



THE PROPHET

UNION CATHOLIC REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

APRIL 28, 2003

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Freshmen, Sophomores Lose E-Mail Privileges

Kathleen Murray

ON FRIDAY MARCH 21, ASSISTANT Principal Mr. Marotti announced that the freshmen and sophomores would only be allowed to use their school e-mail to communicate with their teachers. The underclassmen’s other e-mail privileges were re-voiced because the freshmen and sophomores were abusing it.



Mr. Johnston

“The e-mail was being used as an instant message service instead of for an educational purpose,” said Network Administrator Mr. Johnston. Seven thousand

e-mails were being sent per day in the school, 6,400 by the freshmen and sophomores—an average of 18 per student. The underclassmen had been warned many times about abusing e-mail before the administration finally acted.



Miss Piasecki

“E-mail is to be used as a curriculum tool,” said Miss Piasecki, Assistant Principal for Technology. “The freshmen and sophomores didn’t understand. That’s why it was taken away.” Using e-mail as a

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Senior Prom: A Night To Remember

Jessica Bourné and Angela Wiggs

ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR GONE BY, another school year’s graduating class is ready to throw their caps high. UC seniors, class of ’03, are getting ready to say goodbye to one of the most important and memorable experiences in their lifetime. But before seniors say “see ya” to both friends and UC’s faculty, they have to give them-

selves a night to remember—a night above all other nights, summing up what friendships and hours of overpriced preparations are really equal to: PROM NIGHT!

The senior prom will take place at The Manor, an exquisite four-star restaurant in West Orange. Prom this year has taken a turn for

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Letter to the Editor

The Environmental Club has been serving UC for over ten years. Sister Percylee wanted to organize the club because recycling was the right thing to do for the UC community. The school also started the club because it gives students a sense of pride. As Christians, we should make sure that the earth God has given us is clean. This is the only club at UC that allows students to take care of the physical property of the school. But some people in this school have no pride in the physical well-being of the school.

I have seen many people walk out of class disgusted due to the fact that they have gum on their skirts or pants. Some people seem to think that the correct way of disposing of gum is by placing it on any piece of furniture around them. Last time I looked, there was a garbage can in every single classroom, and a garbage barrel at the end of every wing. Is it truly that hard to spit the gum out into the garbage can? This is a college prep school (you know, the kind of school aimed at people who want to go to college). I believe that the principle of “garbage goes into the garbage can” was instilled in kindergarten; for some reason, some people still can’t grasp this concept.

The next major issue is people drawing on walls. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, this may come as a shock to some of you but there are items specifically made for people to write notes, messages, and pictures...it’s called paper. I know that cavemen drew on walls to express themselves, due to the fact they had nothing else to write on. I saw some writing on the walls in the sophomore wing the other day. Either we have cavemen in this school or we have people that think like cavemen. Writing on walls and on desks is unsightly. Do you think anyone truly cares if you love Sarah? No. While its nice to see you have found your mate, everyone that sits in the third seat of the second row in room 221 doesn’t need to know this lovely tidbit of information.

All of this brings me to my thesis. UC students should take pride in how the school looks. You might feel that the school is ugly, but don’t throw paper around the halls, write on the desks, and put gum on the chair, and then claim that it’s dirty. Over the summer, UC must pay a dedicated staff of custodians and students to go around this building in 90° heat and scrub off the jibber jabber that was written on the walls and desks all year long. Be mindful of the fact that this is your school. You can make it look nice or you can trash it. Civilized people don’t throw garbage on the floor at home, they don’t put gum on the bottom of the dining room table, and they don’t write on the walls of the living room. Why is there an urge to do it here? After all, it is your home for about 35 hours a week. I challenge the UC community to keep this building neat and to take some pride in it.—*Daniel Sandiford '04*

***The Prophet* is a publication of Union Catholic Regional High School, Scotch Plains, New Jersey.**

Letters to the Editor

Want to share your opinions in *The Prophet*? *The Prophet* accepts letters from all members of the Union Catholic community. Letters to *The Prophet* must be signed. However, we will withhold your name upon request. *The Prophet* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length. Letters may be placed in *The Prophet* mailbox in the main office or given to any editor-in-chief.

Contributions (articles, photographs, cartoons, etc.) are also accepted. Please see Mr. Leib in Room 206 or an editor for details.

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Funny Thing, Funny Musical

Joseph Palinsky

A *FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE Forum*, the Performing Arts Company's 2003 production, was presented on the first two weekends of April to enthusiastic and appreciative audiences. "This is honestly the best play we have ever done," said Mrs. Carolan, veteran PAC director. "I have had so much fun working with the cast."

The play was also one of the funniest that Union Catholic has ever presented. Playgoers were greeted by senior Mike Vogt announcing that the company would be performing a "Comedy Tonight." Everything about the



play has featured a clucking slave, a wife painted up like a geisha, and a dominatrix in pink leather?

