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Whitewater rafting, rollercoasters and more. P.11

The Sanjo

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Get your fashion on

School Spirit Week brings back decades-old fads and a hint of silliness

Sarah Gane
Staff Writer



Rachel Miller and Kirsten Edwards display their big hair

Monday: Crazy hair/Clash Day

Bad hair. Colored hair. Ratted hair. Suddenly, it became fashionable to put any kind of gunk in your hair that would make it stand straight up, stick out, or look as disgusting as hair possibly can. The variety with which this was done was amazing, but that wasn't all. If bad hair wasn't bad enough, mismatched clothes and clashing styles added to the effect. For those who hadn't had time to make themselves look extraordinarily odd, hair-spray and a comb was passed around to remedy their normal appearances. When the day finally ended and the hair-spray began losing its hold, students returned home to wash out the remnants of dye and gel. The rest, with hair-do's still intact, reentered civilization only to become sources of entertainment on sight.



A small nerd herd: Whitney, Michael, and Erica

Tuesday: Nerd Day

Either you are or you aren't, but today, everyone was. Stereotype met liberated self-expression: enter the ultra-nerds. Intelligence was never the butt of the joke, just the packages it came in. Pocket protectors, floods, taped glasses, and plaid shirts were seen everywhere.



Jessica, Rachellyne, Kimmie, and Mar-lisa in a time warp

Wednesday: Retro Day

80's, 90's-oh, and the 1800's are okay too. The phrase "anything goes" was taken to heart, and the dream to go to school as a hippie, pirate, Goth, etc. came true. Suddenly parents' closets were worth looking at, and the evidence of the early morning raids showed in the outfits from the 70's and 80's. Even the juniors, who took tests the majority of the day, participated, though the extravagant outfits were cloistered away for a while during testing.



Rachel Brantley, Simone Weithers and Laura Miller decide it's Triplet Day

Thursday: Twin Day

Everybody wishes for an evil twin at least once in their lives. Today the wish was granted, and Andrews Academy turned out approximately 130 sets of twins. As to who was the evil one...we'll leave that up to you.

Friday: Dress-up Day

School Spirit Week ended on a graceful note. The creative outfits were put aside and dress clothes took to the halls where high-waters and pink hair had once been. The Alumni were duly impressed with the sophistication of the attire; little knowing what had previously been showcased. The week ended with the usual pictures taken and posted.



Brittany Tanke (above); Zeth Caldwell and Givan Hinds.



A year to remember: Shydepoke 07

The convocation was over. The career seminars were finished, and it was Saturday night. As the sun set, people were arriving at Sylvester Field, starting up the popcorn maker, finding good seats in the bleachers, and testing out the PA system.

Shortly, spectators began trickling through the gate, where admission was either a dollar or a gently used blanket. The girls' game was played first, with a team of Kristen Edwards, Kylee Cave, Lauren Lane, Lauren Snell, Bertha Iancu, Paola Caceres, Jessica Constantine, Amanda Sheppler, Erika Rishaug, Kali Jardine, Rose Vargas, Jessica Anzures, Lauren Olson, Tinelle Jardine, and Richelle Ulery.. The alumni girls were good competitors, but they were no match for the school girls, who won with an amazing score of 36 to 0.

Meanwhile, for those not interested in the game, a pickup game of football had started in one of the far corners of the field. The snack shed, where the junior class handed out popcorn and hot chocolate as fast as they could make it, was swarming with hungry fans. Every so often, whenever the announcers felt like it, "YMCA" would play over the loudspeakers, and a handful of people did the motions, but stopped the



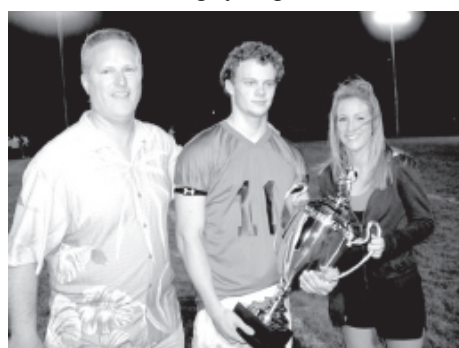
fourth or fifth time the song played.

In between the girls' and guys' game, the field cleared. Spectators were surprised to see Matthew Schwer and Michael Hernandez carrying Carlos Velasquez out onto the field in one of Mr. Sherman's desks. Phil Giddings and Ivan Ruiz were right behind them with their trumpets. As the announcer told the spectators about the sad condition of the desks in Mr. Sherman's room and asked for donations towards new ones, Ivan and Phil played "Taps" in memory of the desks which were soon to be buried, and various Andrews Academy students passed out envelopes for donations. Then Carlos and his desk were carried off the field, and the guys' game commenced. The guys' team



was made up of Steven Mauro, Richard Davisson, Johnny Jorgensen, Willie Lewis, Christian Tchamba, Joshua Faehner, Michael Fernandez, Ben Weakley, Brock Vance, Andrew Kutzner, Ben Quartey, Nic Reichert, and Joey DeAugust.

Some said the guys' game was more



interesting than the girls' game, perhaps owing to the skill of the players. The score was not as impressive as the girls' score, but this year was one of the first years in a long time that the school guys were close behind the alumni. And then in the last few minutes of the game, something amazing happened. Willie Lewis scored a touchdown that put the school ahead of the alumni. Spectators alternated between asking, "Are we 'home' or 'away'?" and "Are we actually winning?" Everyone held their breath as the clock ticked down the final seconds- this could be the year the school guys won. And then the clock stopped with three seconds remaining. The alumni were dangerously close to their end of the field. Once the clock started, they made the most of that position, scoring the final touchdown with only three seconds left. The score was now 20-20. The alumni got a second kick, and made the score 21-20. Groans from academy students were heard across the field as the announcer recapped the final scores for both games. Then the MVP awards were presented, going to Steven Mauro and Kristen Edwards, and for the first time in a long time, Shydepoke was over- before midnight.

38 Things I enjoyed about Leadership Conference

Samantha Snively
Editor



Leadership Conference was a trip I will never forget; it changed how I think and act in so many ways. I just thought I'd share some of the lighter memories.

1. Brock's carton of juice
2. The roadside stop!
3. Discussing the subconscious mind
4. The colors of the leaves as we pulled into Camp AuSable
5. The evening meetins with Jason North
6. The afterglows
7. Walking around the lake taking pictures
8. Trying to manage a canoe without knowing how
9. The Agape Feast
10. Writing the song in Sabbath School
11. Jason North's sermon on Sabbath
12. The acorn war
13. Watching lightning out over the lake with all the lights off on Friday night
14. Jessica's 'story'
15. Running around the pavilion and touching elbows
16. Trying to get six people on two legs and succeeding
17. Sinclair's pink hat
18. Winning the Jeopardy game
19. The rest of Saturday night
20. Sara dancing around with the tongs
21. The GLAA kid that randomly showed up at our table
22. Singing "The Sound of Music" in the van Saturday night
23. The basketball kid
24. "Mmm, preach it!"
25. Peeling grapes
26. The dancing contest in a gas station parking lot
27. Praying and having it mean something
28. Being blessed
29. Christian getting hit in the head with an acorn
30. Eating contests
31. Panera Bread's Asiago cheese bagels
32. Being able to sleep on the bus
33. Rachel's random comments
34. Mrs. Butler's 'bedtime stories'
35. "Don't look at me! Don't look at me!"
36. Discovering ways to be a better leader
37. Making new friends
38. Growing closer to God

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This I believe . . . or do I?

One student's search for purpose and faith

Jason Lemon
Staff Writer

As I sit staring at some plastic contraption that monotonously funnels very thick gel like liquid through a small hole into another part of the container—very similar to an hour glass—I'm trying to think of some inspired words to share. I could write about my depressed mood, my apathy for life, and my ever-increasing lack of motivation - somehow tying in a cliché spiritual application. Or maybe I could make up some very meaningful and humorous words that would get you at the end with a shocking religious conclusion. However, as I attempt to write, neither of these are the course I am going to take.

"Walking back to the perfectly arranged frontroom where I was supposed to find some trivial details to fix, I realized that Saturday was Sabbath. In my conversation this fact had barely entered my thoughts. It took a couple of seconds for this to sink in."

