



Eagle's Eye

Dalat School, Tanjung Bunga, 11200 Penang, Malaysia

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Banding Together in Bangkok

By Rivka Matanick

"Don't forget your instruments," Mr. Kerry Mahoney warned on 26 October as students in grades nine through twelve scrambled around the band room like a bunch of ants. The band students skipped P period and boarded the bus by 3:30. No one wanted the crew to leave without them, not on this rare opportunity to go to Bangkok and get to play with bands from Thailand while having an awesome time hanging out with and getting to know fellow band members better.

The band class used to take trips every other year, alternating with the choir; but now they do trips whenever they have the

ence. "The festival in Bangkok is a unique opportunity for our students to play challenging music with other solid musicians in a large ensemble," said Mr. Mahoney. But the trip did not just consist of learning and working together; elements of bonding and fun also filled the time.

It all started with the 18-hour bus ride. With everyone in such close proximity for so long, people had to talk and have fun or else they would go crazy. Grace Sun (12) said, "The bus ride was the best when all the seniors crowded together at the bottom part of the bus listening to music and singing 'How Do I Live Without You' and 'The Reason'

for the upcoming events.

"It was the most uncomfortable bus ride I've ever had. I had to sleep on [top of] Terry the whole time," said Jonny Kue (12).

Christa DeVette (11) had a different, more morbid view on the bus ride. "The bus was literally like a coffin. The windows had green coffin-like curtains, and there was a padded roof."

Great relief filled everyone as they stepped off the bus and into the welcoming arms of the Alliance Guest Home. Chen Yi (9) said, "The guest house was the nicest one I've been to. But the showers were a little disappointing because the water just dripped [instead of sprayed]."

After breakfast and rushed showers, everyone piled back on the bus and became tourists. (Continued on page 2, col. 1)



"TRIUMPHANT Spirit" by Timothy Johnson showcased Dalat's individual band performance. Mr. Kerry Mahoney introduces the music to the audience at the final performance of the "Massed Band" on 29 October. Five schools with 175 students played together at the Festival.

opportunity, time, and money. Going to Bangkok for a concert with four other bands and practicing with a conductor from Montana provided the students with a good learning experi-

so freakishly loud that we woke the people upstairs up." But with fun and good times also came nighttime when the students and chaperones needed to sleep to try to get enough rest

Wet, Wild Fun

By Ted Fung

His eyes scanning campus, Drew Steiert (11) asked David Robertson (11), "Dude, where is [Mr. Ryan] Tuck?"

Locking his eyes onto their target, Robertson replied, "I see him! He's over there! Let's go!"

On Saturday, 12 November, the PTO held the annual Harvest Festival on campus. Besides the Dalat community, others from the Penang interna- (Continued on page 4, col. 3)

Santa Lucia

By Patty Tsai

On 22 October, in an Old Folks' Home in Penang, a beautiful song pervaded the atmosphere. "...San-ta Lu-cia, Santa Lu-cia..." With a lyric book in his hand, an old man sang gracefully, full of expressive emotion to four girls in the junior class: Allison McClary, Tara-Lynn Kennedy, Liesl Williams, and Jubilee Adleta. After a while, other juniors gradually gathered around him to watch his performance.

The Serve-athon, one of the most important events for the junior class, can effectively

raise money for the Junior-Senior Banquet and their senior sneak. "Before the Serve-athon, we sent out letters to our relatives and friends, telling them that our class was going to work eight hours in an Old Folks' home and asking them to pay us for our work," said Marie Giezendanner.

So, what did the juniors do in the Old Folks' home? "The Old Folks' home was really huge. It consisted of a four-story building and a one-story old building," said Richard Tsai, "so we needed to distribute the work

into many parts, such as cleaning the fans, mopping the floors, and wiping the windows to make sure that we would finish our work in time."

Other than working, the students also showed their love to the people. "It was a great time to talk and interact with old people. We listened to their life history and their encouragement for our school work. One old man even sang us a Christmas song!" said Elaine Ang.

Some students shared their opinions about the Serve-athon. "It was not only the interaction with the old folks—but also with our classmates," said Ang. "Since I am a new student, I got to know my classmates more by

working together."

"Our class was brought closer to one another through cooperation and helping out others," said Tsai.

It also gave students an opportunity to have fun outside school with their classmates. While working, juniors took photos and filmed videos to record these memorable moments of spending time together.

After a few hard-working hours, the juniors exchanged good-byes with the old folks and especially the amazing old man who had sung to them; then they hopped into the vans. A few minutes later, the vans mingled with the busy traffic and vanished. •

TOFU or TOEFL?

By Grace Sun

Breeze, raindrops, silence, emptiness...KDU! On 19 November, some seniors woke up earlier than any other Saturday to take the TOEFL test at Kolej Damansara Utama.

"It was quite an experience venturing into another school and taking the test in a completely new environment," stated Terry Hsiang (12).

The small senior Asian group, which included Hsiang, Po Lai, Paul Im, Patty Tsai, Grace Sun, and Ted Fung, joined other local students that morning for the college-entrance test.

TOEFL stands for "Test of English as a Foreign Language." Colleges and universities require the TOEFL test scores from those who do

not have English as their native language. TOEFL means a lot, especially for those people who consider attending colleges in English-speaking countries. For some Asians, TOEFL means nothing. "The TOEFL test was a piece of cake," said Howard Kao (12) with much self-confidence after taking it.

Some seniors missed the deadline for 19 November and had to take a day off and travel down to Kuala Lumpur for another test date. "It was awesome taking a trip down to KL

with Stella [Park, 12] and my mom," said Kao, who stood beside Park with a big smile.

"Yeah, I spent almost RM300 shopping!" said Park.

"Hey, is there a *dim sum* place nearby?" asked Fung after the test. The group headed to a local Chinese coffee shop for these special steamed treats. "It was nice to relieve my hunger by having *dim sum* and *tofu* after a whole morning of TOEFL!" exclaimed Hsiang after suffering back pains and aches from the four-hour test. •

They Band Trip to Bangkok...

(Continued from page 1, col. 4) visited a temple where one building had a huge reclining Buddha, and they took the river boat to a snake show. Many of the seniors had fond memories of the sight-seeing because they had done a similar tour when

reliving the band trip in ninth grade." For supper that night they got to roam around a mall and eat whatever caught their attention. A few of them treated themselves to Swensen's for dessert.

The next day everyone had to wake up bright and early to start practicing for the mass band concert on Saturday. As the bus pulled into the International School Bangkok, eyes opened wide in awe. The students shuffled into the auditorium, got their instruments out, sat down, and prepared for hours of practice with four schools from a r o u n d Bangkok and a guest director. "The conductor sometimes said words we didn't understand like 'maysur 57,'" said Charis To (11). All the bands

had practiced the songs for weeks in advance at their own schools, and they all knew the pieces well.

The long day of practice ended well for the band. They traveled to the top of the tallest building in Bangkok, looked around a little museum, and then had the buffet of a lifetime. "The buffet was the best part of the trip. It was worth every single penny that I paid for it," said Howard Kao (12).

The next day the band students practiced hard yet again. The practicing was not that horrible for some of them because they got to meet new people. Terry Hsiang (12) said, "A large contingent of the band student body, including me, enjoyed socializing and meeting new people from another country." The

reward for all their hard work came at two o'clock when the auditorium filled up, and they played their pieces for a captivated audience. Each school had the opportunity to play one piece by itself.

