

Smoke Signals

Antonian College Preparatory High School | October 3, 2008 | Fall Issue

ADVENT: THE REAL CHRISTMAS

By Michael Aguilar

Once again we come to the time of year that many look forward to most. But what should we really be thinking about? Will we let our greed for gifts and various other material things be the paramour we eagerly await in winter, or will we return to what this time of year is supposed to really mean? Will we fall victim to the allure of Christmas themed commercialism and such things, or will we turn back to God at this time of year? We have been reminded that it is Advent season where we see the warm glow of the candles that gently remind us what Christmas is really all about.

There is no reason to be unhappy or stressed at this time of year. Whenever we grow weary of the pressure put on us by the impending holiday and its demands, we can give that time to God and so relieve the tension. In this way can we be both calm and holy during this Advent season. The main thing to keep in mind is an old maxim that has been around ever since this holiday became so very hectic. We don't need gifts or a tree; we need our families and just as importantly our faith as we celebrate the coming of Christ into the world.

This year in the weeks preceding Christmas, it would be a good experience for us to attend Mass at least on the required basis, if not more often. This would serve the dual purpose of a break from decorating and gift buying as well as giving a chance to reflect upon oneself in the short periods of quiet. In the candle lit churches, we can find God and ourselves this year, and help us make things better in the New Year.



We've Got Spirit

By: Gayle Bustamante

At the beginning of the school year, every grade level returned with that one fall week on the brain, Spirit Week. The four classes entertained their peers with skits, crazy dress, hallway decorations, games, and much more. This past year Antonian College Preparatory High School had a completely new and shocking experience: sophomores winning Spirit Week! And this year, it was the class of 2010 who came out on top once again!

Junior class President and Vice President, Jessica Guerra and Aly Rominger, both agreed that they fulfilled their goal once again this school year. "Winning as sophomores definitely set this year's expectations," explained Jessica Guerra and indeed it has. From the crowd-pleasing skits to the exquisite hall, it is no surprise that the junior class placed first



each day of the week. The friendly rivalry between classes was not the only one this year, but a miniature sibling one as well. Freshman President, Matt Guerra had heard the dynamics of an Antonian Spirit Week in his middle school days and showed what he could do this year. He understood from the beginning that freshman are expected to come in last, but believes his class accomplished more that

what was expected and enjoyed the experience. "It was incredible to be in the auditorium and watch the skits, experiencing the high school experience as a family and to be apart of the school; it's indescribable," Matt related. If re-elected, a goal the freshman president hopes to reach next year is to motivate his classmates to become more involved, now that they know what to expect. Both Guerra's agree the competition was good since much support was traded between the siblings, but each person's ideas were strictly confidential. Matt admits that, although he did all he could for his class, he knew the juniors would take first and probably will next year, "each of the junior officers work extremely hard, but not everyone sees it, so they truly deserved to win!"

Each class admirably displayed their dedication and showed something different. Although only one class could win first, the entire student body contributed in making Spirit Week '08 a time of enjoyment and unity. Good job to all the classes and good luck for next year's

The Winter Concert

By Thomas Borowiec

It is just that time of year again. The air becomes as chilly as it can be this far South, your breath forms ice crystals as the moisture in your breath is frozen upon exhaling, heaters warm the school, and, most importantly perhaps, the Antonian Apache Band has its annual Winter Concert!

The Band had rehearsed for some time before the performance. There were many different pieces to be done as all the different parts of Band performed, sometimes separately, sometimes as a cohesive whole. The Beginner Band performed "Frosty the Snowman" admirably rivaling many of their prior performances as their skill continues to grow. The Drum Line performed their rendition of "Not So Silent Night" with great skill and an interesting arrangement of cymbals. The flag girls even had their own performance, showing their talent to a recording of "Baby, It's Cold Outside". Finally, there were the last two performances of Jazz and Concert Bands in which Drum Line and Band merged. Jazz performed three Jerry Nowak arranged Christmas pieces, and the Concert Band performed several Christmas medleys, including one of Charlie Brown's Christmas songs. All in all it was a crowd-pleasing event, especially when various items were raffled off to the eager crowd.



