



A Unique Experience

Students attend inauguration

By Dominique Church

On January 20, 2009 millions of Americans braved the cold Washington D.C. air to watch the historic inauguration of Barack Obama.

That morning Barack Obama and his family attended mass at St. John's Episcopal Church, and by 11:30 they stepped onto the platform with George and Laura Bush.

As she did at Clinton's inauguration, Aretha Franklin sang My Country 'Tis of Thee as Joe Biden was sworn in first as the new Vice-President. Then, shortly after noon Obama took his oath, becoming America's president. He delivered his inaugural address, setting the tone of his presidency and goals for the nation.

In the crowd of millions at the National Mall, three students from Argyle High School stood: Thomas Quintana, senior, Holly Hayden, freshman, and Tess Athey, freshman. They were given this unique opportunity through the Presidential Youth Inauguration Conference.

Students from across the nation applied to go and fifteen thousand students attended, ranging

from middle school all the way through college.

Before the day of the inauguration, students traveled to the University of Maryland and heard speeches from former secretary of state Colin Powell, Lisa Lane, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and former vice-president Al Gore.

On the day of the inauguration, the scene was undoubtedly memorable for these students. There was an endless mob of people, shoulder to shoulder from the Lincoln Memorial to Capital Hill, Thomas said. Some were chanting Obama's name and booing Bush.

People stood on Port-a-potties and sat in trees, whatever they could use to get a better view he explained. Most people who were not lucky enough to be up-front watched the event on giant TVs.

There were police everywhere, one every three feet it seemed, Holly said.

For Tess it gave her a different outlook on how the rest of the country felt after the election.

Most people here in Argyle were not that happy about Obama being elected, so it was surprising to see how excited people were

about him being president, Tess said.

Later that evening, after the inauguration ceremony, these three students attended the Youth Ball, a Black Tie Event, where they heard Dautry perform.

The three day event created lasting memories and provided a unique American experience. It gave me a whole new perspective on what it is to love your country, Thomas said.

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Dominique Church

Pictured left to right: Holly Hayden, Tess Athey, Thomas Quintana

Clubs offer more chances to be involved

By Jacquelyn Kerner

This year, students at AHS have even more opportunities to get involved. There are several new clubs and organizations that have been added to the list of student activities, including SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), the Xtreme Dance Team, and Choir Club.

Senior Adrianna Christopoulos heard about SADD from friends at other schools and the impact it has made on the students there. Hoping to start a local chapter,

she asked Mrs. Romero, history teacher, to sponsor the organization.

Last fall, students began signing up for this organization, and there are roughly 40 members so far. Hopefully, the addition of this club will help make people more aware of their decisions, said Adrianna.

According to Mrs. Romero, all the members are very enthusiastic about this organization, and students are welcome to come by to see her if they are inter-

ested in becoming a member.

Another new activity available at school this year is the Xtreme Dance Team, which is sponsored by Mrs. Kniss, special ed teacher, and assisted by Mrs. Arrington, technology teacher. The dance team currently performs at basketball games and pep rallies, helping to promote and support school functions, said Mrs. Kniss.



Photo provided by Carissa Kniss

2009 Xtreme Dance Team

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Sixth Period: A Thing of the Past?

By Cat Clark

By this time next year, you could be doing your homework at home. Mr. Butts is working on an alternative to activity period.

Activity period has been a part of our day for many reasons: fifth and seventh period for seniors need to be an hour long as opposed to fifty minutes because of AP courses, students need a tutorial time to retake tests, and for an overall break in the day.

“We’re just so big now, trying to get 580 kids down in that one area; it’s just not a good situation,” said Mr. Butts about the problem. However, that many kids would not be a problem if students would act more mature and use the time for school work.

One solution Mr. Butts is considering is lengthening passing periods throughout the day. The only problem with this is the middle school; first, second, third, seventh and eighth period is on the exact same schedule so that we can

share teachers.

Some students are upset about the possibility of getting rid of activity period. “I like it because it’s hard to go all day without time to breathe,” said Aaron Kline, senior.

