



Eagle's Eye

Dalat School, Tanjung Bunga, 11200 Penang, Malaysia

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THE SECOND TSUNAMI

By Grace Kim Eun Hae

Under the dark sky painted with the growing moon and numerous shattered twinkling stars, a group of students hopped into the school vans with great expectations and anticipation in their hearts for the Evangelism Explosion Trip in Phuket, on 14 March. About a year and a quarter had passed since the monstrous tsunami had maliciously annihilated much of Southeast Asia. Without realizing it, the students had jumped into "a second tsunami" of healing and restoration.

From the beginning of the trip, the students fervently explored Phuket. Without even giving their bodies time to revitalize, they rode on truck "taxis" that literally rocketed down bumpy roads with barely visible traffic lines to go to a beach. The beach once had various restaurants renowned for their exquisite dishes, but they now lay barren by the tsunami that wiped out the entire area.

Rivka Matanick (12) recalled, "It was awesome just being there and seeing a place that was hit so hard by the tsunami. There were huge boulders of coral everywhere. It was very pretty but kind of sad." The group of students had just a taste of what would come.

In order to achieve the true goal of the trip, sharing the Gospel and love with Thai villagers, for three mornings a pair consisting of a trainee and a trainer had an exciting yet challenging time of learning and

memorizing a super-condensed version of EE materials. Pastor Nono, who flew miles and miles from the Philippines, carried out EE sessions in entertaining ways such as karaoke style worship, hilarious advertisement video clips, and random jokes.

Olivia D'Cruz (11) told her friends, "Pastor Nono was an amazing person with contagious laughter, smiles and joy. His love for the children of Asia was obvious in everything he did, and before we knew it, we began to have a deep desire to help and love these same children. He opened our eyes to their suffering, and we will never be the same."

On Friday, the EE team finally began practicing sharing the Gospel with strangers. Most of the students, including the trainers who had shared many times, felt their hearts jumping up and down rapidly; however, God worked in amazing ways.

Mr. Steven Liss, who solidly stated even before going out that he would stay silent, wholeheartedly shared his testimony with a barber while getting his hair cut.

Angela Stevens (11) and Matanick ran into an Indian man who filled their minds with his story of a miraculous escape from the Tsunami and showed a significant interest toward Christianity.

God had more to show to the group through their contact with Thai children. Heather Hill (12) said, "The kids were so ador-

able. When we played with them, it did not matter whether we spoke the same language."

John Kim (12) enjoyed his popularity among kids and showed his love although he sweated gallons playing chasing games and "horse" riding. During worship, kids came up to the stage, imitating the hand motions with beautiful smiles. Kim stated, "I did not quite like kids till now because they seemed like annoying creatures; but now I love them so much. They have taught me to appreciate the blessings that I have taken for (Continued on page 2, col. 1)

Narnia's New Rulers

By Chris Foster

On Tuesday, 7 March, the chapel buzzed with excited high schoolers and anxious parents and teachers. A lamppost stood alone on a corner of the stage, and a makeshift mountain made from chairs and bed sheets lay off to the right side of the chapel. Soon the chapel lights dimmed, and the curtains opened, revealing Nathan Rice (12) dressed as a lion with the name "Aslan" on a sheet of paper taped to his costume. "Good morning everyone, and welcome to the magical realm of Narnia!" said Rice.

Thus began the annual National Honor Society induction. (Continued on page 2, col. 2)

BLOOD, CUTS, AND MORE....

By Malaina Gaddis

"Ouch!" Jonathan Dyck (12) exclaimed as he suddenly cut his thumb while whittling to the tunes of Simon and Garfunkel during Thursday's Whittling P-Period.

As drops of blood dripped onto the table, Kazuki Takahashi (11), weak of stomach, excused himself rather swiftly from the room.

A lifetime of whittling and the cuts to accompany, Uncle Larry Bieling of Eckman Dorm—uncannily relaxed about the sit-

uation—helped Dyck bandage the deep wound.

Uncle Larry introduced the old and sadly vanishing American pastime of slowly carving shapes and various figures out of wood with a technique called whittling to a younger generation of students from many different nations and backgrounds. In today's faced-paced society, many high-tech forms of entertainment exist that seem to replace the slow, relaxed processes like whittling.

Though not as popular or common among people today, whittling remains a hobby and great interest for many.

For students like Joy Li (10) the P-Period provided a great experience. "I think the whittling P-Period is fun because I never would have the opportunity to whittle or work with wood otherwise. It's relaxing at the end of the day and definitely offers a good workout for the hands and fingers!"

Whittling offers a refreshing

alternative to movies or video games for those looking to pass the time or simply take a break from a hectic day and relax. With luck, more Dalat students will have opportunities to learn this rapidly vanishing art.

To everyone's relief Dyck's thumb caused him little pain the next day and has begun to heal nicely; to everyone's greater relief, Takahashi made it out of the room and didn't lose his lunch. •



Jazzing It Up

By Andrew McClary

"Let's go, Let's go!" Mr. Kerry Mahoney shouted as the students loaded up the vans and prepared to make the short drive to St. Christopher's School. On 7 March, the Dalat International School jazz ensemble played at St. Christopher's as part of a pro-Dalat Campaign.

The band of 22 students as well as Mrs. Valeri Brokaw and Mr. Mahoney set off for this "concert" not really knowing what to expect but confident in the jazz band's skills. "I expected the trip to be the usual play and go, but it was awesome. The students were very attentive and interested in Mr. Mahoney's speech to the school's third graders about the basics of band instruments," said John Kim (12).

After a few minutes, the kids filed in while chatting quietly about the band with their

friends. After the introductions, the band started playing for the students, showing them a normal practice day. After all, the band had come into the concert without any practice. People from the jazz band had the chance to get to know some of the St. Christopher children through a competition.

Each Dalat student had to ask a certain number of questions to different people; the first one to accomplish the task would win. Robbie Mangham (11) said, "The best part of our visit was the interaction we had with the kids."

But there could be only one winner, and at the end Kaz Hayashi (11) came out victorious; he displayed a big smile as Mr. Karl Steinkamp pronounced him the victor. And finally, when the St. Christopher students thought

all the fun was done, the Dalat students surprised them with their signature piece, *Born to Be Wild*, for the excited and now sweaty children.

Exhausted but happy, the jazz band loaded back up into the hot school vans and made its way back through Penang traffic to school, arriving just in time for lunch. The students hopped out of the vans and proceeded to fill their hungry stomachs and continued with another exciting afternoon. •

National Honor Society....

(Continued from page 1, col. 4) All of the current NHS members (Rice, Heather Hill (12), Rivka Matanick (12), John Kim (12), Grace Kim (12), Yumi Yamauchi (12), Lindsay Parks (12), and Grace Sun (12) made it their duty to welcome the new inductees in a clever and entertaining way. With all of the members cast as different characters from "The Chronicles of Narnia," everyone in the chapel simply had to sit back and watch the performance.

Prior to the final production, the members had to write and practice the skit themselves. "It took us forever to think of a script; and the last few weeks, we got really stressed because we didn't think we would pull it together in time. Some days I just didn't want to work anymore. The actual day, though, everything came together; and it was so fun, especially when the audience laughed. It made all the work worth it," said Parks.

The skit began with the "residents" of Narnia fretting over the loss of their four kings and queens (freshmen Kyle Ladner,

Riley Mahoney, Catherine Foster, and Naomi Matanick), who had gone on a hunting party and never come back. Desperate for strong leaders that showed excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character, Rice set the Pink Witch (Parks), Tumnia (Matanick), and Mr. & Mrs. Beaver (John Kim, and Yamauchi) out on a quest to locate a new light bulb to put in the lamppost; whoever succeeded in finding the bulb would become the new ruler of Narnia.

