

THE BURROW

The Student Newspaper of Hamilton County Senior High School

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October 2005

Mt. Vernon Teacher Conference

By Callan Howton
The Burrow

Near the end of October, students have two days off. Even though students are not in school, teachers are continuing to put out efforts to further their education. All faculty involved directly with student contact are expected to attend the conference. The conference is a paid work day if teachers attend.

"We go to different sessions during the day and there are presenters that talk

to us. They talk about different general education issues or in some instances they talk about specific subjects, such as math in my case," said Mr. David Allen. Mrs. Deborah Vaughan thinks the conference is "a good way to meet teachers from other areas." She also made the comment, "I would like for there to be more presentations on high school."

"I mostly like the parts of conference that apply to me," said Mr. Brian Ward. Allen seemed to agree when he responded, "Yes, I do enjoy it." Science teacher, Ms. Hall, has never attended the

conference but says she is "very excited about going." Vaughan thinks "The conference gets you excited again."

The state requires teachers to earn 120 credits every 5 years in order to be recertified. The Conference can count from 8-10 credits. But going gets teach-

ers more than just required credits. "We learn different ways of teaching and many teaching innovations," said Allen. Vaughan seems to agree with her comment, "Yeah, the conference benefits us because it can be motivational." Ward also agrees the conference is beneficial.

People behind the scenes

By Abby Hill
The Burrow

When a person pulls up to our school, they are generally impressed. Outside the lawns are well-kept, there is no trash and the fields look neat. Inside, the floors are clean and buffed, the lockers are clean and each room is tidy. However, it is not as simple as people may think it is.

The upkeep of this school is very important to taxpayers, our community, and the surrounding communities. The custodians sometimes put in ten to twelve hours a day to make this school look appealing. When other school members come in for games or competitions and

see the fields and gyms they expect to see something nice and that is generally what they encounter. Senior, Lindsay Breiling, varsity volleyball player, said, "[Custodians] are very good about always having the nets up for practice and games. Also, the locker rooms are very clean compared to other schools."

Some people just want to graduate and get out of here and that is their main concern, but look around, Hamilton County does have a really nice school that is taken care of very well. So when Max Drone, Alan Miles, Kenny Schuster, or Ron Smith passes by tell him "thanks". Because, after all, he is keeping the school that represents us presentable.



Ron Smith takes a break to pose for the camera. Photo by Travis Ackley.

And the Beat Goes On

By Caleb Miller
The Burrow

This year's half-time shows at the football games have a little more boom and crash due to the addition of the new enthusiastic drum-line.

After the line's first performance, cheers filled the stands and it was obvious that the crowd really enjoyed the show. Before the game, the drummers weren't quite certain how the crowd would react. Senior tri-tom player, Jesse Vineyard said, "I was pretty scared that they would either laugh or just think we

sounded terrible, but they were going nuts! That made it really easy for me to just hang loose and bang away."

The drum-line consists of four base drummers freshmen, Tyler Ford and Alec Vineyard, and sophomores Jody Webb and Jacob Bell; two tri-tom players, freshman Katlyn Sloan and senior Jesse Vineyard; two snare drummers, sophomore Jared Russell and junior Amy Litherland; one cymbal player, senior Eric Friedrich; and of course, last but not least, a cow bell player, junior Colten Flannigan.

The drum-line is now in the process of learning a new routine which will have

a little more difficulty than the last according to the director Mr. Brock-Jones. Mr. Brock Jones is "very confident that they will be able to have it worked up very soon."

"With the dedication, talent, and persistence that is in this group, the possibilities are endless. We're really hoping to have a new routine ready in time for the basketball season. When we get it all together, I'm sure that it will completely wow the audience." Mr. Brock-Jones enthusiastically stated.

Check out these HOT stories inside.

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Junior, Amy Litherland



Sophomore, Jody Webb



Senior, Jesse Vineyard

Freedom of choice makes America great

By Nick Holloman
The Burrow



Over the past several years many issues have been brought before the Supreme Court and the minds of Americans everywhere. I believe no matter the debate people should think about them as only Americans, not letting religious bias cloud their judgment. We can all agree on one thing, that if you are a citizen of the United States you are an American.

One of the recent issues is the California's ninth circuit's decision on the Pledge being unconstitutional. I for one support that ruling from an American stand point. The First Amendment clearly states "Congress shall make no

law respecting an establishment of religion". By reciting "under God" you are clearing agreeing that America is one nation under God, be it the God that is written in the Christian Bible, or another deity. Fair enough for most people, but what about the Atheists, and religions that believe in no deity or many deities? Which is why I believe that you should be free to choose whether or not you honor our country by reciting the pledge or not, or even changing some of the words around to suit your views. Junior, Josh Denham agrees "People should be able to [recite] it if they want" and continues with "and they should be allowed not to [recite] it."

As a devout American, from my point of view, and a member of a Christian Church I have no problem with reciting the pledge as it is in school. But its because I am a devout American, why I am obligated to speak out why it is fair for people like Michael Newdow, to fight for his beliefs. People say "are we going to have to take 'In God We Trust' (IGWT) from our currency to make it politically correct?" I say "no" because IGWT is part of our heritage it has been that way since the founding of this republic, and I say that we must all accept our heritage as Americans. The "Under God" isn't part of our heritage, it was added to the Pledge in 1954 to fight communism in the cold war.

