

The Sanjo

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Andrews Academy students at GYC

The sixth annual General Youth Conference

Sinclair Johnston
Guest Writer

Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC, or commonly known as the General Youth Conference) just held their sixth annual conference. Participants gathered in Minneapolis, Minnesota on December 19-23 to enjoy spiritual seminars, outreach opportunities, and lectures. I went along with the group of ten students that Pastor Archer took. Approximately 10 students were from the Academy and a full bus was from the university. The conference began with a devotional by Israel Ramos, the current chairman for GYC. This year's theme was "BE", modeled from the verse "be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Romans 12:2.)

Other speakers included: Mark Finley, Steve Conway, Andrea Oliver, Jeffrey Rosario, David Shin, and many more. On Thursday morning participants chose from

17 different seminar choices. The seminars took up the greater portion of the day and included topics as

Alan Parker), and Healing the Mind: Psychology and the Bible (by Magna Parks and Neil Nedley) On Friday,

the services on Sabbath were open to the community. In the afternoon GYC hosted a sacred concert.

Later, attendees packed buses to go out and evangelize. Sarah Gane and I went together. I was rather reluctant to go, but found it to be the most spiritually uplifting part of the conference. Through the cold we went door-to-door passing out literature for bible studies. The people were very polite and many seemed receptive to what we had to say. So many attendees participated in the outreach evangelism they ran out of buses. The remaining people started evangelizing on the street right outside the convention center and in and around downtown



eclectic as: The Shaking, Sealing, and Time of the End: Christianity in the Last Days (by Mark Finley), Happily Ever After: Finding True Love, God's Way (by Nicole and

networking sessions were held; these sessions helped everyone to connect with their local ministries. On Saturday, Pastor Paul Ratsara spoke to a packed auditorium. All

Minneapolis. Next year's GYC will be held in San Jose, California on December 17-21. You can register in during summer break at: gycweb.org

The Search for a Principal

Amanda Sheppler
Staff Writer

The school year began with the usual sounds: shoes squeaking against the freshly polished floors, shouts echoing in the halls, and dull thuds of locker doors shutting. But one vital piece of the ritual was missing: a principal.

Mr. Chase left during the summer to take a position in California, leaving AA without a principal. Mr. White, who had already given up his position as a teacher, became interim principal. The Operating Board began the difficult task of finding someone qualified to guide the school academically and spiritually.

I sat down with Dr. Furst, the chair of the Board, to learn about the progress in the search. After assessing approximately 30

qualified candidates the board narrowed the number down to two. The first option was Mr. White, who has had the experience of working as AA vice principal and knows and loves the school. Before he was vice-principal, he had also been a teacher for many years. He's watched many students and their families grow up, and to it seems to many as though he's been here "forever."

The other candidate, Dr. Malcolm "Mic" Hutchinson, was encouraged to send in his resume. Dr. Hutchinson currently works as Corporate Director of Real Estate at Affiliated Computer Services. The student leaders were given

a time to question him without teachers present during a brief visit in January. Though most questions were loaded, Dr. Hutchinson answered them diplomatically and gave the leaders insight into his personality and character. To most,

he came across as supportive of sports programs, and would fight for the principle in an argument rather than the details. He has a less restrictive view on the dress code than what is currently being enforced. He says that as long as dress is "clean, neat, modest, and appropriate" and doesn't take away from our Adventist ideals it shouldn't matter what you wear. In my interview with Dr. Hutchinson I

"Students want a leader who will listen to them."

learned that he enjoys travel and he thinks students could gain insight from seeing things personally that could not be gained from hearing about it. His main point appeared to be that students deserve more respect than is usually given to them. He also wanted to ensure that students had a place where they could have spiritual guidance. Different groups of students had opportunities to voice their opinions on what they thought was the most important characteristic of a future principal. Some significant components were that they would be genuine and be proactive, participating in school functions. Students want a leader who will listen to them and show support at school functions as well as being a strong and understanding leader from the office.

Vita Bella: Lessons from my Nonno

Samantha Snively
Editor



Over the Christmas break, we decided to take a short trip to visit my grandparents in Canada. We hadn't seen them in a while, and apparently Nonno was supposed to have another operation soon. So we hopped in the car and drove for a really long time. My nonni [before I go on, 'nonno' is Italian for 'grandpa' and 'nonna' is 'grandma'.] live in a small but cute town, somewhere in the vicinity of the middle of nowhere. And as my nonna said, they'd had 3 feet of snow 'but now we only have a little bit'. We pulled in the driveway and waded through a foot or more of snow to get to the front door. Obviously, our definitions of 'a little snow' are slightly different. Like all true Italians, we gathered over a meal. Picture this: we walk in the door and my nonna almost immediately begins to boil the tortellini. My nonno, dad, and sister

go outside to shovel the driveway. Nonna runs around making food, and when my mom protests, my nonna replies, "it's not cooking if the food's already made."

