

December 2007

Volume 1, Issue 3

NATIONAL NEWS EDITION

The National

Knightly News

The National Knightly News Staff

Courtney – Layout

Barath

Ben

Ryan

Joseph – Features Co-Editor

Jonathan– Sports Editor

Sam

Michael – Circulation Manager

Susmitha

Sean – Circulation Manager

Jack

Olivia – Features Co-Editor

Lindsey – Layout

Eddie – Tracking Manager

Jamie – Layout Manager

Brian

Ryan

Natalia – Features Co-Editor

Christopher – Art Director

Seth – Sports Editor

Katherine – Asst. Editor

Clarissa

Jessica

Ian – Features Co-Editor

Jason

Andrew

Nevin – News Editor

Storm

Michaela – Layout

David – Art Director

Advisors:

Mrs. Carol Ketterman

Mrs. Deborah Hess

Mrs. Kim Simmons

Patapsco Middle School

8885 Old Frederick Road

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Mrs. Jen Peduzzi, Principal

Patapsco Middle School, Ellicott City, Maryland

Teen Sex Case Teacher Arrested

By: Natalie

Debra Lafave, a former teacher was serving house arrest for having sex with a fourteen year old student in Tampa, Florida. She was arrested on charges of violating her probation. Department of Corrections say “ Debra Lafave discussed her personal life and other subjects with a teenage waitress.” Without permission, she was not allowed to have contact with minors. After her pleading guilty for having sex with a teenage boy in 2004, Lafave is serving three years house arrest and seven years of probation. Defense attorney John Fitzgibbons said that the two women were having a typical workplace conversation. Fitzgibbons and Lafave both felt that anyone thought about it as a huge issue. She could face up to fifteen years in prison for a probation violation.

Groups Say HIV Rate is Being Revised Upward

By: Nevin

Federal health officials check the population of cities with HIV every year. It has turned out that there was a sort of a function buried deep within the numbers. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that the HIV rate could be increased by thirty-five percent or even more by next year. It has been said that prevention efforts of HIV were really insufficient. According to the recent information, in the last two years, about seven million more people had been infected. It has been said that too many people are being exposed to wounded or injured people. If this keeps on going, the population of the USA could be eliminated.

Sorry, Wrong Number By: Jessica

On Thursday, December 6th, 2007, President George W. Bush held a press conference to recommend the phone number 1-800-995-HOPE (4673) to all homeowners concerned about their rising mortgage payments. They would be able to call the number for help and advise on their payments.

Later that day, a White House aide explained to reporters that President Bush accidentally gave the wrong number for people who wanted mortgage help.

An internet search showed that the number was for the Freedom Christian Academy that has a religious based curriculum for home schooling. The academy is located in Ponder, Texas, which is northwest of Dallas.

The actual telephone number for mortgage and financial help is 1-888-995-HOPE (4673).

Bodies Found

By: Olivia and Natalie

In Baghdad, the remains of twelve people were discovered in a mass grave. One person's remains belonged to a paramedic who had disappeared over a year ago. The remains were unearthed in Al-Qaida. According to an official at Fallujah General Hospital (where the bodies were taken after their finding) two of the decomposed bodies have been beheaded. Other hospital officials were not permitted to speak of this discovery. Found with the bodies, was a Health Ministry card that belongs to the missing paramedic. More bodies are destined to be found to unravel infinite mysteries.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance

By: Nevin

"A day that will live in infamy." This day, December 7th is called Pearl Harbor Day. The day when Pearl Harbor was bombed was on December 7th, 1941. The quote means that the soldiers or people will never forget the day. On Friday, many Pearl Harbor survivors gathered at a pier overlooking, the USS Arizona Memorial in addition to many other places across the country to honor the attack's victims. Family members mourn for their siblings/family that had died during the attack. No matter how the day turns out to be, it will always be remembered...

Is This a Free Country?

By: Katherine

Atlanta city council man C.T. Martin, thinks there should be laws against people who wear baggy or loose clothing that shows their underwear. People would also not be able to wear sports bras in public. On the other hand, David Edmondson, head of Park Heights Children's mentoring program, tells people to, "pull up your pants!" and to be neat and clean and to tuck in their shirt. But he's not in agreement with the new suggestion of a law that goes against people who wear their pants a little baggy. He says, "Don't be out dressing like a bum. But at the same time if they're not doing anything wrong just wearing their pants a little baggy, that's where it becomes a sticky situation."

