



THE BURROW



The Student Newspaper of Hamilton County Senior High School

Vol. 4, Issue 4

McLeansboro, Illinois

December 2006

Safety is fragile



Brandon Miller
The Burrow

Disaster drills are meant for preparation and to protect safety. Yet, to some students, the code red procedure is both confusing and concerning.

To prepare for a possible alert, students rehearse crouching along the safest wall of their classroom as the teacher switches off lights, locks the door and covers the windows. These steps are what the school practiced in the November drill; they are the basics.

Students were not, however, taught the proper actions for several specific circumstances. For example, one might be trapped in a hallway or eating in the commons area, which, according to vice principal Mr. Mark Scott is among the most frightening possibilities.

Junior, Jennifer Rodgers said, "We need a better policy for the lunch and hallway situations." In that scenario "people would panic and try to get into their classrooms." "...it will be absolute chaos because nobody will know what to do," she said.

Junior, Justin Williams agreed. "A lot



of people will go crazy and just start running." "We've never really went over what we're supposed to do when we are at lunch," Williams continued, "No one has thought about it or discussed it...or

if they have, they haven't told us."

Despite what students might think, there are minds working on this dilemma. "[The administration] is still in the infancy stages of deciding what to do,"

Scott said, "We've formed a committee and are taking a look at the code red situation. We are trying to put a system in place that will give some simple steps to assure safety."

"The first thing we tell kids is 'away from windows.' We want them to be as quiet as they can," Scott said. He also said more teachers are locking their doors. "We are in the process of looking to lock down the entire building all the time. By doing this we limit access points to certain doors visitors can enter," Scott stated.

Regardless of every precautionary measure, according to Rodgers the school needs an efficient way to report disturbances.

"There should be code red buttons installed," Williams said.

Scott said, "We're trying to have some code in the bell system" that signals an alert.

Some questions are yet to be answered, nevertheless the committee is progressing.

"Safety is fragile," Scott said. He hopes this is never something with which the school must cope. However, in case it is, planning and time are crucial; lives could be lost, and that is not a risk the administration is willing to take.

Teacher is work of art



We <3 Ms. Fries!!!



Jennifer Smith
The Burrow

For the past five years, Ms. Arlanna Fries has been responsible for decking the hallways with potential up and coming artists work. Ms. Fries has been teaching students at Hamilton County Senior High School the tricks of the trade to become better artists and creators.

She has had a stamp class once a

month during the school year in the past, but now she is teaching a pottery class and the proceeds go to a new display area for the library.

"I have an exhibit each spring and I show three pieces from each student and that causes a storage problem," Ms. Fries said. "Mr. Kenneth Kirkpatrick has been generous enough to let us use the library so the plans are to purchase display fixtures with the money raised from pottery class after school. We both wanted to utilize the back walls for art display purposes."

This past year, several people have met after school in Ms. Fries' room for a few hours to learn how to make their own pottery pieces. Each person pays \$5 per session and the cost covers clay, glaze, and instruction.

"It's amazing," Senior Sarah Vallowe said about Ms. Fries' newest project.

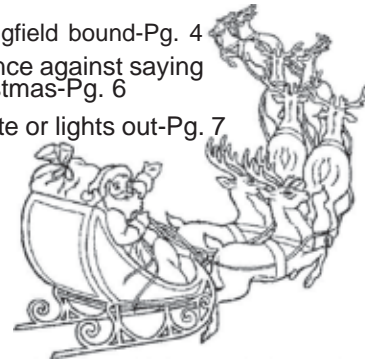
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Fetcho: Soda Machines Stay



Kent Kiefer
The Burrow

The Illinois Joint Committee on Administrative Rules approved the ban on the sale of junk food in Illinois Elementary and Middle Schools (K-8).

The ban was submitted by the Illinois State Board of Education in March and calls for schools to cease the sale of junk food (candy, sodas, and other items with contents exceeding the maximum calories and fat limits) to students in Elementary and Middle Schools.

Hamilton County Senior High co-occupies its facilities with the Junior High. Many high school students wonder how it will affect their lunch privileges.

Mr. Jeff Fetcho stated, "The soda machines will stay at this time. They will be shut off at lunch to the Junior High at

the present time, however at breakfast since we share the Commons Area the soda machines will be turned on, but the Junior High students understand they are not allowed to have sodas until 3:02."

Mr. Fetcho also stated "we are considering adding another vending machine to offer alternative drink items that meet the new requirements like fruit juice and Tropicana." He stated if the school were to install a new vending machine it would meet the state requirements and would be open to all students.

When asked about the future availability of chips, which is addressed in the ban, he said, "chips are not under the ban in our school because the ban only covers items sold outside the food service area." A food service area is defined by Mr. Fetcho as an area where reimbursable meals are served.



Sophmore, Mathias Campbell at a soda machine in the Commons Area.

Wal-Mart, The better choice



Adrea Evans
The Burrow

As the Christmas season is approaching, many are deciding where to spend their money for holiday gifts. Everyone wants low prices and convenient shopping, which is what Wal-Mart gives you.

Sam Walton, who launched Wal-Mart in 1962 was freakishly cheap. Walton still continued to get his \$5 hair-cut by the local barber and drove his old beaten down truck even though he was the richest man in the United States by 1980. While Walton became rich, he took the initiative to hire more and more employees. These employees were told to repeat this pledge, "From this day forward, I solemnly promise and declare that every customer within 10 feet of me, I will smile, look them in the eye, and greet them, so help me Sam." I know that every time I walk into Wal-Mart there is always someone standing at the door to greet me or someone willing to help me find something, with a smile on his face.