After braving the wrath of King Kong (Mr. Greg Stenlund), crossing a rushing river, and climbing a huge mountain, the foursome found the light bulb. Unfortunately, though Parks had leadership, Kim had service, Yamauchi had character, and Matanick had scholarship, no one "being" possessed all four qualities necessary for leadership over Narnia. In desperation, Aslan searched over the audience to find students worthy to rule his kingdom.

After searching the audience over and over, 11 new juniors and one senior—Sarah Cairn-

cross, Christa DeVette, Jonathan Dyck (12), Marie Giezen-danner, Pam Hidajat, Barret Loehden, Josh Manfred, Allison McClary, Michelle Nagel, Drew Steiert, Charis To, and Liesl Williams—joined the ranks of NHS.

"I thought the skit was very funny and creative; it helped to lighten up a serious occasion," said Nagel.

"I was kind of surprised to get in, but I was glad that all my hard work finally paid off," said Manfred.

After all the new inductees joined the old members on stage, Mr. John "Tommy" Tompkins put the students' scholarship to the test and had all the members, new and old, recite the NHS pledge.

Mr. Karl Steinkamp gave a brief word of prayer and encouraged the new inductees to have their pictures taken with family and friends to forever capture this important and unique event. A delicious luncheon, provided by Dalat teachers and dorm staff, followed for the new inductees and their parents. •

EE Trip to Thailand...

(Continued from page 1, col. 4) granted as they live in uncomfortable conditions and yet they are hospitable and generous."

Even after the students returned to Penang on 19 March, God's tsunami stirred in hearts like that of Lindsay Parks (12). Parks shared in front of her schoolmates, "I think I am finally realizing how big and amazing God is. He can help us do more stuff than we can ask or imagine. It was such an amazing experience. Serving God may seem hard, but it is actually the most exciting way to live!" •

Ready to Realize Your Route

By Rivka Matanick

On Thursday 23 February, the seniors did not know what to expect. They merely knew that they got to miss a whole day of school, and that in itself brought a smile to most.

On the other hand, some didn't think the sessions at Paradise Hotel would turn out so glorious. "I pictured the transition [retreat] to be like an SAT test: a strict proctor, no talking, and limited breaks. But what happened was we talked about the important things relating to leaving Dalat and at the same time we enjoyed ourselves," said Po Lai.

And enjoy themselves they did. They learned about the ups and downs of leaving their comfort zone of 18 years, and they "hung out" with their friends while doing it.

At the start Ms. Ruth Strong talked to the seniors about life as TCKs (third culture kids). The class did a little activity where they saw what countries everyone had lived in and visited, what languages everyone spoke, the advantages and disadvantages of their TCK life, and how many years each person had lived away from his "home" country. As their years away

tripled their years in their passport country, they began to wonder where they could really call home.

After this Ms. Strong told the seniors about the RAFTs that they needed to build in order to keep them afloat during their hard time of leaving. On these paper rafts they expanded the acronym, writing down names of people whom they wanted to

Reconcile with, Affirm, and say Farewell to before they left. Finally they needed to Think destination.

Then Ms. Strong and the other administrators handed out packs of gum to everyone. Each senior had to chew two full packs of gum at one time. "We each took two packs of gum, except for Joel Babcock, Andrew McClary, Howard Kao, and I who took four. Then we chewed the gum and molded boats out of it. I being an experienced ceramist made the best boat, but as an artist I understand how easy it is for commoners to misunderstand art; alas I did not win," said Matt Hansen.

Ms. Strong then passed the baton to Mrs. Jacki Steinkamp

who told the seniors about grief, relationships, and levels of communication. She shared with them the difference between high school and college, and that—believe it or not—they would miss their days in Penang and their friends. She warned of the unhealthy relationships recently graduated students sometimes cling to because they don't have anyone else to talk to or hang out with. These talks opened the eyes of a lot of seniors who hadn't thought too much about all the little quirks that went with leaving Penang.

Yumi Yamauchi said, "[What we heard] opened so much up to me. I was exposed to the life in college, and it made me realize the comfort and happiness I have right now with my friends won't be [there] in three months. [After listening] I was able to prepare myself for my new life and treasure my old one."

Lunch followed Mrs. Steinkamp's session, and then Mr. Karl Steinkamp took over. He challenged the seniors to think hard about what they valued most in life. In order to do this, he gave each senior a pack of about 36 cards. Each

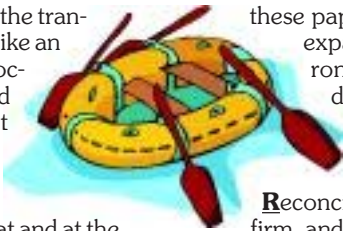
card had a value written on it (family, growth, passion, etc. and each person had to cut the deck in half by picking 18 values that he/she treasured the most. Mr. Steinkamp then lowered the number of their prioritized values each time. "Now you can only have six," he said. "Now three."

As groans reverberated throughout the room, Mr. Steinkamp told the seniors to pick their top two values. "[It] really made me think about the characteristics I value the most. I've never had such a difficult task as picking out my top values," said Howard Kao.

To finish off the retreat, the girls and guys split up to have different talks. When this last session ended, the girls headed off to have some fun with water-sports while the guys headed to the basketball court.

"The retreat really made me realize how little time I have left at Dalat. I want to make sure I spend my last few months focusing more on my friends rather than getting so caught up in life that I miss the people in it," said Lindsay Parks.

"I still can't believe that we will be in college soon," said Stella Park. "The realistic lessons we learned at the retreat were totally life changing! I was glad that we used the time to bond with one another. Can we go for another Senior Transition Retreat?" •



Music Night

By James Hawthorne

The crowd quieted as Mrs. Valeri Brokaw stepped up on the stage. She raised her baton and started to conduct her young musicians. Simple but beautiful music filled the chapel with wonderful sound. "I was surprised to see such talent among the younger performers, including the trumpet players in the 5-6 beginning band," said Chris Foster (12).

This year's third quarter band concert included several musical groups from both high school and middle school. The night started with middle school's two beginning bands and one advanced band.

It then switched to high school's jazz ensemble, choir, and concert band. The band really provided the last kick to the night, but the choir and the

jazz ensemble added their own distinct flavors.

Katherine Kang (9) played a solo during the jazz ensemble's performance of "Satin Doll" by Duke Ellington, Johnny Mercer, and Billy Strayhorn. Mrs. Brokaw also soloed in the ensemble's second piece "Shake, Rattle, and Roll."

After the lively jazz, the choir came up and cooled things down a bit with a traditional church hymn. They ended their part of the evening with a Negro Spiritual called "Every Time I Feel the Spirit," featuring Josh Manfred (11), Marie Giezendanner (11), and Sarah Cairncross (11) as soloists.

Then came the high school band, that peeled off "Doxology" with hardly any sweat. The

second piece proved more difficult and featured Grace Kim (12). Soloist Kim said, "I was so nervous about my solo that when it was my turn, my mind just went blank." But she did not seem to make any mistakes, and the audience applauded loudly. The concert band then ended with "Emperata Overture."

"My favorite piece was the 'Emperata Overture,'" said Foster. "The high school band did such a good job making it sound beautiful."

