



The Prophet

UNION CATHOLIC REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

May 7, 2008

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Senior Boys Compete for the Title of Mr. UC!

Keyana Jones

KEVIN CASCONA '08 WAS crowned "Mr. UC" Wednesday, April 16. The pageant began at 7 p.m. and was held in the auditorium. The senior candidates included: Carlo Palencia, Jimmy Thornton, Robert Villegas, Charles Eke, Keith Zukowski, Michael Buczynski, Bobby Jacques, and Kevin Cascone.

The show opened with all eight candidates performing a "dancer number" to *I Will Survive*. The competition also included the candidates showcasing their talents and faculty members testing their knowledge through trivia questions. Each candidate was escorted by the lovely ladies of Student Council.

The first Mr. UC was held



on December 23, 1965. The event was held in the gymnasium and was a dance rather (continued on page 3)

"Going Wild" at District Convention

Andrew Kulinin

THE KEY CLUB ORGANIZATION of New Jersey held its 62nd annual district convention in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Key Club is the longest running high school student community service organization. To this date, the club has put in over twelve million hours of service for our world, which continues to grow each year. From April

11 to the 13, the convention was filled with great experiences, fun and memorable moments.

The theme for this year's convention was "Going Wild with Service" in an effort to raise \$100,000 to help support Children's Specialized Hospital of New Jersey. The first day of convention began with an intro-

duction for the weekend to come. There were opportunities for members to learn more about Key Club, leadership, and most importantly, themselves. Many informative meetings took place which consisted of motivational speeches on how to approach life with a greater appreciation and attitude. (continued on page 4)

Freshmen Day of Recollection

Sarah Getz

THE FRESHMEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION was held on April 16 at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. The theme for the day was "The Wizard of Oz." Throughout the day, freshmen were encouraged to "follow their yellow brick road" and use their courage, heart, and brain to get them through their journey.

The Class of 2011 began their day in the cafeteria where they grew closer – literally. In the game of human musical chairs, the freshmen discovered that the game often required them to sit on one another. After the entertaining game, the freshmen wrote letters that they will receive when they are seniors. Students then crossed the street and went over to IHM.

Once safely across the street, the Class of '11 played Battle of the

Sexes. In this game, both genders got to know a bit more about each other. Later on, the freshmen played Telephone Charades where one person was given a clue and then had to act it out to another student who passed it down the line. The final game of the day broke the gym into different sections. Students then had to follow the instructions of the Peer Ministers who directed the freshmen to their assigned area.

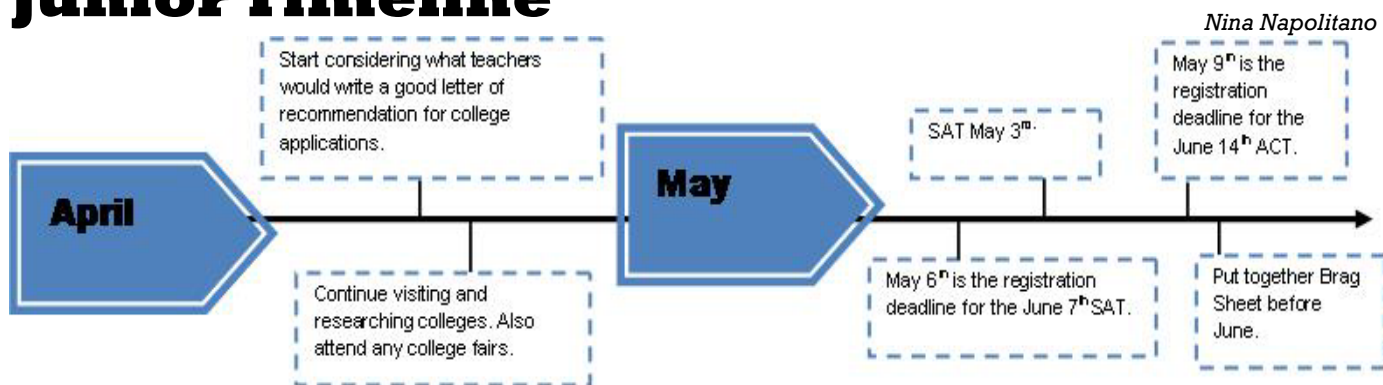
In between the games were speakers who shared their stories with the freshmen class. Charles Eke '08, Jenna Lloyd '09, and Bobby Russell '09 told their freshmen stories of how they had strayed off of their path and were able to find their way back. They encouraged the Class of '11 to allow God to help them stay on their yellow brick

road and lend a helping hand when they strayed away. Discussion groups were held after each speaker so that the freshmen could reflect upon the message of each story and relate it to their life.

