



Eagle's Eye

Dalat International School, Tanjung Bunga, 11200 Penang, Malaysia

March 2004

What's Inside:

Simon Says... 3

Students and staff alike are glued to the tube when "American Idol" comes on

On the Right Track . . . 4

A host of students qualify for MSSPP Track & Field

Hearts & Shamrocks . . . 5

Who are the big talkers on campus: girls or guys?

Losers or Scholars? . . . 7

National Honor Society inducts 16 new members

Over a Cuppa 9

Freshmen bond with ice-blendeds at Coffee Bean

Eagle's Eye Staff

Writers:

Andrew Altice, Casey Caldwell, Rachael Caldwell, Michael Chan, I Sha Chen, Jamie Cheng, Chris Chu, Tony Chuang, Jessica Friesen, Simeon Garratt, Zach Hansen, Jodi Harrison, Amber Hill, Philip Houmphan, John Kao, Christabel Kim, Gao Nou Kue, Pam Lesmana, Chi Wei Lo, James Lo, Theo Love, Jimmy Pham, Zac Riegenbach, Jacqui Steiert, Praveen Thomas, Crystal Tsai, Sally Tsai, Dan Walter, Tina Wolfe, Karen Wong, Andy Yang

Advisers:

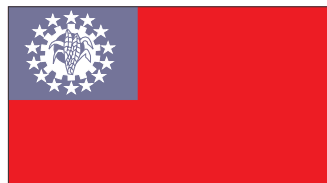
Mrs. Amy Erwin
Mr. John Tompkins

Stargazing Soul-Searchers

Evangelism Explosion seniors head for Yangon

By Zac Riegenbach

Mouth agape, Jessica Friesen stared at the largest Buddhist temple in the world. The pure gold of the temple magnified the lights shining on in and set a dazzling, glowing display against the dark purple night sky. "Pity



they set up such a beautiful thing to worship Buddha instead of the real God," said Casey Caldwell.

Friesen managed to close her mouth and step back from the edge. She and Caldwell stood on the roof of their hotel, appreciating the magnificence of the velvet Yangon night. Theo Love (12) strummed his guitar in the background as Dan Walter spawned new lyrics to fit the song they had written.

Rachael Caldwell and Karen Wong stirred from their reclined,

stargazing positions when Pastor Dave Latsha emerged from the elevator to herd the group to their rooms and to bed.

Though this scene suggests otherwise, the faction of seniors that flew to Myanmar for the Evangelism Explosion trip did not spend all of their time relaxing. For the third year running, Youth EE set up and carried out a clinic in Myanmar. Teenagers and adults alike traveled from the remote corners of Myanmar to attend the clinic and to learn how to share their faith from 6-12 March.

Classes started at 7:50 A.M. and carried on until around 5:00 P.M. Trainers (members of the Dalat group and Burmese people who had previously leaned the EE material) sat with their three trainees, explaining the difficult topics that the speakers covered. Pastor Dave, Mrs. Janet Pollock (part of EE Southeast Asia in Penang), and Mr. Jason Selvanayagan (Coordinator of Youth EE Southeast Asia) spoke in English; but Rev. U Toe Toe

(Director of EE Myanmar) and his wife gave lectures in Burmese.

At about five o'clock in the afternoon, the real work began. Groups of trainers and trainees headed out of U Naw Baptist Church to put their training to work. Once outside, they made their way across dusty, congested streets and shared Jesus Christ with either strangers they met or contacts church members had given them.

At 8:00 P.M., the group met back to share what had happened during their OJT's (On the Job Training). Worship and prayer rounded off the official nighttime activities. About two-dozen people then headed out to tea shops, sitting on minuscule plastic chairs by the sidewalk. While clinicians hit the sack after completing their studies for the following day, trainers met to discuss the day's events before retreating to their rooms for some sleep.

The OJT's affected everyone (Continued on page 2, col. 1)

Public Speakers: the Envy of the Masses

By Tony Chuang

"Sometimes you eat food that's not good for you, and then you get sick and get ulcers in your stomach. In the same way, envy is the ulcer of the soul." Up on

the stage, Kimberly Gross (11) started confidently on her winning speech.

Mrs. Barb Case led four students, Chris Foster (10), Kim-

berly Gross (11), Pamela Lesmana (12), and Christina Robertson (11) to battle in the annual Forensics competition in (Continued on page 2, col. 4)

"Pop That Balloon!"

By Andy Yang

As Jamie Cheng (12), Zach Hansen (12), and James Lo (12) stepped into the shop, they could smell the aroma of wood everywhere. The loud, cranking noise from the power-saw used by Andrew Altice (12) deafened the three and their classmates.

"Yah, man! It works!" exclaimed Simeon Garratt (12) as he drew all the attention from his classmates in acknowledgment that he and his group had completed a Rube Goldberg machine.

Rube Goldberg machines possess the characteristics of any complex machines that performs a very simple task in a very indirect, weird, and twisted way. A cartoonist, called Rube Goldberg, drew these odd and creative designs that influenced many people into creating Rube Goldberg machines.

On the first week of March, the physics class began constructing these machines to have an idea of how each of the six simple machines—a pulley, wheel-&-axle, inclined plane, screw, lever, and wedge—could work together. Of the six simple machines, each group needed to use five in its project. They had one objective: to pop a balloon.

The students pushed themselves harder and harder as the week progressed; for they had to present it to the third, fourth, and fifth grade by the end of the week. "Rube Goldberg thoroughly tested my knowledge and everything I've acquired in physics, and it made me question my purpose in life," boasted Jamie Cheng (12).

When the three classes finally came for the "show," the physics students amazed the el-

ementary with their creative designs.

"It was really cool because I had never actually seen it before. You never know when the balloon will pop," said Jamie Thompson (3).

Each project took less than 10 seconds to pop the balloon, but it seemed like it happened in a heartbeat. "If you have the brains, you can invent anything," said Joe Huang (4). "I especially enjoyed the one that had a candle which lit up the string.

The project had created enjoyment for the physics students. "I actually had fun doing this project because other projects in the past were boring and stressful," said John Kao (12).

Creating a Rube Goldberg not only left a positive effect on the students, but also the physic's teacher, Mr. Dake Erwin, as well. "I was amused that some people were frustrated with their project and had to keep modifying it due to their repeated failures; but hey, science experiments won't

work if you don't learn your failures from the beginning," said he. •

Forensics...

(Continued from page 1, col. 4) Kuala Lumpur on 24 February.

The students took the "Nice" bus to the capital, and as soon as they arrived, their host family welcomed them and drove them to their house.

"I liked our hosts. They were really nice to us and treated us like we were part of the family," said Robertson.

"They thought we were crazy because we played this game about hugging people. But they had fun with us anyway," said Lesmana.

After a good night's rest, the students joined the fierce competition of high school speakers eager to perform on stage. Students from all over the country came to KL, hoping to win the competition. The best of the best met together in one big hall to share their abilities to talk well on stage in front of hundreds of people.

"It was great to be with all these people. It seemed that everyone was really talented and ready to give his or her speech. I think I got more nervous after talking to them," said Gross.

"It was awesome how I could use this competition to share about the Gospel to the other competitors," said Lesmana.

The students competed in impromptu, solo and duet acting, and oral interp. Gross made it to the semifinals with her impromptu speech on envy.

"I learned from the other students acting on stage. They taught me a lot about being a good actor," said Foster, who himself acted with Lesmana as a father worrying about his child's false addiction to alcohol.

Robertson performed a comedy about a beautiful girl trying to get her two admirers to fight each other.

"I was impressed by how well the students did; though they didn't actually win the competition, they tried their best and had great results," said Mrs. Case.

As the three minutes came to an end, Gross concluded her speech and stood on stage, gasping for air and surprised that she had finished. By then the sound of applause from the audience had drowned her nervousness, and she stepped off stage content that everyone liked her. •

Yum! Yum! Tom Yum! By Jimmy Pham

"Wow," said Pamela Lesmana (12), sniffing the air as she walked in the door. "Look at this food."

"Someone hurry up and pray," Caleb Caldwell (8) blurted out as he dashed to the table.

On Saturday 13 March, to end the long weekend, dorm parents made various Thai dishes

for the entire dorm community. Students packed into Jaffray Dorm where the dorm parents had set up the buffet line.

Though some people did not eat because Thai food can seem rather spicy, others dug right in. "It was 'spiciously' delicious," said Josh Manfred (9).

Overall the time presented

itself as an opportunity to bond as a dorm community. Dorm kids ate and got to know each other as well as other dorm parents.

"That was good", said Lesmana walking away stuffed and satisfied.

