



The Flash!

Immanuel Lutheran High School,
College and Seminary

February 13, 2009

Valentine's Day Issue

Tall Green Pines?

By: Sam Rodebaugh

The other day, while walking about campus, I happened to be witness to one of our beloved oak's fall. Though this may not seem extraordinary to many of you, this being not a very rare occurrence as of late, the experience got me to thinking. "Think, think, think," I muttered to myself as I sat on the log that has become my Thinking Spot. As I sat there, my mind began to wander to those old childhood friends of ours, Winnie the Pooh and the other citizens of the Hundred Acre Wood. I thought of the possibility of Piglet picking haycorns and the tree that he is sitting in getting knocked down. I thought of Tigger, with no more trees to jump in. Last, I thought of poor Pooh Bear, having no more trees to



climb in which were the beehives where he would find his delicious "hunny." While these thoughts were purely imaginary and not very realistic, they greatly saddened me. Though Owl and Roo and Rabbit are not being driven out of their residences, many of the animals of our woods have been driven out. Now, I am not a treehugger, but our recent loss of wooded areas is a sad sight to see. I do not know much about the whole situation, but I have heard that the bane of our forest, the reason for the death of our beloved trees is the savage oak wilt. Though it does seem necessary to cut down the oaks to stop the spread of the disease, let me ask you this: If Piglet's tree home had oak wilt, do you think Christopher Robin

would cut down the Hundred Acre Wood? I know this may not be a very good argument or even relevant at all, but I just want you to think about that for a bit. Now, I'm sure that the decision to remove the trees has had much consideration (although I'm not sure anyone told our student body president about it) but think about our school's alma mater: "Nestled in the quiet beauty/Of the tall green pines..." This line of our alma mater has been true for decades. Look around now, however, and I do not see much beauty anymore. Now I may be acting pessimistic, but you have to agree that our campus is now a mere shadow of its original beauty. So, next time you find yourself walking about campus, take a look around, and don't be embarrassed to shed a little tear for the devastation you behold, and for our little stuffed friends.

Highlights of the Inauguration

By: Hannah Gerbitz

The inauguration of President Barack Obama was met with many strong feelings from all. I am going to talk about the feelings of those who watched the inauguration from the back corner of the Commons lounge during fourth hour study hall.

You may think less of the seniors who found it somewhat humorous to see a man rolling in a wheelchair. Let me explain. It was Dick Cheney, who was apparently disabled from lifting a few small boxes. Furthermore, some of us were somewhat curious as to how much time our new President

spent practicing walking in or the faces he would make as he walked, as he listened to Aretha Franklin, as he was sworn in, as the vows were messed up, as he waved to the crowd, and as he walked out. If you need a visual of any of these various (see *Inauguration*, pg 2)

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Coming Next Week!

Mini classes begin February 18 and end on the 21.

(Inauguration) faces, don't be afraid to ask Jenny Squires. Michael Sumey was quick to give out advice on what a flag should look like. There would be one big star made up of a bunch of little stars. This is a day that will go down in history that we were all alive to see. For some of us watching fourth hour, however, it was more of an excuse to watch TV during study hall to pass the time.



How long, we wonder, did Obama practice this smile?

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Movie Review: *Bride Wars*

By: Rachel Mackensen and Katie Oster

Best friends Liv and Emma (Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway) grew up dreaming up the perfect, extravagant June wedding at the Plaza. When Liv one day finds a little blue Tiffany's box in her closet, the race for the ring begins. When they both are engaged, they set out to plan the wedding of their dreams, of course being each other's maid of honor. An unexpected turn takes place when they both find out that there are only two openings in June at the Plaza, both on the same day. This is when the wars begin and the bride-zillas come out to fight. The once best friends turn into worst enemies, from plumping the other up with fancy gift baskets to getting that unwanted orange glow. Throughout the movie they try to outdo each other. They bribe their conflicted friends to take their side and go

to their wedding. The only peacemakers they had were their fiancées, who told them to end the bickering and make nice. Towards the end of the movie they have to choose between friendship and their dream weddings. The movie showed that even having your biggest dreams come true means nothing unless it's with the ones you love. We highly recommend this movie. It was the best romantic comedy we've seen in a while.



Senior Spotlight: Stephanie Lau

By: Lauren Franson

Inside Story Headline

Lauren Franson: It is getting very close to Valentine's Day. Who would you say is your latest love interest?

Steph Lau: You guys should all know by now.

