What is Student Council?
By Natalie

Student council is a body of students selected from each base class to discuss students’ concerns about the Orthogenic School. Student council serves as a mediator between the student body and the administration. Student council does things like organizing dances, changing the dress code, putting in pop machines, helping out with the community meeting and putting together classroom parties.

On October 2nd, students were nominated to be the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, and on October 10th they were elected.

It was a close race for president, but Jill is our president and Felicia is our Vice President. They will take all our ideas and try to coordinate them as best as they can. Alan, as treasurer, looks at our budget, sees what our goals are, and sees if we can afford to accomplish them. Rachel is secretary and she takes notes at the meetings. Class representatives take the suggestions from their base class and add them to the meeting agenda. Advisors, Ellie, Tina and Michelle Zarrilli sit in on the meetings and try to mediate and coordinate.

Mugabe’s Regime Worsens
By Alan

Robert Mugabe has been the president of Zimbabwe and has played major roles in Zimbabwe’s government since 1980. He has had many positions in addition to being president, such as being the Prime Minister and Secretary General. He has also been an activist in the Zimbabwe African Peoples Union (ZAPU) since the 1970’s, and now represents the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) party. He has done many things while in power, like trying to mend Zimbabwe’s economic problems, with little success.

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Fighting Evil Germs
By Kayla B.

Three of the most common viruses in children are meningitis, pneumonia, and streptococcal pharyngitis (Strep Throat). According to The New York Times, since 2000, toddlers have had the chance to get a vaccine that helps prevent them. The vaccine does not always work, but if they get the viruses they could be so severe that it could be life threatening. Even if someone survives they can still have lifelong neurological problems.

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Mugabe’s Regime Worsens

By Alan

Continued from Page 1

Zimbabwe has been in economic decline for quite some time now. Hyperinflation has risen exponentially and now the Zimbabwean currency is virtually worthless. According to the Cato Institute, a libertarian political organization, inflation in Zimbabwe has risen to an estimated 2.79 quintillion percent. Other sources such as The Daily Telegraph, a UK-based newspaper, say it is the second worst case of hyperinflation ever, trailing far behind post-war Hungary, where inflation levels reached 4.19 quintillion percent.

Currently, 100 billion Zimbabwe dollars are the equivalent of one US dollar. The Zimbabwe government recently introduced 100 billion dollar bank notes, which are not even enough to buy a loaf of bread. BBC News states, “Mugabe blames Zimbabwe’s economic problems on white businessmen and Western sanctions, rather than his own policies.” The exact reasons for which the hyperinflation is occurring are disputable, but it’s undeniable that this is definitely a problem for the Zimbabwean economy.

In addition to having terrible inflation, there have also been some ongoing internal struggles between white farmers and Afrocentrist, nationalist leaders like Mugabe who allegedly want to purge their nation of all the white minorities, according to the citizens and media of Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe’s current state is similar to Darfur, with the leader funding private militia to wage wars on certain groups of people in order to preserve their nationalist integrity. Mugabe’s group was called the Fifth Brigade, with the nickname “Gukurahundi,” which means “the rain that washes away the chaff before the spring rains.”

According to Dinoj Suren-dran, a University of Chicago graduate student and Zimbabwean researcher, Mugabe targeted not only white farmers, but also groups of indigenous people with whom he disagreed on a number of levels. In the 1980’s, Mugabe used his private forces to kill off the Ndebeles, a group of Zimbabweans in Matebeleland, Zimbabwe. They were reportedly brutalized and tortured in addition to being killed. Mugabe, however, denies all such allegations and regards them as slander.

The World Health Organization has stated that the average life expectancy for Zimbabweans is 37 years for men and 34 for women, being the lowest life expectancy in the world. This is even worse than places where poverty and disease are more widespread. This is most likely due to the violence there. There are also food shortages due to a lack of people farming the vast farmlands within Zimbabwe. The Caucasian Zimbabwean farmers have all been either driven out by the government or killed by its militia.

