

# The Thinker

Governor's Program for Gifted Children

## GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ELECTED

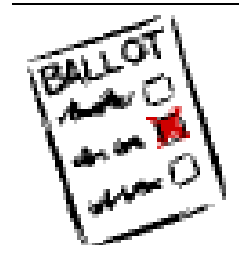
RYAN DOMINGUE

Government elections for the 2002 session of GPGC were held Friday, June 14, at 5:30 p.m. The results are: Graduate Representatives—Caroline Malakasis and Bryan Meche; Senior Representatives—John Bourgeois and Ben Warzeski; Sophomore Representatives—Daniel Finley and Ajantha Ramachandran; Freshman Representatives—Terri Levine and Brittany Nave; Asst. De-

fense Attorney—Porter Westling; Defense Attorney—Ryan Ashire; Asst. Prosecuting Attorney—Joseph Wanko; Prosecuting Attorney—Moses Bushnell; Justices—Benoit Bordelon, Austin Guthrie, and Blake Soto; Secretary—Jamie Hipp; Vice President—Jennifer Finley; President—Kenny Wang.

Wang said he plans to use his office to promote equality in the community, and to use taxes more wisely so the students can enjoy the

GPGC more. He will also try to see ticket court reinstated. Wang said he sees no reason to change the functioning government system any more than that.



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## STUDY HALL INSTITUTED

MICHAEL ROY

As you all know, this year is different from previous summers of GPGC. One of the differences is that we have study hall. Study hall is supposed to

improve student's grades, but no one knows yet if it will actually work. The 2002 classmen are, in a way, the program's guinea pigs. Whether or not study hall actually succeeds its purpose is a

complete mystery.

Assistant director Josh Brown explained the logic behind it: "It will provide outside time for students who may need extra help, but as for the results, we'll just have to wait until the

end of the program," he said.

How are students using this extra time, and do they think it's useful? Katrina Broussard, a freshman, said, "I just

*(Continued on page 2)*



## EDITOR'S CORNER

MICHAEL ROY

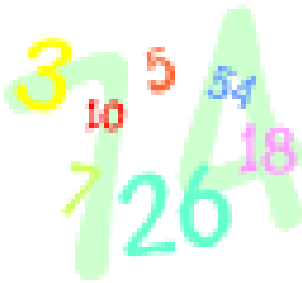
*Ab illo cui multum datur multum requiritur.* To whom much is given, much is required. GPGC expects a lot out of us gifties, and as gifties we should expect lot out of the program. I know I do. Don't get me wrong—it has met all my expectations, and I think GPGC is a great asset to me and many others, but there is one thing missing—math.

Math is one of the most important parts of knowledge, and it's my personal favorite. As of now, we are learning about the rise of human civilization and Greek philosophy and so on, but to me math is just as essential in our everyday lives and especially our futures. More often than not, if you aren't good at math or if you just don't

have any experience with it, you'll get pretty tired of bosses, low-paying wages, having to put up with a lot of mess from customers (and usually having to let them win), and that same old question every day, "Would you like fries with that sir?" Let's face it. Math is exceptionally important in our lives and always will be.

I know a lot of you may be thinking, "What is this guy on? He might give Josh some ideas." Well, I'm not on anything and if they wanted us taking math, they would've scheduled it by now. I just wonder why they haven't. If there is some reason that we don't have math as a part of our academics, I would like to know (that's what our "Letter to the Editor" column is for).

This program is our chance to get a good education at our own level and pace that we need. I'm sure most of you know those sort of funny commercials where the workers with dead-end jobs complain that all they can do is answer phones and make coffee since they didn't receive much of an education. Then the boss comes out and boasts about his wages given that he took algebra, geometry, calculus, etc. I'm sure everybody would rather be the boss than the underprivileged coffee maker. Math is power, so hopefully someday in the near future we'll have math here at GPGC.



### WHY DO THEY DO THAT?

GUEST COLUMN BY SHAWNA BATCHELOR

Maybe some of you have noticed certain students or staff members coming down for meals with their own dishes... what's the deal, you may have been wondering? There is a reason for these strange habits. Have you ever thought about what happens to the things you throw away? They don't just vanish into oblivion; they actually have to go somewhere. The people who choose to bring their own dishes instead of using disposables are doing their part to reduce the amount of waste going into landfills. It may not

seem like much of a contribution, but if you add up all the trash produced just during mealtimes this summer, it ends up being quite a bit. Since it is not that hard to wash a dish, and since plastic tableware is not at the end of its life after one use, it just makes good sense to do one's part instead of taking the easy way out. After all, would you rather be part of the problem, or part of the solution?