During dinner, Nonno told us what had happened since we last saw them- from the animals they'd seen to what they'd grown to the reason for the operation. After dessert, my nonna and mom were talking about a bunch of Italian people that we're apparently related to, and it was getting hard to follow the conversation. My nonna talks to my mom in Italian and my mom replies back in English. With my little knowledge of Spanish and if I listen to my mom, I can sort of understand what they were saying- but Nonna was doing most of the talking, so I followed my dad and Nonno into the study.

My dad handed me a large binder with the label "Memories of the Years of Youth: By Vittorio Tagliasacchi". Nonno has been writing since he was young, and what I was now holding seemed to be a collection of stories from his childhood. And then Nonno told the story of how he became a Christian. He is a wonderful storyteller. One thing he said stuck

out in my mind. "Life is beautiful. That's rule #1, and then you go from there." He said that several times that day, and it made me think. So when we left, I had the recipe for bugie from Nonna (which, by the way, are extremely good and if you've never had them you're missing out) and from Nonno, a book of stories and the beginning of a new mindset.

The next day I read the whole book. At the beginning were notes he'd made on the Italian Bible- in addition to being a great storyteller, Nonno has never stopped looking for knowledge. "When we stop looking for new things, we die," he said.

Then followed pages and pages of the most interesting stories I had heard in a very long time. He told stories of growing up in Mussolini's Italy, of life in Casale, of the German soldiers living in their house, and of the little birds they would catch. All the stories tied into one another somehow, and Nonno would often segue into explanations of what or why some part of the story came to be, and then merge seamlessly into the story again. And every story came along with the message, but life is

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Wolverine's Journey and the Fog of Doubt

Jason Lemon
Staff Writer

Have you ever seen the movie X-Men? Maybe you've watched the cartoons, or perhaps you've read the comics. Maybe you get angry because the movie doesn't follow the comics the way it should. Well, I admit that I am kind of an X-Men nerd. In fact this summer I spent a weekend watching every single movie in the trilogy three times each! I don't know what is so appealing about it to me; the movies really aren't all that great compared to award-winning films. It must be that deep within me somewhere there is this desire to be a superhero, and I don't think that I necessarily speak just for myself. Who doesn't want to walk through walls, manipulate fire, freeze things by touching them, or have laser vision? It is very easy to get caught up in the epic-ness of the whole saga.

Wolverine has always been one of my favorite characters. He has incredible rejuvenation powers. Basically, you can do anything to him and he won't die. A few scientists got together and changed a few things, and now he is invincible as well as incredibly strong. He also gets these sweet

retractable metal claws. However, Wolverine doesn't remember his past. He doesn't understand why, and he doesn't know how old he is.

Wolverine becomes an aimless wanderer without purpose or direction. Later on he meets up with other "mutants", causing him to realize that he is connected to a group that is bigger than him. He didn't choose to be the way he is, but that can't be changed.

He finds himself fighting alongside other mutants who are trying to make the world a better, safer place, not only for themselves but all of humanity. He doesn't know what the point is; in fact, he doesn't even really believe in what he's doing. It is more like he is stuck in this place and doesn't know what else to do. And personally, I can connect with those feelings. Like it or not, I was born into this culture called Adventism. The way I was raised, the way I'm supposed to act, and even the way I'm supposed to eat is different than most of the world. Most of the time I don't really understand the point of a lot of it and I don't really know what direction I'm supposed to go. There is this group that is fighting for some sort of more beautiful world and I'm part of it, but a lot of

times I feel more like I'm stuck. I just don't always feel like I believe in what I'm doing.

Now, Wolverine stays with the group and fights battles he doesn't care about. He saves the day on many occasions. In the end, though, does he come around and finally believe in what he's doing. In the movies, it is kind of unclear, but it is obvious that he sticks with it. He's not going anywhere and he's going to hold out even if he's unsure of the whole thing.

Recently, there was a lot of talk about Mother Theresa's journals and her struggle with doubt. She questioned her beliefs and ministry, but in the end she concluded that her faith wasn't worth giving up. In our lives we are all going to have to face the fog of doubt. We can choose to ignore it completely, run from it, or we can stumble are way through it. I don't know how it works. I don't understand a lot of the stuff I've been raised to believe. I don't know what it is like to live beyond the fog of doubt. I don't even know if it is something that you can move beyond. I do know I would rather spend my whole life searching for God, and as for me, I'm not going anywhere.

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dinj: The story of a band

Dylan Closser and Ivan Ruiz*
Guest Writers

December 7. Four ambitious, young, fantastically good looking, and super-amazing people started a band and it was called *dinj*. A synergy of sound and significance. A fusion of beauty and brilliance. Simply *epic*.

Their rising success comes as no surprise to band member Nic Reichert. "Basically, our instant success was no surprise to me. I mean, I'm in the band, and I'm already pretty popular at school. Everyone wants to be my friend and hang out with me." As far as the other members, they were taken aback. After only one month, the band received 1,770 profile views on their myspace page.

