



# THE PROPHET

UNION CATHOLIC REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

JANUARY 21,  
2004

### In This Issue:

How to give blood	2
Art Department gets green	3
Mr. Marotti's Farewell Address	4
Main foyer furnished	5
Sportsmanship at UC	5
New Year's	6
Midterm exemptions	7
Rutgers Academic Challenge	7
Movie and band reviews	8
Vogt's film debuts	9
Dance off	9
SADD returns	9
New SAT	10
Defibrillating UC	10
Forensics	12

## UC Gives Mr. Marotti Big Sendoff

Matt Lubin

MR. MICHAEL MAROTTI AND THE entire Union Catholic community celebrated his final day as vice principal on December 23, 2003 with "Marotti Day." Mr. Marotti announced his retirement in November after thirty-four years as a member of the UC staff.

The day's celebrations began with a breakfast for all students. Faculty members and Student Council representatives distributed 75 dozen doughnuts and iced tea cartons to students during home-room. Members of the class of 2004

were released early from second period and received a chance to bid



Mr. Marotti receives one of many tributes on Marotti Day

farewell to Mr. Marotti during a special meeting in the auditorium. Mr. Marotti announced that he

would return to UC for the senior retreat and graduation. He stressed

(continued on page 3)

## New Senior Lockers Finally Here

Katrisse Corbin

NEW LOCKERS WERE FINALLY INSTALLED in the senior wing over Thanksgiving break. Students were told last spring that the lockers would be in place when they returned in September but a flood at the locker company ruined their stock.

Another attempt was made without success to have the lockers installed during Columbus Day weekend. Many students remained skeptical

when seniors were told to remove all of their books from their lockers and take them home for the Thanksgiving weekend. But this time the school came through.



The new lockers offer a little more depth, include three hooks to hang things on, and are equipped with a second shelf that is great for storing books used later in the school year. "They are a lot

(continued on page 5)

# ***If You Want Blood... You Got It***

**Lauren Moore**

IT'S 9:15 IN THE MORNING. I PACK UP MY LAPTOP AND LEAVE MY FIRST PERIOD CLASS EARLY. THE ANTICIPATION THAT'S BEEN BUILDING INSIDE ME STARTS TO BECOME OVERWHELMING. I FEEL BUTTERFLIES IN MY STOMACH AS I PUT MY BOOKS IN MY LOCKER. WALKING TOWARDS THE MAIN FOYER, I WONDER IF I COULD BACK OUT. "*Calm yourself, Lauren. It's for a good cause,*" I tell myself. Giving blood doesn't seem like a big deal...unless you're afraid of needles, as I am.

I get to the main foyer and fill out a form, which basically says I'm an eligible donor. I wait around for awhile and talk to some other seniors who are donating as well. Some are nervous, some are non-chalant. Some people who have donated already say that it's no big deal. I start to ease up a bit.

The line keeps moving. "Next!" calls a man. I stand up and walk to his table. He asks for identification and pricks my finger for a hemoglobin sample. Once that's done, I walk over to the section of the main foyer where people are giving their blood. I wait until a cot is free. While I'm waiting, one girl has what appears to a seizure, and another girl gets extremely nauseous. I start to feel even more hesitant. Is that going to happen to me? Maybe I didn't eat enough for breakfast.

"Lauren?" I look up at the sound of my name. A male nurse checks my arms to see which will be easier to draw blood from. He chooses my right. "Great," I think, "I'm right-handed." He shows me to a free cot. I lay down and wait. A female nurse cleans my arm with iodine. My heart is racing. I can't watch her as she puts the needle in. It's a pulling, pinching feeling. I clench my teeth. My arm feels sore where the needle is. She tells me to lightly make a fist at different intervals throughout the process. My arm begins to sting at first, because of the iodine, then it begins to feel numb. After a little while, it doesn't feel like much of anything. I'm feeling fine.

The ten minutes is up. The nurse slides the needle out of my arm. I try to get up, but I feel extremely tired and woozy. She tells me to lie down on my side and pull my knees to my chest. I lie on the cot for another ten or fifteen minutes, and decide that what would probably help would be to get something in my system. I get up, eat a couple of cookies and have a drink. I feel better, so I head to my next class.