Saving Africa By Gayle Bustamante

Last school year a new organization was introduced to Antonian. A mysterious group shrouded in mystery until now. They are back this year with even bigger ambitions. Yes, I speak of the Africa Club! Inspired by a trip to Africa with her sister, Katie Gazda founded the Africa Club, which has won immense support from ACP students. Africa Club took off very quickly and after a bout of brainstorming, the organization has expanded on ideas in order to reach their new goals in the many aspects of aiding the African village of Paylec.

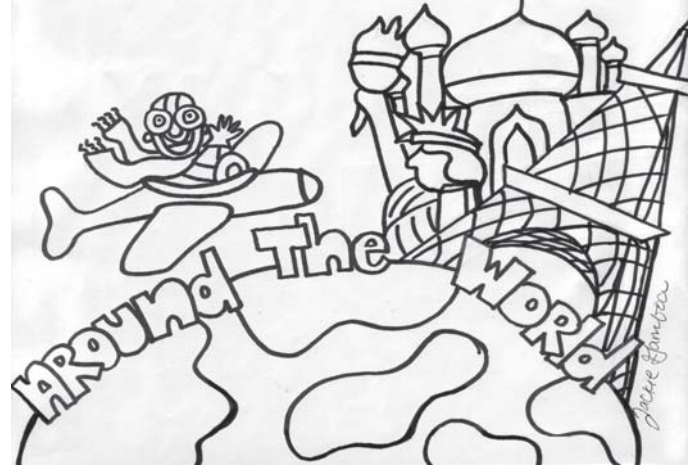
As many noticed last year, Africa Club quickly sold many t-shirts and bracelets much to the benediction of the African Charities. Once students return from Christmas Break, they will be back with the addition of hand carved necklaces, an item that is sure to raise copious amounts of cash for those in need. T-shirts and jewelry are not the only projects the determined individuals have in planned, but also an Angel Tree Project, an H2O Project, and more. With the Angel Tree Project, the group hopes to not only donate material gifts, but also help give settlers of the Paylec Village the necessities they need in order to survive. The H2O Project involves students drinking only water for two weeks and donate the money to give Africa purified water, since for every \$1 donated buys a year supply of water for someone. Also, the group has contacted sponsors such as Tom's Shoes, which donates a shoe to an African in need per every shoe you buy.

The students involved in Africa Club are determined to raise enough money to not let these people down come March. This Spring Break a few members plan to visit Africa, and with the money they raise from now to then, they hope to make a well so that clean water will be available to the Paylec Village. Also, the members hope to build a health clinic to help stem the tide of dangerous maladies in the future.

Members of the Africa Club are well aware that their goals cannot be reached without the support and help from their peers. Aside from helping the people of Africa, another goal the Africa Club has is to inspire others to be involved and help out. The group agrees that the world needs a change, and they can only do so much. Beyond that they hope to lead others to contribute into making that change.

World News

Friday, October 3, 2008
Antonian College Preparatory High School



Courtesy of Jackie Gamboa (11th Grade)

Economic Recession: Reasons Why We Need to Care

By Liz Briones and Maggie Burger

All we hear about these days on the news, on the radio, and even from our parents is the Economic Recession. We can't get away from it. Yes, our parents' taxes are going to be raised, and yes, some people will be put out of their own homes; but that still fails to answer the question, "How does this affect me?" Why should we care if it doesn't keep us from getting all of our Christmas presents?