Hamilton County's nearest place to shop is Fred's, which doesn't offer a large selection. If Fred's isn't satisfying enough, the next step of course is Wal-Mart. Why go to Macy's or Target when Wal-Mart is closer and has more of a variety? It includes all of your shopping needs, eye care, hair care,



Wal-Mart...what more can you want? Wal-Mart saves time and money!

and groceries. Freshman, Arissa Vineyard said "Their employees seem to be friendlier and more helpful."

To top it all off, Wal-Mart gives to charity more than any other store. Junior, Molly Brown stated, "Wal-Mart is great for just getting everything you need in one store."

If you don't believe that Wal-Mart is cheaper, here are a few examples when comparing Wal-Mart with Target. According to google.com, Wal-Mart's Disposable Camera is 22 cents cheaper. A six outlet power strip from Wal-Mart is 15 cents cheaper and a four pack of AAA Batteries is 5 cents cheaper.

If you like low prices, smiling employees, and convenient shopping, then Wal-Mart is the choice for you.

Target, The anti Wal-Mart



Michaela Morlan
The Burrow

Christmas is soon approaching and tons of shopping is still to be done. The major question being asked is, "Where should I go to get those certain gifts?"

With all the stores to shop, I believe that Target would have to be the best. Not only is it a great store for people on a low budget, it also has cute gifts. "Target is better than Wal-Mart because it has much cuter stuff," Junior, Malena Rapp stated.

"I personally love the designer brands at Target because they have all kinds of different styles at a cheaper price! Hand bags, swimsuits, and jewelry are my favorite things to shop for! Who needs Wal-Mart when you have a great store like Target," Senior, Kaitlyn Teffertiller stated.

Target seems to be the place to shop because of their adorable outfits and stylish purses. It's a great place to go get Christmas presents because they do have such a wide variety. "Target is awesome! When I need



Christmas gifts, I always go to Target because they have the adorable things I need," Junior, Allison Duckworth said.

So when you've realized that you forgot a present for a friend or family member this year, always remember you can go to Target and get what you need for the right price!

The true spirit of Christmas



Adrea Evans
The Burrow

"It's the most wonderful time of the year. There'll be much mistletoeing and hearts will be glowing, when loved ones are near. It's the most wonderful time of the year." Eddie Pola, George Wyle 1963

Christmas is a season for fun, fellowship, and giving. It's a time to spend with family and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Sophomore, Ariel Wolf stated, "Family, love and gifts are what the core of Christmas should be." Although, to Scrooge, the Christmas spirit was a ghost. To the liquor industry, it comes in a bottle. For some, Christmas comes in a Hallmark card, which is convenient for those who wish not to visit or to show a simple gesture.

"Christmas is so commercialized," said Mr. Mike Johnson, English teacher of HCSH. I think our TV industry has made it about gifts and what we want on our Christmas list. Children begin to complain about how much they want for Christmas and are only good because of the simple reason that the big jolly guy won't give them anything.

Take time to think about parents who aren't as fortunate enough to buy presents or how their kids wake them up Christmas morning looking for gifts that aren't there. What about an elderly woman, whose family doesn't visit or simply call to wish her a "Merry Christmas?"

Materialism is very common in people, especially around Christmas time. Long lines in shopping malls and complaining about their pockets being empty because of all the presents they have to buy are evidence of it. Senior, Jessica Savage stated, "More people worry about what they're going to get than just having fun buying for people."

As we watch the snow fall, the fire burn, and open gifts we don't deserve we should be grateful for our family, friends, and lives we have. Take time to cherish special moments and experience the true spirit of Christmas. Having a chance to put a smile on someone's face or buy a gift for someone who isn't as fortunate is what Christmas is all about.

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Guests Welcome!

Macy's, an American tradition



Stephanie Hart
The Burrow

Macy's was conceived upon the American dream. In 1858 Rowland Hussey Macy started his dried goods store and started an important aspect of pop-culture.

The flagship store in New York City has been named "largest department store" by the Guinness book of world records, with much debate because the GUM store in Moscow, Russia believes itself to be larger. Macy's could not be confined to their city block; it started to branch out in 1983 and has been constantly expanding. Now, the New York department store feel is available to most Americans. Senior, Heather Mitchell said "I would love to go shopping at their store in New York; it has to be so much more amazing than Carbondale's."

Macy's has a rich history. Isidor and Ida Straus became co-owners of the store in its early years. Isidor and Ida are established parts of American history, Isidor was a congressman and the couple met a watery grave when the Titanic sunk April 14, 1912. The couple was very much in love and would often write each other love notes whenever they were apart.

Isidor told Ida's maid to take his place in the lifeboat. Ida refused to board a lifeboat



Rowland Hussey Macy's star tattoo is the inspiration for the logo.

without her husband saying "We have been together for many years. Where you go, I go." Fate decided to split the two no matter

what, Isidor's body was found and he was buried in the Bronx; Ida's body was never found and their body's will spend an eter-

nity apart.

The heart of Christmas's commercial side is Macy's. They sponsor the parade that is the beginning of our holiday season. Miracle on 34th Street is set in the flagship Macy's store in New York. The movie Elf in 2003, starring Will Ferrel, was set in Gimbel's department store, which was across the street from Macy's and closed in 1987, for the film, they digitally altered photos of Macy's.

