

Issue Five



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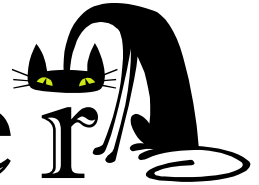
Final Issue



Friday, July 13, 2007



# Thinker



By Chelsea Johnson

The number thirteen is thought to be very unlucky by many, although there are things that may shed a different light on everyone's outlook towards it.

The number thirteen appears in nature in many ways. There are thirteen major joints in your body, thirteen degrees is how far the moon travels across the sky each day, and in a solar year there are thirteen lunar cycles. There were also twelve disciples plus Christ, which is thirteen, twelve knights and King Arthur (thirteen), and twelve major constellations and the Sun, which is, as well, thirteen.

The number fifty-two is a multiple of thirteen and there are fifty-two weeks in our year. The thirteenth tarot card is the card of death, but also of birth and renewal. Our country has thirteen in its history. There were thirteen original colonies, thirteen Confederate states, and there are thirteen stripes on our flag.

Thirteen is a very common number with many things and shouldn't necessarily be thought bad. Maybe thirteen isn't so unlucky. You decide.



Are You Scared?

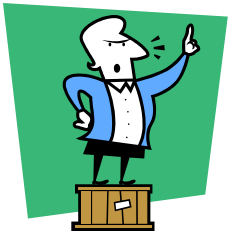
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Did You Know...

A frog in the house is good luck?





# Sally's Soapbox

Editorial by Sally McPherson

This summer, as all of our returning students know, we are missing a very important member of our GPGC family. Brian James Belanger, or BJ as he is more commonly known, was co-ho (coordinator of housing) before the job was passed to Elise Donnes who, while equally capable and pretty freaking sweet herself, is forced to fill some pretty big shoes (pun intended—BJ is 6'3"). It's kind of hard for her to dress up like Wonderboy, and I don't think she can play guitar (to my knowledge). Although I'm sure that Elise would be a fabu-

lous Wonderboy, it just wouldn't be the same. Personally, I miss seeing the backwards cap every morning. I think others would agree with me when I say that not seeing those Harry Potter-esque glasses every morning is a bit of a downer.

That's one really big thing that students forget about. Not only do kids miss other kids over the year, but we miss our counselors as well. Kids and counselors alike may choose not to return for the next summer. We were fortunate enough to welcome back into our GPGC family the sorely-missed Alice Green, older sister of (that's right, you guessed it) Kirkie Green! Alice was my freshman counselor, as well as the

counselor of last year's freshmen. Counselors play a huge role in the lives of us gifties, and I think we don't realize that until they don't come back. It's like the old phrase says, "You don't know what you got until it's gone!"

So kids, today's lesson is appreciate your counselor—they *are* your friends, despite the tickets they may give you, and yes they really *do* love you even if they make you get in your room for lights-out with face-wash still on. Don't take your counselors for granted! And to all of you who haven't met BJ yet, the screaming and girls running up to hug him should give it away. And, of course, the Mickey Mouse hat!

## Did You Know ?

That it is considered unlucky to cross your legs while playing cards?  
That tying a knot into a handkerchief wards off evil?  
That if you cut your hair on Good Friday, you won't have headaches for the next year?  
That if you drop a comb while brushing your hair is a bad omen?  
It is unlucky for an actress to use real flowers on stage as part of the performance?  
It is unlucky to wash a baby's head



for the first year?  
The spouse who goes to sleep first on their wedding day is the one who will die first?  
That if you hear footsteps on Halloween and turn your head, it is a sign that the dead are following you, and you could very soon join them?  
Girls who carry a lamp to a spring of water on Halloween will see their future husband's reflection?  
If a bat flies around a house 3 times, it is a death omen?  
That unless you were born in October, the wearing of an Opal will be ill-fated?  
That when bobbing for apples, it is believed that the first person to bite an apple would be the first to marry?  
That the play Macbeth is considered the unluckiest play in theatre?  
That if a woman is buried in black, she will return to haunt the family?

That if a dead person's eyes are left open, he'll find someone to take with him?  
That if you dream of death it's a sign of a birth, if you dream of birth, it's a sign of death?  
That if you point at a funeral procession it is considered bad luck?  
That if you shave your head on a Saturday, you will be in perpetual debt?  
That seeing a rainbow, having the sunshine, meeting a black cat, and meeting a chimney sweep on your wedding day is a good omen?  
That a dog eating grass is a sign of rain?  
That a greyhound with a white spot on its forehead is a sign of good fortune?  
That knocking on wood keeps bad luck away?