LF: What are your plans after graduation?

SL: I'm probably going to UW-EC for general stuff or else Immanuel or the tech.

LF: What would you say is your favorite high school memory?

SL: When Luke would chase me freshmen year and I would hide in the woods or the girls dorm. When me and Lauren were staying in the dorm without permission and we hid

from Yvonne under the bed. Winning volleyball regionals.

LF: What is something that made you unique as a child?

SL: So pretty much I inhaled my poop before I was born. My dad thought I was going to die so he baptized me.

Luke Knutson: She must have been really hungry!

LF: Who was the most interesting person you met while at ILC?

SL: Dillard, hands down.

LF: What is your favorite Dillard moment?

SL: When he stayed at my house and locked me and Heidi out of our room at midnight. He wouldn't go to bed because he was playing computer games.

LF: If you could choose to have lunch with any three people from TV, who would it be?

SL: Dwight and Jim from "The Office," Jack from "Lost."

LF: Describe Stephanie in three words.

LK: Red...there are a lot more than three! Beautiful, amazing, and a lot of fun to be around.

LF: Would you mind sharing with us your favorite memory with Steph?

LK: When she came to my house over Christmas break. One day we were driving and I made some people mad and they followed us. Freshmen year we were at the mall still getting to know each other and it (see Steph, page 3)

(Steph) was very awkward.

Zoe Sippert: My sister calls her lemon head because she has really blond hair.



Stephanie Marie Lau

Steph's Favorites

- TV Show:** "Lost"
- Movie:** *PS I Love You*
- Restaurant:** Tacos Juanita
- Color:** Blue
- Class:** Art/PE with Mrs. J.
- Sport:** Basketball or volleyball
- Holiday:** Christmas
- Food:** Ice cream

**Senior Spotlight:
April Oster**

By: Katie Oster

Katie Oster: Where were born? Where did you grow up?

April Oster: In Eau Claire; I've lived here all my life.

KO: Who was your childhood role model?

AO: My mommy, because I wanted to be just like her.

KO: How have you changed since freshmen year?

AO: I've learned to let the little things not bother me; either laugh about it or cry about it. And crying is embarrassing, even though I'm known for it.

KO: Do you have any favorite memories from high school?

AO: Definitely fourth hour study halls, hands down. Winning regionals and conference, too, 'cause that was pretty much amazing.

KO: What are you going to miss the most?

AO: Not basketball (chuckles). I'll miss knowing everybody all the time and being able to talk to whoever I want to. I don't think college is fun like that.

KO: Advice for the future stu-

dents?

AO: First impressions aren't always accurate. You have to give people second chances because at this school pretty much everyone has got your back.

KO: What are your plans for next year?

AO: I'm going to go to the U.W. for something that I don't know yet. And probably come back and visit people a lot.

KO: Do you have any pet peeves?

AO: Don't get me started. How many would you like? Constant snorting of snot back into your brain.

KO: What is your worst fear?

AO: My room getting re-infested with mold and having to deal with that all over again.

KO: If you could spend a day with three people dead or alive who would they be?

AO: Wait a minute, is it the whole day with all three of chunks?

KO: Whatever you want.

AO: Heath Ledger because he's a very good actor and, well, he's Heath Ledger. Dillard in South Caro-

lina 'cause he wants to show me his house.

KO: Hey I never said you got to pick where you went.

AO: Well, I just did! Oh, and my female relatives as a whole so I can introduce Heath Ledger to them.

KO: Wow, I think you just broke all the rules of the entire game. What three things would you take with you if you were stranded on a desert island?

AO: I would like to bring a volleyball (to play with the native monkeys), endless supply of grape Kool-Aid (with ice) and definitely some cookie dough for when times get rough.

KO: Describe April in one word.

Josh Sieg: Bubbly.

Joe Oster: Does whiner count?

Zach Dillard: Interesting.

Jess Ohlmann: Spastic.

Zoe Sippert: Fazoli's...lol.

KO: Favorite memory with April?

JS: Doing English 11 video on Transcendentalism.

ZD: Her forgetting her Chemistry book.

JO: The awesomeness of us game.

KO: Probably our phase 14 game that was impossible, nerts, or coffee in the basement.

Heidi Lau: Fazoli's during finals week.

ZS: The pacifier at the fabric store.



April's Favorites

T.V. Show: "Law and Order S.V.U." and "House"

Movie: *Cinderella Story*

Meal at School: Bananas with peanut butter and sugar

Sport: Volleyball

Class: German 1 with Prof. Reim, 'cause it rocked

Restaurant: FAZOLI'S!

