

The Thinker

Governor's Program for Gifted Children



WHERE ARE THE CAMELOTS?

RYAN ABSHIRE

As most of the upper-classmen and some of the freshmen know, this year there is no Camelot Program. Students who attended Camelot program, which was a separate branch of the GPGC, were paid to play music. They only attended one regular class with the other students; Camelots spent all day learning and practicing their music, and at the end of the summer they played in the orchestra for final

performances. With the Camelots gone, this year's orchestra will consist of the remaining "musical gifties."

The big question is why the Camelot program does not exist this summer. According to Josh Brown, it's as simple as "They're too expensive." So there you have it, this program could no longer support the pricey Camelots with its miniscule funding.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Letter to the Editor 2

Opinions 2

Student of the week 3

Movie review 4

Johnny Sunflower 5

This week in history 5

Riddle answer 6

DID YOU KNOW...?

RYAN ABSHIRE

A "quidnunc" is a person who is eager to know the latest news and gossip.

Each rain drop consists of several million cloud droplets.

The metal part of a lamp

that surrounds the bulb and supports the shade is called a harp.

The average human eye can distinguish about 500 different shades of gray.

Early guns took so long to load and fire that bows and arrows, in trained hands,

were twelve times more efficient.

Australia's box jelly is the world's most dangerous jellyfish. Its toxin is more potent than cobra venom and can kill a person in minutes.



EDITOR'S CORNER

MICHAEL ROY

Saturday nights are one of the best parts of GPGC, but there is one problem. Our dances could be better, but I'm not saying they're bad. The dances are where everybody gets to know each other and are a big part of our social lives, so why not make them the best that they can be? First of all, the dances are not that big. I know we only have about 60 people, but some of us go home on the weekends, making them even smaller.

Besides that, not everyone dances. And everybody knows the more people that dance, the bigger and better the dances are. We don't go to a dance to just sit there the whole time. We go to dance and have a good time, so no more sitting around people.

Some more issues include the senior store and lights. Lights are bad. We should get rid of them I think. This way it adds to the mood and it really doesn't matter whom you are dancing with, for all you

picky gifties out there. Now there is also a minor problem with the concessions. I have heard many complaints about the variety and choices. Basically there aren't enough of them, so try to give us more options. It would be beneficial to buyers and the senior funds.

Now music has got to be the most important part of dances anywhere. Let's face it. Today's music is hip-hop, rap and rock, but where's the rap? Rap and hip-hop are what's "in." There isn't much of it at all. Also, a lot

of the music is old, but it's coming out of the counselors' own personal collections, so I can't say I'm surprised (no offense to our wonderful counselors). I think, no I know more people would dance and get into the mood, thus giving us the quality dances we want if only the music was of better choice, but I'm not saying get rid of the rock (current that is) because it's just as good.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

WILLIAM HERRINGTON

Senior year, according to the alumni of GPGC is supposed to be the best year, so I'll walk you through what I've seen through the first 3 weeks of the Program. On the 6th day of classes, the counselors sent everyone to Study Hall, something only required if one doesn't complete work. However, everyone completed their work, so there was no list of people to attend it. This somehow provoked the counselors to send everyone to Study Hall. GPGC obviously doesn't stand for "Governor's Program for Gifted Counselors". Wake up call used to be at 7:00, and breakfast was at 7:15. Now I find myself waking up at 7:25 at having breakfast around 8:00. Punctuality? I think not. The dances are also about an hour late. Luckily there's a

solution to the counselors' different time zone. How about we schedule them for 7? Then we'd for sure have them around 8.

The laptops weren't really ready until the 10th or 11th day of the Program. I might be wrong, but shouldn't the laptops and servers have been set up and working weeks before we got here? Unless I'm missing something and I don't see the whole picture, I cringe at the disorganization. As long as anyone has been here, the lobby has been the main social place for the Program. People go and socialize, and it's probably one of the best parts of GPGC, believe it or not. However, since the beginning of this summer, the lobby's hardly ever open. It's closed before and after dinner, even a little after cleaning up is finished. Why? Why can't we keep it

open while we clean up? It wouldn't bother me. I think our current system is utterly ridiculous.