Instead I am going to tell you a short story; I'm going to share with you a brief moment from my life. One Wednesday evening as I was working, utterly bored because of the lack anything at all productive to do, I wandered towards the cash register of the store to chat with the girl working behind it. She was equally bored and we consoled each other with our complaining.

Then she suddenly had a realization and, with an awkward smile, she asked me if I could perhaps cover one of her shifts. Laughing, I asked her what day and time the shift was. She told me it was Saturday, from five to ten in the evening. Thinking for a moment, I realized I had made plans already. Apologizing, I told her I wouldn't be able to do it.

Walking back to the perfectly arranged front room where I was supposed to find some trivial details to fix, I realized that Saturday was Sabbath. In my conversation this fact had barely entered my thoughts. It took a couple of seconds for this to sink in. Now I don't know how you feel or how you were raised, but I was raised to "Remember the Sabbath. . . . In it you shall do no work" (Exodus 20:8, 10.) However, do not think that this editorial is about how to keep the Sabbath; instead, it is about *believing*.

My whole life I have been raised with these rules and beliefs, but now that I'm eighteen my world perspective is changing. I've made choices—good and bad. In fact, over the last couple years of my life, I've done little that truly follows the principles I have grown up with. You see, when I started high school I was at a point where I began to question everything, and that has pretty much been the trend the past three and a half years. This year though, it is all coming to a head.

I'm eighteen and I'm becoming more and more independent every day. Next school year I'll most likely be in a dorm, either here locally or somewhere across the country. So, I guess what I'm saying is: when am I going to decide what I believe? My parents don't make me go to church, and I usually go anyway. Why do I do that? I don't currently work on Saturdays. Will I do that in the future? My parents have raised me to believe in God and to follow the principles of the Bible. Do I believe in God for myself or because it is a habit?

When we are young, we are sheltered—especially in the community we live

in—but that is not going to last forever. I'm reaching the point where there isn't much shelter anymore and it is up to me to decide. Someday we are all going to have to reach that point, but maybe it seems like something we don't need to concern ourselves with right now. You know, it is just one of those things that you'll work out later, right?

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The thing is that these very short four years of high school are the years that shape who we are for the rest of our lives. This is the time when we make these decisions about our lives, whether it is subconscious or deliberate.

So I'm just curious, and I thought maybe I would just throw the question out there, but what do *you* believe?

The *Sanjo* is the official publication of Andrews Academy. Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of Andrews Academy nor its administration. Editorials are written by the Editor unless otherwise noted. Unsolicited signed letters of up to 300 words or longer guest columns after prior arrangement with the editorial staff are welcome, but may be edited for space. Please send your submissions to the editor at angelfish09@gmail.com.

Some things never change

Jason Lemon
Staff Writer

Every year at registration for Alumni Weekend there are a few tables set up displaying different things that could be of interest. One of the tables is dedicated to our fine paper—the *SANJO*. Sabbath morning as Alumni entered in through the Gym, I sat behind this table covered with ancient issues. Scanning through the pile I skimmed through articles from the eighties, seventies and nineties. Then with amazement my fingers brushed across 1947 issue of the paper.

This was from a time before the name *SANJO* was even created. The paper was in fact instead called *The Tattler*. With great curiosity I flipped through the few pages to grasp some insight into the history of our school. What I discovered was shocking but perhaps it shouldn't have been. You see, back in 1947, things weren't that much different. The editor complained of disrespect in chapel and pointed out the reasons why this was an issue. Also they commented on how lack of motivation in school would become a problem throughout the year and encouraged students to fight it. Articles discussed silly plays performed in Assembly programs and basketball games at social events. One of the more shocking things was a brief mention of films that were played at a school recreation night.

It may be strange to imagine how our parents were in high school or even more strange to consider that our grandparents were that age once as well. In fact as I sat behind that table reading the 1947 issue an elderly woman came up to the table smiling. She pointed to the paper and said, "I was on staff that year." With awe I looked up at her. Looking down at the table she picked up another issue from 1949 and said, "Ah, yes. This is the year I was editor." Eagerly she flipped through the few pages.

A while later a man, probably close to thirty, came up to the table and began looking through the issues. Finding one he was looking for he pulled it out and laughed. "This one took forever to lay out. It was hard work, I remember."

With greater interest I began to look at the old papers more in depth, learning about the day-to-day lives of students from decades ago. Yet I couldn't help thinking that even though years separated these writers from us today, their stories patterned the events



of our lives greatly. As I kept reading, I found poorly written articles and articles that kept my attention. I read about SA Elections that one person thought were "too competitive" and about educational tours from years past. It was fascinating to see how similar things still are. There are still the same problems and the same issues to work out. I've realized that no matter what we may have heard from our parents or seen in the movies, at this age, everyone goes through the same stuff. Yes, the times and circumstances are different, but people at the core aren't really all that different and some things just don't change.

"It may be strange to imagine how our parents were in high school or even more strange to consider that our grandparents were that age once as well."

What is a leader? AA leaders answer the question

Samantha Snively

"What role does prayer play in a leader's life?" That was the question posed to us at Thursday evening's afterglow. Over the next three days, we discovered the answer- and we discovered our potential, new friends, and we discovered God.

After a stop at Apple Valley and one very urgent stop by the side of the road, we arrived at Camp AuSable. It was warm and the leaves were changing color. It was beautiful. We arrived in time for supper, and then it was time for the evening meeting. The speaker for the weekend, Jason North, talked about God using bad things in our life to get our attention, and used his own story as well as the story of Jonah to illustrate his point.

At the afterglow, after singing "I Want to Know You More", Mrs. Butler talked about using prayer as a way of telling God 'where we were at'. The next day started bright and early with an irritating rendition of the morning song. This annoyance aside, we looked forward to the meetings. North related a story from his college years and told us that we have more influence over our friends than we think.

The rest of the morning and the early part of the afternoon were spent in meetings. Most of the groups were large- but the one for newspaper editors was not. Our small group came to a grand total of four, instructor included. But we threw around ideas, played with InDesign, and discussed how to write a good article.

After the meetings were over, it was time for recreation. Some went go-carting, some walked around the lake, and the majority of the group went canoeing. "We kept going in circles with no direction, but with teamwork we did it- kind of like our spiritual lives," said Chioma Tait of canoeing. Then it was time to prepare for Sabbath, and go to the evening meeting. North told the story of how God used a personal tragedy in his life to get his attention, and called for those who wanted to commit to being a spiritual leader on their campuses. After a prayer, we went to the agape feast. The cafeteria was transformed, with candles on the tables and leaves scattered on the tables. We talked, laughed, and ate fruit while growing closer

to each other.

As we walked down the beach to the afterglow, we noticed that there was lightning far off in the distance, flashing from behind the clouds. We talked about our perceptions of God, and how we prayed to Him as little children as opposed to now.

Afterwards, we turned the lights off and looked at the stars and the lightning over the lake, and thought. Phil Giddings said, "As I watched the lightning that night, I felt a closeness to God I'd never really felt before. It was like He was saying, 'I'm here, and I've been here, and I'm not going anywhere.'"

Sabbath School was presented by the Andrews University worship team, and the theme was prioritizing God. After a special music by Sara Goodwin, Marlisa Salulimbong, and Erica Evans, we divided into various groups. Different 'stations' such as a skit, play-doh sculptures, and a song illustrated the need to put God first in everything, and the consequences of leaving Him out.

Jason North opened his sermon with, "It could always be worse," as he mopped his forehead in the unseasonal heat. He then

told three different stories of how God had stepped in and given him chances- and all of them involved run-ins with the law. He told of how he finally came to Christ, after rejecting Him for so long.

After lunch and the usual group pictures, we had several hours to do what we liked. Because it was so hot, most people just stayed in their cabins. But Mrs. Butler coerced us into walking around the lake. However, we ended up taking more pictures than actually walking.

Later that afternoon, Mrs. Butler elaborated on the subject of prayer in a leader's life. "It's our connection with God, who helps us figure out how to handle the struggles we'll go through as leaders. He gives us the wisdom and courage to make the decisions," Marlisa said.