"I think they should do this more often with other country's food," said Caldwell as he ran out to play. •

Myanmar EE Trip...

(Continued from page 1, col. 4) involved. Dozens heard the story of Jesus Christ's death for the first time. Fifty-seven Burmese people accepted Christ as their personal Savior throughout the duration of the clinic. "It impressed me how open the people were to the Gospel. The soil was ready for the tilling," said Rachael Caldwell.

The very act of verbalizing Christ's story boosted the faith of the team. It gave them a closer relationship with God by allowing them to see him work and answer their prayers. "Having to come out of my usual self to serve others completely refreshed me. I feel renewed vigor and drive

within me now," said Friesen.

Everyone involved moved closer to God in one way or another. Said Christabel Kim, "The love that I saw in the people really challenged me and gave me more love for God."

As the clinic came to a close, the 70 people involved gathered and took pictures. Newly found friends said their last good-byes, and the congregation dispersed. Wong said, "It is amazing how close you can get to people in so short a time, despite the language barrier. I cried when we left; the people of Myanmar have



a permanent home in my heart."

The seniors knew that they had nine hours in the Bangkok airport with only homework awaiting their return, but they did not let that trouble them. They had volunteered their bodies and time to God, and each felt His presence in a new and enchanting way.

Walter summed up the experience: "I had gone the year before, and this year was a continuation of last year's work. I saw people that I had trained turn around and train others. We put in a week of labor; but God reaps a lifetime of rewards."

Grasping the neck of his guitar, Love followed Friesen and the Caldwell's into the elevator. He cast one last glance over his shoulder at the glowing temple before he stopped humming. "To think that God is more beautiful than that; I can't wait to see what He does tomorrow!" •

Simon Says...

students are addicted to "American Idol"

By Dan Walter

"I have to watch last night's 'American Idol!' Do you know who recorded it? I didn't get to watch it because we don't get that channel," Joy Walter (9) said to her group of friends.

"My dorm parents recorded it during the concert last night," Eric Westergren (9) answered.

A significant majority of Dalat students and a few staff members could not bear to miss a single episode of this addictive TV series. "Of all the reality TV shows, 'American Idol' is my favorite; but you have to watch from the beginning to get hooked," said Ms. Maike Horn.

Over the past three seasons, "American Idol's" basic premise has changed little: Paula Abdul, Randy Jackson, and Simon Cowell, the three judges, still evaluate the talents of thousands of people auditioning, narrowing the field until they find the next pop superstar, the next "American Idol." Though the show's format stays the same, the cast of characters changes

constantly, giving students plenty to talk about. "It's fun to see who people like. Which judge people support reveals their personality and perspective on things. That's why I like talking about 'American Idol,'" said Pamela Lesmana (12).

"I don't watch ['American Idol'] because of the [contestants] who can sing—because they can all sing. I like it because of how the contestants stretch themselves to entertain and show off their best characteristics," said Joyce Wong (11).

The day after every episode, students sat around discussing everyone's opinions on Cowell or the contestants.

"Idol's" panel of judges collectively spark a lot of controversy among students, but most of it focuses on Cowell. Some people like the caustic, cynical Englishman who says exactly what he thinks. His comments range from the common comment, "You're the worst singer I've ever heard," to the unusual "Fantastic."

"Simon's cool. He's evil and sarcastic," said Nathan Rice (10). Mrs. Kathaleen McClary

thinks that "Simon's there to make the show interesting. 'American Idol' would be boring if there were three Paulas."

"Simon's honest. He can be mean, but at least he has a personality. The other two judges have no personalities of their own, so they can only do one of two things: hate Simon or be just like him," said Theo Love (12).

Some favored the other judges because of Cowell's criticism. "Simon's very honest, but a little critical. Paula always tries to make the contestants feel better. Randy's my favorite. He's honest and sincere," said Ganou Kue (12).

According to Amber Hill (12), "Paula's the best because even though she can't always be positive, she is still constructive."

Rachael Caldwell's (12) favorite judge "...would be Paula because she's honest, but at the same time, she doesn't tear people apart. She gives constructive criticism, and she still encourages people."

Reactions to the contestants varied even more. A few students laughed at the girl who rode into her audition on a scooter, a few reacted violently when the judges eliminated a certain blonde, and others rallied behind pen-salesmen or thick-lipped wonders. Some of the teenagers, Allison McClary (9) included, "...think John, the pen-salesman, is a hottie!"

"Fantasia [Barrino] is the coolest and will win. I like her lips," said Brendan Frenz (8), using Fantasia's admitted oddity in his description.

A majority of students also rallied behind two men: Matt Rogers, the opera-singing football star; and John Stevens, the young red-headed Frank Sinatra. "I like the football player," said Love.

Rice and many others "...like the way John Stevens sings."

This season, millions of Americans fell in love with a UC-Berkeley engineering student by the name of William Hung, and Dalat students followed suit. This Chinese-background singer did not even make it past his second audition, but his appearance on the show made him a household name. Hung sang a lovable, yet as Cowell would say, "horrendous," version of Ricky Martin's "She Bangs." By the end of his first performance, even mentioning his name made some students cringe and others rejoice. "[American Idol]'s awesome because of William Hung—'She Bangs, She Bangs!'" said Kaden Stenlund (4).

"I feel bad for William Hung because everybody makes fun of him, and he doesn't even know it," said Frenz.

To sum up his feelings on "American Idol," Westergren quoted William Hung, Hong Kong's Ricky Martin: "It bangs!" •

On Guard

By Jodi Harrison

"Want to fight, lah?" said Seth Galloway (11), challenging Ben Weidemann (3) to an imaginary swordfight using magnifying glasses. Weidemann rose to the challenge and accepted the weapon handed him.

"Aha," yelled Galloway jabbing his imaginary sword at Weidemann; "I've got you! You're dead!"

"No I'm not! Take that, and that," cried Weidemann using his magnifying glass as a sword to back Galloway into a corner where he easily stepped out of his opponent's reach, grabbed the magnifying glasses, and returned them to the counter.

After successfully completing CSI last semester, Ms. Maike Horn's chemistry class attempted to create a smaller version for

the second and third grade students. The elementary students proceeded to find the culprits by using their observation skills to discover the clues that the clumsy culprits had left behind.

"It is a good opportunity for the high school students to interact with the elementary

and teach them the importance of making good observations," said Ms. Horn.

The first "crime" happened in Ms. Horn's room. She had made a batch of cookies for a party, and someone stole them. The second graders declared Mr. Steve Liss guilty by looking at the bite left on a remaining cookie, inspecting hair under a microscope, and matching finger-

prints on the cookie jar.

"My favorite part was when we found out who stole the cookies; it was Mr. Liss!" said Sierra Henderson (2).

In the lab the third graders helped Galloway, Esther Vaughn (11), and Apryl Siemens (11) figure out which one of four imaginary girls had broken a bathroom mirror. The juniors had printed out an inventory with information about the girls, and the third graders matched information with the clues. The culprit left behind some hair, lipstick, a drink, a note, and fingerprints on the glass. The elementary CSI unit used these clues to figure out that Linnea, one of the fictional culprits, had broken the mirror.

"I knew who did it from the first clue! Even though it was easy, it was still fun," Weidemann concluded.

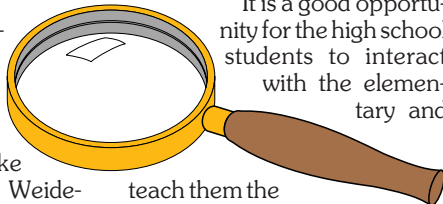
Elementary CSI Day closed with victory. The second and third graders successfully discov-

ered who had stolen the cookies and who had broken the mirror.

"It was awesome to work with the younger students; they were eager to learn and lots of fun. They are so cute!" remarked Lydia Ng (11).

"We will finish this later!" Galloway decided, drawing Weidemann's attention back to the crime scene at hand.

"OK, but I already won!" said Weidemann, joining his classmates around the counter of the lab and listening eagerly to Vaughn's explanation of the next clue. •

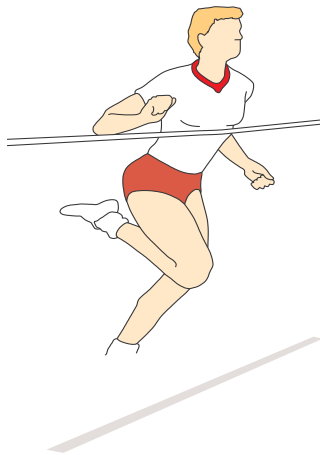


On the Right Track

By Jacqui Steiert

"Ke garisan..." Everything became quiet for a few seconds on Friday, 20 February at the USM Stadium. The Class 1 boys who had made it to the 400M final heat stepped up to their starting blocks.