Another contributing factor to the young life expectancy is the fact that approximately one out of every four Zimbabweans are HIV positive and they lack the supplies they need in order to fight diseases which are rampant in Africa and that they are especially exposed to, such as Malaria. With diseases, in addition to having little or no immune system thanks to HIV/AIDS, and lacking the necessary medical treatment they need, it is inevitable that people under these conditions will die early deaths.
Gay Celebrities: Out and Proud
By Brooklyn

What was once not accepted as okay in Hollywood is now becoming part of the mainstream as yet another celebrity comes out and chooses to reveal himself as gay. Ever since Ellen DeGeneres publicly came out during her talk show in 1997, people everywhere in Hollywood have chosen to come out of the closet and live their lives as people who are out and proud of who they are.

Recently, as seen on the cover of People magazine, Clay Aiken told reporters that he is a gay man who is the proud father of a son. Aiken even went on to say, “I’m not about to deny my own child to hide or change things.” Similarly, in another issue of People magazine, Lindsay Lohan was interviewed in an article in which she acknowledged the fact that she and Samantha Ronson are “going out” and that she is, in fact, a lesbian. The article showed how Lohan came out to her family and friends, how she and Samantha met, and where they plan to take their relationship.

Gay celebrities have been forced to either hide from society or face discrimination for years, but they are now finding a niche in society that was not there before; one where they can express themselves freely and be supported. Because of this, people like Tila Tequila are able to have a dating show on MTV, despite the fact that she is openly bisexual, and, according to People magazine, Star Trek’s George Takei was finally able to have a public wedding with his longtime partner.

Things weren’t always so great for gay celebrities though. In the past, gay celebrities who came out publicly could lose their careers or even their lives just because they have alternative sexual orientations. In extreme cases, people would protest the movies the gay celebrities were in or even send them hate mail. According to People magazine, Rosie O’Donnell once went on a cruise with her partner and their friends just a few years ago, and at the first stop on their cruise, people protested them to the point where they could have been killed had they stepped ashore.

Now it seems to be widely accepted in Hollywood if an actor or actress is gay. People like the Fab Five are even allowed to have their own TV shows, and in the case of LOGO (Lesbian and Gay Network), gay people even have their own channel on TV. Movies like Brokeback Mountain and But I’m A Cheerleader are heralded as revolutionary classics where even ten or fifteen years ago they would not have existed at all.

Magazines have even begun to be made to celebrate people with alternative sexual orientations. Some people, such as Katy Perry, have even begun to include topics such as lesbianism and bisexuality into their music today, even if they are not gay themselves. Many people involved in the arts as a career, such as Barry Manilow or Elton John, have decided to make the choice to come out, but others are still in the closet because they don’t want things to go back to the way they used to be.

The general public has a whole has mixed feelings about gay celebrities who make the choice to come out. One member of society voices his opinions strongly through his new book, Where’s My Fifteen Minutes. Howard Bragman, openly gay publicist and author, once said, “Every person that comes out is another barrier coming down.” Bragman has not only showed his opinions through his novel, but he has also worked with people like Dick Sargent when the Bewitched star came out of the closet in 1989, and has helped promote films such as Philadelphia, which stars Tom Hanks as a lawyer who is dying of AIDS.

There is a whole spectrum of opinions that accompany gay celebrities when they make the choice to come out. Gay celebrities have the chance to state their opinions in gay-friendly magazines, on LOGO, or in GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender) support groups around the nation. The general public is free to either support or reject them respectfully while carrying on their daily lives.
Michelle P isn’t just the English teacher. She may be an English teacher, but she is also a TV addict. She enjoys watching anything about strange topics, like Supernatural and Smallville, and likes reality TV shows too. She also enjoys watching baseball, especially the Cubs. She didn’t even hear about the Orthogenic School before she worked here.

Michelle has a Bachelors of Science from the University of Iowa, and a Masters of Arts in writing from DePaul University. She has worked at three public schools and three therapeutic schools. During her second job, when she was teaching in Virginia, she started to feel homesick, so she decided to look for jobs in the Chicago area. Later she saw an add for the Orthogenic School and eventually had a phone interview with Jerry. A couple weeks later she flew to Chicago for a second interview. She ended up working at the Orthogenic School from 1994-1998, left for a while, and then came back in 2004!