After vespers, it was time for recreation, presented by Andrews University. We were divided into 3 groups and sent to 3 different stations. My group was sent to the pavilion for a lot of running and teamwork activities. As Erica Evans said, "When you're sitting on someone's shoulders, you get to know them pretty quickly!"

Next was a trivia-racing game that involved

faulty clickers, which made for lots of friendly competition. Finally, we were sent to a game of Jeopardy, presided over by Erick Quinones and friends. My team (Maverick, Christian, Chioma, Erica and I) won the game with an astonishing amount of points.

Before we went to bed, we all gathered by the river and told each other what we valued about each other. After a prayer and a group hug, we proceeded to stay up until all hours of the night- or rather, the next morning. (Consequently, everyone slept on the bus ride back.) After breakfast, a quick devotional, and dish duty, we were on the road back home.

The experience was enlightening and inspiring for all, and we all got something out of it to put to use in our lives. Said Rachel Miller, "It was the best academy trip I've ever been on- there wasn't a moment where I thought it was boring. I made friends with people I didn't know and bonded with old friends. I found out just how much of an influence I have, and how much more our school could become with good leadership."



One fad that's sure to change the WORLD

Kimie Escotto & Tyler Gustavsen
Guest Writers

Recently, the fad seems to be helping the environment. This might mean "going green" by recycling, buying hybrids, or using cloth grocery bags. Like many consumers, you may be interested in buying products that are less harmful to the environment. You've probably seen products with such "green" claims as "environmentally safe," "recyclable," "degradable," or "ozone friendly." While people have become very sympathetic to the environment, there is an absence of social concern when it comes to the community. Sometimes we search for the "big" projects that we hope will give us that inner satisfaction of knowing that we have made a difference. Unfortunately, we tend to forget that even the smallest things can make the greatest difference. Service for others does not always have to be exciting or glamorous. Following is a list of organizations that provide opportunities for service to the community. Contact names and numbers are provided, and we urge you to take advantage of this resource.



As the facilities coordinator and receptionist at PMC, Sue Rappette is very eager to get a community service program started with Andrews Academy. She believes in a more personal service by helping out at food banks or visiting and reading to the elderly. With a warm heart and an open mind, she is ready to welcome anyone who wants to help those around the immediate community. You can contact her at the PMC office (471.3133) or through her email: srappette@andrews.edu

What can YOU Do?!



Our local Salvation Army, located in Benton Harbor, MI, has an active program that is heavily involved with the community. There you can find Captain Ruth, the new head for The SA location, who wants to get more young people involved with service. This year there will be a Christmas giveaway and it's a great time to share with your friends and family while helping others by sending them home with food baskets, toys, and clothing just in time for the holiday season. For more information you may contact Captain Ruth at 269.325.7798



Big Brothers Big Sisters matches children ages 6 through 18 with mentors in their immediate community. Playing games, helping out with homework, or simply having a little one-on-one time with your

"Little" can make a world of difference not only in the life that you are helping, but in yours, too. Generally, the age limit to become a Big Brother or Sister is 18, but there are areas where high schools have created programs so their students may mentor kids in Junior High. It's a great program and an awesome way to make a positive impact on the younger generation. You may contact our local agency in Niles, MI to get more information. (269) 684-1100

Every morning at 9, volunteer groups come to cook food for those who enjoy fellowship & a good hot meal. For more information on how you can help, please contact the soup kitchen at: 616-925-8204. Or visit them on the web at: <http://www.bhsoupkitchen.org>



A new effort to rally Americans to fight the emergency of global AIDS and extreme poverty, ONE intends to raise public awareness about the issues of global poverty, hunger, disease and efforts to fight such problems in the world's poorest countries. Add your voice; all you have to do is sign a declaration. For more info go to www.one.org

Millions of dollars, thousands of walkers, and just one goal: ending multiple sclerosis. When you sign up to be an MS walker, you get sponsored by others and raise money towards the research funds to find a cure for multiple sclerosis. For more info visit: www.nationalmssociety.org



Faith in action

Nestor Galla
Guest Writer

Many people ask what it means to act on faith. Do we really know what faith is, and does it spur us into action?

There is a story of an old beggar lady and random acts of kindness. The story begins with the lady begging near the house of a Nepali couple, Gautam and Rekah. Everyday as Rekah took the children to school she would ask the lady if she needed anything. The lady would respond "a little food is all I need". Rekah would give her some rice and anything else she had on hand, but one day Rekah found the lady almost sickly from the monsoon rain, and by the time Rekah ran to get her husband, the

lady was unconscious. They gave the poor lady some clothes because her ragged sari had been stolen, and they put her in a nearby shelter. For the next week Gautam and Rekah took care of the old lady told them her tragic story.

She had been abused by her husband and she explained that although she had children they had poor families themselves and she couldn't afford taking away from them so she left to beg on the streets. Eventually, Rekah and Gautam's involvement with the old lady brought attention to their family. In response to their generosity, the neighbors said that all they were doing was making an invitation for trouble from the police because she

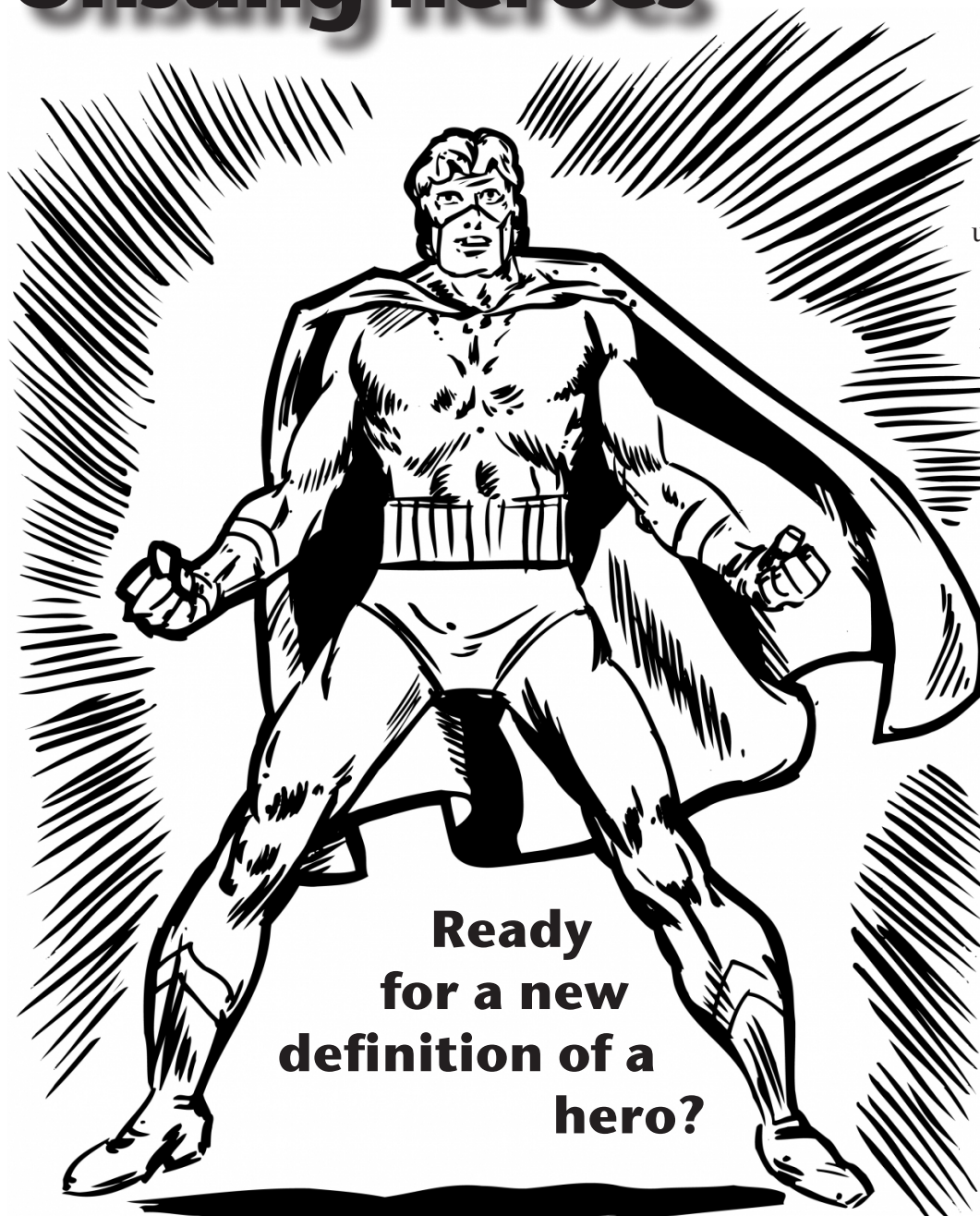
was a social outcast. Gautam stated that if "Christian faith is not a test of our ability but an indicator of our credibility". He and his wife defied neighbors and continued to nurture the old woman unfortunately, the woman died shortly after.