The process of giving blood may not be the most pleasant feeling in the world. It's a little painful, and the occasional side effects can be scary, whether they happen to you or you merely witness them. But knowing that you've helped a cause that needs all the help it can get is comfort in itself.

***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.

### *Editors-in-chief*

Kristine Intel, Amanda Ballate, Christina Iafe  
*Associate Editor:* Laura Mortkowitz

### *Staff*

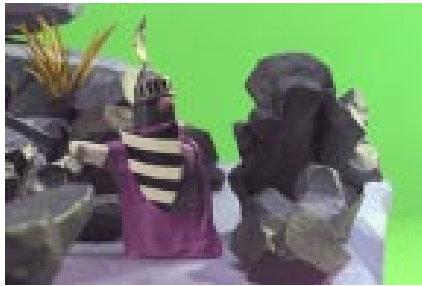
David Ault	Matthew Lubin
Liz Colombo	Jasmine Marshall
Katrisse Corbin	Kay Manalo
Katherine Czado	Lauren Moore
Brian DeOliveira	Joe Palinsky
Nicole Desiato	Katelyn Primich
Rick Gutierrez	Pamela Seiple
Carlos Homs	Megan Stahlberg
Nikol Jean	

# Art Department Acquires Green Screen

David Ault

THE ART DEPARTMENT RECENTLY ADDED A STATE-OF-the-art green screen to its equipment inventory. Green screens, also known as chromo screens, are special effects tools that allow directors to place actors against a variety of backgrounds without having to go on location. The imaginary background is simply projected onto the green screen by film technicians at a later time.

According to Mr. Merola, the new 10' x 12' screen, installed in the multimedia room, is available for use by all. Mr. Merola indicated that



the uses for the new screen were "endless." "Mr. Wright can have moving clouds shown behind him during morn-

ing prayer on UCTV, and we can use clips of players as the background of sports awards ceremonies."

Lack of professional lighting currently limits the use of the new equipment. In order for the green screen to be used properly, all shadows must be eliminated. The lighting equipment required to accomplish this costs as much as \$1,500. Mr. Merola is currently using makeshift lighting as an alternative.

This year's senior project will make exciting use of the new green screen. Mr. Merola, aided by members of the Art Department, plans to take pictures of every senior and then, with the help of the green screen, make a three-foot tall cutout replica of each graduating student. The auditorium will then be filled with the miniature duplicates of the senior class.

"This is a good investment for the school," concluded Mr. Merola. "Absolutely. It's a lot more exciting than standing in front of a blank wall for morning announcements. Teachers in

every department should be able to use this equipment."

## Mr. Marotti

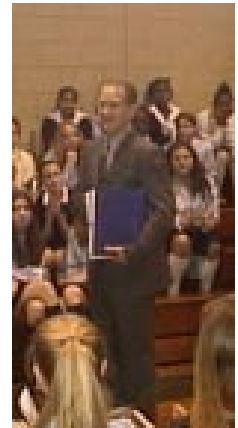
(continued from page 1)

the difficulty in leaving the class in the middle of their senior year, but urged seniors to support each other and work hard in their final semester of high school.

The Christmas Liturgy, the day's main event, was dedicated to Mr. Marotti. UC Principal Sister Percylee Hart, R.S.M., speaking on behalf of the faculty, expressed her gratitude to Mr. Marotti for his years of excellence. "Mr. Marotti's spirit will always live strong within the halls of Union Catholic."

Later, Mr. Marotti addressed the entire school as well as a large number of alumni who attended the liturgy. "This is the hardest day of my career," he said. "The hardest part about making the [retirement] decision was knowing that I would be leaving the faculty, staff, and students of Union Catholic." (Mr. Marotti's remarks are reprinted on page 4.)

The bittersweet ceremony ended with the presentation to Mr. Marotti of a collection of photos, notes, and letters from students and faculty. Student Council President Eddy Thorton '04, joined by Katie Seamon '04, presented the gift. "Mr. Marotti has done so much for UC, never expecting anything in return," said Seamon.



Sister Percylee addressing the UC community at the Christmas Liturgy

## ***Mr. Marotti's Farewell Remarks***

I want to start by thanking the Student Council and all the students, faculty and Sister Percylee for your kind words and sentiments. I want to thank the alumni for coming back today and invite them to join me as a faculty alumnus at next year's Christmas Liturgy.