The band got its name from the initials of the band members' name, a first in band-naming history. Dylan's role is mostly making the music. He does the difficult work of clicking and dragging loops from the Apple loops library in GarageBand--a very high-end music creating program--and creating the musical genius you hear in all of

their songs. He also does backup vocals. Ivan does the lead vocals, band's legacy of amazing songs. Nic bobs his head. That's pretty



and therefore is the most important member of the band. He also has a major say in the music creating process, and even threatened to go solo when the band's first song, "Counterclockwise" wasn't sounding quite up to par with the

much it actually, since he isn't really allowed a part in creating the music. He can be heard as the third "dance" in the echo sequence of "Counterclockwise", but other than that, his vocal skills are . . . not needed. Jason writes the lyrics.

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*The Sanjo recognizes that creative license may have been taken in the writing of this article.

Some good lyrics, some really awesome lyrics. But of course, *dinj* expects nothing less. Jason also gives a lot of input into the making of the songs.

What many *dinj* fans don't know is that their beloved band almost didn't make it past the first five minutes of bandhood. The idea for the formation of *dinj* was brought to the table by member Dylan Closser. The other guys agreed and they proceeded to begin work on their first single, "Counterclockwise". Only a few measures into the making of the song, Ivan Ruiz, outraged, said that this wasn't his vision and he threatened to go solo. Horrified at this, the rest of *dinj* did whatever they could to please the enraged Ivan (they make all of their music on Ivan's laptop). If you haven't guessed yet, no Ivan equals no band. They worked through their differences and became the superstars you know and love today.

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Let the voting begin: the Michigan Primaries

Amanda Shepler
Staff Writer

Democratic Candidates

Hilary Rodham Clinton was First Lady from 1993 to 2001; she was raised in Illinois and was elected to state Senate after her husband's presidency. She is most involved in issues like strengthening the middle class, providing affordable and accessible health care and ending the war in Iraq.

Senator John Edwards has run for both president and vice president. He is a senator from North Carolina. The issues most vital to him are standing up for regular families, restoring America's leadership role in the world, and investing in American futures and communities.

Barack Obama is currently a senator from Illinois. He wants to increase the number of people voting because he believes that there is nothing more fundamentally American than the right to vote and Americans should take advantage of that. He also strongly supports the strengthening of public school systems and finding more ways to preserve the environment.

Republican Candidates

Rudy Giuliani is the former mayor of New York City. He wants to keep America as an offensive player in the war on terrorism. He feels strongly that America should be for citizens and he would like to secure borders and keep illegal immigrants

at bay.

Mike Huckabee is the former governor of Arkansas and an ordained Southern Baptist minister. He is strongly pro-life and plans to prevent abortion. He is against requiring more jobs reserved



for women and minorities and supports legislation against same-sex domestic partnerships and marriages.

John McCain is the U.S. senator from Arizona. He was a prisoner of war in North Vietnam for over five years. He is pro-death penalty and wants stricter sentencing. He vote favorably for prohibiting gay marriage but would not discriminate against gays in any position of office. He is against abortion but wants to prosecute doctors who perform illegal abortions instead of

the women undergoing them.

Mitt Romney used to be the governor of Massachusetts. He wishes to raise the bar on education and increase the degree of education in public schools. He thinks that our government is too big and that

much more would be accomplished by downsizing the government's involvement than its current participation in society.

Fred Thompson is a former Tennessee senator who was minority counsel for the Watergate hearings. He is the strongest pro-life candidate although he strongly favors the death penalty. He supports the right to own a weapon stronger than any of the other candidates, and he believes strongly in the second amendment.

Third Party Candidates

Cynthia McKinney (Green Party) was a democratic Representative from Georgia and joined the Green party in September of 2007. She solidly supports the pro-life campaigning as well as same-sex marriages. She thinks that schools who allow voluntary prayer should not receive government aid and disagrees with mandatory three-strike sentencing laws.

Brian Moore (Socialist) was elected the candidate for the Socialist Party USA on October 20, 2007. He opposes all restrictions on abortion and gay marriage. He supports total equality of race, gender and sex. And as the only socialist candidate, he wants to expand welfare with guaranteed income for all.

MICHIGAN PRIMARIES

The Presidential Primaries for Michigan were held on Tuesday, January 15. Clinton won the Democratic ballot by getting 55.3% of the votes, as opposed to the 40% of uncommitted votes. The other democratic candidates removed their names off of the state primary ballots because of the change in the date of the Michigan primaries. Romney was the leading Republican candidate, with 38.9% of votes, followed by McCain and Huckabee. of the votes. Other candidates each had below ten percent.



Annika Seibold

Maybe you've seen her smile or heard her laugh as she walks through the halls. Maybe you've been in a class with her and noticed how smart and polite she is. But even though she's been here for an entire semester there is hardly anyone that can say she has ever had a negative effect on them. She wishes our school could become more accepting of one another. She also wants us "to have more of a meaningful spiritual experience, so that when we leave with will have grown together and grown closer to God." She doesn't have on moment that stands out significantly in her mind that causes her to be amiable except just little moments when people have been kind to her. She is inspired by the way Jesus lived and her parents. She wishes that everyone would "be calmer, have an open mind and listen to what other people have to say." To Annika a peaceful person is cheerful and patient and doesn't judge others. She wants everyone to be more understanding and accepting.



