



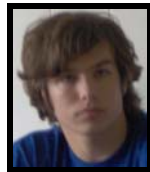
THE THINKER

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TICKET COURT

AND "WHY DO WE HAVE TICKETS IN THE FIRST PLACE?"



By Porter Westling

As I was reading over my weekly copy of *The Thinker*, I saw an article written by one Keelan Bowker-O'Brien. This article spoke critically of the job that we justices of the Student (and, therefore, Ticket) Court do. As Chief Justice of said court, I was interested, to say the least. I reviewed everything that Keelan had to say about the process of law and punishment here at the Governor's Program, and as I read, a thought crossed my mind. Do the students of the GPGC really understand why we have tickets?

Tickets are, at their core, designed first and foremost to protect us while here at the Program. Even with our rules about running in the hall we have incidents such as Todd Guillory's, in which running and horseplay caused a broken toe. Other rules are even more obviously designed to ensure our safety: things like no fighting, no jumping in the Contraband, no swallowing fireworks, etc. Without rules like these, we start having problems. In case you, the reader, have not noticed, gifties are good at

getting in trouble—very good at it. Even with our regulations, we've managed to corner ourselves with heavier and heavier restriction as we disregard more and more rules. Imagine a dorm without rules—things getting stolen constantly, people throwing freshmen into garbage cans, people shouting at the tops of their lungs at 2 o'clock in the morning. Its obvious that harmonious living requires rules, and a way to enforce them, and it is for this reason that we have tickets.

However, counselors have been known to be over eager in the pursuit of justice; sometimes tickets are given when no rule has been broken, or when extenuating circumstances create a situation under which it is acceptable to break a rule. This is the reason ticket court was created. It is not the job of the student justices to get rid of any and all contested tickets. Our job is to make sure that tickets are not being given out unfairly. "Innocent until proven guilty" is a right granted to U.S. citizens, one which many gifties feel is a right not granted to them in the proceedings of Ticket Court. First, I would like to point out that very little

can be "proved" in Ticket Court. No one will be taking forensic samples to see if you were running down the halls, and it's extremely unlikely that the hallway videos will be checked, as this is an unnecessary hassle. For these reasons, most cases in Ticket Court come down to a counselor's word against a student's. This is where the problem lies for most gifties. What would be the point of tickets if any student could contest and have their ticket overruled simply by contradicting the counselor? The economic system used to control our behavior here at GPGC would collapse. It is for this reason that we are forced to believe the counselor in most cases of a contradiction. It is not that we assume that students are guilty; it is that we generally accept a counselor's word as truth (after all, we can't throw them, right?). The best way to receive a judgment in your favor in ticket court is not to contradict a counselor without witnesses, but instead to come up with plausible extenuating circumstances. Alternatively, if you do have witnesses, call them up. The justices will be



This Week's Birthdays

Compiled by Tiffany Foster

- Daniel Finley
June 30, 1988
- Miranda Richer
June 30, 1992
- Thomas Miller
July 3, 1993
- Chas Nicols
July 6, 1993

Continued on next page...

Insomniac's Thoughts

By Lauren Chambers

Heart is pounding
Tension mounting
Thoughts are building in my head

Head is spinning
Mind is bending
Wonder if I'd be better off dead

People hating
Life is fading
Words still standing, left unsaid

Dark engulfing
I'm revolting
Wonder if I'd be better off dead

TICKET COURT

AND "WHY DO WE HAVE TICKETS IN THE FIRST PLACE?"

...Continued from previous page

much more likely to believe something if we have multiple students telling the same story.

Keelan also discussed character in his article. He believes that we, as the Student Court, should try not to take character into account at all when making our judgments. I would like to point out that in the courts of the real world, "character witnesses" are allowed. At GPGC we shorten this process, as the justices know all of the

plaintiffs and therefore have their own assessment of their character, but it is essentially the same thing.

I believe that the ticket court fulfills the role it is intended to play at GPGC. I cannot promise that every judgment will be perfect, but I can promise that no judgments are made simply because we may not like somebody. All of your student justices try their hardest to be impartial in their decisions, and thus to separate the guilty from the innocent.

Only one week left to submit to the Miles To Go journal.

Place in the green box in the lobby or e-mail to:

milestogo2005@gmail.com

July 7—Compositions & Art due!

July 9—Cover due!

July 11—Digital pictures due!

Hurry!
Submit now!

"THERE GOES MY FREAKING WEEKEND"



By Chadrick Andrews

The activity committee is a group of students, one boy and one girl from each class, who are elected by the representatives to help the counselors plan the weekend activities; but last week, everyone wanted to know—what happened?