This has been the most difficult day I have ever had at UC. It is hard to say goodbye!

Sister asked me to give you a message before I leave. I told her that I have already given you the messages I think are important. You know the ones I give every year over and over again...

Be nice to one another.  
Help one another.  
Respect the diversity that makes UC so special.

Then there were the daily reminders:

Do not give out your locker combination.  
Get your tie to look like mine.  
Pick up your pants.  
Tuck in your blouse.  
Unroll your skirt.

I did think of another message I wanted to give you. It is the message I usually give seniors as they finish their last graduation practice. This is what I tell them:

Whether you are 16 or 60, life is all about choices. You and I have something in common: we both made a good choice when we chose UC! However, sometimes as we walk through life it is not so easy to make a good choice. Sometimes we know what's right but it is hard to choose what is right. It is often easier to choose what is wrong. And sometimes we just do not get it; we do not know what is right. And at these times we need to step back reflect and pray. As I walk through life, I always carry in my pocket a wooden disk. It is called "Cross in My Pocket." It is a constant reminder to me when things get a little crazy that there are many people who support me in my journey and that God is with me. I have one for each of you today as you leave. Hopefully it will be a reminder to you too as you make your choices that you have lots of support on your journey and that God is with you.

In my parish, on special occasions, the congregation gives a blessing at the end of Mass. It is the blessing of Aaron, and it is my prayer for each of you:

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace all the days  
of your life.

God bless.

## **New Additions to The Main Foyer**

*Jasmine Marshall*

THIS YEAR, A PIANO AND AN ANTIQUE TABLE HAVE made their appearance in the Union Catholic foyer. "We thought they would add interest to our otherwise empty lobby," said Mrs. Ford.

The table came from Essex Catholic High School, a boys school in East Orange that was closed this past year by the Archdiocese of Newark. It was offered to anyone who wanted it and the UC community gave it a home. Unfortunately, the table must remain in the foyer because, without collapsible legs, it is too large to fit through any of doors inside UC and it too heavy to be carried up the stairs. The Development Office will maintain the table.

The piano was donated to UC. Originally, it was supposed to be placed in the auditorium, but there was nowhere for it to go that would not interfere with the Performing Arts Company's work. Like the table, it also is too large for the interior doorways.

The chorus now uses the piano (and the foyer) for its rehearsals. "I moved some of my classes to the foyer with the piano since it was closer to my classroom than the auditorium," said Sister Irma Gazzillo. "I thought it would be nice if someone walked in the school and there would be music and singing. It makes the school sound good and the people who worked in the offices around the foyer like it."

---

## **New Lockers**

*(continued from page 1)*

deeper and, despite the green color, I can fit a lot more things in there," said Ashlee Little '04. However some students feel the lockers are still too small to accommodate books, a laptop and a coat. "I am just happy I can finally fit my coat in the locker," said Senior Class President Leonard Tate. "I will worry about everything else later."

Mr. Douglas, who is in charge of all remodeling and construction at the school, began the project last April, finding the right company to work with. He and the Lang Equipment Company designed the lockers, adding depth, width

and space the old ones lacked. "The design of the shelving units was to allow space for laptops and keeping books," said Mr. Douglas. "The second shelf was designed by me. I would have liked to have that row come down more but at the time we were not sure on how it would turn out." The hardest decision was choosing the right color that would not make the hall look darker, or a color that was too light.

Despite the previous postponements, the Lang Equipment Company came in during the Thanksgiving break with a crew of eleven, gutted the old lockers and installed the new ones in only three working days. This was the shortest time period in which the company has ever completed a job of this size.

## **UC Receives Sportsmanship Award**

*Laura Mortkowitz*

UNION CATHOLIC HAS BEEN AWARDED THE 2002-2003 Mountain Valley Conference Sportsmanship Award. Each conference in the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletics Association gives the award to the school that demonstrates the highest level of sportsmanship throughout the year.

The award was presented to UC in early December at a state athletic awards presentation. "This is a direct reflection of the sportsmanship displayed by our athletes, our coaches, and our fans," said Mr. Reagan, Sr., UC athletic director. "They are a true credit to UC."