Compiled by Katarina Hyatt  
Courtesy [www.oldsuperstitions.com](http://www.oldsuperstitions.com)



## Watch This!

By Julienne Louis

Move over actors... animated rat comin' through. *Ratatouille*, Disney's newest animated movie, came out June 29 and received amazing reviews from famous movie critics. A critic for the *New York Times* said, "'Ratatouille' provides the kind of deep, transporting pleasure, at once simple and sophisticated, that movies at their best have always promised." A funnier critic said, "It's another grand slam. Let's leave the sports

comparisons there and move on, shall we?"

*Ratatouille's* main characters are Remy, the aspiring chef, and Alfredo Linguini, the garbage boy. When Remy gets separated from his family, he swims along the sewer water. When he emerges from the sewer, Remy finds that he's in Paris, right across the street from a famous restaurant.

When Remy and Alfredo Linguini meet, Remy carries out his dreams through Alfredo. Remy and Alfredo work together to turn Gusteau's Restaurant into the talk of Paris. The whole time, the main chef, Skinner, suspects something is fishy about Alfredo. He and Remy must lay low. If customers, employees, or the health department find out about Remy, Gusteau's will be shut down.

*Ratatouille*, in my eyes, was one of Disney's best movies after *Finding Nemo*. In my opinion, this movie had something to offer for everyone. Every 5 minutes the audience was laughing at something. No one looked bored because there was comedy, romance, and a little bit of drama in *Ratatouille*. I also loved the fact that Disney decided to use rats as their animal of choice. That was a wonderful animal to choose because it had so much to offer. You have got to see *Ratatouille!*



By Julienne Louis

**How does it feel to be an Alpha?** It feels depressing because it's my last year. GPGC is a really big part of me. I met a lot of amazing friends here and I wouldn't change it for the world. It's like leaving a part of me behind because I can't come back. Sure I can keep in touch, but it won't be the same.

**Will you come back to be a counselor?** It is a possibility. You'd have to ask me in a year or two. Because I might have a job.

**What was your most memorable thing(s) about the Governor's Program?** 1. Chucking fruit off a 3 story building was more fun than I actually anticipated it to be. 2. There was also one time I pushed Greesim in a Kmart buggy from the temporary buildings to Farrar. 3. There was this time when me and my two suitemates stayed up till 2 am telling jokes and laughing about nothing.

**What is the most unmemorable thing about GPGC?** Phone curfews, some of the cafeteria food, and limited closet space.

**Who is your favorite teacher?** Dr. Brannon. She's amazingly funny and her class passes by so fast. She keeps you entertained during the whole class.

**Who is the best Alpha?** Hehehe... I think we're all amazing. It's kind of hard to put a classification on who's the best Alpha. It's not possible for me to do that.

## Top 10 Things NOT to Do on

## Friday the 13th

By Matthew McElveen

10. Walk under a ladder during stage tech.
9. Allow stray black cats to cross your path on the way to the Fine Arts building.
8. Break the mirror closest to your room in the suite.
7. Listen for fresh news of the out-

side world.

6. Knit in the lobby.
5. Tip over the salt while reaching for a napkin at dinner.
4. Step on a crack in the concrete near the construction.
3. Open an umbrella-ella-ella-ay-ay-ay inside of your dorm room.
2. If you're an extremist, don't actually go outside.
1. Actually believe the superstitions. Worrying about them makes it worse.

## Holy Riddles, Thinkerman!

A logician with some time to kill in a small town decided to get a haircut. The town had only two barbers, each with his own shop. The logician glanced into one shop and saw that it was extremely untidy. The barber needed a shave, his clothes were unkempt, his hair was badly cut. The other shop was extremely neat. The barber was freshly shaved and spotlessly dressed, his hair neatly trimmed. Why did the logician return to the first shop for his haircut?

Two very popular and common objects have the same function, but one has thousands of moving parts, while the other has absolutely no moving parts. What are they?

At noon and midnight the hour and minute hands are exactly coincident with each other. How many other times between noon and midnight do the hour and minute hands cross?

Answers on page 8

Courtesy [www.bored.com](http://www.bored.com)  
Compiled by Kevin Delaney

## Ask



# GP

# &

# GC



**Question:** My problem is my friend who likes to steal her friends' boyfriends. She becomes friends with girls to find out who they like, then she tries to steal them. She has done it more than once and it has worked more than once. I can't trust her and I'm afraid she's going to try to steal the boy I like. What should I do?

**GP:** I haven't heard of that happening. First, try warning people so they don't tell her who they like. Then, have a talk with her and ask her who she likes. If she doesn't know, then be like, "Oh, really? I thought you liked So-and-so... and didn't you used to like So-and-so, too?" If she doesn't get it, then just tell her that she shouldn't go out

with a lot of people; tell her that if she does that then she won't have many friends here. Tell her she should just stay with one person and be his girlfriend for a while.