Many other people, such as Makeda Johnson, mother of a fourteen year old daughter, is glad the subject was brought up, but doesn't think it should be a law. She says she doesn't want her daughter to get hooked on "the jail house behavior." Some people, like Danny Johnson, don't agree with the law at all. He says, "I spent over thirty years in the U.S. Navy to keep this country free, and this is just one more chip out of our block of freedom." Sadly, there was a law passed in Declambre, LA, against people showing their underwear in public. The fine is \$500 or you'll have to go to jail for six months. Luckily it's unlikely that this will become a nationwide or even state law.

Chimpanzees May Be Smarter Than Humans

By: Brian

Do you think that your memory is better than a young chimp's? Probably not. Japanese researchers recently had chimps going against adults in two tests of short-term memory, and the chimps won. "That challenges the belief of many people, including many scientists that humans are superior to chimpanzees in all cognitive functions," said researcher Tetsuro Matsuzawa of Kyoto University. Matsuzawa stated "no one can imagine that chimpanzees at the age of five have a better performance at a memory task than humans." One memory test included three five year old chimps who had been taught the order of Arabic numerals one through nine, and a bunch of people that volunteered. They saw nine numbers on a computer screen. When they touched the first number, the others turned into white squares. The catch was to try to touch all of the squares in order of the numbers that were there before. The results were that the chimps did this faster, but getting no more accurate as the humans. One of the chimps, Ayumu, did the best and was included in a test with nine college students. This time five numbers came up on the screen for a short period of time before they became white squares, and the challenge was the same as the last. The numbers were displayed for seven tenths of a second Ayumu and the college students both did it correctly 80 percent of the time. On the other hand, when the numbers were displayed for four or two tenths of a second, the chimp won. The times were too short for the humans to look around the screen, and Ayumu still scored 80 percent, and the humans 40. Matsuzawa thinks that two factors gave the chimps an edge. He believes human ancestors gave up much of this skill over evolutionary time to make room for the brain for gaining abilities. Also, the other is the youth of the chimps. The memory for images that is needed for the tests is found in children. Surprisingly, the young chimps did better than the older chimps. The next thing scientists are going to do is put Ayumu up against little kids.

The Pursuit of Happiness (or Hypermileage)

By: Eddie

Wayne Gerdes is one of 500 Hypermilers. That is, people who want to achieve extreme miles per gallon. Gerdes has been that way for years. His goal is about the same as all other hypermilers. To get amazing and insane gas mileage out of regular cars, both hybrid and non-hybrid. The mileages these people can achieve can be up to 190 miles per gallon. Sounds crazy, right? Well, if you're like Wayne Gerdes, it's an everyday practice.

Gerdes uses specialized techniques to achieve the best of the best. Some are everyday-applicable, such as not letting your car idle excessively, or not accelerating up to stop signs and stoplights. Then there are the advanced techniques, for the advanced hypermiler. These have names such as pulse and glide, warp stealth, and ridge riding. There are others, as well. Gerdes doesn't like to talk about these because, if performed incorrectly, they can be dangerous. He suggests that, if you want to get more information, you should seek out a hypermiling instructor to show you the correct way to perform them.

Gerdes isn't just a hypermiler, he's THE HYPERMILER. In fact, he's the one that came up with the term. This originated while he was attempting, and succeeding, at getting a 100- miles per gallon summer. He wants to emit as little CO₂ (carbon dioxide) as possible, and wants to help others do the same.

Gerdes came up with a list of the top 10 most fuel-efficient cars. This is as follows: **1. Toyota Prius 2. Civic Hybrid 3. Camry Hybrid 4. Toyota Yaris 5. Toyota Corolla 6. Honda Fit 7. MINI Cooper 8. Escape Hybrid 9. Kia Rio 10. Hyundai Accent.**

There is a yearly celebration and competition, called the Hybridfest, held in Madison, Wisconsin. These people hold a contest to see who can get the highest MPG.

Even though it is a competition, it's not a particularly fierce one. Many of its competitors have already met on the Internet or Gerdes' website, CleanMPG.com. Last year's winner, Bill Kinney, got an amazing 168 miles per gallon. Gerdes finished second with 146 miles per gallon.