Michelle likes the Cubs more than the Sox. She started to be a fan in 1982 when Ryan Sandberg came to the Cubs. One of the reasons she liked him was because he was cute, then she became of fan of him overall. “He is the best second baseman in baseball history.” Michelle does like other sports. She is a Bears fan, and she also likes to watch professional men’s tennis. “I love The Olympics and the sports that go into the Olympics,” Michelle also said. She is not a professional basketball fan but is a college basketball fan and she always roots for Iowa and Kentucky. Sports have always been a part of Michelle’s life. “I grew up playing softball, volleyball, and football for as long as I could. In public schools I coached Softball, volleyball, and cross country.”

Everyone has a pet peeve, whether it is nails on a chalkboard or people chewing with their mouths open. Michelle says “Every time I look at my desk there is more paper, which is why the students put their work in the folders on the column in my classroom. Outside of being a teacher I can’t stand it when people tailgate me when I am driving.” Even Michelle has bad habits, though. “I am not very good at cleaning my house, and I like to eat more than I should,” she says.

When Michelle was younger, her favorite book was, The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton. Michelle said that she probably read it at least 100 times. Now she would say that she likes specific authors like, Stephen King and Edgar Alan Poe. “If I had to pick a favorite book it would be the Bone People by Keri Hulme.”

When Michelle was growing up, she always had pets; at least a dog and a cat. “We believed in mixing pets.” Now she has four pets; a Shiba Inu named Mugen, a Rottweiler mix named Brynna, and two cats named Wrigley, and Ivy.

Michelle is a very important staff member at the Orthogenic school, just like everyone else. All
Time for School, Mom and Dad
By Kayla B.

Each October the Academic Open House gives parents the opportunity to meet all of the teachers and follow their child’s daily schedule. If someone has an academic support period, they have a chance to talk to the therapists, Diana, and Jerry. In the coverage area, they are able to get coffee, or, of course, fruits, and vegetables. This year’s open house was on October 15.

At the beginning of the evening, everyone sat in the Little Gym. Diana made a speech to the parents, and introduced all the staff. She started with the Elementary and the Middle School classes, then moved on to High School classes. She made it clear that some of the staff get a chance to work with everyone, and then introduced the Fine Arts, program run by Michelle Z., Haugue and Jillian, the Foreign Language, program run by Mirielle, and the P.E program run by Coach Frank. Bitsy, the day school program manager, and all of the therapists were introduced as well.

When the parents went to each class, the teachers explained what everyone learns in the class and showed any textbooks that were used. For P.E, Coach set up the gym to be very informational. Coach brought down everything he had, and explained what we do in P.E for the whole year.

Overall the Open House, “went very smoothly and [we] learned a lot,” said Mrs. Dersnah. “All of the Staff made themselves very accessible and gave their time for our questions,” Mr. Nothwehr told us.

What Is Student Council?
By Natalie
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add their opinion.

Student Council is vital to the Orthogenic School community. It is one of the ways to get the students’ ideas and opinions across. In the previous years of student council, they have addressed issues like increasing allowances, the new dress code and the pop machines that make money for student council.

Members of student council have said the main goals for this year are possibly raising allowances and the quality of food. They also said they may look into renovations like possibly fixing the lights, making the school greener or more eco friendly and doing whatever they can to make the students more comfortable. To unite the school more, they may look at having more sports activities.

As a vital part to the Orthogenic School, student council is a reliable source to get the ideas of all the students across. Student council is going to do their
Michelle P., Strictly Speaking

By: Kayla B.

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of the staff have things that they contribute to the school. Michelle Z and Michelle P work very hard for Journalism and Lit-Mag, and Michelle P does such an amazing job for the writing part of that.

Michelle likes the Orthogenic School because she gets to work with a lot of talented and creative students. She also likes the fact that even though this is a school for students who have struggled, the Orthogenic School works to challenge them academically.