Why can't we go to our rooms during meals? Ask a few counselors, you'll get different answers. I'm starting to think they are making stupid rules for fun. If they're worried about people eating enough, I'm pretty sure you can tell when someone passes out from hunger. I've got no hard feelings about the overflowing pile of tickets in my book bag. I'll probably even come back next summer, and I probably couldn't or wouldn't do a better job than the counselors, but it's not my job. My job is to be a student here, to learn, socialize, pay my money, and have fun. But it's not fun. The only reason I'm not too

mad about it is that all my good memories are from the second half of the Program anyway.

I guess I just want to know where all the responsibility, punctuality, logical rules, and the good experiences have gone. Do you hold it against me for missing the good times, some of the best times of my life, of this Program? I hate to say this, but based on these first weeks, it's just not the same, enjoyable, old Program anymore.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

HAVE AN OPINION? WANT TO RESPOND TO AN OPINION YOU'VE READ IN THE THINKER? WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR AND TELL US ABOUT IT. SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS TO ANY THINKER STAFF MEMBER, EDITOR MICHAEL ROY, OR MS. BAYARD AND WE'LL TRY TO PRINT IT FOR YOU.

WWW.ORGANIZATIONPLEASE.COM

OPINION BY TERRI LEVINE

Computers are great, I'm sure everyone would agree. They're great: fun, useful, exciting, and a good past time. I think the GPGC computer lab needs to be a little bit more organized, though. People who need to do their homework are delayed by people chatting or playing games.

For instance, I was trying to find a good

word for the Word of the Week, on the internet, because I couldn't find a dictionary. I had to wait fifteen minutes until I could convince someone that it would only take a minute and that I couldn't just "forget about it."

Maybe they could make a sign-up list, with a category for people needing to do homework, and one for those looking to just have a little cyber fun. Or

maybe they could do it by class also, you know, "Would all the Deltas who need to do their homework, please come down to the computer lab now." That way we could all enjoy the computers without having to wait too long to do so. However they do it, they need to somehow organize it so that the computer lab becomes even more convenient than it already is.



BRAIN BUCKS?

OPINION BY MELODY KEEL

I'm tired of cashing in brain bucks and getting cents. Are you? Some people come in bragging, "I got three brain bucks today." The only problem with that is that it's only thirty cents—big deal.

I think that yellow brain bucks should be worth 25 cents, and

blue ones should be worth 50 cents. The only problem with that is we would have to work harder to get them, because it wouldn't just be a lousy ten cents.

If somehow we did get 25 and 50 cents we wouldn't get them that often. Teachers wouldn't just give them to us

for turning in homework, which is required anyway, and pretty much doing nothing. Counselors wouldn't just give us them for being in our rooms on time, which again is required.

We would be getting a lot of money, according to us. We could buy an extra pack of gum or a candy bar with one

blue brain buck. This extra money could be used for all kinds of things, if we could earn them.

There are good and bad things about 25 cent and 50 cent brain bucks. You can choose for yourself which one is best.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK : O-LI-VER, ROBERT FIRTH

ANYA OWEN

It's time to get to know Robert Firth.

Roberts's favorites—
Food: chocolate chip cookies

Color: green

He is 12, and he really likes

sharing the stage with all the older kids in "Oliver," in which he plays the title character. "I've never had the lead in a play," he said.

His favorite co-stars are Blake Soto and Jamie Hipp because they are fun to be around and they sing really well.

He likes it here a lot because of all the friends he's making; he even likes the classes, which not a lot of us can say.

He's really shy but when he has to be he can be bold.

Robert Firth is a pretty simple guy—actually, that's why he's student of the

week, a simple guy doing big things.

TWO THUMBS UP?

MOVIE REVIEW BY RYAN ABSHIRE

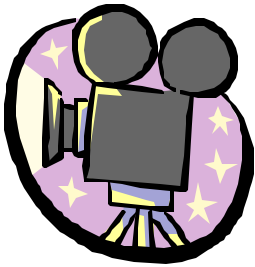
"Windtalkers" is a movie about a time during WW2 when America was taking over Japan's Eastern Pacific islands one by one. In this film, the Americans make a code based on the Navajo language. So far, every code the Americans had developed the Japanese had broken. This is the only true code that was never broken.