So much work so little time

By Brandon Miller
The Burrow

Essays, and projects, and tests, oh no! These things are part of the daily lives of students and teachers here at HCHS, but when you throw holidays and snow days into the equation, daily life gets a little more complicated.

State standards urge schools to push students to excel on tests, such as the ACT, SAT, Prairie State, etc. To do this, students must know the material, and the

teachers must teach it. But it's hard to find the time to cover necessary material when holiday and conference laden months like October, November, and December roll around. Excluding Spring and Christmas vacations, the second quarter has more days off than the entire second semester.

Some students think the breaks in the schedule are well earned vacations from the constant struggle for excellence, but for others it just makes coming back to school after the weekend even harder.



2005 Homecoming Queen Jessica Whitlow and her court. From left to right: Cullen Bond, Mollie Gonzalez, Danny Windings, Katie Karcher, Jerrod McGill, Haylee McPeak, Kenvin Waier, Jessica Whitlow, Cedrik Graham, Cameron Grey, Brianna Bowman, Grace Lueke, Nikki Furtak, Frankie Files, Lauren Edwards, Nick Walls, Sarah Ayt, and Eric White.



The American flag is a symbol of hope when disaster strikes.

To pledge or not to pledge?

By Stephanie Hart
The Burrow

The Pledge of Allegiance was ruled to be unconstitutional by the 9th Circuit court of Appeals, the most overturned appeals court in the country. Many state and federal officials were outraged by the liberal decision. Dennis Hastert (Republican House speaker for Illinois) said, "Obviously, the liberal court in San Francisco has gotten this one wrong." The ruling doesn't look like it will stand much longer, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution 99-0, "expressing support of the flag." Senator Kit Bond (Republican-Missouri) said "Our Founding fathers must be spinning in their graves. This is the worst kind of political correctness run amok." Ari Fleischer (The White House Press Secretary) said, "The view of the White House is that this was a wrong decision and the Department of Justice is now evaluating how to seek redress."

After hearing the about the 9th Circuit Court's decision, I had a reaction similar to the majority of Washington. The Pledge of Allegiance being ruled Unconstitutional is the most oxymoronic thing I believe I've ever heard in my life. The American Flag is a symbol of freedom that has stood throughout the centuries. It has united a group of diverse people into a multicultural collage. This "Melting Pot" would otherwise have failed if it had not been backed up by the hard work and dedication given by the people who did courageous acts in the name of that very flag. I believe whenever people are receiving a cheap, if not free, education, they should feel obligated, out of



respect, to say the pledge. Junior, Melyssa Hart has a few opinions of her own about the court ruling: "I don't believe the case made any sense, no one was being forced to say the pledge, they were just exposed to other people saying it. We go through life hearing things we don't agree with, that doesn't mean we have to make a federal case over every little thing that offends us."

As Americans, we have the responsibility of making sure our patriotism as a whole doesn't die. Our patriotism is the glue that holds our diverse culture together. If the children of our country can't stand together every morning, put their hands over their hearts and say the pledge of allegiance, how can we expect them to break the barriers of race and religion?

THE GOOD



3 Days Off
Free Candy on Halloween
Fall Sports Teams

THE BAD



End of the Quarter Projects

THE UGLY



Still Dealing with the Hurricane Wrath

1st National constitution Day a success!

By Nick Holloman
The Burrow

September 17th was just another insignificant day for most people especially if they didn't pay close attention in history. But nonetheless 218 Years ago on that day 39 delegates representing all 13 states, signed the paper that would become our Constitution. The foundation for our government, and our rights as citizens of the U.S.A. The forging of this "Constitution" would be history in the making. Not since the Roman Republic 2000 years ago has a democracy ruled a country.



Senator Byrd never leaves home without his trusty pocket edition of the U.S. Constitution.

Though for most people Sept. 17 came and went by without a second glance, but not this year. In 2004 George Bush signed a bill stating that all federally funded institutes, including public schools would celebrate the constitution on September, 17 dubbed "Constitution Day". Senator Robert Byrd was a huge supporter of this bill, and felt that the majority of Americans didn't know enough about our Government's founding.



Juniors, Luke Thomas and Adrea Evans work on Constitution Day activities in English III/CP.

Several students said our school did a sufficient job on teaching us about the Constitution. Sophomore, Devin Webb said "Mr. Johnson did a great job on teaching us." With Erin Morris's opinion "Mrs. Lueke made me want to learn more about the Constitution " Hopefully our school's faculty can feel like they did their part in enlightening us about the foundation this great country is built on.

Slip on bananas

By Katie Kimble
The Burrow

Scientists have discovered that America's beloved banana may only be here for 5 or 10 more years. The average American eats 26.2 pounds of bananas per year, and the favorite banana variety is called the Cavendish. Many wonder how a fruit this perfect, a fruit that has been farmed by humans for nearly 15,000 years, could suddenly be in grave jeopardy.