It is evident from the story that Gautam and Rekah were doing these acts out of faith, but does faith really have any affect on what people do and can someone accomplish the same tasks without faith? And the truth is that you will never get the same outcome as if when you do something with faith, just for the simple reason that faith does more than just what the eye can see.

Taking a look at Gautam and Rekah's selfless acts of kindness

you can see how many people were affected by them, including the neighbors who criticized them but it doesn't just stop there. Gautam and Rekah affected everybody they came in touch with and it was something they couldn't have done by themselves, but only with faith because faith is a form of testifying and a tool to minister. Faith is something that spreads because people enjoy it and something good that carves the world. So does faith affect service? And the answer is, yes, it does because the only goal for a Christian doing service with faith is to help out others, now the only question left standing is does faith affect you?

Unsung heroes



Ashley Gent & Ryan McGrath
Guest Writers

What comes to mind when you think of a hero? Superman? Batman? Maybe even your mom or dad?

There are heroes in our community that often go unnoticed. They don't wear capes or flash gleaming smiles like other super heroes. Instead, they are more likely to resemble a superhero's mild-mannered counterpart: perhaps a bit shy, indistinguishable in a crowd, content to just blend in.

Gregory Church and Mr. Cleon White are two such heroes. They are the kind of people who have characteristics that are hard to find: selfless service and humility. Behind their mild-mannered exteriors, however, beats a heart that longs to change the world – one person at a time.

Mr. White has been called “Saint Cleon” for all his dedication and hard work, and humbly says in response “We are all saints”. One of the many things that Mr. White does is, simply, run the school, ensuring a good education and a positive Christian environment in order

to prepare lives for heaven, as he sometimes says.

Mr. White would like to encourage students to be more socially responsible by choosing a goal and working toward it, and to not be afraid to achieve it and submit themselves to the heavenly father.

Greg Church, a quiet, unassuming person, doesn't boast about all the places he has been to or all the things that he is involved with. It takes probing to discover that he has been to Nicaragua, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, St. Louis, MO, Zambia, and South Africa, and to places affected by Hurricane Katrina. Greg has done mission work, evangelistic series, and has helped out with the Katrina Relief.

Speaking of social responsibility, Greg says “Our society is built on social responsibility; when you stop helping other people, you have a more narrow-minded view of things that people go through.” He also says that “If you find a love for people, you'll want to be more socially responsible.”

Mr. White and Greg are the kind of people that make this world a brighter place to live in. They are the true heroes of this planet, the ones who think of others before themselves and act on their beliefs no matter what people think.

Let your passion be your guide:

One AA student's story of discovering her inner leader

Jessica Anzures
Guest Writer

Have you ever had a tug at your heart or a gut feeling to do something or help in some way that you considered important? These are feelings that I experienced toward the end of my junior year in high school. Little did I know that acting on those feelings would take me to lengths I never imagined. I never thought I had what it takes to be a leader at Andrews Academy, but I've learned that it is a process that begins with an idea. This is my journey through that process.

My experience started with a curiosity that developed into a passion. I had heard about the victims of the genocide in Darfur, but the more I researched the issue the more my compassion grew for the victims and the more I wanted to help in some way. I just needed to figure out how. It was then that my curiosity transformed into passion. The transformation did not occur overnight: the more I learned, the more I realized the commitment involved and the work it would take to get something started for this cause.

“My experience started with a curiosity that developed into a passion.”

Once I realized that Andrews Academy students were unaware of what was going on in Darfur, I began to talk with teachers about what I could do to raise awareness and money. Diligence and perseverance became increasingly important as I realized that I could not achieve anything alone. Finding people that were willing to help me was a major part because I could not have done it alone. A good group of helpers also held me accountable to my goals and encouraged me to accomplish them. I felt that if I was truly passionate, people would understand and while I was helping them understand, I gained an even greater realization of how important my cause was and increased my motivation to set some goals.

Once I had a faint picture in mind of what my goal was, I began to set dates to help me be more driven to meet deadlines. From my experience, I found it easy to lose sight of my passion through all the planning and have it be just another task to accomplish. Fortunately, I did not lose hope. I revived my passion for the cause by checking up on the latest events occurring in Darfur and keeping in touch with people from the organization I was working through. I realized all over again how much they need help. The final preparation was very stressful to get everything just right to be the most effective, but I kept my focus on what I wanted my school to know.

The date finally arrived; it was time for me to show my fellow students why I was so passionate for this cause. This was the hardest part because I am terrified of being in front of people. Despite my efforts, I could only find one other person that was passionate enough about the same cause to speak for me. I thank God for giving me

the courage for those few minutes I had to be up in front of Andrews Academy for the first time. This is a true testament of the strength God can give you through your weaknesses.

In the end, I realized that a person who has vision, passion, organization, diligence, perseverance, and commitment to a cause would automatically be deemed a leader. I did not begin with the intention of being a leader, but I willingly took on the challenge because my passion for the Darfur cause was too great to ignore.

I encourage you not to dismiss things that are important to you, no matter how overwhelming they may seem. Something as little as reaching out to people that aren't in your own group of friends is being a leader. You never know how many people you can influence until you test the waters, take a risk, and put yourself out there. I have no doubt that with God's help anyone can accomplish great things if they come to Him with a willing heart.



Donnie Crook
Guest Writer

We send out students, invest our time, money, and even bodies... but what for?

In 1986, Andrews Academy started sending its students out into the world on what soon became a biennial mission trip to Central and South American countries. SOW Safari, as it came to be called, provided service, outreach, and witnessing through church construction, student-led evangelistic series, and simple Christian love. Ten years later, our school is still in contact with sources from two of those sites.

Contacts report that the churches are doing great things in their communities; adding new members and evangelizing.

The building alone is often the beacon that draws people. Generally built in poor cities, they are usually the nicest buildings in town and become a point of attraction. This gives the members pride in their church and in their ministry, leading them to invite others to visit services, and to look upon the building as a place of hope.

But even more important than the building it self is the impact the relationships leave. Mrs. Butler comments on these relationships, "The people are desperate to make a connection. I gave one little boy a hug as we were leaving, and as I looked out the bus window, I could see him sobbing from just that little bit of contact. I want our kids to develop that (kind of) contact."

Maybe just as great is the lasting effect on the kids who go on the Safari. Statistics show that ten years after the trip, 75 – 80% of kids who went on a short-term mission trip are still active in their local church. "Anybody who goes on a mission trip can never return to their same world view or outlook. There is always some degree of growth. You could spend a year in a class room, and not get a tenth of the experience," said Mrs. Butler. "I've gone on 9 or 10 trips, taken 300 students, and only 2 or 3 (students) have shown no observable effects at

"Anybody who goes on a mission trip can never return to their same world view or outlook. There is always some degree of growth."

~Sari Butler, Guidance Counselor

the time. (SOW Safari) is a subject that people bring up at events like alumni weekend. For that reason alone, the trips are worth while," she adds.

Next year's trip is planned for Chile. The goals will be to not only build a church, but to increase the amount of evangelism done by students as they lead out in services. Hopefully, we can leave behind a legacy that goes beyond just a building, a legacy that rests in the changing of lives, and the salvation of the people we touch.