"It was a very comical play," raved junior Katie Seamon. "I found myself laughing throughout the entire thing."

The cast featured Mike Vogt, Eddie Hernandez, Andrew Timmes, Joe Torella, Katie Czado, Kate



Walsh, Mario Cortés, Mike Konchalski, and Joe Palinsky, with Kay Manalo, Lauren Body, Ysabelle Flores, Martha Soos, Marybeth Tran, and Nathalie Cortés as the primary courtesans and Brian DeOlivera, Eddy Thornton, Teddy McKeown, Chris Noble, and Vinny Napolitano as the Proteans.



Salute the Secretaries

Jasmine Holliday

ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, THE UNION CATHOLIC community will be showing thanks to its secretaries. The UC secretaries include main office secretaries Mrs. Maryellen Wischusen and Ms. Laura Ford and guidance secretary Mrs. Barbara McKenna. According to Sister Percylee, the secretaries are the infrastructure behind Union Catholic. It is the secretaries that keep UC in order.

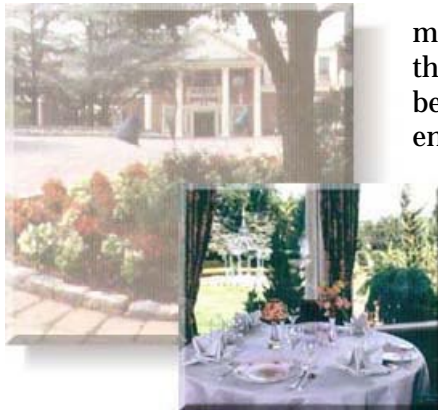
The secretaries will be honored in a presentation on UCTV and presented with a gift from the Union Catholic community. Individual members of the community will also make gifts to the secretaries. The names of those individuals will not be released in advance so as not to ruin the surprise for the secretaries.

Administrative Professionals' Day began in 1952 as Secretaries' Day. In 1981, the National Secretaries' Association became Professional Secretaries International and the observance became known as Professional Secretaries' Day. In 1998, the organization changed its name to the International Association of Administrative Professionals to reflect its members' expanded duties. Administrative Professionals' Day (aka Secretaries' Day) is celebrated nationwide on April 23 but, due to Easter vacation it will be celebrated here at UC one week later on April 30.

Senior Prom

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the better and worse. Last year, some seniors said all of the fun lay in seeing everyone dressed in nice attire. "The prom was fun but boring all at the same time," said UC alumnus Jonathan Russell '02. "I liked being with my friends, but nothing was really different besides seeing all of our girls look pretty in dresses. That was probably the best part about prom."



The Manor, West Orange

Class of '03 members insist they will have the best prom experience UC has ever offered to seniors. "Our prom isn't going to be anything like that," said senior Marissa Mathes.

"Even if it's only my friends and me, together, alone the entire time, I know my prom night will be great." Unfortunately, the prom price has reached a new high at \$105 per person, \$210 per couple. "It's a lot of money," notes senior Nelson Figueras, "but it's worth it. It's a time we all get to be stupid together one last time."

Putting money issues aside, teenagers usually get excited about prom because of the attire. Girls prep their dresses, while the boys tailor the tuxes. Some of the best places to look for dress and tuxedo shops, as well as professional dress-makers, are East Orange, Linden, and Colonia (see accompanying articles).

Another highlight on prom night is arriving in style. Whether you arrive in a traditional stretch Lincoln or stretch Hummer, the limousine just tops off the glamour factor in everyone's night. Some of the best places to look for limousines are B&M Limousine Services (Mountainside) and DJ's Limo (Linden).

Prom is like a teenager's innocent idea of a wedding. You have to deal with some heavy expenses, but indeed all in fun. To miss senior prom, you should and better be willing to miss

one of the most special times of your life. It's a happy memory that should never be taken too lightly.

Juniors Set to Celebrate Their Prom, Too

Chris Etzold

THIS YEAR'S JUNIOR PROM WILL BE HELD AT THE BERKELEY Plaza in Berkeley Heights on May 9. The cost for a couple is \$104 while a single is \$55.

Last year's junior prom was also held at the Berkeley Plaza. The junior prom can be a magical experience. Although it certainly does not amount to what a senior prom can be, many students get to enjoy the pleasantries of prom one year early. For some, they get to enjoy their first experience in a limo. For others, it's a chance to get dressed formally. "I went last year and had a great time," said junior Colleen Anderson. "I'm really excited about going again."

For many, it is the highlight of junior year. "Although it's going to be fun, it just reminds me how we only have one year left," said junior Heather Hanley. "It really makes you appreciate these things that you can only experience in high school that much more."

There are a number of photo packages to choose from. See Mrs. Nunes in room 221 for information.



