



Graphic Design By: Johnny K

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# CLASS OF 2007—COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

By: Gail Kreher



ABOVE: Courtney Leal waves to a friendly face in the audience.



John Keappler, the first of eight graduating seniors to address the audience shares a laugh. He wears the gold cord signifying his recent nomination into a national journalism society, Quill & Scroll.



ABOVE: President Robert Moore wraps Noah Kaplan in a bear hug after he receives his diploma. Photos courtesy of Jon Easterling.



ABOVE; The Class of 2007 walks “up the hill” one last time to graduation ceremonies. This year’s class is one of the largest classes in MSA history, with 32 students. Photo: E. Baskin

LEFT: Upper School Principal pauses a moment on the stage for a photo with graduate Alexa Picolo.

The best life-lessons are sometimes learned when we least expect them—perhaps on the baseball field, in the chemistry lab, or even at The Waffle House over scrambled eggs. Sometimes the most important lessons are learned the hard way—maybe in the lunch room on Pizza Day, in the parking lot when someone bumps a fender, on the noisy bus when a seat must be shared, or during a dreaded final exam. Clearly formal education and the process of growing up are forever entwined. Within the framework of daily classes, homework, rehearsals, and sports practice our students grow up and find a way to be successful.

**One fact is certain; “Phase One” of the lives of the class of 2007 is over.**

This week MSA graduates took time to reflect, celebrate, toss up their mortarboards, clean out lockers and say good-bye to friends, coaches, and friends dearly loved since freshman year... and even as far back as the second grade.

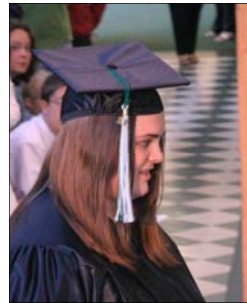
Thirty-two members of the MSA Graduating Class of 2007 assembled one last time on Saturday morning, May 19 for final good-byes, accolades and hugs from parents, out-of-town relatives, favorite teachers and staff. The class of 2007 expressed their gratitude happily, tearfully... publicly and privately.

The MSA community is very close, and Graduation speakers are our students, who volunteer to share their parting thoughts with the community. Two juniors also spoke, **Hunter McCreary** with poetry and **Dan Prothero** with prose. Eight seniors shared their thoughts with the overflow audience, and many wiped away tears as grateful students thanked special friends, teachers, principals and family. A reception followed in the Upper School Great Room.

# GRADUATION: CLASS OF 2007

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SCHOOL NEWS



**ABOVE:** Jordyn West enters the arch into the gymnasium  
Photo: Easterling

**BELOW:** Graduating seniors Laydie Gaddes, Lauren Shell, and Matthew Judy. Junior Alaina Macke (rear) served as usher for the event. Photo: G. Kreher

**ABOVE:** Graduates Fred Miles, Winston McWaters, and Shawn May return to their seats after receiving their diplomas from President Robert Moore. Photo: J. Easterling



Members of the Class of 2007 greet the audience after receiving their diplomas. From Left, Daniel Ludwig, Kahla Lewis, Courtney Leal, Rachel Lasky, Edward Kenimer. Photo: G. Kreher



**Best friends and graduates Kahla Lewis and Jessica Moore take a moment at the reception.** Photo: G Kreher

**BELOW:** Junior Hunter McCreary reads an original poem to the graduating seniors Photos: J Easterling

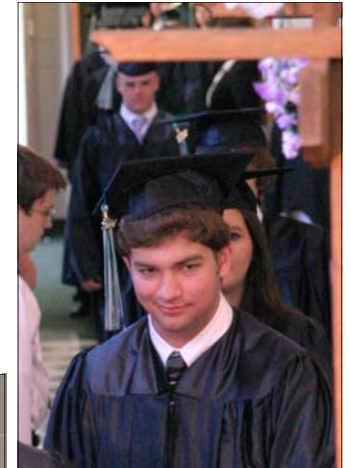


**RIGHT:** David Bacon receives his diploma from Robert Moore. Photo: Easterling



**ABOVE:** Matthew McConnell plays the Prelude before the ceremony

**RIGHT:** Samuel Collins enter the gymnasium; further back is Nick Grider Photos: J Easterling



**ABOVE:** Kay Morrison, CA Principal addresses the audience Photo: Easterling



**ABOVE:** Kelle Vicknair attends graduation ceremonies to see her son Pat Hart receive his diploma, and to greet many beloved, former students. Photo: D. Toler



# BACCALAUREATE CEREMONY HONORS SENIORS

By: David Toler

It was the beginning of the good-byes at Baccalaureate where we bid adieu to the class of 2007, and the juniors begin to realize that its now their turn to step up to the plate. For the thirty-three seniors leaving MSA, **Upper School Principle Bruce Brownlow**, **Communication Arts Principal Kay Morrison**, and **President Robert Moore** gave them a hearty farewell, commenting on how far they have come, and how far they will go.

This year **Luke Cunningham**, **Cameron Thomson**, **Paul Manners**, and **Michael Poulos** served as the honored Color Guards.

Also, we will always have a lasting memory of the seniors as they revealed the wood mustang carving that will perhaps hang above the fireplace in the Great Room of the Upper School.

This senior class set a record for raising \$1500 with no donations; instead they held many fund-raisers such as "pie-in-the-face," bake sales, snack sales, and 'non-uniform for a price' days.

As always, parents and friends were a big part of the celebration. Students started saying good-bye, some with tears, while others were stunned to realize that only in Graduation would they we together again.



ABOVE: The MSA Chorus sang at both Baccalaureate and Graduation exercises.



