



THE THINKER

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This Weeks Birthdays

Compiled by Tiffany Foster

- Nicole Higgins
June 11, 1990
- Damion Coleman
June 12, 1993
- Joe Holland
June 17, 1991
- Jordan DeRouen
June 20, 1991
- Ashli Auguillard
June 23, 1993

The Problem with Brainbucks and Our Economy



By Keelan
Bowker-O'Brien

This summer I became aware that there are several large problems in re-

gards to these small yellow trinkets. Andrew Clarkson said it best in his election speech, "So far I have 4 Brainbucks... that's uh... well, that's 40 cents." The problem here should be obvious. If it isn't, try re-reading the quote then ask yourself what you can buy with those 4 Brainbucks.

The largest problem as I see is not with our "token economy" of plastic, but with the amount of money we are paid each week. The maximum a student of GPGC can make looking exclusively at grades is 15 dollars. One must realize that some of us don't get government jobs, submit stories, work for *The Thinker*, or get 25 Brainbucks every week. How much did I make last week? 12 dollars. Why? I got a 2.0 in one of my classes. The rest of my classes were 3.5 and up. I had 4 Brainbucks (that is, for those of you who haven't been following along, 40 cents). The activity that was planned for that weekend, the movies, cost \$7.50 to attend. If you do the math properly, that would leave me with \$4.50 to spend over the course of 7 days. That is about 64 cents a day.

Inflation, my friends, is the principle that everything becomes more expensive over time. This includes salaries so to avoid an economic crisis. I'm not suggesting there be some drastic and unnecessary change to our salaries or Brainbuck value. Perhaps increasing our maximum base



Pile o' Brainbucks

salaries to \$20, our Brainbucks to 15 cents, and retaining the 30 cent blue Brainbucks.

The increase in yellow Brainbuck value would make up for the other major problem with our economy: a lack of our ten cent tokens due to this year's influx of students. You see, Brainbucks diffuse themselves among the students at GPGC and the more students we have, the more scattered those Brainbucks become. Also, one must consider that *some* teachers seem to feel like Brainbucks are some sort of prize warranted to those of us who perform Herculean feats. They're 10 cents people, seriously. Dr. Brannon is a perfect example of how Brainbucks *should* be given out; she averages about 6 or 7 Brainbucks a day. She does not give them out simply on a whim. The process goes something like this: She asks you a question, you answer that question correctly, and you get a Brainbuck. Most other teachers fall short on the very last part of

this process.

Some teachers don't even get their Brainbucks. I say, if the teachers were using the bag of Brainbucks they were given then *maybe* the other teachers would get Brainbucks to give to students. These teachers, who get the circulated Brainbucks, would have to give them out so that the other teachers could get them.

Some would think printing more Brainbucks could solve the problem, but I have a question to put to you. When money is not being spent, do you issue more money in hopes that it will be spent? No. You find a way to convince people to spend the money they already have. The administration has already printed an additional 2000 yellow and blue Brainbucks to be distributed among the teachers, but I don't think that will help. In this author's opinion, the administration needs to re-evaluate their tactics when handling with this so-called 'Brainbuck depression'.

This Place

By Tiffany Gill

Summer.

This place is happy yellow,
Where we love in scarlet,
And laughter is crazy purple,
Or maybe a mischievous shade
of orange.

This place is dramatic indigo,
Where we can smile in gray,
And conversations are ran-
domly green,
Or maybe pink with humorous
frustration.

This place is beautiful blue,
Where we are bright
And don't need a mask of per-
sonality
Because we are gifted

And a bit of everything.

A TALK WITH BERT GAMMA BOYS COUNSELOR



By Keelan
Bowker-
O'Brien

This summer there are many new counselors, and not all of them have been students at the Program, so we don't know much about them. To find out a little more about one of them, Robert Prehn, I interviewed him. This is what he had to say.

Keelan Bowker (KB): Hello Robert--do you have any preferred nickname?
Robert Prehn (RP): Bert.

KB: Okay, I'm going to start this off with some word association. Say the first thing that comes to your mind after I say each word. The first word is GPGC.
RP: Counselor.

KB: Freshman?
RP: Epsilon.

KB: Grad?

RP: Keelan.

KB: Weekend?
RP: Work.

KB: Music?
RP: Keane.

KB: Food?
RP: Burrito.

KB: Rick James?
RP: Uh, what? B****, I guess.

KB: Okay, where did you hear about GPGC, and why did you take the job?

RP: Well, I heard about it from the LSMSA alumni group, and I hadn't done anything like it, so I was interested.

KB: What kind of music do you listen to?
RP: Umm...everything, pretty much.

KB: Are there any sports or

hobbies that you enjoy?
RP: Photography is my big hobby.