Berkeley Plaza

Prom Fashions for 2003

Rachel Martel and Suzanne Henessey

THIS YEAR THE POPULAR COLORS SEEM TO BE PINK, WHITE, AND BLACK. THE COMBINATION OF BLACK AND WHITE IS ALSO very popular this year, just like last year. All styles of dresses, from big and poofy to slim and fitting, are in for '03—two pieces, too. And guys have more choices than ever before.



This dress is a great one, great color, great style. Satin beaded top with silver tulleing under matching tulle skirt. \$398.00 by Tiffany Designs. Available at tjformal.com and New York New York in Woodbridge Mall.

This dress is rather slimming. Stunning gown in satin faille and chiffon. Bodice is of hand beaded net overlay and chiffon. Black crystal beaded fringe adorns point empire waistline. High-low a-line skirt is overlaid with chiffon. \$219.00 by Loralie. Loralie gowns are available at Loralie.com.



Avalon Black—100% pure worsted wool has a high styling 4-button front, peak lapel, besom pocket and a pleated adjustable waistband trouser. Price: \$150



Avalon White—Year-round weight polyester provides comfort and durability in a high styling 4-button front, peak lapel, besom pocket plus a pleated adjustable waistband trouser. Price: \$229



This dress is a common two-piece dress. This midriff and belly button baring two-piece prom dress is fun. The sequin and beaded silk chiffon midriff top has a square neckline, which compliments any hairstyle. Wide beaded straps cross in the back. Side zip up with hook closure. \$188.00 by Scala. Scala dresses are available at metrofashion-formal.com.

Mirage—This new tuxedo from Jean Yves is a standout! Break all the rules with this no-button, mandarin collar tuxedo. Tropical weight 100% pure wool tuxedo satin mandarin (stand-up) collar satin front edges, slightly angled besom pockets, and no vent across the back. We prefer this coat with a flat front trouser. Price: \$199.99



Spring Pep Rally

Chris Etzold

THE ANNUAL SPRING PEP RALLY WAS GREAT FUN AS THE UC community showed its support for this year's spring sports athletes. Shannell Williams, Ashley Morgan, and Cathy Millard worked together to produce a wonderful rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" and the spring sports teams—tennis, softball, baseball, track, and golf—were introduced. "I think it's a great opportunity for the teams to get some recognition from the rest of the school, since they don't always make it out to the games," said senior Mario Cortes.

The UC Dance Club donned painted t-shirts and treated everyone in attendance to a great show, with a creative dance routine. Anthony Jimenez, Latif Polk, and Ricci Riley also showed off their talent by performing some creative and innovative dance steps.

After that began the freshman field day Hoola Hoop handoff. "It was really exciting," said sophomore Pete Kowal. "I remember doing it my freshman year. It's hard though, because everyone has to work together."

Following the Hoola Hoops came an exciting game of musical chairs. During each pause two chairs were taken away until there were fewer and fewer people. Twenty students started, but after a bunch of outs and one questionable disqualification only two students remained: Edwin Ruiz and Krystal Wilkins. Wilkins's quickness, agility, and cat-like reflexes proved to be too much for Ruiz as she easily conquered him for the championship. "It seemed like everyone had a good time," said Colleen Anderson. "In retrospect I wished I had signed up."

Finally came the tug of war matches. The sophomores welcomed the freshmen to high school with a dominating performance. The seniors also easily disposed of the juniors. The faculty then challenged the seniors. The faculty plot was to drop the rope and trip the seniors, but the plot was foiled as the seniors suffered one casualty, Brandon Pitts. "The Brox was the only one holdin' the rope, pullin' the rope, and winnin' the tug," said senior Brian Broxmeyer.

"It's because of the Brox the seniors won."

The final Pep Rally of the year and final UC Pep Rally for the seniors was a great success, and the school sports went out with a bang.

E-mail ban

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curriculum tool, students shouldn't need to e-mail anybody else but teachers.

Mr. Marotti and other members of the faculty and staff tried to come up with an approach to deal with the situation. He had plans to shut the e-mail system down completely. But the seniors legitimately need their school e-mail for college applications. "It's not a viable solution to hire someone to monitor everyone's e-mail," said Mr. Marotti. "It would be a waste of time and money." Mr. Marotti is "pleased with the solution" and he believes that "the administration is on the right track." Now only 600 e-mails are sent per day within Union Catholic.

No one knows for certain how long the e-mail ban will last. A decision will be made over the summer whether this year's freshmen and sophomores will regain the privilege.

Freshmen had differing opinions on the e-mail ban and why they're no longer allowed to e-mail other students. "I feel that taking away e-mail isn't necessary because it's the student's choice of whether or not they're going to do their work," said Katrina Gutierrez. "I don't feel that it was right for the administration to do that," said Torriel Harris, "because by taking away e-mail they're taking away our rights to freedom of speech." Jamal Gordon said, "It's unnecessary to penalize everyone for something that not everyone is guilty of doing."

In a survey of one freshman homeroom, only two students said they averaged fewer than five e-mails daily. Twenty students said they sent between five and twenty e-mails daily and nine students sent 20 or more e-mails daily. Three students averaged more than 50 e-mails daily.