### STUDY HALL

(Continued from page 1)

hang out and spend time with my friends. I don't really do any work." And she's not the only one. Most everybody listens to music and play card games.

Scott Hand, also a freshman, replied, "It's not really that important since we don't have a lot of assignments, but I'd say it's useful for seniors since they have harder

classes."

The majority of classmen don't think study hall is necessary, and of course they would rather sleep late each and every morning. We'll just have to wait until 2003 to see if study hall is permanent.

## STAGE FRIGHT

TERRI LEVINE AND BRITTANY NAVE

The GPGC government officials have been elected, and that particular excitement is over. Most of the students who ran for a government office are relieved that they've gotten their speeches said and done. But those of you who didn't run, or have never run, probably don't know what it feels like to go up on stage and try to con-

vince the entire GPGC student body that you could be perfect for an office.

**Brittany:** As we were walking to Baker Auditorium, I felt nervous. When I met Dr. Middleton and while he was giving his speech, I felt a little better. By the time they called for us I was excited. Maybe so excited that I gave a bad speech.

**Terri:** I talk a lot sometimes, but when I get on-

stage and have to talk in front of people, I freeze. There is a definite difference between talking to people and talking in front of people. A major difference.

**Brittany:** I got a feeling of reassurance knowing that Terri and I had already automatically won.

**Terri:** Since Brittany and I were the only two running, and there can be only two Freshmen Reps, we already basically were

in office. But logical or not, I still got nervous.

**Brittany:** I'm sure I was blushing bright red while I was up there. I get embarrassed really easily. When I was finished, my friends told me how funny my speech was, and that helped me feel better.

**Terri:** All in all, though, running for Freshmen Rep was a rewarding experience, and if I could repeat it, I might. Maybe.

## PROFILING C.J. OZANE

RYAN DOMINGUE

### What do you like to do at GPGC the most?

I like the most to be with the kids, to make new friends and to make the children happy.

### What grade were you in when you came to GPGC?

I was in the seventh grade in the summer of 1996. In

the summer of 1998, I graduated. It was on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of GPGC.

### What types of music do you like to listen to?

I like all kinds of music that has a good beat, and I am very versatile. I also like R & B, rap, pop, and I love new age rock and alternative. My favorite bands include Nickel-

back, Ja Rule, A Tribe Called Quest, and Marvin Gaye.

### What type of food did they serve when you were here? Did you think it was tasty?

We ate in the cafeteria. They served all different types of food: hamburgers, french fries, gumbo, etouffee, red beans and rice, spaghetti, and I en-

joyed all of it.

### Did you ever have a nickname at GPGC? What was it?

My first year I was given the nickname "Big Man" because I weighed about 180 Lbs., was about 5' 4" and was bigger than most freshmen. I wasn't fat; I worked out, but I was still big.

## TICKET COURT: CASE CLOSED

MATTHEW HENNIGAN

In past summers at the Governor's Program, ticket court was a way for students to appeal tickets they believed had been issued to them unfairly. Last year, one justice and two grad teachers held

ticket court. It was to those people that the students pleaded guilty or not guilty and presented their side of the story.

This summer when GPGC started again, we found out ticket court was abolished because it was unconstitutional. Luckily,

the new government said it was going to bring it back.

Josh Brown, assistant director, supported the idea of bringing back ticket court. He said, "I think ticket court is a good way for students to appeal their tickets."

Sam Bowker O'Brien also thought it was worth bringing back: "Before, it was a very good establishment, and after it gets restructured it will allow previously inactive sections of the government to do something."

## BEHIND THE CURTAIN

SHARON SHIH

This year the musical that will be performed is *Oliver* and the plays that will be performed are *The Taming of the Shrew* and *The Great Pandemonium*. They are all directed by Mrs. Pete, and for the musical, Mrs. Larson will play the piano accompaniment.