The truth is that this scenario has happened before, around 1960. Before the much-loved Cavendish was widely used, Americans and Europeans alike were munching on the variety of banana called the Gros Michel, or Big Mike. At the turn of the 19th century, a fungus named Panama disease attacked the Big Mike trees in Suriname. It quickly moved through the Caribbean and into Honduras, which was then the number one banana producer in the world. Growers realized the extent of the damage, panicked, and struggled to revive the banana population. The result was the loss of millions of acres of rainforest at a very high financial price for the farmers. By 1960, the farmers were broke, and the future of the fruit was hanging in the balance.

Enter the Cavendish. Not quite as large and tasty as the Big Mike, but it was resistant to the very disease that accounted for Big Mike's downfall. The Cavendish banana worked it's way past apples into becoming America's favorite fruit, but was again threatened by the Panama disease. In 1992, a new strain of the Panama disease (called Panama

disease Race 4) was discovered in Asia, and had the ability to affect the Cavendish. Ever since, the infection has blotted out plantations across much of Asia, and scientists are worried that it is headed for Latin America and Africa.

What makes the banana so susceptible to disease is the fact that the bananas don't have seeds, so they reproduce asexually. The result is that each Cavendish banana ever grown has exactly the same genetic makeup as every other Cavendish banana in the world. That is great, when you have a banana that's virtually indestructible. The downside is that what ails one banana can infect every other banana, which can be devastating.

This may not be a big deal for Americans because we have more than just bananas to eat, and if this banana were to go extinct, it would not be a huge deal. But according to Rony Swenen, the director of the Lab of Tropical Crop Improvement at a university in Lueven, Belgium, the Cavendish banana extinction could be disastrous. In an interview done by Popular Science magazine, Swenen said that in some densely populated African countries Cavendish bananas are the peoples' main source of food. Without these bananas, several countries in Africa could face the equivalent of the Irish Potato Famine, and according to Swenen, 20 million people would be forced into "massive destabilization."

Scientists are predicting the cherished Cavendish has 5 to 10 years until it meets its depressing fate, and meanwhile they are trying to engineer the banana to resist the disease. Apple pie, anyone?

Got I.C.E.?

By Brittney Heil
The Burrow

Something as little as three letters in your cell phone can save your life. Bob Brotchie, from the East Anglian Ambulance Service, thought that putting the letters ICE plus the name and number of your contact could help the police or paramedics save your life. *Ice*, standing for In Case of Emergency, could be a big help if you were in an accident or situation in which you couldn't talk. All cell phone users are urged to use *Ice* as a heading in their phone.

You never know when something horrible could happen. What if you

were in an accident, no condition to speak, and no ID on you? What would the police or paramedics do? The police might not know who to contact first. The next best thing is your phone, and when you're in trouble they need information fast so they can give you the medical attention you need. In that case, they could go to the contact list in your phone and when they see the three-lettered word *Ice* they know to call that person first.

"I don't think a lot of people will take 'Ice' seriously, but it could end up saving your life," junior, Adrea Evans said. "I've already added my mom's number under ICE," Evans added. People might blow it off, but just remember, it could save your life.

Here today gone tomorrow

By Brian Harland
The Burrow

August 18, the first day of school after a long summer vacation. We all remember it like it was yesterday. You see all your old friends and maybe make some new ones. Although the beginning of the year remains fresh in our minds, the end of the first quarter draws closer with every ring of the bell. On October 21 we are forced to say good-bye to first quarter and welcome in the start of the next.

"It's gone by so fast," Sophomore Nicholas Burke states. As of October 20, pupils have been in attendance a total of 44 days. According to Band

Director Mr. Jerry Brock-Jones, "Due to the busy schedules it has been moving right along. It will be January before you know it."

The beginning of the year "mercy" has worn off and the teachers begin to bear down with their work. First quarter projects are being put together at the last minute as teachers are overwhelmed with putting their grades together. The weather gets colder as the work gets harder.

Even though first quarter is about over we have a lot of bigger and better things to look forward to in the second. Basketball season, Thanksgiving Break, Christmas Break, snow days, and Christmas programs are just some of the things that second quarter has to offer.

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That's a lotta bull!

 **By Travis Ackley**
The Burrow

Imagine being in a tight, square cage. You're straddling a furious animal that weighs around a ton. It's completely safe for the time being, but you know that any second now the gate will be pulled open. When that happens, everything changes. You go from a stand-still to a whirling, twirling, jumping, and bucking escapade in which you will never come out on top. Which is why, in the dangerous sport of bull-riding, the participants are judged by mere seconds. Eight seconds is the ideal time for a bull-rider. That may seem short, but ask any rider and they'll say it is an eternity.

In the world of bull-riding there are no seatbelts and there is no such thing as a mulligan. So why would you want to ride a bull? Hamilton County Sophomore, Jordan Hamson, one of the few who has chosen time and time again to put himself into the previously mentioned position had this to say, "I have always wanted to ride bulls. I can't really explain it; it's just something that I have wanted to do since I was a kid."

It is clear that Hamson enjoys being in the rodeo, but the riders aren't the only ones having a good time. Rodeos attract tons of fans every year, especially in rural areas

such as ours. Freshman, Kandi Webb, who attended a rodeo at which Hamson participated, said her favorite part was seeing him get bucked off, "It looked like it hurt," she added.