Ben Weakley

Ben smiles. In fact, most people around Ben smile *because* he's smiling at them. People generally smile when someone smiles first at them, or smile because they are happy, but Ben smiles for a different reason. "I think it's so wrong to hurt people", Ben says, "Deep down inside, we're all in the same thing...hurting someone is the worst thing you could do." And so he smiles. Everyone lives by a kind of standard whether or not they realize it. Ben lives by this standard: "Love others as you love yourself. Better yet, put others before yourself." And it

Profiles of Peacemakers

shows. Ben wishes he could see more love in the students of Andrews Academy. Not just any love, but God's love. At least one person has it.



Sofia Caceres

What makes her smile: "I smile because it makes people happy. They smile back. When they smile back, I feel happy. I want people to feel better." What a peacemaker looks like: "Wise. They know how to make good decisions, how to give advice, how to resolve a conflict." Mantra: "If there is something constructive to say, don't keep it to yourself, it may change someone's day."



Mike Riess

Going through high school in the same grade as Michael, I've had a lot of chances to get to know him. We sat beside each other during chapel last semester and despite being known as well-behaved students, we seemed to find many opportune moments to share our opinions and insights with one another during the devotion or presentation. He is a very deep and insightful person who wants our school "to be a school that reflects Jesus Christ and promotes higher education." One of the things that inspires him most to lean towards nonviolent resolutions is the fact that he enjoys studying history and realizes how many lives were taken unnecessary because of conflicts resolved poorly. Mahatma Gandhi is the person he wants most to be like. "He led

India in a peaceful revolt against the British Empire and in the end his civil disobedience helped India to receive her independence." He thinks that people need to be more willing to actually listen to what others have to say and talk things over without going to wars that have no end in sight because of unresolved differences. "If people would be willing to look at the problem from the other person's perspective maybe we could better understand the situation." He thinks that to be peaceful we should let God lead us wherever he has planned for us to go and trust him every step of the way.



Clifford Allen

What is a peacemaker? Webster defines it as "one who makes peace especially by reconciling parties at variance". But here at AA, a lot of people define it as "Clifford Allen". This somewhat soft-spoken sophomore is class pastor has spoken for chapel on more than one occasion, and stands at 5'11" 1/2, making him fairly hard to miss. But what really makes Clifford a giant among his peers is his rare talent of compromising and resolving issues and taxing situations, usually those of which he himself is not involved. His sister, Claudia, had a lot of good things to say about him. "Nothing really bothers Cliff," she says nonchalantly, "I mean, he just lets everything roll off his back. He always wants people to do whatever they can do to get along, and he hates to fight. He only fights with me when he gets really mad." Claudia believes that Clifford inherited his diplomatic disposition from his father, who shares some of the same characteristics, and mentions how both Clifford and his dad also act as peacemakers in their home, helping to calm Claudia and her mother down when things start to get hectic. So what do his friends think of Clifford? Eric Dees, who has known Clifford for 8 years-since the 2nd grade- had a lot to say about him,

and shared a few reminiscences of when Clifford had diffused tense situations. One of those times Eric remembers was when two people were arguing, and it looked like they were going to come to blows, but Clifford stepped in and was able to talk them out of it. Eric just laughed, "I mess with Cliff a lot, ever since I've known him, and he's never had problems with anyone for longer than an hour." All of his friends seem to have a shared opinion of Cliff. "When I first met him," said Joyce Yoon, a freshman, "I noticed he was really calm, and he thinks through a lot." Those are traits that most of us could probably use more of.

I asked Clifford's sister how he came to develop this trait, and she said, "I think it's more like a talent that the Lord blessed him with. He reminds me of that bible verse... slow to anger."

So how do we become peacemakers, like Clifford? I'm sure praying regularly for a more passive spirit and having regular devotion is a great start, but you can also try talking to friends, family, and people like Clifford, and asking them to help you. I'm sure anyone would be willing to



Brock Vance

Brock is a freshman with a purpose. His vision for our school is for everyone to get along and love each other "like family". He attended Bible camp and came back with some new insights. It was "so amazing that people who didn't even know each other bonded so closely. People shared their fears, hopes, and testimonies of what God had done in their lives. He was inspired by the closeness and love that everyone expressed there and wants to bring that atmosphere into the everyday life at AA. His motivation to be peaceful is the kindness that people have shown him. The best way to make an impact in someone's life according to Brock is to "be there for your friends and show them kindness." By your love and kindness you can change so many lives for better. Some of his role models are just the people who have shown him love and kindness or those who have

gone out of their way to be kind to him. The three words he would use to describe someone he sees as peaceful are “loving, helpful and respectful” and Martin Luther King Jr. is his favorite example of those words. Brock tries to live his life and remember that things get hard for everyone and we all need someone to lean on sometime. “Everyone should be as kind and helpful as they can be to everyone around them.”



Daniel Francis

You know him as the SA pastor and the kid who loves ancient history, but another thing many people notice him for is his spirituality and kindness to everyone. What makes Daniel Francis such a powerful influence in our school?

