

the thinker

Necessity of Funding

kathrynjames

Over the last 51 years, the Program has changed the lives of hundreds of people—and likely will for the next 50. However, in the current fiscal crisis, the Program is facing severe cuts from the state of Louisiana’s tightening budget.

There are some state-run programs that affect thousands of people daily—food stamps, public education, and state troopers. These are several of the activities the state wants to avoid cutting. Then there are budget cuts—like ours—that will affect fewer people: in our case,

only about 65 children, seven weeks a year. Budget cuts affect more people when the state puts two thousand dollars into food stamps than two thousand into one single child here at the Program, making that operation look like a better investment.

Mr. Brown doesn’t think the Program would be cut totally from the state’s budget, or at least thinks that chance is slim. Without any of the state’s resources at all, however, the Program would end. No one would be able to come—it would cost as much as a summer program at Duke or Stanford. Mr. Brown anticipates a 20 percent cut of the current funding. Without this money, the Program would probably not have a musical or a drama. Another possibility is that the Program would be six weeks, not seven. This has happened once before, either in 1985 or 1986.

Even though the Program might not reach as many people as other state-funded institutions, it is very important to those who attend. It changes lives, molds people. It not only grows minds but also whole people. The Program is crucial and needs to be preserved.



Counselors hard at work.

kennethmaniscalcosr.

Weekly Giftie Award

harrisonprehn

This week, as usual, someone pulled a stupid stunt that deserved to receive the Giftie Award. Avinash Pyla decided that it was a fantastic idea to completely ignore the sign-out system entirely, walk out the door, and go to the backyard—all without notifying a counselor. He got a one dollar ticket for this, but he could have been issued seven sign-out violation tickets. To top this, he soon after signed out to Kroger and didn’t sign back in, earning him another ticket worth five dollars.

Most people would, in the first situation, sign out and maybe forget the ETR or something along those lines. Avinash didn’t even retrieve his card to write *anything* on it. He didn’t just make a mistake within the sign-out system; he totally failed to use the system... at all.

Editor’s note: Avinash has not yet had the opportunity to contest these tickets. There may be a reasonable explanation for his actions.



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Editorial: Why So Serious?

jobiarceneaux

“Insubordination!” How many times have we heard a counselor threaten to issue a ticket in this offense? Counselors have been urged to use this ticket more frequently—more frequently than previous years. Beware, for this is a cover-all punishment. Although it may not be specifically written how many times you can run around in circles or scream somebody’s name, you can bet it would fit snugly under the insubordination blanket.

Recently I witnessed a certain student repeatedly doing something highly annoying in the lobby during a ping-pong match. After a counselor asked the student to stop what he was doing, he continued to do it. The counselor then threatened with an insubordination ticket. The Giftie took no heed to this warning and continued to act as if he knew no better. Finally, the ticket book came out and the pen was put to the paper. No getting around that one now; the insubordination ticket was issued.

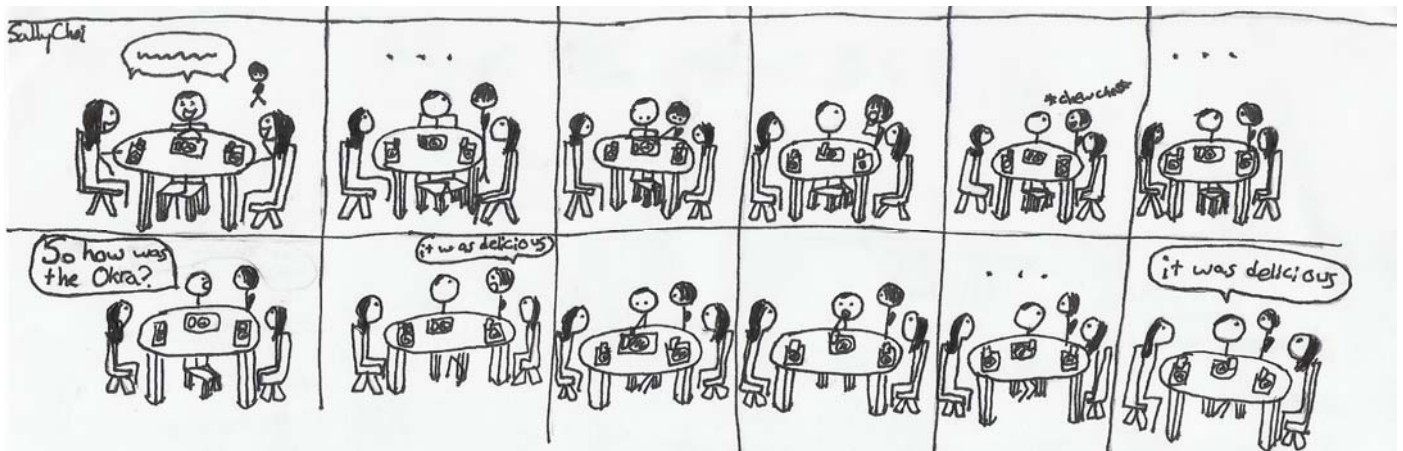
The Giftie seemed upset about this, and he tried to deny his actions and make off-the-wall excuses in hope that the ticket may be taken back. Alas, I saw nothing of the sort. The ticket went into the abysmal, evil ticket monster. Seeing a ticket issued normally upsets me, as I am a pretty sympathetic person, and I am a Beta who acts as a role model towards the impressionable younger children. Yet, instead of feeling bad for the student, I could not help but laugh.