Mission Possible

Students share a spirit of serving with their community

Lathan Bidwell & Aram Kerr
Guest Writers

At 9:30, a mass of students flow from Andrews Academy into cars and vans. They spread out through Berrien Springs, then they get out...washing, raking, picking up trash, cleaning. Why do they do this? What is this?

This is Andrews Academy's Community Service Day, a time when the school splits into groups and goes out into the community to help the environment, those in need in the community, and a few local historical buildings.

Students help stock shelves at Apple Valley, they help rake leaves, they clean up sections of the beach, and all kinds of other projects focused on giving back to the community. And they do this because the supporters of Andrews Academy believe that giving kids experience in this service will inspire them to help out: "The hope is that once an individual gets a taste and a feeling of what it is like, that they will integrate that into their personal life," said Cleon

White, acting principal of Andrews Academy.

Many people at Andrews Academy believe that community service is a "great opportunity to serve God and others," said Claudia Allen, a junior.

Community Service Day originated at Andrews Academy about 20 years ago. The faculty of Andrews Academy thought it was a good experience for the students to learn the importance of service. Community Service Day has evolved through the years with new ideas, new places, and new people to serve. The day provides an opportunity for Andrews Academy to leave a 'footprint' on the community. What the students of Andrews Academy do shapes that footprint, for good, or for bad. When the community sees Andrews Academy actively supporting the community, they learn more about Andrews Academy, its mission, its students, and the good the school does in the community.



Senior Chris Smith pulls weeds at a trolley museum in Pennsylvania during senior class trip.



Pastor Alvin Glassford prepares his students for a day of community service.

*The best way to find you
the service of ot*

Service:

Lorianny Collado & Vanessa Preston
Guest Writers

students said that service is a component of Christianity. The other 7% indicated that service is not a component of Christianity. The question is: Are the 93% of the students reflecting Christ by helping others?

If you're part of the 7%,

"It is never too late to start showing small acts of kindness."

don't worry, you don't have to do anything major like Mother Teresa. Serving and caring for others can be expressed in many little ways, like helping siblings with their homework or even supporting a fundraiser. It is never too late to start showing small acts of kindness. Reflecting Christ is the best way possible. Just look around you, there are so many things you could do, things that will make a difference. It is never too late to start serving. Just do it. Not only will it make you happy, but also other people.

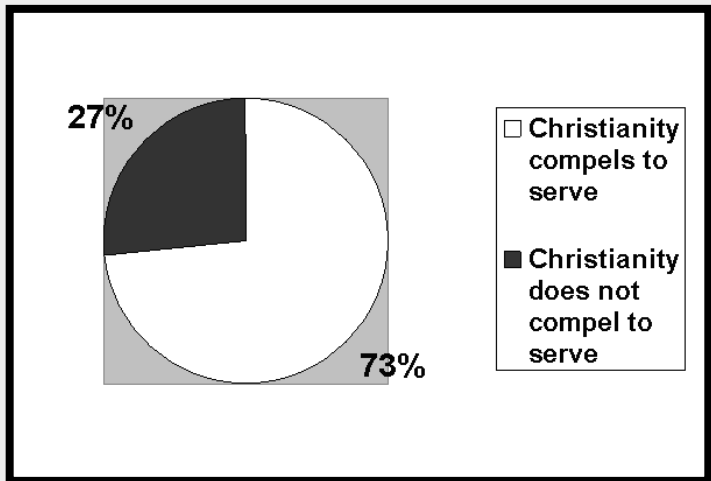
Movie or vespers? Money for the needy or a new outfit? Community service day or a day at the beach? Help your sibling or hang out with your friends? Are you committed to Christian service, or are you apathetic?

Amidst an ever-increasing emphasis on technology, entertainment and self-indulgence, American teens are generally uninterested and uninvolved in their communities. Busy lives keep people from doing what is right. But what is right? Is it serving others with a good attitude, or serving others with a bad attitude?

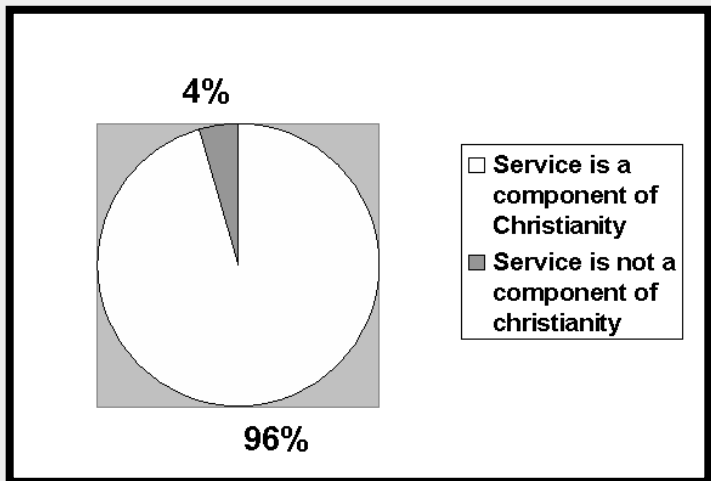
Twenty-nine of forty-five Andrews Academy students said that they would do community service if they didn't have to. But 75% of the students said that they do not donate time or money regularly.

It is very easy to relate Christianity to service, since a true Christian is expected to serve others selflessly. Based on a recent survey of 45 Andrews Academy students, 93% of the

IS IT IN YOU?



Does your Christianity compel you to serve?



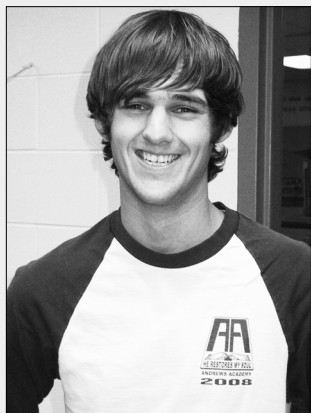
Is service a component of Christianity?

WHY DO YOU SERVE?

*"Because of faith."
~Nestor Galla*



*"Because I can show others what God has done for me."
~Sara Goodwin*



*"Because it's following God's example."
~Jason Lemon*



*"It makes not only me feel good, but also the other people - and God."
~Mutiara Salulimbong*

yourself is to lose yourself in others. ~M. Gandhi

Q&A with Week of Prayer speakers Greg and Melissa

Amanda Shepler
Staff Writer

Sure, we saw them up front every day for a week, but what are our speakers like in their everyday lives? Amanda sat down with Greg and Melissa Howell to ask a few not-so-frequently asked questions.

What made you decide to become a pastor?

Greg: In high school I went to a prayer conference that really changed my life, and it made me want to share God with others.
Melissa: I felt God calling me to do it but I didn't want to. I tried everything else I could think of, but I felt no peace until I obeyed his call.

What is one of your best high school memories?

Greg: My senior class trip to Panama City, FL where we sat on the beach all week, and rode scooters all over town.
Melissa: Sneaking out of the dorm and TP-ing the entire campus. Didn't get caught for 3 years in a row. (Don't send this to my high school.)

Any practical dating advice for us?

Greg: If all your friends hate the relationship, it's probably bad. Don't do things you'll regret.
Melissa: Listen to the advice of old people, including your parents.

Biggest pet peeve?

Greg: Computers that don't work the way they're supposed to, running out of gas.
Melissa: Bad teachers, bad drivers, Greg snoring.

Plans for the future?

Greg & Melissa: Go wherever God leads.

Who do you think Caleb is more like?

Greg: Me
Melissa: Greg

Favorite thing about spouse?

Greg: The way she can light up a room and my life, and the way she fights for what she believes in.
Melissa: His commitment to me and to doing what's right.

Most annoying thing about spouse?

Greg: Always late
Melissa: Snoring and forgetfulness

Favorite color?

Greg: Red
Melissa: Turquoise

Favorite Season?

Greg: Fall
Melissa: Summer

Favorite Children's Book?

Greg: "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane"
Melissa: "The Runaway Bunny"-

Favorite Store?

Greg: E-bay
Melissa: Barnes and Nobles

Favorite Beverage?

Greg: Vernor's Ginger Ale or Chantico from Starbucks
Melissa: Iced Tea with extra Lemon

Favorite Dessert?

Greg: Apple Dumplings or Homemade Chocolate Cake
Melissa: Anything chocolate

Favorite Brand of Jeans?