Being the second-to-last concert that any senior music student would perform in Penang, some felt a little sad that school would be over soon. "It made me sad realizing how I now have just one concert left to go...but as far as this one went, I really enjoyed every second of it," said John Kim (12). •



Coming & Going

By Audrey Ang

Last year, the high school science department lost a teacher whom students had known for two years, Mrs. Corinne Rogers. Mrs. Rogers taught Chemistry, Biology, and Physics. At the end of 2004, she came with her family to Dalat International School from Canada and taught until last semester. She left because her husband had to return to Canada to care for his sick father. His family needed all the moral support that he could give and therefore, he decided to go back; Mrs. Rogers followed her husband at Christmas break.

Students returned after break and met her replacement: Ms. Denise Chiles. Ms. Chiles, from Calgary, Alberta, comes from a (Continued on page 4, col. 1)

A Quick Fix of Forensics

By Nathan Rice

"Dude, I can't believe you haven't finished your speech yet," said Nathan Rice (12) to his inordinately tardy teammate James Hawthorne (12).

"I know; I know," Hawthorne replied. "Just help me with this."

On 22 February, 10 brave Dalat students sacrificed time from their classes to participate in a competition of speaking and drama. Laura Danneker (10), Jonathan Dyck (12), Kirsten Gamble (10), Marie Giezendanner (11), Hawthorne, Naomi Matanick (9), Allison Rice (10), Nathan Rice, Tokihito Shioya (11), and Liesl Williams (11) represented Dalat in the 29th Annual SEA Forensics Tournament, hosted by the International School of Kuala Lumpur. They rode the public bus for about six hours to get to KL, frantically practicing and preparing for the upcoming competition.

Danneker and A. Rice, Matanick and Giezendanner, Gamble and Shioya all would compete in duet acting. Also Danneker, Rice, and Shioya participated in oral interpretation, reading selections and providing interest solely by the use of their voices. Giezendanner and Matanick performed impromptu speaking, delivering a speech with only a minute to write; and Gamble presented a solo acting

piece. Lastly the debate teams, Dyck and Williams, Hawthorne and Rice, argued with their competitors whether or not "Developed nations have an ethical responsibility to eliminate poverty in developing nations."

Upon arriving in KL, the intrepid young speakers received host family assignments. "My host family was *very* hospitable," says Hawthorne.

"I stayed at the wrong house," lamented Dyck.

After settling themselves in their lodgings, the competitors drifted off to sleep to prepare

them for the coming tournament, at least those not frantically writing their negative speeches at 11:00 P.M.

The team performed in front of ISKL classes throughout the tournament. Gamble and Shioya presented a morbidly amusing piece involving a gentlemen with a rather unusual sense of humor. In commendably believable stretches, Giezendanner played the part of a compulsive over eater and Matanick her bulimic counterpart in a touching tale of acceptance. In course, Rice and Danneker acted out the reunion of an adopted girl with her birth mother.

For a lighter treat, Gamble presented a solo act focusing on the prim conniving of a vain young girl and the men who

contested for her heart. Danneker presented an oral interpretation of a scene from *Gone with the Wind*, and Shioya read from the Book of Jonah. Rice also presented an oral interpretation, telling of the troubles of a young black boy who had stuck his lips to the cold glass of a car's rearview mirror. Choosing from a variety of subjects, Giezendanner and Matanick delivered 3-5 minute impromptu speeches.

Dyck, Williams, Rice, and Hawthorne battled their debate competitors as their teammates went on to the semifinals.

Rice, the female version, progressed to the semis for both her oral interpretation and her duet acting piece with Danneker. In addition, Giezendanner advanced for her talent in delivering quickly-thought-up speeches in impromptu. They did not advance farther, but they did their school proud. Meanwhile a veritable miracle began to take place in debate.

The team of Dyck and Williams had acquitted themselves well with a showing of two wins and two losses, barely missing the quarterfinals. But the partnership of Rice, male, and Hawthorne defeated all their challengers but one. They proceeded to the quarter and then semifinals, defeating each newcomer. Advancing on the finals, they met the team that had undone them in the preliminaries. This team once again defeated them, but by a much narrower margin. It stands to note as well that this team had just won its third tournament in a row. So, against all expectation, Hawthorne and

Rice received the silver medal.

After a well-deserved feast at Chili's, it came time to return home. On the bus back to the now more honored institution, Rice turned to Hawthorne and exclaimed, "I cannot believe that we won the silver medal when you didn't even really write a negative speech!"

Hawthorne could only shake his head in wonder and laugh. •

Gettin' Ready!

By Hiro Kawabata

The Junior-Senior Banquet is very important to the senior class. This is the last JSB for the senior class. One junior said, "People say, well, the preparation of the JSB started at the end of the last academic year. We voted for the theme, and the excom said that we will start working on it next semester. So we were excited that we had chosen our theme already. However, I was very surprised when I came back for my junior year. The excom told us that we will be voting for our theme again, so we had a meeting again; and we chose another theme. I thought it is going to be OK this time. But it was not. Many people are wondering that why we had to change theme for JSB so many times."

Robbie Mangham (11) said, "It is very slow!! I'm doing entertainment, but it is hard to get to practice together. I need more (Continued on page 5, col. 1)

New Science Teacher...

(Continued from page 3, col. 4) family of five. She has an older brother and a younger sister. She formerly taught grade 9 science in rural Alberta for three years prior to becoming a research scientist and teacher at the University of Calgary for 13 years.

So, how did she come to know about a job opportunity at Dalat? Well, she got to know about it at a friend's wedding and wasn't interested at first, so she said no. But she felt God's calling and decided to accept the position.

One of Ms. Chiles's favourite Bible verses states: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with

all your mind; and love your neighbour as yourself" (Luke 10:26-28).

All her students fell in love with her bubbly and fun personality from the moment she came. Her dedication and passion for science shows in every aspect of her teaching; she wants to help students. As Terry Hsiang (12) said, "Ms. Chiles is such a fun teacher, and she doesn't use work to teach us; instead she uses her teaching skills."

"I think her titration experiment was very exciting and fun because I got to do it to find the endpoint of a reaction of some chemicals," added Elaine Ang (11). "I like her; I think she's pretty cool."

For her pastimes during the weekends, Ms. Chiles visits friends and tries new food in

different restaurants. "So far, my favorite food is *satay* because the peanut sauce is very delicious; my favorite drink is watermelon juice." Her hobbies also include photography, sewing, and listening to jazz music.

Ms. Chiles also loves travelling. Although she has travelled and participated in short-term missions in Europe and Central America, she had not lived outside Canada for more than two months until she moved here.

On the first day she stepped down in Penang, the beautiful beaches as well as the friendly people and their culture had already captured her heart. But she finds it hard to get used to the weather here. "It's so hot and humid. There aren't four seasons like in Canada," Ms. Chiles include. She loves the loca-

tion of the school because she can take walks by the beach whenever she wants or go to nearby malls like Island or Gurney Plazas.

Living thousands of miles away from her home makes her miss her family very much. "I miss my younger sister the most," she said.

Ms. Chiles will work through July 2007. After that, she will return to Calgary public school to teach science again. "One of my personal teaching goals is to have students realize that science is not just a subject in a classroom, but it is all around us. I want students to get excited about science. I feel that I have succeeded as a teacher when a student has a "science moment" in their daily life," she concluded. •

Bonding Over 'Bama

By Lindsay Parks

The smell of freshly-made popcorn greeted students as they entered the chapel on Friday night, 17 February for Student Council's Valentine's movie night. Yumi Yamauchi (12) and Stella Park (12) lit up with smiles from their post at the popcorn stand by the door as each student walked into the chapel. "Welcome to StuCo's movie night!" Yamauchi and Park said cheerfully as they handed out popcorn in brown-paper bags.