Perhaps it has something to do with the way he tries to live his life. A rule he tries to live by is found in Micah 6:8-“...What does the Lord require of you but to do justly, love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” Or perhaps it is that he consciously tries to make a difference in the lives of those around him. When you talk to him, you can’t help but notice the interest he takes in each individual person, or the fact that he will take the time to say hi to people, or even that he quotes the Bible in the course of everyday conversation. His ideas make you think, he inspires those around him, and he has found some way to live his motto. Or perhaps he stands out because he is a deep thinker. If you want a clue as to how much of a deep thinker he is, ask him what his favorite book is. In addition to the Bible, he says, right now it is *For the Foundation* by Isaac Asimov.

He is the brains behind SA Peace Week. The idea hit him in his Racial Conflict and Accord class, after he had done a report on Elias Chaucor, a peacemaker who tried to reconcile religious and ethnic groups. After presenting the report, he thought about the information and lifestyle of this man. He wondered why this information shouldn’t be available

to the whole student body. Why, when there is so much going on in the world around us, do we only hear about the bad news and rarely ever hear about the people are working for peace?

As he was going over the logistics in his mind, he realized that Mr. Chaucor would be coming from another country, so ‘stopping by for the day’ would be impossible- he would have to stay for a longer period of time- like a week. And so the idea for Peace Week was born.

In his last chapel talk, Francis mentioned his vision for the school. What is it, you ask? In the terms of peace, he wants to see Andrews Academy become a place that reflects the attitude and character of Jesus to the whole community. “Not just the salvation part,” he says, “but the ways we relate to each other and deal with conflict as well. The Bible says, ‘blessed are the peacemakers, for they are the children of God.’ If we consider ourselves the children of God, it follows that we should be peacemakers as well.”

So, what is the key to peace, since we should try to be peacemakers? There are three parts, he says. They sound simple, but achieving them is harder than it sounds. Forgiveness is very important, as is the ability to discuss and compromise. War, he says, is only a temporary solution. Until true peace is established, war will continue. However, peace is possible for most if not all of the world if people will take small steps to make peace in their world around them. It’s the small changes that matter the most, he says. Because although making a big difference all at once might make great headline news, it’s the small things that the world notices the most. The little things people do affect you personally, and that will make you want to do the same for others, and the chain reaction continues. Daniel gives the example of world hunger. Say you solve world hunger, and everyone is fed and happy for a long time. But what if someone or some distributor decides one day to keep all the food for themselves or save it for some reason? Then you’ve still got hungry people, and you really can’t do anything about it. But if you spent every day around hungry people, and you began to do little things to help them out, like teach them to plant food or some form of business, then they will share that knowledge with others and help those around them, and you’ve set off a lasting chain reaction.

“The little things are the things the world notices”, he says. When asked what he does to try and make the world around him a better place, he said, “I try to inform myself of situations going on in my community and in my world that I can make a difference in. I

try to live my life as a person who talks with others, who forgives, who’s willing to compromise and let others have another opinion.” These things, he says, are the basis of lasting peace. Without them no progress can be made.

So what can you do to bring peace to your world? He suggests learning to be a good friend and a good neighbor. An ideal peacemaker, he says, should be involved in their community and should know the meaning of true forgiveness.

And why does he love history so much? He finds it fascinating because it’s a story, an in-depth guide to the way other people thought and used to relate to each other. Also, we can learn lessons for what to do or what not to do from it. In short, we can learn peace.



Jessica Anzures, a senior at Andrews Academy, made a vow: “Not On My Watch.” Her vow is the official slogan of savedarfur.org, an organization dedicated to providing relief to the political refugees from the Darfur region of the Sudan, and Jessica is committed to doing her part to help.

Jessica has raised over \$600 dollars through a bake sale and the sale of green plastic wristbands donated by savedarfur.org, each wristband imprinted with the organization’s URL and the words “Not On My Watch” and “Save Darfur.”

Jessica first heard about savedarfur.org from her uncle, a history teacher in Eau Claire, who had launched a campaign at his school to generate support for the refugees. Fueled by her uncle’s interest, Jessica felt compelled to begin a campaign at Andrews Academy to generate awareness and raise relief funds for the nearly 2 million displaced political refugees.

“It seemed important, and no one seems to know much about it,” Jessica said. “It tugged at my heart and I thought it was important – I thought I could do something.”

As part of her campaign, Jessica, with the help of a few friends, organized a special hour-long presentation to inform her classmates of the Darfur conflict that has taken the lives of at least 450,000, according to UN

estimates.

“I want people to know that even though it’s not close to us, they are still our brothers and sisters that this is happening to,” Jessica said. “There’s no excuse for not helping or being educated about what’s going on.”

As part of the special presentation, Jessica invited Andrews Academy students to write letters to the refugees offering them hope by promising to share their story with as many people as possible. Jessica received over 100 letters and is working with Hedly Nam at savedarfur.org to deliver the letters.

Jessica continues to search for ways to help people locally and abroad. Her commitment and compassion have prompted her to pursue a career in health.