"Sedia..." Seth Galloway (11) placed his feet in his starting block—muscles tense, ears alert, mind free.



"BANG!" The boys took off, propelling their long legs one after the other, sweat threatening to drip down their faces. In the last 100 meters, Galloway felt his face straining, arms pumping, lungs bursting. He crossed the finish line 53.7 seconds after the gun had gone off, earning him a silver medal and the privilege of advancing to state level in April.

MSSPP Track and Field saw more Dalat students than just Galloway though. Elementary students Ben Weidemann (3), Nathan Danneker (4), Sydney McKenzie (5), Angela Steiert (5), Bethany Weidemann (5), Andi Thompson (5), Josie Steinkamp (5), and Lakshmi Meyyappan (5) participated in various throwing, jumping, and running events including a relay.

"We disqualified in the relay," said Thompson, "but we ran pretty hard. I'm glad we got to do this."

Weidemann earned a gold

medal in the shot-put with a throw of 5.99 meters, advancing him to state. "It was amazing to watch such a little guy throw that far," said Mr. Gerry Steiert, track and field coach.

Middle school students Sush-eela Meyyappan (7) and Jake Latsha (8) took part in running and throwing events. Latsha advancing to state with his silver in javelin; he threw it 30.23 meters.

"I was pretty surprised that I did that well," Latsha said. "I even beat my brother!"

Dalat's fully represented high school, with Drew Steiert (9), Joey Latsha (9), James Hawthorne (10), Esther Vaughn (11), Galloway, Jason Pohl (11), Jacqui Steiert (12), and Jessica Friesen (12), participated in everything from the 100M dash to the 5K run, the javelin to the high jump.

"I really like getting to know the locals before my races," said Friesen. Friesen earned gold medals in both her races with a time of 2:41.64 in the 800M and 5:47.2 in the 1.5K. She will compete at state in both these events plus the pen-

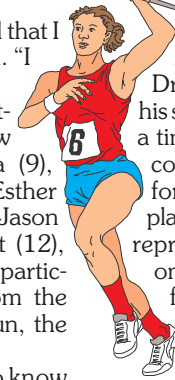
tathlon in April.

"The locals provide pretty intense competition that I don't get at Dalat's track and field meet," said Vaughn, who placed fourth in both the 100M and the 200M finals. Vaughn advanced to state level in both races.

Joey Latsha (9) will advance to state by his gold in the shot-put with a throw of 11.75 meters and his silver in the discus with a distance of 28.83 meters.

Drew Steiert advances for his sixth-place in the 5K with a time of 21:11; he already competed in the state final for the 3K Steeplechase, placing tenth. Galloway will represent Dalat at state not only for his 400M, but also for his bronze in the 800M with a time of 2:41.64. Jacqui Steiert will compete at state by her bronze in the javelin with a throw of 19.2 meters.

After taking a moment to catch his breath, Galloway stood up to receive his silver medal for the 400M run, smiled, and said, "At state, this race is mine." •



Dorms to War

By Praveen Thomas

On 11 March, Ziemer Dorm decided to do something extraordinary for the long weekend. Yes, indeed, they planned to campout—not in a jungle or a desert, but in a war bunker. Uncle Brian Weidemann, the man who came up with this idea, planned this adventure for dorm kids. He said, "It is going to be very exciting and a great place for campout. So let's go"

At 6:30 P.M. the van left campus, but the heavy traffic tested the patience of the dorm. After one hour of sitting in the cramped van, the Ziemer kids jumped out to explore their new home. As soon as the kids settled, their guide, "Uncle Joe," came and gave the stu-

dents a tour of the war museum. As Caleb Masters (11) commented, "He was a very nice and humble person, but he had a funny accent."

Uncle Joe's hospitality made the dorm kids feel optimistic about the museum. He answered every question and provided all the items the dorm needed for the stay.

Kristen Westergren (8) commented, "I like how the buildings were so old but still standing, and I like going through the dark tunnels and smashing marshmallows on the wall."

Uncle Joe took them to all the different structures on the hill and explained the history of the fort. Students enjoyed going

through the dark tunnels, which had served as an escape route for the soldiers in World War II. As Lydia Ng (11) stated, "Tunnels were pitch black and it was totally creepy."

Most Dalat students have lived in Penang for a long time without knowing its history, so this trip increased their knowledge.

Students had to sleep on wooden beds like the soldiers did during the war, and this helped them understand the life of the people in the past. As Eric Westergren (9) commented, "I've got to learn about Penang's history and experience the way how soldiers used to live in those days."

Some people felt a little disturbed with the history. Joyce Wong (11) said, "I felt uncomfortable when I saw how badly the Japanese tortured the sol-

diers and the people."

The bullet marks in the wall and the smell of gasoline which they had used to burn people filled the room, and this upset some. As Tina Wolfe (12) commented, "It was really creepy to sleep by the torture place."

When night came, students just relaxed and ate food all night. The trip gave a good break from the regular Dalat life, and it also provided an educational lesson at the same time. When the morning came, kids began to pack up and get ready to leave. As Uncle Brian said, "We became part of the history by staying here."

Thinking back on the marshmallow that Kristen Westergren had splattered on the wall and all the fun things that had happened, the dorm students wearily got back into the van and returned to their usual lives. •

Chains of Kindness



By Amber Hill

"Kindness is doing something nice for somebody else!" exclaimed Kendall Stenlund (2) and Josiah Steinkamp (2) simultaneously.

The elementary had a "Random Acts of Kindness Week" from 23-27 February where they applied kindness to their daily lives. The kids performed little

acts of kindness throughout the week and each act of kindness made a link in a paper chain.

"I helped make birthday cupcakes that week for Nathan [Danneker, 4]," declared Bethany Weidemann (5).

Justin Strong (1) said, "I helped Gregory [West, 1] pick

up all his pencils when he dropped them on the floor."

Addison Smith (1) performed another act of kindness. "I gave Justin a freezie," he said.

That week's kickoff chapel pertained to "kindness," and as Gabby Erwin (3) explained, (Continued on page 5, col. 1)

Take My Heart Away

By Christabel Kim

"Hey, Christina. Did you stock the canteen fridge?" Theo Love (12) asked casually when he spotted Christina Robertson (11), hurriedly walking to class.

In haste, scared to receive another tardy, Robertson, quickly replied, "No, Jacqui [Steiert, 12] said she would stock it for me!"

"Ha, ha, I gotcha! Gimme your heart!" yelled Love loudly, grinning from ear to ear at the greatness of his success.

On 13 February, StuCo hosted a high school event "Take My Heart Away." Girls stayed

up late the night before, creating a heart that best reflected them. For example, Gaonou Kue (12) spent hours flipping through her magazines before she finally found the perfect picture of David Beckham to place in the center of her heart. "My heart's going to be special and unique," said Kue.

The D-Day came, and the campus seemed quieter than usual. Some guys tried harder to talk to girls so they could steal their hearts; other guys who had forgotten the "deal" felt utterly rejected as their friendly comment

or greeting returned nothing but a simple smile or nod.

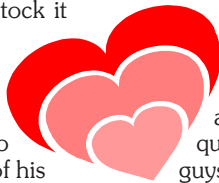
"Christabel [Kim] and Sally [Tsai] wouldn't talk to me the whole World Affairs period. I told them that I didn't want their hearts, but they were still stubborn; so we eventually just passed notes," said Chi-Wei Lo (12).

While girls constantly reminded themselves to not lose their hearts by talking to guys, guys schemed to trick the girls into talking to them. "Right after class was the hardest time for me to remember to not talk to guys because I was more concentrated on the previous les-

son of the class or deep in thought rather than thinking about [how I couldn't talk to them]," said Tsai.

"Oh man!" exclaimed Robertson, finally realizing Love's trickery. Reluctantly, she peeled her heart off her shirt and handed it to him.

"Thank you," said Love. Adding another heart to his collection, he quickly scanned the campus for his next victim. Chocolates, roses, and candies, or heart and success: Valentine's Day couldn't get much better, he decided. At the end of the day, StuCo's president himself had won the contest. Hmm.... •



Three-on-Three Battles

By Michael Chan

"Break him! Break him!" shouted the crowd to Philip Houmpham (12) as he dribbled the ball and planned how to conquer his oversized opponent. He faked right, then left; but his competitor's guard never left him any openings. Finally, Houmpham found his chance and wound the ball through his adversary's legs.

