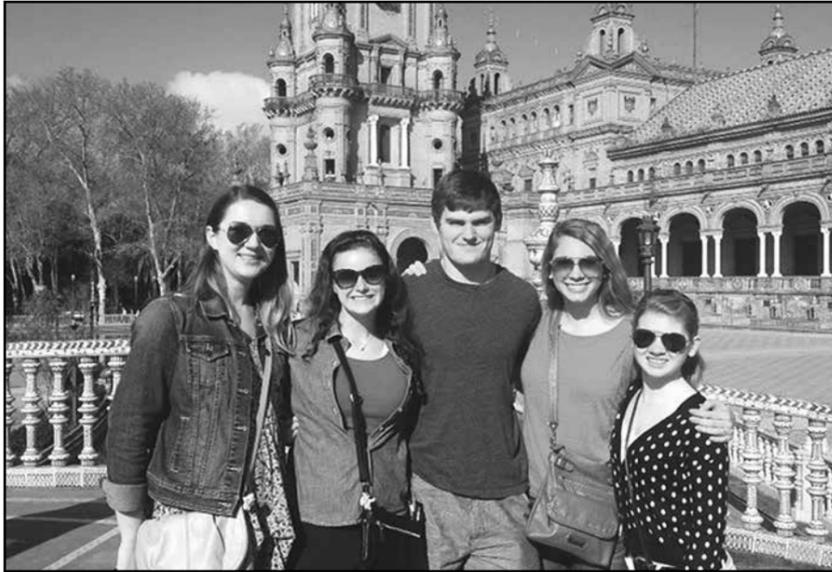


Senior Colton Bloom observes a surgery done by Slocum orthopedic surgeon Brian Jewett at the Sacred Heart Medical Center. Photo courtesy of Debbie Jewett

The 2012 auction helped fund \$38,000 for tuition assistance, teachers' salaries to maintain small class sizes, and the growing robotics program.

# Spring Break journeys across the Atlantic

Foreign language students and teachers spend their break overseas in Spain, Morocco, France and Italy



Spanish students and seniors Emily Karcher, Miriam Jacobson, Alec Weeks, Madeline Balderston, and Taylor Kirkpatrick in Valencia, Spain during Spring Break. Photo by Paul Duncan '13



By Emily Boyd  
STAFF WRITER

Over Spring Break, both the Spanish and French students had an opportunity to go on international trips with their friends and teachers. Ryan Baker took eleven students and two adults to France and Italy, while Debbie Cullen also took eleven students and eight adults to Spain and Morocco.

The French students' first stop was Paris. They were able to stay for three nights. In the morning, they journeyed toward Southern France to a city called Nice, where they spent two nights. Nice is very close to the Mediterranean Sea, so it was much sunnier

and warmer than Paris.

On their last day in France, they stopped in Eze, a medieval town, and also toured around the Principality of Monaco. The next day, while on their way to Florence, the students stopped in Pisa, where they saw the famous baptistry, cathedral, and leaning tower. They were also able to go to Cucina Fiorentina, a cooking academy in the heart of Florence, where they made their own three-course dinner. Their next stop was Assisi, then Rome. In Assisi, they visited the magnificent Basilica of St. Francis. They spent two nights in Rome, and then had to fly home on Easter.

For the Spanish students, their first stop was Madrid, where they spent three nights.

Next, they spent the day in Toledo and Granada. In Granada, they saw the Alhambra, which is a huge palace. They then journeyed on to Segovia. In Segovia, they got to see the castle on which Walt Disney based Snow White's castle. Next, they went to Seville, and spent one night there. Their last destination in Spain was Costa del Sol, located right on the Mediterranean Sea. Once they were done in Spain, they travelled to



French students and chaperones capture their day spent in Paris, France as part of their Spring Break trip. Photo by Stacey Baker

Morocco which is on the Northern coast of Africa. The group returned home early on in the first week back to school.

## Spirit of service impacts countless communities

St. Vincent de Paul director Terry McDonald embodies Marist's mission



By Zachary Silva  
EDITOR

The Marist mission statement says that the school focuses on "preparing students to lead and serve others." There is not a better example of this in the Eugene community than St. Vincent de Paul director Terry McDonald.

While McDonald had no connection to Marist prior to working at St. Vincent de Paul, he is the true embodiment of Christian service.

In 1954 Mac McDonald, Terry's father, started the Lane County branch of St. Vincent de Paul and served as the first director. Mac was a Catholic man who wanted to do good.

But there came a time when Mac was ready to retire. He then suggested to Terry that he should think about filling the position. After an initial hesitation, Terry was ready to go.

Once on board, Terry went for the position. This was not something that was just handed to him, but that he worked fiercely for. He was selected by the board because of his strong background in knowing how to run the business.

McDonald was then, and continues to be, motivated by using business skills for creation of opportunities for low-income people. Through numerous entrepreneurial endeavors, McDonald's work has provided for many who are low-income.

Like all good businessmen, McDonald is innovative. Among his accomplishments he has furniture from Europe, that would otherwise be thrown away, brought to Eugene so that it can be resold in stores, has introduced a book recycling program which annually sells more books than Barnes and Noble and has played a large



Project Starfish has raised \$6,541.64 so far in its annual effort to help people gain stability in their economic and housing situations. Photo by Katie Tarrant '14

role in creating the world's largest mattress recycling center.

While McDonald sees the positive impact his work has made, he connects the success of St. Vincent de Paul to the local community.

"This is a very generous and socially conscious community," said McDonald, "A community that not only talks about social justice but actually tries to help enable people on the bottom of the economic scale."

And this idea of a socially conscious community connects with what Marist strives to be through numerous service opportunities; most notably, Project Starfish.

Project Starfish is an annual event held at Marist that was started by St. Vincent de Paul in the Eugene community. Each year Marist commits to a school-wide effort to donate funds to Project Starfish. This event is organized to get those of low-economic stature into stable housing and this year alone Marist has raised \$6,541.64. Marist's

work is helpful to the community and the work is appreciated by St. Vincent de Paul, especially by McDonald.

"What really helps a non-profit is if they have a reliable partner, such as Marist, that says year after year we are going to commit to keep these funds coming so that we can get low income people into housing," he said.

In addition to the importance of Marist working with St. Vincent de Paul in Project Starfish, McDonald also stresses the importance of volunteering in high school students. Each year St. Vincent de Paul uses over 5,000 volunteers of all ages and without them the program would not be the same.

"We wouldn't be able to accomplish anywhere near what we do without volunteers," said McDonald, "It's important to learn that there are issues that [the youth] can address. You can make a difference and you can actually affect people's lives."

## Environmental Club garden returns

The club's vegetable garden kicks off its second effort



By Jackson Bedbury  
EDITOR

Under senior Simon Olson's leadership, Environmental Club plans to resume its gardening on April 27.

The club will grow tomatoes, potatoes, zucchinis, cucumbers and onions, and according to Olson, they anticipate an even more productive growing season.

"We have a lot of easy to maintain vegetables, and they should all grow really well in our garden," Olson said, "The club members do a lot of great work to make it successful."

After a great deal of debate last year, the club settled upon the track-side location for the garden. This is its second year of existence, and its initial one was fruitful in terms of production, and entertaining for all club members who participated.

Any students are welcome to attend garden work parties, and need only to see Olson or club moderator Ben Rain for more information. In addition, students in need of Christian service hours can get credit for indirect service through work at the garden.

# Continuing the spirit of the Marist Brothers

*Marist High School continues a legacy of commitment to community and education through faith that the Marist Brothers began*



By Jordan Dickel  
STAFF WRITER

While Marist Catholic High School in Eugene traces its ancestry back almost 95 years to The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, St. Mary's High School, and St. Francis High School, the name Marist stands for a commitment to education, faith and community that has permeated the world for nearly two centuries.

This commitment to education and Catholic values can be traced back to the turmoil of post-revolution France where a newly ordained priest, Marcellin Champagnat, gathered a small group of men to create an order of Catholic brothers dedicated to Mary and the education of youth.

Champagnat was inspired to begin the order after observing the community unrest caused by the French Revolution in France. He used an educational philosophy that "to educate children you must love them and love them all equally" to begin the order's first school in LaValla, France in 1818.

Champagnat's commitment to education and the Catholic faith are continued today by the 3,400 Marist Brothers around the world. Here at Marist it is continued through use of the Marist philosophy and the designation of the 100-wing with Champagnat's name.

The legacy of Champagnat and the Marist Brothers was first realized in Eugene during the early 1960s as an outcome of the work by local priest and Catholic activist, Monsignor Edmund Murnane. Murnane successfully convinced the Marist Brothers to journey to the west and begin



Brother Thomas Petite, who taught English from 1968-1970, stands with a group of sophomore boys. Photo from the 1969 yearbook

the first and only Marist Brothers school on the west coast.

The school commenced operations in 1968 with the addition of the Marist Brothers to the existing St. Francis High School and its operators, The Sisters of the Holy Names. The new combined school was named Marist High School in tribute to the sesquicentennial of the order's founding.

Current Marist Art Teacher Lex Schmidt was a junior at St. Francis when the Marist Brothers joined the Holy Names Sisters to form the new Marist. She described that the addition of the younger Marist Brothers to the older Sisters of the Holy Names "brought life back" to the new school.

"[The brothers] were a real teaching order," said Schmidt, "It was what they wanted to do."

The Marist brothers brought their history as well as their strong sense of community and faith base to the school. The high school was also the first coeducational school operated by the Brothers.

"It was unique, their spirit of care and concern and love for the school," Marist counselor Jerry Ragan said about the brothers, "They loved what they did and they loved the school and they loved being here. And that helped the rest of us to love it too."

The Brothers, however, elected to withdraw from Marist High School in 1992 in order to return to obligations in Boston, Chicago, and New York.

Staff said the loss of the Marist Brothers was not pleasant, but was not detrimental to the school or its continuation of the Brothers' mission.

"There were enough of us here who knew the spirit of the brothers that we could kind of continue things as the way they had been," Ragan said. "They had their time here, they did wonderful things and the spirit has continued. That's the important thing."

The Brothers' care and commitment to education, faith and the school itself principally molded Marist into what it is today.

"They sparked it and they built it, some of them with their own hands," said Ragan. "The name is still Marist but the spirit is eternal."

Marist as a school still maintains connections with the brothers, including Brother Norbert and Brother Dan Grogan, who visit the school annually.

"The ones that I know are still very fond of this place and have great memories," said Ragan, "Some of them would love to come back here and live."

In 2009 Marist began to explore reconnecting with a Catholic order to share wisdom, success, and experience. This led the school to begin the process of "walking with" the LaSalian Christian Brothers, another French Catholic teaching order based on the teachings of Saint John Baptist de La Salle with spirit analogous to that of the Marist Brothers.

"If there's a different name, not for the school but for the way that we approach things," said Ragan, "Those roots are still going to be in the Marist tradition."

# Vegan for a cause

*The logic and reality behind a seemingly extreme lifestyle*



By Sarah Zebrowski  
STAFF WRITER

Vegans aren't crazy. At least, not that crazy. Despite what the public assumes, vegans have reasoning for their lifestyle, even if that means giving up (real) bacon.

A vegan is a person who doesn't consume or use anything that comes from animals.

People become vegan for a variety of reasons—some want to live a healthier lifestyle. A vegan diet can be supplied with vitamins, antioxidants, fibers and whole grains that can lower one's chance of heart disease, cancers and other various diseases.

Other vegans do not want to support the way animals are treated on factory farms and the way they are slaughtered. They also want to relieve the environment's suffering from the animal industry because it is polluting the earth in different ways; for example, the grain that they use to feed livestock could be used to feed people in poverty.

Senior Christine Lee has been a vegan for two months and does not want to participate in the animal industry.

"I became vegan because I do not like or want to support the way companies treat the animals," she said.

Senior Monica Anderson has been a vegan for almost a year. She did a lot of research on veganism before making this decision.

"I saw a documentary that showed a cow being slaughtered and it was very graphic and disturbing," she said.

Without eating animal products, vegans might miss a lot of vitamins, but replacements can always be found.

"It is a lot easier than what people make it out to be," Lee said, "Sometimes it's a little hard but nothing unmanageable."

Protein can be easily replaced by tofu and beans. Calcium comes from almond milk, soy yogurt, leafy greens or collard greens.

Anderson will be in college next year, where her options may be limited.

"I think it will definitely be a bit of a struggle because it's not a huge thing right now...but it won't be impossible," said Anderson.

Colleges and other streamlined restaurants and stores are also adding vegan options to their menu.

As people continue to learn more about the food industry, veganism seems to be gaining popularity.

"There's more talk of it now; a couple of years ago it was just a taboo word," Anderson said, "But now it's more accepted."

# City Girl, Country Girl



Wuhan, China



Eugene, Oregon, USA



By Summer Xia  
STAFF WRITER

The life in the city and the countryside is different. Some people prefer to live in the city; others want to live in the countryside instead.

My hometown, Wuhan, China, is a big city. There are millions of people living in Wuhan. In Wuhan, every day is busy. Bus stations start to become busy at 6 a.m. and stay busy until 9 p.m. People eat their breakfast while they wait for the bus. There are many big shopping malls and each one has eight floors. No matter what time in the day or what day in the week, there are always a lot of people in the mall.