Because they had to travel 18 hours farther than any of the other schools, the Dalat crew left immediately after the performance. They headed back to the guest house, threw everything together, and boarded the bus for another long ride. Overall, the trip turned out successfully. Mr. Mahoney concluded by saying, "The conductor was fantastic, and our students represented themselves and our school extremely well both on the stage and off. It was a fantastic trip!" •



CHOWING down on *som tham*, sticky rice, and plates of *kaeng pedt*, James Hawthorne, John Kim, and Jonathan Kue enjoy an extra perk of performing in Thailand—its food! A trip on the river followed this delicious lunch.

the band went to Bangkok three years earlier during their ninth grade year. Po Lai (12) said, "Going on the trip this time was



FIRST stop on the sight-seeing tour: Wat Po, the world's largest reclining Buddha. Laura Danneker, Carolyn Whiting, Mr. Kerry Mahoney, Tamara Her-ring, and Po Lai walk through the temple grounds and head for the boat.

Hunger for Some Family Love

By Stella Park

"Do turkeys have bones?" wondered Tamara Herring (10) as she carved a mouth-watering turkey that had drawn everyone's eyes.

"What about mashed potatoes? How do you make them—just mash them?" asked Katherine Kang (9) after answering Herring's question.

On Sunday 27 November, the day started just like any other peaceful Sunday—the pleasant breeze wafted, the waves danced, and the ocean dazzled. The dorms, however, enjoyed a special time together in the evening: Thanksgiving Dinner.

This year the dorms had the option not to invite anyone and have their own family time. "It was way more family-like that way. And this time I actually didn't feel obligated to pass mashed potatoes to someone that I didn't even know," said

Josh Manfred (11).

Chandler Dorm, on the other hand, kept the tradition of inviting people and getting to know them. Laura Danneker (10) commented, "The dinner gave me a chance to fellowship with some staff members, like Aunt Nellie [Koethler] and Ms. Wendi [Maze], and with my dorm family because we don't usually talk at the dinner table in the cafeteria."

Although numerous dorm students appreciated this new style, a few preferred going to staff houses rather than staying on campus. "I like how we did the dinner last year better. That actually felt like I was at home. I mean, the dinner in the dorm was just like having another regular meal," said Jonathan Dyck (12).

Jonny Kue (12) added, "Yeah, I actually want to get a

'home-cooked' meal at a real house."

The food, however, satisfied the expectations of majority of the dorm student body, especially Josh Peace (10). "The food was really amazing; I actually had turkey which I hadn't had for the last four years in India!" he exclaimed.

The cafeteria had provided the main dishes, yet each dorm mom showed off her cooking skills on dessert and drinks. "I loved that I got to cook for a family occasion—which I rarely get to do here. I am also glad that everyone liked the hot cider I made," said Aunt Janet Phillips, Ziemer dorm mom.

After the dinner, each dorm carried on different activities; but mostly people just gathered around and enthusiastically shared stories. As the night deepened, they drew closer to each

other as a family; their love and care for one another sparked and grew even stronger.

And so did the needs for leftovers. "Do we have some more stuffing in the fridge?" asked Kael Steinert (10) as his hand headed to the refrigerator door. Although some dorm students might have felt their stomachs rumble by the end of the night, their hearts were filled with love. •



Turkey for the Body and Soul

By Grace Kim

Hunger-evoking aroma of turkey and cheerful laughter overflowed from Malaina Gaddis's (12) house on 24 November. Gaddis had invited the Sullivan family, with Dalat students Daniel (5), Jamie (4), and Kieran (3), and her friends to join her family for a grand Thanksgiving meal. The families sat around a long wooden table full of mouth-watering foods such as mashed potatoes, cranberries, and stuffing that melted in their mouths.

Although away from the U.S., Dalat's American families enjoyed luxurious meals. "I got to eat better food here in Penang than back in the U.S. I ate until I nearly passed out," said Ben DeVette (12) growing nostalgic.

Robbie Mangham (11) excitedly added to DeVette's com-

ment. "I had two Thanksgiving meals. On Thursday I went out with the Kennedy family and Joel [Babcock, 12]. We had a great time in Pizza Hut, talking about random topics like marriage and proposing. And on Friday, I invited Matt [Hansen, 12] and Lachlan [Modrzynski, 12] over. The pies were so delicious. I want to have them again next year!"

Meanwhile Mr. Greg Stenlund and his family attended a grand feast at their friends the Watsons' (their children: John Cotton, 2; Joshua, 4; and Mark, 2) along with 47 other people. "You name it. They had it!" Mr. Stenlund told his student with full confidence.

Even though late, the teachers who participated in the educational conference in Chiang-Mai, Thailand, celebrated when

they returned to their cozy homes. Mr. Dean McClary stated, "To my non-Christian immediate family, Thanksgiving is just a holiday, so nothing special happens; but in Penang, we have a meaningful time of fellowship with cell group members on Sunday."

Some also appreciated other sides of Thanksgiving. One of Gaddis's guests, Shinobu Toyama (12), who had joined a Thanksgiving celebration for the first time, liked the concept that families shared their praises to God.

Mr. Stenlund also said, "Thanksgiving is a great time for reflection on our past."

By visiting someone's house, a person can also determine

different side of the other person. "I have discovered hidden cooking skill of Christina [Gaddis, 8] through her marvelous pumpkin cake. Malaina kindly packed some foods for me to bring back for my family!" Toyama told her friends with enthusiasm as soon as arrived at the school next morning.

The main dish of turkey, along with a million other side-dishes satiated people's stomachs, adding a few pounds and an inch or two to their waistlines. Heartfelt testimonies and praises shared after meals brought about appreciation toward God and each other.

Whether a family or a big group of 40-plus people, all went through a special enrichment time for both their souls and bodies. •



Pink, That's HOT!

By Jonathan Kue

JSB, sneak, and now pink uniforms? The class of 2006 has made quite an impression on their character over their high school years. Once again the seniors pulled something off that nobody thought that they could.

Everyone expected a common solid color, but the seniors gave a sneak preview of their class uniforms and surprised the Dalat students and faculty. And to the senior's amazement they actually got the color pink approved.

Waiting excitedly to wear pink, Howard Kao (12) exclaimed, "I was surprise we even got pink approved, but now I can truly say that real men wear pink."

Every year as a senior privilege the class gets to choose a color for their uniform, and this year they chose pink. With the

thought of leaving, college applications, and stressful homework, at least the class can enjoy their humor and memories in their pink uniform.

"I think pink is a great idea because it brightens your day. We need a little bit of a change with the boring colors of blue (Continued on page 4, col. 1)

A Bunch of Crooks and Nannies

By Chris Foster

The house lights in the chapel went out and everything became quiet, save for a soft instrumental music score that filtered through the silent auditorium. The curtains rolled back with a metallic clanking noise to reveal the transformed stage, with pictures on the walls and comfy furniture set right in the middle.

"Lovely, isn't it?" said Allison Rice (10), who had powdered hair and elderly-looking clothes on.

"Lovely, yes," responded Laura Danneker (10), who also had elderly clothing and baby powder in her hair.

So began the latest production of the high school drama team. "Every Little Crook and Nanny" by Pat Cook, tells the story of three old nannies—Danneker, Rice, and Monay Ng (11)—who become caught up in a scheme to heist a bank with two wanna-be crooks, Jonathan Dyck (12) and Chris Foster (12).

The crooks, lodging at Ng's character's residence, plan on robbing a bank nearby, only to find themselves in the midst of an anything-but-normal residence as they encounter two love birds, played by James Hawthorne (12) and Catherine Foster (9), a cat with a thyroid condition, and a sticky little boy who watched too much TV, Nathan Danneker (6).