Contributors

Articles: Clifford Allen by Kara Baker, Guestwriter

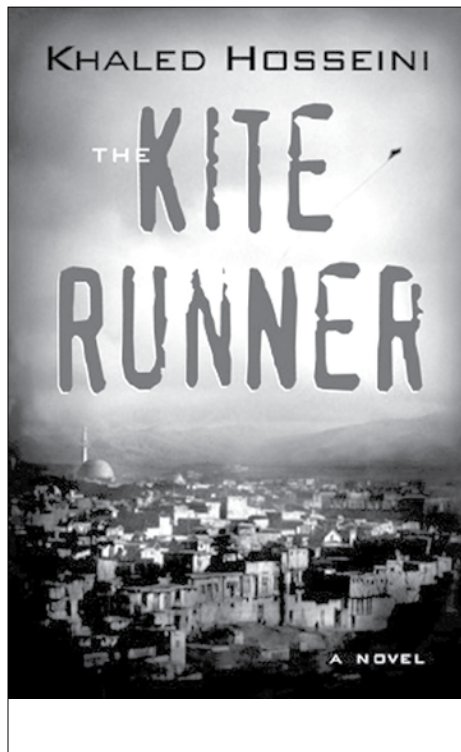
Mike Riess, Brock Vance, and Anika Seibold by Amanda Shepler
Sofia Caceres and Ben Weakley by Sarah Gane

Daniel Francis by Samantha Snively

Photographs: Amanda Shepler, Samantha Snively, Austin Ho

Controversial film banned in Afghanistan

Samantha Snively
Editor



There is an Afghan proverb, “The one who was bitten once by the snake is afraid of rope.”

Khaled Hosseini’s book, “*The Kite Runner*”, has been fourth on the New York Times’ bestseller list for 120 weeks in a row. In fact, it is so popular that Paramount Pictures recently made it into a full-length film. But in Afghanistan, the country the book is set in, the movie finds itself on a list of a different kind- a blacklist.

According to the New York Times, the Culture Ministry and the Afghan Film Company have banned the movie from being imported or shown in the country. The director of the Afghan Film Company, Latif Ahmadi, did not specify the reasons for the ban, but said only that “scenes from the film will arouse sensitivity among some of our people.” Although the movie is blacklisted, the novel itself has not been banned. The novel

is written in English, and most Afghans cannot read English. The original novel, and the plot of the movie, center around the tensions between two boys of different tribes- one boy is a Pashtun and the other is Hazara. The Hazaras are seen as inferior, and are often referred to as ‘dogs’ in the book. The scene that

“The one who was bitten once by a snake is afraid of rope.”

has the country worried, though, is the depiction of the rape of the Hazara boy by an older Pashtun bully. This scene is considered

The movie has been well-accepted in America and other countries, but it does promote thought.

Although Ahmadi has not seen the film himself, his concern may stem from earlier controversy over an Indian film called “Kabul Express”.

The Hazaras considered some of the dialogue in the film to be insulting to their tribe.

According to Ahmadi, “the Afghan government has tried to avoid any other tensions and problems in advance.” Perhaps they are



by many to be inflammatory and anti-Islamic. The government was worried that this scene might possibly provoke violence and rioting. For their own safety, the four boys playing the key characters were moved to the United Arab Emirates last November, shortly before the film was released.

avoiding another snakebite?

cont’d from p.2

beautiful.”

The stories made an impression on me not only because I was able to learn about a little part of my history, but Nonno’s outlook on life amazed me. How can someone who’s had that much experience and trouble in life still believe life is beautiful when every day, I complain about the smallest things that don’t really matter?

He mentioned the phrase ‘life is short enough’ a lot. And I thought about how I worry so much about the future when overlooking the present. Research Comp, for example. I envisioned my bloody death surrounded by piles of note cards and “Pickett’s Charge” clutched in my fist. Then I did the first assignment, and it wasn’t that bad. After a good night’s sleep, I came up with a conclusion much the same as Nonno’s, with a slight variation. The way to get through life, I reasoned, was to take it one day at a time and not worry about what was to come. Plan, yes, but the more time I waste worrying about problems I might have or things I could have done, the less time I have to do something about them. I also thought that I probably should enjoy what comes my way instead of waiting for one big miraculous happening to bless my life.

To me a new year means a new start and a new way of thinking- not a new to-do list. So take this year as it comes to you. Take one day at a time and enjoy the little things it brings you. In the words of my Nonno, “...life is long and it is going to be rough and troubled anyway. Forget the reality of it and instead taste the joy of this beautiful day...Think positively about the future, but don’t rush in too much. Today is a beautiful day. Enjoy it for all its worth.”

Arts & Entertainment

Tirza Rideout
Staff Writer

Searching for something that will keep cabin fever at bay? Need to find something see or do on the weekends that might actually take your mind off of school and those horrible homework assignments?

Well, although you have to search long and hard for things to do around Berrien Springs, there are some artsy things that might be interesting in the area.

Take for instance the fact that they are showing Rembrandt and Picasso originals at the Snite Museum of Art in South Bend. For more info, check out the museum website at www.nd.edu/~sniteart/.