The activities committee was rather proud of their idea for a *Napoleon Dynamite* themed weekend, complete with *Napoleon Dynamite* as the Friday movie and tots. So why didn't this happen? Not to spread rumors that may or may not be true, but I heard that BJ disagreed with this because he felt that anyone who likes *Napoleon Dynamite* has seen it plenty of times and those who don't like it, wouldn't want to see it. What he

failed to see is that that is his opinion. A few people I've talked to say they love the movie and wouldn't mind seeing it again. Personally, I liked the movie and I've only seen it once. As for the people who don't like the movie, so what? There will always be people who won't like the Friday movie. There will never be a movie that *everyone* will want to watch.

I'm not trying to put all the blame on BJ. He does have the right assumption that the activity committee only throws out ideas but doesn't actually make the weekend schedule. To that I have to say the activity committee isn't asked to make the schedule, only to help the counselors make the schedule. I am a member of the activities committee and during the meeting regarding last week's activity schedule, we were only asked for ideas, which we gratefully provided. Justin, who presided over the meeting didn't have any problem with the committee. He didn't tell us to make the schedule, even though Kris Gremillion, member of the activities committee, volunteered to make the written activity schedule (the

one they leave in your room on Friday).

Besides putt-putt, the only other idea that we gave that was actually used was the trip to the Charles Cinema. Although, some of our ideas were intended for future weekends, there were still some that could have easily been used in last weekend's schedule. I noticed on Saturday, there was an entire period between breakfast and lunch where nothing was planned. We still went to the mall on Sunday after the entire committee agreed that Saturday was a better time since some of us Gifties tend to not be able to hold our money until Sunday afternoon.

What happened to last week's schedule—opinion, that's what. It's our weekend to enjoy and that's why the activities committee is chosen. If someone doesn't agree with it, he and/or she should speak up and get both sides of the argument before vetoing what could have possibly been a *better* weekend.

No Other Life

Margaux Pepper

There is no life other than
the one I live now
Wishing I could freeze the
moments and the laughs....
If I could only take them all
with me.
Those I love I will never see
again,
Though some remain,
Not all and I cry.

There is no life other than
the one I live now
Where the work is taxing
The drama ever flowing
The feelings and lives of the
troubled mixed...
Yet I love it.
It is the life I live, not like
school
Not like camp
Not like home.
But this is my home, my
real home.

There is no life other than
the one I live now
More blissful than Heaven
More ghastly than Hell
When the end is near...

There is no life other than
the one I live now
For if there was I would
surely be dead

Untitled

By Lauren Chambers

There's a poem in here
Waiting to get out.
By the time you read this
It will have
Escaped.

A TALK WITH BILLY HOGAN

ART, STAGE TECH, LEGEND



By Morgan Westling

1. How long have you been at GPGC?

Today? About 3 1/2 hours, in years? I've really forgotten—before t-shirts/ before brain bucks—a long time.

2. What got you interested in stage tech and art?

My interest in creating/ the concept of creation.

3. Explain the house you designed and built. Where is it?

I live 21 miles north west of Natchitoches, La. The nearest town to me there is called Goldonna. I built my house on land my family has owned for over 100 years. It is deep in the woods. The house was designed physically and metaphysically for one person. I built the house while living here in Lake Charles, working on weekends and holidays at the house site. It took 12 years to clear the land and build the house. I moved there permanently three years ago. The house will always be in a state of creation.

4. Do you have any children or pets?

I am owned by five dogs who have been rescued from bad situations. I keep four bee hives at my house and while I don't pet

9. What do you like better? Stage tech or art? why?

Yes.

10. Where do you work during the school year?

My work is growing food and staying alive. I also fish, and gather food growing wild. When not doing that, I'm creating something.

11. Do you like your job at GPGC? Why?

This isn't a job. It's a paid diversion. What I enjoy about it is the quality of this weird tribe that gathers once a year, when it is hot outside.

12. Were you a student here? If not, where did you find out about the program?

I was not a student of the program, but I am an honorary graduate. I 'found out' about the program when a friend told me that Dr. Middleton was looking for an art teacher.

13. How many classes do you teach a day?

Four

14. When do you plan to retire?

From what?

8. When's your birthday?

September, 10



The \$10 Dollar Ticket Pile-Up

Quote of the Week

By Keelan Bowker O'Brien

This week's Quote of the week is a Brannon-ism. Dr. Brannon is the psychology teacher for the grad class. She's pretty cool, she gives brainbucks to us (which are still only ten cents).