In the big city, people don't have time

to stop or to waste; they don't have time to ride a bike and enjoy the sunshine. But for me, I would rather live in the city than the countryside, because it's convenient and fun. Even if you don't drive, you can go downtown easily. In the city, there are always a number of places in which and people with whom to hang out.

As the opposite, the life in the countryside is quiet and relaxed. A lot of good high schools or universities are in the countryside because it's quiet and less distracting. People go to work and make enough money to support their family.

I came to Eugene in 2011. Eugene is more like the countryside. In Eugene, every day is ordinary and peaceful. In the sunny day, you can ride your bike around

the neighborhood; you can read a book outside; you can lie on the grass; enjoying your day in the countryside is always tranquil.

People like my dad want to live in the countryside. Since he spent most of his life in the city, he wants to live in the countryside after he retires. He will buy a house in the countryside and near a lake, river or ocean. He thinks that it's pleasant to walk by the beach after dinner.

Quiet people love to live in the countryside because the countryside is peaceful. Enterprising people like to live in the city because the city is convenient. I can't really say which one is better for people—it really depends on everyone's personality and where they wish to live.

# Jim Reinking—Life musician



By Harry Zhou  
STAFF WRITER

Seeing a Beatles concert in 1964, young music director, Jim Reinking, made up his mind—he was going to be a musician.

Stepping into the world of music with the graceful sounding piano at the age of seven, Reinking told his mom, “I’m sure I’m going to be a music major student and live with music all my life. I won’t do anything else.”

Of course, like any other parents, concerns about how to earn a living were brought up to young Reinking. However, the music dream was rooted in his mind and would later bloom.

His childhood and youth, as he described, were a rock song. At such an early age, he and two of his best “little fellows” formed a band in which he played the drums—and his music dream started from there.

As passionate as a drum beats can sound, young Reinking was also full of passion. He was totally “into it” regardless of the world outside. Rock was the soul of Reinking’s early life.

Early adulthood, according to Reinking, was a mix of jazz and classical. Born in Fresno, California, 19-year old Reinking made a decision based on a romance at the time—he followed his girlfriend to Oregon and studied music at the University of Oregon.

Soon however, Reinking realized that life was complicated and not everyone marries the one who they thought they loved the most; not everyone lives a life without worries, or, no one. Life was no longer filled with steep highs and lows, like rock, but with more complexity. As melancholy as it might sound, the theme of this period of his life was thinking; thinking while confusing. Music was still his soul, but he had more than that.

With his music dream hanging on the tip of his heart, a few years after graduation he joined music bands and started his drifting performing career. Mostly during summer when the West Coast was perfectly temperate, Reinking, the zealous drummer, spread his passion through the wonderful summer breeze. He performed in night clubs, on ships, or even on the street. Once he even went to South East Asia.

Although the pay was not stable and

life was sometimes with question marks, they were young and enjoyed the feeling of wandering.

With the age number getting greater, a heart starts to seek a settle-down. Reinking wanted to settle down and live a different life—still with music, but more with a sense of security. Having taught in other schools in the Eugene area, he chose Marist as his second home in 1986.

“Now my life is everything,” he said with a amiable smile.

With all the magical life experiences, Reinking is now a much broader man. Life to him now is not just rock, jazz, or classical. Being with music almost every second, Reinking now is blessed with great happiness. Even on weekends, he performs for bands and clubs.

Playing all kinds of instruments, he now describes life as the combination of all kinds of music. Music can never be described as one certain type of songs; neither can life.

“Music gave me passion,” he added “and it still does.”

And during the hardest time when his family was broken in the 90s, music was his soul mate. In music, he found solace.

“I felt peaceful when I was with mu-



Music teacher, band director and the main man of music on campus, Jim Reinking rocks with his students during the fall rock concert. photo by Toni Cooper

sic,” he said when he reviewed that period of time, eyes filled with the warmth of reminiscence.

Sometimes he will just play the piano on a late, late night with his eyes closed. Tranquil as the night will be, his memories rise above in his mind. The memories are with music; the music is his.

Reinking’s music story still plays on.

## MARIST WORLD TRAVELS

Spartans travel the world for their sports



By Jordan Dickerson  
STAFF WRITER

Throughout its history, Marist High School has been the home of many accomplished and athletic Spartans. Current students and staff continue this tradition of dedication and passion for their sports through hard work and practice inside and outside of Marist’s athletic programs. This dedication leads these devoted athletes to cross county, state, and even country lines to compete for and grow in their sports.



Shari Pimental

Freshman Counselor Shari Pimental accompanied her volleyball team from Judson Baptist College in The Dalles, Ore. on a 17 day tour of England and Scotland to compete against different volleyball teams in the countries.

The team began its trip with a three day tournament in the outskirts of London.

“They didn’t think that we were just a col-



Josh Harper

Senior Josh Harper visited Amsterdam, Holland in 2007 with an ambassadors program through People to People. During the ten-day tournament Harper competed in six games with teams from



Liam Henshaw

Junior Liam Henshaw competed at the Arcadia Invitational Multi’s Decathlon in Arcadia, California where he scored 6676 total points along with teammate and friend Timmy Johnson from Canby, Ore.

“[It was] a great decathlon for me,” Henshaw said.

The competition was a successful achievement for Henshaw, whose training and work on

lege team,” Pimental said, “because you have uniforms that are red, white and blue, they would assume that you were the junior national team and so we would have to explain, ‘No, that’s not who we are, we’re just a college team.’”

The group journeyed from London to Edinburgh, stopping along the way to play against volleyball clubs in Stratford and York and visit historic attractions along the way. Pimental described trading spots with her group members while viewing a production of Shakespeare’s

around the world.

“Making just all the friends on my team,” was the best part of the experience Harper said, “We would get to know the other teams as well. So that was really cool and we would get to hang out with them for a little bit.”

Harper also visited various attractions, including some of the country’s notorious wind-

track and field began in middle school.

“I started track in 6th grade and really got competitive 7th and 8th grade,” Henshaw said, “I started doing multi-events which started with the pentathlon in 8th grade and then in 9th grade I started doing decathlon and since then I’ve been doing that.”

After over eighteen hours of competing, Henshaw took third overall in the event. He scored 769 points in the pole vault and 490 in the javelin throw. Henshaw is now ranked third in the nation for the decathlon in his age group.

Richard III in a full Shakespearean theatre.

“It was definitely worth being able to go and see a play that was there at the Shakespearean theatre,” Pimental said.

Her favorite aspect of the trip was the bonding that she and her fellow teammates had along the way.

“It was like going on a big trip with all of your sisters,” Pimental described, “To me, it was like a family and we were traveling together.”

mills.

“We traveled and site-saw” Harper said. “We went to the windmills because [Amsterdam is] famous for windmills.”

Harper said the entire trip was “pretty awesome” and it helped him to “understand other peoples’ cultures and ways.”

Henshaw described the experience as “fulfilling...because I’ve been training for this one meet for like a year.”

Henshaw said the meet was “satisfying” because he and his teammate competed in the meet specifically to score 6250 points and qualify for the Junior Nationals this summer in Des Moines, Iowa.

“I was way on pace for it but my teammate wasn’t having a good meet and so he needed to run a pretty big PR on the 1500,” Henshaw said, “He got it and...I was really happy for him.”

## Where are they now? One graduate’s venture into writing comes from an unexpected place



By Monica Anderson  
EDITOR

An independent and adventurous young woman embarks on a journey with two young men—one a foreign prince—and her horse to discover the secrets behind a mystery that has plagued her for years: a scar from a lightning strike. They travel through a forest and encounter both physical and emotional obstacles en route to their ultimate destination, Eldingar, where they seek answers.

*A Touch of Lightning* sounds like a popular story that could easily line the shelves of the young adult series section, but this series has one difference: it was written and self-published by 2010 Marist graduate and Northwest Christian University junior Heidi Gori.

Though Gori has loved writing and the adventure genre since she was young, this novel marks her first finished work.

“This is the first time I’ve actually carried one out longer than like five pages,” Gori said, “I always really liked writing. It was never really something that I thought about, you know, because everybody’s like, ‘Oh, do something realistic,’ and so I was just like, okay, writing a book is not really realistic.”

But Gori found inspiration for her novel on Pinterest



Heidi Gori ‘10 prepares to sign a copy of her book, *A Touch of Lightning*. photo by Josh Martin

last spring, where she saw a picture of a man with a lightning scar. Such scars appear as a Lichtenberg Figure, which denotes the pattern that electrical discharges create.

In the novel, Rael, the first-person narrator, has her own lightning scar, and when she learns that Taren, the prince, has a similar one, she follows him to their source. As with any novel, Gori added intrigue and drama through conflict with the characters, which meant she would at times introduce them to less than ideal situations.

“I guess it kind of was hard, but at the same time it’s just got to happen,” Gori said, “I know how I’m going to get them out of it so it’s not like I’m dooming them into this fate or anything.”

Once Gori finished writing her story—a process that took several months—she began the arduous editing portion, enlisting the help of several close friends. From there, she queried an English professor about publishing, who advised her to self-publish, an increasingly popular option for aspiring authors. Gori found the company Create Space through Amazon and released her novel both in print and electronic form. She can still present her work to larger publishers, but for now she hopes to see where her own version can go.

Gori aims to finish the Eldingar series with one more book, then begin another series, but she is open to explore other genres.

“Series are really big now, you know, like trilogies are really big,” Gori said, “I feel like if you write one book it has to be really, really good. But anything can happen.”

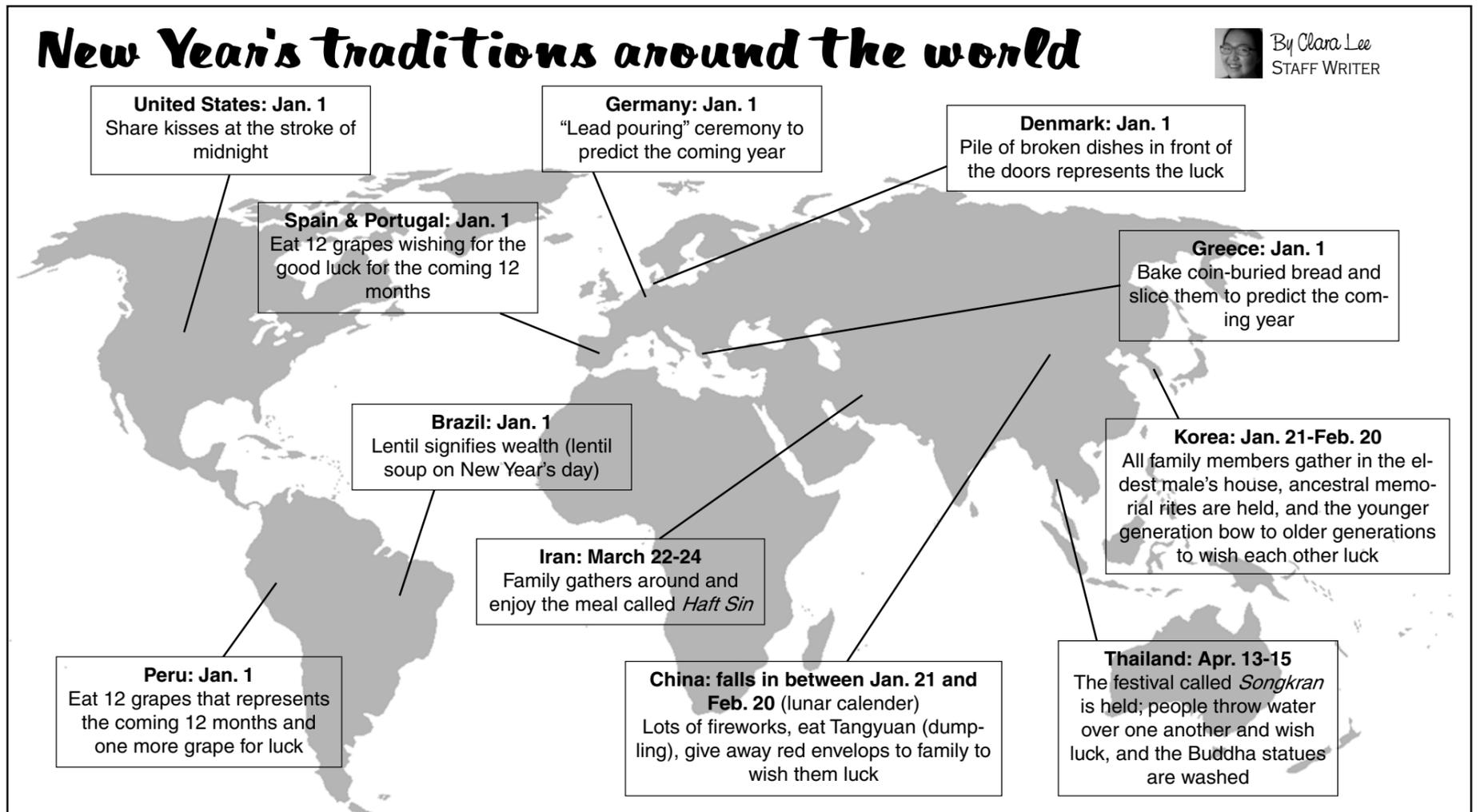
Now, Gori will obtain her degree in Elementary Education, but her plans beyond that are unsure.