Macy's has made many contributions to American pop culture. The Thanksgiving Day parade in New York has been sponsored by Macy's for 75 years. The first Thanksgiving Day parade was held in Haverhill, Massachusetts and was only attended by 100 people, the parade is now a national celebration uniting a diverse people on a holiday that celebrates our country's foundation.

Senior, Rachel Crow said "I love the parade, especially the Elmo floats." The Thanksgiving Parade has done so much for our country. Many Americans let religion, color and politics get in the way of togetherness, but on Thanksgiving Day, just about everyone will sit down and watch the parade with their family and for that small amount of time, all Americans are a family. Senior, Leta White said "Our family always has the parade on during Thanksgiving, but we're too busy to watch it when preparing for dinner."

Secret Santa



Orry Taylor
The Burrow

Caption: Stewart above, has recently been diagnosed of cancer.

Picture: Stewart in his hospital bed
In the Kansas City suburb of Lee's Summit, Missouri, a man revealed his identity as the secret santa that gave away thousands of dollars.

For the last 26 years, Larry Stewart gave away his own money to the people who need it the most; 1.3 million dollars to be exact. Freshman Teddy little said "I'd like to see that much money some day." Every December he has hit the streets of Kansas City, giving his money to the people who need it the most. First he started out with 5's and 10's, and in recent years moved on to 100 dollar bills.

Stewart has earned his fortune in cable television and long-distance phone service. In the past he let the media follow him around giving away his fortune, as long as they don't reveal his identity. Recently he was diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus and

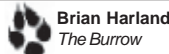


liver. Freshman Tyler Murphy said "It's a shame good people like this have bad things happen to them."

With this potentially being his last year alive, he plans on giving out \$165,000. He is giving away \$100,000 by himself, and four others are helping him give out the other \$65,000. Junior Holden Jackson said "Hope he makes it my way before he's done."

With potentially very little time left, all Stewart is hoping for is that- the money ends up in good hands and put to good use.

Walking by faith



Brian Harland
The Burrow

Some dogs are hairy, while others remain hairless. Some are large enough to out power a man, while others can fit into the palm of your hand. From Great Danes to Chihuahuas, a dog can be recognized regardless the size or the sound of the bark. Now imagine a dog so abnormal, so strange, and yet so ordinary that one would have to take a second look to decide for themselves whether or not it was in fact a dog they just saw. That dog exists, and her name is Faith.

Faith was born just before Christmas day, 2002, but it wasn't until three weeks later that she found herself a loving home. When Faith was born, something was wrong. It could be said that Faith "wasn't all there." As understood, dogs are to have four legs or in a rare occasion three. That was not the case at all with this wonder dog. Faith had only two legs.

The odds were stacked against this tiny miracle even before it could have the chance to fend for itself. Many people who saw the dog did not believe that she would make it past a few months considering the fact that the poor thing had to be taken care of every waking moment of her life. The owners had different plans. After hours upon hours of grueling work, the amazing Faith had learned to walk. It was a phenomenon. Faith was



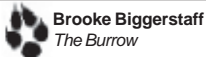
able to stand upon her own back two legs and present herself as a human, walking upright.

With her new boost of confidence, Faith takes her place among the rest of the dogs in the world. She steals food off the table and plays fetch just like any other canine. There is no doubt that Faith is a very special and unique dog.

School bus accident leaves four dead



Crashed schoolbus.



Brooke Biggerstaff
The Burrow

On Monday November 20 tragedy struck Huntsville, Alabama when a school bus plunged off an overpass into the street below.

The fourth fatality was a teenage girl, Crystal Renee McCrary, 17. Others killed were Christine Collier, 18; Nicole Ford, 17; and Tanesha Hill, age unknown. Collier and Ford both died at the scene.

National Transportation Safety Board investigators were in Huntsville on Tuesday November 21, at the scene of the accident.

The bus was carrying forty students from Huntsville's Lee High School. It fell thirty feet to the street below an overpass on In-

terstate 565 and landed on its front end before flipping over.

The bus driver was either ejected or escaped from the vehicle before it fell, NTSB investigator Debbie Hersman stated. He was found by rescue workers, she said.

The investigation stated that a small sedan driven by a fellow high school student moved into the bus' lane, causing the bus to drag along the concrete side rail for more than 100 feet before falling off the Interstate 565 overpass.

Police have interviewed the 17-year-old driver of the orange 1990 Toyota Celica as well as the bus driver.

According to the teen driver something went wrong with the Celica that caused it to move into the bus' lane. The NTSB is investigating whether the car hit the bus.

Sophomore, Jordan Brown said "I don't think the boy should get in trouble. It isn't his fault the car isn't reliable."

Photos of the car on the overpass showed damage to the driver's side door and the front passenger side. Police have not decided whether the teen driver will be charged.

Fourteen students and the bus driver remained hospitalized Tuesday.

Junior, Michelle Kennedy, stated "This just scares me and makes me glad that I don't ride the bus."

Famous t.v. anchor dies

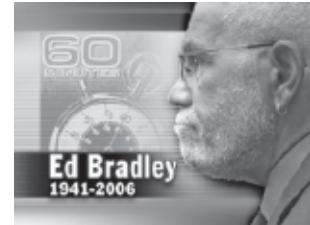


Johnny Barrow
The Burrow

Long time "60 Minutes" correspondent Ed Bradley, died of leukemia at the age of 65.

Bradley joined the "60 Minutes" cast in 1981 after being a White House correspondent for two years. Bradley won a Peabody Award, 19 Emmys and a Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award during his 25 seasons with the show. "It's a shame that he died, he was a great reporter" Nicholas Burke said.