"On the whole, I can say from experience that dolphins are *much* nicer than humans."

~Dr. Brannon

If you have or hear any interesting quotes that you want to see on the thinker, go ahead and send them my way.



By Jon-Paul Murphy

This year it seems that the new ticket offenses are beginning to pile up, and those that were here before being punished more severely. Why is this? I believe it's because of people who do not think about the effects of their actions before they do them.

I have gotten two tickets this year so far, and they weren't even major offenses. I know people with at least 15 tickets, if not more. That's just silly. Last year PDA was defined by making out and getting caught. This year I know of someone who got a ticket for having his head on a girlfriend's shoulder. I can understand that making out in public is a little distasteful, and is therefore punishable with a ticket, but holding hands and having your head on your girlfriend's or boyfriend's shoulder should be allowed. In a recent

meeting, BJ defined a PDA, which cleared up any confusion about that.

I think that the summer is for enjoyment, and we kids should have a little room for fun. I think the tickets are a little harsh. Cursing is a dollar ticket? I know it's taboo, but it is hard to find a child over ten that has not cursed in his lifetime. Is a dollar really necessary? Twenty-five cents sounds like a fair enough ticket for me.

The government should also be able to decide amounts for our tickets. They *are* for us, aren't they? The government can make new tickets, but cannot change older ones. I don't think this is fair. Isn't that the job of our elected officials? We should decide what is wrong, or at least how harsh the punishment is.

However, some tickets are just common sense, such as sign-in violations. Unless

you have a sudden seizure and cannot function properly, you *should* remember to sign in. Even if you forget once, it should only happen one time. Twice or even three times is just being lazy, and the recipient should not argue. Also, being out of your room after room curfew. This is also a silly offense. If you don't own a watch, someone around you should. Pay attention to the clock, and if it is time for you to go to bed, don't be an idiot and stay up. It's just not worth the ticket. You can keep your lamp on and stay up anyway, so what's the point?

Just do what you're supposed to, and the rest of the Program will go a lot smoother. Also, before you do something, think of what new ticket might be created if you get caught.

—By Reuben Soulaire



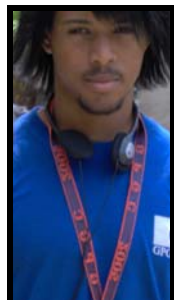
Mr. Opposable

By Fabian Jinks

My little buddy is always there
 When I need to grab hold
 For he is Mr. Opposable.
 When it is raining, and I need an umbrella
 He holds it above my head
 For he is Mr. Opposable.
 When I'm writing an important assignment
 He keeps my pencil in my hand
 For he is Mr. Opposable.
 When battling monstrous ogres in my dreams
 He keeps my sword steady
 For he is Mr. Opposable.
 When I go to sleep at night
 He hugs my teddy tight
 For he is Mr. Opposable.

ENTERTAINMENT

TOP TEN THINGS TO SAY WHEN SOMEONE ASKES WHAT THE BACK OF YOUR SHIRT SAYS



By Chadrick Andrews

10. "Shirt, what shirt?"
9. "Give me a Brainbuck and I'll think about it."
8. "That's what your momma said last night...oh"
7. "God, it's in freaking English."
6. "If you can't read this, you're not gifted enough."
5. "The prince is giving a ball...and you're not invited."
4. "We don't eat live babies; we actually prefer them toasted."
3. "Jack-in-the-Box has the best burgers."
2. "I don't know. They didn't tell me when I escaped from the mental institution."
1. "Floccinaucinihilipicitation"

BRAIN TEASER

By Daniel Smith

A homeless man runs out of cigarettes. He looks for cigarette butts since he knows that he can make one new cigarette out of every three butts. He picks up nine butts. If he smokes one cigarette per hour, how many hours can he smoke for?

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

Last week's Brain Teaser Answer—

It was a drive-in movie, therefore no one saw him.

WORD OF THE WEEK



By Tiffany Foster and Nicole Carter

This week's word is **jejeune**. We asked some people what the word **jejeune** and these are some of the responses we received:

Chad Andrews: "A British dance."

Jon-Paul Murphy: "A color."

Richard Thornton: "A skin disease."

Lani Huynh: "It sounds like Chun acting like a little kid."

Karen Joseph-Adcock: "A British midget."

Joe Holland: "A crossbreed between an orange and a pear that only sprouts on June 19."

Elise Hamilton: "Type of canoe."

Scotia Rivard: "How Daffy Duck says the word 'June.'"

Joe Wanko: "An African chant."