The student body here at Antonian is four or less years away from entering into the working world. We will be paying taxes and bills, managing budgets, and attending college all in the midst of an Economic Recession that only appears to have just begun. The direct impact of the Recession: your college education. You know it, and we know it; college is expensive, but budget cuts within the government and the economy will raise tuition even higher. "The average cost of a four-year private college jumped to \$30,367 (per year) this school year, the first time the average has broken the \$30,000 mark (CNNMoney.com)," states CNN reporter Rob Kelley. Again, what does this mean to us? It means that there will be cuts in educational services such as certain courses, clubs, and activities because they can no longer be funded. Most importantly, the number of student loans will diminish including the donations most private university students inquire when it comes time to pay the ever-growing tuition. With these loans becoming more unavailable, the simple solution appears to get a job or internship while in school. Unfortunately, the employment rate is dropping drastically. So the new question becomes, "Who is a company more likely to hire; a college student still requiring experience and training or an experienced employee who just recently lost their job and is ready to return to work?" And even if that boss has decided to take on an intern, what used to be "paid internship" now will be a "volunteer job." Translation: No Money! No Dinero! Non Pecunia! Well, let's look four to eight years down the road. You have graduated, hold a degree, and are looking for a professional job. Think you are rid of your last problem? Think again. Not only will it be harder to get a job, but also just living everyday life is growing increasingly more difficult for newly graduated students. Even those students abroad are having trouble, because the Recession has trickled down to their countries of residence. A Recession affects everybody. Don't be naïve and think that we students are unaffected by it. Get prepared now. Begin saving your money and start a college fund. Be prepared to spend more time looking for that summer job. Work hard to budget now in order to practice good money skills for the future. The recession will affect you, but you are the judge of how badly.

Change We Can Believe In: A College Football Playoff

By Phillip Ericksen

In a recent interview with ESPN's Chris Berman, Barack Obama was asked about the one thing he would change regarding American sports. Without hesitation, just as Joe Schmo would have done from his couch, the next leader of the free world called for a playoff in college football.

Two weeks later on "60 Minutes," the president-elect commented again on this topic. He said, "I don't know of any serious fan of college football who has disagreed with me on this. So, I'm going to throw my weight around a little bit. I think it's the right thing to do." Throughout his campaign, Barack Obama talked quite a bit about the right thing to do. He spoke of fairness, integrity, and understanding, three words that cannot be used to accurately describe the Bowl Championship Series. Every season, great football teams are robbed of national championship hopes that should be very much alive. The system is ridiculed and criticized by analysts, fans, and even players and coaches. On top of it all, as bombardments of angry e-mail continue to pile up, along with countrywide frustration as a whole, all BCS coordinator John Swofford has to say is, "For now, our constituencies...have settled on the current BCS system, which the majority believes is the best system yet to determine a national champion."

These two interviews have swung open the doors of speculation over a potential eight-team playoff to follow the regular season. Even though the office of the President possesses no constitutional right to change the rules of college football, Americans would love to see him save the day by implementing a playoff and doing away with those wretched computers. So look out world, because we have a president-elect who may be able to solve the crisis of the BCS and put an end to the main source of our miseries.



Courtesy of www.gotonycodes.com

Put Some Power Behind Your Peace Sign

By Nancy Daly

One of the worst things that can happen to our generation is to be detached from important issues that affect the rest of the world. One world crisis that too few of our peers are educated about is the genocide happening in Darfur. We know that it is a tragedy and other nations have tried to alleviate the bloodshed there, but in order to make a difference, we need details. To know how to fix a problem, we have to know the cause. To bring peace, we need to be educated. Let's not allow Darfur to be ignored.

Darfur is about the size of France and located in between Sudan and Chad in Africa and has a population of about 6-7 million people. For five years, the Sudanese government has sent its troops, which are called the "devils on horseback", to villages in Darfur to destroy homes and murder non-combatant civilians. A crime targeted at one particular group of people is considered genocide, which is punishable under an international court.

The American government has proposed a few pieces of legislation to help the citizens of Darfur. However, little action has taken place due to budget concerns. With the recent financial crisis, it is hard to know how much priority Darfur will hold. For the proposals introduced by several senate members to start taking action, it's up to us.

To have a role in the rescue of Darfur, we can write to our representative or member of Congress urging them to co-sponsor legislation to support relief in Darfur. Writing letters isn't all that can be done. Historically, people our age have been responsible for social change and outreach. We can continue this tradition by lobbying elected officials and starting outreach groups. To find ideas to help, take a look in the Student Outreach section at savedarfur.org. There are so many ways to help. Next time you throw up a peace sign, have some real meaning behind it. Be a part of the peace movement. Antonian has shown itself capable of being a resource to struggling countries, so let's start making this a priority.