Mrs. Dellanno suggested to a group of sophomores from her accelerated English class, who were very upset about the e-mail ban, that they "channel their energy into something positive." Three girls in her class, Elyssa DiGiovanni, Ewa

Hausbrandt, and Cheryl Ritter, combined their ideas and wrote a four-page letter to the administration outlining their arguments against the e-mail ban and their ideas for a compromise.

Calling themselves Students Against E-Mail Injustice or SAE-MI (pronounced *say me*), they are seeking to reach a compromise with the school administration. SAE-MI supports the idea that all actions have consequences but denounces punishment of the innocent. "I'm mad that a privilege is being taken away when I didn't do anything wrong," said DiGiovanni.

The girls met with Miss Piasecki on March 28

and are waiting for the administration to respond. The main idea behind SAE-MI is that they're not against the administration but they're against people who haven't done anything wrong being punished. "I don't understand why I have to have suffer because other people can't obey the rules," said Hausbrandt.

Are students' rights being violated by the e-mail ban? According to English teacher Mr. Leib, who is also a lawyer, the students "don't have a leg to stand on. The courts have been very clear about this; UC students free speech rights are practically nil" (see box).

Do Students Have Rights?

Most freshmen and sophomores are upset about the new e-mail rules. Many have expressed their belief that the ban violates their right to free speech, while monitoring of their e-mail violates their right to privacy. Unfortunately, these students demonstrate little understanding of the Constitution and their rights as citizens.

The First Amendment to the Constitution states that "Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press..." Note the word "Congress." The right of a citizen to free speech is a protection against government action. Over the last three decades, the Supreme Court has ruled many times that, since the government compels students to attend school, students, especially high school students, have certain free speech rights while on school grounds. However, these rulings apply to *public schools and public school students only*. By attending a private or religious school, a student has opted out of the government-run system and any action to restrict his or her free speech is not government action. No protection exists against non-governmental actions. In other words, as long as a student attends Union Catholic, he or she has no free speech rights. If students object to having their speech restricted, they have an obvious solution: leave and return to the public school system.

But what about the right to keep other people from monitoring your e-mails? Sorry. The right to privacy appears nowhere in the Constitution, but has developed from the words of the Fourth, Ninth, and Fourteenth Amendments. Again, the key is government action. If you send a letter via the U.S. Mail, the government cannot read that letter. But e-mail is not run by the government. The courts have ruled that no one—student, worker, child, adult—has a complete right of privacy when using e-mail. Worse, people who are using e-mail systems not of their own choosing have virtually no right of privacy. Employers are free to read employees' e-mail if they choose to do so. And the school administration is free to read students' (and faculty's) e-mail if it chooses to do so. Indeed, the school could be held legally liable if a crime was committed using the school's e-mail system.

None of this means that students cannot or should not attempt to work with the administration to find an equitable solution to the situation. However, students who believe that the administration is violating "their rights" should realize that those rights do not exist.—*Mr. Leib*

Freshman Day of Recollection

Kristine Mintel

THE FRESHMAN DAY OF RECOLLECTION WAS HELD ON March 20 by UC Peer Ministry in the basement of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, across Martine Avenue from Union Catholic. Planned around the theme

“Oh, the Places You’ll Go!” it was a day of events and fun activities incorporating God. The theme, adopted from the book by Dr. Seuss, illustrated the idea that freshmen still

have their entire high school careers ahead of them and plenty of time to get on the right track.

The day’s events included ice breakers and separating into numerous “small groups,” the reading of the story *Oh, the Places You’ll Go*, speeches by UC upperclassmen, the yarn game, skits, freshmen writing letters to themselves, and Mass. The yarn game was new to the freshmen and was played by a group standing in a circle



and throwing a ball of yarn to each other while saying their favorite freshman year memory, creating a giant web. The web symbolized that all

are interconnected and Jesus is in the middle.

The day saw a few mishaps, including a surprise funeral in the church upstairs and a shortage of food and drinks at lunch. However, the head Peer Minister for the Retreat, Stacey Hagenbush, felt that “in the end it turned out great; it was all worth it.” She was able to switch some of the events around, although she had to drop some as well.

One of the best events of the day was the letter writing. Freshmen separated from their friends and any distractions, and wrote letters about whom they were and what they thought they

would accomplish in high school and life. The letters will be stored until senior year, when the freshmen will have an opportunity to read them and see how they have changed.

The Peer Ministers spent months preparing for this day. Stacey and Mr. Donahue, coordinator of Peer Ministry, first started meeting in August. The students involved in Peer Ministry, specifically the Christian Formation Group, met weekly to plan the day. There was also a “Peer Ministry

Training Day” that everyone attended for four hours in the beginning of March.