**GC:** Don't beat around the bush. Tell her outright that what she's doing hurts a lot of people. You don't have to be rude or mean, but be firm. Don't humiliate her, because it will only make her more likely to lash out. Tell her privately and calmly that what she's doing is hurtful and tasteless. If she doesn't stop, then at least you tried to be a good friend to her by letting her know...and watch your boyfriend around her.

*Did you know...*

*Turning in  
a clockwise cir-  
cle seven times  
breaks a bad  
luck spell?*



## Word of the Week

Are you a walking dictionary? If so, this one should be simple for you. Can you guess what the word paraskavedekatriaphobia means? Here is what other Gifties thought.

"Fear of 1,003 parasitical cows." **Haley Paulish**

"Fear of man-eating turtles." **Kathryn James**

"Fear of koalas." **Tyler Ashby**

"Fear of 10 paraplegics in wheelchairs eating parasitical pancakes." **Nicole Higgins and Alexis Nixon**

"Fear of promiscuous people." **Trisha Eyman**

"Fear of 3 Scandinavian parachutes getting tangled together." **Jacob Higgins**

"Fear of odd shapes." **Claire Duncan**

"Fear of sunscreen eating trees that grow eggs." **Julia Falgoust**

"Fear of Troy's beastliness." **Troy Sanders**

"Fear of reporters asking questions about big words." **Luke Theriot**

"Fear of large animals." **Carson Prewett**

"Fear of a world full of people like Paris Hilton." **Karen Joseph-Adcock**

"Fear of decks that have trees and parachutes on them." **Sally Choi**

**ACTUAL DEFINITION**

Fear of Friday the 13th

Compiled by **Michelle Wright**



# DOCTOR WHAT?

Who's  
Really  
Your Friend?

By Matthew McElveen

By Kathryn James

Many of you have probably heard some of the Epsilon and Delta girls talking about the Doctor. Wonder what or who that is? It's a British TV character, whose show started on the night Kennedy was assassinated. It ended for a period in '89, and restarted in 2005. He's a time traveling alien with two hearts who has to save the world with his genius.

The Doctor travels in his TARDIS, which is an acronym for Time And Relative Distance In Space. From the outside, the TARDIS looks like an old British phone booth. He has thirteen lives, the reason some of the girls say "Number 10 is my favorite," or "Seven is funniest."

Currently, we are on the tenth Doctor. He is on his second season, and has no known plans to "regenerate" any time soon. When the Doctor changes bodies, it is called

regeneration. The script conveniently has a regeneration when the current Doctor wants to quit. Each Doctor has a female companion, and they are mainly human. The tenth Doctor, David Tennant, though, also brings a man from the future along, Captain Jack, played by John Freeman. The season finale aired June 30. His companions were Captain Jack and Martha Jones, a medical student from the present (played by Freema Agyeman), which, in the series, is 2009.

The girls love it for it keeps you on the edge of your seat; every scene is dramatic. Each episode features peril from alien life forms, as well as pre-, mid-, and post-danger hugging between the Doctor and his female companion. Not to mention that quite a few Epsilons think that Ten is rather hot. Each of the Doctors has his own little quirks and habits, distinctive wardrobe, and sayings, as well as their own companion.

The episodes are mainly connected only by little details, with a few multiple-part exceptions. This makes it easy to drop in and watch an episode, no matter where we are in that particular season. So, next time we have a viewing session, please drop in and see some Doctor for yourself. Find out what all the fuss is about.

GPGC is a great experience, involving academic and music classes that really teach us a lot. But one of the largest parts of the experience is meeting new people and making new and maybe even life-long friends. We spend our entire summer with these people, even live together, so of course we're going to make awesome friends! But because we spend our entire summer living in the McNeese dorms, we might lose touch with our friends back home.

Leaving home for Lake Charles, Louisiana requires us to leave our family and friends, and we don't really get to see them until July Break or until the summer's over. Some students come from Lake Charles where their own friends live, but stay at the Program most of the time, making it extremely difficult to really hang out with their friends. Other students come from New Orleans, Mandeville, and even places out of state. These students are definitely leaving a lot behind.

A major downside to this is that not only do the students not get to see their friends, but some connections could even be lost. For all they know, their friends here at GPGC have ditched them for their new friends. This is something that can really hurt once returning home.

So how can this be avoided? It really depends. Calling friends from time to time or leaving them messages on Myspace is certainly a good way to keep in touch with them. Of course, that doesn't mean do so every twenty-minutes, because people still have friends here to deal with. So really, there are quite a few ways to handle the situation.

“  
**Q**uote  
of the  
week  
”

*“Whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. Begin it now.”*

*-Johann Van Goethe*

# Captain Kirk

Story by Kyle Blanchard  
Photos by Reuben Soularie

Kirkland Green is one of the guys' counselors at the GPGC. When he was asked if he liked his name he said "Yes, it is a very unique name." Kirk was born, raised, and still lives in New Orleans. He likes "everything about it. The city's great, food's great, and people and culture are incredibly unique, and how could I forget the Saints."