LEFT: The Class of 2007 left as a parting gift to the school, a wooden carving of eight running horses. This detail is only a small portion of the of the 26" by 61" rectangular carving. Photos: DToler

## FOLLOWING IS THE UNOFFICIAL, AS-GOOD-AS-IT-GETS-BY-PRESSTIME, LIST OF PLANS FOR THE CLASS OF 2007

**Laydie Gaddes**: Reinhart College, Art program; **Jessica Moore**: Reinhardt College, undecided major; **Courtney Leal**: Gwinett Tech, undecided major; **Tucker O'Brien**: Georgia and State University, Biology major; **Rachael Lasky**: Greensboro College with a basketball scholarship, Education major; **Jordyn West**: Andrew College, undecided major; **Alex Buttermore**: Elon University, undecided major; **Michael Harris**: Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Criminal Justice major; **Brent Butler**: not going to college, **Lauren Shell**: Greensboro College, Art major; **Kahla Lewis**: Reinhart College, Equine Studies major; **Daniel Ludwig**: Southern Polytechnic University, Mechatronics major; **Miles Allen**: Greensboro College, undecided major; **John Keappler**: Art Institute of Atlanta, **Winston McWaters**: Reinhart College, business major; **Davis Bacon**: Georgia State University, Music major; **Zack Johnson**: Andrew College, undecided major; **Nate Werbel**: Beacon College, Business major; **Michael Greco**: Gainesville State University, Business major; **Edward Kenimer**: University of Mississippi (*Ole Miss*), Physical Education major; **Alexa Picolo**: Indian River Community College, Business major; **Alex Adams**: University of Georgia, Psychology major; **Noah Kaplan**: Macon State College, undecided major; **Andrew Walker**: Southern Polytechnic University, Engineering major; **Sam Collins**: Berry College, Science major; **Nick Grider**: Deciding between Andrew and Reinhardt college, **Fred Miles**: Lanier Tech, Auto mechanics major; **Matthew Judy**: North Georgia College and State University, training in the U.S. ARMY; **Shawn May**: Kennesaw State University, undecided major; **Tim Carrington**: Georgia Perimeter College, undecided major; **Jacob Weinberger**: Goucher College, Liberal Arts major.



Communication Arts teacher Taniah Jones gives a congratulatory hug to graduating senior Edward Kenimer. Photo: GKreher

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# BACCALAUREATE

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Cameron Thompson, part of the Color Guard is ready to present the Georgia flag. Photo: D. Toler



ABOVE: Chip Miles, brother of Fred and familiar face in the MSA halls, was on hand for the celebrations. Photo Credit: D. Toler



ABOVE: Rachel Lasky received the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* Award as Best All-Around Senior. Photo GKreher



ABOVE: Eagle Scout Luke Cunningham always has an extra hand to help for a reason (look closely) Photo: D.Toler



ABOVE: Newest members of the Quill & Scroll, a national journalism society are John Keappler, Daniel Ludwig, and Jacob Weinberger. With them is newspaper advisor Gail Kreher. Photo: staff



Upper School Principal played the keyboard and awarded honors and accolades. Photo Credit: D. Toler

## Medallions

**Academic Excellence - Daniel Ludwig**

**Most Improved - Andrew Walker**

**Citizenship - Kahla Lewis**

### Seniors

### Academic Excellence

### Most Improved

Algebra II	Kahla Lewis	Zack Johnson
Anatomy	Sam Collins	Fred Miles
Computer Tech	Alexa Picolo	Zack Johnson
Ecology	Daniel Ludwig	
Economics	Alex Buttermore	Jacon Weinberger
Holocaust Studies		Alexa Picolo
Physics	Alex Adams	Tucker O'Brien
Political Science	Sam Collins	Andrew Walker
Spanish II	Kahla Lewis	Nathan Werbel
Spanish III	Alex Adams	
Spanish IV	Alex Buttermore	
Sr. Literature Honors	Daniel Ludwig	Andrew Walker
Sr. Literature	Alexa Picolo/ Kahla Lewis	Zack Johnson
Trigonometry honors	Davis Bacon	Sam Collins
Trigonometry	Rachel Lasky	Nathan Werbel
Yearbook	Rachel Lasky	Michael Greco

# 31 SENIORS PRESENT FINAL PROJECTS TO COMMUNITY

By: Eric Brown

SCHOOL NEWS

Every May, as the school year draws to a big close, the senior class puts the finishing touches on their Senior Presentations and then shows them to the school. It's the culmination of all the seniors have learned about how to re-research a topic and present it in a professional form. The presentations have evolved over the past six years from seven seniors holding up poster boards to a two day event with 31 seniors, a big screen, projector, student tech crew and a fifteen minute PowerPoint slide show complete with audio and video.

It is a testament to how quickly the MSA community has advanced, both I size and in class content.

The number of students MSA sends off to college and the great big world has quadrupled in just six years and the number of graduates is only expected to go up. The Class of 2008 will be equally large, and the class of 2009 is expected to be close to 40.



ABOVE: Alex "Butters" Buttermore presents the history of comic books dressed as Spiderman. Photo credit: Gail Kreher

**On Tuesday, May 15:** Laydie Gaddes – *Where Would We Be Without Art?* Jessica Moore – *Turn Your Wall Into Art: Creating an Original Mural* Courtney Leal – *Yelps for Help: Preventing Animal Abuse* Tucker O'Brian – *Sit, Fetch and Roll Over: Dog Obedience the Easy Way* Rachel Lasky – *Striving For Equality: Women's Rights* Jordyn West – *From the Soft-Shoe to DreamGirls: Broadway Gets Better With Age* Alex Buttermore – *Comic Books: The Great Escape* Michael Harris – *Cotton Is Still King and Better Than Ever* Brent Butler – *Saltwater Fishing Along Georgia's Low Country* Lauren Shell – *Making Time Stand Still: Thanks for the Memories* Kahla Lewis – *"Tally Ho and Giddy Up Cowgirl"* – *English and Western Riding* Daniel Ludwig – *Hiking: Making a Mountain Into a Molehill* Miles Allen – *Lacrosse: The Great American Sport* Zack Johnson – *Paintball Competition: Not as Easy as it Looks* Nate Werbel – *History of the Atlanta Braves: Heroes and Heartbreaks* Michael Greco – *Pick Me, Coach: The Sports Drafting Process* Edward Kenimer – *Putting Your Hand in the Cookie Jar: Fundamentals of the Jump Shot.* **On Wednesday, May 16:** Alexa Picolo— *Dealing With It: Speaking Up for the Hearing Impaired* Alex Adams— *What Makes Us Tick? Major Personality Theories* Noah Kaplan— *Wake Me Up When It's Over: Sleep Disorders* Andrew Walker— *The Planet Mars: A New Civilization is One Step Closer* Samuel Collins— *T'ai Chi – Yin: Body, Yang: Mind* Nick Grider— *Baby Beemers Get a Make-Over: Restoring Isettas* Fred Miles— *Fred Miles' Wide World of Racing* Matthew Judy— *Weapons of War: Bigger, Better, Smarter* Tim Carrington— *Not a Hummer, But the Real Thing: The History of Armored Tanks* Jacob Weinberger— *Read All About It: Kickin' It, Our School Newspaper* John Keappler— *Company Snapshots: Creating an Effective Logo* Winston McWaters— *How to Become a Real Estate Magnate* Shawn May— *Exposure: The Delicate Art of SLR Photography* Davis Bacon— *Presenting the Davis Bacon Band*



Drew Carson organizes a crew of three tech students including Tim Kushnick who shot video, and Jamie Bruce who assisted with sound and visuals. Photo credit: Gail Kreher



Jamie Bruce works his way through a knot of technical wires on tech rehearsal day. Photo credit: Gail Kreher



Nick Grider sits on a 'hybrid' golf cart which is sitting on an Isetta frame. Nick explained the process of restoring "Baby Beemers." Photo Credit: Daniel Ludwig

# STUDIO ARTS EXHIBIT

By: John Keappler & Janet Ford

This year's art show was filled with a lot of impressive art work by the students and staff. An MSA parent noted that "the artwork was amazing and that it all looked so professional."