Gerdes came up with a list of ten ways to improve **YOUR** gas mileage. These can work in hybrid and non-hybrid cars. Here are the top 5:

1. Inflate your tires to the maximum to their maximum recommended pressure. This allows you coast farther.
2. Use the lowest recommended oil weight for your car. Low-weight oil is easier for the engine to pump.
3. Change your air filter at least once a year. The engine will be able to pull air through easier.
4. Drive as though you have no brakes. Then, change your driving style accordingly. Accelerate only when required, and coast to red lights and stop signs when and where possible.
5. Don't use the cruise (control)!! Don't feel bad about slowing down on uphill, as long as your engine isn't working harder. Thus, don't accelerate up a hill to keep your constant speed.

Top jobs in the U.S. By: Ryan, Jon

What do you want to be, a fireman or maybe a policeman? Well if you want a big money making job you should listen to this.

- The number one moneymaking job is in Orlando, FL, with a metropolitan-area population of 2 million. Some of the jobs that you can now get in Florida are Electronic Arts, Locked Martin, and Starwood Vacation Ownership. In Orlando a couple of years ago they relied on Disney World and its service-sector to prop its economy.
- The second job in the nation to have is in Las Vegas, NV. In the metropolitan-area population is 1.8 million people. A couple places that you can work at are Boyd Gaming, InfoGenesis, and MGM Mirage. Some of the hottest jobs in the area are Construction project manager, IT project manager, construction superintendent, civil engineer, and executive chef. Analysts say Las Vegas could end up topping Orlando in job growth.
- Next on the list is Raleigh, NC. The main job companies here are Cisco, Credit Suisse Group, Fidelity Investments, and Network Appliance. That would make the highest paying jobs the senior software developer, software project manager, and senior network engineer.
- Number four in the top five cities is Charlotte, NC. Here there are many jobs within banks. These banks and others include Bank of America, Wachovia, and life science startups at the North Carolina Research Campus. The top three jobs include IT project manager, senior software developer and regional sales manager. Charlotte is on its way to becoming a new biotech area.
- With a growth forecast of 5.6%, Phoenix, AZ comes at number five on our list. The best companies to work at are ASU, Banner Health, and suburban schools. The top jobs are pretty much the same as the other cities'.

There are some other cities that didn't quite make the top five but are worth mentioning. They are West Palm Beach and Tampa, FL. Riverside, CA. Austin, TX. and Atlanta, GA.

Which iPod Would You Rather Have? By: Jamie

We, Ryan Murphy and Jamie McLamb went around Patapsco Middle School on December 5, 2007 to other seminar classes asking students which iPod would they rather have, out these four choices. The iPod Touch, Classic, New-Nano, and the Shuffle. The places were the Touch coming in first place, Classic in second, New Nano in third, and the Shuffle in last. We believe that the iPod Touch came in first place, because it has many interesting and cool features involving a touch screen, able to access the internet plus more. We say that the New Nano came in second, because it has way less features and appeal to iPod users, but considering it can hold videos, it is cheaper than the Classic causing more people to buy the New Nano Rather than the Classic. The Classic coming in third, because it may

have less features than the Touch and New Nano, and apparently is more useful to have than the Shuffle. For example, the Classic is bigger than the Shuffle with a screen at least so you can even tell what song is coming up next or chose what song you WANT to play next. The Classic can also play Videos as well as music, just like the New Nano. Then, the shuffle only plays music and doesn't have a screen, which basically means you can't tell what song is coming up or next, and you cannot chose the song you want to come up next. Unless you memorized every single song out of the 100 that the Shuffle can hold, and the exact order each song is in. From the results of this survey, most people would rather have an iPod touch.

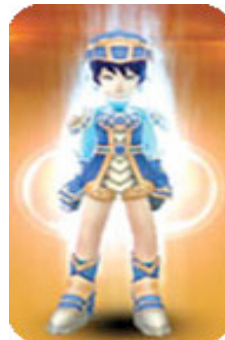
New iPod By: Jason

Apple has come up with a new iPod Nano that has new features. It can now play five hours of music and twenty-four hours of nonstop music within a single charge. It has a brighter and bigger screen and it also has a 320-by-240-pixel display. Like before, music, movies, and games can be bought online from the Apple store. The cover flow feature is a new addition to the iPod. Using this feature, you can flip through your music by their album covers. The main design of the iPod Nano has also been changed. It has an anodized aluminum top and polished stainless steel back. This iPod comes in the colors grey, teal, olive, red, and black. Amazingly, it is still only 6.5-mm thick.