Kirkland came to this Program for all the five years he could. When asked what his favorite memory was from camp he said, "I made a lot of friends and had many good times, so it would be hard to

choose just one, but if I had to it would be me getting the lead role in *Brigadoon* beta year." He said that now that he's a counselor, he likes his job, but "it's definitely different from being a student. It's rewarding in its own way, but stressful. It's fun, but being a student is more enjoyable."

Kirkland's hobbies are "sleeping later, hanging out with my friends, [and] I also like going to Chinese buffets, and doing whatever in my spare time."

He said he keeps coming back to the Program because "after coming for so long, the Program is part of me. It's kind of not summer without the Program."



## *What's up with Friday the 13th?*

By Katarina Hyatt

Ever wondered why Friday the 13th is considered unlucky? Well, actually, no one is exactly sure, and before the 20<sup>th</sup> century there is only some evidence to suggest that the day Friday and the number thirteen were unlucky, but no connection between the two. In English, Polish, German and Spanish speaking cultures, Friday the 13th is considered an unlucky date. In Greece, parts of Spain, Russia, and most Slavic cultures, Monday or Tuesday the 13th are considered unlucky. However, there are some theories as to why Friday the 13th became known as an unlucky day.

- One of the most common theories as to why Friday the 13th is considered unlucky has to do with Christianity and the Last Supper. It is believed that there were thirteen people at the Last Supper.

Judas, the apostle who turns on Jesus, is considered the thirteenth person, being the only one who is disloyal to Jesus. The next theory, also having to do with the Christian faith, is that Eve offered the fruit to Adam on a Friday.

- Another theory originated at a much later date—Friday the 13th, 1066. On this date the Battle of Hastings took place. On this date, William the Conqueror (at the time Duke William of Normandy) offered to Saxon King Harold II a choice to abdicate the throne or go to battle. Harold refused the offer and was slain by William himself, who usurped the throne.
- Another more commonly believed theory is that on Friday the 13th King Philip IV of France ordered the Knights Templar (a secret society that was to defend Christian pilgrims traveling to Jerusalem) arrested. The reason why the practices of the Knights Tem-

plar were banned is because rumors were spread that the organization (which was dedicated to the protection of the Catholic Church) had turned on the Pope and was monopolizing Europe's economy. King Phillip, however, also had a conflict with the organization, because he owed a large sum of money to them. He then ordered all members of the Knight's Templar arrested and tortured the members in to confessing. He also put pressure on the Pope to stop endorsing the secret order, which he did so Italian principalities would not be attacked by strengthening France.

- Next is the theory that those of the Christian faith wanted to make Friday the 13th unlucky because the number thirteen and Friday were special to the Norse Goddess, Freyja.

Courtesy of [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com), [www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com), and [www.about.com](http://www.about.com)

# Galveston

# BOUND



By Reuben Soularie

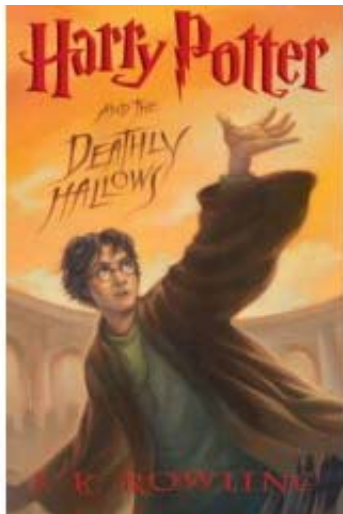
It has been five weeks since the program has started, and the Seniors have been very busy with their Senior Projects and raising money for Senior Trip. The seniors have

been raising money for this trip with different fundraising events. The seniors have opened up Senior Store for just about the whole program selling candy, chips, soft drinks, and other sweets at a reasonable price. They have also started a new event called Senior Fun Day, in which the students of GPGC can participate in fun and wonderful activities. This year was the first time seniors have started this.

Another fundraiser was the recent Senior Car Wash and Senior Dinner. The Car Wash was free, but they did accept donations. Senior Dinner is when the seniors cook food and serve it to the staff of GPGC as well as students. All these

fundraisers were to benefit Senior Trip.

But despite the impending Senior Trip, Senior Project has to be the biggest thing on Senior's minds. For those of you who didn't know, Senior Project is the "final" project for the seniors that can be done for Humanities, Composition, or Science. It is then presented at the end of the second to last week of the program. It came down to the last week of morning classes, where every senior was finishing up their projects and getting their presentations ready. Finally, their presentations were finished today and now they can get ready for their relaxing weekend. HAVE FUN ON SENIOR TRIP!