Murderers of Love: To All You Haters Out There

By: Jenny Squires

Valentine's Day is quickly approaching and I must say I am not happy about the negative buzz I've been hearing about this upcoming holiday. I have found that I am one of the few and proud that actually likes Valentine's Day. The way I see it all of these heart-day "haters" have the wrong spin on things. You see, you don't have to look at Valentine's Day as a holiday to wallow in your self-pity because you are lacking someone "special" to spend it with. If you share the above opinion, why don't you try to put a more positive outlook on things? Enjoy this holiday like I do: love the fact that it's a great excuse to eat massive amounts of chocolate and various other treats, enjoy the festive colors of various shades of red and pink, and instead of feeling sorry for yourself that you may not have a significant other to share this February with, look around and be thankful for all of the friends you have. Let me take you all back to a time where I'm sure almost everyone enjoyed Valentine's Day...elementary school. Now tell

"I ask all of you who 'hate' this day to give it another chance and who knows? You could have a good day."

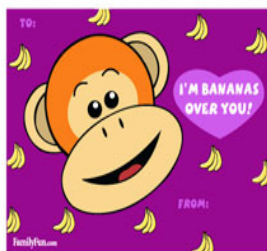
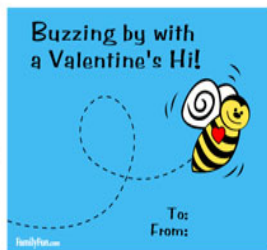
me, who hated getting to craft "the best" Valentine's Day mailbox and waiting until the end of the day to crack open the construction paper-covered box to reveal how many Power Rangers and Looney Tunes Valentines cards you received? I know this is the point in the article where you "haters" will argue with me and say that this is the very reason that you hate this day of the year. Well, I've heard it a million times from many different people that Valentine's Day is just a major ploy for greeting card companies and florists to jack up their prices and make a fortune off of the "poor saps" that give in to this holiday. Also, you may argue that you don't need a day to say "I love you" or to buy someone a gift, but stop and think about what you are saying. Yes, I agree with you that you can do these things any time of the year, but you can also be thankful for things any time of the year and you still celebrate Thanksgiving, don't you? Yes, Thanksgiving is historical, but so is Valentine's Day. To give a brief history: St. Valentine was a true romantic in his

time because legend has it that when Claudius II outlawed soldiers from getting married (he believed men made better soldiers when they weren't married) in hopes of forming a stronger military, St. Valentine secretly married several couples. He was put to death when Claudius II found out that he had been performing these weddings behind his back. The bottom line is that Valentine's Day is not as bad as some make it out to be. So all I ask of you who claim to "hate" this day is to give it another chance and who knows? Maybe you'll end up having a *good* day. I realize that this article will not change some people's minds, so to this group all I request is that you keep your negative comments to a minimum so that those of us who enjoy this holiday can actually *enjoy* it without having to defend ourselves. After all, this day only comes once a year.



Valentine's Day

By: Jo Thierer



Yes, it is Valentines (this is how it should be spelled) Day.... you could call me a hater of this most obnoxious day. What I would like to know is why we have to pick one day of the entire 365 days of the year and call that the love day? There are many of you out there that like this day, and I don't blame you, free cookies, chocolate, roses, and stuffed animals-who doesn't like these? I think that the

boys get the runt of the deal. They give and give and what do they get, a disappointed girlfriend just because she got a yellow rose instead of a red one... I think we should go back to the good old days when you were young and hand out Valentines cards to everyone. Also, you'd get the little candy hearts that say "Be my best friend!" Those were the good days. So, I am not saying that Valentines Day is all bad. I think it's good to remember your "friends" and send them a little something. But why does it have to be one day a year? We should be wanting to appreciate our friends all the time. My thought is that Valentines Day should be every month and we should throw parties and have candy all the time!

Editorial

By: Megan Schierenbeck

The third Monday of January is a day which is specially noted on calendars. Many people celebrate this historic day-in fact, most schools are not in session that day. If you are asking yourself what on earth this day could possibly be, it is because our school, sadly, does not commemorate this holiday in any way. Yes,



the holiday is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. This is the day which celebrates the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr. and his accomplishments throughout his life. We ought to be able to celebrate this day and recognize racial equality

as public schools do, yet instead we go on with classes as though it were any other day. In my mind, we should be able to acknowledge this historic day just as we do for other holidays which aren't as meaningful, such as Labor Day. Here at Immanuel, we do not have snow days. I have come to accept it as a fact that I must go to class when every other school in the state is closed. However, since the students are suffering through the cold and ice, why not give us one day of rest during the winter season? Although it is too late for this year, I hope that someday in the future we will be able to recognize this great but forgotten holiday.