Although it was a huge improvement over last year’s retreat, the freshmen did not have quite the

response the Peer Ministers were looking for. In fact, the reactions to the day from the Peer Ministers and the freshmen themselves were far apart. Mr. Donahue felt the day was “a stunning success and a vast improvement [over last year].” The Peer Ministers felt that the freshmen were pretty good. Junior Katie Palitto said that her group “got along very well and accepted one another quite easily.” The freshmen were torn on what to think of the day. Freshman Evan Challiet felt that it “ran smoothly but was a little boring.” Most of the freshman felt that there was too much sitting and not enough physical activity. However, some freshmen benefited from the day. Freshman Shannon Curry said, “It was good because I got to spend time with my friends and make new ones.”

Overall, the day was a nice opportunity to miss school, get a free tag day, eat free food, and spend quality time with Mr. Donahue and the Peer Ministers. For



next year, Mr. Donahue wants to make the Day of Recollection “a truly superlative spiritually reflective experience...planned and executed by our beloved peer ministers.”

Sophomore Day Of Recollection

Laura Mortkowitz

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS ALIKE AGREED THAT THIS year's Sophomore Day of Recollection, held on March 20, was exponentially better than last year's dull and drawn-out Day of Recollection.



The Day of Recollection was more hands-on with the students becoming more involved, instead of the students simply being talked at

by speakers while sitting in a crowded room on uncomfortable plastic chairs. Sophomore Tony Neto agreed. "Using students was a good call because they made it much more interesting for the rest of us."

This year, the sophomores gathered in the Union Catholic gym and were separated into groups based off whatever candy wrapper they had. Once the students were separated into Snickers, Skittles, and Starbursts they were led across Martine Avenue to the Nazareth Center located behind the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

After a short speech by Chris Boyar, the groups began games of Chutes and Ladders to symbolize the ups and downs of life. "I thought that it was an effective way to create the basic mood of the whole day," commented sophomore Karen Rivera. Then, after being fed with juice and doughnuts, Junior Elizabeth Morasso gave a talk on her own life struggle with lupus (see box below). "I thought it was a really good speech," said sophomore Megan Stahlberg. "She spoke on a serious issue, and made people think, but she also had a sense of humor." The individual groups then held small discussions on their own



Addressing the Day of Recollection

Liz Morasso

When I began thinking of ideas for my speech, I put myself under constant pressure. I tried to think of different points to make and different ways to say them; every thought that came to my mind, I wrote down. I thought about the important points in my life that really made a difference, which is where the middle school point came into play.

After weeks of stressing myself over ideas and sentence structures, I sat down and began to write. The ideas just flowed and I found myself not even using the ideas I had written down. I used my head and anything that came up. It felt right. After writing my speech, I looked it over a couple of times and had all of my teachers, peers, and family look it over. After revising a couple of parts, I was ready for the big day.

I felt proud to speak, but also scared of what others would think of it. I wanted to make my points without boring the audience; they were

there to have fun and learn at the same time. I practiced and practiced and felt confident when it came to finally speaking. I was less nervous, after practicing and trusting my peers and teachers who looked over the paper, that it sounded well written but also touched the key points. After my speech, while in the small groups, many people told me that they related to my speech and were willing to make a change in their lives for the better. I realize that I had had an impact on their lives and maybe a part of their decisions. After speaking with them about some of the choices in their lives, I did my best to guide them in the best direction, with them well aware it was up to their decision.

I felt like I made a difference, and tried my hardest. Being able to help people from what I have learned made me stronger and more aware on the effect someone's past can have on another person's future.



Sophomores and freshmen attend Mass at the Day of Recollection

struggles in life following the speech.

A second talk was given by junior Ashley Rosa, followed by more group discussion. Then Chris Boyar led a game in which he called out something for each group to bring up (e.g., three belts looped together or a penny). “It was kind of hard, but fun,” sophomore Stephanie Pego felt. “It took awhile to come up with some of the stuff, but it was funny having everyone search.”

Finally there came the lunch many of the students had been waiting for. Hamburgers, sodas and chips were given out, as well as food for those who either did not like hamburgers or were vegetarians. The last event of the day at the church was a Mass led by Father Jim from St. James in Springfield. Afterwards, the students walked back across Martine Avenue to the UC cafeteria where they made posters and participated in surveys.

College Halfway Around the Earth

Rosavida Cruz

For most high school students, choosing a college is hard enough with the worries of where to go and how to go about getting there. Some students apply to Ivy League universities, and some apply to community colleges. Most of the time, students apply to domestic schools without ever thinking about studying abroad.

In the fall, I’ll be attending the University of Philippines, Manila, where I plan to take nursing. The school will provide a great experience studying abroad. Going to school half the world away from one’s family gives one so much freedom, but at the same time, there are a lot of drawbacks. The students in the Philippines graduate from high school at about the same time students in the U.S. enter their junior year. I have to face the burden of being two years older than most of the other students, as well as not being fluent in their native language. I don’t know if I’ll be able to survive five years in another country without my friends or family by my side whenever I need them. There’s always the Internet.