Every school in the Mountain Valley Conference voted on which school would best represent our conference in terms of best sportsmanship. The decision is based on several factors: how players interact with each other, their coach and opposing teams; how visiting teams are treated; and how a school's fans behave in the stands. These are judged throughout all three sports seasons at every match and tournament. "It's a great honor to be part of an athletic program that received an award based on how the teams we play see us," said Katelyn Murray '05.

In recognition of the award, UC was given a large gold banner. It currently hangs in the foyer.

# What Makes January 1 New Year's Day?

Nikol Jean

WATCHING THE NEW YEAR ARRIVE AT MIDNIGHT ON December 31 has not always been the norm. In the Middle Ages, New Year's was celebrated on March 25. It wasn't until 1582 that January 1 was celebrated as New Year's Day. Many countries and cultures do not recognize January 1 as the New Year and celebrate it on different dates.

New Year's Day was celebrated in March with the beginning of spring as nature came to life. When Julius Caesar came to power in Rome, he brought several new ideas with him from Egypt, including the basis for a new calendar. He and his scholars created the Julian calendar, with the new year celebrated on January 1. However, after the fall of Rome, March 25 once again became the beginning of the year.

In following years, the calendar was changed by a variety of people. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII established the Gregorian calendar, which was accepted throughout the Catholic world. His calendar encompassed the four seasons better than the Julian calendar. Great Britain and its colonies in America did not adopt the Gregorian calendar until 1752. Russia did not adopt it until 1917.

Although Americans use the Gregorian calendar, there are other calendars in use throughout the world, such as the Hindu, Jewish, Chinese, Muslim, and Vietnamese calendars. The date of the Hindu New Year varies based on geographic location, but in western India the New Year is celebrated at the end of October. Rosh Hashanah commences the Jewish New Year in late September–early October.

The second new moon following the winter solstice marks the beginning of the Chinese New Year. The date of their new year varies, but it usually starts between mid-January and mid-

February and the celebration lasts for fifteen days. The Muslim calendar is based on the moon, so its new year shifts throughout the year and is always eleven days earlier than the previous year. Tet Nguyen Dan, the Vietnamese New Year usually falls between January 21 and February 19, but the exact date also changes from year to year.

# Faculty New Year's Resolutions

Carlos Homs

ONE TRADITION THAT MOST PEOPLE FOLLOW ON NEW Years Day is making of the "New Years Resolution." Whether or not you keep your resolutions is your problem, but let's see if our own faculty can keep theirs. Here is a list of some of Union Catholic Faculty 2004 New Year's Resolutions:

I am making a resolution to keep my office desk top clear of paper. This is a repeat of last year's resolution which I didn't keep!—Sister Percylee

My New Year's Resolution is to keep in touch more often with my friends who live far away. —Mrs. McCoid

1. Run more. 2. Eat less Wendy's. 3. Read more.—Mr. Johnston

Make more time for family and friends. Be a better teacher. Eat less.—Miss Webber

Time Management: I've made a color-coordinated graph, breaking down every day into half-hour blocks, delineating every requirement and obligation, leaving up to five consecu-

tive hours on any given day for randomness. Oh yeah, and not being a dork, that's the other one. The two are somewhat in conflict.—

Mr. Bruno

My New Year's Resolution is to be more charitable and to give more frequently to those in need.—Miss Caamaño

I don't make any because I always broke them in the past!—Mrs. Whitehead

I resolve not to make any more resolutions.—Mrs. Carolan



## Midterm Exam Exemptions

*Megan Stahlberg*

UNION CATHOLIC MIDTERM EXAMS WILL BEGIN ON Thursday, January 15 and end on Wednesday, January 21. Make-up exams will be given on Friday, January 23. Students with an A average in a subject (consisting of two A's or an A and a B+ per quarter) may be exempt from the midterm exam. However, final determination for exemptions is made by individual teachers and their department chairpersons.

Criteria for exemptions vary from department to department. History department chairperson Mrs. McManus said that students with an A average generally are exempt; however, no exemptions are allowed in AP courses. Some teachers in her department allow no exemptions for required courses.

In the science department, exemptions are up to each separate teacher, according to Mrs. Boyer, department chairperson. However, she also said that AP courses are excluded from exemptions. Foreign language department chairperson Mrs. McHugh said most teachers exempt for an A average.

Math department chairperson Ms. MacKenzie explained that the department discourages exemptions, especially in Honors classes. "Exams are important," she said. "In college, it is not uncommon for students to be graded only on the basis of their midterm and final exams."