The interview that Bradley is famous for is his interview with the Oklahoma City Bomber, Timothy McVeigh, this was the only television interview that McVeigh ever gave, and the interview with McVeigh earned Bradley an Emmy. Bradley also covered the worst school shooting in American History, Columbine, and won another Emmy for his reports on that story.



Ed Bradley died of leukemia.

His work on "60 Minutes" has gained him much recognition, including a George Foster Peabody Award for "Big Man, Big Voice" for his uplifting story of a German singer who became successful despite birth defects. "Ed Bradley was a cool guy, I remember watching him with my dad one time on 60 Minutes" Junior, Jesse Kelly said.



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Put on your yamaka, it's time for Hanukkah

Jennifer Smith
The Burrow

The holiday season is here, but one important holiday that is often overlooked in McLeansboro is Hanukkah. This seems only natural because there is little to no Jewish population here, but it is still important to be educated in and appreciate other cultures different from our own.

"I don't know too much about the holiday but I think it would be an interesting one to learn about," Sophomore, Samantha Furtak said.

"All I know about Hanukkah and Jewish culture is that they are tight with their money, and the dreidel proves that," Senior, Colton Flannigan said.

Hanukkah is the annual holiday celebrated in the 25th day of Kislev (Kislev is the third month of the Jewish calendar and it corresponds to December in the Gregorian



It's so much fun-ika to celebrate Hanukkah! (calendar) and is celebrated in eight succes-

sive days. Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem by Judas Maccabee in 165 BC after the Temple had been profaned by Antiochus IV Epiphanes, King of Syria and overlord of Palestine.

For each night Hanukkah is celebrated one candle of a menorah is lit to celebrate a miracle that had happened years ago when the Jewish people proclaimed victory over the Syrian armies in 165 BC. Once they acquired victory they traveled to a synagogue that had been defiled by the Syrians to light the menorah. Unfortunately, they only found a small bottle of oil to light it with and it was to last only one night, but it lasted eight.

Festivities that are included in this celebration are spinning the dreidel, a four sided top that has a Hebrew letter that together is an acronym for the Hanukkah proclamation, "A Great Miracle Happened Here," which refers to the oil lasting for eight days. For each night of Hanukkah gifts are given to

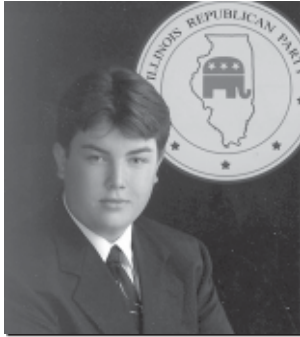
celebrate the holiday. Of course, a menorah is lit in order to recreate the Hanukkah miracle. Prayers are said and visits to the local synagogue are made.

"It's not a part of my religion, but I had a friend who was Jewish and I celebrated Hanukkah with him once," Freshman Chris Zarek said.

Pop culture has put its two cents in when it comes to this sacred Jewish holiday. A popular episode of the "Rugrats" on the Nickelodeon channel shows family and friends celebrating and the children pretending that they are the brave Maccabee soldiers fighting the Syrians. Adam Sandler made the holiday just a little bit more famous in his 2002 cartoon movie 8 Crazy Nights.

Even though the holidays are a stressful time, take a few seconds out of a hectic schedule and appreciate the richness of the culture that comes with this sacred holiday.

Kiefer Springfield bound



Nicholas Holloman
The Burrow

Senior Kent Kiefer will be leaving us, January 21st to take his position as an intern for the Illinois government.

A long time student, Kent's familiar face will be missed for the remainder of the school year. He says he will be back in time to graduate with the class of '07. However his friendly personality and warm gestures

will be gone, leaving this school a little darker.

"This school will never see another Kent. His crazy British antics will be missed. I will always remember how no one ever knew what he was talking about...not even Ms. Crain," Senior, Brady Allen said. "Kent's dry political humor will be dearly missed" Mrs. Connie Lueke said.

Kent applied for the internship in January of his junior year through the guidance office. After that an interview was set up with Neil Calderon, director of the Illinois governmental intern program. "Mr. Lapington was very helpful in helping me prepare my interview," Kent said. After the interview he was notified of his acceptance in June.

Kent will work Monday through Thursday, much like the standard 9 to 5 job. He will attend school on Fridays. "Internships like these teach students like myself to function in the real world," Kiefer said. "It will be an experience that will be valuable to my future."

Even though he will be gone, Kent plans to make several trips back to his hometown, and back to graduate with his longtime classmates.

Let it snow



"One of Many"

Veronica A. Shelton
The Burrow

Winter time...a time for hot chocolate, presents, and snow. For those who like the winter season, there are many different reasons why. "I like having snow days," Freshman, Leah Millenbine said.

Freshman, Jasmine Artman said her favorite winter activity is snowball fights.

Without snow, however, it would not be possible to make all those snowballs. And without snowflakes, there wouldn't be any snow.




But even though snowflakes seem like simple "white fluffs", there is a lot more involved in getting them that way. Each snowflake has its own unique design. And at each temperature level, snowflakes change shape.

For example, stars and thin plates grow at 28 degrees Fahrenheit. A couple degrees lower the snowflake gains columns and points. As the temperature drops even more, the shape crystallizes, until it finally falls to the ground.

It takes a long process to create the trillions of tiny snowflakes that fall during winter time. Then it is up to a person's creativity to decide what to do with them.