# T-Minus

# 7 days

By Aubrey Armbruster

It's lunch time in the cafeteria: you're talking to your friends, when suddenly, from the next table loud exclamations of "NO!" and "He Can't Die!" are heard by everyone within a five table radius. At most other times of the year such cries would be cause for alarm, and possibly the Heimlich maneuver. But instead of straining your neck to find the poor sod who choked on his

cheeseburger, you and everyone at your table roll your eyes and collectively think: Yup. It's Harry Potter Season.

In only a few short days (on Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>) the seventh and final installment of the wildly popular Harry Potter series is due to be released. It's a bittersweet triumph: finally, after years of waiting, fans are at last going to find out the outcome of the war between Harry and Voldemort. But on the other hand, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* is going to be the last book in the series, ever. That fact won't stop most fans from putting on their wizard's robes and scurrying to the nearest book store at fifteen minutes to midnight on the 20<sup>th</sup>, though.

Rumors, theories and speculations over even the tiniest details of what the 784-page epic might contain are a dime a dozen. Popular topics include the question of whether Snape is really evil, who RAB is, and the ever mind boggling: who dies? Harry or Voldemort? Books of theories have even been published, most notably of which is *Mugglenet.com's What Will*

*Happen in Harry Potter 7*, which was the theories of the creators of *Mugglenet.com*.

Though there are many false rumors, J.K. Rowling has confirmed the authenticity of some of these rumors. The following are just a few in a substantial list. Something "incredibly important" about Harry's mother will be revealed. Harry will face Voldemort for the final time. Viktor Krum will return. Dolores Umbridge will make an appearance. Readers will find out who RAB is and where Snape's true loyalties lie.

Another source of excitement in the world of Harry Potter fans is the release of the fifth movie, which began playing in theaters nationwide this past Wednesday. The movie follows Harry and friends through their fifth year at Hogwarts. It tracks their troubles with Ministry of Magic interference at Hogwarts, and the rebellion against Voldemort and his followers.

Between watching the fifth movie at the cinema and staying up ridiculously late reading the last book, it's shaping up to be a very Harry next few weeks.

## Riddle Answers

from page 4

Each barber must have cut the other's hair. The logician picked the barber who had given his rival the better haircut.

An hourglass and a sundial.

Ten times (not eleven, as most people seem to think).

*Good luck!*

*Bonne chance!*

**French**

*Maika 'i Pomaika 'i!*

**Hawaiian**

*Gangri þér vel!*

**Icelandic**

*Pob lwc!*

**Welsh**

*¡Buena suerte!*

**Spanish**

*Ngikufisela iwela!*

**Zulu**

*Gokoun o inorimasu!*

**Japanese**

*Veel Glück!*

**German**

*Go n-éiri an t-ádh leat!*

*Ádh mór ort!*

**Irish Gaelic**

# Argument

**By Sally McPherson**

Many of you may have noticed the three lovely papers posted in the middle of our lobby over the sign out books—recently our chief justice and one of the grad representatives were evicted from their government positions for “blatant disregard of the regulations of the Governor’s Program for Gifted Children.” Not only was their power stripped, but they also received reduced salaries, had to write a paper on the offense and also had to face a panel of Elise, Mr. Brown, Dr. Brannon (the Grad Psychology teacher), and Dr. Middleton—the founder of the Governor’s Program, as you all know. A fellow giftie, they said something along the lines of “I would pee in my pants if I was in front of all them all at once.”

I can’t say that I disagree. With that Fearsome Foursome, it must have been hard not to. I mean, disregarding the rules—bad, horrible, wrong. I completely agree; but I think it’s a bit extreme to not only take away their power (and their gavels) but also to enforce further repercussions? Harsh.

Possession of contraband money, I believe, was the downfall of our two grads. However, it wasn’t long ago that another government official was accused of possession of money while in his term of office. He received a trial in front of his fellow students. Why not this time? Why can’t these students get a trial? They would be proven guilty, yes, but don’t they still deserve a trial? “Innocent until

proven guilty” and all that jazz, right? Maybe it was an oversight last time that the students got a trial, but who can really say?

While I do think that our execs did make the right decision in punishing the offenders (they did deliberately disobey the rules that are set for any student here), it makes one wonder—what will happen next time, if someone brings contraband money? Will we be expelled? Sent home for a week? Where do we draw the line? Also, were these kids used as an example for all of the rest of us just because they were in a position of leadership? As the pop band Maroon 5 quips, “It really makes me wonder!”

It also brings to the attention of the execs the issue of how many kids actually bring contraband money to the Program. I know when I was a freshman, I was so scared about bringing extra money that I tried to turn in all the change I had in the bottom of my purse. Before long, I learned that contraband money was a rule that kids liked to stretch—a lot.