However, other students think that alternatives would be better. “We should just come to school later,” said Dane Saucedo, junior. While many students might see this as an appealing solution, bus routes must run at the same time as the middle school.

Another drawback to removing sixth period is the strain this change could put on the cafeteria’s budget. Because the cafeteria has its own budget, they hire their own staff, pay their own salaries, and buy the food we eat.

They do not receive any money from the school’s budget and if Mr. Butts takes away sixth period, they will lose a significant amount of income. With the money they are making from sixth period, they

are considering constructing a permanent stand.

“Right now I just don’t have any good solutions,” Mr. Butts said. Presently, activity period is not going anywhere soon.

Students should do their part in minimizing the probability of Mr. Butts pursuing alternatives to sixth period. If students stop causing problems, leaving a mess in the cafeteria, and start using the time for school work, sixth period can stay in place.



Students crowd the lunchroom during sixth period.

Cat Clark

Head to Head

Harry Potter vs. Twilight

By Tess Athey

In my opinion, choosing between these two book series is incredibly easy. While *Harry Potter* is a spectacularly-woven world, with complex characters, plots, and places, *Twilight* has a very boring setting, with the normal school scene, many street scenes, and of course, the clichéd big, dark forest. JK Rowling did a fantastic job with taking the beautiful world she created and fitting it into the world we, ourselves, live in. The fifteen years that Rowling spent working on this plot paid off, unlike Stephanie Meyer’s idea, which simply came to her in a dream. And I can tell you that this lack of preparation severely damaged her plot.

The thing that everyone loves the most about Rowling’s series is the characters she created. They are all so different and in depth that you can almost feel their pain or happiness. It actually made me feel like I knew the character well, as if they were a good friend. They are all so different, yet the reader can compare them to their own friends. Rowling’s descriptive style of writing will pull the reader in, making them have strong emotions towards all the characters and the plot.

The *Twilight* characters, on the other hand, all made me want to take the book and throw it in a huge, burning bonfire. Edward for example: the said to be perfect, mysterious hero with some unattainable beauty—that only a vampire could have, seems like the kind of character that only a seventh grade girl could create. Not to mention, I found it rather annoying when Meyer took every three seconds to describe how attractive Edward was. I don’t know about you, but I preferred it when vampires were

the evil monsters that slept in coffins and had long, deadly teeth, and only came out at night. For some reason I found that much more interesting than these new, modern day vampires that are gorgeous and mysteriously intriguing. The lack of depth in Meyer’s characters was disappointing to me, as I am sure it was to most other readers who actually pay attention to what they’re reading.

“Meyer is the new Rowling!” I’ve seen it on the news and everywhere on the internet, and to be quite honest, it’s ridiculous. It’s difficult to even compare the two authors side by side. JK Rowling’s books appeal to everyone, of all ages and types of people. Young children read them, adults read them, grandparents, boys, girls. However, the *Twilight* series focuses on one group: pre teens and teenage girls. One of the reasons for that is the main character, Bella, is far from perfect, and she gets the most perfect guy ever. So whenever the reader feels insecure or down on themselves, *Twilight* gives them the delusion that they can get a guy like Edward. When in reality, there is no such person.

In general, *Harry Potter* is much more in depth and interesting than *Twilight*. The writing is better, the characters are more original, and the plot is more planned out. Not to mention, Rowling’s writing and description is much more intriguing and colorful, making the reader want more. *Harry Potter* vs. *Twilight*? No contest.

By Jake Bates

Twilight, by far, out matches *Harry Potter*. Anyone could dream of being able to fling a wooden wand around, say some hocus pocus, and have a jet stream of light appears out of the wand. How many people would dream of becoming a blood-sucking vicious, minion of night?

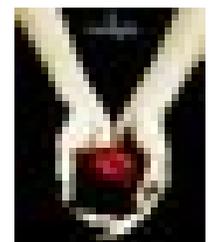
Isabella Swan is one brave enough to take the leap into changing her life forever.