Once the heist goes down the drain, the crooks are horri-

fied to find that Catherine Foster has just graduated into the police force, and her father Nathan Rice (12) heads the police department! After accusations go between the characters, Hawthorne proves to have robbed the bank—but it turns out that the old ladies have the stolen money!

"It was a really good play. I had more lines than I'm used to, but it was still fun to play," said Dyck.

Directed by Mrs. Barb Case and co-directed by Dalat alumnus Jacqui Steiert, the cast and crew took on the challenge of creating the fast-paced, humorous play on Tuesday, 29 November and Thursday, 1 December 2005.

"It was really cute, and I was really proud of the cast. I appreciated Monay's attitude when she had to be an old lady!" said Tara-Lynn Kennedy (11) after seeing the play on Tuesday.

Though the play brought laughter to the audience, it still had a number of problems during the production, including lost props and costumes, shaky rehearsals, and a rather dreadful dress rehearsal.

"Dress rehearsal really scared me. There were too many pauses in the dialogue, and everything seemed to go wrong. But the real performance was great. I was really surprised by how well we did; I'm glad that every-

one liked it," said Allison Rice.

As the play drew to a close, the old ladies sat with each other discussing the money they had just taken. "Are we really going to give the money back?" Danneker asked.

"Just as soon as the compounded interest refeathers my nest egg. After all, who's going to suspect us, a group of sweet little old ladies? Who ever would

have thought we would be capable of anything?" Ng answered.

"Lovely," sighed Rice. •



Harvest Festival...

(Continued from page 1, col. 4) tional community attended this festival as well. The festival served as a chance for the community to come together and celebrate the harvest season. People arrived in the afternoon to set up for the food and game booths; and as parents showed up on campus with eager kids, the celebration began.

The concert and jazz band participated in the festival as they performed live music under the vans' parking lot. Overcoming the sprinkling rain and mild breezes, the students made an effort to hold their music on the stands and keep their instruments in tune. Nevertheless, the audience enjoyed the music and performance. "It was really cool for them to play in the rain. People still gathered around to enjoy the music. I liked the music from 'The Incredibles' especially," said Yumi Yamauchi (12).

The students enjoyed the experience just as much as the audience did. "My favorite part [of the festival] was definitely the band concert in the rain under the flimsy tin roof of the vans' parking lot. It was definitely an experience I'll never forget," said Christa DeVette (11).

The international variety of food at the festival delighted students as they had a chance to taste something different. The booths included a variety of Taiwanese and Korean cuisines, *satays*, pizza, and baked goods. The Taiwanese sausage attracted the most people especially as it sold out before the festival ended. "I got to taste the Taiwanese sausage for the first time, and it was great! Its unique smell and chewy texture made it absolutely delicious!" said John Kim (12).

In addition, the food also allowed students to taste once again their dearly-missed cuisines from home. "I enjoyed

having the Korean food. It made me miss my mom's homemade cooking!" said Stella Park (12) after visiting the Korean cuisine booth.

The junior class participated in the festival as well since it served as an opportunity for them to raise money for their class expenses. They made and sold funnel cakes and turned the pool area into a "jail house." They offered to capture and "lock up" anyone for 15 minutes for a fee of RM6, and a fee of RM10 to throw anyone into the pool. The activity turned out as many students' highlight of the day as they had plenty of fun throwing each other into the pool. "The 'jail house' was heaps fun! Loads of people paid money to put their friends in there, and of course throwing them in the pool was the best part!" said Olivia D'Cruz (11).

"It was also funny how they wanted to know who had put them in so badly," added Elaine Ang (11).

The varsity boys' basketball team had their own target, their coach Mr. Karl Steinkamp. They waited all evening for him to get off his director duties at the festival. As soon as he did, they chased him around the gym and down to the lower campus before finally getting a hold of him. It took 10 people to hold him and carry him back up to the pool; and they still couldn't keep him still as he wriggled around, knocking them into one another. "The best part of the Harvest Festival was hunting down [Coach] 'Steiny' with the whole basketball team and then dumping him into the pool," said Howard Kao (12).

After successfully capturing and throwing Mr. Tuck into the pool, Steiert sat down on the side, catching his breath. He looked up at Robertson and asked with a grin, "Who's next on the list?" •

In the Pink...

(Continued from page 3, col. 4) and red," said Katherine Kang (9).

So why pink some might ask. The answer? To show their difference. Josh Manfred (11) stated, "It gives a sense of freedom to the campus that we cannot express anymore since we have uniforms."

Joel Babcock (12) added, "With pink, we seniors can enjoy our privilege to the max or there would just be no point in getting another color of uniform. Pink is different, and that is why we chose it."

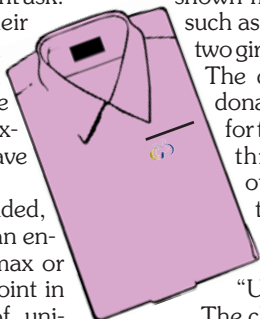
As a class, the seniors also chose the word "unity" as the title and theme for their last year in high school. With the word in mind, everything they do, they do it together in unity. Only a

special kind of bond can exist between a class when they can cast aside their differences and say, "We will stick up for each other with unity." They have

shown many examples, such as on sneak when two girls lost their bags.

The class took up a donation of money for them. And when threatened with other nonsense, the class stuck up for each other by saying, "Unity!"

The class chose pink, and they loved the idea of wearing pink uniforms. Picking pink, though it might seem like just some kind of nonsense, actually goes deeper than that. It truly shows a kind of bond and unity that has grown within the class of 2006. •



3D/4N in Paradise

By Yumi Yamauchi

The clock struck 10, the guard closed the gates, campus lights went out, and dorm students slept soundly in their nice cozy beds. It looked just like every other night to all the students except the seniors. For this night they had waited four years; for this night they had worked hard during their junior year: this night they headed off on their Senior Sneak.

The students left Paradise with six chaperones and 27 students. They prepared themselves well for the nine-hour drive with food, music, and movies. Singing, sleeping, and watching, the class rocked the bus with their overflowing energy. With each and every one of them excited about their three-night-four-day stay at Redang, the bus ride began as a great start.

But things didn't stay positive for long. The bus reached its destination at the jetty around 7:00 A.M., and most of the students stayed sound asleep. When the bus started to get hot, the students got off and walked out into the cool, misty port for Redang. They put their stuff down at the waiting area and settled there. Those still exhausted went back to sleep, and those

who felt awake and energetic explored the empty town.

Hours later, the ferry came to carry the seniors and other tourists to Redang. Everybody picked up his or her luggage and walked on to the ferry excitedly, knowing that their dream floated only moments away. Joy filled the hearts of the class except for two girls—Lindsay Parks and Yumi Yamauchi, who had just found out that they had lost their luggage that held everything. During this devastating time, the girls wept; meanwhile, their classmates collected money and later, along with generous offers of loaned clothing, the class presented the money to the two girls that helped them to purchase some of their needs.

Parks, who recalled those moments, said with a smile in her eyes, "Everyone was so supportive on the trip when Yumi and I lost our bags. Their offers of clothes and the fact that everyone always tried to make sure our needs were met meant so much to Yumi and me. The class uniting to help us makes Sneak an extra special memory to me of my friends."

Once again, Sneak drifted

back on track for all the seniors to enjoy. Some went off straight away to snorkel, and some stayed behind to rest and enjoy the emerald green water that stretched out before the resort. Time seemed to pass quickly, and the class noticed themselves eating at the dinner table already. The buffet provided a mouth-watering and stomach-filling meal, and the seniors enjoyed satisfaction as they walked back to their rooms. That night, an 11:00 curfew ensured that the group, tired from a long day, would get a good rest.