Another MSA parent said how much she enjoyed the art and the attached artist statements, especially **Davis Bacon's**, *"This piece pays tribute to a paper mache fish I made in 3rd grade. Nine years later, I decided to take it up a notch by adding a background and using clay. This piece, for me, is a link between past and present. Maybe in the next nine years, I'll bust out the art supplies and make another."*

Not only were students represented in this show, but staff also had the chance to exhibit their work. The teachers who exhibited their work in the show were **Brian Buxton, Jaime Gutierrez, Charlotte Flores, Kay Morrison, and Cindy Thorne.**

Students and staff had the opportunity to sell their work. A few pieces sold to enthusiastic buyers, including the work of **Morgan Clover, Jessica Moore** and Cindy Thorne.

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Collage made by Alaina Macke  
Photo Credit: John Keappler



Andrew Walker and Miles Allen helping set up the art show.



Oil Painting by Brian Buxton



Poolroom Painting by John Keappler

# MORE STUDIO ARTS EXHIBIT

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Painting by Ross Droege



Photographer of a cabin in the woods, taken by Jaime Gutierrez



Paint Brush Sculpture by Tyler Morton



Painting by Rachel Wetherhead



Painting of Miles Allen as an Alien by Davis Bacon



Painting by Meagan Kennedy

# “HAPPILY EVER AFTER” - MSA SPRING MUSICAL

By: Evan Hopkins



Jack is, uh, excited, I guess.  
Photo Credit: Evan Hopkins

According to Lynn Stallings, and the Mill-springs Players, there’s an entire side of fairytales that we don’t get to see! In a mysterious school located in DEEEEEEEP space, fairytale characters work to better themselves as fairytale characters.

In **Happily Ever After**, we get to see that fairytale characters have problems, too!

The Evil Queen has a problem with being shy, Snow White and her Prince Charming are attending couples counseling, and the Jester can’t seem to properly narrate a story.

Through silly songs (including a spoof of a **Monty Python** song,) hilarious jokes, and slapstick humor, the fairytale characters do their best to make their way through a “normal” (for them, at least) school day!

The play was presented twice to the public, and was later presented twice more to the school. Directed by the Atlanta Workshop Players founder **Lynn Stallings** with help from her husband **Don**, the play features an extensive cast consisting of Upper,

Kim is a rapper, circa 1990, complete with sunglasses!  
Photo Credit: Evan Hopkins



Pre-Upper, Comm Arts, and Middle school students.

From Upper School, students **Chris Nelson, Jack Trantham, Nick Jordan, Kim Strecker, Cameron McIntosh, Laydie Gaddes, David Abroham, Emily Dark, Hunter McCreary, and Cassie Kanelos** were all featured in the play.

From Comm Arts, **Patrick Marco, Jordyn West, and Rachel Weatherhead** took to the stage.

The play was incredibly well received, with audiences laughing wildly and enjoying the interaction required in the play. In fact, at the performance for Upper School, our very own **Greg Bodeep** was called on to stage to play a dashing prince.



Bodeep makes a dashing prince!  
Photo Credit: Evan Hopkins



The cast of “Happily Ever After”. Photo Credit: Evan Hopkins

Though constant rehearsal, including vigorous voice work and choreography, the players managed to come together to create a wonderful performance.

While the performance received much praise, it certainly wouldn’t have been possible without the technical crew, which consisted of **Drew Carson, Tim Kushnick, and Zack Johnson**.

While it can be frustrating orchestrating a play, the actors and actresses of the MSA Players walked away from the performance with a feeling of satisfaction. “It was difficult,” said Upper School sophomore Cameron McIntosh, “but it was worth it.”

# THE WAR: WHEN WILL IT STOP?

By: Emily Elkind

EDITORIAL



Many American citizens who had once supported the war are now openly protesting it. Photo Credit: howardsmusings.com

**The Iraq war has been going on for quite some time now, and it is not getting much better.**

I believe that it is time to pull the soldiers out of Iraq because while we have had some successes with the war, we are also having a fierce debate with the House and Senate, and the president and his cabinet. The House and Senate are doing

their best to pass a bill to set a timetable for pulling out troops. However, the president has refused to pass any sort of timetable bill. Instead he said that he would **veto** it, or keep the bill from passing. Any bill that is to be passed has to have his approval.

The timetable is set to accommodate certain turning points in the Iraqi government, such as taking full responsibility for the sectarian violence. The US is also working to create some long-term strategies that will pay off for the next year in Iraq.

The war is a constant point of contention between the Democrats on Capitol Hill and President **Bush**. However, this hasn't stopped the Democrats in the Senate and House from working to pass these bills. They continued to work towards the \$24 billion war spending bill. This bill would guarantee the pulling out of troops by October 2007. However, this bill did not pass.

The Democrats in the House and Senate will have to work even harder to heal their differences, and decide the best future for Iraq. Democratic Speaker of the House, **Nancy Pelosi** says the Democratic leaders want to seek "common ground" with Bush, "but there is great

distance between us right now. The president wants a blank check," said Pelosi. "The Congress is not going to give it to him."