On 13 March, NT College held a three-on-three tourna-

ment for both male and female players. Entry fees cost each team RM120 and offered a prize of RM1000 for the boys and RM500 for the girls.

Three teams represented Dalat, two boys' teams and one girls' team with four players per team as the tournament allowed each team one substitute.

Overall, 30 teams joined the boys' heat—but only seven entered the girls'. Though none of the Dalat teams made it to first place, the girls did take third.

"I wasn't all that surprised that we didn't make it to the top three," said Eric Jung (11). "I mean most of the players out there were college students."

The players in the competition did not go just to win a tournament; they also wanted to check out the skills of other ball players. And Dalat contenders did not get disappointed as they saw some "awesome" moves by some of the other teams.

"I can't believe that that guy just did a 360-degree dunk!" exclaimed Zach Hansen (12), "He must have crazy 'vert,' since he looks only about five feet ten inches tall."

Meanwhile, back on the court Houmpham finished his move by pulling the ball back towards him. His opponent, confused, stumbled backwards and fell to the ground; and as the cheers of the crowd grew to a roar, Houmpham put his fists to his head in acknowledgment. •

Random Acts of Kindness...

(Continued from page 4, col. 4)

"There were two kings: King Kindness and King Meanness. King Kindness was polite to everybody and had many friends, but King Meanness was really mean and had no friends."

Mariana Moss (1) said, "I learned that you're supposed to be kind always and share if you have too much."

Each act of kindness contributed a link in the paper chain. By the end of the week the chain stretched across the third grade classroom to the fifth grade classroom! Weidemann also expressed how "...it was really cool to see how many acts of kindness our elementary school could do by how long our chain got."

Beth Ng (5) personally reflected on the week: "Kindness is not just about doing something for others, but it's for yourself and God, too." •

Mum's the Word

By Gaonou Kue

Creeping around the lockers, watching ever so carefully for any signs of deceiving enemies, Chris Foster (10) dashed to his next class as his classmates tried to ask him questions to start a conversation. But Foster only kept running and smiled to himself, knowing that anything she would do and say could never make him lose his clover.

On 17 March, Student Council organized a fun game for the high school students for St. Patrick's Day—very similar to the Valentine's Day game, except visa versa. Each male student received his own clover from StuCo with his name written on it and wore it on his shirt. Guys could not talk to girls.

But the girls had, on the other hand—in any way, shape, or form—to get the guys to talk to them; and if the guy did talk, she collected his clover. Once the bell rang for class to start, the game paused and guys and girls could converse peacefully until the next bell rang for class to get out. Girls took as many clovers as they could get, and guys stayed as far away as possible from girls. But the girl who collected the most clovers at the end of the game would win a "StuCo's Happy St. Patrick's Day Package" filled with great prizes. And the guys who kept their clovers throughout the game would put his clover in a Lucky Pot for a lucky draw for a chance to win 50 ringgit.

Some found the game challenging and hard work. "Getting guys to talk to you is a lot harder than you think," said a "bummed" Lydia Ng (11), who only collected one clover. "But

it was a lot fun when I tricked Brian [Colfax, 9] into answering my question. I was so sneaky." Ng asked anyone in general about the next class period right after the bell hoping that a guy would answer her. Her trickery prevailed, and she collected her one and only clover.

Others added their own rules. Said a bitter Jonny Kue (10), "I was talking to Lindsay [Parks, 10] right before class, and she took my clover; but I argued that it wasn't fair."

When asked why, Kue replied, "...because I called 'time-out.'"

Some guys became creative and made their own clovers. Joey Latsha (9) found a huge cement block outside his house and simply drew a clover on it. "The first thing I really noticed in the morning was Joey's shamrock; it was this massive rock that he found, and he just drew a shamrock on it. Joy [Walter] (9) got to carry that thing around half a day!" Latsha lugged his "clover" for half the day until finally Walter tricked him into talking to her.

At the end of the day StuCo members collected everyone's clovers and stored them away carefully so they could count them carefully over the next few days. Walter collected the most clovers and won the Happy St. Patrick's Day Package; Ben DeVette (10) and Chris Irwin (10) split the RM50 in a double drawing. •



ELECTIONS PAINT THE STREETS OF PENANG



...and prove Malaysia's unity

by Jessica Friesen

As you walk down Tanjung Bunga Road, bright blue posters and banners shock your eyes. You find the normally tidy and sign-free street surprisingly covered with advertisements. Though you recognize the person's face on the posters, you can't seem to place his name—that sign with the balance or “scales” on it would look really cool in your room, but you still don't quite know what it means. You do know one thing—elections have come again.

Almost overnight blue balances, red rockets, a white circle on a green background, and scores of unknown faces sprang up on bridges, lamp posts, fences, and walls across Penang. Flags and banners littered the roadside, and these mysterious symbols made many students wonder what strange carnival had come to town.

The posters in fact served as a main campaign strategy in Malaysia's election of its new prime minister.

“The banners are everywhere. Just the other day I saw people putting more up, and all the pictures are of the same guy,” said Tina Wolfe (12).

For Malaysian students like Michael Chan (12), the elections strike closer to home; and though the majority of Dalat's students hold foreign passports, the elections have greater effects on the campus than many students realize. For example, Steven Ong's (10) mother will again serve in Parliament.

The landslide victory by the majority party Barisan National (or the National Front Coalition—the one with the white scale on a blue background) proved what most Malaysians suspected. Datuk Seri Abdullah

Badawi, the current prime minister and selected successor of well-liked Tun Mahathir Muhammad, holds the hearts of most Malaysian citizens.

BN has less strict Islamic views than the PAS opposition party (the green flags with the white circle), and many consider it more progressive and inclusive than the DAP, the predominantly Chinese opposition party with the red rocket symbol.

Though many thought before the election that PAS, led by Chief Minister Abdul Hadi Awang, had gained more recognition and power—especially in northern states of Terengganu and Kelantan—it surprisingly lost its majority in Terengganu and won Kelantan by only three seats. Many of their reforms aimed to make Malaysia a stronger and stricter Islamic state. Some of their promises includ-

ed instituting changes like a dress code on Muslim women—as they already had in previously-PAS-controlled-state Terengganu.

“I really thought that the PAS party would do better because they added more female members,” said I-Sha Chen (12).

The opposition DAP party suffered a big upset in Melaka where they had ruled for 35 years. But they won seats in both Ipoh and Penang.

For many students the 21 March elections might have seemed insignificant, but to Malaysia and its citizens, Election Day had many more ramifications. Barisan National's landslide victory may benefit Malaysia economically as investors need not fear a rising fundamentalist party. This in turn proves beneficial to the school as the administration looks for more students.

Trying not to make any rips on the poster, you slowly take one of the many on the wall and roll it up—another souvenir and experience of life in the “Pearl of the Orient.” •

Four Relaxing Days

By Chi Wei Lo

Students and staff all looked forward to the four-day long weekend that began on 11 March, and they planned many activities.

A group of seniors went to Siow Seong picture studio to have their senior portraits taken for the yearbook. “Smile,” said the photographer as he took I-Sha Chen's (12) picture.

“It was fun to be dressed up and have our pictures taken. I look so cool and handsome,”

said Tony Chuang (12).

Some staff members took advantage of the four-day break to play golf. “The prices at the golf course during the week are very reasonable,” said Mr. Joel Steinkamp.

“It is always fun to get outside and hit that little white ball,” said Mr. Brian Weidemann.

A loud noise came from the punching bag machine in Gurney's arcade center where Andrew Altice (12) gave it his full

strength. “It gives us a way to relieve the stress built up over the long weeks at school,” Altice said.

Students liked to spend most of their time in the new arcade that opened. Chris Chu (12) showed his new moves on the dancing machine to his classmates.

“Chris has been practicing his dancing moves every weekend, and now he is almost professional,” said Chen.

Others enjoyed hanging out at Gurney because 12 new cinemas opened in time for second semester. “The seats in the cinema are great, but they are ex-

pensive; one high class seat is RM15,” Chu said.

“People don't go to Island for movies anymore because Gurney is much better. They have most of the new and old movies,” said I-Yah Chen (9). After enjoying watching the movie *Hidalgo* at Gurney, a group headed to the car park and home at midnight.

Whether getting pictures taken, golfing, or enjoying the new arcade and cinema, staff and students alike appreciated getting away from the grind at school. “I wish it was not so long until the next long weekend” said Chu. •

To Turn the Page

By Jamie Cheng

“Girls, you must understand that you're never going to have guy friends the same way you can at Dalat,” said Mrs. Jacki Steinkamp as gasps of horror and agony echoed across the entire room.

“What? That can't be!” exclaimed Karen Wong (12) as she dropped her jaw in disbelief.