The next morning Audrey Ang, Joel Babcock, Rivka Matanick, Matt Hansen, Ted Fung, and Heather Hill started the day with a grand view of the beautiful sunrise. Stella Park, who stayed behind, woke up to a very joyous morning call with a very loud "Happy 18th Birthday Stella!"

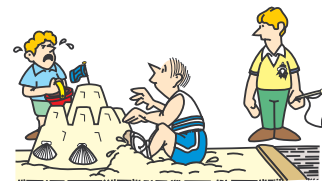
A full day of fun in the sun followed. After the sunset, the seniors went down to eat dinner at the buffet, along with them, Park found herself in the same seat with the same people around her table. She finished her plate and put down her napkin with a sigh of relief but in seconds found herself confused and surprised and surrounded by classmates who chanted the Happy Birthday song; they then

gave her a birthday cake.

The next few hours flew by as students sang their hearts out into the karaoke microphone; they continued into the night with the most exciting hours of just dancing and enjoying themselves. Park, one of the lot that enjoyed it, looked back and exclaimed, "Oh my! I had felt so miserable having my big 18th birthday on Sneak. But people in my class really made me happy with a semi-surprise party led by my good dear sugar friend Yumi. The day ended up as being one of the best birthdays I've ever had! And I was also happy that everyone had fun too!"

Howard Kao said, "Sneak was great; it gave our whole class an opportunity to bond."

Although sad to leave behind such a great place, the class left the island with hearts full of unity and love for each other. It helped them get to know each other better and most of all helped them to return to Dalat as better seniors and better people. •



Warm Welcome Back

By Malaina Gaddis

At the close of Senior Sneak, the juniors passed along invitations to the seniors for the After-Sneak Dinner via Mr. Steve Liss. Every year, the juniors pick a new theme to plan the dinner around. Howard Kao (12) and Terry Hsiang (12) both felt surprise when they walked into the chapel that the juniors had transformed to have an ambiance of a sidewalk café. Kao said, "The theme was unique and totally

unexpected." The After-Sneak Dinner did not include a typical meal that most expected, but a sidewalk café dessert bar titled "Junior Java" greeted them.

Delightful and meticulously planned, the evening included great food, socializing, games, and movies made by the juniors. One such game had the seniors stuffing their faces with marshmallows and then trying to say "chubby bunny"; whoever could

say it with the most marshmallows in his or her mouth won the game.

Shinobu Toyama (12) said about the game, "It was sick having all of those marshmallows in my mouth—but fun." When Hiroyuki Kawabata (12) made a funny comment, Toyama said, "I almost threw up all of the marshmallows that were in my mouth."

Other games played that night included a coffee-tasting game, and a coffee bean racing game with seniors competing against each another.

Though everyone enjoyed the games, the food highlighted

the evening for some. Pamela Hidajat (11) said, "The waffles made the whole night worthwhile." Laid out on a long table, toppings ranging from whipped cream to chocolate, and bananas sat ready to top the freshly made waffles. Cookies of all kinds, cakes, and brownies also sat on the table for all to enjoy while they relaxed on cushions, on sofas, or at their tables.

The juniors had worked hard to plan and pull off the "dinner," devoting much thought and many hours of work to see that every senior had a good time and felt welcomed back from Senior Sneak. •

SITTING FOR THE SAT

By Hiroyuki Kawabata

Colleges use SAT 1 scores to assess students' readiness to do the tough academic work of college. SAT 1 does something that a high school transcript can't—namely, it assesses a stu-

dent's general academic skills. Most people say the SAT 1 is the hardest test ever. Success on the SAT 1 is not about memorizing test-taking tricks; it's a tough test of reasoning. It takes

work to improve your reasoning skills.

"I was never good with taking quizzes, tests, exams, etc. The SAT is something totally new. It's like the ultimate test you have to take. And the bad part is you don't really know what to study for; you just have to be naturally

smart. I feel it is the hardest test, but it is good education," said Daniel Lee (11).

Jonathan Dyck (12) said, "It was very easy for me, but it didn't matter much because I'm a Canadian citizen.

"Some people says it is very unfamiliar. It is really hard for (Continued on page 7, col. 1)

Point/Counterpoint

Too Much of a Good Thing

By Jonathan Dyck

A little pressure is a good thing. After all, pressure provides reason to work and to work hard and well. Pressure also gives incentive to stretch limits and probe horizons never before thought of. On the other hand, too much of nearly any good thing becomes a bad thing. Sadly, Dalat has too much of a good thing.

Sure enough, the good thing turns sour. Work loads increase, tempers fray, and special events eat up time at the end of semesters. Students play a delicate balancing act simply trying to keep ahead of deadlines and due dates. They stand on a tightrope, quivering above the chasm of falling behind, urged on by assignments.

Not that homework alone causes the pressure spike. That mostly comes from an attitude. The attitude strives not for excellence but rather for over-achievement. The attitude urges students to excel at everything they do. This attitude never emerges from anyone's mouth, but it lingers nonetheless. Students must get good grades.

Further raising pressure, not only must students excel in school; Dalat urges them to join sports, to join drama, to join some other extracurricular activity. Then students balance pressure from friends and pressure for personal time and pressure for any time at all. Students balance all these while maintaining an acceptable Grade Point Average.

Not that Dalat needs to turn "striving for excellence" into "striving for mediocrity," but rather it needs to emphasize the "striving" over the "excellence." When pressure is applied liberally, benefits result; but when it overwhelms, it results only in anxiety. At Dalat, the pressure sometimes engulfs. •

We Will... We Will... Lock-in!

By Shinobu Toyama

On the beach behind school, Kohei Shimizu, Joy Li, Brendan Buntain, Joshua Peace, and Mr. David Wilson gathered pieces of wood and newspapers and tried to make a fire. Ten minutes later, they finally got the wood ignited. When the sunset dyed the sky red, other sophomores started to come down to the beach and gathered around the campfire.

"We struggled to light the fire, but we enjoyed the campfire; the roasted sausages and marshmallows were really good," said Shimizu with a big smile. Thus began the sophomores class party on 21 October; it concluded with a lock-in in the chapel that night.

Everyone sat down on the carpet in the center of the chapel in a circle. They played some games together to help the class get closer. Soon after the games, they watched movies in a relaxed mood while nibbling on food that tempted everyone.

"We had lots of snacks and pop when we were watching movies. I enjoyed them," said Marigan Dyck.

At a break in the movie, some girls went up to the stage and sang with a microphone. "Karaoke was the most fun part of this party," said Naomi Tami.

The class of 2008 had a pleasant time, but as always, fun times seem to go by faster than others. They finally turned off the lights at three o'clock; however, many of them couldn't fall sleep with all the excitement in their hearts. Paul Wang said, "I stayed up late and talked with friends. It released my stress from pressure of school work."

"I stayed up the whole night!" added Shimizu.

Sophomores enjoyed the party, but it also had other meaning to do it. "Our class got tighter after the lock-in. We now know more about each other, and some of us made new (Continued on page 7, col. 4)

The Great Grade Crusade Has Come

By John Kim

Many students at Dalat often complain about their grades. "Holy cow! I got a C for that homework I turned in!" whines one anonymous student who really hums the universal tune sung by the rest. Does Dalat really pressure students with academics? Does it really take much time, effort, and brain power to get a good grade? The answer, after experiencing four years of high school: No. In fact, Dalat does not push students academically at all.