For Valentine's Day, StuCo planned an informal movie night in the chapel as a place for friends or couples to come and enjoy a free movie, popcorn, and drink. Po Lai (12) said, "The movie night was a great idea for Valentine's Day. It gave couples a chance to enjoy not only a movie together, but also [their] friends."

Grabbing pillows from the pile in the corner, dozens of students created their own comfortable spot in the middle of the chapel. Without any chairs in the way, the floor quickly filled up with outstretched students. As the lights dimmed, anticipation ran high among the curious students who did not know what movie would appear on the screen. As part of the hook, StuCo had not told anyone what

movie they would show; it became a wait-and-see deal.

Squeals of delight from most girls and a few good-natured groans from the guys echoed throughout the chapel when "Sweet Home Alabama" appeared up on the projector screen. Yamauchi picked the movie because "I thought it would be a good movie that would touch people's hearts and help them relax and enjoy their Friday night in the chapel."

Heather Hill (12) said, "I thought the movie night was a good success for StuCo, and I enjoyed the movie; 'Sweet Home Alabama' is a cute chick flick!"

Jon Kue (12), however, disagreed, "You should have

showed the 'Pirates of Caribbean' or something."

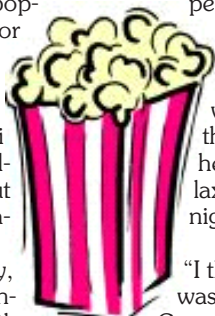
Students could also help themselves to a free-flow of popcorn and iced lemon tea during the film. StuCo had borrowed the popcorn machine from the PTO; and Grace Sun (12), Yamauchi, and Park manned the station to make fresh popcorn throughout the night. The popcorn machine gave off a friendly glowing light in the back corner in the otherwise dark chapel, reminding people of their hunger and creating a nice atmosphere. Terry Hsiang (12) said, "It was just like a real theatre but with free tickets, drinks, and popcorn!"

Park said, "Although as a student body we don't get many chances to bond, the movie night actually enabled us to spend time together. Being with a lot of people in the chapel, even if you

didn't talk to everyone, gave you a sense of belonging."

Pam Hidajat (11) agreed, "StuCo was delighted to help unify the Dalat community. Everyone had a fun time playing with pillows, eating popcorn, and drinking iced lemon tea. The movie night created love between Dalatites on Valentine's Day."

As the movie ended and the lights came back on, the students slowly got up from their comfortable spots. With the joys of the relaxing night and the chance to spend time with friends and fellow Dalat students lingering in their minds, they exited the chapel, the faint smell of popcorn drifting out behind them. As the StuCo began the clean-up, they smiled as they realized the night had turned into a success of relaxation and bonding time over 'Bama. •



A 24-Hour Famine?

By Patty Tsai

On 7 February, every student quietly listened when the teachers read the Daily Bulletin at the beginning of his or her first class: "ALL: You may be approached by biology students about pledging support for their participation in this year's Famine-athon. This year's pledges will go two places—either to create an emergency food fund for Evangelism Explosion 'Second Wave' workers (Ms. Denise Chiles's class) or a Cambodian 'Food-for-Work' project (Mr. Dean McClary's class). Students will be collecting the money AFTER the Famine-athon, which will be February 10th and 11th."

For the Famine-athon, one of the biggest projects in Biology class, students observed their bodies' chemical changes and also raised money to help out others through a 24-hour fasting period. Students received a

donation form a few days before to record donors' names and the amount of money they donated. "I got eight people to donate, and they are all staff," said Cindy Hsieh (10), comparing her list with others. "I heard that Tanya [Krishnamani, 10] also asked her neighbors for donations."

Sometimes students even needed to put out more effort than just simply explaining the purpose and asking for a donation. "Come on! You can do more than that," said Allison Rice (10) after the donor decided to donate five *ringgit*. "Let's make it ten."

On 10 February, at 8:20 A.M., the fasting officially began. At the end of the first session, students took some water or juice; and then they nervously lined up across the classroom, waiting for Mr. McClary to measure their

blood glucose levels. They also did some experiments to test how fasting affected their reaction time. At the end of the last session on 11 February, Mr. McClary closed with prayer; and then every one eagerly feasted on the breakfast which the kitchen staff had especially prepared for them.

"I think this was a very good experience," said Rice. "From this project, I understand how the tsunami victims felt when they didn't have enough food to eat. When I was really hungry, it was friends' support that helped me through the difficult time."

The next Monday morning, everyone heard, "All: Biology students successfully completed this year's Famine-athon last Friday and Saturday; those students who sought pledges for this activity will be collecting money this week. If you would like to pledge—grab a sophomore! Thank you for your willingness to bless those in need in tsunami-impacted regions of Asia as well as in Cambodia." •

JSB Prep...

(Continued from page 4, col. 4) practice. Time goes by so fast."

Raymond Deou (11) said, "I think the JSB is going well, but it's lots of work."

Allison McClary (11) said, "Oh, yeah, I'm working on the program with PowerPoint Documentation. It is kind of fun, but it is hard to put together."

Who is going to the JSB for his first year? Michael Whiting (10) said, "It's my first time to go JSB. Of course am very excited; it will be very interesting. I'll enjoy going, but I still haven't asked a girl yet. I have to find the girl, hehe..."

The seniors wait and hope that the JSB will be well done. We pray for the junior class. Thank you for all your hard work. •

Away from Reality

By Grace Sun

"Uurghh...I'm tired!" While trying to get rid of the sleepiness by rubbing her eyes, Stella Park (12) dug into her cozy blanket, grabbing the last moments of her sweet dream. On 17 March,

dorm parents from Ziemer, Chandler, and Jackson Dorms took their kids on a day trip to KL by bus.

"Even though waking up early in the morning on Friday with

NO school was painful, the day trip to KL was definitely worth it!" said Park after coming back from the capital.

Some day students remained in Penang and decided to hang out with friends. "The weekend was a blast, going to Infinity and (Continued on page 6, col. 1)

Point/Counterpoint

ID Cards: Crediting a Better Future

By Matt Hansen

Second semester has crept in once again, and students arrived at their homeroom to a new surprise—student ID cards. At first glance, the cheap appearance of the card made many people skeptical; but students then found out the technology behind the cards proved very interesting. High school students had the privilege of topping up before other students. To top up, students go to the office, give a sum of money to Amy, and receive the ability to purchase wondrous things at the canteen.

These new cards became one of the most controversial topics to hit Dalat since the cafeteria lunch menu—an interview with students would probably show disapproval in both cases. In looking at the big picture, however, the student ID cards teach students much better money management skills. Before the ID cards, the popular method to shop included a simple, yet dangerous, statement: “Charge it.”

This all-too-common saying still exists in many places other than the canteen, such as the junior class. “There is a lot of potential for the student ID cards. I think they should be used in areas other than the canteen as well,” said Student Council president John Kim (12).

But students loved the old way. Before the ID cards, they could buy whatever they wanted and never worry about the cost. Enormous sums of money went on accounts, and in most cases parents ended up paying.

The idea of charging things does not exist solely at Dalat. Students will face this luxury when they move out of the house and get their first credit card. A problem arises with this. Students know how to spend money that they cannot see, and they never worry about it again.