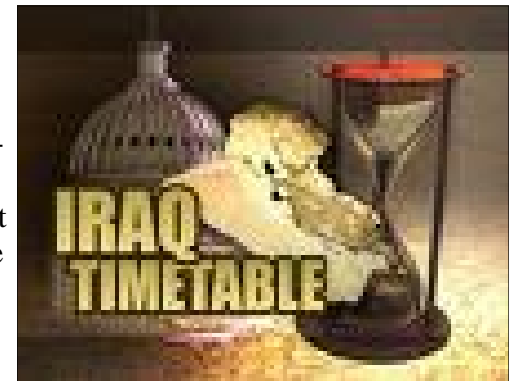
The Democrats feel that the spending is excessive, more in all areas than provided by the president. They also added that pulling out the troops would leave extra money for improving military veteran care, children's health programs, fighting wildfires, renewal of the Gulf Coast, and much more money for the operations and improvements in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But Congress will continue to try to pass the bills until the president decides to give into an idea of a timetable. But until then, the president continues to reason that the terrorists will become more violent if they know that the US forces are gone.

But the president was willing to make a compromise. There are certain milestones that the president wants to meet, and if they are not met successfully, they will pull the troops out of Iraq, such as figuring out how to share the oil revenue and stopping sectarian violence. The only troops that would stay are those guarding American territory, those involved in counterterrorism, training, or helping to prepare Iraqi forces to run their own country.

The Republicans don't believe that they should try to fight the veto, but instead, if the bill doesn't pass, they should decide on a good compromise so that the money will be used for the Pentagon.

Sources: [www.msnbc.com](http://www.msnbc.com), [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com)



A timetable was presented by Congress to the President, which he vetoed. Photo Credit: [www.kttc.com](http://www.kttc.com)

# NO MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS

By: Davis Bacon



Just the other day, I was standing in my front yard with no shoes on when I felt a burn on my ankle. Then, another on my toe, and one more on my heel. I looked down, quite confused, and notice a parade of little red fire ants marching across my foot.

I kicked and flailed and stopped and dropped and rolled, and fortunately, I was able to dodge the rest of their painful attacks.

I went inside, filled a bucket with Benadryl cream, stuck my foot in, and cursed the pests under my breath.

Sound familiar?

Watch your step -- fire ant mounds are everywhere. Photo Credit: <http://hortipm.tamu.edu>

**Fire ant victims can now rejoice.** Researchers have discovered a naturally occurring virus that could mean the end for fire ants everywhere.

The little red insects cause \$6 billion of damage a year by destroying crops, slowing down farms, and quickening the process of soil erosion.

News of the virus is fantastic news for those with fire ant allergies as well; only a few bites can land these unlucky individuals a nice, long hospital visit.

The virus, called SINV-1, works slowly but surely, eliminating a full colony in an average of three months.

SINV-1 is able to survive and spread on its own, though, so if it is widely introduced, it can gradually wipe out every colony in the thirteen affected states.

Bob Vander Meer, a leading SINV-1 researcher, thinks "the virus has great potential." SINV-1 will not spread to humans, and does not present a threat to any other creature.

SINV-1 might make life hard for Benadryl and ant eaters, but I don't see myself missing fire ants. I'm with Vander Meer when he says, "Certainly, we are excited about it."

## STRONGER CANNABIS DISRUPTS BRAIN ACTIVITY MORE THAN IT USED TO

By: Tucker O'Brien

**According to a recent scientific study done by a medical college in England, marijuana reduces activity in the part of the brain which curbs inappropriate thoughts and behaviors such as swearing and paranoia. And the drug is stronger than ever.**

The potency of street drugs has doubled in the past year alone. It is much stronger than the drug widely used in the 60's. The active ingredient in cannabis, or marijuana, is the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) molecule.

The study showed that users of the drug who had a history of psychological problems were **more vulnerable to psychosis**, which is a condition in which an afflicted person cannot distinguish the real world from the imaginary.

The studies also showed that even at relatively low doses, approximately 50% of the healthy volunteers began to show symptoms of psychosis.

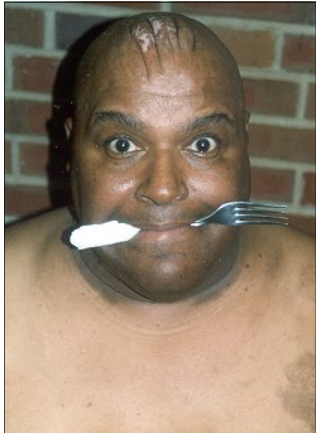
On the other hand, researchers warned that proof of long term effects would be extremely difficult, and that it was not ethical or feasible to stimulate long-term psychosis in patients.



The cannabis plant. Photo Credit: <http://www.cannabis-sativa.co.uk/>

# MSA TRACK TEAM WRESTLES WITH ABDULLAH

By: Luke Cunningham



Abdullah likes forks, especially when he is stabbing someone in the head with it. Photo Credit: www.eiuhalloffame.com

Deep in the jungles of southwest Atlanta lives a very fierce warrior. He is a master of the rare fighting style “stab person in forehead with fork” and is completely immune to pain. There have been sightings of him as far away as East Asia.

There are many legends about his mighty deeds. The defeat of **Dusty Rhodes**, his magnificent battle with **The Sheik**, or his nearly world-destroying battle with the mighty **Hulk Hogan**, to name a few.

His name is **Abdullah the Butcher**. He is a professional wrestler appearing in many different matches and leagues.

His past achievements include many titles from big name associations such as AJPW (All Japan Pro Wrestling), IWA (International Wrestling Alliance), NWA (National Wrestling Association) and WCW (World Championship Wrestling). He was inducted into the Wrestling Observer Newsletter Hall of Fame in 1996.

He also owns a chain of restaurants named “Abdullah the Butcher’s House of Ribs and Chinese Food,” and the food is quite good. There are many locations, but the main one is located at 2387 Fairburn Road in Atlanta, GA. The other locations are 1281 Delowe Drive and in Greenbriar Mall, both also in Atlanta. His fourth restaurant is located in Ansan, Korea.

He is normally around to sign autographs

and pose for pictures and is happy to do so. This is where the MSA track team ties into this story.

Our meets were held at a track off of Fairburn Road and every time we came we saw Abdullah’s restaurant. One day we decided to go and see what the food was like.

A couple of minutes after we got our food, Abdullah came in. We got some pictures with him and a couple signatures and went on our way.

A couple of minutes down the road we ran into a problem; there was no gas in the bus’s tank. Now, you may be thinking, what a silly, avoidable mistake to run out of gas. But some of you may recall that the school’s credit card will only let us buy gas from a Chevron or Texaco; it just so happens that there is a serious lack of Chevrons and Texacos in Southwest Atlanta.