“I swear junior year is like when you start questioning your entire life,” she said, “I still want to be a teacher but I don’t know if I want to do that right out of school. I maybe want to try some other stuff. I’d love to get into writing...but I still need a solid job.”

Gori’s book, *A Touch of Lightning*, can be found on Amazon.com in both print and electronic versions.

## New Year's traditions around the world

By Clara Lee  
STAFF WRITER



## Man driven by faith

Science teacher, coach and faith leader, Ryan Moser, gives back to his community

By Hayley Olson  
STAFF WRITER

Ryan Moser's the guy you'll find just about anywhere, doing just about anything.

He teaches Junior Chemistry, AP Chemistry, and AP Physics.

He collaborates with exchange students, including trips to China.

He leads Marist's liturgical choir Proclaim.

He teaches confirmation classes at St. Thomas More, the University of Oregon Newman Center.

He coaches Marist Varsity Volleyball.

He leads the Marist Appalachian service trips.

He co-moderates the Junior Boys' Encounters with Andrew Oldham and Ryan Baker.

He gets himself involved.

With all of these things vying for his time Moser finds himself a busy man, but being busy isn't a bother to him.

"If I can give back with my talents then that's something that I should do, it's not really a question of whether I'm busy or not, it's a question of whether I'm giving back to the community as I should be," Moser said.

Such a valiant view of service is hard to come by,

but for Moser it seems to be an extension of his faith.

"I really feel like we put too much on the dogma and not enough on the humanity," he said, "Most people will hijack my faith and say that it is for following rules and I say well, that's not the baseline of my faith. The baseline of my faith is how we interact with people as humans."

In turn, his service expands his understanding of his faith.

"I grew up Catholic, Catholic education, going to Sunday school, but my faith was not really, I don't want to say formed, but maybe my faith wasn't really solidified until I started having to express that faith in ways other than just showing up in the pew and repeating the words after everyone else," Moser said.

The formation of Moser's faith is an ongoing experience that he embarked on quite a while ago.

"As I got older--end of high school and into college--I started to question, 'Why do I do that? Is that really what I believe?'" he said.

To this day, he continues to question and strengthen his faith.

"I had to reconcile what I knew to be true through observation," Moser said, "That's kind of the scientist side of me, with what I believe to be true from my faith. And it took me quite a while to reconcile some of the things, and I didn't reconcile and haven't reconciled everything."

His increasing confidence in his faith life parallels his increasing confidence in himself. This strengthening of his faith has allowed Moser to grow and transform himself as a person.

He has grown from a "super nerdy kid that didn't have a whole lot of confidence, outside of the classroom especially," to the person you'll find today--the leader and the teacher with well-placed confidence.

"My high school experience was not really that good," he said. "I was kind of the socially awkward kid. I know that a lot of people see me today and I'm nowhere near the person that I was in high school and that has been a progressive change starting in college."

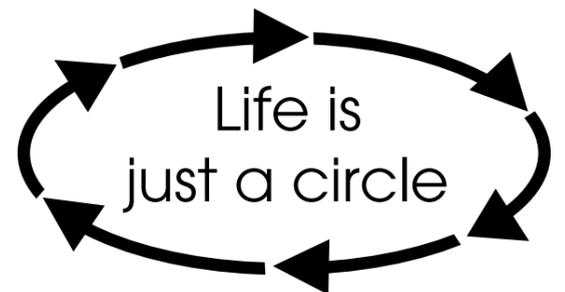
The way he conducts himself confidently in the classroom ties back into the confidence he lacked in youth.

"I know what I know and I know what I don't know," Moser said, "And when I know what I know I'm confident and when I know that I don't know I'm going to sit back...My personality is not outgoing, even though that is how I'm portrayed in the classroom. Both of them are me, it's just different aspects of me."

Perpetually increasing confidence--both in faith and in personality--have molded the awkward and unsure young Ryan Moser into the well-established man he is today.



Ryan Moser plays countless roles in both the Marist and surrounding community. Photo by Toni Cooper



By Hamy Zhou  
STAFF WRITER

Saturday night lying on the bed, darkness and silence filled every element of the atmosphere; one of many times, a sense of insignificance crowded my mind. Heart beats reminded me that I was alive, otherwise I would just be swallowed by the endless night.

There are two ways of life--living simply, and living philosophically.

To live simply, you eat what you want to eat; you say what you want to say; you buy when you feel like it unless the money you have is not enough...Most importantly, you are always happy regardless of the world outside; you live just for yourself.

Unfortunately, I choose the second one and cannot go back. Then things start to bother me. People say that being mature means abandoning a big portion of happiness. I couldn't agree more.

These so-called "thoughts" sometimes become barriers in my mind--I no longer speak directly in order to consider others' feelings; I no longer laugh or smile when I really want to; I start to think of my position in the universe and figure out how tiny I am. I am no longer truly myself.

But in the end, all those things wore me out and I was too tired to think anymore.

Lying on the bed, darkness surrounded me. I thought to myself, maybe several decades later, darkness would be here and never fade--death. Death to me means a way from all the pressure of the dusty world, but it also means being alone in the dark dream forever, although thinking critically and philosophically, one day I will still be part of the eternalness.

Being a transient visitor in the world or in others' life once or twice, what should a normal person like me do?

Perhaps I should just express my love to those who I love; perhaps I should speak out my feelings rather than keep them in my mind and tolerate them; perhaps I should give those random people a genuine smile while walking along the river path in a warm sunny day; perhaps I should catch every second to do what I like. Perhaps...

Perhaps I should start from now.

I laughed.

I laughed since indeed, life is a circle. I was being philosophical and walking through those "deep thoughts" in my mind, but the answer I got was so plainly truthful and simple--to live my life and enjoy every day.

Living simply is the philosophy of life.

Closing my eyes, I told myself, however dark it is now, the next time you open your eyes, the morning sunlight will embrace you.

# Life through a dog's eyes

By *Chris Keeflock*  
STAFF WRITER

Beep... beep... beep... beep... beep. The alarm clock, the alarm clock, it is going off! Master, master wake up! I have to go outside and sniff the grass. Yes, come out with me because it is dark outside and I don't want the crazy raccoon to attack me again.

I wonder what my master does when he leaves my domain for several days. Is he with other dogs? Is he cheating on me? Are there other dogs in his life beside me? I suppose maybe... SQUIRREL! Squirrel, I must get this squirrel. Over the bush, through the grass to the squirrel I go. And... he has jumped over the fence.

I cannot jump fences, I cannot dig in the yard, I cannot bark at people, I must obey my master and do as he tells me. If I do not do any of these I do not get a belly rub, nor do I get my biscuit after dinner. Bummer, huh?

Every day my master leaves me for several hours and when he comes back he always loves me with lots of petting. In the mornings before he leaves he always talks to me.

But today feels different; my master is walking back and forth, petting his head and moaning. When he left me today he did not pet me and that

was strange. After a little while I forget and return to my usual business. Several hours later my master does arrive but he is all wobbly and cannot stand.

He falls on the bed and goes to sleep. I don't get my dinner nor do I get my treat. It is now late at night and my master has not moved yet, strange but not unusual. Something starts to smell funny, and it gets stronger and stronger. The domain gets hotter and hotter! Soon, I see smoke and then loud bells start going off.

My master is not awake and I am scared so I start barking. Still he does not move. Finally I bite his pants and drag him off of the bed and try to tug him outside. He is very heavy, much heavier than I. After a long time I drag him through my hole in the large human hole. Soon after I hear a loud noises and loud voices talking. A man dressed in all yellow picks me up and puts me in a metal container with my master laying on a bed and people looking over him.

Finally I am taken out of the container and I am put in a small room with one bed—my master lays on it and I think he is asleep. The other people leave and they feed me food and water. It is just him and I right now but I hear him stirring and rolling. I jump up to lay my head down on his chest and shut my eyes. I can feel my masters' hand gently rubbing my back as he and I quietly fall asleep.

## Under the same roof

By *Peter Hu*  
STAFF WRITER

As human beings, we think about what people mean behind each action; sometimes we get over it and leave it behind, sometimes we question what people really mean. That's common, but in some situations questioning people is not a good thing. When we are living with someone under the same roof, what should be under the roof are trust and understanding.

Some people have never experienced staying with other people besides their relatives, so their relationship grows smoothly. They have the same thinking on a lot of things because they grow up in the same environment, so they pretty much under-

stand each other. They trust each other, and because of that nothing can really affect their relationship; because of trust and understanding, we can live with each other.

In a different situation, sometimes people come from outside of the family and try to be a part of it, but there is always something in the way. For two strangers to understand each other, it takes a lot of processing. They need to know what kind of people they are and they need to know things happened in their life.

Since they are not blood related, they didn't spend every minute together, so questions always occur in their relationship. Their relationship tends to be unstable. Living under the same roof without trust and knowing

each other is extremely hard.

We all live on this planet called Earth so in a way we all live under the same roof. Like the lyric says, "We are family." As a family we should trust each other and help each other out, but we are not doing what we are supposed to do. We divided by countries, everyone put their mask on, and we don't trust each other. We don't tell each other what we really think. People doubt each other and we suffer under our distrust.

We all live under the same roof. To trust and understand each other we can make our society better, to trust and understand each other we can make this planet a peaceful place; with trust and understanding, we can be family.

# Sense of Life

By *Harry Zhou*  
STAFF WRITER

What do objects mean to you? Lovely as it sounds, the world is wonderful when memories lie and rest behind special objects.



Klayna Palacios, 12

**A Journal** - It keeps track of all her little secrets and shares all her joys and sorrows.



Kellen Mayes, 11

**A Cross** - It represents his belief which directs his life and reminds him of Jesus' sacrifice for everyone.



Ming Yang, 12

**A MP3 player** - It was the birthday present from her busy dad for her 10th birthday and strengthened the relationship between her and her dad.



Maddie Thompson, 11

**Daffodil** - When it blooms, spring comes. When she was a kindergartener, seeing a Daffodil was her greatest happiness; it is in her mind, along with her lovely childhood.



Peter Schuh, 10

**Guitar** - He has been playing it for ten years -guitar is surely part of his life.



Ariana Buchanan, 9

**Teddy bear** - She still sleeps with it now. When she was still a baby, it helped keep away the darkness and the "monster."



Sam Nelson, 9

**Books** - He treasures the message behind them and receives not only knowledge but also insights from all different kinds of books.



Heidi Susec, staff

**Rosary** - It represents the time of spiritual journey in Rome and reminds her of all the spiritual journeys she has so far.



Pat Wagner, staff

**Cherry blossom** - It is the national flower of Japan and reminds him of where he spent the most wonderful time with his wife and son.



Jon Nuxoll, staff

**Letter opener & pen**

- Both the letter opener, with Northern Pacific RR logo, and the pen remind him of his grandmother and represents his family story. His family worked for the NPRR, the opener

was bought using the money his grandma left him and he bought the pen using the money left by her -he still uses it.

The word "object" represents all those inanimate things that seem far from our spiritual world but are meaningful.

Isn't it beautiful that tears fill your eyes when hearing the song that accompanies you during the hardest time? Isn't it beautiful that a smile hangs on the edge of your mouth when you see a flower blooming on a warm sunny day which seems trivial to others?

What truly matters are the memories and stories behind it. Time flies by. We move on. What never fades is the feeling one object can bring to us every time we see it.

When an object comes alive, the world is wonderful.

# Cookies for the Baking Impaired

With  
Hayley Olson

## Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies

Recipe from The Grand Central Baking Book  
Makes about 3 dozen cookies

No one can resist the scrumptious crunch of a crispy molasses cookie or the soft crumble of a chewy oatmeal chocolate chip cookie.

Everyone appreciates the sentiment of a homemade cookie. It doesn't have to be a flavor they like and the cookies can be slightly over-browned on the bottom or a little bit too doughy in the middle. When it comes to cookies it's generally the thought that counts.

One has not truly grown up until they've fished bits of eggshell out of the mixing bowl, lamented about cookies that resemble hockey pucks more than an edible delight, thrown out an entire batch of batter because they realized too late that in small print "tsp." and "tbs." are all too easily confused, licked a spatula to savor that last bit of dough that definitely could've made another cookie or two, and reveled in the taste of a cookie straight off the sheet pan--gooey and messy and all too rewarding.

In place of someone baking their own cookies, the next best thing will always be gifting them with cookies of your own. Though you may feel like the red hen whilst all of your pals are the lazy dog that refuses to help you bake, the way their faces light up at the prospect of a homemade cookie is worth all the trouble, so why not try out this recipe?

### Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
¾ teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 cup (8 ounces, or 2 sticks) unsalted butter at room temperature  
1 cup granulated sugar  
1 cup packed light brown sugar  
2 eggs, at room temperature  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
2 ¾ cups rolled oats  
1 cup bittersweet chocolate chips  
1 cup milk chocolate chips

If salted butter is really your only option, reduce salt to ¼ to ½ teaspoon

If you forget to set it out of the fridge early, put butter in the microwave for 15 seconds, but don't melt it.

This is half a bag of each type of chocolate chip. If you only want to buy one bag, I suggest bittersweet.

• Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.

If you don't use parchment paper, the cookies will stick. You'll end up with only a pile of crumbs and a few hours scrubbing your sheet pans.

• Measure the flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt into a bowl and whisk to combine. (Put the dry ingredients through a fine-mesh sieve if the flour or baking soda is clumpy.)

• Using a stand mixer with a paddle attachment, beat the butter, granulated sugar and brown sugar on medium speed for 3 to 5 minutes, until lighter in color and fluffy. Scrape the bottom and sides of the bowl several times during this process.

A spoon is fine instead of a whisk.

Beating the butter and sugar for long enough is important. If you think it's done at 1-2 minutes you're probably wrong. Set a timer and step back.

Scraping twice is adequate.

• While the mixer is running, crack the eggs into a liquid measuring cup and add the vanilla. Reduce the speed to low, then slowly pour in the eggs, letting them fall in one at a time and incorporating the first egg completely before adding the next. Scrape the bottom and sides of the bowl once during this process.

• Gradually add the dry ingredients (in 2 to 3 additions) with the mixer on low speed. Scrape the bottom and sides of the bowl once, to fully incorporate the butter and sugar. Combine the oats and chocolate in the same bowl used for the dry ingredients, then add them to the dough with the mixer on low speed, mixing just until everything is well distributed. Often, it's easier to finish mixing by hand using a stiff rubber spatula.

• Scoop the dough into balls the size of ping-pong balls. Arrange the dough balls on the prepared pans, 6 per pan, then press into ½-inch thick disks.

If you don't press them, the cookies won't flatten properly and the middles will be very underdone.

• Bake. Bake for 10 minutes, rotating the pans halfway through the baking time. The edges of the cookies should be golden brown, while the centers will appear blond and slightly underdone. Let the cookies cool on the baking sheets.

It's okay that the cookies are slightly underdone in the oven because they will finish cooking on the baking sheet. If they appear fully cooked in the oven they'll end up burnt.

Putting chocolate chips in the mixer makes it angry. You can mix in the oats with the mixer, but hand-stir the chocolate chips.

Give the cookies space, or they'll make one large, sad looking mound.

## Leaving the tech world

One teenager tackles 24 hours without modern technology



By Emily Boyd  
STAFF WRITER

In our generation, the overuse of phones, computers, and other electronic devices can sometimes make us feel claustrophobic, and maybe like we are being pinned down when we just want to be left alone.

It seems like teens have the biggest problem with being addicted to their electronics, so I decided to put everything away and be electronic free for 24 hours. I wanted to see how my life would change without using any electronic devices for a whole day.

When I left the house, I left every electronic thing in my room, and I vowed not to use it until the next day.

To me, it did not feel very weird, because I do not use my phone excessively anyway. I am sure that for a lot of people, younger people especially, leaving your phone at home for a whole day and not using it in the evening is a crazy idea.

I was ready to accept the challenge.

At school, I did not mind not having my phone. I felt more connected to what I was doing right then, rather than worrying about what was happening on Instagram or Twitter.

It was kind of odd when I noticed at lunch that I was one of the only people not on their

phones. I felt like I was left out of what was going on in the tech world.

The biggest change at school was that I did not have the option to call my friends and ask them where they were. When I wanted to find someone, I kind of just wandered the halls and asked around if they had seen the person lately.

That was really no big deal. In reality, I do not think we absolutely need our phones; we just like to have them because they simplify already simple things, such as locating a friend.

At home, on a regular night, my family and I usually eat dinner at the table, and then watch a show on our TV. I decided to also refrain from that, and I also did not use my computer.

By reusing that time I would have spent in front of a screen, I opened a book instead, which was really nice. I always feel so bogged down by school and homework, that I rarely ever read for fun, except during the summer.

I also got a head start on my homework and finished it early, so I got into bed at a decent time.

I really do not think that it is too hard to just lock up the technology for a day. Not only did I use my voice more to have conversations with people, I got more quiet time to myself, which can be very hard to find in this day and age.

## How to be a good interviewee

By Jackson Badbury  
EDITOR



Often, students—and young people in general—must interview for job openings or for the college admissions process. As a student who recently went through one such interview for Columbia University, I can say it is a frightening experience—but it does not need to be. Here are a few things to ease your mind as you enter the world of interviews.

- Research the school or company interviewing you. Learn important things like mission statement, key people, history and so on.
- A firm handshake and consistent, strong eye contact go a long way.
- Dress professionally. No need to go overboard, just think about Mass dress. No basketball shorts, yoga pants or t-shirts, ladies and gents.
- No filler words. "Um," "like," and other similar words can make you seem less intelligent than you are, and detract from the impression you make on the interviewer.
- Anticipate the questions you will be asked. If you are interviewing for a college, the internet is your friend. You can find lists of questions that many colleges will ask, and in certain cases you may find lists of questions for your specific school like I did.
- Keep it conversational. Enter the interview with intelligent questions you are prepared to ask the interviewer. This shows you want to do more than just share about yourself—you want to learn as much as you can about the school.

Interviews do not have to be scary, and by simply focusing on these tips you can be successful in any interview with which you may be faced.

# Is it worth it?

*Our choices define our lives, but how much does each one matter?*

By Peter Hu  
STAFF WRITER

Every day, every minute, every second. We are making choices in our life. Choices change our life; they lead us to a different direction. Our life is really brutal—a lot of times we either gain or lose. That's about it.

But there is a thing called regret in this world. After we make a decision we might think, 'Is it worth it that we do it this way?' We don't like it after we think more and start to think we want our old life back, but that's not the point of a choice. Once those things happen they are always there, whether we can see it or not. They are marked by time.

I always wonder if it is worth it for me to leave everything that I'm familiar with at home and come here for high school. I have to think about every decision I make in my life. If I went to a different high school, what would my life be like? I question myself a lot of times about it, and unfortunately I never find an answer.

Forced by life to make a choice—that's what happens to a lot of people in this society. Some of them get lost in the confusion of what to choose, some regret what they have done, but time is not the kind of guy that would stay at the same place to wait for you. While time passes by, people who miss old times tend to forget time is still going.

Indeed, why don't people just focus on their life now? Choices are choices after they are decided. No matter how much regret we have, they are there. Instead of blaming ourselves and staying in the same position, why not look forward and focus on making our life better? Why not make our life better than the past? That's what we should do.

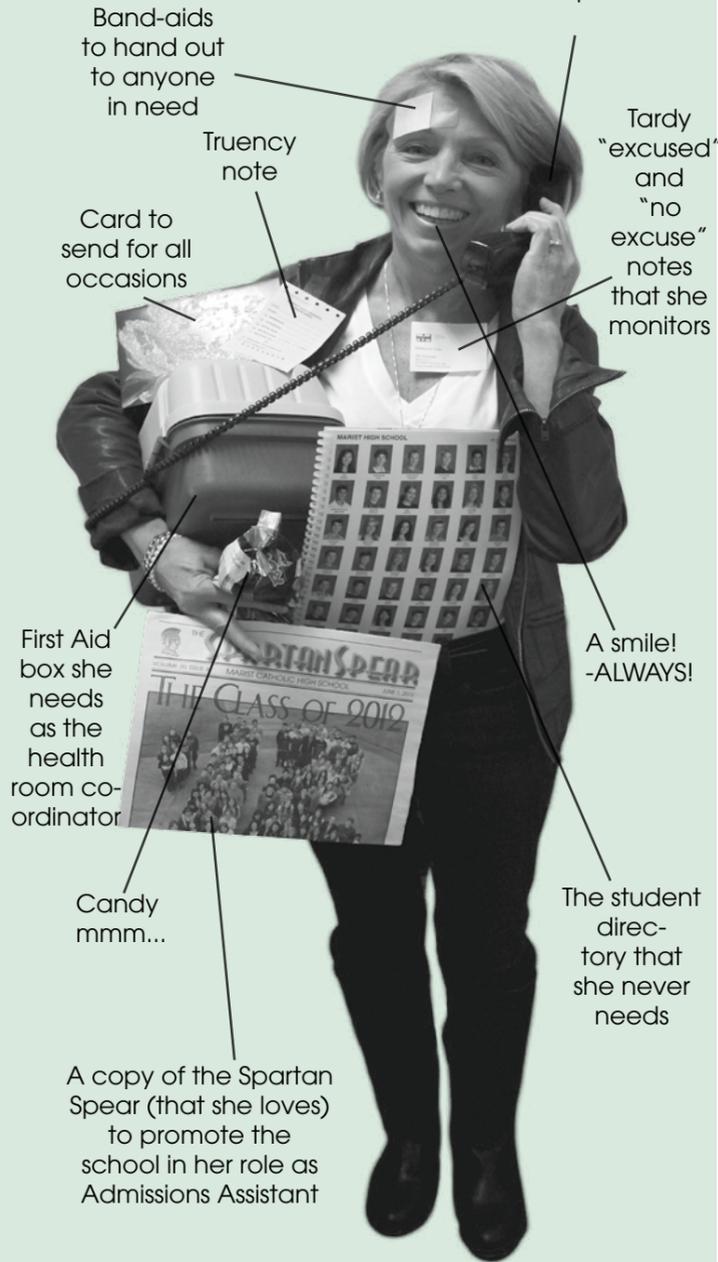
Is it worth it to regret what we did and that we won't be able to change it or to waste time that we could spend on making our future better? Is it worth it? I believe we already have an answer.

# Portrait of Mrs. May

By Jordan Dickel  
STAFF WRITER

*What it takes to fill the many roles of Tammy May*

Phone for countless attendance calls and conversations with parents



Band-aids to hand out to anyone in need

Truency note

Card to send for all occasions

Tardy "excused" and "no excuse" notes that she monitors

First Aid box she needs as the health room coordinator

A smile! -ALWAYS!

Candy mmm...

The student directory that she never needs

A copy of the Spartan Spear (that she loves) to promote the school in her role as Admissions Assistant

# School transitions

*The journey that led teacher Jericho Schwab to Marist*



Jericho Schwab (middle) easily befriends fellow staff members Becky Boyd and Shari Pimental at the fall staff retreat. Photo by Toni Cooper

By Emily Boyd  
STAFF WRITER

Growing up, Jericho Schwab spent her first years of school in a private school environment at St. Patrick's in Tacoma, Wash. When she was in seventh grade, she moved from Washington to Oregon, and she finished middle school at Cal Young. As a freshman, she started attending and graduated from Sheldon International High School.

When she first started teaching at St. Paul Catholic School, she taught Spanish, English, and technology for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade. After three years, she wanted to try something new and decided to teach at Thurston High School.

She came to miss working in a Catholic community after six years at Thurston, partly because she grew up in a Catholic school, and it was important to her to form connections with both the students and their families. She also wanted to be at a school with students that incorporate their faith and hold it in high regard.

Based on her time at St. Paul Catholic School, she was expecting the same family involvement, and students who wanted to work hard at Marist. She also expected a higher percentage of students to be Catholic.

Her first year at Marist has been a smooth transition. She helped with Mr. Spartan, as she used to run Mr. THS at Thurston. She loves connecting with students, and by doing this, she can get to know some of the upperclassmen better.

In the big scheme of things, no matter where they are, students are basically the same. When it comes to class, all students want to do well, have fun, and, for the most part, connect with their teachers. Despite that, "it is hard to look at similarities because private versus public [schools] are so different," says Schwab.

At Thurston, students tended to have issues with attendance, and they lacked consistency with their morals. Schwab likes that, for the most part, "[her] students are in class every day, and there is consistency in what we are teaching and the values that we share as a community."

Public schools have a very diverse group of people, and they have such different expectations of students, so you can only count on what is expected in your own classroom.

"I wanted to just step it up, and Marist has definitely given me the opportunity to do that," says Schwab.



Seniors!

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Questions? See Ms. Cooper in Rm 318

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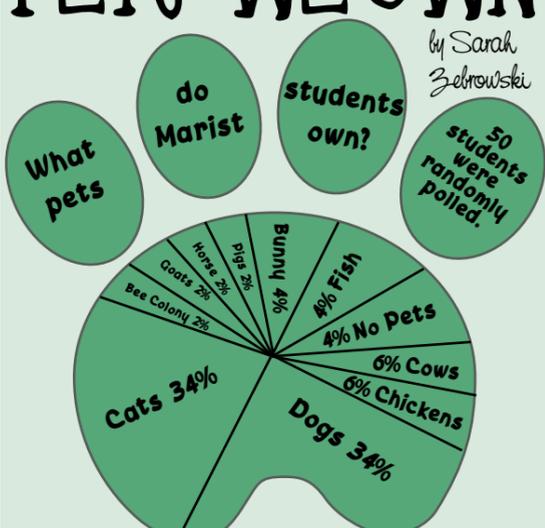
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## PETS WE OWN

by Sarah Zebrowski

50 students randomly polled.



do Marist students own?