Before burning this article, students should consider their own typical weekly schedule: on Fridays they go to Gurney Plaza with their buddies, on Saturdays they sleep in through the heat of noon, and even on weekdays some go out for dinner with friends. No one calls these activities bad; they bring friendship, rest, and a well-stocked belly.

But at the same time they also reflect their laid-back lives. If students really had as much pressure as they convey through their whines and groans, they wouldn't stroll through Gurney on weekends or roll in their beds on Saturday mornings.

This naturally sheds some light to the real cause of students' sad grades: sheer laziness and procrastination. The sheer lack of pressure and challenge has loosened students so much that they end up failing to meet even these pathetically low standards of academics. Metaphorically speaking, students will end up spending four years of their high school here rotting in their shells, too lazy and weak to break them.

For too long have Dalat students lost the lust for education and the will to break out of their evil shells. For too long has Dalat just watched its pupils wiggle every now and then. The time has come for Dalat to screech at students—for students to hear that screech, and to crash out of their mediocrity and soar into the sky of further education with all glory that entails. Dalat must pressure students more with academics. •

Keys of Champions

By James Hawthorne

The house lights went out, and everyone quieted down as Laura Danneker (10) approached the piano. The music ensuing from that magical box enthralled the audience, giving them a brief escape from the problems and pressures of their everyday lives.

According to Danneker, the hard parts she had fretted over in weeks past came easy, and she played them without mistakes. But she couldn't get over how she "messed up" certain easy parts that hadn't given her much trouble before.

Many young aspiring pianists played at the piano recital on 21 November along with a few other musicians who sang and played various instruments such as the tuba, flute, and violin. Begin-

ners and veterans alike showed off their talents at the recital. Some suffered through their pieces while others quickly played them in panic. Still others played them with no sweat at all, as easily as walking to school. But all had a sense of accomplishment at the end of the recital, a sense that they had something to show for the previous year of hard work. They finished feeling like champions.

As Danneker finished her piece, she stood and bowed. The audience clapped happily as she walked away from the piano. The troubles of daily life returned, but the beautiful music that she had just played lingered in their minds. •



A "New" Sport: Floorball!

By Po Lai

Josh Strong (7) took the ball under control and sprinted down the gym towards the goal. Like a race car, he swerved and overtook several other players but suddenly came to a jolting stop. His opponent stared at him; then taking a very slow glance down to his feet, Strong stopped the ball with the tip of his foot. With a split-second reaction, Strong maneuvered his stick into position and slotted the ball into the net.

From 24 September to 23 October, 24 students took part

in the month-long floor ball tournament coached and organized by Mr. Jason Selvanayagam.

According to the average person, "floorball" doesn't ring a bell. It does not sound as common as soccer or basketball, but it does exist! The sport has only existed in Malaysia for two years, but it has already captured the passion of a few students at Dalat. Norm Kiehl (9) explained, "I love floor ball; it's just like hockey, but you use a round ball instead of a puck. I also like it because it is fast-paced; I always

look forward to playing on Wednesdays."

Jason found an interest in the sport because of its unique style of play. He explained, "The game is fast and furious; players need speed and ball control in order to perfect this sport." And as a result of his interest, he used the opportunity as a staff member to sponsor this group. He made it so that every Wednesday from 2:55 till 3:35 any student who signed up could take part in a floorball "club" and train for

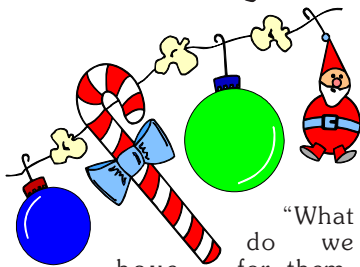
an upcoming tournament.

To Jason's surprise, 24 kids joined the P-period activity and participated in the sport. He took those students and put them to the test during the tournament. Despite Dalat's efforts, they only achieved fourth and fifth place.

With hopes still high, Strong wiped the sweat off his face and hid the grin on his face. He walked back to his side of the court and awaited the next opportunity to put his side in the lead. •

"Talking" About Christmas

By Lindsay Parks



"What do we have for them, Jimmy?" Josh Manfred (11) asked in a grand, talk-show host announcer's voice, looking expectantly to the front of the dim chapel to see the PowerPoint's next slide.

"A trip to the Garden of Versailles...as a gardener! WOW!" echoed the deep reply as a picture of the garden flashed onto the screen. Laughter rippled through the nicely-dressed students. Once again, an audience member received an outrageous prize for answering random Christmas questions asked by Manfred during the audience participation time at the annual Student

Council Christmas Banquet.

On 26 November at 6:30, over one hundred high school students milled expectantly around the canteen in nice dress clothes, waiting to pick up their flowers for that special date who would make the night worthwhile. Excitement hung in the air as dates met and friends exclaimed over each other's hair, dress, or makeup. After picking up their flowers and pinning on boutonnieres, students headed down to the decorated chapel for a night of entertainment, fun, and laughter.

"The hard work Stu[dent] Co[uncil] put into making this Christmas banquet happen really showed when I walked into the chapel," Howard Kao (12) said. "The room was filled with apple cider scent along with beautiful props and settings. The tables were also decorated to fit the mood of the night."

For the evening's entertainment, Manfred hosted the talk show: *The Early Late Night Show: Christmas Special*. Through random movies of toy car chases, ice-doused interviews, and crazy rewards for people in the audience such as a vacation on a nuclear beach, Manfred had the audience laughing the whole evening. His interview with Santa Klaus, played by Jonathan Dyck (12), began to darken when Santa Klaus showed his true colors as a communist, forceful dictator to the horror of children around the world. The real Santa Claus

(Luke Wilson, 11) and Rudolph (Kaz Hayashi, 11) came in and saved the day, however, with a flying tackle through the air by Rudolph to overthrow Santa's evil twin brother.

"I liked the random prizes given when people were asked questions. My favorite was the Garden of Versailles, or the atomic beach, or...well, it was all really funny," Charis To (11) said with a smile.

Heather Hill (12) also appreciated the show. "I was surprised that Josh actually dumped all those chips in his mouth when he had a nice suit on! It was entertaining, though, to watch!" she said after watching Manfred stuff a whole bag of Twisties in his mouth.

During the rest of the evening, students ate a two-course meal with dessert and chatted. Dozens of flashes blinked around the room as dates and friends gathered to take pictures. The students often preferred the decorated tree or furnished sleigh with its snow-covered mountain backdrop, two side trees, and smiling snow man for the pictures' backgrounds. Jubilee Adleta (11) remarked, "The Christmas Banquet was awesome. They had great food and entertainment; the best part was Santa Klaus killing the elf. It was a great time to get to know more people and take lots of photos."

Mr. Michael Holden, Student Council adviser, said, "This year's Stu[dent] Co[uncil] did a phenomenal job with the Christ-

mas Banquet. Not only were the food, decorations, and entertainment great, but they successfully created a great atmosphere for our students. It was awesome to see how many students hung out afterwards and just enjoyed being with each other."

Yumi Yamauchi (12), Student Council's public relations officer, remarked, "Trying to make this Christmas Banquet a success was very stressful. But once I dressed up and put on my makeup, I was so excited. I was able to fully enjoy [the banquet] from the start to the end. I was able to leave school with a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. It was one of my most memorable nights ever."

As students finished taking the last photo and began trickling out the door, they paused to think back over the night with its laughter and fun. As one more Student Council Christmas banquet drew to a close, one word reechoed through the chapel in a deep voice, "WOW!" •

Sitting for the SAT...

Continued from page 5, col. 1) me because when I was ESL student, I had no idea when I was taking the SAT test. I needed someone to tell me all the answers. Please...hahaha," said Paul Im (12).