But back to the story, Coach **Victoria Jones** did some thinking and decided that since Abdullah was the only person she knew in that part of town, she would call him and ask him to bring us some gas. He promptly obliged and drove up a few minutes later with our gas. After a many very big thank you’s, we were back on our way home.



Abdullah goes Steven Seagal style on junior Luke Cunningham. Photo Credit: Tom Cunningham



The team hangs out with Abdullah in his restaurant. Photo Credit: Tom Cunningham

By: Chris Magill

NATIONAL SPORTS



## Step Up in the Pocket

Good judgment, role model, team leader; those are traditional qualities of an NFL quarterback. Right now the Falcons' quarterback **Michael Vick** is under fire for many instances of misconduct.

The first offense happened in January, when Vick reluctantly surrendered a water bottle to security at Miami International Airport that smelled like marijuana and contained a substance in a hidden compartment, but lab tests found no evidence of drugs.

**Vick needs to shape up his behavior in order to stay in the NFL.** Photo Credit: ajc.com

He was not arrested and was allowed to board an AirTran flight that landed in Atlanta that day. Vick later told officials that it was a stash box for jewelry. "I told them it was my stash box for jewelry. That is what I told everybody, but that wasn't written" Vick said. "As for the smell and where that came from, I sat in the airport for another hour and 30 minutes. If there was something wrong, we could have handled the situation on the spot."

Vick also was a no-show for a congressional meeting where he was scheduled to lobby on Capitol Hill, hoping to persuade lawmakers to increase funding for after-school programs. Vick missed a connecting flight in Atlanta and failed to show for his Tuesday morning appearance. Vick's publicist, Susan Bass, said it wasn't his fault. Vick was in Tampa Bay, Florida, on Monday to play in teammate **Warrick Dunn's** charity golf tournament, then caught a flight to Atlanta that was supposed to arrive in time for him to make another flight to Reagan National Airport in northern Virginia.

The other incident involved Michael Vick's property in Virginia. Police

conducting a drug investigation raided a house owned by Vick and found dozens of dogs, some injured and underfed. Police also found items associated with dog fighting.

State Police Sgt. D.S. Carr said Vick's relative, Davon Boddie, 26, lives in the house. Vick owns the property, but doesn't live there and wasn't present when a search was performed in a drug investigation Wednesday night, Carr said.

Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States, said the group has "heard troubling reports for some time that Michael Vick has been involved in organized dog fighting, and we fear that this investigation may validate that very disturbing allegation." The animal rights group PETA has asked Falcons owner **Arthur Blank** to suspend Vick and "to kick him off the team if it is found that dogs on Vick's property were neglected or used for fighting."

Vick is 26 and has been playing in the NFL for 6 years. It is past time for him to grow up and perform the duties of a role model and act like a team leader. If not, Vick may find his way out of Atlanta and the NFL.

## Untimely Death



The untimely death of Hancock (above) reminds Cardinals fans of the late Darryl Kile. Photo Credit:

The St. Louis Cardinals are mourning a teammate for the second time in five years, and it isn't any easier this time.

**Josh Hancock**, a relief pitcher who helped the team win the World Series last season, died on April 29 when his SUV slammed into the back of a tow truck. The accident brings back painful memories of **Darryl Kile's** death in June 2002.

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“There's a big hole that's going to be there,” St. Louis manager **Tony La**

**Russa** said. “This is brutal to go through.” The Cardinals postponed their home game against the Chicago Cubs that night.

Police said the 29-year-old Hancock was alone in his 2007 Ford Explorer when the SUV struck the rear of a flatbed tow truck at 12:35 a.m. The tow truck was in the left lane with its lights flashing while assisting another car that had crashed, Police Chief Joe Mokwa said. Police reported that Hancock was drunk and talking on his cell phone at the time of his accident and marijuana was found in the SUV he was driving.

Hancock, who pitched three innings of relief in his last game, an 8-1 loss to the Cubs, played for four major league clubs. He went 3-3 with a 4.09 ERA in 62 regular-season appearances for the Cardinals last season and pitched in three postseason games. He was 0-1 with a 3.55 ERA in eight games this season. “All of baseball today mourns the tragic and untimely death of St. Louis pitcher Josh Hancock,” baseball commissioner **Bud Selig** said. “He was a fine young pitcher who played an important role on last year's World Series championship team.”

## May Madness

The NBA playoffs are surprising everyone this year. The defending champs were swept in the first round and the West's number one seed got knocked out in seven games.

The Miami Heat won the NBA Finals last year, but this season ended just

like it began, with them getting abused on their home court by the Chicago Bulls. After starting the season 4-8, people started to have doubts about repeating. In between November and April, there were various win streaks, but it was clear that this year's team was just not good enough to win a championship.

“We ran into more than a formidable opponent,” head coach **Pat Riley** said.

“They are a great team. ... They deserved to win. There's no doubt in my mind. They can go a long way.”

One main reason for their troubles was **Shaquille O'Neal** being out for the majority of the year. Teammate **Dwayne Wade** was the league's best player for most of the season, but with Shaq and Co. mostly gone, the burden was too much for him to carry. “When you're competitors and you really want to win and you don't win and you don't fulfill your personal expectations, it's not easy,” Riley said. “It's never easy. It's one of the most miserable experiences a man will ever have. And that's how I think we feel now.”

The ragtag Golden State Warriors are in the second round capping perhaps the NBA's biggest playoff upset by beating the top seeded Dallas Mavericks. Golden State became the first No. 8 seed to capture a best-of-seven playoff series with a 111-86 victory in the final game. “We made NBA history tonight and that's the best thing about it. We did it as a team,” **Baron Davis** said. “I'm so proud of my teammates and proud to be a part of this franchise.” Davis willed his team on one good leg, fighting a strained hamstring to score 20 points. The Warriors hadn't won a best-of-seven series in 31 years, since beating Detroit in a first-round series in 1975-76. Who says only college basketball has Cinderella teams?