What pets



# STANDING OUT FOR THE ELUSIVE IVIES

*The obstacles and luck that consistently deny Marist students admission to the country's most elite institutions*



By Monica Anderson  
EDITOR

Marist Catholic High School is first and foremost a college preparatory school. With ten AP courses and 11 additional Honors offerings, each student has the tools necessary to stuff his or her schedule full of academic rigor.

Further, students can pursue 13 Varsity sports, a full theatre program, and various clubs. Marist is not short on opportunities, and its service program is certainly emphasized. In fact, students are so well-prepared that almost uniformly across graduating classes, 100% of students move on to higher education.

Graduates generally congregate toward Oregon schools, with the remainder scattering across the country, but there is a glaring hole in Marist's college profile: students do not attend—or even get admitted to—Ivy League schools.

In the last six years, two students have been accepted to Ivy Leagues—Cornell and Princeton—and both years, the students did not attend. Additionally, only one has been accepted to and attended Stanford, and this was primarily for exceptional athletic ability.

Now, this discrepancy is not for lack of trying; countless students have GPA's above 4.0 for both weighted and unweighted, and 100—not counting this year's seniors—have applied to these elusive schools. The problem is that we are not being accepted.

Catholic schools across Oregon, albeit larger schools, send students to Ivy Leagues every year, and our public school neighbor South Eugene routinely produces students accepted to these institutions. Why not Marist?

Perhaps Marist students are simply too unmotivated and uninvolved, but those serious about Ivy Leagues are just the

opposite. One valedictorian maintained a 4.829 weighted GPA—4.257 unweighted—achieved a 35 on the ACT, 2270 on the SAT, scored a 5 on six different AP tests, and was a National Merit Finalist. But she was rejected from both Stanford and Princeton, where the average accepted SAT is lower than her own score.

Clearly, academics are not everything, but this student involved herself in everything possible. She was a four-year Varsity athlete in track and field with two state titles, cross country team captain, the Proclaim pianist, a Retreat Team member, NHS president, active in her church, and even joined various theatre productions. At Marist, she was the epitome of excellence. But still, even she could not conquer the thousands of applicants at these insanely selective institutions.

A large factor may simply be Marist's size. Historically, students from larger public and private schools (i.e. South Eugene, Central Catholic, Jesuit) are admitted. A Yale Undergraduate Admissions officer confirmed that the majority of those accepted to the school come from public schools, though she insists that school type is not a factor in the admissions process.

Marist's size does not inherently make it inferior; rather, its implications may simply decrease the resources available to students at larger schools. Marist does not offer International Baccalaureate classes or have limitless clubs, but this has nothing to do with the students. If these distinctions prevent students from an Ivy League future, then they have virtually no chance for admission.

One tool, the Academic Index Calculator, can estimate a student's relative "competitive status" based entirely on test scores, class rank, and GPA; for example, the aforementioned student scored a nine out of nine on this calculation.

Given the index's nature, in this year's small class, even one lowered class ranking can lessen a student's score by two increments.

But this estimation does not guarantee admission. Ivy Leagues want unique students at their universities, and they can find these students across the globe. Fundamentally privileged students living a standard Eugenic life might just lack the intrigue Ivy Leagues seek.

In the end, the ultimate deciding factor in a pool of elites seems to be sheer luck. Of 29,610 Yale applicants this year, 1,991 were admitted—a 6.7% acceptance rate. No one, not even valedictorians, can assume that they will be chosen. 2010 graduate Allie Sibole, who now attends Santa Clara University, has found that this dilemma affects students far beyond Marist.

"I soon met a lot of people at SCU who were way smarter than me who...got rejected from top schools, including a friend who got perfect scores on both the SAT and ACT and built robots for fun in his spare time," she said, "What I realized was that there are so many extremely intelligent people who apply to top schools."

But students need not lose all hope for their futures. As coveted as an Ivy League degree may be, it is not everything. Its expense alone may force graduates into debt, which can inhibit their freedom to pursue post-collegiate options. Students can find opportunity at any university, and the investment might be better spent.

Four years will not define one person's destiny, and one piece of paper will not guarantee success. Besides, even the most qualified students are not assured a spot in these elite positions.

"It's hard to stand out against thousands of other valedictorians and National Merit Scholars," Sibole said.

## A call to end gun violence



By Chris Keylock  
STAFF WRITER

Sandy Hook Elementary School was faced with an armed assailant who shot 20 students without cause. In the days following, President Obama pushed for a new gun law to prevent the selling or purchasing of automatic assault weapons, among many other types of guns that are "dangerous to the public." I agree with the President—a law that prevented purchasing of these weapons, or just made them more difficult to access, would be an excellent way to help prevent future tragedies.

This ban would prevent the purchasing of assault weapons unless an extensive background check is performed. No high-capacity magazines would be allowed to be purchased even with a background check. The law would provide more accessible mental health facilities and counseling too. The background check is the most important component to me. This way people can still purchase such weapons but ex-convicts or mentally ill patients would not be able to get their hands on them.

The highest capacity magazine available holds 100 rounds. This would be banned. The gunman in the Aurora, Colorado movie theatre shooting used a semi-automatic rifle with a 100-round magazine. Twelve people were killed and 58 were wounded before the gun jammed, making it one of the deadliest massacres in US history.

Thirty-round magazines would also be banned. The gunman in Newtown, Connecticut had a semi-automatic rifle with a 30-round magazine; 26 people were killed, 20 of whom were children. This is the second deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

It is still difficult to imagine that somebody could do such horrific and gruesome things. It is sickening to the stomach, but luckily there are people out there that feel the same way and can do something about it and make a difference.

Although currently the bill is at a standstill with the government due to opposition from the National Rifle Association, many states are trying to put in their own ban on assault weapons. Meanwhile, on the other end of the spectrum, some states are actually trying to pass bills that would allow them to ignore the federal requirements regarding the ban.

I do not agree with suggesting a bill that would allow the state to ignore a government law. It doesn't seem right because the government power is greater than any one state's own power.

I feel the gun ban would be great because it would help prevent unnecessary deaths like those in the incidents above. Anything we can do to stop these mass shootings would be beneficial to all. By limiting who can buy guns, and what guns they can buy, it may and probably will save lives.

## Hopelessly popeless no more

*The new Catholic leader brings humility and simplicity to his papacy*



By Katie Tamant  
STAFF WRITER

Ever since Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI announced his resignation on Feb. 11, the first papal resignation in nearly 600 years, the worldwide Catholic community had eagerly awaited the election of a new pontiff. With a puff of white smoke from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel on March 13, the conclave of cardinals announced to the world that they had selected a new leader of the Church.

Much to the elation of the faithful around the world, they had chosen Jorge Mario Bergoglio, a cardinal from Argentina. Not only is Bergoglio, age 76, the first ever Pope from the Americas, he is also the first Jesuit to reach the seat of St. Peter.

Soon after his election and first appearance on the Balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, Bergoglio announced that he would take the name of Pope Francis due to his affinity with and reverence for St. Francis of Assisi.

St. Francis, a 3rd century traveling priest, is well known in America for his love of animals, but is actually more notable for his ministry to the poor. His life message, that it is the duty of church leaders to live among the least of men and serve the poorest of the poor, is one that Bergoglio has stated that he intends to emulate.

As the Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Bergoglio earned the respect of Catholics around the globe through his devout adherence to the lifestyle of his future namesake. The new pope has proven himself to be a simple man, whose preferred form of transportation is the bus, who has forgone the lavish papal apartments for a simpler one in the city, and who has renounced certain liturgical garments as excessively extravagant.

Though he has been a major player on the world stage for less than a month, Francis has quickly earned the affection of believers everywhere with his genuine authenticity and his visible love for the

most vulnerable among us. While serving as the archbishop of Buenos Aires, Bergoglio was condemned by some but praised by many for his criticism of "hypocritical" Argentinian priests who refused to baptize babies born out of wedlock. More recently, Francis demonstrated his humility and love for the poor when he visited an Italian juvenile detention center on Holy Thursday to wash the feet of the young inmates, including two Muslims and two young women.

Francis, though proving himself to be a paragon of simplicity and humility, is not lacking in eloquence. When speaking of faith, the new pope has urged believers to "make an act of faith today: 'Lord, I believe. I believe in your love. I believe your love has saved me. I believe that your love has given me that dignity that I did not have. I believe that your love gives me hope.'"

The Marist community has responded positively to Pope Francis' election.

"I think it's cool he's a Jesuit, and from the Americas," commented junior Zac Oldham, "It's great that he is willing to minister to the poor himself."

"Thus far, he seems very different from Benedict," says former Marist brother and longtime Marist staff member, Tony Huck, "He seems very personable. It's good that he's willing to go out into the crowds, with the people."

Math teacher Jeannette Herro also appreciates Francis' spirit of humility.

"I love that he's so accessible," she said with a wide smile, "Having a pope like that allows us to see the humanity in ourselves, and shows us that we are all capable of finding something higher in ourselves."

In many ways, Francis' simplicity only serves to magnify the graceful nature of his quiet eloquence. As only a man who knows the true joy of simplicity can, he recently said, "It's beautiful to believe in love. This is the truth, the truth of our lives." May he share many such truths with us all in his time.

# Tales of an introvert

*How to navigate the complexities of mysterious, less talkative individuals*



By Hayley Olson  
STAFF WRITER

I'm an introvert.

An introvert is a hard thing to quite pinpoint. There are many indicators of an introvert, including shyness, reverence for isolation, reluctance to take risks and listening rather than speaking.

However, not all introverts have these qualities and not all people with these qualities are introverts. There's not just one accepted, set definition of what it means to be an introvert. Introversions covers a wide range of personalities and habits.

If you're to trust my judgment and make the assumption that I am an introvert, here's what I can do for you: I can give you some tidbits of advice about how to befriend an introvert.

1. Do not overlook the quiet ones. Many introverts tend not to speak up for themselves, which makes them easy to accidentally pass over. When I was younger, my teachers neglected me because I rarely raised my hand and never spoke up during class. They'd hardly notice my presence at all. It was a loss for them because I've always been a rather stellar student.

2. Give us time. I generally don't like to jump into an activity or a conversation right away. Introverts like to have time to observe and evaluate their situation before diving in; for me that's mostly due to fear of screwing something up.

3. Do not get offended when we don't approach you. Many introverts tend to shy away from beginning a conversation themselves—maybe out of fear, or maybe because they're tired from previous interactions—but it's important to not think they're being rude in this action. I have a tendency to go through my day only having conversations that someone else initiates; it's not because I don't like people, it's just that I tend not to talk a lot, so I'd rather use my words on people who expressly want to hear them.

4. Do not interrupt us. Along the same lines, if I think you find so little value in what I'm saying that you'll interrupt me, I'll probably give up and stop talking.

5. Patience is vital.

6. Let us have our solitude. When I get home from school or symphony rehearsal or whatever else is in my schedule, I need to have a little bit of time to myself—no

one bombarding me with questions, no one trying to start up a conversation with me. If introverts shy away from you in this fashion—trying not to let conversation blossom or avoiding making plans—it generally doesn't mean they detest you, it generally is just them trying to find their solitude—interactions with people are taxing on introverts' energy, they need a bit of isolation to recuperate.

7. Do not push us to be something we're not. We aren't extroverted, we generally aren't outgoing, and we may not speak a lot. But that's what makes us who we are. There's no reason to change or "fix" an introvert. They are to be cherished, not changed.

8. Most importantly, you don't really have to treat us any differently than anyone else. We're just introverts. We're not secretly flesh-eating cannibals. We're just people, and if you treat us nicely, we'll reciprocate.

So look around, find yourself an introvert, and give them a kind smile or a gentle hello. Don't push them to speak more than they're comfortable, and you'll warm up to each other in no time.

# Madness, misinformation and marijuana

*A history of ignorance and immoral politics surrounds marijuana legislation*



By Jackson Bedbury  
EDITOR

The outlawing of marijuana was based on bad science, bigotry and lies.

The hemp plant, along with all of the plant's products, were made illegal in 1937 through the Marijuana Tax Act. The first step to the illegalization was spreading propaganda and misrepresenting the proposed law—such as using the term marijuana, which at the time was slang for what Mexican immigrants were smoking—and instilling fear in the American public.

It was passed with a lie by a member of the committee seeking to ban cannabis perpetrated on the floor of the United States Congress.

In 1930, Harry J. Anslinger was named director of the newly formed Bureau of Narcotics. Anslinger recognized after a short while that narcotics and opiates would not be enough of a basis on which to build his new organization, so he latched onto the unclassifiable drug, marijuana.

Anslinger and the overwhelming majority of media, led by William Randolph Hearst, manufactured lies regarding the effects of marijuana, many of which were based on the racial sentiments of the time. Hearst was a major newspaper owner, with over 30 papers scattered across the country. In addition, Hearst was threatened by the possibility of hemp as a substitute good for paper pulp because of his investment in the timber industry.