What is it like working with Michelle P?
“Challenging. She not only has high expectations of her students and the amount of work they should do, but also how her class should be run. As her T.A. [teacher’s assistant] I must try to uphold these expectations, and that, in turn, has challenged me,” Says Geoff.

“I always liked how Michelle is so supportive and caring for all her students. Everything she does is in her students’ best interest. I truly admire her unconditional dedication,” David said. One thing that David said that he will always remember about her is “her frequent conversations. Michelle and I would have [them] whenever I was struggling, She was always there to help me.”

Michelle says that she does consider herself strict, “I have high expectations for myself and my students, both behaviorally and academically, and by showing them that I will enforce these expectations, I want them to see that I believe they can meet them!”

Michelle also adds that the most rewarding part of being a teacher at the Orthogenic School is, “seeing students who don’t believe they can do something learn that they can, and then learn to do it well.”

Hot Topic: Do you think that Obama will make a good president why or why not?

By Justin

“Yes, I think Obama will make a good president because he has a vision of diversity, he has people who cannot stand him and want him to disappear, but he does have some supporters who believe in him. So I believe with his policies he will do well.” Olivia

“I think he’s going to make the best president EVER!” Anonymous

“Yes, he has been trying for ayear and he finally has the chance.
Nick .T

“Yes, he rocks. He puts the rock in Barack, Oh Yeah!” Kayla C.

“Yes. Cuz he’s Obama and he is Awesome” Anonymous

“Yes, because he’s open for change and he made history by being the 1st black president. He’s one cool dude!” Mollie

“I do, cause it looks like he knows what he’s doing –and I like his smile.” Billy

“Yes. Because I think we will see a major Change in the war and the economic crisis in America.” Shelby

“Obama will make a good president because he’s one cool brotha. You rock Barack!” Justin

“Yes because his topics are things to help the United States.” Michael

“No!” James
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Fighting Evil Germs
By Kayla B.
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Meningitis is an inflammation of the Meninges. Meningitis is caused mostly by germs and bacteria. One of the most common symptoms of meningitis is a stiff neck. Some of the other symptoms are a rash, fever and vomiting. One of the ways that people can prevent meningitis is by seeing a doctor. The doctor will probably offer their patient a vaccine. One of the newest vaccines is called Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine. Doctors recommend it to people who are two years or older. They will not give it to you if you are younger.

Another very common illness is Strep Throat, which is an infection in the throat and voice box. It is caused by a bacteria called streptococcal. Strep is very contagious, so it is recommended that you get an antibiotic prescribed to you for ten days. Doctors usually say that after twenty-four hours you will not be contagious anymore.

Pneumonia is another common infection, which affects the lungs. It is also contagious, and can be a lot more serious than Strep Throat. Pneumonia sometimes causes you to have to go to the hospital. A doctor can tell if you have Pneumonia, by listening to your chest and if you get an X-Ray done. If you have pneumonia you might be prescribed an antibiotic.

There are many viruses that are caused by germs. As many Doctors tell people, “wash your hands as much as possible.” These bacterial illnesses are very important to know about because so many people catch them, and they may result in death.

Online Currency Sold for Real Money
By Alan

A recent trend which has become popular lately is playing online multiplayer games. Many people find them much more interactive, enjoyable, and immersive than single-player games, but some people are playing them as a way of making money rather than for fun.

Millions of today’s youth have partaken in playing massively-multiplayer online role-playing games, also known as MMORPGs, and have been immersed in digital worlds with their own fully-fledged virtual economies. In these games, players can make, buy, sell, or trade goods and earn a living for their game characters. Some examples of MMORPGs include World of Warcraft, Everquest, Runescape, Ultima Online, Guild Wars, Lineage, and Warhammer Online.

These games usually revolve around some form of combat, and typically have in-game economies with full player-to-player trading. Main items that are traded regularly include armor, weapons, and commodities such as potions, food, and raw materials that can be refined into finished products. These games are very complex and intriguing, providing unique and innovative experiences for all who play them. However, MMORPG developers such as Blizzard, creator of World of Warcraft, never anticipated that people would try to use their games as a means of making a real-world living.