In the English Department, honors and accelerated students are not exempt since both groups ultimately take AP exams and can use the additional test-taking experience, according to Mrs. Dellanno, department chairperson. "Many students who were exempt from January exams didn't do as well as anticipated in May," she said. "On the other hand, a student in regular or remedial classes who maintains an A average should be rewarded for his or her efforts."

Exemptions are not automatic. Check each teacher's policy regarding exemptions and always be prepared.

## UC Joins Rutgers Academic Challenge

*Liz Colombo*

UNION CATHOLIC WILL SEND ITS FIRST TEAM TO THE 2004 Rutgers Academic Challenge. Thirteen students will represent UC at the event: seniors Dave Ault, Bob Hanley, Roberto Lleras, Brian Navoa, and Joe Torella; juniors Liz Colombo, Karina Linares, Cheryl Ritter, Andrew Timmes, and Marybeth Tran; and sophomores Kaz Filus, Bradley Gelles, and Victoria Spellman. Mrs. Whitehead runs the UC team, organizing practices and informing UC about the tournament. "We've wanted to do this for quite some time," she said. "But it just never worked out with schedules."

The Rutgers Academic Challenge involves 84 schools from the New Jersey area, who compete in three rounds of competition. The Challenge consists of problem-solving activities in four disciplines—science, math, English, and history—and a game show like Quick Match, where three schools answer rapid-fire questions about different topics.

The first round of competition takes place at the Busch Campus of Rutgers on February 7 and 8. The top twelve teams will move on to the semifinal round of the tournament on March 10. Three teams will compete for the championship on March 16 and 19. The first day will feature two problem-solving competitions at the Rutgers campus; the final quiz will be broadcast from New Jersey Network television studios in Trenton.

Mrs. Whitehead has great confidence in the team, but notes, "The first year is always the most difficult—we don't have the experience some of the other teams do. We may have to take whatever is thrown at us, and just do our best. I am sure that we will represent ourselves well."


 THE ARTS 

## Rings: Return of The King

David Ault

RETURN OF THE KING, THE FINALE TO THE LORD OF THE Rings trilogy, is the conclusion to Peter Jackson's filmed rendition of Tolkien's masterpiece. Jackson has fleshed out the world Tolkien envisioned in a vast expanse of cinematography. The visuals, scenery and special effects in this installment are of the same caliber as the first two films—exceptional. The mountainous and wild areas of New Zealand that were used as background for much of the film make a very believable Middle Earth and are seamlessly combined with the computer generated backgrounds used in other



segments of the movie. The siege of Minas Tirith, with tens of thousands of warriors pitted against each other with the aid of various siege machines and

exotic beasts of war, is particularly effective.

The performances in this film are also first rate. By now Ian McKellan seems to have truly inhabited the character of Gandolf and Elijah Wood, a seemingly odd choice for a reluctant Hobbit, has made Frodo his own. The supporting cast is equally effective; Sean Astin, in particular, is completely believable as Frodo's companion on the journey through Middle Earth.

Although the *Lord of the Rings* novels were blazingly original for their time, when Tolkien's fable is thrown into the arena of modern cinema, the plot is rather predictable. Even if you haven't read the books, the viewer knows that the ring will be cast into the fires of Mount Doom and the Dark Lord Sauron will be destroyed. As in *The Two Towers*, overwhelming odds beset the armies of humanity, but when all seems lost, reinforce-

ments arrive and repel the enemy instantaneously. Internal logic is completely suspended to allow the humans to be victorious. While this turn of plot may be acceptable, or even satisfying, in a written fable it is much less engaging when visualized on screen.

The film is also weakened by several pinned-on endings that provide more information than is necessary. Each time the film fades to black the viewer believes the film is ending and eventually tires of the superfluous and seemingly endless array of endings (ten in all).

Overall this was certainly a fine film and a worthy conclusion to Jackson's tremendous effort. Although not a great film, it kept the viewer involved in the Hobbit's quest for three hours and did no dishonor to Tolkien's work.

## Autumn to Ashes

Rick Gutierrez

THE BAND FROM AUTUMN TO ASHES, A HARDCORE EMO band on a U.S. tour, headlined a show at Club Krome in Sayreville on December 12. Hardcore bands Nora and Avenged Sevenfold opened before leaving on a European tour.