In addition, Anslinger is quoted as saying things like, "Marijuana is the most violence-causing drug in the history of mankind" and "Reefer makes darkies think they're as good as white men." These are simply lies propagated to instill fear in legislators and the general public, and have no basis in fact. Anslinger and Hearst combined to turn virtually the entire country against marijuana and make its name synonymous with that of devil.

So, for the last 76 years marijuana has been illegal at a federal level. Further, in 1970 the Food and Drug Administration

passed the Controlled Substances Act, which categorized marijuana among drugs such as LSD and heroin in "Schedule I." Drugs of this severity must have high potential for abuse, no currently accepted medical use in the United States and a lack of accepted safety for use, according to the FDA.

There are four additional "schedules" in the classification system. Some of the drugs included in the lower and less-dangerous categories include cocaine, opium, oxycodone, amphetamines and hydrocodone. In the FDA's opinion, marijuana is more severe both in effect and punishment deserved than cocaine or amphetamines, and has fewer medical benefits than either, which is simply untrue.

Marijuana can help mitigate and even alleviate many symptoms like lack of appetite, severe pain, anxiety, depression and inability to sleep that often arise in patients suffering from chronic and terminal illnesses such as cancer, multiple sclerosis (MS) and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). It also manages to do this without the plethora of side effects that accompany almost any pharmaceutical drug a patient may be prescribed.

Despite these facts, a surprisingly large amount of people continue to see marijuana as nothing more than a counter-cultural, highly addictive hallucinogen that turns everyone into mindless zombies. In addition to being unclassifiable—especially as a hallucinogen—marijuana is also far less addictive than many common "drugs."

Dr. Jack E. Henningfield of the National Institute on Drug Abuse and Dr. Neal L. Benowitz of the University of California San Francisco conducted an experiment to compare the addictiveness of marijuana, caffeine, alcohol, cocaine, heroin and nicotine.

The study ranked the drugs' addictive properties based on five different categories, and ultimately resulted in the conclusion that marijuana was the least addictive of the six. It was beat out by both caffeine and nicotine, which was the most highly

addictive.

Any drug—legal or illegal—can be abused, and while marijuana may be as well, the benefits of regulated recreational legalization are far too great to ignore.

And there may be hope. In the most recent election, two states, Washington and Colorado, legalized recreational marijuana. Though it has led to a mess of confusion and controversy over the Supremacy Clause of the US Constitution—which states that no state law may contradict federal law—it brings the issue even further into national conversation, and forces the federal government to take it seriously and make a decision on how to handle changing public opinion.

Were the federal government to pass legislation to decriminalize and legalize marijuana, as well as regulate the drug the way we regulate tobacco, the benefits could be innumerable. Taxes on alcohol and tobacco bring in roughly \$40 billion a year, and they benefit both federal and state programs. The income that would result from "sin taxes" on marijuana—which would likely be available to those 18 years or older—would help combat our national debt and create another industry and market for jobs.

The decriminalization of the drug would lead to vastly decreased over-crowding in our prison systems. In addition, law enforcement would have more time and resources—after the war on drugs becomes more focused on narcotics and opiates—to dedicate to departments that are underfunded and understaffed, and allow for quicker response to larger areas.

In addition, the regulation of marijuana would help to reduce the amount of adulterated marijuana that our nation's youth is consuming. Marijuana that is far more harmful than the marijuana that would be regulated.

The decriminalization and legalization of marijuana at a federal level would have countless benefits both medically and economically, and would assist in erasing years of bigotry and ignorance.

# Equality for every love

*Cultural shifts necessitate acceptance of homosexuality*



By Monica Anderson  
EDITOR

I do not understand why now, in 2013, 50 years after the Civil Rights movement, we as humans cannot accept homosexuality as normal. I could see this presenting a problem in the 1960s, when discrimination ran high and riots crowded the streets, but in the 21st century this seems misguided. Our society can accept violence and sex in the media, yet homosexuals are routinely deemed lesser people and their love is considered inappropriate.

The most common argument is that the Bible condemns homosexuality and states that marriage must be between one man and one woman. While this may be true—in some translations—the Bible also condones male superiority and slavery. It seems that a book written two thousand years ago may have some inconsistencies, especially considering societal shifts.

How can an entire world evolve in culture, yet still expect to adhere to the same guidelines as our ancient ancestors? We no longer crucify people or support animal sacrifice; following this logic, I believe homosexuality should be accepted.

Beyond that, science has repeatedly shown that homosexuality is genetic and not, as many suggest, a choice. Just as someone is born with brown eyes, an outgoing personality, or a love for animals, a homosexual person is born homosexual.

But probing deeper into science, it is not even that simple. A person can simultaneously have a different sexual identity, preference and relations than what most guidelines allow. This is because human sexuality is not merely two opposite genders attracting, but it exists—sometimes separately—on a physical, psychological and emotional level. Though it may seem that most people identify as male or female and express a sexual preference for the opposite gender, it can become far more complicated.

Since these complications exist, humans should have no right to judge any combination as 'right' or 'wrong.' Especially in Christianity, this seems to contradict every interpretation of the Golden Rule: love your neighbor as yourself. One cannot simply exempt an entire population from this rule; it either exists or it does not. Though some religions may argue that they do accept homosexuals, they just do not believe that they should marry or be intimate with one another, this detail threatens equality by restricting their human nature.

Marriage, at least in the United States, is a right and legal action, just like divorce or gun ownership, so any restriction breaks all 'self-evident' truths as dictated in the Constitution. Prohibiting all homosexuals from marriage seems in its nature to be unjust.

Years ago, African Americans, and at one point women, were regarded in the same light as homosexuals are now. People maintained deeply held discriminations against these groups and many aimed to extinguish and prevent any rights they would gain. Fortunately, passionate groups transcended this, and the aforementioned people now enjoy theoretical equality under the law.

The acceptance of homosexuality into society will—and given our history, should—take time, but America has had time. This debate has dominated our society for decades; it is time that we take the next step and accept homosexuality wholeheartedly and with open arms.

With spring sports in full-swing, sports editor Zach Silva provides a team-by-team breakdown of what to expect as seasons come to a close.

# SPRING SPORTS

## baseball

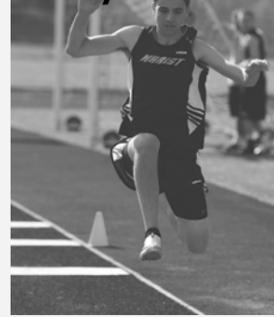


Freshmen Matt Haney Photo by Katelyn Grafton '14

**Record:** 8-8  
**About:** Except for a six-game losing streak, the Spartans are still right in the mix of things. The team is 4-0 in league play and currently in 10th place in 5A. The team which features just three seniors are still looking to contend.

**Best Case Scenario:** The pitching duo of Jamieson and junior Cam Jack help the team cruise through league and propel the Spartans get hot and travel deep into the playoffs  
**League Odds:** With five Midwestern league teams in the top 15 in state, the Spartans are in the heat of a tough league battle.  
**State Odds:** IF the young team gets hot...  
**State:** First round begins May 22

## boys track&field



Sophomore Sean Kimball Photo by Toni Cooper

**About:** Despite losing a host of sprinters, the Spartans are back in action. The team is anchored by Coleman and Kaelen Byrum in a host of events. In addition, juniors Liam Henshaw and JP Kiefer are part of the recipe to success for the Spartans.

**Best Case Scenario:** Senior Austin Baird gets healthy and is ready to go by districts and helps the team get some points at districts and state  
**District Odds:** Springfield appears to be between Marist and the district title  
**State Odds:** Slim, but not completely out of the question  
**State:** May 24-25 at Hayward Field

## petanque



Freshman Dharma Prime Photo by Clara Lee '15

**About:** Today marks the start of the highly anticipated 2013 spring season. They have three matches this season and today face the rivals, South Eugene, at home at 4:00.



Sophomores Ethan Quick and Doug McGirr. Photo by Clara Lee '15

## softball

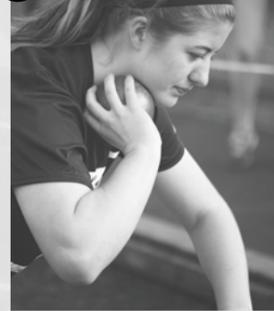


Senior Courtney Rustik Photo by Alex Seaver '13

**Record:** 2-13  
**About:** The team features four seniors and a group of underclassmen who are promising the softball team with a bright future according to Jeff Dreiling.

**Best Case Scenario:** Sophomore Shawna Burke locks it down on pitching while the defense cuts its errors to help the young Spartans pick up some wins in their final 10 games of the season.  
**League Odds:** Churchill and Marshfield both rank in the top 10 of 5A, but if the young Spartans can beat more than just Springfield in league games they could finish around .500 in league.  
**State Odds:** It may take a small miracle  
**State:** First round May 22

## girls track&field



Freshman Katie Kreidler Photo by Toni Cooper

**About:** While the team is quite young when it comes to sprints, this year's teams strength appears to be in the middle distance runners. Seniors Monica Anderson and Molly Bohrer are currently second and third respectively in the Midwestern league in the 3000m. Junior Bri Kempf is currently third in the 300m hurdles.

**Best Case Scenario:** Propelled by the middle distance runners they are able to win some meets  
**District Odds:** Slim. If the middle distance locks it down and if sprinters emerge the team could have a fighting chance.  
**State Odds:** Not enough depth as a team but there certainly could be some individual winners.  
**State:** May 24-25 at Hayward Field

# Reaching Neu Heights

By Jordan Dickrel  
 STAFF WRITER

For Marist Senior Neu Nipatasaj, a natural aptitude for the game that "lets the racket do the talking" runs in the family.

"My family, all of them except my mom play tennis," Nipatasaj said about his family's affection for the sport. "Tennis is like my family sport."

Growing up in Thailand, Nipatasaj's journey to being a top five player in Oregon's 5A category began over 7,600 miles away in Bangkok. Nipatasaj described that his cousin first introduced him to tennis when he was 8 years old.

"My cousin played tennis before me," Nipatasaj said. "He kind of took me to the court to practice with his coach and I just started from there."

After this experience Nipatasaj began practicing and playing tennis competitively at the age of nine, to much success.

"I played in a tournament right away after a year of practice and I got into the top 16 of Thailand junior players under 12, so that's pretty cool," Nipatasaj described.

Despite growing success in the sport, however, Nipatasaj decided to exchange his efforts in tennis for golf at the age of 10.

"It was just my coach," Nipatasaj said. "I felt like he went too hard on me. I was like a ten year old kid and he

just punished me and stuff and made me get too serious, so I just quit. Just like ok, I'm done man."

Three years later Nipatasaj made the decision to return to his original sport of tennis at the age of 13.

"I went and played golf for three years instead of tennis and I just kind of got bored of golf," Nipatasaj said. "I came back to tennis again because a lot of my friends came back and played tennis."

This time Nipatasaj was back for good. "I still beat people when I got back," He said. "Just a good feeling get to play with my old friends and new coaches get some new lessons and new technique."

At this time Nipatasaj practiced with the top 20 of Thailand's junior players but did not compete.

In 2010 Nipatasaj moved to Eugene and began his sophomore year on the Marist tennis team as well as playing outside of school independently with the United States Tennis Association.

Nipatasaj found success on the team and became an undefeated player until state playoffs.

"My sophomore year in the high school tennis season I was undefeated until the state final round. My record was 21 and 1," Nipatasaj said. "I lost in the final round to the best guy in the state. So that was pretty cool as a sophomore [to be] 2nd at state and win the districts easily. Probably one of my best memories of tennis."

After a junior year in which Nipatasaj was ineligible

to play due to an OSAA rule barring exchange students from competing in varsity sports for four years, he is back for his senior year.

Nipatasaj's dominance has continued this season as he has been designated one of the top 5 players in Oregon's 5A category.

"When I go to the tennis courts everywhere people kind of know my name," Nipatasaj said. "Just like 'yeah Neu is pretty good.' Its pretty cool, people know about how I'm good at tennis."

Nipatasaj said though he enjoys competing on the high school level, he does not plan to play a college or higher level.

"Probably not," Nipatasaj said about playing on a college or higher level after high school. "I just don't feel like I want to do it."



Senior Neu Nipatasaj prepares to return a serve against Churchill. Photo by Megan Braud

## By The NUMBERS

0

Number of juniors on the boys tennis team

1

Hole-in-one for boys golf by freshman Connor Lindstrom

2

The number of goals each by senior twin lacrosse players Cole and Jesse Sessums on their birthday

2

The number of State Championships won by the Shooting Team

3

Number of seniors on the baseball team

## boys golf



Junior Billy Pollock Photo by Ryan Whalen

**About:** After a 2012 championship, the boys are looking to go back to defend their title again this season. While the top two golfers from last year, Nate Krause and Brent Pollock, graduated the team is now commanded by juniors, brother of Brent, Billy

**Best Case Scenario:** The team gets their swings down and all golfers 1-4 are able to step up to give the team a chance at another title.