- *Chris Magill*



Davis (left) and the Warriors pulled off one of the biggest upsets in NBA history. Photo Credit: nba.com

## PART II: THESE SNOWS, MY TORMENT *A TRUE STORY IN TWO PARTS*

FEATURES

By: Eric Brown

*Last issue, while being lowered on a rope down the side of a mountain in the Peruvian Andes after breaking his leg, Joe Simpson slid over a cliff, forcing his climbing partner to cut the rope, sending him on a free fall of over 100 feet into a crevasse. We last left him on the snow slope after a miraculous escape from the crevasse with over five arduous miles still left between him and the bottom. This is the heartstopping conclusion.*



This is the glacier down which Joe made his incredible descent with a broken leg. Photo Credit: socrates.berkeley.edu

Joe Simpson was constantly fighting the urge to sleep. He had no idea how long he'd been crawling, but it felt like hours. The voice urged him on. Whenever he felt himself drifting off to sleep, the voice would wake him and force him to get moving again. And Joe knew this was the easy part. He wasn't even close to reaching the steep drops of the ice cliffs and the chaos of boulders that were the moraines that led to camp. As night fell, the voice ordered him to dig a snow hole, where Joe collapsed into a dreamless sleep.

The next morning, he reached the moraines. There was no ice here, so he couldn't crawl. He would have to hop. His very first attempt, Joe slipped and fell, banging his head against a boulder and sending his leg into incredible pain. Time after time, he fell and was getting virtually nowhere. **A particularly hard fall would leave him dizzy and dry heaving from the pain.** Yet he soon developed a routine; a rhythm. Place axe, lift foot forward, brace and hop. Place, lift, brace, hop. Place, lift, brace, hop. Then fall, wait for the pain to ease, and start over again.

Soon he came upon a massive cliff. Eighty feet of near-vertical rock was the last thing standing in his way. Half-way down it, just when he thought he had it made, he slipped and went on a terrifying slide to the bottom. Fortunately it was a slow slide, but it left him shaken. Only now did he think he might make it out alive. He dreamed of a place near the bottom that had icy

meltwater pouring over the rocks. The thought gave him the strength to push on.

The going was agonizingly slow now. He knew water wasn't far and it was the only thing that kept him going. As the sun sank below the horizon, Joe realized he would have to spend another sleepless night on the mountain. The pain never went away now, it was constant. It got to the point where even getting out of his sleeping bag was an ordeal.



Joe Simpson and his team rest during the two-day mule ride back to civilization. Photo Credit: Joe Simpson Collection

**“Every movement caused flares of pain in my knee. Even though I had moved only six feet, the effort left me slumped in exhaustion on the screes [rocks],” he said.**

He couldn't move. His energy was gone. He tried to crawl, pulling himself along by his elbows, but he collapsed after a few feet. Joe wanted desperately to move, but couldn't. Just lifting his arm to shield his eyes from the sun required a “deliberate struggle.” As he

lay there wondering ‘what now’, a sudden, terrifying thought came to him.

Simon had been back in camp for over two days at that point, all with the conviction that Joe was long dead. There was no reason for him to stay. It wouldn't be long before he packed up the mules and left. His mind sent a clear message: **‘You make it to base camp today or you die. Period.’** Determination pulsed through him like a shot of adrenaline. He had ten hours of daylight and a long way to go.

He set landmarks; deadlines. ‘Pillar in half an hour. Bomb Alley [the water] in four’. He tried to hop but went crashing down onto the rocks instead. The burning pain returned. It was almost unbearable. He just laid there and begged it to stop. But it wouldn't go away. He staggered to his feet for another try and fell again. The pain was overwhelming. It was just a constant, incredible burning.



CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE



Joe has gone on to write numerous books about his climbing experiences, including his ordeal on Siula Grande. Photo Credit: Joe Simpson Collection

**“I stood and fell,” he said, “writhed where I fell, cried and swore, and felt sure in my heart that these were my last spastic efforts before I lay still for good.”**

Part of him wanted to just give up and go to sleep. The voice ordered him to keep moving.

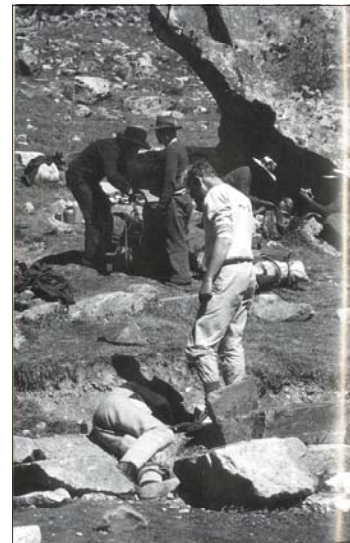
In one of his falls, he tumbled down a slope and into a ditch and heard a splash. Water! Bomb Alley! It was the water that had taunted him ever since he left the crevasse. The icy meltwater pouring down his throat brought new life into him. With every sip he could feel his strength returning. It gave him the determination and the resolve to come back alive.

The valley lakes were in sight and the terrain was getting easier. Smaller rocks. Less pain. He hobbled in a sleep-deprived daze, chaotic thoughts taking over his mind, not noticing how much progress he was making. Soon he reached a long gully that meandered down into the valley. If he just followed it, it would bring him all the way down to the lake and, he hoped, Simon.

**Random memories darted in and out of his head as he shuffled down the gully.** Conversations and disembodied voices from his past flooded his head. When reality came to him again, he found himself next to a lake. The lake curved gently down the slope and into the valley and to base camp. Joe crawled along its banks, praying he would find tents at the bottom. The going was terribly slow. He thought it would be so easy to follow the lake but it went on and on with no end in sight.

As the sun dipped below the clouds, he climbed a mud hill that divided the lake in two and from the top, he could see the valley and base camp. **In the darkness, he couldn't see if the tents were still there and it drove him mad with fear.** He bellowed Simon's name and only echoes responded. He wanted to sleep, but it was getting cold and the voice ordered him on.

Crawling mindlessly down the hill, reality abandoned him. He slipped into delirious thoughts and mangled perceptions of what was going on. He tried desperately to think clearly as he pulled himself onto a flat, rocky field. ‘Where am I?’ As he gazed over the field, memories pierced his clouded brain. Richard



Joe collapsed at Simon's feet from exhaustion. Photo Credit: Joe Simpson Collection

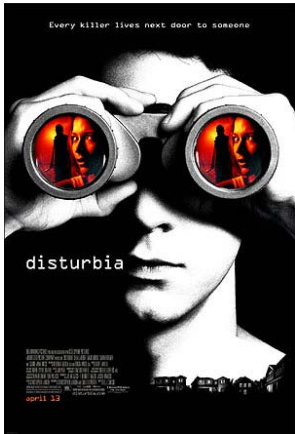
Hawking (a friend who had accompanied them on the expedition) cooking the meals. Simon dumping leftovers. The river bed! This was where they had set up their cooking fire!