Flyff By: Ian

The word "Flyff" stands for Fly For Fun. Flyff, or Fly For Fun, is very fun online games where you can meet friends and go around kill monsters that give you items you can equip to your character and raise their attack power and defense. As a character you can choose a LOT of job classes. My personal favorite is the bowman. The bowman, as you can guess, uses a bow and arrows. There are also Jesters, who use Yo-Yo's, Mages, who use magic, and Assists, who cast spells and raise other character's stats, for a limited time of course. The game also has armors with stats, for example, if your armor is plus three, your character. Here is a picture of a plus three stat armor set.



Yeti Sightings

By: Sushmitha

Have you ever heard of the Yeti? On November 30th, a team of nine producers from Destination Truth spent a week in the icy Khumbu region, investigating footprints that were very similar to the Yeti's. The Khumbu region is where Mount Everest is located. The footprints were found on the bank of the Manju River, at a height of 2,850 meters. There were three footprints discovered, one of which is about a foot long. The prints were left twenty-four hours earlier since the time that they were discovered. This mystical ape-like creature is known to live in snowy caves. Josh Gates, an archaeologist by training, stated "I don't believe it to be a bear, it is something of a mystery for us." However, no one actually seen the creature or it hasn't been scientifically established that the Yeti is in existence, but there has been strong evidence, like the footprint, which is so pristine. Ang Tshering Sherpa, chief of Nepal Mountaineering said that there is some kind of mysterious creature that lives in the Himalayas. Sherpas, people of the Tibetan stock living in the Nepalese Himalayas, debate whether the yeti is a protector or a destroyer.

SUED OVER LIPGLOSS By: Olivia



From
yahoo.com

Desperate housewife, Teri Hatcher, is being sued by ISBE Productions. Teri had signed a contract to only promote ISBE Production products for \$2.4 million, what the company is now suing her for. According to the lawsuit, last summer, the company learned that Hatcher was also promoting CityLips, a lip plumper made by City Cosmetics. Teri's attorney called the lawsuit, "unjustified and public assault on Teri Hatcher's good name, reputation and celebrity in a transparent and pathetic effort to distract from its own failure to live up to its end of the agreement". The winner of the case is yet to be decided. Will Hatcher lose her \$2.4 million contract with ISBE products, or will her name go down in flames for wearing the wrong lip gloss. So here's some advice. The next time you think your lip gloss is poppin', think again.

My Sims By: Barath

EA Games, the creator of the popular Sims series, has made the first ever Sims game for the Nintendo Wii and Nintendo DS. The Nintendo Wii and Nintendo DS take the game-play of Sims to a whole new level but still have the customizability. My Sims will take advantage of the unique controls of the Nintendo Wii and DS making it the most creative and open-ended Sims ever while you can customize your own character and do pretty much whatever you want.

You are in a totally disorganized town that you, the player, can reshape to yours and the secondary characters liking. By using a set of building and creation tools you can design houses, furniture, appliances and even businesses. As you do tasks to help out the town and secondary characters the town will expand no matter how easy or insignificant the task is. It's your call. You control the town and you make the difference.

Guitar Hero 3 Legends of Rock By: Jason

Guitar Hero 3 will be on the Xbox 360, Playstation 2, Playstation 3, Wii, PC, and the Macintosh. Activision and Red Octane are also planning to release a DS version of the game on fall 2007. It is mainly a music video game where you use a guitar controller to play the chords that appear on the screen. Unlike the previous Guitar Hero games, Guitar Hero 3 will have a wireless controller. The Playstation 3, Wii, and the Xbox 360 versions will be having new wireless controllers shaped like the Gibson Les Paul guitar. The Playstation 2 will be having the Kramer shaped guitar instead. The Mac and PC versions will also have guitars, but it will be plugged into the USB port. The Wii version, because of the way the controller goes into the guitar, will have the rumble feature. Unfortunately, the Wii can't download new songs online. Guitar Hero 3 is rated T for teens.

Yoda's Newly Official USPS Stamp By: Jessica



Google.com

The United States Postal Service (USPS) gave the 'Star Wars' character Yoda his own stamp after 'Star Wars' and Yoda fans voted to put the Jedi master on a stamp that is not in the 'Star Wars' collection. The stamp was issued on Thursday, October 25 when the USPS released its annual Christmas and holiday stamps. The ceremony of release was at a stamp show in New York City.