Do students have to take SAT 1 test? Most colleges require the SAT 1 or a test like ACT, but some colleges do not require the SAT 1. If students don't do well on the SAT, they can just have their scores not sent. •



Sophomore Party...

(Continued from page 6, col. 2) friends," said Li as class representative who planned the party.

As the sun started to rise in the sky, the class ate breakfast and went back to the dorms or to their homes with a pleasant feeling. All of them carried a satisfied smile on their faces when they retold what they had done together at the beach with the campfire and the night in the chapel with friends. The party provided unforgettable memories and meaningful moments for the sophomores. •

EDITORIAL

Are We Smarter Than We Think?

Competition. This invigorating drive motivates us to achieve greatness. Dalat has long fostered a healthy spirit of competition among its student body, whether it be for grades or other accolades. But not any competition will do, only the best. Our sports teams do not play the blind school, despite many new team-members confusion regarding the deaf school. Likewise, our students will compete for the highest grades. Not content to merely pass our courses, we continually strive to master them. A surprising majority succeeds, so many that our teachers wonder if they are too easy on us: perhaps, they reason, it's too easy to get an A. Instead, I believe, the answer lies in the sheer quality of the student body and its drive to compete.

Just like our basketball team that crushes its opponents despite the shallow pool of students to choose from, the student body as a whole achieves excellence despite its small population. Of course not every student achieves as greatly as another does, but this usually derives from one of two circumstances. Either the student is excellent in another area of study and happens to struggle in the subject at hand, or he or she does not have the drive to excel. Every student here at Dalat has the potential to achieve greatness. If we could look about the campus with God's eyes, we would see the amazing talent that He has placed in all of us. Dalat can be an incubator of brilliance.

As for the notion that the teachers are just too easy on us, I don't buy it. Too many college students return with stories of how much easier their courses are for anyone to believe that our school does not press us enough. The fact of the matter is that the student body rises to the challenge. Unlike many public high schools, handing in homework is the norm. And most students really *are* willing to go the extra mile for an A. In the end the student body's amazing performance is what provides the unbalanced grades.

So I urge you, my fellow student, to relish this vibrant academic community while you can. Use the competition to build your academic skills so that you may shine in college. Show the world what caliber of scholar Dalat creates. •

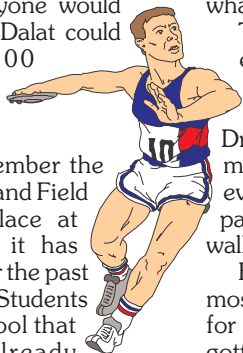
By Nathan Rice, Issue Editor

Ready, Set, BANG!

By Ben DeVette

"Ready, Set, Bang! And off they go!" Head to head, shoulder to shoulder, tail to tail, the runners raced toward the finish line. The crowd cheered, and friends and family screamed. In less than 12 seconds, everyone would know who at Dalat could run the 100 meters fastest in 16+ boys age group.

On 7 November the annual Track and Field Meet took place at USM, where it has taken place for the past several years. Students arrived at school that morning already wearing their team colors, greeting and wishing friends good luck. Andrew McClary (12) boasted, "Steven [Ong, 11] is lucky that I was sick or else he would not have won all



those first places in sprints!"

Students could enter five events total but could have two extra relays if they chose to. A variety of field and track events gave students a chance to do what appealed to them.

The 5K, 3K and 1500M races took place in advance to prevent tiring students out on the day of the meet. Drew Steiert (11) groaned, "Oh my, I have done six running events including a relay in the past three days; I can barely walk now."

Howard Kao (12), who almost broke the school record for javelin, said "I could have gotten it if I had only trained. Too bad I can not try again next year. It was within my grasp."

A lot of seniors felt sad because they will never participate in another Track and Field Day at Dalat and will be leaving more

memories than records behind. Grace Sun (12) said, "It was exciting since it is my last year having Track and Field at Dalat. I have enjoyed every event I did although Yumi Yamauchi (12) always took first place."

Except for a short period where everyone took time off to grab a quick bite of food provided by the kitchen staff, activities took the whole day with staff manning the events and recording times of students. All eyes stayed focused on the overall score tally that was updated throughout the day.

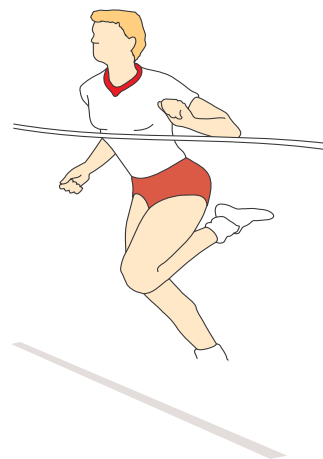
For most of the day the Blue team led in points, but towards the end of the day, defending champions Green came from behind and took over first place, ending the day a full 100 points ahead of the second place Blue. Robbie Mangham (11) of Blue said, "I can not believe we lost to the stupid Green team again. They always do this—[they] come back at the last minute to win first place. I am still puzzled over how they do it."

Overall, students returned home happy with how they had performed and the staff satisfied with how things turned out. Even the weather had cooperated.

The fact that it did not rain came as a blessing since it had been raining for days before the meet.

On the bus ride back to campus, many students fell asleep, worn out by the day's activities. Kao, still sad on how close he had come to breaking the javelin record said, "I had a great time, but I am also exhausted."

"Only a few more meters! They're at the finish line...." Still shoulder to shoulder, a straight line of sweaty guys rapidly approached the tape. Zoom, zoom, zoom, they shot by the tape as a group. Even the staff could not tell who came in first. It looks like everyone wins! •



Selamat Hari Raya

By Audrey Ang

"Selamat Hari Raya," said Mrs. Aminah Abdul Hanan, a local in Penang as she hands out small little green packets to young children. That's what every Muslim will say to each other during the Hari Raya festive season. The Muslims celebrate Hari Raya to mark the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting. Malaysia only observes the first two days as public holidays. Many Muslims, however, take the first week off from work, going back to their hometowns (*balik kampung*) to visit their parents, relatives, and old friends.

Within the city of Penang, every nook and corner displayed Hari Raya ornaments—roadsides, schools, shop lots, and houses. Brightly lit mosques as well as government and some commercial buildings marked the special day.

This year, Hari Raya fell on Thursday, 3 November, so Dalat students had a day off on Friday as well. Students enjoyed a four-

day break; many students and staff jumped for joy because they got to have a good rest or go for short trips either on or off the island.

Shinobu Toyama (12), for example, went to Singapore. "I love going somewhere for a change, and Singapore was the best option. Sadly, I could not stay for the weekend as I had to go back to school to sit for my SAT exam," she explained grudgingly.

"I went to KL, but I didn't do much there. I went to Chili's for dinner at KLCC, and my sister managed to buy herself a dress for JSB. Then the next day, I hung around the tourist areas and went to IKEA at night," said Ben DeVette (12). "The holidays were too short. I wished that it was longer."

Of course not all students went for trips. Some stayed at home lazing around; but most of them went out, wanting to spend (Continued on page 9, col. 1)

By Andrew McClary

Music erupted from the audience as the worship band kicked off Spiritual Emphasis Week 2005 with praise and singing. SEW 2005 had begun with a bang. After the music died away, Chaplain Ryan Tuck presented the speaker, Mr. Rob Toews, to a welcoming applause.

Rob introduced himself with pictures of his family and his motorcycle back home in Canada. His wife, Debbie, had also come with him to teach the elementary students and help with worship. Ready to get started, they excitedly looked forward to the days ahead to be spent with students.