When in college and afterwards, students may get credit cards and could do just as good ol’ Dalat had taught them and end up with debts the size of Russia. Without the money to pay these debts, students would turn to their parents and will never have independent lives. The new ID cards provide a first step towards better preparing students for the “real world.”

Although the ID cards cause students to spend their own money—a tragedy in itself for some—they better prepare students for life. The ID cards create a tiny bit of self-sufficiency that helps students get out of the “bubble” where they have complete and utter dependence on others. •

Long Weekend...

(Continued from page 5, col. 4) Subaidah alternatively through the whole long weekend with Howard [Kao, 12] and Matt [Hansen, 12]; and sleeping in the morning and waking up at night,” commented Terry Hsiang (12).

As for others, they enjoyed nature. “My long weekend was very relaxing, and I enjoyed some of the awesome things that Penang provides us,” stated Yumi Yamauchi (12). “It was great coming back and seeing all my friends again after a nice weekend, especially since a lot of them were gone to Thailand [on the EE trip]. And one of the

most exciting surprises was to see Grace [Sun, 12] with her newly pierced ears.”

“So...what did you do when you were in KL?” asked Lindsay Parks (12) to Park.

“I got to sweep all the shops, purchasing must-have items on awesome deals! Then I dragged my tired-from-shopping-hard-core body to Chili’s, energizing myself with drool-inducing BBQ beef ribs for the next shopping spree,” replied Park as she shared with her friends about the trip.

“I want to go to KL so bad now,” said Yamauchi with a desperate and jealous tone. “Let’s plan ahead for our next long weekend, OK? Maybe we can all go together!” •

Let’s Rethink This Idea

By Yumi Yamauchi

Can I have a Twix!? Can I have an Iced Tea!?

Everyday, the canteen swarms with hungry students craving for its delicious food. Filled with everything from the most tasteful chocolates to thirst-quenching drinks, the canteen offers the best for serving Dalat students; however, a hard and thick wall stands between some students and the canteen. The problem? The newly made ID cards for the students.

The ID card, originally made for the benefit of both the canteen and the students, has been creating uneasy relations. Originally announced usable in the beginning of first semester, the students anxiously waited to use their cards along with the new computerized system in the canteen; however, because of some difficulties, students did not receive their cards until the beginning of second semester.

Malaina Gaddis (12) stated, “The seniors didn’t get their student ID cards until the beginning of second semester, and the middle schoolers even later than that; so we really couldn’t use them for a long time. Now we are unable to charge our parents’ accounts.”

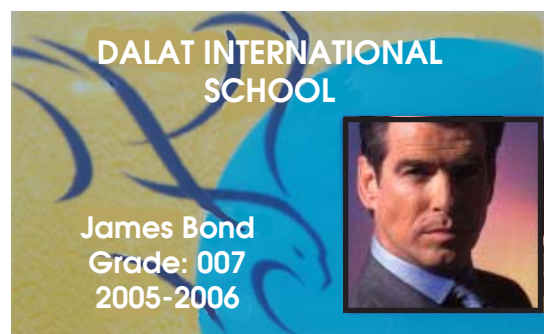
Not only can students no longer charge their parents’ accounts, but now they must top up their ID cards with hard cash by going up to the front desk and asking Amy to add an amount to their cards. For some students, it comes as a hard task to bring money (which for some comes out of their allowance) to school to add to their student ID cards. Often times they do not bother and give up the choice of buying something from the canteen.

Po Lai (12) said, “The cards are a good for a change, but the downside to it is that the minimum top up is 10 *ringgit*. Ten *ringgit* is 1/5 of my allowance, and I would prefer to spend less than that on canteen snacks.”

The problem would seem a lot better if it stopped here; however, more and more problems seem to pile up. Currently the canteen works around a single computer, and scanning each item for each person progresses at a slow rate—especially during busy times like the 15-minute break that students have in between double block schedules.

Gary Kennedy (10) said, “It takes so long to just scan one person’s order, and it’s so slow that a lot of the times you can’t even order.”

The point not only focuses on the students, but also on the visitors and parents who have not yet had the chance to purchase freely from the canteen; for they have not yet received ways of purchasing. Although the canteen progresses considerably better in business, it seems as though some of the relations with the students has soured. Adding new technology to an old system may seem considerably better, but to every new deal comes a trap or a hole; and not everything fits together perfectly. By learning from some of the downfalls that these ID cards have had in the past, hopefully the school can come up with successful solutions that will help in making the canteen a better and more comfortable place for all members of the Dalat family to go. •



Rising Stars

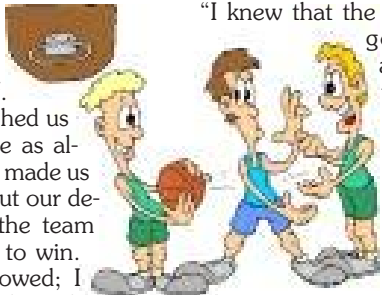
By Joel Babcock

During the weekend of 24-27 March, the Dalat JV basketball team competed in a friendly tournament hosted at home. Led by Coach Jimmy Um, the young athletes hit the courts as soon as the final bell rang on Friday; all with one goal in mind: domination.

“Practice really paid off. Coach Um pushed us hard in practice as always, but it has made us get serious about our desire to be on the team and our desire to win. The results showed; I think we played much better than we did in our home

tournament last semester,” said Bruce Mak (9), starting forward for the team.

As the date of the tournament neared, Coach Um arranged an exhibition game between Dalat and the Taiwanese school. Jonathan Kue (12) said, “I knew that the JV team had gotten better after I watched them play against the Taiwanese School. Something they didn’t have last semester seemed to be there, and everything clicked.”



The 47-31 victory over the Taiwanese spurred the team’s spirits on.

In the weekend tournament, the team faced off against George Town’s JV team on Friday. After an extremely well-played match, Dalat came out on top, crushing George Town 61-22.

The next morning, they played Uplands and won 43-16. Although the final game against St. Xavier’s came down to the very end, the JV guys couldn’t quite pull it off and lost 37-50.

“The boys have really improved since last semester. Although we didn’t do quite as well as I had hoped this time around, the capacity for excellence is within our grasp,” said Coach Um.

“Winning two games in a

row got us all pumped. I think we should’ve won against [St.] Xavier though. It was a good tournament. I thought everyone played really well. We’ll get it next time,” said Boch Chiao (9).

The tournament left the JV team’s season record at 6-3. Even though the team did not manage to sweep the tournament, outlook for the future remains optimistic. Coach Um said, “This tournament was a good learning experience for the boys. Every time they step out on the court at game time, they get a little bit better. Getting a little bit better each time we play is exactly our goal, and that’s the road to excellence.”

The JV team will continue to give all they have in practice and has plans to dominate their prospective home tournament later in the fourth quarter. •

A Walk in the Park

By Howard Kao

Sprinting down the court, Andrew McClary (12) calls for the ball, “Pass! I’m open!” As Steven Ong (12) looks up, he chucks the ball down the court right at McClary. On the evenings of 24 and 25 March, Dalat International School held a series of friendly matches between its very own varsity basketball team, George Town, St. Xavier’s, and Uplands. Games started at 4 P.M. Friday and ended with the last game at 5 P.M. Saturday.

The varsity team had waited eagerly for this weekend to

come. Not only did they get to bring all that they had learned onto the courts, but they also wore their brand new jerseys with their names on them. The varsity team had chosen and paid for these shirts themselves. “We have the best-looking jerseys for the best-looking team on the island; they are so com-



fortable to play in, and they give me an extra boost of confidence when I step onto the courts,” said McClary with a big smile.