SmokeSignals Newspaper

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Photos Courtesy of *Ms. Maria Gutierrez*

Editorials

Friday, October 3, 2008
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Dear Mr. President-Elect,

Barack Obama, the 44th President of the United States. The very words hit me strong. Is it because of the historical significance? Is it because I was an Obama supporter? Or is it because I see a new chance and a new faith in our country with you as the new president? I would have to say yes to all of these questions. But as with any new endeavor, there are questions I have and urgent concerns I feel need answers to.

The first and most pressing issue to me is what's on everyone's hearts and minds as of late: the economy. You declare that you are doing a 180-flip on the Reaganomics of the 1980s by building from the 'bottom-up'

rather than the 'trickle-down' effect (I believe your policies will now be called Obamanomics). You are giving tax breaks to "95% of Americans" - though about 40% of the population does not have to pay taxes. Republicans have often deemed this a socialistic tactic by "redistributing the wealth" and that the tax break line is set to run small businesses out of business and take away the "American dream" from those who have earned it. While I do agree that the middle-class American family should not have to carry the weight of the U.S. Economy as they usually have in the past, it's a tough path to tread. I am all for helping out the poor and desolate, but it's hard - if not impossible - to know who is truly using their aid in good faith and those who would take further advantage of a system of social welfare. In addition, I don't feel it's fair to take away someone's wealth who earned it as well. Furthermore, the irresponsible management by the country's leading corporations - banking, mortgage, insurance, and now the automakers - have been equally troubling in the severity that these companies have mishandled the American people's money. I am quite pleased with the strong cabinet that you seem to be setting up - especially financially - but I hope they do not try to reflect these corporation's downfalls. So in the end though, I give you the benefit of the doubt on this one. I'm interested to see how you will initiate your tremendous ideas and how it affects this very fragile economy.

I am favor of your Iraq War strategy. Though it has come under attack for setting a 16-month timetable, I personally feel that you are, for one, giving sufficient time to commence the work that's left to be done, and also, working towards getting out troops out of a situation that no longer should garner our full attention and devotion of human life and combat. I think the government that is set up in Iraq needs to honor its commitment to democracy and attempt to stand on its own. In terms of your Afghanistan War strategy, I am ill-equipped to answer. At this time, I am withdrawal-from-warzone attitude, but I understand that our country does need to protect itself from foreign invasion and terrorism; I feel that Afghanistan, Iran, and North Korea should be the main focus of our efforts.

Finally, one may read that first paragraph and think "Oh, the usual Democratic journalist..." Well yes and no. I am an Obama supporter; I am not a Democrat. I am possibly a moderate who leans left, but I don't know for sure at this point. I do know I was a staunch George W. Bush supporter through the tumultuous and stressful 2000 Bush-Gore election; and even the hard-fought 2004 Bush-Kerry election. But in late 2005 or early 2006, I came to a harsh realization - that I couldn't stand for (what I found to be) the failed policies and truly insincere actions of an unsuccessful administration.

Funny enough, I became fascinated by and looked into a new face on the political scene who came about during the Democratic National Convention of 2004. His name was Barack Obama. I remember pledging to my parents and friends that you, Mr. Obama, were my candidate for 2008. I was met with "Who?" and laughs. But I just felt you were right for this country. And I still do. I can only hope you don't let me down as I was before. There's too much at stake and there's so much to be expected from you sir. You promised a vote for you is a vote for change, a vote for difference, and a vote for hope in troubling times. Yes We Can; Yes We Did, Yes We Will...don't let it just be a slogan. It's up to you Mr. President-Elect. Don't let us down. - **Christian Weise**

The Entertainment Sneakily

With Mr. Weise

The Biggest News Stories of 2008

20. The Philadelphia Phillies beat the Tampa Bay Rays in the World Series.

Effectively ending the best story of the year and satisfying the "kind" Philadelphia fans.