Some students may be “asking for it” when being a particular nuisance, but others have quite a confused expression after being issued a ticket with “Reason: Insubordination” written. In this, I believe most insubordination tickets are given out of stupidity of the student. Now I know this sounds crude of me to say, but I can back it up with a phrase I hold to be true. A teacher of mine once told me, “Ignorance is doing something seemingly stupid, but the person doesn’t know any better, so they learn. Stupidity is doing something stupid, knowing better, and doing it regardless.” I think that most insubordination tickets are given due to

gifted stupidity—excuse the oxymoron.

Counselors have to love this ticket. Just about everything can fit into the category of insubordination, obviously after fair warning. Counselor Lauren Chambers says, “I think it’s a good ticket to have because we really can’t make a list of ticketable offenses that include [sic] everything; i.e. Chase... last year... watermelon... bathroom.” Her point is valid. So exactly how many insubordination tickets are racking up, and how is it to have them presented, and for the most part, contested at ticket court? “We always have at least a couple of insubordination tickets at ticket court,” says Gabriella Runnels, an Associate Justice. Watching Gifties contest undeniable insubordination offenses is always hysterical.

So why have insubordination tickets? A. “Reason: Stupid action” could not be taken seriously when issued on a ticket. B. Everything and anything can fit under the category of insubordination. C. Insubordination is a really fun word to say for ticketing reasons.



Word of the Week: liripoop

sallychoi

Ronnekia Johnson Liripoop is... some poop that sings eerie lyrics...as in smell.

Michelle Gabbert Umm... lyrics that have pooped... fear of poop.

Kaough Baggett Ok... sitting on a toilet singing a song and it is very majestic.

Rochelle Twymon Liripoop... hmm... probably the worst kind of poop there is... scary poop!

Devonté Aaron I don't know... liri-poop?... Poop that's liri.

Madeline Dunning A bottom feeder that lives in the Mediterranean Sea.

Laura Bowers Sounds like... a weather condition where it's extremely foggy.

Jaqueline Landry Being incredibly exhausted, as in *I feel like liripoop*.

Antoine Prader I love Sally Choi... poop while spinning in circles.

Actual Meaning a pendent part of the old clerical tippet; afterwards, a tippet; a scarf—worn also by doctors, learned men, etc.

Government Update

harrisonprehn

The government has just kicked off, and things look like they should be at full speed after the break. So far, the meetings have been about the beginnings of the government—Appropriations Bill amongst others. Now that all the new members of the Legislature have been introduced to the system and understand what they are supposed to be doing with their positions, things are looking better. At the most recent meeting, which happened Sunday night, two new movements were passed—one being a constitutional amendment stating that students can only run for the position of Justice if they are of third year standing or higher, the other being a bill clarifying the end-of-the-year t-shirt selection process, both written by Steven Childress.

The bill encountered great controversy with one of the faculty senators, our very own Coordinator of Housing, Kenneth Maniscalco. As originally proposed, the House of Representatives would hear all t-shirt designs and decide upon two; the

Senate would then select one of the two. The Vice President, a faculty senator, and the President Pro Tempore would break any final ties. Now, the President holds the power to break the tie and decide the shirt, instead of the Vice President because the designs now go through the Senate before they go to the House. The bill was voted upon as amended and passed unanimously. The constitutional amendment was much simpler, but Kenneth still had much to say about it. He thought that the reasoning stated was self-defeated and did not make sense. No new reasoning was proposed, yet the Vice President still called for a vote. To pass a constitutional amendment, a fourth-fifths vote in both houses of the Legislature is required. Kenneth abstained, but the three other student senators and the other faculty senator voted yes while the entire House voted yes unanimously. The government is getting back to a normal pace, and other new ideas are sure to be introduced soon.