The varsity guys might not have faced strong teams like those they would face in the upcoming MSSPP tournament, but the teams that came gave them a boost in morale and confidence.

“The varsity guys are really good. It’s fun to watch them do all their smooth moves and everything. I have no doubt that

they will do awesome in MSSPP because they are better than all the other teams,” said Rivka Matanick (12).

Wide open, McClary winds up for a dunk. He soars into the air, his vision narrows, and the rim becomes his main focus. The crowd quiets, waiting to see what McClary had in store for them. Flying in the air, McClary slowly brings the ball down, only to find his fingers an inch too far from the rim. The ball bounces off the rim and rolls off the court, leaving the crowd sighing with disappointment.

As the buzzer sounded, though, the varsity guys held their heads high—after all, they had won 80-33! •

A True Underdog Story

By Lachlan Modrzyński

On Saturday 25 March, Dalat hosted a mini-tournament for the varsity boys’ basketball team.

The previous week, David Robertson (11) and Jonny Kue (12) went on a mission to be involved in the competition, enlisting the help of Mr. Gerry Steiert’s protégé, Lachlan J. Modrzyński (11 ½) to get them in. After six days of organization, training, and begging, a second varsity basketball team formed, the Varsity Juniors (VJs).

The Varsity Juniors didn’t

enter into the competition because of scheduling conflicts; but with the help of Mr. Jimmy Um, they competed in a friendly match outside against George Town, who had lost the day before 80-33 to the regular varsity team.

The Varsity Juniors got off to a good start in the first half and, despite a second half slip, went on to win 44-33. Coach Modrzyński congratulated their efforts, especially those of Robertson, who scored 15 points, and Banaphol Ariyasantichai

(11), who kept playing despite a slight injury caused by a George Town player.

“Lachlan, our crazy coach from Down Under, started this basketball team, recruiting players from different grades and ethnicity, finding the perfect winning combination as we are undefeated,” Robertson stated before Mr. Clay Moss and Mr. Karl Steinkamp practically stole him to participate on the regular varsity team (despite being “under contract” with the VJ Team).

The VJ record stands at 1-0,

undefeated. The team, of nine players in the eleventh and twelfth grades, will continue to stay together and may get the chance to double their winning streak later next month. •



A BREAK FROM THE RED AND BLUE

By Jonathan Kue

The thought of next school year brings new excitement—of joy, fear, and re-enrollment. As for the seniors, they will close a long chapter in their lives and begin a new one. For others it's time to look to the future, a time for new beginnings, and a time to let go of old memories and create new ones. For a certain few, re-enrollment will be the next step for the next school year.

With waves of new students expected next year, the administration wants to promote re-enrollment for returning students and promises a "T-shirt Friday" for every student who enrolls for classes for the next school year.

"Students love the idea of having a T-shirt day. This would bring a fresh look to the campus," said an excited Josh Manfred (11).

With Dalat providing its own

shirt for students to wear on this "T-shirt Friday," students don't even have to think about what to wear to school. They can just wake up and put it on and go to school.

Some students who plan to leave Penang don't have this option. Seniors, for example, don't get to participate in this "T-shirt day"; and some of them feel a little bit left out of the fun. Others who do have the option of "T-shirt day" wonder about it.

David Robertson (11) said, "It's some ploy to get people to hate the uniform less. It is a sort of propaganda as the school hopes that the students will be more content by offering them an excuse to get out of the uniform."

"It's prejudice against those who are leaving, but it's still a good idea," said Kat Kang (9).

The truth lies in that the

school just wants an estimate of how many students will study here the next school year. With expected plans of rebuilding, Dalat plans to expand its facilities to meet the needs of a growing school population. The administration wants to have a little fun by finding new and creative ways to encourage students to re-enroll.

"There are a lot of new students who are possibly coming so they want to know how many slots of people aren't going to be here so they can give them away. Whoever is re-enrolling needs to tell them now; then they get a special prize for helping the administration. That doesn't mean we shouldn't be able to wear our senior shirts and jeans with them though," said Nathan Rice (12).

No matter what the purpose behind the idea, students can

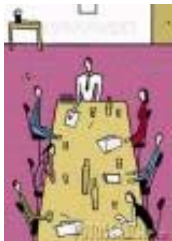
look back and say that they had fun. It's time for a little fresh air, and everyone wants to enjoy it. As the third quarter closes, everyone knows that only one more quarter lies ahead. The fourth begins, then the long-awaited JSB, and then the dreaded grad week will occur. But as for now we can look forward to a T-shirt Friday. Well, at least for most of us. •



The bubble over the monkey's head says, "Jumpa Lagi" or "See You Again" in *bahasa Melayu*.

BORED MEETINGS?

"Ring!" goes the school bell marking the end of the school day and the beginning of the weekend. Excited students come rushing out of their classrooms looking like a student stampede, ready to get away from everything. Among the students, new faces have



appeared in the relatively young crowd: an elite group of professional men and women mill around trying to fit into a group they grew out of many years ago; they also try to share their knowledge to the next generation in a limited amount of time.

From 14-17 February the school board met again; they meet together at least twice a semester—more if they need to—to discuss important and confidential issues regarding

By Ben DeVette

Dalat. The board, a mixture of men and women with a wide range of knowledge and wisdom, come from all over Southeast Asia. Mr. David Nagel chairs the group that include Mr. John DeVette, Mrs. Rhonda Unruh, Mr. Louis Rogerson, Mr. Wally Albrecht, Mr. Richard Herring, and Mrs. Simonetta Tami.

Mr. DeVette said, "I've always enjoyed the board meetings. Even though it's a lot of hard work, I love being in a meeting with godly men and

women, focused on the big picture, and possessing the authority to make decisions on the spot. What a difference from my day job in the business world. I find the board meetings both challenging and rewarding."

After a ten-minute break—and a quick chat with their children and a breath of fresh air—the board members enter back into a stuffy, Room 10 for another two or three hours of discussion before their weekend would start. Each member undoubtedly couldn't help but look jealously on his or her child's carefree life as they sacrificed for them. •

Friday Rituals

By Po Lai

Jonny Kue (12) finalized his attempt to put the bunny through the burrow and tightened his laces. On his way out the door, he checked himself out in the mirror just one more time to confirm his level of manliness. With his gelled hair swayed back and his original Man U jersey tucked in, he walked out his dorm with a confident stride.

On Friday nights everyone enjoyed the first day of the weekend. Most students headed down to Gurney Plaza; some just went

home to catch up on the sleep they had lost during the week. Several students, however, chose to stay on campus on their first night of freedom. The rare few who still retained their adrenaline and energy, gathered at the school gym at precisely 10:00 P.M. to enjoy a few games of indoor soccer.

Indoor soccer takes up the majority of the students' pastimes. It has been a tradition that has lasted for who knows how long, and a ritual that no

matter when, draws fans.

Andrew McClary [12] explained, "I go and play because I love to play soccer. Indoor is a fast-paced game, it's also a fun way for me to improve my skills. And even when I'm not playing, I blend in with the crowd and just cheer along."

Kue added, "Indoor has been going on for the longest time, and it has always been fun; I just love to score and hear the crowd cheer for me."

But this "Friday ritual" hasn't been the same all throughout the years. McClary pointed out, "It has changed a lot since I first started playing; it used to be

only high school students. But now it is girls, middle schoolers and anyone else who wants to play. I really don't like this at all and think it should be changed to how it used to be."