From Autumn to Ashes began with their radio station hit song, "The After Dinner Payback." Along with numbers from their newly released album *The Fiction We Live*, the band also played hits from their older album *Too Bad You're Beautiful*, including "Eulogy for an Angel." Amy Dooley '06, who attended the show, said "From Autumn to Ashes is awesome, my favorite band, and they are just amazing live."

Avenged Sevenfold, an underground hardcore band, opened the show, playing songs from their album *Waking the Fallen*. The Polish hardcore band Nora, who just released their album *Dreamers and Deadmen*, followed. Nora played only seven songs during their time on stage, including their radio hit "Nobody Takes Pictures of the Drummer" to close their performance. "Nora stole this show," according to Dave Dec '04.

## Vogt's Movie Premieres *Brian DeOliveira*

JESSICA VOGT'S MOVIE *FORGOTTEN* PREMIERED DECEMBER 16 in the Union Catholic auditorium. Following her movie, *A Christmas Story* was shown. The \$1 entry fee went to the Christmas toy drive.

Vogt decided to make the movie at the end of last year. "I began writing the screenplay in September and I finished it in October." Shooting and editing the movie ended in the first week of December.

Seniors Eddie Thornton, Kristine Mintel, Nicole Hauck, Katie Seamon, Julianne Tooker, Joe Palinsky, and Natalie Cortés all dressed up as if it were a real Hollywood premiere. "I enjoyed Jessica's movie a lot," said Sister Percylee Hart, R.S.M., UC Principal. "She has exemplified our mission at UC, which is to step up to our talents."

Natalie Cortés, who played the lead in *Forgotten*, felt that "Jess was very easy to work with because she knew exactly what she wanted, and how she wanted it." "It was a good experience working with Jess," said Joe Palinsky, who served as assistant director.

*Forgotten* was Jess Vogt's longest film. Other movies that she has made include *Revenge of the Bike*, *Thumb Wrestling*, *Panic Attack*, and a short love story called *Snap*. "I enjoy making films; it has been a hobby of mine since I was little. Although it can be stressful, I love everything I work on."

Jess Vogt's current project is a comedy she plans to finish in the spring.

## UC and RC Dance Off *Kay Manalo*

THE RIVALRY BETWEEN UNION CATHOLIC AND ROSELLE Catholic has entered a new era. The schools plan to meet not on a basketball court or on a soccer field, but on the dance floor.

UC's Dance Club will square off against RC's Dance Club in a judged competition during the winter. Dance Club members from both schools

hope to showcase unique choreography and stylistic performances while representing their respective schools. Although both clubs are relatively new, membership has grown through the year. Hoping to branch out, UC Dance Club moderator Ms. Berlinghieri and executive board members are planning this competition. Money raised by admission will be sent to a yet-to-be-specified charity.

The overall competition will be divided into two separate categories. Individuals can compete in an improv category that allows dancers to morph their abilities according to randomly picked songs, reminiscent of MTV's hit show *The Wade Robson Project*. Individuals who may not be so adept in their abilities can also band together to form a duo or trio in-group competition.

The Dance Club hopes to announce the date for the competition in the next few weeks.

## UC Gets SADD *Joe Palinsky*

STUDENTS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING (SADD) RECENTLY returned to Union Catholic. Originally run by the late Father Dembow, SADD found a new moderator with Mr. Wright. Mr. Wright is not new, however, when it comes to teaching about drinking and driving. Last year, Mr. Wright showed many of his religion classes a serious video about the risk many take when getting behind the wheel while under the influence of alcohol.

SADD is dedicated to showing students the dangers of drinking and driving. The majority of automobile accidents in the United States can be attributed to drivers, many underage, under the influence of alcohol. SADD hopes to educate students about why they should never get behind the wheel after drinking any amount of alcohol. The group also teaches why people should never let a friend who has been drinking drive a vehicle.

SADD delivers a very powerful message to students and many take it seriously. "I would never get in a car with someone who has been drinking," said Liz Morasso '04. "I wouldn't even let them drive at all. It's just stupid to do."