The day of recollection concluded with a mass that was given by Father John Gloss. As he led the students in prayer, he reminded them to keep the message of The Wizard of Oz in mind as they continued their journey through high school.

"I think the Freshman Day of Recollection was a success," said Peer Minister Liz Tartaglia '09. "It gave them an opportunity to bond and they were able to get to know each other better."

Junior Timeline



Annual Sophomore Career Day A Huge Success!

Arielle Gonzalez

ON APRIL 10 UNION CATHOLIC sophomores were given an opportunity to explore future career choices at the annual Sophomore Career Day. The day served as a chance for sophomores to meet UC alumni who had gone on to prosperous and rewarding careers in the fields of marketing, physical therapy, acting, and many other careers.

The event took place during the first three periods of a regular school day. Two days prior sophomores had been given a list of visiting careers and were asked to check the ones that most appealed to them. The

morning of Career Day each sophomore was given a schedule that represented the careers they would be learning about that day. Many sophomores were both excited and anxious because the only things on the schedule were room numbers, leaving the careers choices a mystery until one entered the class room.

Many sophomores were pleasantly surprised when they entered their "mystery careers," and they were able to learn about careers they had previously known little about. Some students, on the other hand, already had some special careers in

mind and were very glad to see people from UC who had achieved the very goals they hope to accomplish in the future. The faculty at UC also gave much praise to the Sophomore Career Day, saying that it will help students in the future. "faculty quote here."

Overall the day proved beneficial for all those involved. Next year the sophomores will be putting their newly acquired career knowledge to good use as they take the SAT and prepare for their future life outside of UC.

Class of 2012 Lock-In!

Sarah Getz

THE LOCK-IN FOR THE CLASS OF 2012 was on April 18 in the Union Catholic gym. It was supposed to take place on February 29, but was postponed due to weather conditions. The lock-in was run by members of the Big-Brother/Big-Sister Program.

When the incoming freshmen entered the UC gym they were broken up into two groups based on candy bars. The students were placed in either the Pay Day group or the Milky Way group. Then they proceeded to different tables where they made name tags, guessed how many M&Ms were in a jar, got UC tattoos, and filled out information sheets.

Next on the agenda, students participated in ice breakers games. For the first game, one person was chosen to spray silly string across the



gym while another member of the

students were broken into groups again and they moved around to different activities which included musical chairs, knock out, kick ball, guitar hero, and bingo. After working up an appetite, incoming freshmen were brought back to the cafeteria for ice cream sundaes.

At the end of the night, the class of 2012 was able to leave with a better sense of what UC would be like. Many of the perspective students enjoyed their night

team tried to catch it in the bucket. The team with the greatest amount of silly string at the end of the game won. After that, there was a pie eating contest. One student from each team was chosen to eat whipped cream pie until he or she found a whistle and blew it.

Dinner was served then, followed by even more activities. Stu-

and were able to make new friends who they looked forward to spending more time with in September.

"The lock-in was a great way to have fun with current UC students and meet incoming freshmen." said Jenna Lloyd '09. "I had a lot of fun."

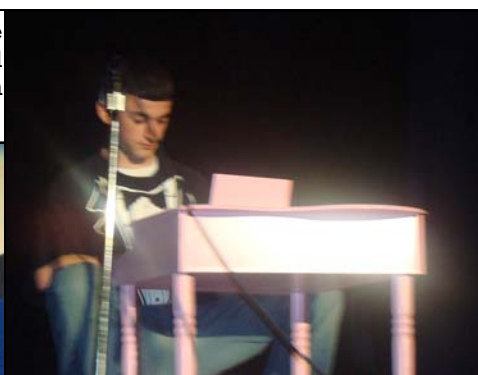
Mr. UC

(continued from page 1)

than a pageant. The first Mr. UC in Union Catholic's history was Hank Chardos '66. The qualifications were on the basis of all four years at UC. Hank Chardos '66, also known as Pete Tierney was given a three foot silver trophy in honor of his win.

"The event was very successful," said Tony LaRocca '08, "Student

Council was very satisfied with the turn out." Thanks to Student Council and Sister Ann Sullivan the night ran smoothly and successfully.