**“SIMON!”** Joe bellowed his friend's name as loud as he could. He was pleading for someone to be there; that he wasn't just screaming at empty blackness. **“SIMON! HELP ME!”** **The light of a flashlight now blinded his eyes.** Behind it was Simon's shocked face. The disbelief overwhelmed them both. Simon tried to ask Joe how this was possible but all that came out was a jumbled stream of obscenities.

As tears began streaming down their faces, Simon dragged Joe into the tent where Richard pressed a cup of hot tea into his hand. It was over. **He had crawled five miles through nauseating pain in three days, descending 3,000 vertical feet of some of the most inhospitable terrain in the Andes.** He weighed just under ninety pounds by the time he reached camp. Doctors would later tell him that when Simon found him, he probably had mere hours to live. His story has become legend among mountaineers and shows us just how much man can overcome with the indomitable will to survive. **- Eric Brown**

# DISTURBIA REVIEW

By: Rachel Landon



**Disturbia, the suspenseful thriller that will keep you on the edge of your seat, till the very end.** Photo Credit: www.stuff.com

DJ Caruso's newest film. A slight, unofficial, remake of Alfred Hitchcock's *Rear Window* [1954.] *Disturbia* is guaranteed to keep you guessing till the end. The movie is a mixture of unusual genres: horror, comedy, and teen angst drama.

When Kale's [Shia LeBeouf] father dies in a violent car crash at the beginning of the movie, Kale instantaneously blames himself, since he was driving. After the death of his father, Kale becomes withdrawn, depressed, and infuriated towards authorities.

About ten minutes into the movie he lashes out on his Spanish teacher. He is really ticked off when his teacher brings up his father's death, telling Kale that he needs to get over it and move on. Kale quickly stands up and punches his teacher, earning him three months under house arrest.

While feeling trapped in his house, he is pleasantly surprised by seeing a gorgeous girl, Ashley [Sarah Roemer,] moving in next to him.

His best friend comes over to keep Kale company. Ronnie [Aaron Yoo] is the comedian of *Disturbia*. As Kale's best friend, he's always there for him, but incredibly goofy. Aaron Yoo did an amazing job in the movie.

From the boredom of being trapped in his house for the summer, he devel-



David Morse stars as Mr. Turner, Kale's shady serial-killer neighbor. Photo Credit: www.worstpreviews.com

ops a strong curiosity of what his neighbors do when they are home. While observing a few of his neighbors he discovers that the business man across the street cheats on his wife with the promiscuous house maid.

Along with the humor in that situation, things dramatically change when it comes to Mr. Turner, [David Morse,] living next to him. Kale begins to suspect that his strange neighbor is a homicidal murderer, but he wonders if it's just his overactive imagination. Once he sees an attractive young woman in Turner's house, then blood violently splattering against the window, he knows that it is no longer his imagination.

Over the three months of summer spent in his house, Kale strives to bust Mr. Turner for the murders he has committed. With the help from Ronnie and Ashley, he is able to crack the case. Turner is not only guilty for the murder of the woman in his house, but responsible for many, many, other murders.

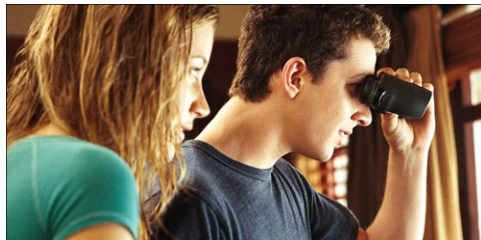
In the process of solving the mystery of Mr. Turner's actions, he is surprisingly able to get out of his house and investigate Turner's house. [If you are disturbed by violent and bloody images, then you probably won't like the last half of *Disturbia*]

In the end, Kale becomes a hero, even from killing Mr. Turner, and gets out of house arrest early.

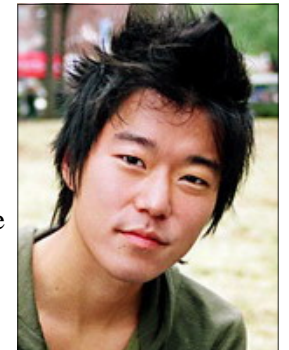
I strongly recommend seeing this movie; it's a definite "A," and along with Shia LeBeouf's best acting performance.



Shia LaBeouf stars as Kale, the curious teen who solves the murder. Photo Credit: www.ifmagazine.com



Kale (Shia LeBeouf) and Ashley (Sarah Roemer) desperately spy on their neighbor to solve what seems to be a murder. Photo Credit: www.popmatters.com



Ronnie (Aaron Yoo) is Kale's prankster of a best friend, but gets serious when it comes to solving a murder. Photo Credit: www.filmweb.com

By: Evan Hopkins

ENTERTAINMENT

While I'm not one to normally jump to conclusions, I can safely say that 2007 is looking promising for music. While 2006 was certainly a good year for music lovers, I felt it too boring to write an end of the year recap. So, instead, I decided to take a look at the best albums released in '07. Oh, sure, we're hardly into '07, but that's another topic for another day. With many amazing albums on the horizon, let's get prepared for the coming musical onslaught by looking at the best of '07!

### New Magnetic Wonder by the Apples in Stereo

It's been proven by science; the Apples in Stereo can do no wrong. With their infectious indie pop, the Apples newest album, **New Magnetic Wonder**, is sure to delight fans of the band and/or fun. Opening with the bubbly power pop song "Can You Feel It?" New Magnetic Wonder moves along smoothly as songs jump from ELO inspired rock, to sugar-coated keyboard ballads. While the album is certainly experimental, New Magnetic Wonder is a solid 52 minutes of music that'll make you feel all warm and fuzzy.

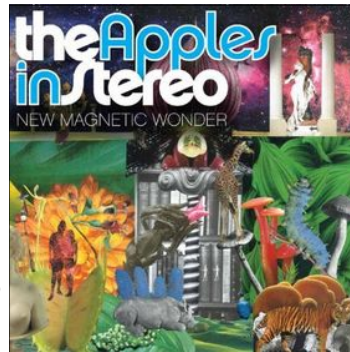


Photo Credit: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_Magnetic\\_Wonder](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Magnetic_Wonder)

### Hissing Fauna, Are You The Destroyer? by Of Montreal

Hailing from Athens, Georgia, Of Montreal is, simply put, a band that defies definition. Mixing neo-psychedelia with elements ranging from pop to afrobeat, Of Montreal is constantly doing the exact opposite of what you would expect. Which brings us to **Hissing Fauna, Are You The Destroyer?** Lead singer Kevin Barnes uses pseudonym Georgia Fruit to paint a trippy picture of painful relationships, drugs, fashion, and glam rock. While Hissing Fauna is a wonderful album for Montreal followers, I wouldn't recommend listening to this album as your first Montreal album.