## The New SAT

Pamela Seiple

A NEW SAT WILL BE ADMINISTERED FOR THE FIRST TIME in March 2005. Changes in this SAT include the renaming of the verbal section to “critical reading,” an expansion of the math section to cover three years of high school math (geometry and algebra I and II), and a new writing section.

“It stinks that the new SAT came just in time for my class,” said Michael Seamon, a sophomore who will be affected by the new test. “It seems like they’re going to be much harder.” Specifically, changes to the verbal part of the exam involve the elimination of the analogy section and introduction of short reading passages (about 100 words). Quantitative comparisons have been eliminated from the math section, replaced with questions on topics such as exponential growth, absolute value, and functional notation, while placing greater emphasis on as linear functions, manipulations with exponents, and properties of tangent lines.

The new SAT also has a completely new section: writing. This section will resemble the PSAT writing section and the SAT II: Writing test, with multiple-choice grammar questions along with a written essay.

Although the sophomores had their first taste of these tests on October 21, that PSAT did not include the modifications that will be on the new SAT. Next year, however, a new PSAT will parallel many of the changes to the SAT. “It’s unfair that we won’t know what the new SAT is like until our junior year,” said Meaghan Geislinger ’06. “We don’t really know what to expect.”

The alterations being made to the SAT are a result of many years of consideration by educators and psychometricians at the College Board. These professionals have consulted with individual educators, guidance counselors, and enrollment and admission officers who regularly advise the association.

“More than the structure of the test is being changed,” said Mr. Leib, who also teaches SAT preparation classes and does private tutoring for the tests. “The College Board [the creator and administrator of the SAT] is changing the focus of the test from a predictor of how well a student

will do in college to how much the student already knows. Apparently, colleges are demanding more information on a student’s knowledge level, and when colleges want something, the College Board gives it to them. After all, if colleges don’t want SAT scores, the College Board goes out of business.”

Here is an example of the new short reading passages (answers on page 12).

**Directions:** The passage below is followed by two questions based on its content. Answer the questions on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage.

Dinosaurs have such a powerful grip on the public consciousness that it is easy to forget just how recently scientists have become aware of them. A two-year-old child today may be able to rattle off three dinosaur names, but in 1824 there was only one known dinosaur. Period. The word “dinosaur” didn’t even exist until 1841. Indeed, in those early years, the world was baffled by the discovery of these absurdly enormous creatures.

**1. The reference to the “two-year-old child” (line 2) primarily serves to**

- (A) challenge a popular assumption.
- (B) highlight the extent of a change.
- (C) suggest that a perspective is simplistic.
- (D) introduce a controversial idea.
- (E) question a contemporary preoccupation.

**2. The statement “Period” in line 4 primarily serves to emphasize the**

- (A) authoritative nature of a finding.
- (B) lack of flexibility in a popular theory.
- (C) stubborn nature of a group of researchers.
- (D) limited knowledge about a subject.
- (E) refusal of the public to accept new discoveries.

## UC Defibrillator Fund

Nicole Desiato

IN SEPTEMBER, THE UNION CATHOLIC ENVIRONMENTAL Club started a drive to purchase a defibrillator for the school. Sister Mary Raymond, Environmental Club moderator, learned of the need for

defibrillators and suggested the idea to the Environmental Club. The club embraced the idea and, after it was presented to and approved by the administration, the UC Defibrillator Fund was started.

The Environmental Club has been actively trying to raise the \$2500 needed for the defibrillator, including the sale of Human-I-Tees and an appeal on the Union Catholic homepage. "The largest donation we've had is \$500," said Sister Raymond, "but every donation counts, even if it's 25 cents." The club plans to approach students for small donations through an appeal on UCTV.

A defibrillator is used for relieving sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). Without treatment, sudden cardiac arrest can kill a person in only four to six minutes. Two electrodes placed on the victim's chest check the heart for signs of SCA. If the victim is going into cardiac arrest, then the



defibrillator signals whoever is monitoring it to press a button. Defibrillators revive the heart by giving it an electric shock. A technician needs only a short course given by

organizations such as the American Heart Association, the Red Cross, and the National Safety Council.

Although sudden cardiac arrest attacks 250,000 people in the US, fewer than 5% of victims survive, because no defibrillator is available. "It's better to have one and not need it, then to need it and not have one," said Sister Raymond.