Top Five April Fools' Hoaxes

Jamie Ciocon

APRIL FOOLS' DAY IS THE ONE DAY A YEAR WHEN bamboozlement is not only excused, but expected. While pranks such as the "I'm moving to Minnesota" lie have grown old and overused, some jokes will always be hailed as "genius." Here are the top five April Fools' Day pranks of all time, as compiled by The Museum of Hoaxes:

5. In 1977, the British newspaper *The Guardian* published a special feature about a fictional island called San Serriffe. The article described the island as consisting of several semi-colon shaped islands, namely its main lands Upper Caisse and Lower Caisse, and the capital city of Bodoni. The phones at *The Guardian* headquarters rang off the hook with readers seeking more information about the island. None of them realized that all of the island's attributes were named after computer-related words.

4. The Taco Bell Corporation fooled Americans in 1996, when it announced that it had bought Philadelphia's Liberty Bell and planned to rename it the Taco Liberty Bell. Citizens called the National Historic Park in Philadelphia, where the bell was housed, to express their anger before learning it was just a practical joke.

3. Back in 1962, televisions in Sweden only broadcast in black-and-white. The main television station's technical director, Kjell Stensson, appeared on the news to announce an innovation that allowed people to view their shows in color: pulling a nylon stocking over a television set. His prank convinced thousands of Swedes that their stockings were now more valuable than before.

2. In April 1985, *Sports Illustrated* published a story about a future New York Met pitcher by the name of Sidd Finch, who could reportedly throw a baseball at 168 miles per hour with incredible accuracy. Surprisingly, Finch had never played baseball before; he had mastered the "art of the pitch" in a Tibetan monastery, guided by the "great poet-saint Lama Milaraspā". Mets fans were ecstatic with their team's new acquisition until they learned that Sidd Finch only existed in the mind of the article's author, George Plimpton.

1. In 1957, *Panorama*, a show produced by the British Broadcasting Company, announced that Swiss farmers were yielding a spaghetti crop due to an unusually mild winter and the elimination of the menacing spaghetti weevil. *Panorama* proceeded to show footage of Swiss peasants pulling strands of spaghetti from trees. Numbers of viewers called the BBC asking for the method of growing their own spaghetti trees. To this, the BBC replied that they should "place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best."

Key Club

(continued from page 1)

Members were also able to participate in a thrilling election process for the candidates running in the 2008-2009 divisional caucuses, attend two dances, and meet many other Key Clubbers. All members were required to attend educational workshops the following day, such as information about UNICEF (United Nations Children Fund), the district project, college transition, and even dating and battle of the sexes workshops. An impressive talent show took place on Saturday afternoon as well, with participants showing off their remarkable abilities to those in attendance. Awards were given out in the evening to clubs who showed the most determination and hard work throughout the year, as well as district project awards and video/poster awards.

The final day of convention included a farewell meeting to the many clubs in attendance. Recognition and retirement of this year's district

club officers was indeed emotional as many of the officers teared up as they began to move on to their futures. "The weekend was a celebration of service, teamwork, and friendship," stated John Monagle,

the New Jersey District Governor. "Together, we have raised so much money to support Children's Specialized Hospital and have planted five acres of passion fruit that will exterminate the hunger season for fifty Kenyan farm families with over two hundred and fifty children, as well as collecting thousands of pounds of food to support children in over 160 schools



throughout New Jersey. As Monagle concluded the farewell meeting, clubs from around the State headed out with a greater appreciation for service. As members look back, the Key Club year of 2008 was truly a special one in which few will ever forget.

APRIL

(according to holidayinsights.com)

Jamie Ciocon

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 April Fools' Day	2 Peanut Butter & Jelly Day	3 Don't Go To Work Unless It's Fun Day	4 Hug a News- man Day	5 Go For Broke Day
6 Plan Your Epi- taph Day	7 Caramel Pop- corn Day	8 Draw a Picture of a Bird Day	9 Name Yourself Day	10 Siblings' Day	11 Barbershop Quartet Day	12 Big Wind Day
13 Blame Some- one Else Day	14 Moment of Laughter Day	15 Titanic Re- membrance Day	16 Stress Aware- ness Day	17 Blah, Blah, Blah Day	18 Newspaper Columnists' Day	19 Garlic Day
20 Volunteer Rec- ognition Day	21 Kindergarten Day	22 Jelly Bean Day	23 Take a Chance Day	24 Pig in a Blan- ket Day	25 Secretary's Day	26 Pretzel Day
27 Prime Rib Day	28 Great Poetry Reading Day	29 Shrimp Scampi Day	30 Honesty Day			

APRIL IS...

