

## Entertainment

### Burgers of Life cont.

nuts. These patties gracefully lack the impurities and cholesterol of ground beef. My personal favorite type of burger, the tofu-burger, is made of tofu cheese instead of bad ground beef. I must say this is the supreme choice of "meat."

Although most Americans have rejected the joys of artificial meat, we can nevertheless frolic in the joys of tofu, nuts, and soy. Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury, I urge you to depart from your old ways and discover the new ways of life.

#### THINKER STAFF Editors-in-Chief

Brian Buccola  
Shane Schexnayder

#### Writers

Ryan Abshire  
Connie Broussard  
William Herrington  
Amber Martin  
Bryan Meche  
Arrielle Opotowsky  
Maurice Opotiwsy  
Jami Pittman  
Christine Richardson  
Anna Rozier  
Sean Schexnayder  
Dustin Strauss  
Daniel Vorisek

#### Designers

Arun Dhir  
Jennifer Dhir  
Kirkland Green

## Can you guess the definition of... RICTUS?

Arrielle Opotowsky

Moses Bushnell.....a toe sucker  
Jamie Hipp.....a very large earthquake on the Richter scale  
Austin Guthrie.....the wastes of a bee  
Matthew Hennigan.....a type of cactus  
Justin Bellow.....a kidney stone  
Garrett Guillotte.....a body part on an old person  
Emily Farley.....a ladder  
Leatra Hillhouse.....monkey boogers

Actual Meaning: ric~tus (n.)—the expanse of an open mouth, or similar structure.

## William's Weather Corner

I, William Herrington, have been chosen as the official weatherman for The Thinker, which must mean that I'm a genius. I'm so smart, that Ms. Bayard personally came up to me and asked me to be the meteorologist. I could do all the jobs myself, but I decided that I can't always be the center of attention. Anyway, here is the extended weather forecast brought to you by the official Weather Channel web site. So if I'm wrong, don't blame me.



On Monday, June 25, isolated thunderstorms will be taking over Lake Charles, with temperatures up to 89°F and as low as 73°F.



On Tuesday, June 26, once again, thunderstorms will be flooding the city. The highs and lows are also 89°F and 73°F.



On Wednesday, June 27, thunderstorms will be thundering and storming again. The highs and lows are 88°F and 73°F.



On Thursday, June 28, it's gonna rain. It's gonna rain real hard. Just like Wednesday and Tuesday and Monday. The highs and lows are 89°F and 73°.



On Friday, June 29, more rain. Luckily, this is the last day of the week. The highs and lows don't change; they are still 89°F and 73°F.



# The Thinker

Governor's Program for Gifted Children ■ Lake Charles, LA ■ June 25, 2001

## Students elect their government officials

Bryan Meche

The anticipation for the government elections of the forty-third session of the Governor's Program was so thick it could fill a dump truck. Everyone was deciding if they should run for office or not. On the day the petitions went out, the lobby was full of running candidates.

These candidates included:  
**Executive Branch**— President: Arrielle Opotowsky and Daniel Vorisek; Vice President: Joel Finnegan; Secretary: Alice Green and Ajantha Ramachandran; Prosecuting Attorney: Bryan Meche and

Bertrand Donnes; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney: Kenneth Maniscalco and Kristen Gre-million; Defense Attorney: no candidates; Assistant Defense Attorney: Ryan Abshire.

**Judicial Branch**—Justice: Andrew Hines and Laura Eyman;  
**Legislative Branch**— Freshman Rep.: Jamie Pittman, Blake Soto, and Daniel Finley; Sophomore Rep.: Ben Warzeski, John Bourgeois, and Jennifer Finley; Senior Rep.: Scotia Rivard and Jana Whipple; Musically Gifted: Daniel Collins.

The winning candidates

were: President: Arrielle Opotowsky; Vice President: Joel Finnegan; and Secretary: Alice Green. Justice: Laura Eyman. Freshman Rep.: Blake Soto and Daniel Finley; Sophomore Rep.: Jennifer Finley and Ben Warzeski; Senior Rep.: Ben Chambers and Kenny Wang; Grad Rep.: Scotia Rivard and Jana Whipple; Musically Gifted: Daniel Collins.

If these officials do their jobs correctly and fairly, then we can avoid a "Swoopdown."

### Drama casts announced Dustin Strauss

"The Valiant" is a dramatic play about James Dyke, who is to be executed at midnight for murder. All of a sudden, a young woman comes out of nowhere believing James Dyke is her brother. This one-act play is the drama of all dramas.

The cast of "The Valiant" is as follows:  
Warden—Ben Chambers  
Fr. Daley—Samuel Bowker  
O'Brien  
James Dyke—Thomas Keeling  
Jailer—Jamie Pittman

Josephine Paris—Morgan Tompkins.

"Hardcandy" is a comedic one-act play in which people apply for jobs. The comedy and laughter reach to the extent of peoples' pants literally falling off.