The stamp first appeared as a part of a multi-stamp 'Star Wars' collection, but when fans voted to place Yoda on his own stamp, the U.S. Postal Service took action. They created a stamp that has a picture of the infamous Yoda. The new stamp would be released with their annual holiday collection.

The Yoda stamps along with the other holiday stamps, which were inspired by traditional Norwegian sweaters, are the current 41-cent first-class rate. The Norwegian inspired stamps include a stag (adult male deer), a snowman with a top hat, a teddy bear, and an evergreen tree with snow on it.

The Best of All-Time? By: Seth



The question is... “Is Adrian Peterson the greatest running back of all-time?” Now stop to think for a second. He has got 1195 rushing yards on 184 carries on a 6.5 average. When the confident Lions headed into Minnesota, he rushed for 116 yards on just 15 carries and a pair of Touchdowns. He also missed 2 games due a knee injury. Also think it is his first year in the NFL! Another problem is that you can’t beat Sweetness (Walter Payton) just yet, what about Eric Dickerson of the Rams, or 91 Lions speed demon like Barry Sanders. You can’t forget the greatest of all-time Emmitt Smith. The only problem with him is that he is injury prone. So as of right now is he the greatest of all time? He is one of the elite.

The BCS Mess By: Storm

The question everyone wants to know is, “Why is there not a playoff in college football?” It’s been obvious since the BCS (Bowl Championship Series) came out that it only creates problems and conflict. The BCS rankings were released and the bowl games are as followed:

- LSU vs. Ohio State- BCS National Championship game being played in “The Superdome” in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Hawaii vs. Georgia- Allstate Sugar Bowl being played in “The Superdome” in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Virginia Tech vs. Kansas- FedEx Orange Bowl being played in Miami, Florida.
- Illinois vs. USC- Rose Bowl being played in Pasadena, California.
- West Virginia vs. Oklahoma- Tostitos Fiesta Bowl being played in Glendale, Arizona.
-

The BCS formula is now 1/3 the Harris Interactive Poll, 1/3 the Coaches Poll, and 1/3 the computer rankings. After eight weeks of college football, the first rankings are put out and then they change week to week, depending on how the top BCS teams do. At the end of the season, the points are added up and they come up with the final BCS standings that help choose the bowl games. Traditionally, the Sugar Bowl is the SEC champion and an at large bid (or the team with the highest BCS ranking, not already going to another bowl). The Orange Bowl is the ACC champion and the Big East champion. The Rose Bowl is the Pac-10 champion and the Big Ten champion. The Big 12 champion and an at large bid team play in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. This tradition was thrown out the door this year, as it has been in years past. The teams that deserved to be in bowl games, unfortunately, were ripped off and they have something to be upset about. This wasn’t just a one-time thing with the BCS; there has been argument over the BCS since it first came out in 1998. Why don’t we just have a playoff? Division 1AA, Division 2, Division 3, and NAIA all have college football playoffs, along with almost all other collegiate sport. The college football board needs to rethink their post-season system because it obviously doesn’t appeal to college football fans. The viewer ratings will significantly decrease if the board doesn’t do *something* right for the post-season and start to think about their fans and the money that they love to make from these games.

Holiday Word Search By: Courtney

R S S H T S A Q N O S S E E S
 E U A G A D E E A E X N I O E
 I T N M V N W K I D E O G T I
 N E A E T Y U T T T H I H L K
 D C N L E S I K A A F T T E O
 E T U A O V I L K L L A N T O
 E T R L I C O R E A Q R I S C
 R G L T T C O D H R H O G I F
 O T S E O U I H Y C P C H M L
 X E H H G E R U C Z E E T E O
 F R C P R E S E N T S D S N D
 S E L D N A C D L M O P Y O U
 S A N T A C L A U S E H Q R R
 W O L L A M H S R A M M I A E
 D K W A N Z A A R A N I K H N

ADVENT
 CHRISTMAS
 DECORATIONS
 FESTIVITIES
 HOT CHOCOLATE
 LATKES
 MISTELTOE
 REINDEER

CANDLES
 COOKIES
 DREIDEL
 GELT
 KINARA
 MARSHMALLOW
 NEW YEAR
 RUDOLF

CHOCOLATE
 CULTURE
 EIGHT NIGHTS
 HANUKKAH
 KWANZAA
 MENORAH
 PRESENTS
 SANTA CLAUSE

Yeti or Not?

By: David