The senior class, on 5 March, skipped a day of school for the “Senior Transition Retreat,”

planned by Ms. Maike Horn, Mrs. Steinkamp, and Ms. Ruth Strong. Arriving at the Copthorne Hotel, the top dogs of high school listened to talks from staff who had previously lived as missionary kids. They also participated in activities, building class unity.

Christabel Kim said, “Ms. Strong and Ms. Horn did a wonderful job of planning the Senior

Transition Retreat, mixing breaks and games in between the more serious lectures.”

Besides preparing for college, the seniors also got to swim, tan, or simply hang out and enjoy life. Tina Wolfe said, “Jodi [Harrison], Jessica [Friesen], and I found a sauna; and it was great sizzling myself in the hot room like a steamed fish.”

After supper at Subaidah's, the seniors returned to the hotel and played a game of “Capture the Flag” on the lightless beach before heading back to the ball-

room where Ms. Horn, Mr. Nathanael Klassen, Mr. Karl Steinkamp, Kristen Love, and Mrs. Steinkamp shared embarrassing stories about college life.

The lectures and activities not only readied the students; they brought humor, warmth, and surprises. “The special girl talk we had really shocked but prepared me for what to expect in college: big bad boys!” said Sally Tsai.

“That's college life. I wished someone had taught me this (Continued on page 7, col. 1)

'Cause You're Just a...Loser; I Mean...You're...Scholarly

By Tina Wolfe

With his curly hair flailing in the air and an evil grin across his face, Casey Caldwell (12) acting as "The Evil Henchman," races toward the group of misfit superheroes. Daniel Walter (12) as the Punster, Jessica Friesen (12) as Nun Woman, Tina Wolfe (12) as Flight Attendant Girl, and Jacqui Steiert (12) as White House Woman crouched in fear as the Henchman captured them by trapping them in a hula hoop.



On Tuesday, 2 March, the National Honor Society inducted 16 new students into its honorary group of distinguished high school achievers. Those inducted last year; Walter, Friesen, Wolfe, Caldwell, Steiert, and Christabel Kim (12) wrote a creative superhero skit to explain the criteria of becoming an NHS member. They then inducted those who rated high in leadership, scholarship, service, and character—the Society's four standards.

Walter, Friesen, Steiert, and Wolfe took on the part of superheroes gone wrong, each possessing one essential criterion but lacking in another. The superheroes learned to combine their strengths to save the city of NHS, rescuing it from the hands of the Evil Dr. Psoriatic, played by Kim, and her Evil Henchman, Igor, played by Caldwell.

"From planning the skit to inducting the new NHS mem-

bers, I really enjoyed the whole program. My favorite part in the skit was my evil villain laugh. But the best part of the program was the food afterwards," said Kim.

After the skit, last year's members tapped 16 new students for induction into the Society including Kim Gross (11), Christina Robertson (11), Robert Whiting (11), Tony Chuang (12), Amber Hill (12), Karen Wong (12), Katrina Irwin (11), Caleb Masters (11), Lindsey Nagel (11), Lydia Ng (11), Apryl Siemens (11), Esther Vaughn (11), Jodi

Harrison (12), Zac Riggensbach (12), Sally Tsai (11) and Malcolm McCaskill (11).

"My favorite part this year and every year is when the inductees mess up when they get sworn in. They always mess up when they have to say, 'character, service, scholarship, and leadership.' It's great," said Masters.

"I was very shocked and nervous when I got the award. It's scary going up in front of everyone. When I signed the induction list, my hand was shaking," said Tsai.

After the presentation, those inducted, their families, staff, and the older members of NHS celebrated with lunch and cake. There, everyone shared his or her thoughts about the skit and the reactions of each of the new members.

"I was anxiously sitting in my chair, and Tina Wolfe came from

behind and jumped towards me. Startled and happy, I was inducted into NHS," said Hill.

Other students contemplated the day when they would become NHS members themselves. "It was an inspiration for me to get good grades because then I can stand up in front and hold a candle. I'd better go practice writing my signature. NHS seems like something I would want to be a part of," said Eric Westergren (9).

Overcoming their predicament, the superheroes finally worked together by pulling the hula hoop over all of their heads at once. Shocked and dismayed, Dr. Psoriatic and the Evil Henchman froze, knowing that their plan of domination had come to an end.

And all thanks to the collaborative effort of a few eccentric superheroes who learned a valuable lesson about teamwork. •

Survivor: the Cameron Highlands

By Casey Caldwell

"Oh my Gosh!! We're lost! We're totally lost, Evan! It's getting dark and we don't know where we are! Help! Come get us! Help! Hel..." the voice screamed out of the cell phone.

"Calm down! Just calm down! Where are you guys? Just tell me where you are!"

A scene from some high-paced action thriller? Hardly. On Jackson Dorm's trip to Cameron Highlands for the long weekend of 11-14 March, what the Wests (the Jackson Dorm parents) had intended for a lazy, relaxing few days in the mountains turned into a horror story for Jake (8) and Joey Latsha (9), Evan Persons (these three do not live in Jackson Dorm—but had come along for the trip), and Brian Colfax (9).

"We started out that morning to climb Gunung Beremban," said Colfax. "Joey and I went really slow, so Evan and Jake said they'd go on ahead and meet us at the top.

But when we finally got to

the top, there was no one there. So we started heading down the other side of the mountain. We basically got totally lost. By now it had started thundering and pouring rain, and so we started freaking out. That was when we called Evan. He somehow found us and took us back."

The rest of the dorm had a much more relaxing weekend. Said Uncle Ron West, "I played Ping Pong, basketball, and some board games. I didn't do any hiking. My knees don't hike. It was basically a hang out, relax, and do-nothing weekend, which was the idea."

The relaxed, unhurried atmosphere of the trip gave students a chance to appreciate life's simple pleasures. "It was really cold, which was nice. We were free from homework, and the fresh strawberries [we had] were really good," said Lexy Yoon (9).

Of course, the vacation gods could not feel satisfied giving the rest of the trip's participants

an entirely trauma-free weekend. On a short walk through the woods, some students found themselves attacked by bees. Linnea Williams (6) said, "We didn't expect it, but all of a sudden Cameron [West, 6] stepped on a beehive and started screaming, running around, and slapping himself. We didn't know what was going on, and then we started to get stung too. So we all ran back down the mountain, screaming."

Despite their many misadventures, Jackson students said they had a great time in the highlands.

"I liked the whole thing a lot. It was nice to spend a few days just sitting around in cool weather relaxing and hanging out. Especially hanging out with girls," said Steven Ong (9).

Persons burst through the undergrowth and spotted Colfax sitting down on a log. Colfax and Latsha immediately ran up to Evan and hugged him.

"Did you bring any food?" •

Transitions...

(Continued from page 6, col. 4) information earlier," said Mrs. Steinkamp. "I hope you girls will be wise to not make the same mistake as I."

As Wong returned to unite with the boys in the large room, she reflected back to what Mrs. Steinkamp had said. "Maybe I shouldn't take for granted how nice the boys are in my class," Wong thought as she grabbed Michael Chan's hand. •

Peri-Peri Portions of Pleasure



By Philip Houmphan



"Where should we eat tonight?" asked Uncle Keith Henderson.

"I have no clue," responded Praveen Thomas (12).

"Let's eat at Nando's even though we always eat there!" said Simeon Garratt (12).

"Nando's it is," echoed Uncle Keith as he steered the car into the Gurney parking lot.

Since the opening of Gurney Plaza in 2002, Nando's has easily become the most visited restaurant among students and staff. The speciality of Nando's lies in the spicy, or "peri-peri" chicken. Customers can order chicken at four different levels of spiciness, suiting each person's taste buds. To add more flavour, the large portions of flame-grilled spicy chicken come with a variety of spicy sauces that Nando's provides.

"Nando's is my favourite

restaurant because it's affordable and super good. Because of that, I find myself walking into Nando's all the time," said Sam Lee (11).

Added Jamie Cheng (12) "Every time I take a bite, the juice of the chicken flows into my mouth, filling it with pure mirth. I worry about not being able to taste the beauty of Nando's in the States. It is truly bittersweet."

Although large, juicy, and mirthful, Nando's chicken differs from all others because of its unique spice.

"It sets my mouth on fire every time, but I like that taste and feeling—a lot," said Casey Caldwell (12).

Cheng, known for his deep thinking, also added his piece of wisdom concerning the spiciness of the chicken: "It's a two-way painful deal: it hurts coming

in as well as going out. It's strangely addicting though."

"Every time I put that spicy chicken on my tongue, I want to scream (in a manly way of course) partly because it's so spicy, and partly because it's so good," said Thomas.