"I like to make homemade coke floats," Senior, Maddie Lefton said. "You make a snowball, and pour coke on it. It's really good."

From sledding to building snowmen, there is no limit on what to do with all the snow. Sophomore, Morgan Barnett said, "I like to ride my go cart into snow banks." With all the winter activities planned, many are anxiously anticipating the "sparkly white stuff" that will hopefully fall this year.

<p>GOOD</p>  <p>"Merry Christmas" returns to Wal-Mart!</p>	<p>BETTER</p>  <p>Snow, Snow and Snow Days!</p>	<p>BEST</p>  <p>Basketball season has begun!</p>
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Student Profiles



Mia Percell Hodges is a 15 year old freshman here at Hamilton County Senior High. Her favorite holiday is the 4th of July. Mia's favorite part of high school would have to be the sports. Her plans for the coming Christmas break are to visit family and go sledding. Mia's favorite Christmas memory was when she got her first 10 speed bike, but this year she would like a pool or a trampoline. Her favorite part of the Christmas season would have to be the snow.



Trevor Matthew McGehee, also known as Bobbles to some, is a 15 year old sophomore here at HCSH. Trevor's favorite holiday is Thanksgiving, but he's still looking forward to riding four-wheelers and eating the good food over Christmas break. His favorite Christmas movie is A Christmas Story. This year Trevor just wants money for Christmas.



Mollie Lynn Gonzalez is a 16 year old junior here at HCSH. Her favorite part of high school is "there's never a dull moment. Plus, I get to see my friends every hour!" Gonzalez stated. She doesn't really have a favorite holiday, but if she had to pick one it'd be either Valentine's Day or Christmas. Mollie's favorite Christmas memory would have to be, "my first time putting the star on top of the family Christmas tree when I was 8 years old," Gonzalez stated. Her favorite Christmas movies are The Nightmare Before Christmas and How the Grinch Stole Christmas. Mollie's favorite part of Christmas would have to be seeing see all of her friends and family she normally doesn't get to see and experiencing the Christmas spirit!



Nicholas Deen Knight is a familiar face here at HCSH. He's a 17 year old senior. His favorite part of high school is being around his friends. With Christmas being his favorite holiday, Knight plans to ride four-wheelers in the snow during break. His favorite Christmas memory was getting a new four-wheeler when he was in the 7th grade. Knight would like a new bow for deer hunting this year. His favorite part of the Christmas season would have to be the snow.

By: Michaela Morlan

Sleep on it

Adrea Evans
The Burrow

Staying up late, doing last minute homework, and chatting on the internet may be reasons why Hamilton County Senior High students are not getting enough sleep.

The National Sleep Foundation showed 74% of all Americans do not get enough sleep each night. While we are busy with jobs, homework, and football games, sleep just doesn't seem to be a top priority. Sleep, like diet and exercise, is essential for our minds and bodies to function normally. Senior, Megan Karcher stated "T.V. and homework is what generally interferes with my sleep."

Those who are not getting enough sleep may notice themselves becoming more irritated, forgetful, depressed, and having head-



aches frequently. Junior, Jason Waier stated "Work and talking on the phone is what keeps me from getting a good night sleep." David Galanis, a sleep specialists concluded that lost productivity at work due to sleepiness may cost the economy as much as one-hundred billion dollars annually.

Senior, Jonya Stephan believes "The amount of sleep you get does affect your

Work of art...
Continued from Page 1

It isn't every day that a person is willing to donate time to teach a class to raise money for something important to her.

"She is innovative, hands-on, and a great teacher who gives excellent directions," Junior Mollie Gonzalez said.

Classes will start again next semester. If anyone is interested in taking part in this learning experience for a good cause, please contact Ms. Fries.

school work." American Sleep Disorder Foundation showed that teenagers generally get an average of only 7.4 hours a night when they should be getting about 8 or 9.

Steps to a better sleep are to avoid caffeine close to bedtime, sleep on comfortable mattress and pillow, finish eating 2 or 3 hours before bedtime, and maintain a regular bed and wake time schedule.

Energy drinks hit the shelves!



Adrea Evans
The Burrow

Pepsi, Mt. Dew, and Dr. Pepper are drinks teenagers find appealing. Soda is popular, not only because of the taste, but because of the get-up-and-go feeling that comes from it. Some teenagers have now turned to "Energy Drinks" for a substitute of caffeinated sodas.

This year more than 500 new energy drinks have come out. These drinks promise weight loss, increase heart rates, and raise legal highs. The energy drink top sellers are Rockstar, Red Bull, and Monster. This industry increased 80% from last year and now makes up to \$3.4 billion yearly.

These energy drinks are made of caffeine (which comes from multiple sources) and sugar, which could stimulate an unhealthy crash cycle. Some energy drinks contain B vitamins, which if taken in high doses can cause rapid heartbeat, numbness, and tingling in the hands and feet.

Various reports have shown that drinking several cans in a row can kindle a buzz. Senior, Renee French stated "You can get a buzz, its like soda with a kick."

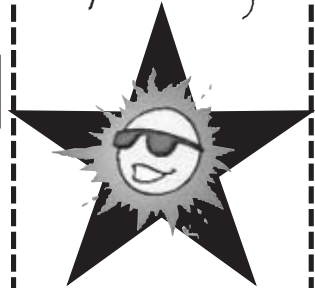
Junior, Kaitlin Sloan disagrees "You can't get a buzz off of them, its all in your head."

A new study found that a number of poison center calls have been made from teenagers drinking more energy drinks than their stomach could handle.