Senior Spotlight: Thomas Albrecht

By: Louie Decise

Thomas Marlin Albrecht was born in Rapid City, SD, on February 1, 1991. Moved to Sister Lakes, MI where he lived for eight years, then moved to Minnesota where he has "resigned" for ten years.

Louie Decise: What is your favorite memory of high school?

Tom Albrecht: When Louie fell though the creek during a winter detention and Sullivan ended up carrying him up. Another one would be the no-hitter I pitched against Pepin in my sophomore year.

LD: What is your favorite class?

TA: History 11, with the humor file.

LD: Any career paths in mind?

TA: College after high school, construction management as a major, get on the college baseball team.

LD: Three people, dead or alive, who would you want to have dinner with and talk to?

TA: Johnny Cash, John Nash, and Reggie White

LD: Pet Peeve?

TA: The sound of people chewing food; it drives me nuts.

LD: How do you think you have changed since freshmen year?

TA: Well, I grew about a foot, I try harder at homework, I've become more social, not as timid.

LD: Any words of wisdom?

TA: It is possible to throw an Axe-bomb up a floor.

LD: How has he changed since freshmen year?

Tom Naumann and Ross Kok: He actually does his homework.

Jacob Schaller: He goes fishing with me now.

Alex Burns: He's taller.

LD: I would say he's more responsible, but he's still got that little kid side that likes to come out and play every now and again.



Tom's Favorites

Food: Brats and taco salad are tied

Band: Def Leppard

Prof: Kranz

Movie: *The Prestige*

Song: "Bringin' on the Heartbreak" by Def Leppard

Quote: "I am horrified, terrified, petrified, stupefied...by you." -*A Beautiful Mind*

TV Show: "The Office"

Book: *Where's Waldo*

Chillee

By: Jacob Schaller and Ross Kok

Deep from the rolling plains and sparsely treed hills of the Rushmore State cometh the one known as Chillee, foretold from weeks before to come unto our humble campus. He came not by plane, bus, or train, but in a car, and he was late. Few not courageous enough to approach him or to give a "Yodel." But who is Chillee? Who is that person who masquerades around in sweatshirts covered in propaganda of other schools?

Interview

Note to readers: "Schaller" could have been the answer to each question, but we had to limit his use of the name.

Jacob and Ross: So, what made you decide to come here?

Chillee: Jacob Schaller

JR: What is your favorite part of ILC?

C: Homework is not easier.

JR: What is the thing you miss most of South Dakota?

(see Chillee, page 6)

(Chillee)

C: My old school.

JR: Why is SD your favorite state?

C: I don't know; home state loyalty.

JR: Why are you called Chillee?

C: I don't know. Ask Louie.

JR: What is your favorite part of living in the dorm?

C: Donuts and Dew.

JR: Favorite pastime? Besides fishing of course.

C: Bird hunting.

JR: Favorite movie?

C: *The Dark Knight*

JR: How many siblings are present in your household?

C: Three.

JR: How many pets occupy your life?

C: Three.

JR: Which do you prefer?

C: Siblings, I guess.

JR: What would you consider yourself least likely to do?

C: Bungee jump or skydiving.

JR: If you could choose four people to be on Mt. Rushmore, who would it be?

C: Schaller, Ross, Albrecht, and Sumey.

Thank you for your time

I hope you like this rhyme

I mostly liked your answers

Get a shirt that says Lancers

If only you had gotten here faster

You could have been a master

Sam Meyer, also known to the public as "Chillee" reveals all in this exclusive interview

A Happy Valentine's Day, Indeed

By: Megan Schierenbeck As Valentine's Day approaches, love is in the air. This statement is especially true for Immanuel's happiest couple, the newly betrothed Erik Nelson and Jessie Meyer. The two were engaged a few weeks ago. Erik spent the day leading up to the big question by leaving Jessie roses throughout the afternoon. When asked if she was expecting a proposal, Jessie answered,