In the movie, two Navajo Indians, Ben Yahzee (Adam Beach), and Charlie Whitehorse (Roger Willie) are brought in to be taught the Na-

vajo code. These two soldiers are to be radiomen. Since they are important and are not experienced in combat, they are assigned bodyguards. Yahzee is assigned Joe Enders (Nicolas Cage) and Whitehorse is given to Ox Henderson (Christian Slater). These bodyguards are given strict orders not to allow them to get captured. They are involved in many epic battle scenes during the American takeover of the Japanese island of Saipan. This movie has great special effects and great acting.

The one thing I didn't like

about this movie was its somewhat unconventional "war flick" stereotype. Instead of many, many short battle scenes, such as in "Saving Private Ryan" and "We Were Soldiers", it has a couple of very long, very intense battle scenes. During this two and a half hour film, about an hour and a half are of talking and Navajo rituals. So if you want to see a war movie without so much war, then this is your kind of movie.



WORD OF THE WEEK

HEY READERS, I WANT TO ASK YOU A QUESTION. WHY SPEND 55 CENTS ON A SODA WHEN YOU COULD SIMPLY SPEND 50 CENTS AT THE SENIOR STORE? THAT FIVE CENTS CAN AMOUNT TO A LOT, YOU KNOW, BECAUSE THAT 5 CENTS TIMES 3 CAN BUY YOU A CHEAP LITTLE KEY CHAIN TO KEEP YOUR KEY ON OR A LITTLE 5 PACK OF GUM. SO GO TO THE SENIOR STORE FOR ALL YOUR MUNCHIES.

TERRI LEVINE

SUSPIRE

Blake Soto- to eat pizza with a monkey while wearing no pants in South Africa

Katrina Broussard-to take in sweat

Hank Anthony- to sweat on the inside

Brittany Nave-to light on fire

Anna Rozier- Anna is a big dork

Sharon Shih-to sweat

Fabian Jinks-to have no comment

Ben Warzeski-to throw up

Daniel Finley-the sky is blue

Chad Andrews-to sweat rapidly

Katherine Owen-to be content about where you are

Actual meaning—to loudly exhale, sigh

WACKY WEBSITES

COMPILED BY MICHAEL ROY AND ANYA OWEN

www.comedybreak.com
Comedy break is a definitive guide to jokes and comedy resources on the Internet. They have over two million links to jokes, humor, comedy, "kewl" stuff, and more.

www.beyondwierd.com If you are into strange, freaky stuff then this is the site for you. Beyond weird has everything from aliens and ufo's to tarot cards.

Www.james-marsters.

com Here is where all the Buffy fans go to see one of there favorite characters Spike a vampire and hear his stories of turmoil and action while looking at great pictures of this guy.

IF YOU HAVE ALL THE BLUE BRAIN BUCKS, CAN YOU PLEASE TURN THEM IN? NO ONE ELSE CAN HAVE ANY IF YOU DON'T TURN THEM IN, AND NO ONE WANTS TO BE GREEDY (UNLESS YOU'RE WILLIAM BECAUSE HE'S JUST THAT WAY), BUT NO ONE ELSE HAS A REASON, SO PLEASE TURN THEM IN IF YOU'RE HOARDING THEM.

GETTING TO KNOW ALEX, THE EPSILON GIRLS' COUNSELOR

BRITTANY NAVE

As you may know, Alex Beaudry is the freshman girls' counselor. And it just so happens that she is "Counselor of the Week!" Congratulations Alex! When I asked to interview her, she agreed with an unsure look on her face. Here's a little on Alex!

How does it feel to be picked for "Counselor of the Week"?

Humbly honored.

What's your favorite part of being a counselor here?

Realizing what I must have been like as a student.

What is your least favorite part about being a counselor here?

Writing tickets.

Do you think we need to have more discipline?

I think you should follow

the rules more.

So, since Alex is "Counselor of the Week," what do you say we be super nice to her (so she doesn't have to give tickets) and congratulate her when you see her.

IF LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS, SQUEEZE THEM INTO WATER GUNS AND SQUIRT OTHER PEOPLE IN THE EYE.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

COMPILED BY RYAN DOMINGUE

July 1

1847- The very first adhesive postage stamp went on sale. Ben Franklin appeared on the nickel stamp. It cost five cents to mail a 1-ounce letter. 1952-Dan Aykroyd was born. 1967-Pamela Anderson Lee was born.