No matter the change to the tradition, playing indoor has not become a dying art but rather, a talent, very much alive and kicking, even with the influx of middle school kids and girls. These changes to the game have become an improvement, in a way, so that the players can experience a wider variety of opponents—and the spectators can enjoy a more entertaining pastime. •

A Holy Concert

By Terry Hsiang

"Dude, we are going to play so well now; and percussion will be like BOOM boom Boom!" Howard Kao (12) exclaimed wildly as he eyed the Red Bull drinks in front of each person. Taking the last-minute advantage before the concert began, Kao, Joel Babcock (12), and Ben DeVette (12) went two blocks up the road to the Banana Leaf restaurant to quench their hunger and thirst before the two-hour long session.

"Hurry up; it's about to start!" DeVette shouted as Kao frantically grabbed some Twiggies. They managed to finish their food before going in to the concert.

Christians as well as a respectable contingent of non-Christians gathered inside the building on 26 February and seated themselves as the concert band set up seats right below the stage. Fettes Park Baptist Church started their service at 7:30 P.M. sharp.

Instead of an ordinary service, the pastor described to

day's worship as "an enjoyment of music throughout the ages." He introduced the events and let the music start filling the hall with an admiration of God-given talents.

The service commenced by singing praise songs to the Lord. Everyone sang three hymns, in English, Korean, and in Mandarin. "Well, it was an interesting experience listening to lots of other groups sing in other languages, but was cool because it didn't matter about the language barrier with the music bridging that gap," Andrew McClary (12) commented.

"I enjoyed hearing other cultures and denominations praise God in their own languages as well as in English. That part of the evening really meant a lot to me!" Heather Hill (12) added.

When the multiracial groups took their seats, Mr. Kerry Mahoney raised his baton; and the concert band started playing "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" with the audience singing along during the chorus. The sound waves

from the instruments along with the audience filled the air with harmony.

After the band had finished performing its first piece, the Korean choir went up and sang a hymn in Korean. Chinese people went up and sang their song in Chinese. Next, Dalat's concert band played its well-practiced and rehearsed song, "Doxology." The choir arranged themselves on the stage right after. They sang "Gloria Patri" and "Ave Verum," two solemn, traditional songs, followed by "Every Time I Feel the Spirit," a catchy cheerful song.

"I liked listening to the other musical groups because I usually only get the chance to listen to Dalat's. My favorite was the Korean choir, but our band and choir were the best," Rivka Matanick (12) said.

Different people went up on the stage and expressed their emotions through their instrumental talents. The instruments varied, including clarinet, guitar, flute, piano, violin, trumpet, zither, and *er-hu*, a two-stringed Chinese fiddle. Dalat students waited in anticipation as Mr. Mahoney's trumpet performance came up. As expected, he confidently stepped on the

stage, raised his trumpet, and played his tune in style—making the tough notes seem effortless. The audience roared in applause after he played his final note.

The service concluded with the same songs from the beginning of the concert. Overall, students thought of the concert as a great learning experience as well as a great opportunity to learn about other racial groups.

"I had a lot of fun playing in front of a big audience and listening to the music throughout the ages," Kao exclaimed. "The Red Bull did not let me down."

"I think we did well, but we could have done better. It was a good opportunity to have extra time to practice in front of people," Audrey Ang (12) said.

The audience left content. Band students packed up their instruments, arranged stands neatly in the vans, and one by one, filed into the van heading for campus. Everyone left, leaving the church with the peaceful tranquility it originally possessed. •



What Lies Ahead

By John Kim

On a typical Monday lunch period, a handful of seniors have just sat down to eat their lunch. Yet a total silence fills their table except for a few grunts here and there—as if their minds have collectively emptied into their trays. Just what occupies the seniors' minds, if anything? Oh, nothing much at all, nothing but just three small worries: college, college, and college.

The thought of next year confused them, excited them, and gave them nightmares. In fact, it felt just like the day be-

fore JSB last year—except the juniors hadn't confirmed the venue yet. Those lucky seniors who have already received their God-sent acceptance letters seemed to have much lighter time, however. Said James Hawthorne (11), "For a long time I tried not to think about college acceptance, but every once in a while I'd have doubts about it. Then I got an acceptance letter from Georgia Tech. I felt a huge wave of relief."

For many seniors, even getting an acceptance letter didn't

solve their problems. In fact, it only created more headaches. "I got into five colleges—all the ones I've applied to. But I simply can't decide which one to pick; you have to consider so many factors, such as finances, quality of education, and location. The next four years of my life depend on the choice I make now," said Grace Kim (12).

The other half of seniors, on the other hand, seemed to have a more easygoing attitude towards the whole aspect of college. "Of course, I'm nervous about the 'unknowns' that I'll have to face. But I'm confident that the college will be a great experience, wherever I end up going. It will make my

dreams more tangible—if you know what I mean," said Stella Park (12), with much passion in her voice.

Dream or nightmare, each day colleges made it certainly more tangible that seniors would eventually have to take a road of their own, regardless of whether they received the acceptance letters or not. None of them knew exactly what lay ahead. Perhaps Rivka Matanick's (12) simple yet profound retort best summarized the collective thoughts of all seniors. She stated, "I don't know. I've never been there."

In the end, all seniors can do is just sit tight and trust God will show them what lies ahead. •

Do You Feel the Love?

By Stella Jin Sun Park

"Ain't no mountain high enough, ain't no valley low enough, ain't no river wide enough, to keep me from getting to you baby!" Splitting the silence that had previously resided in Senior Bible class, the tear-inducing love

song echoed through the classroom on Valentine's Day, 14 February, the worldwide-celebrated holiday for loved ones. For a second, an unexpected surprise swiftly traveled around the lost-looking seniors with their

big eyes still wondering. "Then I realized that Grace [Sun, 12], Stella [Park, 12], and I got a singing Valentine from Yumi [Yamauchi, 12]! She was the sweetest person ever!" said an enthusiastic Lindsay Parks (12).

The junior class offered a unique service no one had done recently: a special serenade for the treasured. Its powerful yet mellow ability to express affection without embarrassing anyone considerably, lured the student body. A grin on her (Continued on page 11, col. 1)

It's Time to Worship

By Heather Hill

"OK guys, let's all come over here and pray as a team before we start," said Mrs. Valeri Brokaw right before the clock reached the 6:30 P.M. time to start the service. Once a month, the Ambassadors worship team held a worship service in the chapel for all who wished to attend. They led a variety of songs, ranging from slow and personal to fast and energetic.

How do the Ambassadors

worship team and the worship team of chapel and prayer meeting differ from one another? They differ in the area of instruments; the Ambassadors team includes a brass and woodwind section, which the other team does not have. They also differ in the areas of size and schedules; the Ambassadors include many more students and meet during the school day, every Friday during P-period.

"My favorite thing about Ambassadors is being able to use the gifts God has given me to lead others in worship," commented Andrew McClary (12).

Matt Hansen (12) said, "The best part is when you feel God's presence and just know He is there listening to us."

The Ambassadors group of about 20 students love to play certain instruments and/or sing and praise God, which makes services enjoyable, very worshipful, and God-orientated. "I love the way the worship can be fun and serious at the same time," says Kirsten Gamble (10).

"It's a great experience to gather together and just focus

on worshipping God. I love all the songs, and I'm always surprised at how people can jump and play instruments at the same time. The joy in the room is infectious, and it's a great break from school [and homework]," said Lindsay Parks (12).