Chase Gillett: "The sound when the principal DJ's the morning announcements."

The real meaning of the word **jejeune** is *lacking maturity or being childish*.

MOVIE PREVIEW - FANTASTIC FOUR



By Greesim Loy & Lani Huynh

During an experimental space voyage, four people are struck by cosmic rays and change in many ways.

The members on the voyage are Reed Richards (Ioan Gruffudd, *King Arthur*), Sue Storm (Jessica Alba, *Sin City*), Johnny Storm (Chris Evans) and Ben Grimm (Michael Chiklis). Reed Richards, the inventor and leader of the whole group, receives the power to stretch his

body, making him Mr. Fantastic. His girlfriend, Sue Storm, is given the power to turn invisible and create force fields, making her The Invisible Woman. Sue's younger brother, Johnny Storm, receives the power to control fire. He is also given the power to cover his own body with flames and this is what gave him the name The Human Torch. The pilot of the voyage, Pilot Ben Grimm, was turned into a super, strong rock-like creature and received the

name The Thing. All of these "fantastic four" use their unique powers to learn more about the world, and fight the evil plans of Doctor Doom (Julian McMahon). This movie was directed by Tim Story and is an Action/Sci-Fi/Fantasy movie.

Lani Huynh: "I think this is going to be a good movie because it was made by the creators Spider-Man and The Hulk. Those two movies were popular and I can't wait

until this movie comes out because I think it's going to be similar."



Greesim Loy: "The plot looks good, but not maybe the best comic book-to-movie film yet. The producers look okay, but its director and starring actors are a bit unfamiliar to me. I think it's going to get at least the top five on the Box Office. Maybe, I'll rent it if I get the chance."

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KING PONG



By Briannah
Cassanova

King Pong is a ping-pong tournament between our counselors. They usually play while we are "sleeping". Our counselors argue over who is the best at "ping-ponging" and this is a tournament to prove who really is the best.

Every counselor is participating except for Bert. Bert says he doesn't participate because according to him, he isn't good because he "never really plays."

The prize for their tournament is being crowned King Pong. Although the counselors have been talking about getting a trophy for years, they never have.

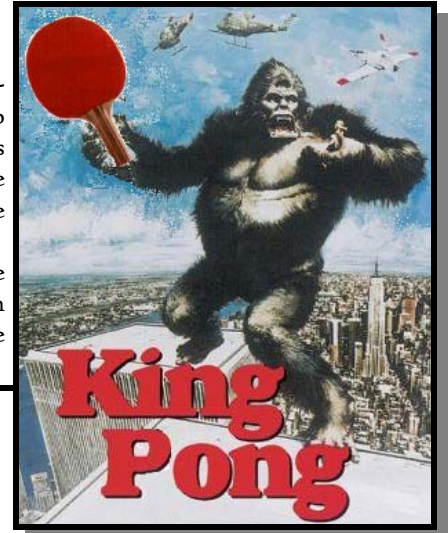
Last year's winner was B.J., so that's why he has the crown on the top of his name on the poster.

Scores are marked with lines next to the

As of Tuesday, June 28, the standings of King Pong are:

-Mr. Brown with 17 points
-B.J. with 16 points
-Justin with 7 points
-Scotia and Allen with 4 points
-Elise and Melanie with 3 points
-Maggie, Alice, Mike, and Jordan
sadly have no points, though all
have played

winner's name. Games are played best two out of three.



The rules are different than our games. You can lose on a serve, and on a serve, if the ball bounces off the table and your opponent saves it is still out.

King Pong will last till the end of the program. In the end they will announce who gets to be the King of Ping-Pong.

BORED ON YOUR RIDE HOME? TRY THESE GAMES FOR THE BUS OR CAR

THE STATE GAME:

Rules: The first person is decided by whoever is the youngest out of the group playing. The first person names a state. The next person (going clockwise) says a state beginning with the same letter as the previous state ended with. You count to 10 out loud and if the person cannot think of a state in that time, he/she is out for the rest of the round. The game ends when there is only one person left in the game.

Tip:

1. For a giftie challenge you can try playing by counting to 5 instead of 10.
2. You can also play this game with many other categories. (animals, places, names, colors, etc.)

20 QUESTIONS:

One of the people will think of something in a category and tell the category to the other people participating in the game. The players take turn asking YES or NO questions. After 20 questions have been asked, if the players have not already guessed the answer, each player gets one last chance to make a guess. Afterwards, a new player tries to stump the group.

LIGHTNING REACTION: a.k.a. the shocking game that everyone plays.