The Environmental Club has already raised more than \$1800. To make a donation to the UC Defibrillator Fund, send money to:

Defibrillator Fund  
Union Catholic High School  
1600 Martine Avenue  
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

or contact Sister Raymond and the Environmental Club.

## Here's to the Ladies Who Lunch

*Katelyn Primich*

AN OFTEN OVERLOOKED PART OF THE UNION CATHOLIC community is the cafeteria staff, which provides students with breakfast and lunch. The "Lunch Ladies" begin their day anytime from 6:30 to 8:30, preparing the breakfast bacon, sausage, tater tots, and eggs. After breakfast is served and the homeroom bell rings, preparation for lunch begins. "This process takes up most of the morning, so it keeps us working until about 11:15," said Anita as she prepared turkey sandwiches.

The lunch ladies agree that they are happy to spend time together in the kitchen and find UC to be a good atmosphere. Working here allows the lunch ladies to drive their kids to school and be present when their children return. The woman in charge of the cafeteria staff, Mrs. DeLuca, believes "Union Catholic is a great environment because there is a homelike atmosphere present and people are always willing to help each other out."

"The best part about my job is seeing the students grow from freshman to seniors," said Mrs. DeLuca. "It feels like I've lived the experience with them."

Colleen Anderson '04 and Heather Hanley '04 feel the lunch ladies are huge part of the school's community. "The lunch ladies are mother-like

figures to us and are a very important part of our day."

Some lunches are easier to make

than others. The ladies agree the easiest thing to make is pizza. Krystina, "The Fry Lady," makes 130 pounds of French fries every day. In contrast, the ladies wish they didn't have to make tacos, mozzarella sticks, quesadillas, burritos, and baked ziti, all of which take a lot of work.



## Forensics Gains Third Place *Katie Czado*

ON DECEMBER 20, THE VIKING FORENSICS TEAM participated in the third Newark League meet of the year, the first of two meets to be held at Union Catholic. The team placed third overall and gained an additional 18 team points.

“We had the home court advantage by hosting this meet. The team was familiar with the friendly confines of the building,” said team moderator Mr. Reagan, Jr. “The comfort level was definitely there.”

Forensics is more than competing for Nationals, the final competition where teams from all states compete for national ranks, and competing in college contests like the Harvard Tournament over Presidents Day Weekend. “I definitely think it helps in speaking in front of a public audience,” said Kristin Davie '05. “It gives you a wonderful confidence level.”

## The Prophet Christmas Quiz

IN THE DECEMBER 21 ISSUE, *THE PROPHET* QUIZ ASKED readers to identify fifteen popular Christmas and holiday songs whose titles had been obfuscated, obscured, and otherwise messed up. Here are the answers.

1. Move Hither, the Entire Assembly of Those Who Are Loyal in Their Belief—“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
2. Embellish Interior Passageways—“Deck the Halls”
3. Vertically Challenged Prepubescent Male Percussionist—“The Little Drummer Boy”
4. Carbon-based Life Form Experiencing a Hallucinatory Phenomenon of a Natal Celebration Devoid of Color—“I’m Dreaming of a White Christmas”
5. Former New York Mayor Appears as an Incarnadine-Proboscised European *Rangifer tarandus*—“Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer”

6. The Yuletide Occurrence Preceding All Others—“The First Noel”
7. Precious Metal Tintinnabulary Devices—“Silver Bells”
8. Omnipotent Supreme Being Brings Ecstatic Respite to Distinguished Males—“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”
9. Allow Crystalline Formations To Descend—“Let It Snow”
10. Jovial Yuletide Desired for the Second Person Singular or Plural by the First Person Plural—“We Wish You a Merry Christmas”
11. Attention Getting Interjection Voiced by Vocalizing Announcing Cherubs—“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”
12. St. Nicholas Will Be Arriving in the Municipality in the Not Too Distant Future—“Santa Claus Is Coming to Town”
13. Bipedal Traveling Through an Amazing Acreage During the Period Between December 21st and March 21st (in the Northern Hemisphere)—“Walking in a Winter Wonderland”
14. The Event’s Arrival Occurred at Twelve O’Clock During a Clement Nocturnal Period—“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”
15. Exclamatory Remark Concerning a Diminutive Municipality in Judea Southwest of Jerusalem—“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

THE PROPHET



Answers to sample SAT questions:

1. B
2. D