**District Odds:** Strong. While not as deep as last year the team is confident that they can get to state.

**State Odds:** In the mix. Not overwhelming favorites or the underdog but they got a shot.

**State:** May 13-14 at Trysting Tree Golf Club in Corvallis

## boys tennis



Freshman Alex Korth Photo by Toni Cooper

**Record:** 7-3

**About:** With Neu Nipatasaj back in action, the team is looking towards the state title. This year, Nipatasaj is looking to bring some teammates along, notably sophomore double pair AJ Bartko and Austin Tyner.

**Best Case Scenario:** The Spartans get four teams to state and see Nipatasaj and the Tyner/Bartko combo take the title.

**District Odds:** Good chance that the Spartans can take the title from Ashland

**State Odds:** This is the year to win it all for the team and they are looking to raise the first boys tennis banner

**State:** May 16-18 Portland Tennis Center, Tualatin Hills Tennis Center

## boys lacrosse



Junior Clark Morton Photo by Kyle Medenbach '14

**Record:** 4-4

**About:** Led by five seniors spread across all positions, the Spartans have made a strong early season showing despite being plagued by injuries. Senior attackman Hunter Duckworth anchors the offensive end with 22 goals on the season so far, and with the help of the defense junior goalie Dante Castille has held opponents to an average of under six goals per game.

**Best Case Scenario:** With senior defenseman Jackson Bedbury back from a pre-spring break injury this week, the boys look to settle in on defense and run the tables for the rest of league play.

**League Odds:** Going to be tough to beat Roseburg

**State Odds:** Small chances

**Playoffs Begin:** May 14

## girls golf



Senior Amelia Barker Photo by Julie Woodard '13

**About:** This team is the definition of young. The team features one senior, Amelia Barker, and the rest are underclassmen. While they may be inexperienced this season, the team is building off of Barker's leadership and looking to improve in the next few years.

**District Odds:** Slim. They are still improving each time they take the green and districts is a long shot. Barker though has a chance to qualify for state as an individual.

**State Odds:** Well they might not get a team there, so I would say it is near impossible to win the team title. but, you know, never give up.

**State:** May 13-14 at Quail Valley in Banks

## girls tennis



Junior Emily Hollander Photo by Drew Pearson '15

**Record:** 6-1

**About:** With freshmen standout Maddi Bryant at one singles and junior Madison Penn and senior Lauren Sibole at one doubles, the deep team has been rolling over opponents.

**Best Case Scenario:** In addition to Bryant and the Penn/Sibole

duo, senior Madeline Balderston advances to state to help score some points for the team.

**District Odds:** Got it on lock. With their depth, it would be a surprise if they did not win the title. No pressure, though.

**State Odds:** These girls are looking real strong and if they can make a deep run maybe we could be looking at a boys and girls tennis title.

**State:** May 16-18 at Tualatin Hills Tennis Center in Beaverton

## girls lacrosse



Junior Sienna Hacker Photo by Summer Xia '14

**Record:** 4-2

**About:** While they seemed untested early the team is looking to prove that they are as good as their record. The team is well rounded this season with reliable play from senior goal scorer Brooke Gemmill and lock-down defense by junior Emma Kincaid.

**Best Case Scenario:** Junior Hannah Hughes begins scoring more goals causing teams to fear this one-two offensive attack.

**League Odds:** I'm sayin' there's a chance. The team is in a three-team race for the district title with Roseburg and Bend.

**State Odds:** Long, long odds.

**Playoffs Begin:** May 14

## SPECTACULAR SPARTANS



Junior Carter Detering

■ Carter Detering took his hockey skills on the road last week when he went to a hockey showcase in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Detering says would like to play in college because it's his favorite sport he's ever played. Detering started hockey when he was 4 years old and has only flourished since. He plays on a team in Portland and travels all over the state for hockey games and tournaments.



Senior Susie Baird

■ Over Spring Break senior Susie Baird fulfilled her goal to become rodeo queen at the Spray Oregon Rodeo. The Rodeo will take place on Memorial day weekend and Baird will be acting as the face of the rodeo. Baird has been apart of this rodeo, either as a participant or spectator, since she was just two years old and becoming rodeo queen has been a goal of hers ever since.

## Twins take talent to the track

Seniors Kaelen and Coleman Byrum attempt to storm state

thinks boys

say, "Hey, aren't those Logan's dancing buddies?" Or maybe you think of them as identical twins with easy smiles and laid back personalities. But to me, as one of their coaches in track and field, I think of tenacious, well-rounded track and field athletes with a storied past and bright future. Yes, they are identical twins and share a lot of similarities, but when it comes to their multiple events in track and field, Kaelen is a field guy and Coleman is a track guy.

The twins complement each other in more ways than one. While Kaelen played football and is more explosive, Coleman ran cross country and demonstrates

By Pat Wagner  
GUEST WRITER/TRACK COACH

When you of the Byrum you might

both smoothness and endurance. The Byrum boys hope to continue their track and field careers in college and recently visited George Fox and Linfield.



Senior Coleman Byrum flies over the 110m high hurdles to a win at Cottage Grove and twin brother Kaelen Byrum finishes his 45-.25 leap at Springfield. Photos by Toni Cooper

Both have improved tremendously over the course of their years at Marist High School. For example, Kaelen has gone from 5'6" as a frosh in the high jump to 6'8", which ties the school record. Coleman has dropped 7 seconds from his time in the 300m hurdles and 3 seconds in the 110m high hurdles. Those improvements are in large part due to their commitment to their sport. They both hope to end their careers on the podium in as many events as possible. Currently, Kaelen sits #1 all-time for Marist in the high jump, #2 (1" behind senior Austin Baird) in the triple jump and #2 in the javelin. Meanwhile, Coleman is #2 and #4 in the two hurdle races.

10

The largest margin of victory by the softball team

16

The number of class periods missed by the girls golf team

20

Number of minutes spent each practice sprinting by girls lacrosse

21.6

Percent of Marist students that are on Track & Field

51

The number of Boules in the Petanque shed

722

Days without losing a regular season match (Mar. 2011-April 2013)

# Chance encounters

*A devoted fan and an inquisitive student get an unexpected gift*



By Meghan Gescher  
GUEST WRITER

“Hey Father Dave, do you know Jeff Thomas?” Inquisitive freshman Maclain O’Leary asked his French substitute this fall.

“I sure do know him! How do you?” Cullings questioned.

“I don’t,” O’Leary stated simply, “but this desk here says that Jeff Thomas is a geek.”

The usually unflappable priest was caught off guard by O’Leary’s question. Father Dave flashed back to 1993, in his first year at Marist.

While supervising the cafeteria during finals week, Cullings first met Jeff Thomas and his friends, a rambunctious bunch of juniors. Cullings felt a bit out of place as the first priest at Marist after many years of brothers, but the boys quickly took him in from day one. Cullings found an unusually special friendship with Thomas, who was baptized and then confirmed by Cullings that very year.

However, a once tight friendship had lapsed for the last ten years. Cullings had last heard from the Marist grad in 2003 after Thomas had graduated from Syracuse after getting his undergraduate from Oregon State University. The two met up for lunch where Thomas shared that his parents were moving to Bend and that since he had no other family in town, he really had no reason to be back in Eugene. He mentioned that he was flying to Chicago in three days for a job interview as an intern-assistant athletic trainer for the Blackhawks hockey team.

The two said goodbye, and that was the last Cullings had heard of him; until O’Leary read his name off the desk.

O’Leary inspired Cullings to google Thomas and to see what ever had happened to the Marist grad. The search led to the Blackhawks website, where Cullings was excited to see Thomas as the Assistant Athletic Trainer for the 2010 National Championship winning hockey team.

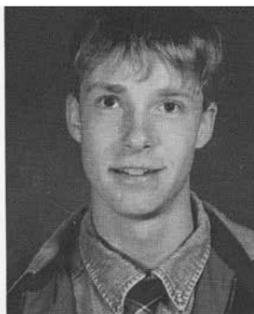
Though thrilled to see the alum’s success, Cullings wasn’t surprised. Cullings shared that he always knew that Thomas was something special, and though not everyone recognized it, the 1994 grad’s passion and “heart of gold” would take him far.

Prior to working for the Blackhawks, Thomas had a variety of jobs in the athletic word. He was a summer athletic intern with the San Francisco 49ers and Seattle Seahawks and then a seasonal athletic training intern with the Chicago Bears for a season.

His stint with the Blackhawks has been a successful one and included Thomas being named the 2010 Illinois



Freshmen D.J. Tomcal and Maclain O’Leary stand proudly with Fr. David Cullings and their new Chicago Blackhawks paraphernalia sent from Marist grad Jeff Thomas ’94, a blackhawk trainer. photo by Jackson Bedbury ’13



Jeff Thomas’ senior picture from the 1994 yearbook. Thomas is now an athletic trainer for the Chicago Blackhawks.

Athletic trainer of the year.

After finding his information, Cullings emailed Thomas, explaining the desk that O’Leary had discovered when Cullings was substituting. He also told him about another freshman boy, DJ Tomcal, who lives and breathes the Blackhawks. Cullings had spotted the freshman wearing a Blackhawk t-shirt in the courtyard at break, and in typical fashion, poked fun at the logo. Thomas, ecstatic to hear from an old friend, asked for the names and addresses of the boys and quickly mailed t-shirts and a few extra magazines for Tomcal.

Cullings and Thomas have been keeping in touch ever since and Thomas has continued giving Tomcal updates on the players and sending Blackhawk magazines.

Tomcal, a lifelong Blackhawks fanatic, was thrilled about Cullings inside connection to the hockey team and expressed the meaning behind Thomas’ actions.

“I am very grateful,” expressed Tomcal of the chance encounter.

SPORTS EDITORIAL

## An Amazing Era

By Zachary James Silva

What the Oregon Ducks are experiencing right now transcends what many fans thought was even possible. They are not only winning but winning at such a level of dominance they have become an empire of success.

With this winning the Ducks have embraced the national spotlight with open arms and are continuously showing that they are the real deal. They are showing that it is not a fluke that this school from Eugene is doing so well. The Ducks are showing that this is not just a bunch of flashy uniforms or just a couple teams experiencing success. They are showing that this is the way things are.

This is Oregon and winning has become not a freak occurrence but an annual expectation. And right now, in this very moment the Oregon Ducks are living in the greatest period of athletic success that this university has ever seen.

As a collective unit the Oregon sports teams have done things that goes beyond what many thought possible as they, in seemingly every sport, are achieving success.

Of the University of Oregon’s 18 NCAA recognized varsity sports, the Ducks are ranked in 11 of those sports. And the average ranking of those teams is 5.6.

Yes that is correct, the Ducks almost average a top five finish in the majority of the sports that they play. That is a mind-blowing statistic. A school performing at such a high level in so many sports as the Ducks have is beyond rational thought.

And that is without mentioning the NCATA sanctioned sport of Acrobatics and Tumbling in which the Ducks are back-to-back national champions and looking to win the 2013 crown at the end of this month.

But stop and think about that average ranking of 5.6. It is successful if a school has even a few teams who crack the top 25 rankings in sports but this level of dominance is unprecedented. I dare you, nay, challenge anyone to find a current division one school who can boast numbers like this.

But those rankings are from this year. How do we know that the Ducks success is going to continue? How do we know that this year isn’t the pinnacle of University of Oregon success?

Well, never fear a completely subjective (yet I assume) quite accurate team-by-team break down is here! And by team-by-team I mean as many words as I am allowed to write in this column.

Track and Field (Outdoor):

While the men haven’t won a championship since 1984 the team has won the conference title for the past six seasons. And after beating number 1 ranked Texas A&M at home in the Pepsi Invitational, the Ducks are looking to snag that elusive title come June. It also helps that the meet will be held at Hayward.

As for the women, they have been ridiculously dominant. This year’s indoor track and field title marked their fourth team title in a row. In addition they also won the cross-country team title this past fall. Maybe just maybe this is the year that they win the triple crown.

Baseball:

2009 brought in the first season of Duck baseball since 1981. Despite some objection from fans to have a baseball team in place of the wrestling team and others wanting a men’s soccer team (that may have just been me... A column for a different day) the team finally began.

In the debut season the Ducks were a forgettable 14-42 but each season since they have gotten better. Last season the Ducks lost in the super regional to Kent State. Just one win away from going to Omaha to have a chance to play for the College World Series. This season things have been even better than they were last year and the Ducks started the season at 14th in the AP poll. They continued to climb and are now currently 7th while they are in 2nd place in the Pac-12 standings.

Basketball:

After a surprising 2012-13 basketball campaign, it sure feels like basketball is back in Eugene. The combination of an incredible coach, a sensational group of young players and the nicest facilities in the country have finally created an Oregon team that is starting to win some games. On top of that these guys don’t seem to be going anywhere anytime soon. And after the Ducks were predicted to finish 7th in the Pac-12, Oregon, ya know, just went on to the sweet sixteen where they lost to the eventual champion.

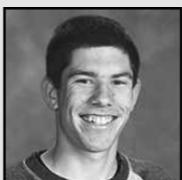
Football:

Sometimes they like to win stuff.

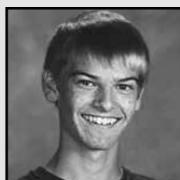
It certainly feels like this is the greatest time ever to be a Duck fan.