According to Simons Research, 31% of U.S. teenagers say they drink energy drinks. That is 7.6 million teens, which is a leap of almost 3 million in 3 years. Senior Josh Spangler stated, "It's just a temporary caffeine fix."

Soda, coffee, and energy drinks taste differently but have one thing in common, an energy high!

Sunstar
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Santa Clause 3



Callan Howton
The Burrow

The magic is back for a third time in the "Santa Clause 3." This is another charming sequel to the first two films that have always been popular among many.

Freshman, Kailee Newman said, "The first two were full of Christmas cheer. I can't wait to see the third one!"

As another Christmas is coming, Scott Calvin/Santa Claus, played by Tim Allen, is concerned that his pregnant wife, Mrs. Claus, played by Elizabeth Mitchell, is beginning to miss her family. He decides to leave and bring his in-laws, and some members of his own family, to the North Pole. Scott puts Jack Frost, played by Martin Short in charge of the elves while he's away. Frost, ready for his chance to take over Christmas, starts to wreak havoc on the North Pole.

Once Frost tricks Scott Calvin into giving up being Santa, he takes over Christmas. He turns the North Pole into an amusement



for rich kids to be able to celebrate Christmas. Scott returns to the North Pole to try to win back Christmas and the role of Santa Claus. After some clever persuasion, Frost gives up the role of Santa and Scott Calvin once again takes over.

In the final minutes of "Santa Clause 3" there is heavy sentiment and why this series has remained successful and loved throughout the years. Although it doesn't match the quality of the first "Santa Clause", it does have some very good scenes, making this third Santa easy to love.

Wal-Mart once again saying 'Merry Christmas'



When one walks into Wal-Mart you're day could be brightened by the smiling faces of Wal-Mart greeters.



Brittney Heil
The Burrow

The Christmas season is here and the holiday spirit has arrived. Many can walk into Wal-Mart and see the friendly faces wishing a Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays.

Last year around this time Wal-Mart had told their employees they were not aloud to greet customers with the phrase "Merry Christmas". According to Fox News there are roughly 60 million people who are not Christian, and feel that by saying "Merry Christmas" they are supporting the Christian religion.

"I think they should say 'Merry Christmas, because the holiday is about Christ," Sophomore, Molly Hathaway said.

In some cases there were many saying

they might not shop at stores that do not support the "Merry Christmas" phrase. Companies are now re-thinking this issue and how they are going to approach the holiday season.

Wal-Mart is one of the stores that is announcing that it will be using "Merry Christmas" in products and around its stores this holiday season. It's also OK for employees to greet the customers by saying "Merry Christmas" instead of the broad "Happy Holidays". Junior, Kasi French said "I think that Wal-Mart and other businesses should be able to say 'Merry Christmas', it sounds more sincere than the fake 'Happy Holidays'."

The American Family Association and The Catholic League boycotted businesses like Wal-Mart last holiday season for leaving out the word "Christmas" from products sold in stores. It's made them think and change much of their merchandise to be labeled as "Christmas" rather than "holiday" items.

Wal-Mart has also made changes in the store by changing the name of the season decorations department to "The Christmas Shop" instead of "The Holiday Shop". Many can also walk into Wal-Mart this season and hear them playing Christmas carols again throughout this year's holiday season.

No longer lives the King



Rhet Vaughan
The Burrow

As much as Elvis Presley made when he was alive, he's earned millions more since passing away.

Presley's manager, Tom Parker himself, even once admitted that death was a "good career move" for his client. This much is true: Elvis has reigned on the lead for "Top-Earning Dead Celebrities" every year since it was started in 2001. "The King" has proven his significance over John Lennon, James Dean, and all the others who are dead as dirt, yet filthy rich and getting richer.

Now there's a new top star among these legends. Kurt Cobain, who earned over \$50 million between October 2005 and 2006, has moved up as the new No. 1.

Junior Ethan French commented, "He is still the king of rock and roll. No matter what!" Sophomore, Shelby Williams on the other hand, tends to disagree. "I never really liked his stuff. It's mostly for old people."

Presley wound up in second place, with \$42 million, down \$3 million from last year.



Elvis Presley

While it's certainly a blow to his fans, it's still much more than the combined earnings of deceased luminaries Ray Charles (\$10 million), Marilyn Monroe (\$8 million) and Johnny Cash (\$8 million). In an age of relentless marketing and product licensing, the dead celebrity power rankings have become a sign of the times for certain careers that refuse to die.

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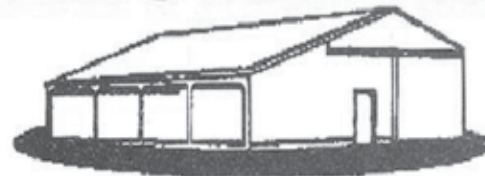


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Let the madness begin



Caleb Kirsch
The Burrow

As the 2006 college basketball season begins, there are many dominate players returning from last year, along with some new ones. While every team has a chance to play in the national championship game, experts are narrowing their predictions down to only a few teams to start the season.

To start the season, Florida sits at number one on the Associated Press poll. After winning the National Championship last season, expectations are high for Florida to go far again. As an added bonus, Florida's two top scorers, Joakim Noah and Corey Brewer, are coming back for their Senior season. "Florida should at least make it to the Final Four this season," Junior, Jacob Harrawood said.

A new team to make the Associated Press poll is Ohio State. They received a number five rank, which is highest in school history. Freshman, Greg Oden is one of the main reasons for Ohio State being ranked so high. Oden was one of the top high school basketball prospects last season. "With Greg Oden, Ohio State will be awesome," Sophomore, Jarret Warren said.