Twilight has love, chaos, real human-like experiences, and a journey beyond all belief. *Harry Potter* is just about a boy trying to live; *Twilight* is about a girl willing to choose her heart over her life.

Through *Twilight*, you feel the heart of Bella, the devotion of Jacob, the jealousy of Rosalie, the brutality of Emmett, the shyness of Jasper, the open-minds of Carlisle and Esme and the chaos and drive of Edward.

Harry Potter has numerous characters, but all seem the same in having one goal. *Twilight* shows a freak accidental meeting and falling in love of a mortal and a vampire.

The story is so amazing and close to home. *Harry Potter* is no match for Isabella Swan.



Monster Attack

Energy drinks a potentially dangerous product

By Jacquelyn Kerner

With students busy and clearly exhausting schedules, sometimes a quick boost is just what they need. But should energy drinks really be what they turn to? What students do not know when they reach for their Monsters, Rock Star, Full Throttle, etc, is the health effects the drinks can have on them if they are not careful.

According to Coach McClure, biology teacher, energy drinks today are not particularly safe. Because not all energy drinks are regulated by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration), the company can put anything they want in their drinks and avoid revealing the content on the label. Consumers cannot be sure what they are drinking and whether or not it could react with any medications that they might be taking.

Also, everything in the drinks may not be pure. There may be fillers added, although the company claims it is 100%

natural.

In the past, energy drinks were made with a drug called *ephedra*, a stimulant that caused complications leading to death for consumers who drank it too often. Ephedra has since been removed from energy drinks, but it is unknown what other chemicals or drugs are being put in to replace the ephedra and how dangerous those are.

Energy drinks cause short term and possibly long term effects on your health. When you drink an energy drink, it increases your blood pressure, heart rate, hormone response, dehydration, and it will cause fatigue after it wears off.

All this is 100% recipe for a heart attack, says Coach McClure. Since there are so many chemicals in these energy drinks, drinking too many of them can cause liver and kidney failure, a stroke,



David Johnson

heart disease, or even cancer, depending on the amount you drink, he said.

Every person reacts differently to energy drinks. Some feel little effects from the drinks, while others will be bouncing off the walls right away. It just depends on how your system reacts to the short-term effects of energy drinks.

While these drinks may be legal, you should think twice before you pay your \$3 for a quick boost.

STUDENT SOUND OFF

How many energy drinks do you have each week?

Zero! Three reasons: I don't have money for them, supposedly they're bad for you, and my mommy says no!
Alexa Ehlers, 9



None, I think \$3 for an energy drink is ridiculous and it is bad for my health. I drink water and juice instead.
Jonathan Koh, 11



Don't ever drink energy drinks. I prefer to get high on life!
Andrew Morrison, 12



What did you think about Obama's inauguration?

I think if he can do everything he promised, he will be a good president.
Jack Licata, 9



I believe that whether I was for Obama or not, he is our new president and therefore he has my respect.
Alex Terry, 10



Being a huge supporter, it was definitely fulfilling to see him finally inaugurated.
TJ Record, 12



What do you usually do during 6th period?

Steal Chase's root beer.
Connor York, 9



Not much. It's pretty boring.
Thomas Dagg, 11



Hang with friends or go to the art room.
Kristen Pulliam, 10



continued from front page

The team's first performance was at the pep rally on February 20th. Mariana Harrison, senior, explains her favorite part about being on the dance team is getting to perform in front of everyone. It's nerve-racking but exciting, she said.

The Xtreme Dance Team is performing at the home basketball games on February 10th and 17th.

There are 16 girls signed up so far, and they are accepting additional members towards the end of the year. Students interested in joining should talk to either Mrs. Kniss or Mrs. Arrington.

The last new club addition this year is

the Choir Club. For the past several years, there had been an interest in beginning a choir club for the school, but it was just this year when Mrs. Warden, math teacher, took the challenge.