We sign a contract. By signing it, we promise to obey all the rules given to us by Dr. Middleton and Mr. Brown. That *includes* (and is stated specifically) not bringing contraband money. So guys, here’s the dilemma: if you bring contraband money, you’ve been warned. They aren’t messing around anymore. Whether or not what they’re doing is fair, it’s still their decision. We still listen to them; we respect authority. We still face the consequences. So next summer, you better think before you pack!

# Rebuttal

Dear Editor and GPGC Students,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to answer your government update publicly and to make our position about the token economy system and its importance clear to everyone.

First, we would like to discuss what happened to the two students mentioned in your article in order to clear up some misperceptions that have obviously arisen since our decision. Both of these students were seen by housing staff with \$20 bills and neither had believable stories about how they acquired this money. Therefore, the students were brought before the “Fearsome Foursome” to explain their actions to the main decision-makers of the Program. Neither of the students offered any reasonable explanation when asked about why they had what we considered to be money that they did not earn through the token economy system. As you noted in your article, their punishment was as follows: (a) both were suspended for the rest of the GPGC Session from their elected government offices.; (b) they were both fined \$20 (the amount of money smuggled in) plus the original amount confiscated; and (c) they are being required to do at least one hour of community service each day, and write an essay about the token economy system for our (the staff’s) education about how the students are reacting under the system.

Now, *The Thinker’s* update brings up several good points that we would like to answer one by one. We don’t mean to be argumentative; we are only stating our point of view in the hopes that the students will understand our actions as much as possible. Ms. McPherson first brings up the point that these two students were government officials, that it was fair to remove (suspend) them from office, but then suggests that she believes that it

was unfair to exact any additional punishments. From our point of view, a government official, a student that has sworn an oath to “the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend its (the GPGC’s) constitution,” *should* be held to a higher standard of behavior than a student that has not sworn such an oath. If government officials do not take their responsibilities seriously enough to follow our most important rules why should they continue to be representatives and law-makers of our community? And if they do show that much disregard for their position, why should their punishment be limited to removing them from the office that they clearly do not care about? Why should we expect that consequence to affect them?

Next, the Editor mentions a former government official who, according to the findings of the Appellate Court, was guilty of smuggling money into the token economy system and states that he received a trial in front of his fellow students, so why is this situation different? This is a good question and is related to the reason that the GPGC’s Student Judicial System (except for Ticket Court) has been suspended indefinitely. That case specifically, and cases before it generally, made it very clear to the administration that the student officers of the court were either not able to uphold their responsibilities as officers of the court or were not willing to do so. We believe that if students are to be judged by students, they are entitled to (and deserve) responsible and knowledgeable prosecution and defense. If students are unable or unwilling to spend the time that it takes to provide that defense and prosecution, it is unfair to put an accused student through a faulty and inequitable trial process. However, it is also unfair (and unmanageable) to allow students to break the rules simply because we do not have a fair student court. While you students may disagree, we believe at this time that a committee (or court, if you will) of the administrators of this Program is the fairest way to mete out justice and consequences for serious violations of our rules and laws. We have encouraged your government each summer since the suspension of the court system to devise a fairer system of justice in which students can participate, but it is a difficult problem to solve.

The next point raised by Ms. McPherson is one that we have thought long and hard about almost every summer – what should the consequences be for this offense – smuggling in money that you have not earned through the token economy? We are very willing to entertain the idea that in this area we have failed you the students by not making the consequences for these actions clear enough, and indeed, we have failed by not communicating the purposes of the token economy to you clearly enough as well. We do not think that this excuses the smuggling behavior, but we promise to try harder to communicate the importance of the economy, and respecting its rules, to you in the future. For now, let us defend our actions by saying

that, as administrators, we strongly believe that most serious violations of our rules should be handled on a case-by-case basis. This gives us the (admittedly subjective) ability to tailor consequences as we see fit and not be limited by previous decisions or precedent. In most ways this is a more beneficial situation for the prospective rule-breaker – but it does have the distinct failing of not outlining specific consequences for certain actions, leaving students wondering what will happen to them if they break the rules. The best way to avoid this befuddlement is to not break the serious rules of the Program. We guarantee that the consequences will be “harsh.” The only other clarification we will make about this issue at this time is that we will dismiss a student from the Program only for violations that threaten their safety or the safety of others, or for violating a previously agreed upon probation. We think we have made it explicitly clear which violations are followed by immediate dismissal.

Lastly, we would like to mention that we have always taken the token economy and the smuggling of money into the system seriously. Without going into specifics of previous cases let us assure you that there have been other violators of these rules and they dealt with consequences just as serious and “harsh” as the students this summer are. The issue here is – and this is vitally important for you to understand – trust. We trust you not to bring extra money to the Governor’s Program each summer. We trust your parents not to send you extra money. If you abuse that trust and cheat by bringing extra money you may or may not get caught – we are not going to turn the GPGC into a prison to make sure that no one has an extra dollar or two stuffed in their socks when they move in. However you should know that by cheating you are telling everyone – your fellow students, and the staff if you are caught – that you do not care about our society here and that you feel like you are above the rules and the law. If you do get caught that is the only chance that the administration has to demonstrate to you and the rest of the student body how important it is for us to be able to trust you and how disappointed we are that you cannot be trusted.