"Even though Florida is ranked number



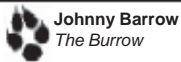
Corey Brewer pumps his fist during a game last season.

one, I don't think they will win the National Championship," Junior, Kyle Ragan said. Although there are only a few teams getting serious predictions about going to the National Championship, years past have proven that any team can pull off an upset on any given game.

Matsuzaka signs with Sox for \$51 million



Boston Red Sox new prospect Daisuke Matsuzaka



Johnny Barrow
The Burrow

The Boston Red Sox are about to sign the highest paid Japanese pitcher in Major League Baseball history.

The Red Sox beat out five other teams to land the rights to 26 year old Daisuke

Matsuzaka from the Seibu Lions in Japan. Boston paid a record-setting 51 million dollars just for the right to talk to Matsuzaka and negotiate a contract. "I think that the Red Sox paid way too much money for this guy, nobody even knows that much about him" Freshman, Logan Karcher said.

Daisuke has been playing baseball professionally in Japan since he was 19, and has posted very good numbers for how young he is. When Daisuke was just a rookie, he posted a winning record of 17 wins and only 5 losses and over 200 strikeouts. "He has proven himself as a great pitcher in Japan and I am sure that he will do good in the MLB." Junior, Michael Bowers said.

Daisuke is not the only Japanese pitcher currently in the MLB, he joins Hideo Nomo, Chan Ho Park and Kazasaki Sasaki. Ichiro Suzuki is another Japanese born player in the MLB, and he currently plays outfield for the Seattle Mariners.

Baseball looks into replay system



Orry Taylor
The Burrow

Four years after the NFL introduced its replay system, to cut down on blown calls, Major League Baseball is toying with the idea of its own system.

In addition to football, hockey and basketball recently started using replay. The reason is to stop calls that change the complexion of a game. The question the committee will have to answer is, are blown calls just a part of the game, or do they really need to be corrected.

Two years ago the owners of all the baseball teams split a 15-15 vote to further consider the use of baseball replay. Now two years later it is back on the committee's agenda. It is widely known that Commissioner Bud Selig is against the idea. It will be his decision that ultimately decides the matter.

At the moment a committee is gathering



Shown above is Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig.

information and statistics to present to the committee about the need for the system. The Questec computer system is used in 11 different ballparks around the league. The company has openly shown that out of all the calls made last year, roughly 95 percent of them were correct.

Baseball is now in the offseason, and Bud Selig is nearing retirement, it will be interesting to see how far this matter progresses in the coming months.

Knight's route or lights out



Rhet Vaughan
The Burrow

As Bobby Knight moved one win closer to catching Dean Smith, his temper flared once again.

With more than 4 minutes to go in Texas Tech's 86-74 victory over Gardner-Webb, Red Raiders' forward, Michael Prince, was called for a foul. Followed by a fiery timeout, Knight approached Prince. When the player lowered his head, Knight used force with his hand to regain his attention.

It was win No. 871 for Knight, who is five away from passing Adolph Rupp for second place on the all-time list. He needs nine more victories to surpass Smith for the most wins in Division I history. Knight's career has featured three national championships, all at Indiana, and plenty of temper outbursts, including run-ins with players.

In 1992, Knight kicked a chair on the bench while son Pat, then a player for him at Indiana and now his assistant and successor-to-be at Texas Tech, was sitting in it. When fans behind the team bench booed, Knight turned and responded with an obscenity. He was accused of grabbing a player by the throat during a practice in 1997, an episode that was caught on videotape and created the mess that eventually led to his termination from Indiana in September 2000.

Knight was fired for what Indiana officials called a violation of a zero-tolerance



behavior policy shortly after he grabbed the arm of a student who greeted him on campus by asking Knight "what's up?" Junior Lukas Dale recalled that he remembers the movie on ESPN about Knight. "It was a pretty good movie, but I wouldn't want to play for that maniac."

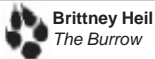
His most infamous moment came in a game against Purdue in 1985, when he threw a chair across the court after being receiving a technical foul. "It seems like he does these stupid things just for attention. If not, then he seriously needs some help." Junior Jeff Robinson said.

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Bringing in the New Year with traditions



Brittney Heil
The Burrow

New Year's Day is one of the oldest holidays celebrated. Many celebrate the New Year by being with family and friends and waiting for the final seconds of the old year to pass.

America has many traditions of New Year's, there's the kiss at midnight, the resolutions, eating beans for good luck, and one can't forget the New Year's celebration of the ball dropping in New York City.

In Austria their good luck is suckling a pig for the new year. It's served on a table decorated with tiny edible pigs. Dessert often consists of green peppermint ice cream in the shape of a four-leaf clover. In Wales at the stroke of midnight instead of giving a kiss, they open the back door and then shut it to release the old year and all of its bad luck. At midnight in Spain they eat 12 grapes to bring good luck for the next 12 months.

Many countries have different traditions

2007

and many meanings behind them. Many may wonder why we have some of our traditions. Here in the United States the kiss at midnight comes from masked balls that have been common throughout history. As tradition has it, the masks symbolize evil spirits from the old year and the kiss is the purification into the new year.

"I usually go to Kaitlyn Sloan's church to bring in the new year with friends." Sophomore, Libby Cox said.