According to Hamson, that's the hardest part of riding, "it's not easy to get off the bull safely, you really have to do it a certain way or you could get hurt," said Hamson. Getting hurt is a pretty common thing in the high school rodeo association that Hamson belongs to, as well as in all other rodeo associations. "My mom doesn't really like the fact that I could get hurt on any given day, but that's just part of it. You just have to stay focused and try not to think about what could happen," said Hamson.

It is hard to explain the attraction that we have for the rodeo. People have been drawn to it for decades now, whether they are spectators or participants. One of the most famous opinions on what is special about the rodeo is the single "Rodeo", made popular by country sensation Garth Brooks.

"It's the bulls and blood. The dust and mud. The roar of the Sunday crowd. It's the white in his knuckles. The gold in the buckle. He'll win the next go 'round. It's boots and chaps. It's cowboy hats. It's spurs and latigo. It's the ropes and the reins, and the joy and the pain. And they call the thing rodeo."



Tile portrays artistic ability of mythology students

Mythical tiles of creativity

 **By Aaron Trotter**
The Burrow

When someone walks into Mr. Johnson's classroom, most would consider it a normal room. But when he cocks his head back and takes a look up at the ceiling, his eyes are filled with exotic images of Roman, Greek, and urban mythology.

The drawings have been created by past mythology students, and new drawings push out the old with every year.

When asked why he started the drawings, Mr. Johnson replied with a deep thought. "It is my attempt as a teacher to rekindle the love students have for their work in the same way they loved their work in early grade school. I

like making school fun again. Let's expose ourselves to more than what history says is education. Let's do something that is not a research paper. Let's get outside the box. This project allows them to do just that."

He also added, "This project exposes them to areas of mythology that they normally wouldn't be exposed to."

Mythology students also have a positive outlook on the drawings. Senior Troy Harland is drawing the Greek god of war, Ares. When asked why, he replied, "Because he is the god of war. He is awesome!" "The detail of the whole drawing is the best part of this project," said senior Bryan Moore. Senior Erica Anselment mentioned that, "It is the most artistic thing I have had to do [through] all of high school."

Ultimate Fighting Championship

 **By Devane Prince**
The Burrow

In November of 1993, an event took place which would redefine the martial arts community. This event was known as the Ultimate Fighting Championship, an idea

conceived by a number of people.

This event featured eight martial artists of different styles and experiences in a winner take all tournament. The event was billed as having no rules and was the first of its kind in North America. This unique event did in fact have two rules (no biting or eye-gouging). The fighting would take

place in an unconventional octagon shaped ring.

The UFC was a way for new and old martial artists to practice their fighting style. The sport remained underground for numerous years before it finally broke on to pay-per-view and then eventually on to television with events and even a reality show (The Ultimate Fighter on Spike TV).

"Ultimate Fighting is the best thing on television. I love it.", said sophomore Ricky McVay.

In many peoples eyes ultimate fighting is not a form of entertainment and many think it should be banned. They think that fighting is barbaric and that fighters should be prosecuted by law. In January 1997

New York Governor George E. Pataki banned ultimate fighting in New York

"Ultimate Fighting is not a sport by any stretch of the imagination" said Governor Pataki. He later added "Combative sporting matches that condone the use of savage and violent behavior for entertainment purposes have absolutely no social value in a civilized and rational society."

The fact is still undeniable that Ultimate Fighting is still around and is legal in 19 states. As the sport continues to grow there will be more that are for and more that are against the sport. Only you can decide whether it's morally acceptable, and whether you accept it as a sport or as a form of entertainment.

Love for a coach

 **By Amanda McEwen**
The Burrow

Coaches and players have an unbreakable bond. When it comes to coaching and playing football there is a time of respect and getting down to business and then a time of fun. When asking several football players if they respect their coach they responded with comments such as, "definitely", "oh yeah", and the plain and simple "yes".

Not only did they give me straightforward answers, some went into depth of why they respect their coach. "I respect Coach Rush because he pushes you to your greatest potential. He won't let you slack off or get off your goal for a second. Anything you do wrong he's on you 'til you do it right. No matter if it's in the weight room, practice, or in film, and I love him for that," says Senior, #32 wide receiver and free safety, Cedrick Graham. Junior, #55 center and defense tackle, Eric White stated, "I respect Coach because if you don't have respect for your coaches or your teammates then you can't function as a team."

Some see their relationship with their coach as a father figure. "I think players and coaches are like a father son type relationship. Because when you need help or something happens to you in your life you should be able to go to Coach," says Graham. "A coach/player relationship is about like a father with way too many sons... It's a situation where the coach criti-

cizes and disciplines when needed, but always keeps his respect and all the players can't help but to look up to him," stated Senior, #3 middle linebacker and full back, Jerrod McGill.

When it comes to a coaches relationships with his players, no know will ever really know how their connection truly is. From talking with these young men I got the idea that their relationship with their coach was nothing but a good one. "There are a lot of things I like about Coach Rush that a lot of students don't know. Coach Rush teaches his players about life after practice and life after football, as well as high school," says Graham.