19. Justin Timberlake hosts the ESPYs.

Platinum CDs. Rich. Good-looking. And spot-on hilarious.

18. Brooke Burke wins Dancing with the Stars.

Lance Bass was 3rd place and Warren Sapp was 2nd place. Wow, that's a little surprising.

17. David Cook wins American Idol season 8.

So, does anyone know who this guy is? Does anyone watch anymore?

16. Plaxico Burress shoots himself in the leg.

Brilliant. Simply brilliant.

15. TRL is over.

No more awkward 23-sec clips of videos and random yelling "shout-outs" from the

audience. Is this suppose to be bad??

14. The Boston Celtics win the NBA Championship over the Los Angeles Lakers.

"Anything is possible." Especially when you have two of the highest payrolls in the

entire league.

13. New Kids on the Block gets back together. The Backstreet Boys are back together. The Eagles reunite. AC/DC has a new Cd. And Guns N' Roses releases Chinese Democracy.

A year of comebacks and anticipation.

12. A Shot at Love with Tila Tequila and The Hills dominate reality television.

Tears. Fights. Looking for love. Never fails to get ratings.

11. Paris Hilton was (almost) completely invisible in 2008.

Did she finally Vote or Die?

10. The Sopranos airs its 88th and final episode.

Yet we don't know how it ended. Still.

9. The New York Giants upset the undefeated New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLII.

We know who celebrated that night..... Will Fagan...

8. T.I., Lil' Wayne, and M.I.A. tear up the charts.

And T-Pain is in every song released this year.

7. Britney Spears is back...and she isn't bald.

10 years of Britney. A lifetime of confusion.

6. Heath Ledger dies.

The tragic death of an artist before his time.

5. "The Dark Knight" grosses over \$500 million. Now "Twilight" becomes the obsession of every teenage girl in the world.

Comic-book heroes and vampire love stories. This is America for you.

4. The Jonas Brothers and Taylor Swift go on tour together.

I can only imagine how painful those screaming teenagers must be; and the only concert this

year where the ones on stage are old enough to be audience members, too.

3. Miley Cyrus/Hannah Montana.

All she has to do at this point would be to overthrow Oprah to rule the world.

2. Beijing 2008 Summer Olympics.

Michael Phelps is a dolphin god. Nastia Luiken is amazing. May-Walsh are the greatest team

I've ever seen. The "Redeem Team" dominates. Dana Torres is unreal. And the Chinese still

win in Beijing. Rigged.

1. Senator (D-IL) Barack Obama is the 44th President of the United States of America and the 1st African-American elected to the Presidency.

Republican or Democrat, we can all agree on this: Thank God the campaign is over.

THE TOP FLICK CRITIC CORNER

By Alexandra Zepeda

Reaching number 2 in the box office in the week of December 1, Twilight is a movie everybody seems to be talking about.

The movie is based on the award winning book about Bella, a girl who moves to a small town to live with her father. Bella didn't expect anything big in her life to change, until she met Edward. Her and this mysterious boy fell into the most passionate and thrilling kind of love. Little did she know that her prince charming was a vampire.



But the real question in between all of the short conversations about this chick-flick is: Is the movie as good as the book? The question was answered by a few student sources that have experienced both. "The book is actually better," a student explains. "It explains and puts things more into detail a lot more than the movie. So if you honestly want to enjoy the movie, watch it first. Then, read the book and still be satisfied with all of the parts that were left out."

Although critics everywhere have given it no more than 3 stars, it seems that teenagers think otherwise. Could it possibly be because of the new male actor, Robert Pattinson, who has become easily popular these past few weeks? Some girls have already admitted that this is the only reason they went to see the movie in the first place. But surprisingly, they came out saying that it was a great movie and Pattinson was just a "sweet addition".

So for everyone who still can't decide if it's worth seeing or not, this article should help you out.