We know that this session of the Program is almost finished but soon we will start planning and thinking about next summer. We invite any of you that have any thoughts or questions about the token economy to share them with us. Help us make this a better system for everyone – and a system where it just does not make sense to cheat by smuggling in extra money. Please feel free to email any of us at any time and have a great final week, rest of the summer, and productive 2007-2008 school year!

Sincerely,  
The “Fearsome Foursome” – Dr. George Middleton, [director@gpgc.org](mailto:director@gpgc.org); Mr. Joshua Brown, [principal@gpgc.org](mailto:principal@gpgc.org); Dr. Linda Brannon, [lbrannon@goexpress.net](mailto:lbrannon@goexpress.net); and Ms. Elise Donnes, [coho@gpgc.org](mailto:coho@gpgc.org)

Meet **Blaire**

# Very Superstitious



By Kevin Delaney

Blaire Brown is a new member of the GPGC family as counselor of the freshmen girls. When asked about how she liked the freshmen and being their counselor, Blaire said, "I like them because they are excited about the program and are willing to listen and try new things."

Even though Blaire is new to GPGC, it was not unheard of to her. Blaire's sister Nikki and her brother-in-law Josh Brown attended the program, and she remembers them talking about it. When asked why she wanted to be a counselor, she said, "Mr. Brown asked me, and it was either waiting tables, having a boring summer at home, or doing something exciting and taking a chance."

Aside from being a counselor, Blaire also has many hobbies like artwork, music, and photography. Blaire also wants to learn how to play either the guitar or the harmonica. When asked about what she likes to do in her free time when not being a counselor, Blaire said, "Sleep or hang out with other counselors, draw, watch *House*, play *The Sims* computer game, and read." According to many students, Blaire is a great counselor and is hoped to be seen again next year.

By Courtney Howard

Superstitions seem to have been around forever. One of the most well known is that Friday the thirteenth is unlucky. This stems from two stories. One is that Jesus was crucified on a Friday, and the thirteenth guest at the Last Supper was Judas, the betrayer. Another superstition that comes from Judas and the Last Supper is that it is thought that Judas spilled salt at the Last Supper. Also, the reason you must throw salt over your left shoulder is that the devil is thought to loom over your left shoulder, waiting to strike. Throwing salt is thought to distract him.

Another story about the unluckiness of the number 13 is that while twelve Scandinavian demigods were feasting at Valhalla, a thirteenth evil one named Loki arrived uninvited. He arranged for someone to murder another blind god. This brought the world into mourning and brought a bad association to the number 13.

One superstition states that it is bad luck for a black cat to cross your path. This stems from the fact

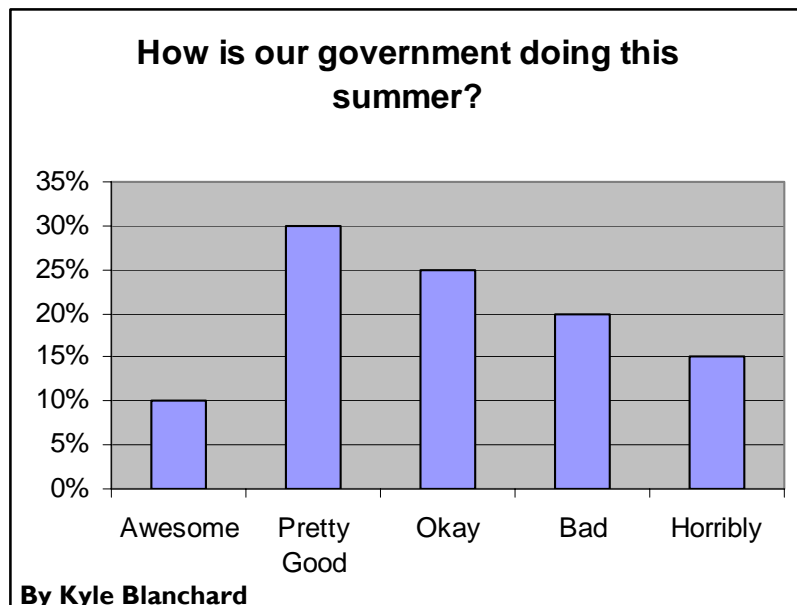
that ancient Egyptians worshipped a goddess that took the form of a black cat. Once Christianity came around they decided to wipe out all other religions, therefore trying to kill all black cats and the harmless old women who took care of them, saying they were witches.