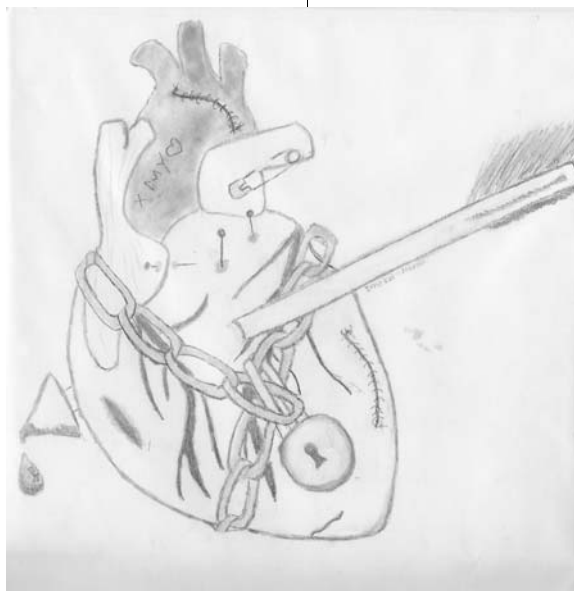
KB: Boxers or briefs?
RP: Boxers.



"Yeah, sure."

KB: Are you enjoying your summer, so far?
RP: Yeah, sure.

KB: How many tickets have you written altogether?
RP: Uh...five--mostly for kids being out of their room while it's unlocked.



Artwork by Margaux Genoff

CINDERELLA IS COMING



By Ashli
Auguillard

This summer, the musical for the GPGC is Roger's and Hammerstein's "Cinderella." Directed by Mr. Keith Chamberlain and his assistant director Mr. Andy Hines, this musical isn't like the Cinderella you remember as a kid. This musical will be more fun, emotional, and more exciting.

Michelle Taylor will star as Cinderella alongside Ryan Domingue as Prince. Although Margaux Pepper is a nice person

while in the dorms, she is playing the part of the evil stepmother.

Starring as the two stepsisters are Katie Vidal and Melody Keel. We have Kris Gre-million, who stars as the fairy godmother. Other supporting cast includes Carly Westling and Joe Wanko, who star as the Queen and King.

With a cast like this, the production is sure to be fantastic. So come and see how one girl with one wish make a dream come true.

ENTERTAINMENT

TOP TEN REASONS GIFTIES ARE ENDANGERED SPECIES



By Jon-Paul Murphy and Chadrick Andrews

10. We're a threat to ourselves
9. Our constant vocalization of the names of parts of the human anatomy doesn't thrill people and they end up trying to shank us in the faces
8. We still wonder what's at the bottom of the Contra-band
7. We say "yeeeah" and "what"
6. Lack of common sense
5. In our language, pull means push
4. To McNeese students, blue shirts mean "drive faster"
3. Our four food groups are based on flavors of Ramen
2. Our response to every argument is "...your mom"
1. We will kill for worthless, yellow tokens

WORD OF THE WEEK



By Tiffany Foster and Nicole Garter

We asked people what they thought the word **howda** meant, And these are some of the things they said:

Joe Holland - "Its like holler."

Kris Gremillion - "A quota of hats."

Keelan Bowker O'Brien - "How do you do?"

Chadrick Andrews - "A ghetto way to say 'how to.'"

Daniel Finley - "It sounds like Eric Chun trying to talk with food in his mouth."

Ryan Domingue - "Its like howday!"

The word **howda's** real definition is a seat used for riding on the back of a camel or an elephant.

BRAIN TEASER

By Daniel Smith

The director of a large company asks the security guard working the night shift to call him a cab, because he needs to take the red-eye flight to New York. The guard tells him not to board the plane, because he had just had a dream that the director would have an accident. To be safe, the director decides to wait until the next morning. During the trip, he reads in the paper that the red-eye flight had crashed. When he returns from his trip, he thanks the guard and gives him a bonus. Then he fires him. Why did he fire him?

(Answer will appear in the next issue of The Thinker)

SUBMISSION REMINDER

Don't forget to submit your works to *The Thinker*. You can either place them in the lime green submissions box in the lobby, or you can e-mail them to:

thethinker2005@gmail.com

If you would like it printed on Friday, then please have it to us by Wednesday.

MOVIE REVIEW - BATMAN BEGINS



By Greesim Loy & Lani Huynh

When Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) is mortified by his parent's death, he dedicates his life to seek revenge. He decides to go to the East and that is where he encountered a dangerous, but honorable ninja leader known as Ra's Al-Ghul (Ken Watanabe). Bruce

returns from the East and finds that Gotham City is overrun by criminals, and his inherited business is decaying. His discovery of the Batmobile and the Batman suit confirms his destiny to become Batman to save Gotham City and face the darkest enemy yet.

The movie looks good, but not better than Spider-Man. I'm interested in this

movie and would like to rent it later.