*Oliver* is based on the

novel *Oliver Twist*, written by Charles Dickens. The musical was performed at the GPGC in 1991, and it was a great hit then, so Mrs. Pete thinks this cast will prove it once again.

*The Taming of the Shrew* is going to be a shortened version of the original play written by William Shakespeare. Mrs. Pete has directed performances of this play before, and

said the play seems to fit well with this year's crew.

*The Great Pandemonium* is about a school drama class trying to put on the play *Richard III* the day before opening night, thus causing extreme chaos. Mrs. Pete thinks this play is a great comedy that is witty and fun, and she hopes all the performances will be a pleasure to many.



The casts for all productions are:

### OLIVER

Robert Firth as OLIVER; Blake Soto as DODGER; Andy Hynes as FAGIN; Jamie Hipp as NANCY; Jennifer Finley as BET; Sam Bowker-O' Brien as BILL SYKES; Joe Wanko as BUMBLE; Kristen Gremillion as WIDOW CORNEY; Kirkland Green as SOWERBERRY; Katie Owen as MRS. SOWERBERRY; John Bourgeois as NOAH CLAYPOOLE; Margo Genoff as CHARLOTTE; Daniel Trahan as MR. BROWNLOW; Joanna Farley as MRS. BEDWIN; Kenneth Maniscalco as DR. GRIMWIG; Porter Westling as CHARLES BATES; Iris Tompkins as OLD SALLY; Rachel Shoun as OLD LADY; Scott Hand as BOY; Anya Owen as FIRST

WOMAN; Ajantha Ramachandran as SECOND WOMAN; James Spaulding as NIGHT WATCHMAN; Daniel Finley as 1<sup>ST</sup> BOW STREET RUNNER; Bertrand Donnes as 2<sup>ND</sup> BOW STREET RUNNER; Hank Anthony as CHARMAN; Chris Eyman as MAN; Ryan Domingue and Matt Hennigan as OTHER MEN; Kaitlin Locascio as ROSE SELLER; Caroline Malakasis as MILKMAID; Natasha Parekh as STRAWBERRIES; Kenny Wang as KNIFEGRINDER; Ben Warzeski as LONG SONG; Ryan Domingue, Eric Chan, James Spaulding, Scott Hand, Matt Hennigan, Chris Eyman, Hank Anthony, Ben Warzeski, Daniel Finley, Sharon Shih, Brittany Nave, Margaux Genoff, Melody Keel, Anya Owens, Christine Richardson, Lauren Chambers, Lauren Leung, and Porter Westling as WORKHOUSE KIDS; Melanie Duke, Lauren Leung,

Christine Richardson, Lauren Chambers, Morgan Fiser, Natasha Parekh, Kathleen Grunder, Rachel Shoun, Anna Rozier, Terri Levine, Ben Warzeski, Ryan Domingue, Eric Chan, Porter Westling, James Spaulding, Ajantha Ramachandran, Matt Hennigan, Sharon Shih, Melody Keel, and Hank Anthony as members of FAGIN'S ESTABLISHMENT; Kirkland Green, Katie Owen, John Bourgeois, Margaux Genoff, Bertrand Donnes, Kenneth Maniscalco, Iris Tompkins, Daniel Finley, Chris Eyman, and Scott Hand as EXTRAS; and Benoit Bordelon, PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER.

### THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

Daniel Finley as BAPTISTA, Benoit Bordelon as PETRUCHIO, Sam Bowker-O' Brien as BIONDELLO, Austin

Guthrie as LUCENTIO, Eric Chan as HORTENSIO, Iris Tompkins as KATHERINA, Kaitlin Locascio as BIANCA, Lauren Leung as GRUMELLA, Sharon Shih as MARIA, Robert Firth and Kristen Gremillion as SERVANTS and Anna Rozier, PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER.

### THE GREAT PANDEMONIUM

Bryan Meche as JARRED NUSTHORP, Joe Wanko as OZ the sound man, Lauren Chambers as JANET the assistant director, Kenny Wang as RICHARD III, Joanna Farley as BABS the cheerleader, Matt Hennigan as CLARENCE, Pareesa Pourmohadian as MRS. DINSMORE, Caroline Malakasis as LADY ANNE, Melody Keel as URLA the props mistress, and Anna Rozier, PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

RYAN ABSHIRE

### Monday, June 24

1322 Jews were legally banished by the King of France. 1817 The first coffee plant was planted in Hawaii. 1908 the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> President, Grover Cleveland, died at the age of 71 in Princeton.