- 🌸 National Humor Month
- 🌸 International Guitar Month
- 🌸 Keep America Beautiful Month
- 🌸 Lawn and Garden Month
- 🌸 Poetry Month
- 🌸 National Pecan Month
- 🌸 National Welding Month
- 🌸 Records and Information Management Month
- 🌸 Stress Awareness Month

Weekly Celebrations:

- 🌸 Week 1 Library Week
- 🌸 Week 1 Read a Road Map Week.
- 🌸 Week 2 Garden Week
- 🌸 Week 3 Organize Your Files Week
- 🌸 Week 3 Medical Labs Week
- 🌸 Week 4 Administrative Assistants Week
- 🌸 Week 4 National Karaoke Week

An Opinion: Mass Media Mayhem

Jamie Ciocon, Arielle Gonzalez

IN TODAY'S FAST PACE WORLD NO person can escape the media. Radio, TV, and even this issue of *The Prophet* are forms of media that are trying to convey a message. Whether a form of media is trying to sell something, teach something, or change one's opinion about something, the different forms of mass media that people see everyday affect the mind of the audience.

Media, in any form, is the mass communication of ideas. Mass

media is media that reaches a large group of people. This definition includes mediums such as; radio, television, newspaper, and various others. The purpose of any form of media is to influence and inform its audience, either in a positive, negative, or neutral way. But does a medium really have that much influence on a person? If this question is true, then are people simply at the will of those in the marketing business, and if so what can this mean for the population as a whole?

The truth is that media affects the human mind more than society knows.

For example, many American's, when asked to fill in the following phrase; *Got (what?)* would respond with milk, from the popular commercial encouraging teens to drink more milk. Though this may seem like a simple slogan, in reality, it is a prime example of how the media uses words to encourage and engrain a certain message in the (continued on page 6)

Spanish Trip to the Hispanic Flamenco Ballet!

Ashley Wytenus

SEÑORA MCHUGH'S SPANISH classes have a longstanding tradition of venturing north to Union City for the Hispanic Flamenco Ballet. On April 17, Spanish 3 accelerated course and AP Spanish course embarked on this adventure to experience everything from traditional Hispanic dances to a presentation of "boleadoras" to singing songs such as "Cielto Lindo," "La Bamba," and "Guajira Guantanamera," and then to the Spain Inn Restaurant in Piscataway for an authentic Spanish feast.

Many of the Union Catholic students favorite part of the show was the singing. "I had so much fun singing 'Cielto Lindo,'" said Chris Wolff '09, "I could not get the song out of my head for the rest of the day!"

Although on the way to the flamenco ballet the bus lost its way to the theatre momentarily, the Union Catholic Spanish students and Señora made it to the theatre just in time for the first "sing-along" song of the show. In the theatre, students ranging from elementary school youth to (what seemed to be) college age were present.

Throughout the show, there were intervals of Hispanic songs and traditional dances from Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, and other Latin American countries.

Two performances, however, diverted from just being dances and became unique presentations. One of these routines was the Brazilian-originated dance called the "capoeira," which is a blend of martial art, game, and dance. Native Indian and African slaves in 16th century Brazil created "capoeira." The other act was a dance with "boleadoras" that derive from Argentinean "gauchos," which are similar to American cowboys. The "boleadoras" are metal balls attached to a leather string. With the "boleadoras," the man swung

them around to give them enough momentum to create a blurring phenomenon circling the performer's body. Only someone with great amounts of flair and talent would be able to do that, for one false swing, and the performer would have severely injured himself, or at least cut off a good chunk of his hair. The last part of the show consisted of selected students going on to the stage for salsa dancing.

As the students boarded the bus after the show and all sang the classic "Rie y Lloro" by Celia Cruz, they headed to the Spain Inn Restaurant. At the buffet style Spanish lunch, there was food varying from fried potatoes to paella to different types of chicken and seafood. Everybody left the Spain Inn thoroughly satisfied with their meals and arrived back as UC



Media Mayhem

(continued from page 5)

heads of its spectators. In this case, the message is positive and encourages good health.