- Greesim Loy

I think that the movie Batman Begins is going to be better than all the other comic book type movies, because the actors and actresses in the movie seem to be a good cast. I think that it is going to be an interesting



movie and I would like to see how it is compared to the original Batman movies.

- Lani Huynh

“Once you get the reputation for loudness and obnoxiousness, it's hard to shake it”



By Molly Bates

Dear Molly,

I am a freshman, and I do not understand why the upperclassmen don't like me.

They are intimidating enough as it is. Even if I get up the courage to try to talk to them they usually ignore me or tell me to go away. What should I do?

--Discouraged in Lake Charles

DEAR MOLLY

Dear Discouraged,

Most GPGC upperclassmen find that after a few weeks, most freshman are not as bad as they first appear. It is important to understand the view the upperclassmen have of the inferior freshmen. Most gifties above sophomore year consider freshmen far too immature to even notice, and the ones that are noticed are not usually receiving positive attention. The ones who are first noticed are the loud ones who get in everyone's faces. Once you get the reputation for loudness and obnoxiousness, it's hard to shake it, and even if you are not obnoxious, your association with the obnoxious freshmen extends the label to

you. It may be unfair, but remember: all the upperclassmen were freshmen at one time and have had to overcome the same stereotyping. You'll live. Also, those freshmen who do not respect their elders (meaning do not use common courtesy or obstruct everyday activities) will not be tolerated. Upperclassmen are so called because they have more experience in both life in general and the Program. If you know how to talk to them and treat them, you too can benefit from their wisdom. Generally, if you are not unreasonably loud, treat the upperclassmen courteously, and do not try to impress anyone, you will be warmly accepted into the GPGC community after a week or two.

Miles To Go

publishes work you've done this year at GPGC.

Don't be shy!

Submit any of your:

Poetry

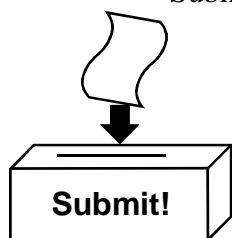
Artwork

Essays

Short Fiction

And.....

New this year,



We'll be accepting submissions of digital pictures!

The digital pictures can be e-mailed to us at our spiffy gmail account:

milestogo2005@gmail.com

So can any of your writings for that matter....

Surrender your work! Rawr.

GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS



By Jon-Paul Murphy

As the colorful speeches were presented last Thursday, some will stick in our memories forever. For example, Kris's "gangsta-fied" address, Keelan's name on the board, and Joe Wanko's chants are just a few of the gifties' comical creations.

I was sitting next to Dr. Middleton, so I could not join in the hoops and hollers put forth by my classmates for fear of his disapproval. Some kids had prepared more than most, and it showed. While there was heated competition in some categories, people like Allan Petty, Cheyenne Bertrand, and Kenneth Maniscalco had it easy. Though I do not think it is right, I would enjoy not having any competition.

Apparently, some speeches

were more effective than others were. Ken was voted president, of course. Friendly Finley is our vice president for the second year. His secretary is Ashli Auguillard. "Gangsta" Kris is the secretary for the house. Joe Wanko is our justice. The Grad Reps are Tiffany Gill and Ryan Domingue. The grad senator is Keelan... oh hell, K-Bob. Allan Petty is the senior rep, and Katie Vidal is the senior senator. Ian Sorensson and Margaux Pepper are the sophomore reps. Cheyenne Bertrand is the uncontested winner of the sophomore senate. Greesim Loy and, after a second vote, Daniel Chester are freshman reps. And, last but not least, Delia Roy is the freshman senator.

Well, I hope you like them, because there isn't a way to change it now.

THE MAN BEHIND THE MAGIC DR. GEORGE MIDDLETON



By Briannah Cassanova

Dr. Middleton has been the director of the Governor's Program since it began in 1964. When I interviewed Dr. Middleton about the Program, he said that it started out as a McNeese summer enrichment program modeled after a similar program in North Carolina. He first got interested in this program for gitties because he took gifted classes himself. Louisiana already had programs for disabled people, but none for gifted children, which motivated him to start one for gitties.

Dr. Baker and Dr. McQueen, other McNeese professors, helped him to get money to fund the program. The governor appointed Dr. Middleton as the new director. They decided to hold it here at McNeese State University because that is where his current job was already. In the beginning the Program cost about \$10,000 a year to run, but now it costs around one million dollars.

As part of a series of interviews, Dr. Middleton has agreed to answer questions about his thoughts on different issues.

On the government system:

He said that we have our own government because we should learn how to govern ourselves at a young age. In his experience he has noticed that the self-government has worked, and that if we ever need his help, he will swoop down and help us.