### Tuesday, June 25

1903 The author of "1984", George Orwell, was born. 1938 The fed-

eral minimum wage was raised to forty cents an hour. 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea, to start the Korean War. 1963 Mike Myers was born.

### Wednesday, June 26

1916 the Cleveland Indians experiment with numbers on their jerseys for one game. 1919 the first issue of the New York Daily Times was released. 1941 Finland declared war on Germany, enter-

ing WWII. 1957 Hurricane Audrey swept through Louisiana, killing 500 people.

### Thursday, June 27

1847 New York and Boston were linked by telegraph wires. 1987 NASA launched the space vehicle, S-205.

### Friday, June 28

1836 The 4<sup>th</sup> President, John Adams, died in Montpelier, VA. 1894 Labor Day is instituted as a

Federal holiday. 1914 the Archduke of Austria and heir to the throne Ferdinand and his wife Sophia were assassinated, eventually starting WWI.



## PROFILING ANDY HINES

MATTHEW HENNIGAN

Andy Hines, an all around great giftie, has been here for five years which makes him an alpha. He is in the musical and is playing the part of Fagan. Andy likes to play jazz on his guitar. His current roommate is Austin Guthrie. Now to the interview with the Andy

man himself.

### Were you surprised when you found out that you were chosen as student of the week?

No, I was not surprised because I am the greatest thing on earth and should be student of the week of the every week.

### What is your favorite food?

Fried cheese smothered in boiling hot water with a heck of a lot of Tony Chachere's.

### What is your favorite class?

I love all my classes and my teachers equally.

### What was your favorite song played at the dance?

I like the song "It's a Good Life" by Weezer

because it is good.

### How do you like GPGC so far?

I've been here for five years. Don't you think I like it?

"When one door of happiness closes, another one opens. But often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us."

—Helen Keller

### DID YOU KNOW...?

- ? Pennsylvania was the first colony to legalize witchcraft.
- ? In the White House, there are 13,092 forks, knives and spoons.
- ? It would take 11 Empire State Buildings stacked one on top of the other to measure the Gulf of Mexico at its deepest point.

## WORD OF THE WEEK

TERRI LEVINE

Do you know what acrimony means?

Daniel Finley: a mastermind at making drugs  
Pareesa Pourmo-hamadian: a disagreement

Fabian Jinks: words in a paragraph  
Katrina Broussard: when you put words together  
Christine Richardson: an obsession with spiders  
Kristen Gremillion: working with spiders

Actual meaning: bitter sharpness in words, manner, or temper

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**  
**WWW.GPGC.ORG**

*Ab illo cui multum datur multum  
requiritur.*

## FIGURE IT OUT

PRESENTED BY MICHAEL ROY

A man walks into a bar and asks the bartender for a glass of water. The bartender then quickly pulls out a shotgun and points it at the man. The man says thank you and the bartender puts the shotgun away. Why did this happen?

SEE NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE OF *THE THINKER*  
FOR THE ANSWER.

GOT A PROBLEM?  
OR, EVEN BETTER, A SOLUTION?  
  
WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR  
AND TELL US ABOUT IT.  
SUBMIT TO MICHAEL ROY  
OR MS. BAYARD.



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The Governor's Program for Gifted Children is a residential summer program providing seven weeks of intellectual, artistic, and social enrichment on McNeese State University campus in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Founded in 1959, the Program strives to provide a learning environment that encourages gifted students to develop and hone their critical thinking and problem solving skills. Students attend academic classes in science and the humanities in the morning and fine arts classes every afternoon. The residential element of the program provides another realm for the students' development, placing them in a social setting where they can foster fulfilling relationships with their peers. Our aim is to enrich the whole student.

MILES TO GO,  
GPGC'S ANNUAL PUBLICATION  
OF ORIGINAL STUDENT ART—  
POETRY, SHORT STORIES, ES-  
SAYS, MUSIC, DRAWINGS, PHO-  
TOGRAPHY—IS SEEKING SUBMIS-  
SIONS.

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ONE OF THREE WAYS:

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- ? GIVE IT TO MS. BAYARD OR  
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HURRY! THE DEADLINE IS  
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