Although most agreed on the greatness of Nando's chicken, others had unpleasant experiences at the restaurant.

"It's my favourite place to eat in Gurney, but those kebabs just tasted [terrible]," complained Mr. Dake Erwin.

"Once I went there and used so much of that two-ringgit promotion thing, I think they got mad because the chicken that day was at least twice as spicy as Flaming Hot," said Howard Kao (10).

"I just don't go there. I have no money," said Steven Ong (9).

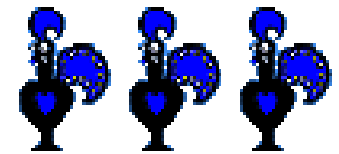
Tina Wolfe (12) attempted an answer to the surrounding

mystery of Nando's addiction, "It's because the chicken is just an incredible burst of flavour. It tastes like there's 3000 percent flavour in every piece of chicken!"

Whatever the reason, people find themselves going back for more. Many students now dine at Nando's at least once a week—as if they have entered a "Who-Can-Eat-the-Most-of-Nando's" competition.

"So good, just so good," said Thomas as he picked the last strands of chicken from the bones.

Garratt, satisfied with his meal exclaimed "Nando's—quality food without quality price." •



Pride and Passion

By Karen Wong

The season started again: the echo of the ball thudding against the wall, the cheers of the crowd, and the shouts from the players overwhelmed the campus on Monday nights. Organized by Kylee Spangler (11), and Mrs. Lyn Holden, girls' indoor soccer season kicked off.

Every Monday night, parents and friends packed the bleachers in the gym and cheered for the girls in this intense competition. Team pride and passion for the game of soccer led to many exciting matches in the gym this season.

"In spite of the fact that we lacked enough players and team spirit, we still were victorious. We were undefeated!" said Ganou Kue (12) enthusiastically. Four teams emerged from the 24 participants. Teams color-coordinated themselves: grey, white, red, and black. Each team member possessed a sense of team pride and wore her team color shirt when competing in the competition.

To some players, indoor soccer served as a way to prepare themselves for the stressful week ahead with

homework and tests. Some used the opportunity to improve. "[Indoor soccer] was a good chance for me to keep up with the soccer skills that I have acquired and to prepare myself for the next season of varsity soccer. What is more, it gives me a good chance to exercise," said Julia [Cheong, 11] as she recalled her participation in the indoor league.

Not only students, but many staff members participated as well. "I had a great time mingling with the students and playing indoor together. I definitely would want to play with the girls again!" said Aunt Corinna Spangler.

"I got hit by Kylee three times in face and twice in the gut. I

didn't know how it was possible, but I guess that's what happens when people become passionate about a sport—you get hurt," said Tina Wolfe (12) as she laughingly recalled the injuries she received after a well-hard-fought game.

Despite the injuries and aggravation participants received during the season, they made great memories and built friendships.

As the short indoor season gradually drew to an end, the gray team—Spangler, Esther Vaughn, Kue, Christabel Kim, Aunt Rachele Henderson, and Aunt Corinna—took home the winning trophy; but the girls' passion for the game will stay strong till next season. •

Under Da Sea

By I-Sha Chen

"Hey, can you come help me check on my fish tank later when you're free?" asked Mr. Joel Steinkamp when he saw Chi Wei Lo (12) rushing to his next class.

"No problem! I am free after school today; I'll go straight to your office," replied Lo before he rushed into his Bible class.

Finding Nemo, the popular Disney movie released last year, created an overwhelming urge for people to own their very own "Nemos." This trend rushed over the school like a tidal wave. Students no longer talked about clothes, shoes, or new movies. Instead, the keywords that re-

sounded through the air became "fish" and "tanks."

"I have a whole tank of guppies in my houses, and I'm going to get more this weekend. Those fish are cute. Also, it's nice to be able to control the life of another living creature," said Andrew Altice (12).

Not only students, but teachers and the local office staff also seemed to hold a vast interest in

raising their own tanks of fishes. "I keep a small tank of fish myself. Although it is just a small tank, it still takes a lot of effort to take care of my little clown fish. But I think it is well worth the effort," says Miss Ah Moi Leow with a big smile on her face.

Keeping marine fish and coral healthy required a lot of effort. Without enough under-

Over a Cup of Java

By Sally Tsai

Coins jingling in their pockets, the freshmen class and ESL teacher Kristen Love waited in the hot afternoon sun for a bus to take them to Island Plaza's Coffee Bean. Butterflies fluttered in their stomachs as they anticipated another chance to hang-out with their class. "Oh! There's a bus!" cried Allison McClary, eagerly waving her hand to flag it down.

Every Wednesday after school, Love took the freshmen class to Coffee Bean, Starbucks, or Subaidah's for a time of freshmen bonding. "I thought this was a good idea because it prepared us for [our] junior year when we would have to fund-raise together," said Brian Colfax.



At Coffee Bean, each person paid for a cup of coffee as he or she talked to classmates he or she normally didn't see. "It felt good to get away from school and have something cold to drink," Joy Walter said. "It had a very relaxing atmosphere."

Since ESL students made up half of freshmen class, the Coffee Bean trip gave the non-ESL students a chance to mingle with the ESL students. "We never see our ESL classmates just be-

cause they have different classes from us," Liesl Williams stated. "I think they have really improved their English just by hanging out with us."

ESL student Kazuki Takahashi agreed with Williams and said, "My English has improved because the non-ESL [students] always correct me and teach us punctuation during our time in the coffee house."

In order for ESL classmates to improve their English, non-ESLers fired up subjects that forced ESLers to use their second language and allowed them to make friends with non-ESLers. Josh Manfred said, "We would ask them about personal stuff like their family situation. I found out how great



some ESL students were."

At first, mixing the ESL and non-ESL seemed unsuccessful when everyone just "hung out" with his or her clique. But an incident when Steven Ong drank his ice blended too quickly started a subject that bridged the two divisions in the class.

"It all started with Steven getting a brain freeze," said Eric Westergren. "We non-ESL students explained what a brain freeze was, and everything just clicked—we all just had lots to say."

Not only did non-ESL students enjoy the Coffee Bean trip; the ESL students felt it helped them look past the language barrier between them and the Western students. "It was my first semester here, [and I didn't] know much English. But the hangout really helped me get to know people like Michelle [Nagell], Joey [Latsha], and Hilary [McCaskill],"

said Takehiro Toyama. "All the time in the world is not enough for those moments in Coffee Bean."

"Ugh, time went by so quickly. I wish it was next week already," McClary said waving to get the bus.

She trudged slowly toward the swinging door of the bus followed by the rest of her classmates. Instead of fluttering butterflies, their stomach felt engorged with the cups of coffee and slices of cheese cake. The sun had stopped giving off the afternoon heat when the bus rolled down Tanjung Bunga Road. "Here we are again," murmured McClary as her class piled out of the halting bus. "I guess we have to wait for next week to have another chance of class bonding over a cup of coffee." •



Freaky Football Frenzy

By Simeon Garratt

"HUT, HUT!" yelled Mr. Clay Moss as the ball came hurling towards him. Out of the corner of his eye he saw Zach Hansen (12) break from the pack of defenders and sprint for the open spot. Mr. Moss reared up and threw the ball to the open spot, hitting Hansen's airborne body. Hansen tightly gripped the ball as he landed on the grass. TOUCHDOWN! Hansen's team let out a cry of joy as they ran back down the field.

This semester added yet another sport to its agenda. With the help of Mr. Moss and a few fearless students, American football returned once again to Penang.

At first it started out as a throw-around game among a few high school students. Over the course of a couple days, the number of people began to grow until the game became too big and required the use of the soccer field.

Every once in awhile a group of people wanted to play tackle football, instead of two-hand-touch. Theo Love (12) liked tackle much better. He reported that "...it got his testosterone pumping so fast that he thought he was going to erupt and turn into a manchine (Man-Machine)."

Nevertheless, those games only lasted until someone got seriously hurt—which didn't take very long. Whichever team had Mr. Moss, aka "the football machine," on its side had a very high chance of winning. His vast knowledge of football made him game-winning material.

Not only could he play football, but he also doubled as an ego booster. "After one of the games, Mr. Moss told me that I was one of the best centers that he had ever had; that was the most fulfilling experience of my life," said Casey Caldwell (12).

Not everyone enjoyed football frenzy; Philip Houmphan (12) said, "I didn't really like football because I barely ever got the ball even though I was always open. The only time they would pass to me was when they were desperate and had no other options."

Football attracted the school's athletic people, and it happened to land in the small break between soccer and basketball; so once basketball started, the games ended.