The extra time spent in praise and worship proved to be one of the biggest advantages of SEW. "I thought the worship band was really good," said Elaine Ang (11).

On the last day, Rob and Debbie unexpectedly blessed the congregation with a special evening worship time. "I really enjoyed the worship time, especially the song that the speaker's wife sang. The words were beautiful and really encouraged me," shared Olivia D'Cruz (11).

Students and staff alike received challenging messages

throughout the week. Mrs. Kathaleen McClary said, "His down-to-earth stories were easy to relate to for the students; I really appreciated his sharing with them that it's OK to be honest with God about their doubts and other struggles."

As the music faded away and people made their way towards the door on the last night, SEW drew to a close. Although SEW 2005 was over, the experiences gained and lessons learned from this year's Spiritual Emphasis Week would extend far beyond the week and into the future. •

Frosh Party

By Paul Im

The freshman party took place at Dalat on 11-12 November, a Friday and Saturday. All the freshmen celebrated that day, one of the happiest days of the year for them. During the school day, students do not have enough chances to talk and make new friends and hang out with them. Therefore, party days become very valuable for them.

During the party time, freshmen ate many delicious foods and enjoyed the desserts and snacks. They also played a lot of interesting games which they do not play during the school days.

Rami Lee, who really likes to hang out with her classmates, said, "It was interestingly fun. I got to know a few more people in our class that I've never talked to before. Playing the winking game was the best. It was really fun, and I grew closer to other friends also."

Helen Kim, who still remembers the party day clearly because it was fun added, "We played lots of cool and new games."

Although John Jang did not like the party that much, he said, "We played many kinds of games, and they were funny. We all enjoyed that time. They had been nice games with my classmates."

During the party time, freshmen did not just eat and play games. They also watched movies and had a campfire.

Min Ji Kang, who really enjoyed the party, said, "It was good to have campfire and play games. We enjoyed lots of snacks. It was good time to talk with friends and build relationships."

The freshman party takes place every year. At this, all the freshmen get closer and become friends, one of the most important things to students. Students can do more than study; making friends socially is important too. •



The Quest for Excellence

By Joel Babcock

Festive Occasions...

(Continued from page 8, col. 4) more time with their friends. Terry Hsiang (12) said, "Although I was sick on the Saturday of Hari Raya, I still felt the joyous souls of all the people as they celebrated the grand holiday. It was also nice to have a good break in the midst of school stress."

Paul Im (12) agreed that the holidays enabled him to rest, and at the same time he got the chance to play and hang out with his friends which his hectic school schedule prevents him from doing.

Some students didn't know where to go because they were trying to avoid going to the same old places such as Gurney Plaza. Going there almost every weekend makes it boring.

"I decided not to go to Gurney as I know there will be tons of people because of the festive holidays. So, I drove around the city for a change," Howard Kao (12) quipped. "Anyhow, I managed to use the four-day break wisely and got to finish up all my homework."

Most students had a good break. Matt Hansen (12) said, "I really enjoyed the long break—although I think it would have been better to give us the whole week off; it was a very pleasant change. It gave us a chance to unwind and forget about school for a while. It would have also been nice if the break was a little later in the year, but there isn't much that can be done about that."

Selamat Hari Raya! •

During the month of October, the JV basketball team started their quest for excellence. Led by Coach Jimmy Um and assisted by Uncle Tim Steinert, the young athletes hit the courts of Dalat and engaged in rigorous practices and training sessions, all with one goal in mind: the annual Dalat JV Tournament on 25-26 November. "Practice was fun at first, but then came the running. Coach Um pushed us hard, but it made us get serious about our desire to be on the team and our desire to win. Some of the guys dropped off the team. It separated the hungry from the rest. It was all worth it," said Bruce Mak (9).

As the date of the tournament neared, the young athletes' focus on their goal rose. Banaphol Ariyasantichai (11) said, "Before the tournament began, I played basketball whenever I could. I wanted to get better so we could win the tournament." Practice became more intense, and coaches arranged exhibition games.

"I wanted the boys to have a chance to see what they were playing against and get some live game time experience," said Mr. Um. The team played against four local schools in preparation for the tournament. They won 63-32 against Heng Ee, 21-18 against Uplands, 61-37 against the Taiwanese School, and 65-23 against the Japanese School.

"Winning four games in a row got us all pumped. We were beginning to come together as a team and our morale was high," said Matthew Mah (11). With spirits high, the tournament weekend came around and the play began. The Eagles faced off against Berapit to start the tournament. They gave everything they had, but came out short losing 28-96.

"Berapit was a hard team; they pressed the whole game, and we could never effectively break it," said Mak.

The under-fourteen team battled the next match versus Japanese School; they lost 26-31. Losing two games eliminated the Eagles from the tournament; their season record stood at 4-2.

Although the team did not take home a gold medal, outlook into the future remained optimistic. Mr. Um said, "The season was good. It gave the boys a chance to play and get some necessary game experience. A lot of these boys had never played in a real game before. Although we had hoped for better results in the tournament, the outcome was good: we realized the areas we needed to improve, and that gave us a goal for next semester. There's always plenty of room to grow."

With the bar still set at excellence, the JV basketball team eagerly awaits next semester's season. •



We Remember *By Heather Hill*

Nine November arrived quicker than anyone anticipated. All throughout the day, students, staff, family members, and friends remembered Mr. Doug Brokaw and described him as a great man of God.

Chris Foster (12) stated that "It's hard to believe it's been a year since he passed away. It amazes me how strong the community and Mrs. [Valeri] Brokaw [and her kids] have been since then, how they've been able to cope with the loss and move on."

On the evening of the ninth, a special memorial service took place in honor of Mr. Brokaw, during which the Dalat Ambassadors played and led worship as a dedication to him since he had started that group. They sang their signature song, "Unbelievable," the first song that Mr. Brokaw had taught them as well as the last song he taught them, "Shout Your Fame" and

many others. At the end of the singing, Mrs. Brokaw shared her testimony from the past year with the audience sitting amazed at how strong she has remained through this whole situation.

"Mrs. Brokaw was praising God joyfully with all her heart. She's such a strong woman of faith and an example to so many people," said Olivia D'Cruz (11).

Along the same lines, Lindsay Parks (12) agreed, "I can't believe it's been a year. It was a good time of remembering all that Mr. Brokaw did and what a great man he was. Mrs. Brokaw's testimony really touched me also."

Mrs. Lyn Holdensaid, "Valeri Brokaw's desire to have a time of worship during Doug Brokaw's memorial service was a testament to how both of them had been and still are seeking hard after God. I've been encouraged by how God has been

the Brokaw family's rock during this hard season of change."

Mrs. Mary Shedd said, "What was significant to me was Valeri's message and how well she expressed that it is all so real for Doug now as he is right there with God."

Almost everyone would agree with Josh Manfred (11), Liesl Williams (11), and Jonathan Dyck (12) that the service gave closure, and that Mr. Brokaw would have loved all the worship and encouragement of the evening.

After the time spent worshipping God, remembering Mr. Brokaw, and listening to Mrs. Brokaw's testimony, students and staff all followed the Brokaw family up the stairs to unveil the plaque on the gym wall dedicated to Mr. Brokaw.

Nathan Rice (12) mentioned, "I really like the verse [Philippians 1:20-21] they put on the plaque because it really encapsulates what Mr. Brokaw was all about...living for Christ."

"Walking away from the

memorial service I felt a sense of amazement as I saw God's hand guiding each one of us on after Mr. Brokaw's death," said Christa DeVette (11).