McLeansboro is lucky to have such a great Coach, and the players will be the first to tell you. "Ah man, there's a lot I like about Coach Rush. His intensity is awesome. He's always alive and never dull. He see's about every flaw and pretends like he has a remedy, even if he doesn't. (Ha, just playing, he always does.) His playback is so much more in depth than in past years. I really respect his support for FCA and how he involves Christ in football. Really, I could go on forever. To sum it up, Coach Rush is just one heck of a guy!" McGill stated.

Freshman, #79, James Taylor on the offensive line said, "A coach and a player should always be there for one another. The coach should show consideration for the team and have fun with the game and we as players should try to set a good sportsmanship example."

Youth Group



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What is your full name? Zebulen Isiah Gidcumb
How old are you? 16
Do you have a job? Yes
If so where? Mow for parents business
For how long? 1 year
Do you enjoy your job? No
What are your hobbies? Sports
What kind of music do you like? Country



What is your full name? Elizabeth Noel Marie Peak
How old are you? 16
What kind of car do you drive? Toyota Echo and Ford Ranger
What kind of car would you like to drive? Camaro
Do you have a job? Yes
If so where? McDonalds
For how long? A little over a month
Do you enjoy your job? Its okay
What are your hobbies? Singing, talking to friends and driving around
What kind of music do you like? Country, rap, rock
What is your favorite movie? The Notebook

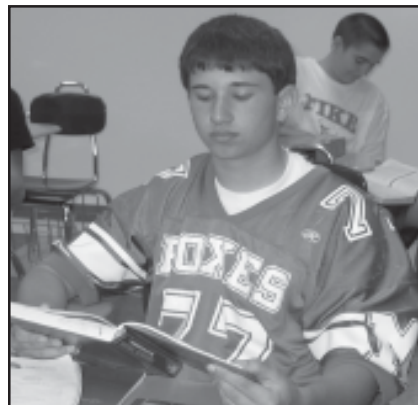


What does your dream man look like? Dark hair, athletic, pierced ear, tattooed arm
What would be your dream vacation? Hawaii, Bahamas, or Cancun



What is your full name? Brittany Ann Wagner
How old are you? 18
What kind of car would you like to drive? 1967 Mustang GT Convertible


Do you have a job? Yes
If so where? Part-time at GranGran's Cafe
For how long? 2 months
Do you enjoy your job? Yes
What are your hobbies? Music, poetry, and hiking
What kind of music do you like? Rock; anything that sounds good
What is your favorite movie? Twister
What does your dream man look like? He just looks good to me, nothing special
What would be your dream vacation? An all-expense paid trip to Ireland.



What is your full name? Benjamin Charles Scattone
How old are you? 15

What kind of car would you like to drive? Lamborghini Diablo
Do you have a job? No
What are your hobbies? Playing sports, hanging out with friends, playing video games, and riding dirt bikes
What kind of music do you like? Rock, alternative rock
What is your favorite movie? Friday Night Lights
What does your dream woman look like? Brown hair, kind of tall, and a nice body
What would be your dream vacation? Going to Australia

Stepping into the real world

 **By Callan Howton**
The Burrow


McLeansboro is no big city. But what is it like going into the "real world"? College Senior, Kevin Mayberry, attended McLeansboro High School, Once he graduated he went to Rend Lake and now is attending SIU. Ms. Katie Crain graduated from McLeansboro High School in 1997. She then went on to attend Eastern Illinois University. She now has her Bachelor of Arts with a major in history.

Mayberry says, "The biggest difference in high school and college is the number of people you're surrounded by." 30,000 students attend SIU, that's the city of McLeansboro times 10. Since there's a lot more people you obviously make a lot more friends. Crain says, "The

biggest difference in high school and college is the work, your assignments." Mayberry says that there is somewhat of a shock going from the small town life to college. Although he did not go too far, there was still a big change. Crain, who went farther away than Mayberry, says she "doesn't think there is a big shock between the two lives."

Mayberry likes college better because "you have open campus and you are not required to go to class every day." "Teachers teach more on instruction not just material," says Mayberry.

"I also like college because I know I'll have the satisfaction of having a bachelor's degree after all this hard work!" stated Mayberry. Crain agrees that she too had satisfaction after graduating with a bachelor degree. Both Mayberry and Crain agree that they did enjoy their college experiences.

 **By Autumn Dixon**
The Burrow

Footrace for babies, school store, t-shirts for sale. These are just a few of the things FBLA does for Hamilton County Sr. High.

Every year in October, FBLA holds a Halloween Party for the members of the organization, and for every party the members collect for the Crisis Closet. Senior Alicia Meadows, President of the organization was asked the purpose of this event. "It supplies people with food that need it and it helps the community." The Crisis Closet gives the people of McLeansboro help and support. Not everyone can afford to eat everyday and the Crisis Closet helps with that. They also help with keeping clothes on people's backs. Meadows was asked if she thought it brought the organization together more as a whole. "Yes, because it is almost a competition between the members. A few weeks before the party, Mrs. Auten gives us a list and its funny to sit and listen to them discuss whether or not their mom really needs that can good because they think that it'll be the one worth more points. The members don't know the points on the items, we don't find out what they are until we get to the party and start counting things out."