Established in 1908, the University of the Philippines is the Filipino equivalent of Harvard in the United States. It’s comprised of 11 colleges.



Sophomores reenact the Exodus on the way to their Day of Recollection

The War on Iraq

Jennifer Hano

THE RECENT EVENTS IN IRAQ HAVE CAUSED MANY Americans to question their own patriotism. They have been trying to decide whether the war is a just cause to send thousands of young American servicemen and women over seas with a possibility of never coming back home. Most have been standing behind the decision of the President to wage this war. Others are not sure what to think.

The decision of Americans to support the war is brought on because they do not have a face to put on the people of Iraq. They cannot sympathize with the fear and anger of the ones who are getting hit by the bombs and crossfire.

Others are against this war. Some are pacifists and believe that no cause is a just cause for war. I, on the other hand, am able to put a face on the people of that country. No, I do not have family members in Iraq. But a good friend of mine was born there and I have seen what the fighting does to him and his family.

I asked him recently how he feels about everything that is happening. The one thing that concerned him most is his family that was left behind in Northern Iraq. He doesn't know whether or not his family is alive because communications with Iraq have been knocked out due to the American bombing of the communications building in Baghdad.

I also asked him how his family back in Iraq feels about what should be done. The answer he gave me is an answer that I believe many people of that country share. All his family said that they want is to be left alone. They do not want American and British troops invading their country nor do they want to be ruled by the current Iraqi regime under Saddam Hussein. They want to live in peace but they are not sure how they would go about getting that peace.

The bottom line is that many Americans feel that everyone in Iraq has been brainwashed and all they want is for America to fall from power. They don't know that a majority of them want peace for their own country and for the rest of the world. There are some that are diehard followers of Saddam; but are those few people a

just reason to kill hundreds and maybe even thousands of innocent people who want nothing more than to live on their own in peace? The answer to that question is left up to you.

UC Alumnus Sent To Mideast

Rachel Martel

"I MIGHT BE A SOLIDER FIGHTING IN THIS WAR, BUT WHEN I come back I'll be the same old Nick Perez."

Nick Perez-Santalla, a 2002 U.C. graduate from Mountainside, was deployed to Kuwait April 3.



Nick left that night from Fort Stewart, Georgia, with the 3rd infantry division, although he was not exactly sure what he was going to be doing when he arrived.

Before leaving, Nick had a message for everyone at UC. "Don't take all your freedoms and liberties for granted. Take them and cherish them

because if you don't then there is no purpose in me being here." As for the future, Nick said, "You are all invited to one hell of a party when I come home."

War With Iraq: A Personal Fight

Laura Mortkowitz

NOW THAT WE ARE AT WAR, MANY HIGH SCHOOL students have changed their mind about joining the army. Senior Brandon Pitts is not one of them.

Before the war started Pitts had wanted to join and now so more than ever. "I want to join the army to serve my country and also for pride," Pitts said. "It's something I've wanted to do for awhile." Even though his parents have had qualms about allowing their son to join the army during such a dangerous time, Pitts has not wavered. Instead he still wants to join and the fighting with Iraq has motivated him more than anything else.

UC Community Plans Holiday Events

David Ault

EASTER IS UPON US AND, ALTHOUGH EVERYONE REGRETS the time lost from school, that means an unavoidable VACATION! As the vacation approaches, teachers and students have made plans for the upcoming holiday. Given their plans, the adults among us don't seem to have very exciting lives. But then, as the plans of the students reveal, neither do they. Here is a sample of holiday activities anticipated by UC community members.

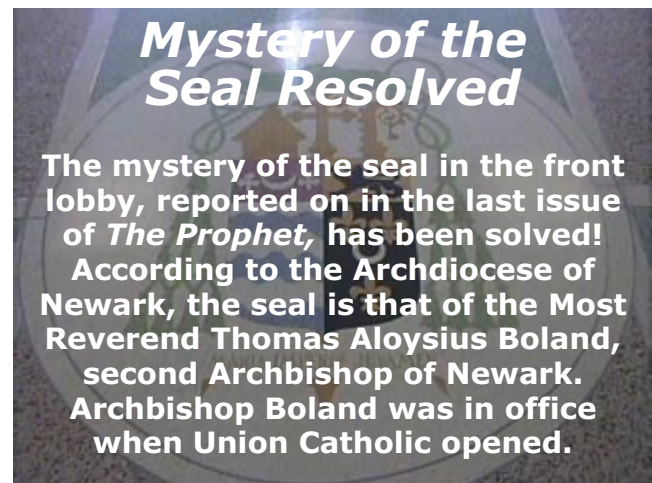
Mrs. Doherty is visiting her sister in Florida, but then is coming home to do her spring cleaning. Mrs. Lubin said "I'm cleaning my house! How exciting is that!" Not very, Mrs. Lubin. The more adventurous Mrs. Serieux said, "I will stay in bed!!" Now there's an idea we can all vote for. Miss Webber's fate is not unlike that of most of the UC students. "Work on my MA thesis, grade papers, hopefully relax, and I'm planning an overnight trip to Atlantic City." In other words, mostly work with a sprinkling of fun. Now that sounds familiar. Mr. Addison and Mrs. McCoid have similar stimulating holiday agendas: to spend time with their families and spouses. Perhaps the worst vacation fate of all is that of Mrs. Wischusen who will be "getting ready for the Alumni Celebration Weekend which immediately follows Spring Break." In other words, Mrs. Wischusen will spend her vacation working. Is that an oxymoron?