Throughout countries such as The People’s Republic of China and South Korea, there are plenty of young people, mainly males, who spend hours on end sitting in front of computers “farming” MMORPG currency and then selling it for real money to people in countries like the US. The act of...
Parental Controls Now on Cars
By Natalie

Ford Motors has come up with a new way to keep teen drivers safe. This new technology is called MyKey. MyKey allows parents to limit the speed of the car and control the volume of the car’s stereo system. A survey has been put out to parents by Ford asking their opinion on the new equipment. Many results came back saying that with MyKey they would allow their child to drive more often.

Ford’s new technology works by placing a computer chip inside the key or into the ignition. The chip has been placed there so it cannot be deactivated. There is a message center inside the car where the parent can set up the speed and volume of the car. After this is set up the car will only start if it has the designated key. Ford is confident that the chip will work because they already use a chip to prevent theft.

MyKey was designed to help teens to drive safer, increase fuel efficiency and encourage seat belt use. According to Ford’s poll, 75% of people like the speed limiting qualities, 72% like the safety belt alarms that will go off when the belts are not in use. Also, 63% like the ability to limit volume in the car. Half of the same people said they would allow their kid to drive their family car if they had MyKey.

All of specific settings can be set in the vehicle’s message set up such as a top speed limit, limited audio volume up to 44 percent, and alarm at 45, 55, or 65 mph. Ford has also proven that by keeping a speed limit down, the cars can use 15% less fuel.

Some teens are not willing to have their parents have that much control over their driving because they have the fear they will not learn as well or have realistic experiences on the road. According to Harris Interactive Surveys, 67% of teens stated they would not like their parents to have that much control, but that number fell to 36% when they were told that it could lead to more time behind the wheel.

MyKey is set to come out in the late summertime of 2010 and be featured in the Ford Focus as well as most other Ford, Lincoln and Mercury models. This is just another attempt to make our roads safer.
“farming” is defined as repeatedly doing simple tasks such as killing a certain monster in the game over and over again, and then reaping the rewards that they get from killing them. Usually, in MMORPGs, creatures and other types of opponents drop items and gold, and the process of continually fighting them is quite monotonous, similar to farming, hence why these players are called gold farmers.

Gold farmers do their type of work not out of entrepreneurialism or for the enjoyment of the game, but rather out of desperation for employment. There are many places in these two countries where it is hard to find a stable job and to have consistent income, so wealthy westerners come overseas to hire Chinese to work in situations that involve being given only minimal pay and the bare minimum food and shelter requirements in order to stay alive. According to Julian Dibbell, expert on MMORPGs and author of books such as My Tiny Life: Crime and Passion in a Virtual World, there are an estimated 100,000 gold farmers worldwide, a majority of which are in Asia.

One might wonder just why someone would pay real money for virtual items that don’t really exist. They are just pixels on a screen and strings of data saved on a file for a game server. So what’s the appeal of buying imaginary items? Some people get really involved with their MMORPG characters and would rather spend money than lots of time to earn in-game money. Many MMOs require a lot of time and dedication in order to get good items, and many players are too impatient to go through the whole lengthy process of obtaining things legitimately.

A way in which gold farmers make their lives easier is by using programs that can automate their tasks for them so that all they have to do is monitor their computers running the games, allowing them to make more profit. What is note-worthy about these macros is that all of them are created by people in well-developed English, Slavic, and other Western-European nations and then are introduced to China and Korea, where they are used for gold farming. One example of this is the programmer Aivars Irmejs of Latvia, who created an integrated development environment based on Pascal and Delphi which made it quite easy for people to automate functions in MMORPGs. Neither Chinese nor Koreans have come up with their own applications which can automatically do tasks in MMORPGs for them as well as western programs can, and some believe that had westerners not introduced these to the Chinese and Koreans, they would not have started the gold farming industry.

Gold farming is not only bad for in-game economies because it results in economic imbalances and usually a surplus of items being brought into the game with too few people to sell to, but is bad for China and South Korea’s real economies because gold-farming agencies encourage people to work for them to sell game-related things to the western world, meaning less gets done in China, though 100,000 people is small portion of the Chinese and South Korean populations.