The Crisis Closet is the main thing FBLA is working on right now. FBLA members will be dressed up this Halloween and trick-or-treating for the Crisis Closet. It's a new way to see how much they can collect while having fun. This may seem as though it is only FBLA but when asked Meadows commented, "We usually don't have the student body help, but if they are willing they can ask either me or Mrs. Auten for more information. Or look for high school trick-or-treaters collecting for the Crisis Closet on the towns trick-or-treat night."

Trick-or-treat

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Countin' down the days

 **By Brian Harland**
The Burrow


Brian Harland
Students Start Your Engines
News
Picture:
Photo taken by:
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The anxiety builds as the day draws closer when they can finally put their hands on the

wheel and foot on the petal. The Driver's Education classes have recently been learning the rules and procedures of driving. After long days of stress and studying, students will be receiving their permits soon but not soon enough.

Although the students will still have some time before receiving their actual license, the excitement can still be felt from the applicants. The classroom tests have been taken and the state test that all former Driver's Ed. students can remember so well was given October 4. The

New Orleans residents head back for another round

 **By Amanda McEwen**
The Burrow

Tens of thousands of New Orleans residents desolated by Hurricane Katrina remain housed in temporary shelters across the United States, although some are slowly returning home.

Businesses are beginning to start up, and services are being repaired. To many people's surprise the French Quarter and many of New Orleans architectural assets came out of the Hurricane in excellent shape. This will eventually be a great gain to the New Orleanians and their economy once tourism starts back up again. Many see the rebuilding of New Orleans as an opportunity to blend the new and old into an even more exciting city.


New Orleans's mayor, Ray Nagin, is indecisive in the manner of when locals should return. While at one point in the last few weeks he encouraged residents to start heading back to their homes, now he isn't so sure. After consulting with the Environmental Protection Administration and the Centers for Disease Control, Nagin is far more cautious about the return to New Orleans. Senior, Cedrick Graham, feels Ray Nagin approached the situation in the wrong way, "I think he spoke too fast, he should have

discussing the responsibilities of Katrina's death toll stands at 810 people, including residents back to New Orleans. Murphy's law says Katrina a few more victims. Drinking water is not available, along with sewage and electricity. The levees are also being closely monitored. Jeff Robinson of them breaking during another storm. After the hurricane hit, the debris-filled water became a breeding ground for diseases. Next time you grab your keys and head over the door, remember that there are new faces on the road. So keep your red heads and people who die due to water contamination. They should just wait until everything is cleaned up. There are nice people taking these residents in until they get back onto their feet," states Graham.

While some are returning others feel it is necessary to have an evacuation plan before people start going back to the city. Having such a significant amount of people almost demands such a plan to be made.

When America's New Orleanians needed us the most, we were there. And our outpouring of hospitality, sympathy, and support all across America has lifted their spirits and given hope when they were in need of it most.

Pupil Enrichment Program

 **By Brandon Miller**
The Burrow

Brandon Miller
Pupil Enrichment Program
News

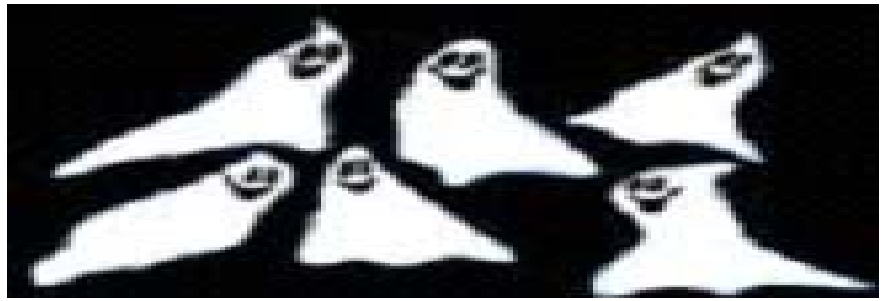
P.E.P, better known to some as "Gifted", is a program dedicated to the cultural, social, and educational development of its student members. Its purpose is to expose exceptional students to experiences they might not otherwise have the opportunity to be involved in.

Mrs. Vicki Ellingsworth, P.E.P. coordinator, plans various enrichment trips for members to attend. Last year P.E.P. students were offered the chance to visit the campuses of the University of Illinois and the University of Southern Indiana. Students were also given the opportunity to attend plays

and seminars to further their cultural appreciation.

To be in P.E.P., one must pass certain steps in the yearly screening procedure. According to the Hamilton County Parent-Student Handbook, all students who score at or above the 94% total battery of a standardized achievement test are potential members. Next, most recent IQ scores are surveyed and only students with an IQ of 120 or above are accepted. Then teachers fill out checklists and students are chosen based on a combination of their scores on the steps of the screening process. Once a member of P.E.P., students must maintain a minimum of 85% in every subject to participate in the enrichment trips.

Certain P.E.P students may also attend the annual Olympiad held in Mt. Vernon. Olympiad participants are chosen based on teacher recommendation.



The Celts believed that ghosts mingled with the living world.