More exciting vacation plans were anticipated by other faculty members. Señor Zenhle is spending an entire week in Atlantic City. Don't take any wooden pesos, Señor! Mrs. McManus is visiting relatives in Virginia and Illinois; in other words, she'll just have time to say hello before she's on the road again. Mrs. O'Donnell is going to Myrtle Beach to "visit family, golf, sun bathe, relax and shop." You'll know Mrs. O'Donnell when she returns. She'll be the one with a tan, a new wardrobe and a southern accent. Mrs. Ferraro is taking her children to South Carolina on their first air flight. Please note the location of

the airsickness bag upon entry, Mrs. Ferraro.

The students' vacation plans aren't very different. Most of them are just relaxing, doing homework, and seeing friends and family. A few are going on trips out-of-state such as Katrisse Corbin who will be attending a wedding in Ellenville, New York, Nikki Tami who is going to the Catskill Mountains, and Chris Boyar who is going to Hilton Head, South Carolina to attend a golf tournament. The most exciting plan revealed so far is that of Alex Cruz who is actually leaving the country for a trip to Spain.

It seems that the community's Easter plans are, in fact, quite similar. Rest, work, short visits, and time with family and friends are on the agendas of teachers and students. Perhaps the most common holiday plan, however, is that revealed by Mr. Tanyag who simply said, "I haven't thought about it yet."



How Eastre Became Easter

Sean Prawdzik

THE SYMBOLS OF EASTER HAVE ORIGINS THAT DATE BACK many centuries. People understand that Easter is the time when Jesus Christ rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven. But where do the traditional eggs and rabbit all come from?

The Easter Bunny originated from the goddess Eastre, who was worshipped by the Saxons through its earthly symbol, the rabbit. The

Germans brought the bunny symbol to America. Eggs are symbolic of rebirth in most cultures. People decorated and exchanged them as gifts, wrapped with gold leaf or colored brightly by boiling the eggs with the leaves or petals of certain plants. Now they are used as treats and for children's treasures.

The ancient Saxons celebrated spring with an uproarious festival in honor of Eastre, their goddess of offspring and springtime. Second-century Christian missionaries encountered the tribes of the north with their pagan celebrations and attempted to convert them to Christianity.

To prevent conflicts between the Christian and Saxon holidays, the Christians secretly spread their religious messages through the Saxon festivals. Since Jesus' resurrection and Eastre occurred at the same time, the Christians were able to alter the festival into a Christian one as their message slowly flourished. Eastre eventually became Easter.

Prior to A.D. 325, Easter could be celebrated on Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays. The Council of Trent ruled that Easter should be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring. This was between March 22 and April 25.

While most children believe Easter is the time for eggs and baskets, it is really a time to stop and remember why it is celebrated and for whom. If not for Jesus' resurrection, it is doubtful that many Christians would believe in life after death. As Sister Catherine put it, "If there were no Easter, there would be no reason to believe in Jesus or God."

Antiques Roadshow Comes to UC

Kay Manalo

ON TUESDAY, APRIL 8, UNION CATHOLIC'S ANTONIO Nebrija Chapter of the Spanish Honor Society held its very first appraisal show. Anyone who has watched PBS or any of its affiliate channels such as Bravo have caught a glimpse of the famous *Antiques Road Show*. "Is it a treasure or just a trinket? People from all over the United



Kingdom [and the United States] bring their heirlooms, collectibles and flea market finds to professional appraisers who offer their expert opinion." UC's version of this artsy undertaking involved people from the Scotch Plains area

Alan G. Snyder appraised many treasures (and trash) from 7:30 to 9:30 that

evening. The most expensive item was a medium-sized statue of a horse-drawn carriage of German origin. Mr. Snyder speculated a price of nearly \$400.

Senior Cara Latham was on hand to witness this interesting event. "I was fairly surprised. The things you least expected held a lot of value." After having a wine set appraised for only \$40, Latham was shocked. "I figured it would be worth more."



Daffodils for Hope a Success

Suzanne Hennessy



THIS YEAR'S DAFFODILS FOR HOPE FUNDRAISER WAS A blooming success. The student council raised \$1050 for the American Cancer Society, more than was raised last year. All proceeds from the daffodils bought at Union Catholic will go towards cancer research.