The cast of "Hardcandy" is: Adam—John Bourgeois; Bob—Bertrand Donnes; Linda—Lauren Chambers; Cindy—Alysia Leyendeker; Dave—Austin Guthrie; Emily—Lauren Leung; Fred—Kenny Wang; Gail—Kristin Ford; Harvey—Benoit Bordelon; Ira—Ben Warzeski; Jill—Jamie Hipp.

### Bye Bye Birdie's Cast Announced

Anna Rozier

"Bye Bye Birdie," this summer's musical, is the story of an Elvis-type character named Conrad Birdie (Bobby Lucas) who is drafted into the army. His agent Albert Peterson (Andy Hines) and his secretary Rose Alvarez (Melanie Powers) try to have one last publicity stunt to get Albert out of debt. The stunt is that Conrad would kiss one lucky fan, Kim MacAfee (Jamie Hipp).

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## Opinions

### They're out of here

Editorial by Shane Schexnayder

The administration chose to get rid of one of the most important things in our lives—computers.

Why did they do this? The answer is simple: not all of the kids in the program have computers to bring with them, thus giving those who have personal computers an unfair advantage. I completely dismiss this explanation—even those people who don't have one could ask their friends, and I'm sure that if they asked nicely, the person would let them use it. If this program is about preparing us for the real world, then we should be allowed to have computers because the real world is all about advantages and disadvantages. The solution so far has been ridiculous.

Another interesting response from some of the students who were here last year has been that computers were taken away because the freshmen last year were always in their rooms, not socializing.

This is entirely untrue. Last year I talked with most of the freshmen, both the ones with and without computers. Although they were in their rooms, they were often not

alone. Most people were in their rooms talking with them while they were using the computers.

We now have two options which both are hassles. They include: 1) going to the library and using the computers there, but you would have to sign out and then walk over there, wasting some of your valuable evening time, or 2) going into the computer lab in the dorm which has only six working computers, which you can't always get on, thus you'd have to wait around forever to use one. I have been thinking a lot lately about this and here is my proposed solution:

### Burgers of Life

Maurice Opotowsky

The populace of the planet needs nutrition, and depending on the food we eat, we can attain different degrees of happiness. I am here to assist all of you who read this article by elucidating to you the benefits of eating healthful foods - specifically the genre of vegetables.

Instead of slappin' some good ol' ground beef on those buns for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, get some soy burgers and munch down. These patties, low in both fat and cholesterol, are an excellent choice of grain. Carbohydrates in the soy burgers will help power us better than the proteins in red meat. Another substitute for the evil red meat is the nutburger, which is obviously made of high protein, wholesome

*cont. on pg. 6*

Why not let us have computers, but turn off the internet connection at certain times every night, so that we won't have an advantage over the students who don't have computers? I think the ideal time to turn them off would be right after lights out for grads—all work and/or play online would have to cease.

Whether the computer privileges will ever return is a complete mystery. Without them time is wasted, and dorm life completely stinks. I hope most of you think the same way, and maybe there is some way this can change for our good and for the good of the program.

### Your Weekly Government Update

Dustin Strauss

Monday, June 18, the Legislative branch of our government met for the first government meeting of this summer. No bills were passed, and Scotia Rivard was elected as Speaker of the House. She will preside over government meetings during the event that the President or Vice President are unavailable to attend. Our government also discussed new bills being passed, such as what kind of bills and how they will be passed.

All other government meetings will be held Mondays and Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

## Entertainment

### Bye Bye Birdie *cont.*

Kim and her best friend Ursula Merkel are both fanatics. They belong to a Conrad Birdie fan club.

The cast is—Conrad Birdie: Bobbie Lucas; Kim MacAfee: Jamie Hipp; Hugo Peabody: Kenny Wang; Ursula Merkel: Katie Owen; Albert Peterson: Andy Hines; Rose Alvarez: Melanie Powers; Mrs. Doris MacAfee: Elise Donnes; Mr. Harry MacAfee: Thomas Keeling; Mrs. Mae Peterson: Alysia Leyendecker; One Girl and Penelope: Jana Whipple; Sad Girls: Lauren Leung and Laura Eyman; Reporters: Matt Hennigan, Ben Fields, and Natasha Parekh; Cameraman and Audio Man: Christopher Eyman; Mayor and Voices: Joel Finnegan; Edna, Mayor's Wife: Arrielle Opotowsky; Mrs. Merkle: Morgan Tompkins; Randolph MacAfee: Ben Warzeski; Helen: Alice Green; Nancy: Jennifer Finley; Alice: Katherine Houin; Margie: Bianca Laurendine; Deborah Sue: Ann Elise Borchardt; Suzie: Emily Farley; Phyllis: Kristen Gremillion; Girl's Voice: Lauren Chambers; Freddy and Stage Hand: Austin