Sports

Friday, October 3, 2008
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Nothing is Ever Over

By Mark Stenberg

The Apache boy's basketball team returns to the court this year stating off with a record of 8-7 with hopes of redeeming a disappointing end to a great season last year. This year things are a lot different with an undeniably younger team than in the past. They are led by four seniors: Javi "the hawk" Villagomez, Jonathan "Fergie Ferg" Ferguson, Nick "the tailor"- he's always threading the needle- Atiee, and Colin "the kiwi" Thomas. The team, "started off rough," says Steve Gorday a junior on the team. "But then we gelled and now we are getting better every game." Coach Walker, who is in his fourth year at ACP, says the guys are "finding their identity as a team." The junior varsity team is coached by the newcomer Coach John Campos, who also helps coach Varsity. The freshmen are coached by Coach P.J. Forest and the ever-versatile Coach Ric Molinar. The Varsity team looks forward to games against Harlandale and Brackenridge as well as the Arlington Tournament on December 26th. However, the team has their sights set on District play, which begins in January. As undefeated district champs for two years running, the guys have some big shoes to fill.

Lady Apache Victory 6-2

By Stephanie Oliver

On Wednesday December 3 our varsity girl's soccer team took on the Incarnate Word Academy Angels who traveled here from Corpus Christi. The Lady Apaches pulled out a victory with a score of 6 to 2. Players who contributed to the point total were Andrea Arizpe, Bridget Dupnick, Jessica Deitschel, Alicia York, and Christina Majdalani who scored twice. The first ten minutes of the game IWA played mostly on our side of the field and had two break-away opportunities. They capitalized on each of these chances, but then the Lady Apaches kicked it into to gear and came back to score three goals in the first half and three more in the second half, each goal as amazing as the previous. Freshman goalie Jaime Aguillen did well to protect the net. The team really came together as one to come out with a hard fought victory. Good job ladies and congratulations on your win!



Pictured above is Liz Boyd (Senior) with her brother Michael Boyd (Sophomore) and her parents Mr. & Mrs. Boyd. Liz signed with St. Mary's University on November 12, 2008. Congratulations Liz!

Starting From Where We Left Off

By Alicia York

On December 2nd, the Lady Apache Basketball Team took on the Mc Arthur Brahamas. As the physical game continued, The Brahamas took the lead in the 3rd quarter. It looked like the Brahamas would come away with a win, but our Lady Apaches pulled together, and in an all team effort, they came away with the win. Junior Katherine "Big O" Galindo was the teams top scorer with 26 points and Senior Liz Boyd followed with 20 points, contributing to the final score of 68-54. Congratulations Ladies on a well fought win.

With the teams beginning this year, Antonian expects a lot out of our girls. Having already accomplished the feat of playing in the State Semi-Final Game last season, the next hurdle is the State Championship. Liz Boyd, who has just signed with St. Mary's University Girls Basketball Team, is leading the way for her team. Good Luck with your season ladies we will be cheering for you.

Congratulations

Courtesy of Garrett Rodriguez (12th Grade)



The Antonian Golf Team took 1st Place in 3 of their 4 tournaments during their Fall league. Congratulations Apache Golf!

The Antonian Freshman Boy's Basketball team won the Bandera Tournament on December 6, 2008. They beat Medina High School 58-37, Hondo High School 60-34, and Medina Valley in the finals. Way to go Apaches!



Courtesy of Reagan Morkovsky (12th Grade)

The World's Sport

By Will Fagan

Stacked with seniors and a couple of tough underclassmen, this year's boy's varsity soccer team is very promising. 11 of the 18 players are in the senior class, led by Team Captains Jorge Aburto, Daniel Easley, and Emotional Leader Bernardo Lopez. With a convincing 4 to 1 win over St. Michaels, the Apaches have established themselves as a monster soccer force of awesomeness to be reckoned with. The Apaches play arch rival Central Catholic Friday December 12th at 7 o' clock on the Central Catholic fields. I hope that all of you go and support your fellow Apaches, you won't be disappointed. Try and keep up with the soccer team, and if you happen to catch one of the Apache home games, it would be a good idea to bring a blanket because it can get cold.