July 2

1850- The gas mask, which

was invented by B.J. Lane of Cambridge, Massachusetts, was patented.

1961- Writer Ernest Hemingway died at his home in Ketchum, Idaho, of a self-inflicted shotgun wound. 1937-Richard Petty was born.

July 3

1819- The United States' first bank opened in New York City. The first day

saw deposits totaling \$2,807. 1956-Montel Williams was born. 1962-Tom Cruise was born.

July 4

1855- The first edition of Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass" was published in Brooklyn, New York. 1886 - At Prescott, Arizona, the first rodeo in the United States was held. 1970-"American Top 40"

was first hosted by Casey Kasem today.

July 5

1643- First tornado is recorded in US. 1962 - When he signed with the San Francisco Giants, Bob Garibaldi received a bonus of \$150,000. 1986- Nancy Reagan cut the red, white, and blue ribbon, reopening the Statue of Liberty.

THE GIFTIE ADVENTURES OF JOHNNY SUNFLOWER

AJANTHA RAMACHANDRAN

Johnny Sunflower came to the Governor's Program for Gifted Children when he was 10 years old and he was supposed to have the highest I.Q. in the state.

During bank the first week, he received a folded twenty-dollar bill. He then

traded it in for a wrinkled ten-dollar bill, because every one knows the bigger the better. Then he saw the perfect one-dollar bill and thought to himself, "If I bought that clean one-dollar bill with this ten-dollar bill it must be worth something. Then he saw a dime; he said

to himself, "A dime is heavier than a dollar bill, it must be worth more." So he traded the dollar bill for the dime. Then he saw a little girl with a penny. He said "If it is gold it must be worth even more." So he traded it for a penny. He brought it home to his parents and they

became red in the face. He decided that it was because they were so happy to know how good a businessman he was.

P.O. Box 91490
McNeese State University
Lake Charles, LA 70609

Phone: 337-475-5446
1-800-291-7840
Fax: 337-475-5447
Email: director@gpgc.org

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

*Ab illo cui multum datur multum
requiritur.*

THE DREAM STORY WITH A HOLE

PRESENTED BY MICHAEL ROY

The boss of a storage warehouse had just arrived at work when one of his employees burst into his office. The man explained that the previous night he had dreamed that one of the stored boxes contained a bomb. The boss called the police, and there was an investigation. A bomb was found and the boss thanked the employee, but immediately fired him. Why?

SEE IF YOU GET THE RIGHT
ANSWER IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE.

THE ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S RIDDLE
He had the hiccups. When the
bartender pointed a gun at him,
he got frightened and his ailment
thus disappeared.

If you have a view about anything in this camp, feel free to write in and tell us about it. We will try to put it in the newspaper—just voice what you think is right, and we'll see it in "The Thinker." You might even get replies from teachers, students, Thinker staff, and even Josh or Dr. Middleton. Look around for Thinker staff — submit your Letters to the Editor to Michael Roy, Anya Owen, Terri Levine, or Ms. Bayard.

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY JULY 4TH HOLIDAY

MILES TO GO IS EXTENDING
ITS DEADLINE!

GPGC'S ANNUAL PUBLICATION OF
ORIGINAL STUDENT ART—POETRY,
SHORT STORIES,
ESSAYS, MUSIC, DRAWINGS,
PHOTOGRAPHY—IS SEEKING
SUBMISSIONS. WE NEED A
COVER DESIGN TOO!

SUBMIT YOUR ORIGINAL WORK
ONE OF THREE WAYS:

? IN THE BOX NEAR THE
SALLIER FRONT DESK

? IN AN EMAIL TO
milestogo2002@
hotmail.com

? GIVE IT TO MS. BAYARD OR PORTER
WESTLING, EDITOR.

BRING YOUR STUFF FROM HOME!

THE DEADLINE IS
JULY 9!



MICHAEL ROY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

TERRI LEVINE
COPY EDITOR

ANYA OWEN
DESIGN EDITOR

BRITTANY NAVE,
SHARON SHIH
DESIGNERS

RYAN ABSHIRE,
RYAN DOMINGUE,
MATTHEW HENNIGAN,
MELODY KEEL,
AJANTHA RAMACHANDRAN
WRITERS