Guthrie; Karl and Stage Hand: Kirkland Green; Sam/Doctor: Sam Bowker O'Brien; Harvey Johnson: Dustin Strauss; Gloria Rasputin: Sara Snider; Mr. Johnson, Fred, and Policeman: Arun Dhir; Maude and Policeman: Blake Soto; Lee and Another Parent: Ken Maniscalco; Conrad's Guitar Man and Ed Sullivan: Sudeep Rangi; Stage Crew for TV Show— Stage Manager: Scotia Rivard; Wardrobe Woman: Connie Broussard; Girls Trio: Ajantha Ramachandran, Jami Pittman, and Rachel Shoun; Lee and Another Parent: Ken Maniscalco; Conrad's Guitar Man and Ed Sullivan: Sudeep Rangi; Stage Crew for TV Show — Stage Manager: Scotia Rivard; Wardrobe Woman: Connie Broussard; Girls Trio: Ajantha Ramachandran, Jami Pittman, and Rachel Shoun; Girls Chorus: Ajantha Ramachandran, Jami Pittman, Rachel Shoun, Lauren Chambers, Kristen Gremillion, Jennifer Finley, Lauren Leung, Katie Owen, Natasha Parekh, Kristen Ford, Anna Rozier, Ann Elise Borchardt, Emily Farley, Katherine Houin, Morgan Tompkins, Connie Broussard, Scotia Rivard, Laura Eyman, Alice Green, Jana Whipple, Bianca Laurendine, Kathleen Grunder, and Christine Richardson.

### Fun Facts *cont.*

Around one percent of the population has schizophrenia. — Every year in Africa, more people are killed by crocodiles than by lions.

## Wacky Websites

Connie Broussard

**Neopets.com**—www.neopets.com — All sorts of things go on in the world of Neopia, a web-based world with web-based electronic pets. There are many different cute critters to raise, fun games, places your Neopet can battle against others, and page-to-page treasure hunts for the site currency: the Neopoint.

**Darwin Awards**—www.darwinawards.com — Think your friends do stupid stuff? This web site gives out awards for Random Acts of Stupidity. Darwin Awards are given if the person terminates his or her life in the act and Honorable Mentions are given if they live through it. Go there for a laugh.

**Useless!**—www.urban75.com/Mag/useless.html— This is a site of nothing but time-wasting games for the easily amused. There are many different kinds for all the times you'll need to waste time. My personal favorites are the Perpetual Bubblewrap and the Fortune-Teller.



To invent you need a good imagination and a pile of junk. —Thomas Edison



## Fun Facts

Compiled by Ryan A bshire

The world's longest mustache is over eight feet long.

The world's largest gum drop weighed 11 pounds and had 15,250 calories.

The cow population of Vermont is greater than that of its people.

Out of all the animals ever known in the world, only 10% still exist.

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## Did you know...?

Theater and drama as we know them have evolved from ancient Greek festivals in honor of their god Dionysus, the god of wine and vegetation. According to tradition, Dionysus died each winter and was reborn in spring. The yearly rites in honor of his resurrection gradually changed into yearly festivals at which important dramatic competitions were held.

Thespis is the first recognized figure in the history of theater. No one knows whether he was a playwright, an actor, or a priest, but we do know that he won one of these dramatic competitions at a festival in honor of Dionysus in 534 BC (hence the term "thespian").

We wouldn't have the plays of three of the greatest Greek tragedians—Aeschylus ("The Oresteia"), Sophocles ("Oedipus Rex"), and Euripides ("Medea")—if it weren't for these yearly festivals. A lot of what they wrote was meant only for production at the competitions.

**Miles to Go needs a cover!**

**If you can draw and you have an idea for this year's journal cover, submit a copy with your name on the back to the box at the front desk in Sallier by July 11.**

**If at first you don't succeed, failure may be your style.**

**—Quentin Crisp**

## Person of the Week

Bryan Meche

Ryan Fontenot is 18 years old. He was born in Opelousas, Tennessee and is now a resident of Lake Charles. He was enrolled in the program from 1997-1999. His involvement in the program is in the position of office runner. This job includes checking roll of each class every hour. He also teaches stage tech and maintains the computer lab in the dorm. He plans on becoming a counselor in the next three years.

Q: What is your favorite color?

A: Green.

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: Pizza.

Q: What made you decide to become office runner?

A: I needed a job.

Q: Where did you attend high school?

A: Iowa High School.

Q: What do you do for fun?

A: I go hunting and fishing.

Q: Do you have a job other than office runner?

A: No.

Q: How do you keep your stage tech classes "in line"?

A: I encourage them with brain bucks.

### Attention Artists:

Miles to Go is seeking submissions in all areas—poetry, short stories, essays, reproducible art, photographs, musical compositions, etc. Turn in your submissions to the box at the Sallier front desk by **FRIDAY, JUNE 29.**

The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits. —Unknown

**Support your fellow students and save money... buy your junk food from the Senior Store.**  
**Open 5 p.m.-9 p.m. weekdays and lobby hours on weekends.**