7 Ways to Say: “mango”

arianagiambrone

[noun] The oblong, sweet fruit of a tropical tree.

Dutch “handgreep”

French “mangue”

German “griff”

Italian “maniglia”

Portuguese “alça”

Spanish “chuchillo”

Swedish “skaft”

Thinker Articles
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Movie Review: *Transformers*

stevenchildress

So Megan Fox... no I'm kidding. But seriously, *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*. Its wit shone through its immaculate blend of humor and action. However, I had several issues with the movie as a whole.

The plot often seemed overdeveloped, as I find most sequels' plots to be. The action, on the other hand, made the movie worthwhile. The intense robot fight scenes always seemed fresh and exciting. However, the final, climatic fight seemed nearly insignificant and all too abbreviated.

The introduction of new robots both excited me and disappointed me. At times they were both funny and interesting and at others random and unimportant. After two years of preparation—it took a large amount of time to produce the movie because of the Writer's Strike delay—the new characters should have been more coherent.

I was also incredibly unconvinced by

some of the characters' actions and extreme trust. The movie often requires extreme suspension of disbelief. For ex-



ample, nearly every character has nearly no issues with trusting Sam Witwicky, the main character played by Shia LeBeouf—

despite his/her prior relationship to Sam. I found that most characters were also often too unrealistically obedient, even in situations when they likely would not have been. If some of the scenes or actions had been more believable, the movie as a whole would have been more enjoyable.

Though in praise, I must say, the cinematography was very well done. Every scene, especially action-heavy ones, were inviting and appealing to the audience, to both the eye and ear. In fact, Linkin Park—whose 2007 hit “What I’ve Done” was used in the original *Transformers* live-action movie—wrote and released the movie’s theme song, titled “New Divide,” which was used as background music in several scenes throughout and in full-blast during the credits. The movie’s music composer, Steve Jabonsky, pieced together an incredible soundtrack. The visual effects team also effectively incorporated original movie effects to piece together the movie as a whole.

SYNTAX ERROR



jobiarceneaux

While we are sitting in class,
Assigned are many astro calculations.
Nobody dares to ask
Out of confused frustration.

We get back to the dorm,
And attempt to plug in the numbers.
The calculator cannot make the numerals form,
Making figure blunders.

With multiple formulas to find
And numerous calculations unfair,
This will undoubtedly and scientifically blow our minds,
Thanks to the wonderful syntax error.

**Miles to Go
FINAL DUE DATE
Monday, July 6**

**Bring submissions
from home!**

miles.to.go.2009@gmail.com

Top 10. GPGC Survival Tips

jobiarceneaux

10. Learn to sing and dance. It will come in handy.
9. Know that candy offered by seniors is either a test in a senior project or a rig into getting money for senior store.
8. The grads will not eat you...they already know that they are cooler and pose a threat.
7. Don't ever try walking the pipes or think about taking a swim in the Contraband.
6. Three or less hours of sleep per night is okay.
5. Keep a safe distance between cheerleaders/dancers/athletes and their food.
4. Shirk off everything until the last minute. Procrastination.
3. Tell "Kenneth's mom..." jokes while Kenneth is right behind you.
2. "Why yes, our shirts are in English."
1. Insubordination is now the "it" thing since the red Brain Buck.

Seen and Heard

kathrynjames

The best reaction to someone telling you to be less violent is to punch a wall.
Harrison Prehn

I wish I were cheese and noodles! So I could eat myself.
Bertrand Donnes

Bertrand, that's disgusting.
Kaitlin Locascio

Being an ice cube would be the best life ever. I wanna chill with all the other ice cubes in beverages.
Harrison Prehn

I just wanna grab a ping-pong ball and bite it in half like ARRRRRRGG. Like Harrison.
Brennen Brown

You go down the slide at Burger King with Crocs on, you feel like Spider- Man.
Kyle Blanchard

I could deal with it, if only he looked good.
Jobi Arceneaux

Alright alright! You're worthless. You're just worthless!
Steven Childress in Harrison Prehn's Voice

**SENIOR
STORE**
So much better
than the vending
machines
(and cheaper)!

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