Another interesting thing on the art

scene-the “Faces: Kathy Leib Solo” exhibition at the The Spurious Fugitive Art Gallery in South Bend—promises to be surprising. Again, for more information, visit www.spuriousfugitive.com.

On the performing arts end of things, some fabulous things are going on at the Moreau Center for the Arts on the campus of Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame. If you’re a fan of marionettes, the Cashore Marionettes will be there on February 7. Also, February 14-February 16 there will be performances of modern, ballet, jazz, and pointe dances as part of the DanceArts 2008 event. For more info, visit www.saintmarys.edu/~tickets/.



Weird News

January 2008

Tirza Rideout
Staff Writer

Stephenville, Texas—Residents claim they saw U.F.O. on the night of January 13. A silent black object with lights soared over rooftops; and was witnessed by townsfolk, as well as the county constable and a pilot. Federal officials say that there was undoubtedly an explanation for the strange phenomena; citizens still insist it was too fast and too low to the ground to be an airplane. As this is in the 'Bible belt', some people fear the end of the world.

Tokyo, Japan—A lost Japanese mountain climber survived by eating snow for more than a week in the icy climbs of the Azuma mountain range. Masayuki Nakamura became lost a few days into his trek, and his supplies quickly ran out. "I really thought I was done for, so I was truly happy that I made it," a Kyodo news agency quoted him as telling a reporter. "I never want to climb a mountain again."

St. Louis, Missouri—Scott Masters, 41, faced a potential 30-year sentence for shoplifting a doughnut in a Farmington, Mo., convenience store in September because, as he exited the store, he pushed a worker aside. Prosecutors said that "assault" made the crime a "strong-arm robbery" (but in December, a judge decided 90 days in jail was more appropriate).

New York—On Nov. 7, news media reported that New York City's Serendipity 3 restaurant had been noted by the Guinness Book of World Records for having the planet's most expensive dessert (a \$25,000 chocolate sundae, featuring, among other delicacies, edible gold flakes). On Nov. 16, the same news media reported that the city's Department of Health had ordered Serendipity 3 closed after inspectors found a live mouse in the kitchen, along with mouse droppings, fruit flies, house flies and more than 100 cockroaches.

Auckland, New Zealand—Jacqui Dean, a member of the New Zealand Parliament, apparently became the latest prominent person to publicly fall for the H₂O hoax. A constituent, perhaps intending to mock Dean's general alarm about dangerous substances, sought her help in "investigating" the "toxic" "dihydrogen monoxide," and Dean appeared to support an inquiry.

London, England—As he crossed a field while walking his dog near his home in Brighton, England, in October, police Inspector Chris Poole, age 50, was attacked by about 50 cows. He spent 11 days in the hospital, recovering from the butting and stomping, which cost him four broken bones, a severed artery and a punctured lung.



Do not eat: USB sushi drive



Free bottled water: the Rain Saver



Strange Inventions: A look at what's new for the year

Tirza Rideout
Staff Writer

Inventors have been hard at work these past years, what with the ever improving iPod, and the ultra thin new Macbook "Air", the laptop that is the width of your index finger. But what about the other half of inventors...the people that brought us the butter glue stick, or the amazing instant facelift machine? What have they been doing? Roll out the red carpet for this year's "Strange Inventions Awards".

The Award for "Most Useful in Everyday Life" goes to the inventor of the flashlight slippers. Do you get up at night to drink water, go to the toilet...Do you wish you could see in the dark? Remarkably bright LED lights are triggered by your footsteps and light up the floor 30 feet in front of you.

The Award for "Most Effective Combination of Productivity and Consumption" is won by the USB sushi drive. Never again will you have to choose between having sushi or having a USB memory drive--thanks to this remarkable USB drive. These drives are handmade replicas of sushi, made in Tokyo. The realistic USB sushi drive comes in several flavors.

The Award for "Best Improvement in Medical Technology" goes to the hearing amplifier made out of two plastic planting pots. It is scientifically proven to amplify your hearing capacity by 20%.

The Award for "Best Environmental Impact" goes to the "Rain Saver". You can make your own bottled water with the "Rain saver". Composed simply of an inverted umbrella attached to a water jug on a shoulder strap, it provides you with the means to collect and bottle your own pure water, saving you hundreds of dollars in bottled