Many may hear of eating beans or cabbage for good luck on New Year's Day. The reasons for beans are because ever since Roman times it has been said to give good fortune. This belief evolved into the southern U.S. custom of eating black-eyed peas

on New Year's. One food that is said to be avoided is backward-moving creatures such as lobster and crawfish because it's time to move forward not back. "I usually eat 2 beans and a piece of ham because my mom makes me," Cox said.

Around this time one may hear a friend talk about their New Year's resolution, whether people want to lose weight, stop biting nails, stop smoking, or simply to save money. This actually comes from early Christian belief that the first day of the new year was to recall some mistakes that have been made over the past 365 days and resolving to do better. While many find it hard to keep their resolutions, it's said to only pick a few goals; it's hard to change everything in one year.

One last tradition many across America know about is the annual ball dropping at Times Square in New York City. The ball dropping has been a tradition in New York since 1906. For the past 100 years thousands of people will gather at Times square to experience this event.

Let the bustle begin



Brandon Miller
The Burrow

Once more eager people are crowding the malls, children young and old alike are making wish lists, and families are beginning to trim their evergreens while they hope for a new pristine blanket of snow.

Christmas is not far away as another season of celebratory preparation and tradition is beginning. The holiday spirit, however, has already arrived.

Christmas spirit is abstract, elusive. "It's the feeling in the air, the cold weather, the snow..." Junior, Lucas Adkisson said, "It's hard to describe." Maybe the spirit is just a collection of ideas; it could be memories of an eccentric aunt trying to catch unwitting cousins under the mistletoe, the sight of wrapped gifts under the tree or thoughts of hot chocolate and unmade snow angels.

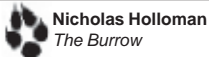
Yet, no matter how one defines the omnipresent seasonal spirit, according to Junior, Rachel Campbell presents are foremost on students' December agenda. For these Christmas will be a day, or several, to sit around the festively adorned tree and greedily remove presents from their holiday packaging.

Also the holidays are about time with family, according to Adkisson. Especially for younger people, he said.

Adkisson said his family gatherings are "what you might picture a convent full of friars... there's a lot of rather large people sitting around talking and getting really merry. I enjoy spending time with my relatives," he said, "they are weird, but that's what's so fun about it."

December holidays might be devoted to time with family or friends, to religious or cultural tradition, maybe presents or just the chance to be merry with a bottle of eggnog, but the purpose does not matter. According to Senior, Katie Kimble it is the most wonderful time of the year.

Console Wars '06



Nicholas Holloman
The Burrow

November 19th the seventh generation console wars started. Last year's Microsoft's Xbox 360, this year's Sony's Playstation 3 (PS3), and Nintendo Wii will compete for gamers' money all of over the world.

Xbox 360 released just in time for the 2005 Christmas season, giving it a massive head start in the war. With nearly a year ahead of the competition, the Xbox 360 has sold over 6 million units so far and predicts to have sold 10 million by the beginning of 2007.

On Saturday November 11, Sony released the PS3 in Japan selling 80,000 units instantly when compared to 150,000 360s that Microsoft has sold it is clear that the Sony has won the battle against Microsoft in Japan. However it is on U.S. soil that the war will really heat up.

The PS3 released Friday November 17th, in the U.S., followed by the Nintendo Wii Sunday November 19th, The PS3 is on par with the Xbox 360 as far as gaming power goes, but it is the Blu-ray player that Sony is hoping to give the PS3 its edge. Though it is this Blu-ray player that makes its price \$499, and \$599 for the 20GB, and 60GB versions respectively.

In this console war, Nintendo has chosen a different route. Instead of powerful graphics, it has gone for game innovation. The Nintendo Wii's control is motion sensitive allowing you to use it for a tennis racket in a tennis game, or wield it like a sword in a fighting game. Nintendo is hoping to attract people who wouldn't normally play video



The Wii, Xbox 360, and PlayStation 3 are the competitors and the Seventh Generation Console War.

games, and at \$249 it is the cheapest of the three consoles.

Many gamers have chosen a side in the war. The reason J.P. Moehn plans to buy a Wii because "it is like you are in the game",

due to its innovative controller. All three companies have invested hundreds of millions of dollars into this next-generation console with the hopes of beating the competition in the console wars.

Back for more!



Caleb Kirsch
The Burrow

In his last five movies, actor, Sylvester Stallone has played a boxer who went from a giant underdog, to champion of the world. Critics thought the "Rocky" series was at an end after the fifth movie, but this December Stallone will star in the sixth "Rocky" movie.

As a surprise release in 2006, a sixth Rocky movie will be shown across the nation in theaters on December 22. "I was surprised when I heard a sixth Rocky movie was coming out, but it should be good," Junior, Brian Kreher said. Most movie fans and critics thought the Rocky series was finished after its fifth movie. Sixteen years later, however Stallone returns as boxer, Rocky Balboa. "They should have just ended the series after the fifth movie," Junior, Brody Mitchell said.

In "Rocky 6," Balboa returns out of retirement to fight against heavyweight champion Mason Dixon (played by Antonio Tarver). The plot starts when Tarver is being compared to



Sylvester Stallone as Rocky Balboa in his prime. To settle the comparison, ESPN broadcasts a virtual boxing match between Tarver and Balboa to see who would win in the prime of their career. The match shows that Balboa was a better boxer than Tarver. After Balboa sees this match, he realizes he can still box, and comes out of retirement to fight again.

"Any Rocky movie is a good one," said Junior, Levi Link. There are already numerous reviews being written about "Rocky 6," is expected to be a hit movie this winter.

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