Another common one that everyone has probably broken at some time is never to walk under a ladder. This comes from the thought that, since the ladder makes a triangle, it is symbolic of the Holy Trinity. Walking under the ladder breaks the Trinity, therefore putting you in league with the devil.

Another superstition that is difficult to avoid is a broken mirror. It was thought that the image in a mirror was the human soul, so a broken mirror equals a broken soul.

These superstitions are all well known, but most gifties claim not to believe in any superstitions. Now you know why it is for you to decide whether or not to take them seriously.

Courtesy [www.superstitions.com](http://www.superstitions.com)  
[www.halloween-website.com](http://www.halloween-website.com)



# Grinnin' Gators

By Jobi Arceneaux

Personally I think it is wrong to paint animals, but when I saw these creatures around campus, I found a new artistic love. Gators on the Geaux, the painted fiberglass alligators that you have probably seen at the Fine Arts Building, are part of a fundraising project to restore some of the historical sites and tourism places of the Lake Area. The local ones we have on campus are named Debator Gator, Ubiquitous Swamp Gator, and Louisiana Sky/Tail Blender and Tail Gator. The Debator Gator is the tiled alligator with the orange vest and large blue water droplets and yellow head; the Ubiquitous Swamp Gator is the gator in the white suit (the one that looks like Elvis Presley); and the Louisiana Sky/Tail Blender is the gator with a grey head, black spots on his neck,

clouds on his back, abstract legs, and blue/green blended tail. All of these grinning gators are sitting pretty outside of Sherman Fine Arts Building. We also have one that is located in the student center that is dressed as a true Pokes fan for the McNeese cowboys. It's called Tail Gator.

Some of these gators go to private collections, people's homes, or to local businesses. Most of the alligators are painted by local artists, but the Louisiana Sky/Tail Blender Gator on the campus was painted by some of the McNeese students themselves. So if you see a gator just sitting there on campus, don't ignore the poor thing, stop and admire the Louisiana inspired work that will help this city.

Photos courtesy  
[www.gatorsonthegeaux.com](http://www.gatorsonthegeaux.com)



Debator Gator



Ubiquitous Swamp Gator



LA Sky/Tail Blender Gator



Tail Gator



Heeeeeeere's

Johnnie!

Story by Kathryn James  
 Photo by Reuben Soularie

Sir Johnnie Bankens, Mr. Chamberlain's assistant, arrived at this session of GPGC with much valor! Known as Johnnie to the students of GPGC, he does much for the program. Though he himself was never a student, he says he has learned much about the Program over the past few weeks. This is his first year working with the Program. He says his favorite thing about working here is that, "You guys are so cool."

He entered theatre through performing in many musicals in the past. He has recently graduated with a major in music. He loves performance, especially opera. His favorite musical, though, is *Sweeney Todd* by Stephen

Sondheim.

In his free time, Sir Johnnie likes to attend live performances, read, go to movies, sing, and above all, attend opera! There are two interesting things that Johnnie thinks you should know about him. These are that he wears a size 17 shoe, and that he has independent eyebrows.

Back to the musical, the reason we know Johnnie. Johnnie says, "I think it's gonna be great!" when asked how he thinks the show will turn out. Also, "Holdin' out for a Hero" is the best song in *Footloose*, according to Johnnie. He likes his job with us, for he says that he enjoys theatre and music in general. I'm sure that we all hope Sir Johnnie will return!

**Editor-in-Chief**

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# Weather Watch



Hot. Humid. Rainy.  
Miserable. Unless  
you're emo, then you  
probably love the rain  
because it reflects the  
way you feel inside.

## Kevin's Last Word

**By Kevin Delaney**  
**Assistant Editor**

Another summer has passed, and it's time to say goodbye.

To all you Grad IIs, I extend a sad farewell and let you know that you will not be forgotten. When asked about she felt about not being able to return next year, Nicole Higgins said, "It's depressing because I'm leaving a lot of friends and traditions behind." I know it must be sad but you'll never forget all the memories of your time here.

This year was perhaps the best yet and some students would like to share what they thought was the best thing this year. Alexis Nixon said "The best thing about GPGC this year was Aubrey and making fun of cripples." Many other students said that the

best part was the friends they made here and all the fun times they had. When asked what he would miss most, Tanner Martin said, "Everything."

It's true, just about everything at GPGC is great and we will miss all of it. Even though we will be leaving, a lot of the GPGC students will be returning. Alexis Nixon said, "I must obtain my seniority. You can run but you can't hide."

I hope that everyone who is able to return returns and that those who can't keep all of us at GPGC in their hearts, because we will. So again, I extend a sad farewell to all and hope to see everyone again. I hope you all have a fantastic year. (P.S. Everyone better come to the Christmas Party!)