"I was absolutely surprised. I didn't expect this until we'd been going out for at least a year." (The couple has been together since May of 2008.) However, the smile on Jessie's face as she recollected her proposal told me that she was not at all upset about moving things up a bit. Planning has already begun for the big day: the couple has selected their wedding colors (buttercup yellow and dark blue), their cake (for him: dirt cake, complete with gummi worms; for her, jell-o cake), and the song for their first dance ("Remember When" by Alan Jackson). Jessie said that if her wedding were based off a movie, she would choose to model it after *27 Dresses*; Erik, however, chose *The Wedding Singer* so that he could fulfill his dream of wearing a totally '80s tux. The lovebirds plan to tie the knot on May 28 of 2010 at Messiah Lutheran church here in Eau Claire. On behalf of the *Flash* staff, I'd like to say congratulations to Erik and Jessie and wish them smooth sailing on their upcoming nuptials.



Senior Spotlight: Lauren Franson

By: Liz Barthels

You may have seen her at the last varsity basketball game or maybe on her way to tour choir; either way, you've probably bumped into Lauren Franson at least once. Lauren has had it "pretty boring" being born and growing up in Eau Claire. Her favorite thing to do when she was little was playing with her cousins at her grandma's. She's had many silly adventures at ILC such as sneaking into the



dorm and hiding under the bed while the dormies talk to the supervisor about her great sheep sweatshirt or a trip to Wal-Mart with Zach Dillard and Jacob Schaller. She was voted to have the best hair in the senior class to which she responded: "I don't think I deserved it, but I'm honored." She has dyed her hair dark brown before (in case you were wondering). Her

biggest fear is people who are possessed by demons. After graduation she plans on going to UW Stout but she's not sure what her career path will be. Lauren's advice to all you newbies and the rest of ILC: "Try to be friends with everyone 'cause that's the only way to always enjoy yourself."

Lauren's Favorites

Food: Sour gummy worms

Movie: *The Grinch* or *Remember the Titans*

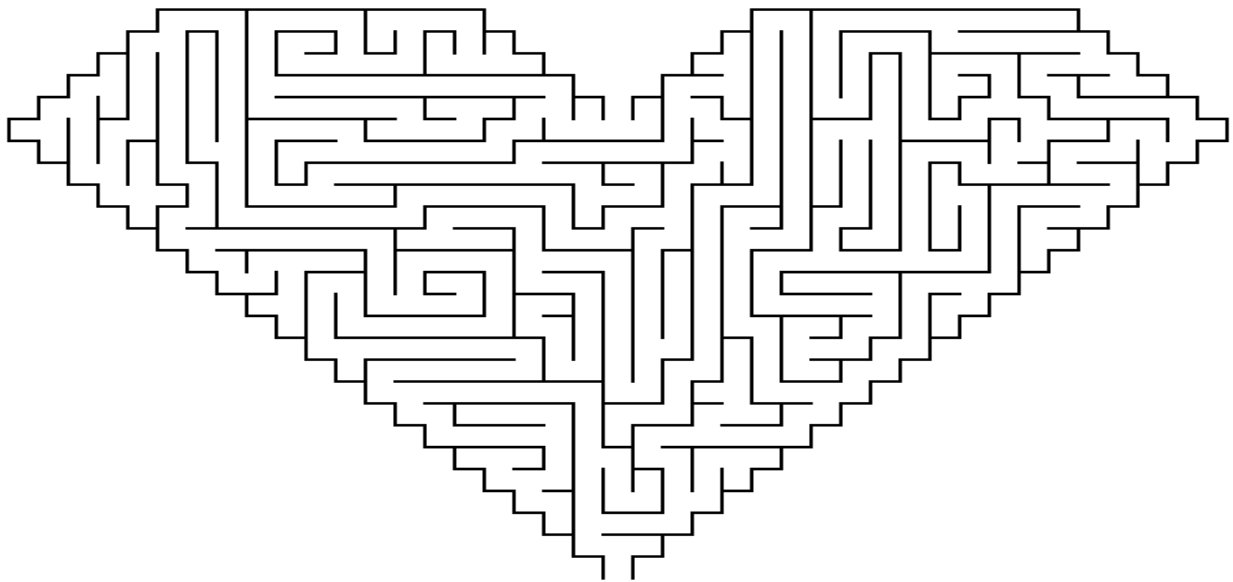
Singer: Taylor Swift

Song: "The Dance" by Garth Brooks

Season: Fall

Prof: Kranz

A Valentine's Day Maze



Flash Credits

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