Greg: Goodwill
Melissa: American Eagle

Favorite Household Appliance?

Greg: Toaster
Melissa: Heater

Favorite Hairstyling Product?

Greg: What are those?
Melissa: Sleep

Favorite Christian Author?

Greg: Phillip Yancey
Melissa: C.S. Lewis

"off-the-wall" [awf-thuh-wawl] adj. markedly unconventional; out of the ordinary"

Tirza Rideout
Staff Writer

The AA Fall Week of Prayer, September 24-28, was created around a thought-provoking song written as a poem and set to music by Jeff Carlson. It portrayed Jesus as a father and friend, not just a picture on the wall.

The speakers were Greg and Melissa Howell—a little off the wall themselves. They brought skits, object lessons and prayer to a whole new level. They shared with us stories of life and love. Some of the stories didn't have happy beginnings-but all of them pointed to God and His mercy. By the end of the week, they showed us how to bring Him off the wall and into our lives.

The prayer also continued at the evening meetings. People were touched at these meetings—some even moved to tears. The last meeting was called 'The Agape Feast'. It was designed to show the immensity of what Jesus did for us, and to give the students some private time with Him. The picture of Jesus that had been hanging on the backdrop all week was taken down and put on the cross—to show that He was a real person. The students then nailed their names to the cross.

So 'Off the Wall' ended rich in symbolism and prayer, and left students blessed and fortified for another year at Andrews Academy.

Fun, friends, and faith: Lake Union Prayer Conference

Jason Lemon
Staff Writer



What can you say about Prayer Conference? It was fun. There was prayer. Friends were made. Yes, all of that is true but there is so much more depth to it that you can only understand if you go. The small group of fourteen, consisting of three guys, nine girls, and two faculty sponsors who took part in these weekend trip to Camp Au Sable will not soon forget the events of that weekend. Beyond the raucous behavior and invented "AA chant" that the whole group—sponsors included—participated in over the long weekend there was a re-awakening of not only school unity but spiritual unity as well. Leaving the Academy during lunch on Thursday, September 13, the group traveled in two minivans. The trip was uneventful, except for a minor delay when a piece of

the trailer being pulled by one of the minivans blew off shortly after we got on the highway. However, there was excitement in the group and everyone eagerly talked for most of the trip. Arriving, we settled into our cabins and headed to the cafeteria for supper. From there the evening proceeded with a meeting and the weekend speaker—Pastor Jason Lee—was introduced. There was also breakout sessions by classes where we discussed different issues relevant to youth and a few mixer activities so the different schools could integrate more. As the weekend continued the group that went from our school bonded and enjoyed each others' humor and playful camaraderie. Friday afternoon the group hung out and took advantage of the go-karts as well as the

scenic board walk around Lake AuSable. That evening's service was closed with communion where everyone was given a chance to recommit their lives to following God.

On Sabbath there was an interactive Sabbath School program where each school had a chance to participate in different ways. Our group performed a humorous skit about communicating with your parents. The day continued with free time for everyone to peacefully enjoy nature. Recreational activities were planned for after sundown but half of the group left right after supper due to Senior Class Trip's departure early Sunday morning and other circumstances.

The weekend was filled with fun, bonding, and spiritual growth. All left the weekend a little sad to see it end but filled with a new sense of vision for the rest of the school year.



Week of Prayer and Spirit Week in Pictures

TAKE TWO



A Payne-ful farewell

Liana Kent
Guestwriter

“For Brooks, life is a musical” - Nathan Greene

Truer words have never been spoken. If you walk down the halls of AA, be you guest or student, then you will likely be greeted with a rhyme, a bit of a song, or even just a little ditty made up on the spur of the moment by one Brooks Payne. Sadly, there is not much more time to be greeted by this cheerful, caring man.

On November 13, Mr. Payne and his wife Susan will be packing up and heading for the hills of Papua New Guinea and the



Mr. Payne. He has wanted to do mission work and God has finally given him the go-ahead. Says Mr. Payne, “I gave up the dream. I didn’t know what God would do with me.” Well, I’m pretty sure that

God’s will is clear now. The thing he is most looking forward to is “the chance to be able to speak out over there, where being different will be okay.” He will also enjoy the new challenges he will face in Papua New Guinea. “And I go to a place where they don’t chew gum,” he says with a slight smile. The things he will miss most are the friends he has made in Berrien Springs and the “phenomenal Christian minds and neat Christians.” He will also miss the students he has gotten to know here at Andrews Academy.

We, too, will miss Mr. Payne with his cheery greetings and willingness to listen to all who come to him.

So we bid farewell to one who has put three years of dedicated service into this school without complaint.

Abenoon, Mr. Payne, By me lookim you someday time behind.

Good-bye, Mr. Payne, I’ll see you again.

“And I go to a place where they don’t chew gum,” he says with a slight smile.

small village of Caroka. Mr. Payne will be working for the South Pacific Division of the General Conference. There, he will have the job of Chief Engineer, supervising and maintaining the care of three airplanes. The planes are used to transport and sell supplies for remote villages, saving the villagers a four-day trip to market. The aircraft will also be used as an economic lifeline, flying pastors and transporting passengers to remote villages.

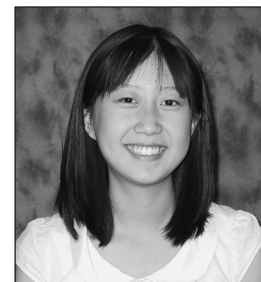
This is a dream come true for

And the office goes to . . . Freshman class elections

Tirza Rideout
Staff Writer

The freshman class voted in its officers at the end of October. Despite a number of seemingly competent freshmen, only a few offices actually saw some competition between candidates, the others filled without contest.

Christine
Choi
Treasurer



No
Photo
Available

Olivia Knott
President



Janessa
Howell
Public
Relations

Simone
Weithers
Vice-
President



Elaine
Kamvazaana
Rep.

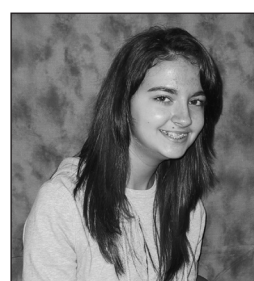


Lauren Lane
Pastor

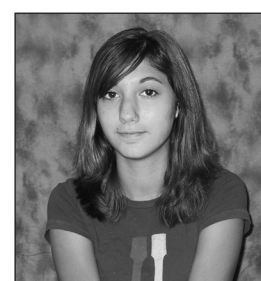


Annika
Seibold
Rep.

Ingrid
Dumitrescu
Secretary



Katlyn
Pascucci
Rep.



Conversation with an Arts and Entertainment guru

Tirza Rideout
Staff Writer

“What’s going on around here, like, concert wise?”

“Oh, there’s going to be a violin-clarinet-piano trio at the Howard Performing Arts Center on the 21st of October...\$5 admission, I believe...”

“Uh, I was thinking more along the lines of...bands n’stuff.”

“Hmm...I see. Well, if you like the Beatles, ‘1964: The Tribute’ is playing November 16 at the Mendel Center...\$25 admission though...”

“Um, no...and isn’t that a Friday night?”

“Oh yeah, sorry.”

“Ok, well, what about down in South Bend? Anything?”

“They’re doing Beethoven’s 5th at the Morris Performing Arts Center, November 8. That’s a Thursday. And prices vary on the tickets.”

“That’s still not a band! Is there anything... ANYTHING...that is, well, a *band*?”

“The Newsboys are in concert on November 15.”

“I meant around here!”

“Uh, yeah, they are going to be at the Morris Performing Arts Center on November 15 at 7

p.m. along with Kutless and Newworldson. That’s a Thursday too...”

“Forget the ‘Thursday’s’, it’s the Newsboys! Alright! What are the ticket prices?”

“The cheap seats are \$27.00...that’s waaay in the back, third balcony.”

“I’ll take ‘em!”

“Well, better seats *are* still on sale...like the boxes and the mezzanine.”

“Even better!”

“And a group from Andrews Academy is going to the concert. Prices are \$38, and that includes transportation.”

“Are you serious?”