Halloween: evil or not

Sara Veatch

 **By Sara Veatch**

The Burrow
Picture saved as: Ghost Picture for story Halloween, Evil or Not
Caption: The Celts believed that ghosts mingled with the living world.

Halloween. We all know what it means, or do we? It is that time of year again, time for dressing up, trick-or-treating and of course, toilet papering. That is what Halloween generally means to most of us, but how did Halloween get started and why? As I researched this subject, I realized just how little I actually knew about it.

The origin of Halloween, or "All Hallows Eve," takes us back more than 2000 years. The word itself, "Halloween," comes from the Catholic Church. The Catholics observe "All Hallows Day" or "All Saints Day" on November 1. In Celtic Ireland, in the 5th century BC, summer ended on the day of October 31. The Celtic New Year was called Samhain. The Celts believed that the spirit world could interact with the living world. They believed that on All Hallows Eve, the day before All Saints Day, ghostly spirits of all of the

people who had died in the previous year would come back to find living people to possess for the next year. Of course, the living did not want this to happen so they would do things to try and prevent it. They would try to make their homes undesirable by extinguishing the fires in the homes.

They would also dress up in scary costumes and walk around the neighborhood to try and scare the spirits. Some believe that the Celts would burn someone, who was already thought to be possessed, at the stake, to teach the spirits a lesson.

The customs of Halloween changed over time. They became more ritualized. The practice of dressing up took more of a ceremonial role because the belief in spirit possession declined. The act of dressing up is

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The start of a tradition



Football boys enjoy a meal together prior to their Friday night football game. Photo taken by Callan Howton



By Devane Prince
The Burrow

There is a buzz in the air. It is a buzz generated by a winning football team. Our football program is in the best shape it has been in recent memory, and the team and the community are catching playoff fever.

Many people would contribute this success to hard work and effort put in by the players. What most people don't realize is the football team is not a team

without the support of the school and the local community.

An example of this great support has been shown by the area churches. Every Thursday night the football team travels to a different church for a pre-game meal.

"It's been great, the churches have made great food, and have decorated really nice" said sophomore Luke Bowman.

"We really appreciate the time and the effort churches spend getting ready for us" said sophomore Holden Jackson.

Hopefully this is a community effort that will turn into a tradition.

Busch Stadium: the final season



By Brittney Heil
The Burrow

It's now October and another season of Major League baseball is coming to an end. It's not the only thing coming to an end though. This will be the final season for Busch Stadium. So many hate to see it go, but for others it's a new beginning for the ever-improving St. Louis Cardinals.

"Yeah, I will miss Busch Stadium because of all the memories I've had there." junior Jake Welch said. It will be a ballpark that won't be forgotten as many families think of the countless times they've attended Cardinal ballgames. Even though it will be sad to see the stadium go, there is still some looking forward to the new Busch Stadium. "I'm looking forward to many fun times that will be made at the new ballpark." freshman Libby Cox stated.

On May 12, 1966 they opened the Busch Memorial Stadium in downtown St. Louis. It's been 38 years of many ballgames in the old Busch Memorial Stadium, and now they're shooting for the new Busch Stadium to be opened by spring of 2006. There will be many new additions with this stadium such as the

public plaza that will provide a spot for fans to gather before and after the games. They've also decided to build "Ballpark Village" which will be located adjacent to left field. It won't get to be opened to the public as soon as the stadium opens, but plans to be by fall of 2006. In the new stadium, left field will be open for anyone in the city. It will allow people in the city to get a view of the game all the way up to home plate.

Busch Stadium will be a stadium some Cardinal fans won't want to forget. In that case, they want to get anything from the stadium they can. They will be selling anything from the seats, to even the urinals! Some of them are getting sold for several hundred dollars at an auction they're planning on having Thanksgiving weekend. The team expects to make around five million dollars from selling pieces of the stadium. Even local teacher Mr. Roger Lee has planned on buying one of the seats from the old stadium. "I should get the seat six weeks after the last game is played at Busch Stadium," Lee said. The back of the seat will be autographed by famous baseball players Stan Musial, Ozzie Smith, Bob Gibson, Lou Brock and Red Schoendienst. It will be a great thing to have in anyone's home to be reminded of the great Busch Memorial Stadium.

Lakers back on track



By Caleb Kirsch
The Burrow

Phil Jackson is known as one of the best NBA coaches of all-time, and is looking to add to that chapter in the 2005 season.

Jackson retired following the 2004 NBA Finals after a shocking loss to the Detroit Pistons. The Lakers are in need for a coach, after coming off one of the team's worst years since the turn of the century, and they turn to the man who lead them to three straight titles from 2000-2002.

Jackson is best known for leading the Chicago Bulls to several NBA Championships in the 1990's, and winning three straight titles with the

L.A. Lakers. Even though Jackson doesn't have the same Lakers team he won those championships with, he says that they will be still be in contention for the playoffs this season.

When Sophomore, Tanner Spicuzza was asked if he thinks that it was good that Phil Jackson returns as the Lakers head coach, he replied, "No he shouldn't have come back." Freshman, Caleb Miller thinks differently, "I think it is good he came back, he should be able to bring the Lakers back into playoff contention."