Through Mr. Brokaw, students saw Christ, and they will never forget that or him. Mrs. Brokaw stated, "It meant so much to me to be able to remember Doug with our Dalat family on the anniversary of his passing. Four things made the evening special: One, having the Dalat Ambassadors lead worship because that was Mr. Brokaw's special ministry group. Two, doing songs that were special to him—I mean, he's probably still singing them in Heaven! Three, getting to share what God has taught me over the past year. And four, dedicating the plaque up on the gym wall near Uncle Matt [Miner]'s. The flowers the national staff sent were so beautiful. It means so much to have that reminder that Doug poured his life into Dalat, and now he has his reward." •

PRE-COLLEGE CATASTROPHE *By Terry Hsiang*

Annually, young prospective students from all around the world come to a point where they have to make tough decisions which will have a tremendous effect on their futures. Everyone can dream of a superior life in a university of his or her choice, but dreams rapidly die and turn into cruel reality when each hears in the 20 November announcements that college applications deadline occurs in two weeks.

Assuming the responsibility of a senior includes filling out these dreaded college applications. With seniors already in the midst of taking regular courses and bearing a considerable

homework load, these college applications amplify the stress radiated upon them.

"This whole college application process is so stressful. Everyone feels like he is choosing his whole life path, and that's a big responsibility. With all the thousands of colleges, it's hard to know where to look or where to go. It can be overwhelming," said Lindsay Parks (12).

"The thought of college is exhilarating: new places, new people, new life (chuckles). But it's not that easy; applications are the hardest part. It's basically school work to get you four more years of school work—not

exactly something you want to do on the weekend," Joel Babcock (12) remarked.

Ms. Ruth Strong, school counselor, provided seniors any necessary help and advice they needed. Also, Internet access has allowed seniors to fill out college applications on-line.

"College application is a tedious job to do sometimes, but every senior has to go through this process. The best way to be on top of things is to refer to the school counselor for help and guidance," Audrey Ang (12) advised.

"Filling out college applications, although it takes time and

hard work, will pay off in the future when you get accepted to a good college, and/or get a good job," said Howard Kao (12).

Stella Park (12) added, "This application procedure overwhelms and worries me, but in a way, it's really exciting that I have the options in my hands and that the choices are somewhat tangible."

The inevitable college applications loom before cowering seniors. Unless seniors want to wait for their lucky day of striking the lottery, they need college to help them carry out their future goals in life. Then they can live their dreams. •

A Testosterone-Filled Fantasy *By Matt Hansen*

Over the course of the semester, a few guys on campus have become infatuated with a new love, Fantasy Football. Every Friday at 2:55 P.M. students head over to the small computer lab to make trades and draft players from the waiver wire, vote for whom they think will win in exciting head-to-head matches, or talk "smack" to

other players in the league. Headed by their fearless leader Mr. Greg Stenlund, 12 players fight for eight spots in the playoffs in the student P-period league. A few of the more masculine staff members also thrash about in their own league of fantasy football as they have for the past four years.

Fantasy Football has brought out positive aspects from many of the students in the league. It has helped them learn to participate in competition without ripping each other's heads off. "I think it has been fun for the guys, and I have enjoyed watching them compete with each other in the process," said Mr. Greg Stenlund.

Some players have pride in their performance, such as Ted Fung (12), who said, "They say I'm winning be-

cause Mr. Stenlund picked half my starters; what they don't understand is that the game is all about strategies."

Others, despite colossal efforts to do well, such as Lachlan Modrzynski (12), have made comments such as "I had to wait half an hour before I got my second pick; of course I'm going to lose" or "Fantasy football was a great way for us to show off how 'fluky' we are."

Howard Kao (12) said, "The (Continued on page 11, col. 4)

An Eye Within an Eye

By Howard Kao

"Hey Scotty [Poulter, 11], I need a good quote!" cried Matt Hansen (12) as he desperately searched for something to say. At the end of every quarter, the seniors write an *Eagle's Eye* article on events that occurred throughout the quarter. Upon finishing the article, each student receives a grade based on its quality. The head of the English department then sets these articles in a layout and has them printed; they go out to students, alumni, and parents as the school's feature paper.

Students below grade 12 wait patiently each quarter for the *Eagle's Eye*. The school feature paper helps bring back memo-

ries of the fun and excitement of the events that happened throughout the quarter. "*Eagle's Eye* keeps me updated on the gossip that I may have missed, or it is just a great amusing review," said Ben DeVette (12).

Although seniors find it tiresome writing the articles, they still find it interesting going around campus asking for different people's perspective on events. "It's fun to write for the *Eagle's Eye* because I used to enjoy reading the articles written by seniors; I can't believe that now I am the one writing them! Time flies by so fast!" exclaimed Rivka Matanick (12).

Many seniors enjoy express-

ing their unique way of writing through their article. "*The Eagle's Eye* helps to remind people of the fun events that have gone on during the quarter and gives seniors the chance to shine in writing as journalists. And it definitely helps to conclude the quarter," said Lindsay Parks (12).

The hard work that seniors put into writing these articles definitely pays off. "I really enjoy reading the *Eagle's Eye* because it reminds me of things that have happened recently and brings back good memories. Also, I like all the lame starts and ends of each article," said Allison McClary critically (11).

Meanwhile, Hansen waited impatiently for a good quote from Poulter. "I think Fantasy Football is great," yelled Poulter, leaving Hansen in utter despair as he walked away sighing,

fearing that he would not find the good quote that he desperately needed. •

Fantasy Football...

(Continued from p. 10, col. 4) game's made of one thing and one thing only: luck!"

Although people have different views on why others win, everyone enjoys the competition and the relief from studying. "Fantasy Football is a great time for guys to hang out and get away from the nagging women in our lives," said Po Lai (12).

Fantasy Football helps the students bond in a way that couldn't happen with any other method. These students survived this semester for perhaps one reason and one reason alone, Fantasy Football. •

On a Roll

By Lachlan Modrzynski

'Twas the joyful weekend of the first week in December. It seemed as though there was no rain left in the sky by noon on Friday, forcing Tourney Chairman Mr. Gerry Steiert to adapt the fixtures to a "double knock-out format," reducing the number of games from 28 to 16. "This actually worked in our favor," said Mr. Steiert, "as we ended up being way short of officials."

As it turned out, the sun shined brightly for the rest of the weekend. In fact rain seemed

impossible as the varsity boys' basketball team went on to win gold at their home tournament.

The Sixth Annual Invitational Tournament included local teams as well as some from Kuala Lumpur: Alice Smith, Mont Kiara, ISKL, Berapit, Garden, Uplands, George Town, Chung Hwa, Heng Ee and, of course, the Dalat Eagles—making a total of 10 teams.

The Eagles won all three of their games. In the first game, the boys beat Alice Smith 37-

22; later that afternoon they challenged their rivals at ISKL and trounced them 67-37. "That was the most exciting game," said Steven Ong (11). "We played well as a team and won."

In the finals, number one seed Chung Hwa—MSSPP Penang State reigning champions 2005—met number two seed Dalat. Dalat proved to be much too strong, eventually taking the score to a final 62-40. "There was a lot of pressure," Ong said. "But we won!"

"Steven must be butter [be-

cause] he's on a roll," said Scott Poulter (11) while watching the final against Chung Hwa.

Andrew McClary (12), with 28 points in that game alone, became the tournament top scorer with a total of 54 points.

Led by Captain Joel Babcock (12), Dalat's record at the end of first semester stands at 6-0. Most look forward to MSSPP action next semester.

Athletic Director Mr. Gerry Steiert would like to thank everyone who participated, who officiated, or who just supported the teams by attending and cheering. For without them, he said, "...there really is no tournament." •