Allison McClary (11) agreed with Parks, saying, "Sunday night worship is a night I really look forward to. An awesome night of relaxing and getting my focus back on God before the next week is what I enjoy the most. The songs are upbeat but meaningful. Worshiping together with my friends and family is a much appreciated blessing. Can't wait till the next one!" •

Tropical Christmas

By Shinobu Toyama

Malaina Gaddis (12) showed up at school with a new bag and a pair of sandals; her friends asked about them, so she excitedly told them, "These are from Chatuchak, the big market in Bangkok. I had fun shopping there." Gaddis added with a smile, "I had a great Christmas day in Bangkok with my family." Gaddis and her friends talked about their exciting break.

Like them, students crowded around their lockers and shared vacation stories with their friends on 31 January before school.

Since most of the students had already gone back to their home countries during summer

break, many stayed in Penang during Christmas holiday. "I stayed in Penang, for the Christmas break. I did nothing special, but I had a good Christmas day with my family," Nathan Rice (12) said with a smile.

Heather Hill (12) stayed in Penang, too. "I went to KL and Indonesia during the break. [But] on Christmas day, I was in Penang. In the morning, I opened my presents. Later, my family and I hung out with the Steinerts and had a big lunch with them. It was a really big lunch, and we had leftovers for dinner."

For Hill, it could be a last Christmas in Penang, "I'm ex-

cited about winter Christmas for next year! I'm ready for it."

Dorm students flew back to be with their families. Jonathan Dyck (12) said, "I went to Indonesia where my family is and spent Christmas with them."

Chris Foster (12) went home to Indonesia, too: "I haven't seen a white Christmas in 12 years, and so I am used to being in the hot weather for Christmas."

Audrey Ang (12) went back home to Ipoh. "I went to the church service with my old friends on Christmas Eve. After that, I went to the *nasi kandar* restaurant and talked with my friends until midnight. The next day, I went to the church in the morning. I was tired, but I had a good and fun time," she said.

Some of the students went to countries they had never

been to. "I had a great time visiting my uncle's family in Manila, Philippines," stated Grace Kim (12). "Although it was January when I went there, there were a lot of Christmas decorations up. My uncle told me that in the Philippines Christmas is celebrated at least for a month since it is a Roman Catholic Church country."

Patty Tsai (12) went to Shanghai, China, and enjoyed the winter. "It was really cold in Shanghai. I saw big real Christmas tree which was pretty," she said.

The loud bell which students had not heard for couple of months rang and interrupted the their conversations. They started to go down to the chapel, continuing to talk about their Christmas break. The usual school days had begun again. •

A Day in the Sun

By Paul Im

Track and Field Day takes place every year at the U.S.M. field. Administrators divide the students four teams—red, green, blue, and yellow.

On Track and Field Day, students meet at the school early in the morning and leave to go to the U.S.M. field. Each team has its own bus, allowing them to travel together. Students have fun with their friends on the buses; some of the students enjoy listening to music, and some play cards or chess.

When they arrive at the field, they get ready for the competition; however, some of them start to eat immediately to get rid of hunger and get some en-

ergy. Students wait for their turns to participate in the events on the benches. Juniors sell ice creams, and a lot of students buy them to stay cool.

Track and Field Day helps students become closer. Daniel Lee (11) said, "It was a great experience for me because [I was able] to get to know my friends a little bit more and better. I was able to compete with my friends and enjoy the fun of comparing each others result."

Many students fear Track and Field Day; however, when they actually compete, they really enjoy it and have fun. Kazuki Takahashi (11) said, "It seemed boring and difficult to me, but

when I did the activity, it was lots of fun."

Hiroyuki Kawabata (12) said confidently, "Track and Field is fun, man, because it is challenging [to see how fast I can] run."

Everyone tries his or her best to get a good result. Andrew Jo (10) said, "It was cool seeing everyone give his and her best shot. Everyone was really competitive this year."

"Well, I did so badly on my running, I went so slow! Umm... the best part was relay, I think. I ran with David [Im, 10]. I love relays because it is all about team work!! My long jump was amazing because I did pretty well only on the first one!" said Kohei Shimizu (10).

"It was a nice to compete with other colors; I hope to run faster next year," said John Jang (9).

Track and Field Day helps to

develop students' cooperation. "I think track and field is the day that students can cooperate; we can cheer and encourage each other," commented Takehiro Toyama (11).

Track and Field Day provides a relaxing day for hard-working and stressful students. It provides a good rest. Hoon Kang (11) said, "We have a chance to rest that day. By the way, we can have competition in good ways on track and field day."

Brendon Buntain (10) said, "Well it's just great to compete with your peers in a friendly environment like Dalat." •



Diving Deeper

By Jonathan Dyck

At 6:30 P.M. on Sunday night, a small crowd of students gathered at the clock tower on campus, waiting for the vans. Were they going to see a movie, to go bowling, or to go out on a class event? No, the students prepared to go "Diving Deeper" into issues facing Christians today.

Unlike previous small groups, many of the "Diving Deeper" ones met off campus, with transportation provided by dorm parents or other staff. "I think it's good to get off campus; it's something different for our normally, mundane lives. It's also really cool to be at a non-dorm

staff home; you get to know another teacher better. I think there's also less distractions being off campus in a place you're not really familiar with," said Sarah Cairncross (11) about the group arrangements.

The groups also provided a chance to get out and discuss common issues. "It's a good time to get together with a group to talk about real-life issues and to hang out and get to know people you don't usually see very often," said Liesl Williams (11).

"[The groups] can help express your feelings on topics, and they are a great way to learn

more about communicating with our Saviour!" said Khalie Mahoney (7) with a grin.

Each small group formed its sessions around specific topics which ranged from dating to spiritual disciplines. "It's like looking at God as if He is one of us. It's really awesome because [my group] has all the people I know in it," said Brian Colfax (11), a member of the "What if God Was One of Us" small group.

A member of the "Questions" group, Stella Park (12) said, "It's really helpful to get together with other people and just throw

your hearts out... I'm glad that we have that kinda of opportunity! I ask a lot of questions during my small group and learn even more... I think this activity is pretty life-changing."

After the discussions, the groups settled down for snacks provided by the group leaders. "Soooooo yummy, delicious, sweet, chocolate," exclaimed Marigan Dyck (10) about her small group's snacks.

After snacks, at around 8:00 p.m. the vans came once again, this time to pick up students and transport them back to campus. Engaged minds and full stomachs comforted students with the thought that next week the same thing would happen all over again. •

Singing Valentines...

(Continued from page 9, col. 4) face, Sarah Cairncross (11), one of the singers, nodded, "I loved watching people's faces light up as we sang. I think it really made their day!"

Josh Manfred (11) seemed to appreciate it even more than the rest, "It was something new

and a great idea for fund-raising as well as an awesome reason to skip class," he said.

This creative activity gently reminded each of the students how much his friends meant to him. "I got a singing Valentine from my brother [Chris, 12] too. It was so sweet, and the singers sounded totally good," Catherine Foster (9) said.

Along with the singing juniors, Student Council also presented a remarkable opportunity for students to show their feelings for another by having a mini flower shop. With hearts brimful of love, people ordered bouquets of romantic roses for their dear fellows and respected teachers.

Some, however, decided

to stick loyally to their original custom: chocolate. "My Valentine's Day was pretty sweet because I brought some magic-spelling chocolates to my ladies!" confessed Boch Chiao (9). Smirking shyly he continued, "Who are the lucky ladies? Well, I can't really tell you that. It is still a mystery...." •