On working for the Program:

You can become a counselor after you attend at least one year of college, and he prefers that you were here as a student. To be a teacher you must have a master's degree and come recommended from "well trusted people." Currently there is a staff of about 30 teachers and 10 counselors.

On bullying of new students:

When we were talking, he also said that he HATED freshman initiation, and that older kids should be nice to the

younger ones, be their friend, and help them when in need.



Dr. Middleton has brought more magic to our lives than Walt Disney.

On the token economy:

He said that he likes the token economy, and it is running smoothly. He thinks the Brainbuck value and salary amounts are sufficient to buy things with, and "that's all that matters." He said it was for good behavior, and counselors and teachers don't have to reward us if we don't deserve to be. There isn't paper money because it could easily be torn or lost, and coined money is easier to handle.

Defying the Seasons

By Keelan Bower-O'Brien

It's supposed to be summer—it feels like winter.

The tall digital clock says it's scorching, but I'm frozen.

Her hair falls effortlessly into my face, I pay no heed.

"Be cool" I think, feigning indifference—sipping a smoothie.

It's 'Light N' Fluffy' and it's everything winter needs for warmth.

She—summer, is giggling as she twirls and twists her hair. It's supposed to be summer, but it feels like winter.

Sweat rolls passed my ears and down my neck, but I'm frozen.

"Be free," I think, we're laughing without a purpose—pursuing an undefined

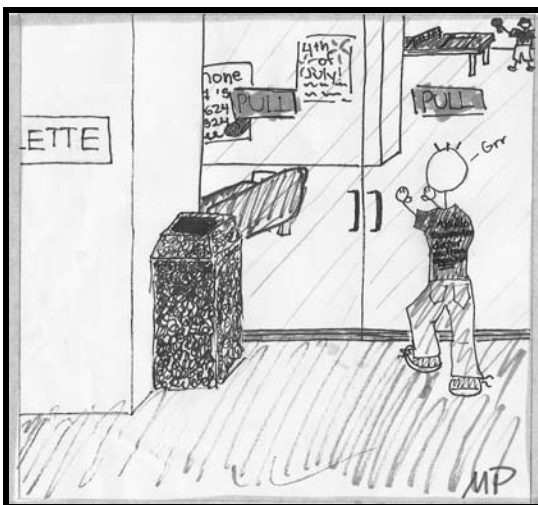
But I'm winter, and no one ever likes it cold.

Summer is hard-pressed for love and a happy ending.

Cheeks rosy and runny-nosed I'm offering her that icy kiss.

Summer may see fireworks, carnivals and the like, I see only snowflakes.

"Be warm," I think, she's cozing up to me—defying the seasons.



GIFTED

By Margaux Pepper

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LLAMA DRAMA ANNE OF AVONLEA



By Ashli
Auguillard

This summer, just like every other summer at GPGC, we will be performing a drama directed by Mr. Keith Gates. This year the play will be the sequel of the well known book (and apparently play) "Anne of Green Gables" and it is called "Anne Of Avonlea." The play shows excitement, comedy, emotion, and an invisible, intangible, unmentioned llama! Anne's story will detail her adventures as a teacher, but if you want to know more, be sure to attend the play at the end of the summer!

Elizabeth Clausen

Mrs. Rachel Lynde

Michelle Taylor

Marilla Cuthbert

Margaux Pepper.

Anne Shirley

Keelan Bowker-O'Brien

Mr. J.A. Harrison

Delia Roy

Diana Barry

Porter Westling

Gilbert Blythe

Aubrey Armbruster

Jane Andrews

Cheyenne Bertrand.

Julia Bell

Margaux Genoff

Gertie Pye

Joe Wanko

Fred Wright

Jacob Higgins

Tommy Gillis

Tyler Ashby &

Jess Snider.

Paul Irving

Nicole Higgins

Sarah Lynde

Lauren Chambers

Emily Harrison

Mr. Brown

Llama

Assistant Stage Director

Kris Gremillion

Stage Hands

Ashli Auguillard
Sally McPherson

SENIOR STORE

By Elise Hamilton

As most of the upperclassmen know, and as some of the freshmen don't, Senior Store is a project that was designed to help raise funds for the graduating class' Senior Trip. The Senior Store is an alternative for students to the vending machines in the downstairs lobby. Drinks, chips, and candy are priced lower at Senior Store than in the standard vending machines and, come on, the seniors are just more *fun*

than vending machines.

Also, with vending machines there's always a chance of your selection getting stuck. Who wants to

waste money on something that might not actually be received? I surely don't.

Support the Seniors this year--shop at Senior Store!



Save \$1.00
on any size Smoothie
With the purchase of a healthy snack.

Expires 07/31/05

Good only at participating locations. Not good with any other offer. Limit one per person per visit. Some restrictions may apply. Excludes Malts, Power Meals, Shakes and Kid's Kup. NO CASH VALUE

Be good
to yourself™