Though the *Got Milk* commercials send positive message, other media campaigns send a negative message to their audiences. A good example of this was when Camel brand cigarettes was forced to retract

their use of their cartoon camel to promote their product. The reasoning behind this was that the cartoon camel promoted children smoking because cartoons are known to appeal more to children than to adults. The camel was soon taken out of Camel's marketing and, eventually, cigarettes were not even allowed to have commercials on television, which goes to show how truly powerful the media can be.

With so many ads telling peo-

ple to "buy this; it's better," "wear this; it will make you more popular," "think about this," knowing which messages to absorb and which to ignore can be a large responsibility for the public to undertake, but it is a responsibility nonetheless. People should never underestimate the power of the media; it is when people do this that we risk the loss of control over our thoughts, opinions, and ultimately our own beings.

Spring Sports Preview

Angela Sessa

BASEBALL

THE BASEBALL TEAM OPENED UP the 2008 season on April 2 with a win against New Providence. The four returning starters each contributed to the victory. Jimmy Thornton '08 and Tony LaRocca '08 each contributed offensively while Steve D'Angelo '08 closed for starting pitcher Matt Canales '09. "Pitching seems to be our overall strength and we need to be committed to timely hitting and make the necessary plays in the field," said Coach Jim Reagan Jr. He has upgraded the schedule this year to include more out of league games in hopes of making the team more competitive in the Mountain Valley Conference.

Softball

The softball team also opened up the 2008 season on April 3 with a win against Jonathan Dayton. The team is essentially the same, aside from the loss of a senior pitcher last year and the addition of two transfers who have to sit out a thirty day period because of the NJSIAA regulations. The team is lead by captains Angela Sessa '08 and

Shannon Deegan '09. Loss of first basemen and power hitter Ashley Wytenus '09 for a majority of the season due to a broken foot will hurt the team both offensively and defensively. The team is looking for the underclassmen and new starters to step up and perform this year.

Girls' Spring Track

The girls' team is led by seniors Samantha Peters, Genesis Fulmer, and Tiara Brown. The team also expects quality performances by Tess Lowe '09, Caryn Grabowski '09, and Alexis Cabbage '11. The girls' team hopes to place at the top in the conference and county meets once again this year.

Boys' Spring Track

The boys' team is led by seniors Garret Ellis, Mike Suarez, Obinna Nwafor, Ryan Killkenny, Alex Niziolek, and Nick Carnet in the track events and Charles Eke and Aaron Doherty in the field events. Shariff Stubbs '09, Danny da Costa '09, and DJ Thornton '10 will also play a major role in the anticipated success of the team this

season. The team has the talent and position to win the Conference, County, and State Championships. Coach Michael McCabe hopes to bring back some All-Americans this spring.

Boys' Tennis

The boys' tennis team is led by captain Trevor McPherson '08 as well as, seniors Dereck Borge and Kyle Pirozzoli. The team's new coach John Becht has hopes that the team will qualify for the state tournament once again this year. According to Becht, the team is coming together nicely but they still have more to accomplish and improve upon.

Golf

The golf team is led by co-captains Brian O'Donnell '08 and James Trollo '08. Coach Bill Boyar thinks freshman Kyle Cieri and Megan Tosato look promising for their first year on the team. Tosato is one of three girls who are on the team this year. Coach Boyar is looking to be a very competitive team this year despite the difficult schedule they face.

Movie Review with Jessica Ballate!!

Baby Mama; starring Tina Fey, Amy Poehler

I REALLY WANTED TO LIKE THIS ONE. I went into the theater with an opened mind because I love these two stars on Saturday Night Live and women aren't really known for carrying a comedy on their own. The movie starts off funny. Kate Holbrook (Tina Fey) was so focused on her career that she forgot to do one thing, start a family. After trying everything, singleton Kate, finds herself with Angie Ostrowiski, (Amy Poehler) a downscale surrogate who is willing to have the baby for her. Of course after Angie moves in with Kate, these two clashes about everything, like a female version of the Odd Couple, and one can tell that Amy Poehler will head on to do great things in her field. However this uneven comedy seems to go for the cheap laughs and the romance between Tina Fey and Greg Kinear seems too forced. In addition, the ending was very predictable. Everything seemed too simple and easy, something that they didn't want in the beginning of the movie.

Final Say: Baby Mama brings Drama; B-

The Prophet

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