RRRRING! The supper bell rang, putting an end to the games. A sense of accomplishment loomed in the air as the brave but bruised players walked

off the field. "See ya'll next week," yelled Mr. Moss as he picked the ball up off the torn grass and started to walk towards his car. Another afternoon of Monday football had come to a close. •



Finding Nemo Again...

(Continued from p. 8, col. 4) standing of their characteristics and careful observation of the tank's environment, the marine life could easily die. "I have to say keeping the sea water at the right condition is the most difficult; I have to use fans to keep the water temperature low, adjust the salt concentration to the right level, and get pumps to keep the oxygen level up. Of course all these things wouldn't be enough if I didn't keep the water clean," said Lo.

"You need to change your sea water and clean the tank Mr. Steinkamp. I don't think I can finish all the work by today. I'll come tomorrow morning," said Lo.

"That would be great! I'll see you tomorrow morning then," replied Mr. Joel Steinkamp. •

Treat-astic!

By Andrew Altice

Throughout the years, senior dorm students have gathered once a week at one of the five dorms on campus, or in the resident supervisor's house for a time to relax and have a special treat prepared by the host. Senior treat has traditionally only happened for the dorm students. The senior class of 2004, however, decided that the tradition should apply to day students as well. Once a week, the senior day students gather at one of their fellow student's houses for (Continued on page 11, col. 1)

Perspectives

Keeping the lines of communication open

Everyone can have an opinion. Whether that opinion holds water rarely occurs to its owner. Dalat always has an abundance of opinions because of the wide variety of people in the community. We don't have a chance of living peacefully together unless we accept each other's views and in turn widen our perspective. Two of the most contrasting perspectives exist between staff and students.

The recent change of traditional to family-style dorms has caused a frenzy of controversy between these two parties. Some students felt as if their lives had changed drastically, and that this shift represented the end of an era. "I have lost my freedom to act like a guy in the dorm and walk around in my boxers," said Simeon Garratt (12).

Other changes in recent years such as adding walls and screens to dorms and bars along the sea wall have relayed a message to some students of symbolic of a lack of trust. The staff, however, views this as a positive step in moving toward a healthier dorm environment as well as an increase in campus security. They hold that creating a more family-oriented dorm encourages stronger relationships between older and younger students and generally improves social behavior. Uncle Brian Weidemann said, "Although it hasn't been an easy change, as a dorm parent, I have seen student behavior improve as a result of the new dorm [arrangement]."

Another recent change involves dorm students riding in student-driven vehicles. More Dalat students now carry Malaysian driver's licenses than ever before. But a rule in the Resident Life Handbook prohibits dorm students from riding in cars with student drivers. This communicates a level of distrust of student drivers' abilities and a failure to recognize the difficulty involved in obtaining a Malaysian driving license. Tina Wolfe (12) said, "It seems inconsistent that we are allowed to ride in taxis driven by complete strangers, but we are forbidden to ride in a car driven by people that we know and trust—even though our parents would willingly let us do so."

Aunt Corinna Spangler explained the school's side of the issue by saying, "It is a liability, and we don't want to take responsibility if anything bad happens [while they are in the cars of student drivers]."

Although many times the only clashes students know about occur between staff and students, the issue of hosting the MSSPP basketball tournament on campus raises controversy between staff members themselves. Many students side with the staff members who say that the games should take place on the Dalat campus because it has the best facility on the island, it promotes the school, and it gives us a home-court advantage. Uncle Brian said, "It's such a shame. It's like having Michael Jordan on your team and making him sit on the bench. It's such a shame! Such a shame!"

Other staff members seem reluctant to embrace the idea of hosting the games because of security issues as well as the timing of the tournament.

The issues of dorm life, student driving, and MSSPP arouse contrasting and different opinions. In all of these instances, attempting to understand and respect each other's perspectives seems to be the only way to prevent and avoid conflict. Of course not everyone can have his own way, but by encouraging clear communication about our ideas, students and staff can work together and have a better understanding of the decision-making process.

By Theo Love

Where's the Love?

By John Kao

"Are you buying anything for me?" asked Po Lai (10).

Without saying a word, Terry Hsiang (10) smiled.

"What if no one get me anything? I will look so bad! Get me something, OK? I will get you something too," said Lai.

Conversations like this occurred across campus. That time of the year came around again—the week of "Special Things for Special People." As an annual tradition, Student Council once again hosted the event in which students and staff signed up to have snacks sent to their special someone's lockers.

Students used this opportunity to show their peers, boyfriend, or girlfriend appreciation for their relationships. The activity always brought a little more warmth to the campus.

"I think this activity is very good because you can find out how special you are to other people—even if you have never thought of it before. It can sometimes create a new relationship," said Joyce Wong (11).

"I was surprised at how many people were involved in this activity. Our canteen ran out of some stock to supply for the sign-up lists," said Christina Robertson (11).

Since the whole school participated, the canteen's favorite candy bar—Twix—and the favorite drink—Dr. Pepper—became in short supply. Robertson had to order 10 more cartons of Twix to meet the demands on the lists.

"Dr. Pepper was a real trouble. Our supplier was in KL, and they ran out of stock as well, so we still haven't passed out the missing Dr. Peppers yet," said Robertson.

"Sung-In Kang (8) and Gregory Kolkman (8) both got me one of every kind of drink on the list, and Brendan Frentz (8) only got me a Fusen gum," said Mr. Michael Holden.

On the following Monday morning, 16 February, students opened their lockers and found bags of chips, drinks, and candy bars their friends and admirers had given them. As they walked into their classrooms with the food and drinks, they each felt loved and "special."

"Wow! You got me something; thanks Po," said Hsiang as he opened up his locker.

"Yea, no problem," replied Lai. •

Starving Sophomores

By Zach Hansen

A fasting lesson: how it can help your body...and your soul

"I'm so hungry! And they're all eating ice cream and freezies!" exclaimed Lindsay Parks (10) to Heather Hill (10) as students brought food up from the cafeteria to tantalize the hungry pair.

On Friday and Saturday, 20-21 February, the sophomore class participated in Mr.

Dean McClary's annual Famine-athon. In an effort to both benefit the needy people in Cambodia and to teach the sophomore biology students about their body and the effects the absence of food has on them, the class braved the challenge of starvation.

As well as not eating, the students also found people to

pledge money toward their cause. All of the money went towards missionary efforts in Cambodia.

"I'm surprised how easy it actually was to go for 24 hours

'...my mental clarity was better the more I starved myself!'

without eating," said Grace Sun. "I probably could have gone for another 10!"

Other students had a tougher time. "We had a soccer game after school, and I could barely move my legs because I was so hungry," said Po Lai afterwards. "But once I kind of settled down and relaxed more, it was a lot easier."

Throughout the day, students performed experiments to assess their weight, reflexes, mental clarity, and blood glucose levels. They continued these tests throughout the night in the chapel. "My blood glucose level was normal until I drank some watermelon juice at Hillside right before the test, and then it skyrocketed," said Howard Kao with a grin. "And for some reason my mental clarity was better the more I starved myself!"

"Ohhh come one you guys!" complained Hill to her teasers.

"Yeah guys!" agreed Parks. "Let's go Heather. Just remember that they had to go through this, too" •

Go for Gold!

By Crystal Tsai

"Hey!" said Karen Wong (12), "The Class 1 girls are having their 100 meter sprint; let's bet! Who do you think will win this one? I think Gaonou [Kue, 12] is going to win"

"I don't know; this is a hard one. I think I'll put my money on Christine [Ermis, 11]," said Zac Rigenbach (12).

One hot Thursday, 26 February, all of middle and high school, separated into four teams—Blue, Green, Red, and Yellow—made their way to the USM Stadium shortly past eight o'clock.

The day blasted off with a 1500M run and ended with the 4x100M relay, giving students many chances to shine. Simeon

Garratt (12), who won the 100M, long jump, triple jump, and javelin, said, "I was very proud that I won all of my events because it is my last Track and Field Day."

"I like Track and Field Day," said Brian Colfax (9), "because it is interesting to see which kind of event people are good at—and it's good exercise."

Although the students couldn't run the 4x400M relay because of a lack of time, they still had a chance to run the

4x100M relays. "I think the relays are the best part of the day," said Esther Vaughn (11). "When we were making teams, I talked to a lot of underclassmen that I wouldn't normally talk to."

Whether participating in an event or resting for the next one, students stayed busy the whole day in competition with each other and as a team. Many signed up for more events to earn participation points to help boost their team's score. By the end of the day, Yellow team dominated over the other teams by more than 100 points.