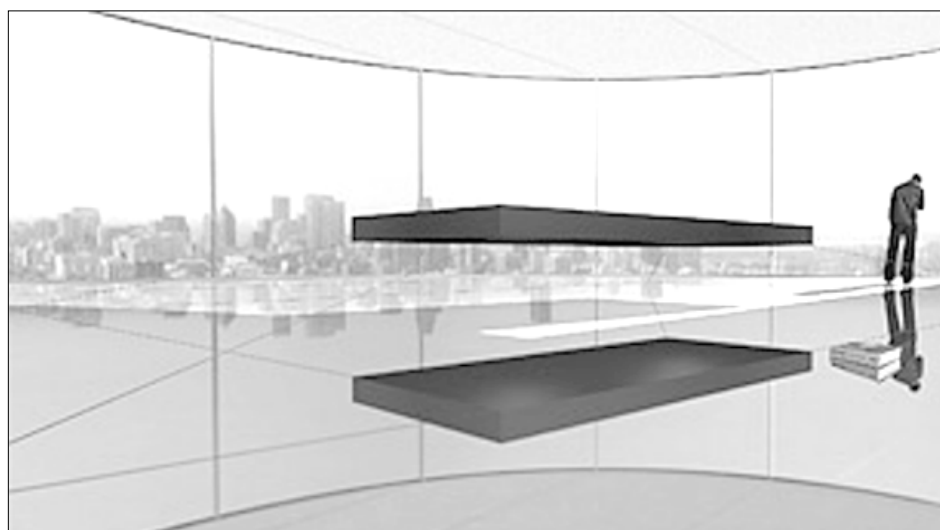


The hearing amplifier

water.

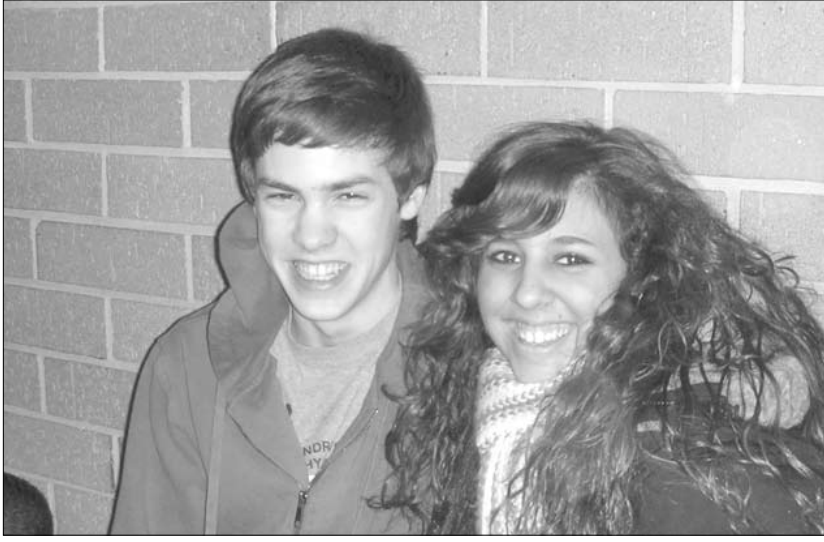
We have two winners tied for the category of "Best Everyday Luxury". Janjaap Ruijsenaars' floating air mattress uses a set of repelling magnets, built into the bed and the floor below, to support weights up to 2,000 lbs.

Currently at the prototype stage, CabBoots are a new sort of guidance system for pedestrians. They tell the walker where to walk by communicating somehow with the feet.

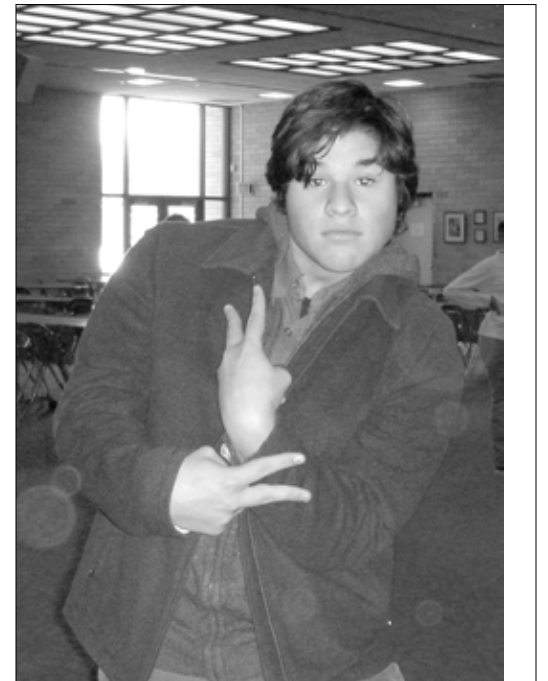


Never get lost again with the Cab-Boots

The Back Page



“Mr. Cleon White.”
-Michelle Anzures, sophomore



“Hip and down wit’ it.”
-Michael Hernandez,
sophomore

What is the most important characteristic in a future principal?



“Cheesy humor.”
-Jared Claybrun and Ray Ulrich, freshmen

“Dry humor.”
-Scott Snowden, freshman



Do you have pictures?

Well, we don't.

And we want yours.

If you have a picture you would like the Sanjo to publish, send it to us at aasanjo@gmail.com. Any captions you would like to put with the pictures are also welcome.

dinj cont'd

con't from p.3

Another shock to the band came when lyricist Jason Lemon ran away to Honduras. This was a blow to the rest of the band, only days after their formation. This left the rest of the band in a creative rut. Close to destruction, the band somehow held together until Jason finally returned. Soon after, their newest single, “Phantoms”, was created.

The guys of dinj are going strong and have some good news for all of you dinj fans. They plan to release their first CD late April. So put that in your date books! Head on over to www.myspace.com/dinj and experience the experience of a lifetime.



“He should listen to students.”
-Rose Vargas, junior