“Yeah- but you have to hurry to sign up for that- places are filling fast!”

“I think I will. Thanks so much!”

“Well, I’m glad I could help.”

For more information on these events go to:

howard.andrews.edu

lakemichigancollege.edu

morriscenter.org

To sing... or not to sing?

Tirza Rideout
Staff Writer

Carnegie Hall.

Simply say the name and you think of the elite, the best of the best of musicians, bright lights, tuxedos, shining pianos and twinkling instruments, New York City...

But now that the Silhouettes have been invited to sing at a special program there, distinction seems a bit more obtainable—and still unobtainable at the same time.

Mr. Dean Boward got the invitation in an email three weeks ago, and later the conductor of the program phoned and officially invited the Silhouettes. If the Silhouettes were to go, they would spend five glorious days in New York, and perform on April 13, 2008. There is one and only one drawback—finances. “It would take nearly \$40,000 to get the whole group there”, says Mr. Boward, “\$1400 apiece”, and that’s not counting food money. Perhaps the Silhouettes could apply for a grant from the ‘National Endowment for the Arts’. They plan to crusade for the cause at Letter Writing Campaign, and write letters to several well-known celebrities. Whatever the group does, their efforts are fruitless unless they have the support of the Andrews Academy student body.



Book Review: *Sex. God.* by Rob Bell

Ivan Ruiz
Guest Writer

Sex. God. What on earth do they have to do with each other? According to Rob Bell, in his book *Sex God : Exploring the Endless Connections Between Sexuality and Spirituality*, they have *everything* to do with each other. Talking about sex, and

sexuality, in a broader sense, Rob explains how sexuality is intimately linked with spirituality, and how in order to make sense of sex, at some point you have to talk about God. Talking about all the

ways we have become disconnected and separated from the way we were created to live, he says that “we have to rethink what sexuality is. For many, sexuality is simply what happens between two people involving physical pleasure. But that’s only a small percentage of what sexuality is. Our sexuality is all of the ways we strive to reconnect with our world, with each other, and with God.”

With amazing insight, and a lot of scripture to back it up, Rob breaks down things such as lust, our relationship with the environment, our understanding of sexuality, what it means to be a human being,

how love is risky, the sacredness of marriage, the joy of it, and how it ultimately parallels our relationship with God. Rob does an amazing job of getting to the point, bringing things into context (such as the context of a wedding in Jesus’ time),

and applying all these things to today. Anybody that at all knows me knows that I am somewhat a “fan” of his work, so I might be *slightly* biased when I say that this book is truly

worth reading. So if you want to gain a deeper, fuller understanding of sexuality, spirituality, and who God is, this book definitely is worth a try.

And for those of you who don’t know who Rob Bell is, he’s the guy who does the NOOMA videos, and he’s also the founding pastor of Mars Hill Bible Church in Grandville, Michigan. His previous book is called *Velvet Elvis : Repainting the Christian Faith*, which you must go and buy immediately (no other book has given me a clearer understanding of Christianity and the mission of Jesus).



From the book:

“There is a love because, love in order to, love for the purpose of, and then there is love, period. Agape doesn’t need a reason.”

“You don’t need a man by your side to validate you as a woman. You already are loved and valued. You’re good enough exactly as you are. Do you believe this? Because it’s true. You have limitless worth and value. If you embrace this truth, it will affect every area of your life, especially your relationship with men.

You are worth dying for.

Your worth does not come from your body, your mind, your work, what you produce, what you put out, how much money you make. Your worth does not come from whether or not you have a man. Your worth does not come from whether or not men notice you. You have inestimable worth that comes from your creator.”

“Love is handing your heart to someone and taking the risk that they will hand it back because they don’t want it. That’s why it’s such a crushing ache on the inside. We gave away a part of ourselves and it wasn’t wanted.

Love is a giving away of power. When we love, we give the other person the power in the relationship. They can do what they choose. They can do what they like with out love. They can reject it, they can accept it, they can step toward us in gratitude and appreciation.

Love is a giving away. When we love, we put ourselves out there, we expose ourselves, we allow ourselves to be vulnerable.

Love is giving up control. It’s surrendering the desire to control the other person. The two -- love and controlling power over the other person -- are mutually exclusive. If we are serious about loving someone, we have to surrender all of the desires within us to manipulate the relationship.”

Seniors make the most of their last year

About twenty weeks ago the graduating class of 2007 marched triumphantly, if sorrowfully, down the center aisle of Pioneer Memorial Church to receive their diplomas. Now the class of 2008 has taken their place as top of the school and next to graduate and move out into the world. Already two months into this school year, we've realized that we have to take charge of our lives and work hard to keep them in the direction we want them to go. On top of keeping our GPAs up and keeping up with our extra-curricular activities, we've been sifting through the mail that colleges have sent us and we've begun filling out applications to those that interest us most. As well as everything school-related we've been doing, we have been making time for family and friends because it's starting to hit us that nothing will be the same after this year.

To congratulate the seniors for making it as far as they have, and to encourage them to continue working their hardest, at the beginning of the school year there were several activities planned especially for the next graduating class. Senior Spirit Week is a time to show class spirit and have fun despite being at school. Each day of the week is given a certain theme or topic. The other main activity, senior class trip, uses the class funds to go somewhere as a group and spend a week growing closer and getting to know each other better. This page highlights the Seniors' beginning-of-year revelry.



Tuesday morning was also the Senior Convocation during which the senior class marches into the chapel and is presented to the school. The new Provost at Andrews University, Heather J. Knight, spoke to us about illuminating the world through leadership. After Cleon White presented us as tomorrow's leaders, our class president, Kylene Cave, gave delivered a short address. Then, later in the evening, we had our annual Senior vs. School flagball game. The Senior guys' team won 26-22, while the School girls beat the Senior girls' team 6-0. Every year the parents support their teens by coming out to the field and cheering, and this year the PPI sold hot dogs and drinks for us.



The School Teams



Senior Class Trip: a rapid, rollicking ride

On September 16th we left for our senior class trip to Ohio and Pennsylvania. Every year the senior class takes a trip with the funds they have raised over the last four years. Getting ourselves awake and out of bed before eight a.m. on a Sunday morning was quite a task for some, but a little after 7:30 we were ready to head out. Our class spirit didn't really begin to show until about the time we pulled into the entrance to Cedar Point. Those of us who were amusement park veterans alternated between mocking and comforting those of us who had to yet experience one. We spent the entire afternoon screaming our heads off on the roller coasters and haunted houses and enjoying the atmosphere. That night we played mini-golf in our hotel and swam in the pool.

The next morning we awoke and put on our least important clothing for the community service day at a trolley museum south of Pittsburgh. Before we started working the museum took us on a trolley ride on some of the original tracks, made in the 1930s. Some of us stayed and cleaned trolleys, weeded, and swept sidewalks while others headed across the road to the county fairgrounds and offered their help by picking up trash and cleaning out some of the buildings. The directors complimented our class's helpfulness and positive attitude. Then we left for the Lodge at Chalk Hill where we stayed for the next two nights. Each night there, we had a worship around a fire beside the lake, singing songs and basking in the warmth of the fire and each other's presence.

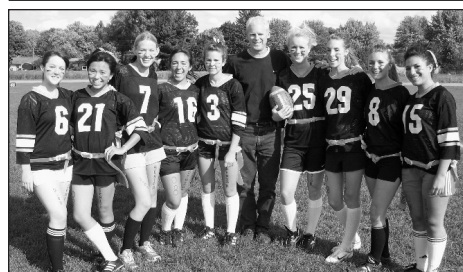
Tuesday we went whitewater rafting. Most had never been before but those who had kept talking about what an exciting and memorable experience it had been. Though the rapids we were to go through were only levels 1-3 out of 5 we were still kind of nervous about facing them. The Yough River is known for having the

best whitewater rafting on the East Coast. Despite many seniors being thrown out of their rafts by the rapids, everyone survived and for the most part enjoyed their trip down the river. That night, after eating a haystack supper we got to see the video taped by the river's cameraman and relive the fun and excitement of the day.