If Lakers fans were feeling sick after last year's downfall, things may be looking up this year. Jackson is looking to turn around the Lakers once again, and bring them back to one of the most dominant teams in the NBA.

M.V.P race



By Caleb Kirsch
The Burrow

The 2005 baseball regular season is coming to a close, but the M.V.P. race is in full swing. Several players in each league are fighting for, quite possibly, the most prestigious yearly award in baseball.

In previous years, each league has had one or two players fighting each other for the M.V.P. award. This year, though, is an exception to that rule.

In the American League, the usual names come up as the contenders for the award. New York Yankees third baseman, Alex Rodriguez, Boston Red Sox outfielder, Manny Ramirez, and Los Angeles Angels outfielder, Vladimir Guerrero seem as though they are in contention for the M.V.P. award every year.

They have some breakout performers close by them this year. Texas Rangers' first baseman Mark Teixeira, and Boston Red Sox, designated hitter David Ortiz, are right in contention for the award. Ortiz has been a fan favorite since his heroic efforts in last year's playoffs, and Teixeira has lead the Rangers in almost every offensive statistic category

In the National League, there are also players that seem like they are always in contention. Two of the players that were in the chase for the M.V.P. race in years past have not been so this year. With San Francisco Giants slugger, Barry Bonds being injured for more than four months of the season, and former Chicago Cub outfielder, Sammy

Sosa being traded to the Baltimore Orioles. In the American League, Albert Pujols seemed to be a like for this year's M.V.P. award. Then along came Chicago Cubs first baseman, Derek Lee, and Florida Marlins outfielder, Miguel Cabrera. Each player has had a surprise season, and in return has found himself fighting for the M.V.P. Award. Another player in the hunt for M.V.P. is Atlanta Braves outfielder, Andruw Jones. Jones has always been regarded as one of the best outfielders in the league and this year has added strong stats on offense, to be in the hunt for the M.V.P.

Since there are so many players that are in contention for the M.V.P. award this year, there are bound to be differences in opinion when voting for the M.V.P. in each league. Sophomores, Jason Waier, and Brody Mitchell disagree on whom they think is each league's M.V.P. "Pujols will win the National League M.V.P. because he has a higher batting average than Andruw Jones, and the Cardinals will go deep into the playoffs. I also think David Ortiz will win it in the American League." Mitchell said. When Waier was asked who he thinks should win the M.V.P. award in each league, he responded, "Alex Rodriguez will win it in the American League." He had no comment on the National League M.V.P.

So as the 2005 season comes to a close, and the playoffs begin, voters will have a lot of names to choose from when they cast their ballots for the M.V.P. Many players deserve the award, but only one in each league will prove that he is truly considered to be the most valuable player.

Gentlemen, start your engines



By Sara Veatch
The Burrow

"Let's go racing," is not generally something you hear in our paper. When looking in the sport's section of a paper, you generally read about basketball, baseball, and football, but I know that there are Nascar fans out there. "I think Nascar races are very interesting to watch, and they sometimes have good excitement, but other times they are a little dull," said sophomore, Holden Jackson.

This year in the Nextel Cup series there have been some changes in the way things are done. In the past, whomever has the most points at the end of the season wins the cup. This year, however, whomever the top ten are, or if they are within 400 points of the leader, when there are ten races to go, are the

only drivers eligible to win the series championship. After it has been determined who is eligible they will change their points so that they are all only five points away from each other. For example, the leader may have 5, 430; the person in second place would have 5, 425, etc. Sophomore, Allison Duckworth, said, "I don't like the new points' system because it seems like all the other racers don't count after the top ten have been decided."

This year the ten drivers that are in the "Chase for the Championship" are Jimmie Johnson, Rusty Wallace, Ryan Newman, Mark Martin, Tony Stewart, Greg Biffle, Jeremy Mayfield, Carl Edwards, Matt Kenseth, and Kurt Busch. It is going to be very close this year since they are all so close in points. A driver can go from first to tenth in just one race. So, whomever your driver may be, good luck!

NCAA's New Rule



By Johnny Barrow
The Burrow

The NCAA has officially banned Native American mascots from their playoffs in basketball, baseball and hockey. Football was not subject to the change because they do not have an official tournament. The mascots for teams such as Alcorn State, University of Utah and many other schools will not be able to perform during games. The band and cheerleaders will also be affected because they will not be able to have the school's mascots on their uniforms starting in 2008.

The Florida State Seminoles are threatening to use legal actions against the NCAA because they have close relations with the Seminole people and are trying to do whatever they can to get

the NCAA to let them use their long time mascot. Some schools have been exempt from having to change their mascot, such as the North Carolina-Pembroke Braves because they have had a high percentage of American Indians in their school history. Another school that does not have to change their nickname is the North Dakota Fighting Sioux.

But this is not the first time the NCAA has made some schools change their Indian mascots; two years ago they made the St. John's Redmen change their nickname to the Red Storm. When asked about what he thought about the banning of Native American mascots Sophomore, Orry Taylor said, "I don't think it is fair for them to do that." Freshman, Ben Scattone agrees with the NCAA's decision saying "I think that if the mascots are offensive to Native Americans, then the school should have to change it."