## SUPERSTITIOUS SPARTANS

Junior Drew Anderson must drink a Pepsi before each game



Sophomore Jordan Gorman must have all the zippers on his tennis bag on the same side



Junior Madison Penn and senior Lauren Sibole spray themselves with “magic spray” before each match



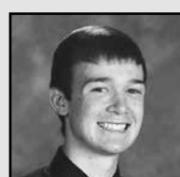
Junior Cam Jack must readjust his hat after every play



Freshman Kristen Behrends taps the plate in a triangular pattern before every pitch



Senior Jed Peterson keeps good luck crystals in golf bag



Freshman Sam Scherer must wear tall socks to race



Halie Lawrence has her hair in a French braid for each game



Senior Amelia Barker keeps five ball markers in her pocket and three tees in her ponytail at all times



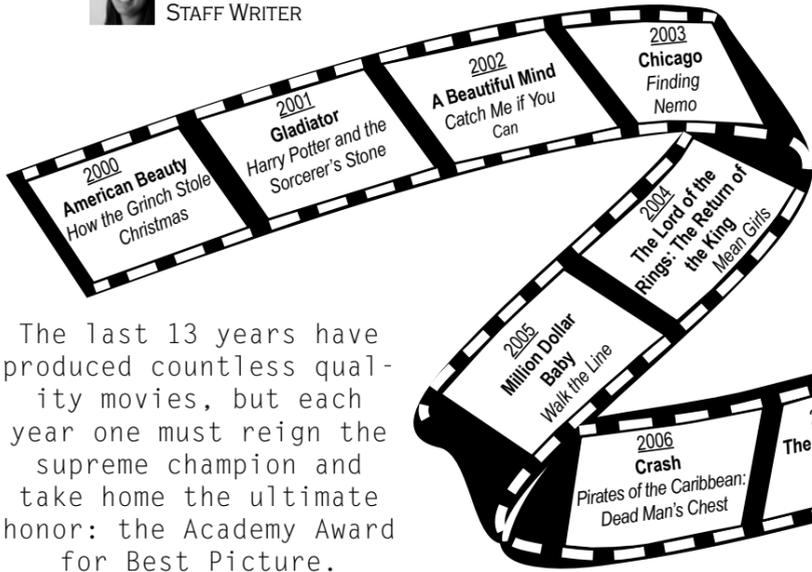
Junior Brianna Kempf doesn’t like to know the height of the bar before she high jumps



By Meghan Gescher  
GUEST WRITER

# The greatest movies of this century

By Sarah Zebrowski  
STAFF WRITER



But growing up during this time, we may not always agree with the chosen winner. What eight-year-old would choose Chicago over Finding Nemo?

So I created a list of the top movies I saw over the past 13 years to compare winners.

The last 13 years have produced countless quality movies, but each year one must reign the supreme champion and take home the ultimate honor: the Academy Award for Best Picture.

The Oscar winning movies are **bold** while those in *italics* show my choices. Those with one movie mean I agree with the Oscar.

## What's your academic style?

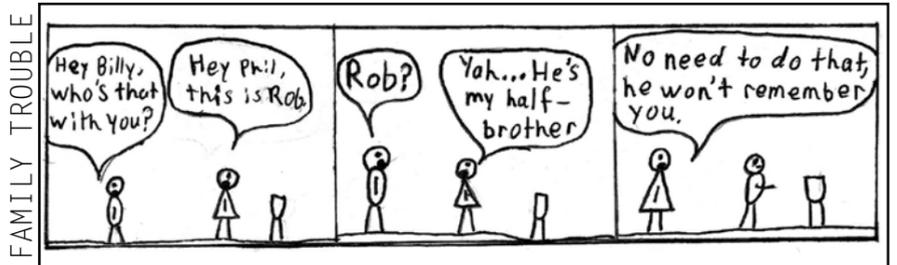
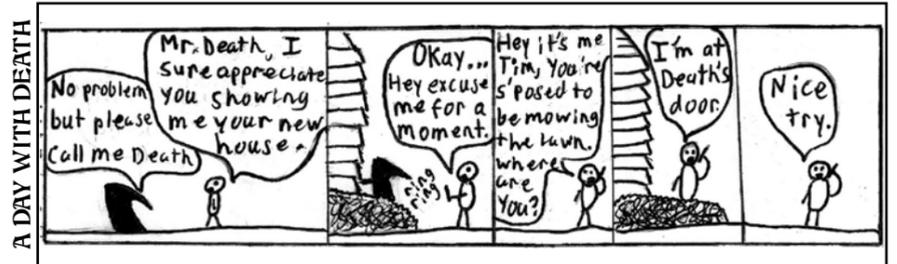
By Chris Keylock  
STAFF WRITER

- When you have weekend homework you...
  - Do it Friday evening, then go to bed at exactly 9 p.m. after watching NOVA.
  - Spend all day Saturday and Sunday in your favorite cycle of food, Netflix, and naps, and then scramble to finish it late Sunday night.
  - Might do it sometime, but probably not.
- If a due date is one week away you...
  - Get it done the day it is assigned and then finish all of your college applications two years in advance.
  - Finish everything that was due last week then forget about it indefinitely.
  - Eventually get around to starting it...finishing it is not so easy.
- Your time in the ARC is spent...
  - Alone at a table reading about Stem Cell research.
  - Watching four hours of YouTube videos.
  - Catching up on your cat naps.
- Your assigned 400-800 word essay is...
  - Exactly 800 words, printed on high grade paper with a new ink cartridge, and presented in a folder.
  - Barely 400 words in 13 pt. font, 2.5 spaced and printed two minutes before class.
  - Titled with your name.
- During summer you...
  - Finish your summer homework on the first day, and then begin your three-month internship at Yale's Anthropology Research Center.
  - Catch up on your Minecraft addiction, and then stay up until 5 a.m. the night before school finishing your homework.
  - Listen to Maroon 5 while watching the fish in your aquarium live their fish lives.

If you answered 3 or more of these questions with an A, then you are an **Overachiever**.  
If you answered 3 or more of these questions with a B, then you are a **Procrastinator**.  
If you answered 3 or more of these questions with a C, then you are **Apathetic**.  
If you do not qualify for any of the above descriptions then you are **Indecisive**.

By Joe Lauer  
GUEST WRITER

# COMICS



## SUMMER'S SPRING TIME JUMBLE

By Summer Xia

NBOTSARIO  
  
 LUTSPI  
  
 HOLERIWAPSS  
  
 DWIYN



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# STUDENTS of the ISSUE

## FRESHMEN

**Lexy Neale**

*If one of the Disney Princesses/Princesses were real, who would you choose to live happily ever after with?*  
 "Prince Charming from Sleeping Beauty <3."  
*If you could be a sibling of any celebrity, what celebrity would it be?*  
 "Be related to James Roday from Psych."  
*If you could communicate with any type of animal which one would you pick?*  
 "Dog. 'Woof.'"  
*Would you rather have the power to pause time or to travel back in time?*  
 "Pause time, so I could go to a Justin Bieber concert, and pause time and get on stage."



**Ben Hayes**

*If one of the Disney Princesses/Princesses were real, who would you choose to live happily ever after with?*  
 "Belle from Beauty and the Beast."  
*If you could be a sibling of any celebrity, what celebrity would it be?*  
 "John Mayer."  
*If you could communicate with any type of animal which one would you pick?*  
 "Birds."  
*Would you rather have the power to pause time or to travel back in time?*  
 "Travel back in time."

## JUNIORS

**Maddie Thompson**

*If you could own any baby animal which one would it be?*  
 "Simba!"  
*If you had single button beside your bed that did one thing, what would you want it to do?*  
 "Soundproof my walls so I can't hear my brother and sisters fighting."  
*If you could travel back in time to any era which one would you choose?*  
 "Ancient Greece."  
*If you had to choose to be anyone of the opposite of gender for a week, who would you choose?*  
 "Hugh Jackman."



**Matt Thompson**

*If you could own any baby animal which one would it be?*  
 "Baby human."  
*If you had a single button beside your bed that did one thing, what would you want it to do?*  
 "Press itself."  
*If you could travel back in time to any era which one would you choose?*  
 "Tomorrow."  
*If you had to choose to be anyone of the opposite of gender for a week, who would you choose?*  
 "Nikki Mirhosseyni."

## SOPHOMORES

**Mitchell Young**

*If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be?*  
 "Santa Monica, California."  
*What is one concert you want to see before you die?*  
 "Three Days Grace."  
*If you could choose anyone from this school to be your partner in the Hunger Games, who would you choose?*  
 "Mr. Haggard because I'm pretty sure he could tear someone in half."  
*If you could have an accent for a day which one would you choose?*  
 "Australian."  
*If you had to eliminate one emotion from your life, which one would it be?*  
 "Envy."



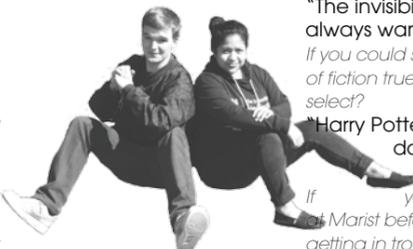
**Victoria Richards**

*If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be?*  
 "A sloth community in the Himalayas."  
*What is one concert you want to see before you die?*  
 "Ladysmith Black Mambazo."  
*If you could choose anyone from this school to be your partner in the Hunger Games, who would you choose?*  
 "Obviously I'd choose a Russian...Luba Kalstad."  
*If you could have an accent for a day which one would you choose?*  
 "Jamaican."  
*If you had to eliminate one emotion from your life, which one would it be?*  
 "Sadness."

## SENIORS

**Joe McLaughlin**

*If you could have any of the Deathly Hallows, which one would you choose?*  
 "What is this from? Harry Potter? What do I look like, an angst pre-teen?"  
*If you could suddenly make one work of fiction true, what book would you select?*  
 "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs."  
*If you could do one thing at Marist before you graduate without getting in trouble, what would it be?*  
 "Play video games in class."  
*If you could walk a day in one of your classmate's shoes, who would it be?*  
 "That's just weird, I don't want to be someone else."



**Klayna Palacios**

*If you could have any of the Deathly Hallows, which one would you choose?*  
 "The invisibility cloak because I've always wanted to be invisible..."  
*If you could suddenly make one work of fiction true, what book would you select?*  
 "Harry Potter of course! Hands down! Who doesn't want to attend Hogwarts?"  
*If you could do one thing at Marist before you graduate without getting in trouble, what would it be?*  
 "I'd want to throw a giant Project X party at Marist."  
*If you could walk a day in one of your classmate's shoes, who would it be?*  
 "A person who has the same size shoes as me? Yuming's would be nice :)."

# LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Zach  
 Why did you quit track for tennis? Do you have a problem with short shorts or something?  
 -Cool Track Running Freshman

Dear Ryan,  
 As much as I love running, I have also learned that I love not running even more. Never fear though, my love for short shorts still runs deep and I often practice tennis in running shorts. I get some weird looks...  
 -Zachary

Dear Alex,  
 Why does it seem like you spend all your time on newspaper?  
 -Dumb Yearbook Editor

Dear Paul,  
 The newspaper is an excellent piece of literary craftsmanship and we staff do our best to bring the hard hitting facts to the Marist community. Also it's a good time. Except for the times we spend staring at computers at ungodly hours of the night. Good times...  
 -Alex

DEAR ZACH AND JACKSON,  
 SO SORRY I BACKED OUT OF JUDGING MR. SPARTAN AT THE LAST MINUTE. HAD TO WALK THE DOG

AND FEED THE SNAKE. NOW YOU KNOW HOW USC FELT.  
 -BLACK MOMBA

Dear Momba,  
 We understand you had to practice your pre-game dance routine, so we aren't terribly hurt. Would you be willing to make it up to us by coming to our graduation day tailgate? June 8 in the Marist parking lot.  
 -Zach and Jackson

Dear Monica,  
 How are you planning on surviving the dreaded Cento in Oldham's AP lit class? I need a game plan...  
 -Pro Procrastinator

Dear Kenzie,  
 I'm still not clear on the whole "Cento" concept, so I will probably figure that out late at night in the Knight Library. Maybe I'll send you some inspirational selfie Snapchats from my non-smart phone to pump you up while I'm there.  
 -Mooncat

Dear Zach,  
 Remember that one time you showed up late to prom? Everyone else does.  
 -Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,  
 No comment.

On the other hand, if you know someone that enjoys Hoagies-R-U's, does not mind me being late and will enjoy my comments about how good I look in a tux let me know cause I still need a date...  
 -Zachary

Dear Alex,  
 I understand you will be attending Kenyon College next fall. I was just curious if they are aware of their misspelling of their name.  
 -Kenjon Barner

Dear Kenjon,  
 I believe that there has also been some

confusion with the name of a country in Africa in addition to your name. As a future student at the school, I will be sure I inquire about these misspellings.  
 -A future student of Kenjon College

Dear Jackson,  
 How are you so good looking? Do you wear makeup?  
 -Truett Hanes

Dear Truett,  
 Makeup floods your body with chemicals and clogs your pores. This is all natural.  
 -Jackson