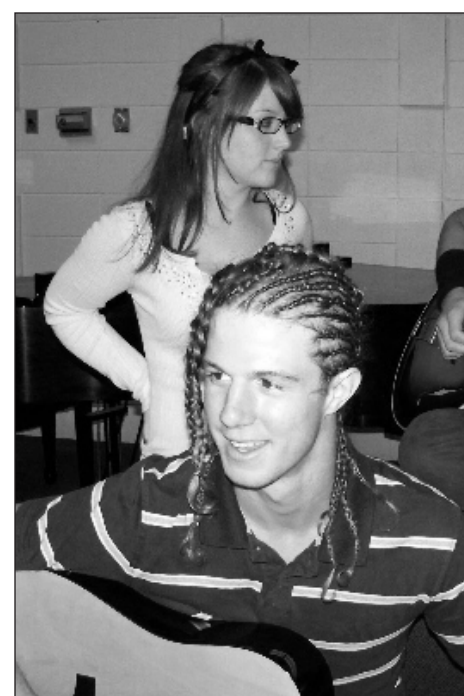
On Wednesday we woke and packed up the buses to head towards Cleveland and Jacobs Field for the Cleveland Indians vs. Detroit Tigers game. Though practically everyone else in the stadium were Indians fans, quite a few of the seniors were cheering for the Tigers. Mr. Baker, an Indians fan, was quite happy with the final score; Indians over Tigers, 4-2. The stadium erupted with cheers because of the Indian sweep of the Tigers, shutting them out of the playoffs and claiming the Central Division slot as theirs. After the game we went to the Olive Garden for supper and enjoyed Italian food and each others' laughter.

Thursday was our final day of the trip and we enjoyed it by stopping at the mall in Toledo, OH and shopping for a few hours. After that we headed home where we were welcomed by the junior class who had put together a very heartwarming and stomach-filling party for us. After eating our fill of cookies and other desserts we headed home to sleep and get ready to go back to school.

Leaving the trip with memories; mostly good and a few not-so-pleasant, we've become closer as a class. We talk to more seniors outside of our group of friends and have come to understand and appreciate our differences and similarities. Hopefully this year will continue our friendships and create even more as we near graduation. Even though we are heading out to live our lives, we'll still have the friendships and memories from the academy years.



The Senior Teams



As seen on the Prayer Wall

“God loves you”

“Was mochtest duz mochtot du Jesus?”

“Happiness is not in things, it is in us.”

*“If everyone cared and nobody cried,
If everyone loved and nobody lied,
If everyone shared and swallowed their pride,
Then we’d see the day when nobody died.”*

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. Jeremiah 29:11”

“Off the wall is off the chain”

“He makes all things beautiful in His time.”

Free will: choice or fate?

Will Schlicter
Guest Writer

When someone is born, they cannot control what they do. They cry, they scream, they breathe, and they look around them, feeling everything, soaking it in like a sponge. The absence of free will present with any newborn remains constant throughout the early stages of childhood, and governs them forthwith. As they mature, their consciousness of their own free will begins to manifest itself within them into a driving force in their lives. For instance, when a child walking through a supermarket wants a toy or candy, they will ask the adult who is with them incessantly. When the adult says, “No”, they throw a fit, cry, whine, and make a scene. A weak-minded parent will always cave and give the child what he wants. Then it starts to sink into the child’s mind- the realization of the correlation between screaming bloody murder and accomplishing one’s own agenda is astounding and appealing to the young and immature mind. This mindset continues into adulthood unless the child, hopefully, matures.

When we think about free will, we- well, we don’t actually think about it that much because we just think we do something or we don’t- it’s our choice. But then, others of us might argue that we really don’t have

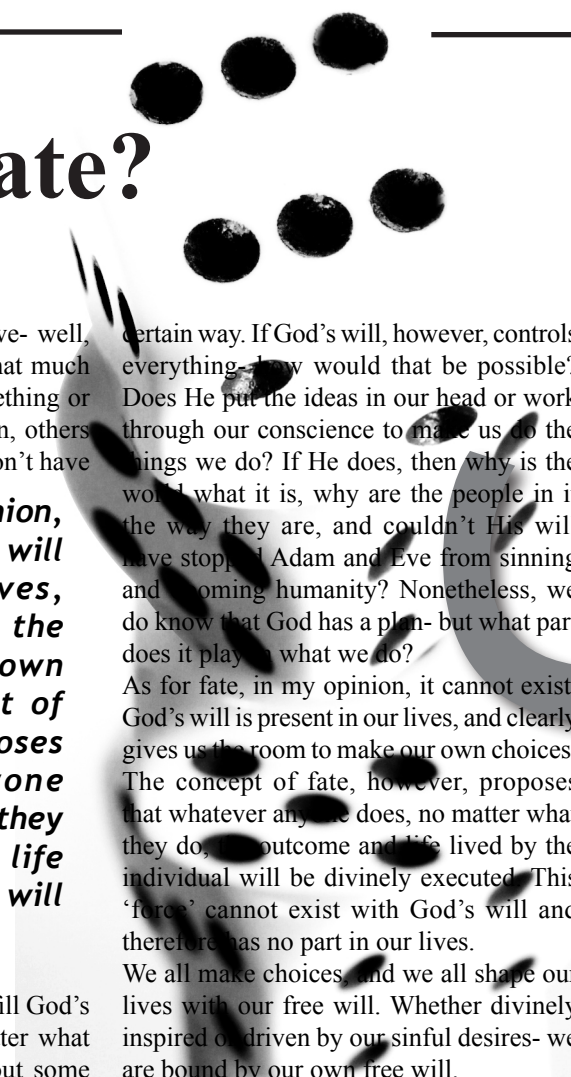
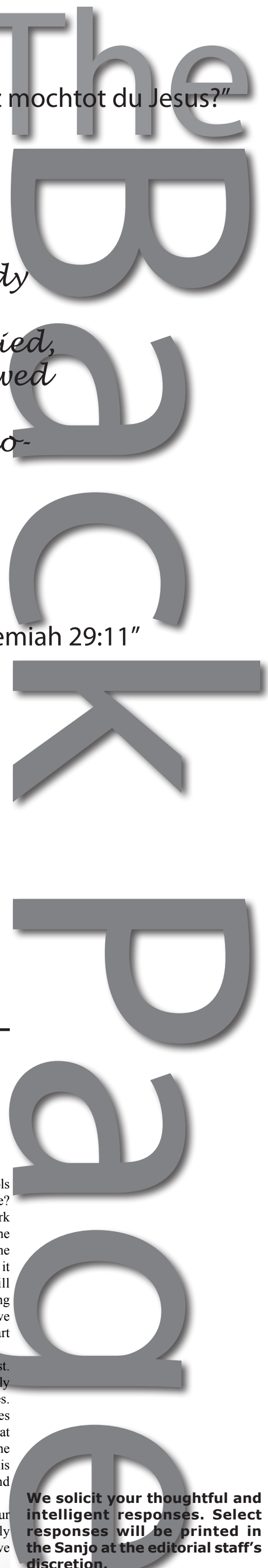
As for fate, in my opinion, it cannot exist. God’s will is present in our lives, and clearly gives us the room to make our own choices. The concept of fate, however, proposes that whatever anyone does, no matter what they do, the outcome and life lived by the individual will be divinely executed.

any free will at all because we fulfill God’s will. Others may say that no matter what we do, we are destined to turn out some

certain way. If God’s will, however, controls everything- how would that be possible? Does He put the ideas in our head or work through our conscience to make us do the things we do? If He does, then why is the world what it is, why are the people in it the way they are, and couldn’t His will have stopped Adam and Eve from sinning and blooming humanity? Nonetheless, we do know that God has a plan- but what part does it play in what we do?

As for fate, in my opinion, it cannot exist. God’s will is present in our lives, and clearly gives us the room to make our own choices. The concept of fate, however, proposes that whatever anyone does, no matter what they do, the outcome and life lived by the individual will be divinely executed. This ‘fate’ cannot exist with God’s will and therefore has no part in our lives.

We all make choices, and we all shape our lives with our free will. Whether divinely inspired or driven by our sinful desires- we are bound by our own free will.



We solicit your thoughtful and intelligent responses. Select responses will be printed in the Sanjo at the editorial staff’s discretion.