There are 30 members so far, and they perform at pep rallies, football games, and basketball games. The club will have a vocal recital on March 26th and will perform at graduation on June 3rd.

In the future, the choir would like to sing at places like rest homes to spread the love, said Dane Saucedo, junior.

Currently the Choir Club is looking

for volunteers to start a booster club to help cover some of the expense and provide them opportunities to travel for performances.

Students wanting to join would simply need to show up Wednesdays at 4:00 in the choir room. The club is always open to new members, and no one is ever turned down. As Mrs. Warden said, "Come one, come all!"

With these new clubs and already existing clubs, there is no reason not to get involved.

THE BUZZ

Upcoming Events

Art-

Feb. 28- Visual Art Scholastic Event Regional Competition (VASE)

UIL Academics

Feb. 7- Ryan High Invitational Meet

Color Guard/ Winter Guard

Feb. 21- James Bowie HS

Feb. 28- Arlington HS

Bowling-

Feb. 7- Denton vs. Argyle Brunswick in Denton

Feb. 14- Argyle vs. Denton University Lanes in Denton

Argyle Cheerleading Competition Team

Feb. 15- Spirit of the South, Garland

Feb. 21-22. Spirit Celebration National Championship, Fort Worth

Accomplishments

Art- Catherine Darby and Emily Brocato have been accepted at Savannah College of Art and Design for fall 2009.

Catherine Darby, Jordan Hinton and Kristina Carr each had an artwork chosen for display at the TASA/TASB convention held in Dallas this past fall.

Choir Club- Nov. 15. performed for Thanksgiving Community Dinner

Dec. 4- performed for Argyle Christmas Tree Lighting at the fire station

Dec. 5 & 6- performed at concert before Christmas play *The Littlest Angel*

Thespian Society/ Theatre- Alex Robinson was elected to the State Student Board of the International Thespian Society, and Mrs. Chumbley will serve on the Advisory Board for the 2009-2010 school year

UIL- finished 2nd in the 5A division at Flower mound High School (28 schools)

Bowling Club Teams- currently in second place overall

Sports Schedule

Feb. 3- Girls & Boys B-Ball vs. Sanger 5:00

Feb. 6- Girls and Boys Basketball vs. Gainesville 5:00

Feb. 6- Girls and Boys Soccer vs. Denton

Feb. 10- Girls & Boys B-Ball vs. Celina 5:00 (Senior Night)

Feb. 10- Girls & Boys Soccer vs. Lake Dallas 7:30

Feb. 13- Boys B-Ball @ Prosper 5:00

Feb. 13- Girls & Boys Soccer vs. Denton Guyer 7:30

Feb. 17- Boys B-Ball vs. Whitesboro 5:00

Feb. 17- Girls & Boys Soccer vs. Birdville 7:30

Feb. 20- Girls & Boys Soccer @ Denton Ryan 7:30

Feb. 24- Girls Soccer @ Denton 5:30

Feb. 27- Girls & Boys Soccer @ Lake Dallas 5:30

The Viva La Pink Day is Feb. 12th, and the AFS Student Council is asking everyone to wear pink to recognize the importance of finding a cure for cancer. We will be selling suckers and taking donations for Susan G. Komen.



Newspaper Staff:
Dominique Church
Cat Clark
Jacquelyn Kerner

Adviser:
Mrs. Fenter

Find this paper online at the Argyle High School website.

If you would like to submit an article to the newspaper, or if you have ideas for upcoming issues, please see Mrs. Fenter or one of the staff members.

Sadie Hawkins Dance is
 Saturday, February 14th!
 Tickets are on sale now.
 \$15.00 for one and \$25.00 for two. You can buy your tickets in room 204 and at the dance.

Eavesdropping

"I like girl babies better than boy babies."

Annie Frizzel, hall

"Sorry, I don't read girl."

Chase McMellian, English

"I like apples, but the skin makes my lips puffy."

Justin Bruton, English

"I'm gonna throw down French like I did on Facebook."

Jack Licata, French

"Could you pass me my shoe?"

Aimee Kline, English