There are many arguments for and against gold farming. Some people say that it exploits desperate Chinese and Korean people who are in search of labor, giving them unfair pay for what they do. They see it as nearly slave labor, only a little more modernized and civil. Other people say that it is good for gamers because they don’t have to spend hours upon hours playing the game to earn money to get what they want. Instead, they can just pay a meager fee to get ahead in the game and gain an edge on their opponents. All in all, it has quite an affect on the world of MMORPGs.

Some people approve of gold farming because they want to support impoverished Asians who would otherwise have no other source of income, or at least income that would be sufficient for maintaining a good standard of living. An article on MMORPG.com states that they get paid only around 30 cents per hour but they get provided with other benefits which allow them to live decent lives in comparison to their fellow citizens. Also, compared to some other job wages in China, the kind of money they’re making really isn’t that meager, even though it might seem small compared even to minimum wage jobs in the US.
I closed my eyes and put the CD into the portable CD player, filled with the feeling that I usually have when I listen to new material by Metallica: a sense of confidence kindled by an overwhelming amount of hope. The confidence told me that anything was sure to be better than their previous album, “St. Anger,” which was regarded as a joke in the world of metal music. My hope was that my confidence would prove itself to be true. As I listened to the opening guitar riffs, I saw that things were beginning to look hopeful.

The name of this particular album is “Death Magnetic,” and in my opinion, it is a work of sheer genius. It defines what metal is supposed to be in just ten beautiful songs. On top of that it offers a shining beacon of hope for anyone still holding out for a hero to save us from the chaos music has become today. What I love about the album is that it starts out with a heartbeat sound and spooky riffs on the guitar, which lead into intriguing lyrics, graphic imagery, and amazing quality of sound in general. These slam-danceable tunes are a pleasure to listen to for anyone who enjoys doing ballet in mosh pits. While the songs are never under six minutes in length, they are definitely worth giving a chance.

The official release date for the album was September 12, but the album leaked online ten days beforehand. Surprisingly, this didn’t bother Metallica in the slightest. One of the band members, Lars Ulrich, insisted that the fact that their music leaked just “proved how popular it was and how well it would do once sold in stores,” when he was interviewed by Rolling Stone magazine and Spin magazine.

Metallica fans and critics alike were pleasantly surprised by the result that came out of the album leaking, and both populations seem to love the album as if it were a child of theirs. According to Aditya Mehta, a music critic, she felt the same way that I did before she played the album, and after she had listened to the music, she “walked around on a cloud” because she was “just so happy.”

Unlike many metal bands out there, Metallica is responsible for writing their own lyrics and music. They don’t depend on others to write their material for them. According to Lars Ulrich, “We don’t want to hire someone else to do our work for us because that would kind of defeat our purpose.” On this album, they continue to use intricate lyrics that are both clever and bizarre. Their songs usually have a rhyme scheme, but for some songs on this album that was not the case.

Metallica started in the 1980’s as a garage band, but today it is the most popular band in the metal music industry. In fact, there was no such thing as heavy metal music until Metallica came along. They not only started a genre, they started a revolution, and people responded in a positive way. People actually listened to them, and now they have successfully pumped out ten albums, including “Death Magnetic.”

As for me, I have been a Metallica fan ever since my uncle introduced me to them at a young age, and “Death Magnetic” has done nothing but increase my love for metal music and my appreciation for the macabre in general. I would recommend this album to anyone who enjoys music that is a little rough around the edges but has an overall significant underlying theme of love. If that population includes you, then I would tell you to run out and buy yourself a copy of “Death Magnetic” today.
Muffin Man

By Derrick, Omid & Ben

The YDC Staff would like to apologize for running the frames for muffin man out of order in our previous issue. Please enjoy this fantastic comic in its proper format!
We're Free!

No problem? Just doing my job?

Thank you, muffin man.

Police: He's still breathing.

Who could have done this?

Don't know, but we best get them out of here!

Written by: [signature]

Drawn by: [signature]

COMPLETED