SIA Pet Adoption Day

Cara Latham

ON SATURDAY, MARCH 22, THE STUDENTS IN ACTION Club (SIA) held a Pet Adoption Day in the gym at Union Catholic High School. The pet adoption was sponsored by

Caws 4 Paws, which acts as foster parents to cats and dogs until they are adopted. Twenty students from UC worked the event, which was orga-



nized and run by freshman Jacqui Arce. Five dogs and six cats were adopted between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM, and the adoptions of two other animals were still pending. A total of \$900 was raised for Caws 4 Paws through donations made to the organization in return for the adopted

animals.

SIA moderator Mrs. Mascolino pointed out that such a large turnout was very unusual, but very pleas-



ant. Usually, during these adoption days, only three or four animals are given new homes, which is considered acceptable. The eleven that were adopted exceeds this average greatly, making the adoption day “extremely successful.”

The eleven animals that were adopted received good homes and the people who adopted them were pleased. Senior Kris Velez adopted a kitten at the Pet Adoption. He pointed out that by the time he arrived at UC, the dogs and puppies were already adopted, and there were only a few cats and kittens left. His kitten, named Buddy, was the youngest cat adopted.



Only nine weeks old, Buddy cost \$105, including \$65 for shots, medical attention, and the food administered to the kitten before adoption, and \$40 to get him neutered. “He’s cool,” Kris said. “He follows me around everywhere, and he eats a lot, about 4 or 5 times a day.”

Many people not part of the UC community attended the event and gave the animals a home. One woman adopted a five-year-old poodle with the same hairstyle as the lady, according to SIA members. The woman, walked into the adoption and picked up the dog and made her decision, dismissing the warnings of the owner that the dog usually did not respond well to people, especially ones it didn’t know. The dog sat quietly on her lap. She immediately said, “This is my dog,” filled out the paperwork, and left happily.

Junior Joseph Torella, head of the SIA, commented, “It was a nice moment. We didn’t think such an old dog would be adopted.” Overall, “everyone had a good time,” he added.

Young Writers’ Club Started

Lauren Moore

THERE’S A BRAND NEW CLUB AT UNION CATHOLIC. MR. Wright, author of *Silent Witnesses in the Gospel*, has taken the opportunity to put together the Young Writers’ Club. During club period, students interested in writing and hoping to someday be published are welcome to gather in room 122 and share their ideas.

Mr. Wright decided to start this club when he

realized that some of his students had a passion for writing. He hopes that this club will continue to grow in the years to come. He and the members have many ideas for what to do with this club. Junior Rich Ferry is bursting with ideas. He proposes publishing a book of the writings by UC students. Another suggestion of his was putting up a website, gathering stories from students all over the globe. "We could use some sort of topic, something original, something that will touch people," he elaborated.

Some other aims of the club are to be a place where students can share stories and story ideas while voicing their opinions on the literature of their peers. All students interested in writing should stop in and check the club out. Who knows? Maybe one day a member's book will be up on the shelf with the best of them!

Concert Raises Money for Lupus Fight

Lauren Moore

THE BENEFIT FOR LUPUS CONCERT, WHICH WAS HELD ON March 28, raised \$656 for the Juvenile Lupus Foundation. "It was very successful. Everyone seemed to have a great time," said junior Liz Morasso, the concert's coordinator.

Avery, a pop-punk band from Basking Ridge, opened up the show and certainly got the party started with their upbeat songs, female vocals, and keyboards.



Next up was A Day at the Fair, who gave the crowd a special treat with their rarely played acoustic set. Clark Street was unable to play, but still came out and supported the cause as members of the audience. Jettison exploded onto the stage with a fun, bouncy sound. Both they and Centsless, the last band to come on, got a great

response from the crowd. "I had a really great time at the show. Liz did a wonderful job with everything," commented junior Sara Mason.

The members of the bands were happy to help. "I'm really glad I could help a cause for Liz," said Ryan Weber, the drummer for Centsless. "I had a great time doing this, and it makes me feel great that we helped her raise this money." Liz would like to thank everyone who came to the show. Everything done for her cause is greatly appreciated.

SIA Penny Drive For Multiple Sclerosis

Christina Iafe

STARTING MONDAY, MAY 5, STUDENTS IN ACTION (SIA) will be holding a Penny Drive for the MS Foundation. Spurred by the upcoming MS walk, SIA VP Christina Iafe decided to raise additional funds by holding a fundraiser during lunch at school.



The Sophomores in Action Club (now Students in Action) raised over \$700 last year for their association with a penny drive, which also resulted in last year's sophomore class receiving a free tag day. The penny drive works like this: Each class and the faculty are assigned a jug that will be set up during every lunch next week. Every penny contributed is worth one point, while each nickel, dime, quarter, and dollar is worth negative five, ten, 25, and 100 points, respectively. The group with the highest points wins. Although the prize has not yet been finalized, last year's prize was a free tag day. But everyone wins when such a worthy cause is helped by Union Catholic students!