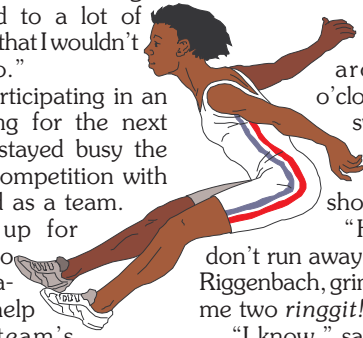
"It was about time the Yellow team won," said Jacqui Steiert (12), "because every other year we have come in second!"

Arriving back on campus around four o'clock, the students, sweaty and sun-burned, rushed to find relief in showers or pools.

"Hey, Karen, don't run away from me," said Rigenbach, grinning. "You owe me two ringgit!"

"I know," said Wong, pouting as she stuffed two notes into his hand. "But you cheated!"

"Whatever," said Rigenbach; "you know I won." •



Walks to Remember

By Pam Lesmana

Senior Treats...

(Continued from page 9, col. 4) a fun-filled time of feasting, relaxing, and fellowship.

A main aspect in senior treat for the dorm students focused on food, and the day students followed suit. The food has ranged from ice cream and brownies at Jessica Friesen's house, to Chinese dumplings at John Kao's, to nachos at Zach Hansen's. While they eat, the seniors discuss current events and sometimes catch up on popular TV shows such as "American Idol." The senior day students hope that these gatherings will become a tradition that will stay with future senior classes long after this one departs.

Though many day students spend time together outside school separately, senior treat allows them all to gather in one place as a group and catch up with each other. "It is a great bonding time for day-kids. I really enjoy eating, playing different games, chatting, and watching American idol" said I-Sha Chen.

"Senior treat is cool because we get to go out and see someone else's house, eat good food, and just have fun with our classmates" commented Hansen. Many times the group included juniors as well, as a way of bonding with underclassmen.

"It's a good time just to relax and not have to worry about school," Friesen remarked, adding, "It gives us a chance to break away from routine." •

"Oh no! I do not feel rain," said Allison McClary (9) in hopes that the drops of water from the clouds would stop trickling on her.

The dark, shadow-casting clouds gave a warning of a rainy night as trickles of water fell on the sizzling hot coals of a cook out dinner.

McClary's disregard for the signs of rain as if they did not fall on her certainly didn't make the clouds choose to victimize a different barbecue dinner.

Sure enough, rain poured down a few minutes later; and the people who attended the beginning of a Prayer Walk

Group cookout evacuated the chicken, cucumbers, carrots, and Aunt Mary Latsha's cake to the Erwins' apartment. The rain, however, did not ruin the night for the prayer walkers.

"You want to play Frisbee in the rain?" asked Than Matanick (11) to the group as they set down the food in the Erwins' apartment. Some jumped up eager to play in the rain; but those more interested in conversing with each other, stayed in the apartment.

Time for dinner came. The prayer walkers, some in soaked clothes and dry towels, ate huddled together as they filled up the whole living room.

After everyone satisfied his or her appetite, Mr. Dake Erwin called for attention and explained the new Prayer Walking Club which would allow students to prayer walk with others as a group.

The team set out with the purpose of helping, teaching, and training members to pray as they walked on the streets of Penang.

Each prayer walker kept a book that guided his or her morning and evening devotions as each tried to adopt this new way of looking at walks in their daily lives.

The prayer group encouraged members to pray for the daily things in their lives such as praying for the checkout lady in the grocery store.

"It's really awesome how we can just talk about God and pray together," Josh Manfred (9) commented.

The prayer walk group also planned trips to places downtown George Town and the wet market with the focus of praying as they walked, ate, and talked.

"This is really cool, guys," said Amber Hill (12) with excitement in her large brown eyes as she strolled down Campbell Street during one prayer walk meeting. The joy of the experi-

ence made her careless of the intense heat from the sun. "I've never come here with a heart full of prayers for these people—even though I've been here so many times. I'm looking at things so differently now."

Groups of students also prayed around the campus occasionally and found it refreshing and rewarding.

After walking around campus in a morning dedicated to prayer, Daniel Walter (12) flashed an illuminated smile at his friends as he let out a breath of joy. He explained that the group has helped him understand the importance of prayer and of presenting matters of life to God.

No one in the prayer group had expected to experience such blessings during the first prayer walk meeting. They especially did not see valuable lessons coming their way at that first cancelled cookout.

On that rainy evening "cook in," the prayer walkers left the apartment unaware of the great experiences that waited for them. The wet night sure came with a few warnings, but the lessons learned during the following prayer walks came as surprising revelations. •



FEEL THE LOVE



By Rachel Caldwell

"Wow, this is so cool! I love the decorations, and the candles give the room a cozy atmosphere!" exclaimed Eun Bee Chung (10) upon entering the chapel and gazing in delight at the room full of decorative hearts and a candle-lit dinner laid out for them.

On 14 February, the Dalat dorm community enjoyed a Valentine Banquet in the chapel. Hosted by the dorm parents who also served the students their scrumptious dinner, students enjoyed a relaxing evening. While students ate and enjoyed each other's company, dorm parents ran around making sure each table had adequate food.

Eating, however, did not pro-

vide the only entertainment of the night. While students ate, music videos including *The Lion King's* well known "Can You Feel the Love Tonight?" enhanced the festive atmosphere. Some students enjoyed a power-point presentation of possible and completely made-up couples. This evoked much laughter from the students.

"I thought it was really cool how the dorm parents served us and made a big power-point presentation of all the should-be and could-be couples. I found them very humorous," said Amber Hill (12).

Further entertainment including "The Dating Game" which

challenged married couples to answer difficult questions regarding their spouse. The couple who answered the most questions correctly won.

One of the more interesting questions asked by Uncle Keith Henderson while acting the part of a game show host was, "How long, after you two first met, was your first kiss?"

The night finished with a live performance of an old Bob Dylan song by the school Director Mr. David Carmichael.

"Among the many surprises of the night was the spectacular performance of a Bob Dylan song by Mr. C. It was crazy how much alike their voices were. It was great!" said Chris Irwin (9).

With that song still playing in their heads, students filed out of the chapel reflecting on the evening and waiting with anticipation for next year's banquet. •

Vacation Memories

By Chris Chu

After a long and stressful semester of school, the winter vacation finally arrived. Students used the time to take a break away from school.

By planning ahead, students fixed their minds on learning subjects not covered during school. "I learned to drive over the break; it was worth my time even if it did take so long," said Andy Yang (12) excitedly.

"I went to learn more about singing, acting, dancing, and film making at a TV studio my aunt worked at in Taiwan," said James Lo (12).

Others went sight-seeing in different parts of the world. "I went to Australia and met some hot guys with beautiful accents," said Amber Hill (12).

"I went whale watching off the coast of Perth," said Nathan Rice (10).

A few students decided to break from the norm and try out new things. "I tried to have a friendly chat with a Thai guy, but when he asked for my phone number; I freaked out," said Karen Wong (12).

"A very enthusiastic wrap pants vendor assaulted me by wrapping his wares on me," said Katrina Irwin (11).

Most of the students just took it easy and had a great time hanging out with their friends and family. "I went to Chiang-Mai and Bangkok with my family. I went elephant riding," said Cindy Hsieh (8).

"I went to the Christmas sales. I also had fun skiing and playing in the snow," said I-Yah Chen (9).

When school started again in late January, some noticed familiar as well as new faces in the crowd. They quickly broke up into small groups and started to trade stories of their vacation. The sound of laughter and occasional gasps of surprise soon filled the air. •

Enigma of the New Cinema

By James Lo



On Friday afternoon, the weekend has finally arrived and students eagerly plan what they want to do with their friends and family. "So what do you guys want to do? How about Gurney's new arcade, we can play some dance machine?" suggested Chris Chu (12).

"No lah! How about let's go to the Golden Screen Cinema at Gurney?" said James Lo (12).

During the Christmas break, a new cinema opened at Gurney Plaza, The Golden Screen. Widely recognized as the biggest and best movie theater in Penang, this complex has 12 cinemas including one premier-class cinema.

The premier-class provides the audiences with a higher standard for movie watching, more

choices of food, bigger and more comfortable chairs, and a larger space to put their food and belongings. Although it costs 15 ringgit for one ticket, the premier class still provides one of the top choices for people who want to enjoy a good long movie, like *The Return of the King* or *The Last Samurai*.

"I think that they have very, very good service," said I-Yah Chen (9) "I really enjoy watching movies there."

The Golden Screen Cinemas show new movies as well as "oldies." People could still watch *The Return of the King* if they had missed the showing during break.