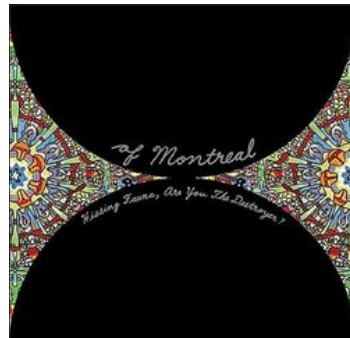


Photo Credit: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hissing\\_Fauna%2C\\_Are\\_You\\_The\\_Destroyer%3F](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hissing_Fauna%2C_Are_You_The_Destroyer%3F)

### Costello Music by The Fratellis

It's always refreshing for a band to truly understand the concept of "rock 'n roll." Every time a band like Hinder claims to be "bringing back rock," a little part of me dies. **Costello Music** by The Fratellis, on the other hand, causes that little part of me to rise from the dead grinning from ear to ear. The opening track of the album, "Henrietta," lulls you into a false sense of security, until the second track, "Flathead," delivers a swift kick to your eardrums, reminding you that you're



Photo Credit: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Costello\\_Music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Costello_Music)

hear to ROCK! Clocking in at 44 minutes, Costello Music never feels tedious or repetitive. What's even more impressive is that this is The Fratellis first full album!

### Barenaked Ladies Are Men by Barenaked Ladies

The indie kid in me scoffs at the Barenaked Ladies, but the music enthusiast in me can't help but love Canada's favorite sons. **Barenaked Ladies Are Men**, the newest release by, big surprise here, the Barenaked Ladies. Released as the second album that spawned from a 29 song recording session (the first album was **Barenaked Ladies Are Me**), "...Are Men" is, in my opinion, the better of the two. While the album starts on a slightly "blah" note, the second song, "Something You'll Never Find," burrowed its way into my brain and refused to leave. Thankfully, the rest of the album manages to live up to the high energy of the second track. Simply put, if you're not a Barenaked fan, this certainly won't change your opinion. But, if you enjoy fun indie rock and Canadians, you won't be disappointed!

### The Good, The Bad, And The Queen by The Good, The Bad, And The Queen



Photo Credit: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_good%2C\\_the\\_bad%2C\\_and\\_the\\_queen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_good%2C_the_bad%2C_and_the_queen)

Oh, Damon Albarn, why are you so awesome? You've jumped from Blur, to the Gorillaz, before finally finding your way to **The Good, The Bad, And The Queen**, and I followed you like a lovesick schoolboy every step of the way. In *The Good, The Bad, And The Queen*, Albarn lends his dream-like vocals to a concept album covering modern life in London. For fans of The Gorillaz, you'll notice some similarities between The Queen and The Gorillaz. Is that a bad thing? Well, no, not really. While I think that Albarn should have stuck with 2D and company, I can certainly forgive him for making such a great album. With its alternative rock meets coffee house jam session sound, it's incredibly easy to be sucked into the album; whether you like it or not.

### Honorable Mentions:

**Duet All Night Long** by Reel Big Fish and Zolof The Rock And Roll Destroyer

**We Were Dead Before The Ship Even Sank** by Modest Mouse

# GRADUATION GIFTS: DON'T MESS UP THIS YEAR.

By: Joe Kushnick

Life AS WE SEE IT

**It's that time of year again, when Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny team up with Saint Valentine to celebrate the eight nights of Chinese New Year.**

I know this because I recently went digging through the clearance bin at Hallmark to find graduation cards for the seniors.

Come to think of it, buying those cards was a pretty foolish decision. After all, the only gift more boring than a card is an eight-track tape of Neil Diamond hits (I think this is actually a Guinness World Record). There are far more interesting and elegant graduation presents out there. Here are some classic gift ideas that are sure to please

There is one item which stands above all others, both in usefulness and practicality. I'm talking about that icon of the successful businessman, that symbol of affluence and power, a mark of class recognized around the world. It is difficult to explain this marvelous object, but I will try: It's a little plastic cartoon character that dispenses candy when you pull its head back.



Diamonds may last forever, but they aren't as handy as a Pokémon Pez dispenser. Photo Credit: www.spectrumnet.com

**TIP: If you decide to give this gift, make sure you get the Pez brand dispenser and candy. A knock-off might make you seem cheap.**

Few gifts can match the Pez dispenser in terms of sentimental and practical value. However, if you are willing to cross the line from "sentimental" to "cheesy," you do have a few options.

Gift baskets have long been a way to show someone how much you care.



Gift baskets: the best way to pretend you care. Photo Credit: www.warmsentimentals.com

Recipients are always touched by the amount of thought that went into choosing the contents, decoration, and arrangement of each basket. They'll never know that you had no part in choosing, decorating, arranging, or even delivering the basket. That is the beauty of the whole system.

**TIP: The food in a gift basket may have gone bad during transit. If your gift recipient offers to share it with you, decline their offer and wait to see if they develop a food-borne illness.**

The complete emotional detachment and silliness of a gift basket makes it a good gift for special occasions. Still, if you're really into the whole graduation vibe you may want to

give something even more pompous. Luckily, ice sculptures combine all the positive attributes of the gift basket with the expense and impracticality of a great ceremonial gift.

**TIP: As ice sculptures melt they begin to lose their detail and shape. You can display a melting sculpture for up to a week by putting it in a kiddie pool along with a small scale model of the Titanic.**

I hope you enjoyed this guide to gift-buying. I especially hope you seniors liked reading this because there is no way I'm about to fork out just to get you guys some gifts. Goodbye and farewell, class of '07!



Ice sculptures were traditional Innuait gifts. Photo Credit: www.icesculptures.ltd.uk

By: Matthew Freeman

LIFE AS WE SEE IT



Bruce's Office after the Class of 2007 filled it with balloons. This year's seniors pulled several harmless pranks, like putting locks on selected lockers, and blocking parking spaces for the teachers and staff who were forced to park "up the hill," and walk back down for classes. Photo Credit: Carolina Ayerbe

Senior pranks are usually surprising or something goes horribly wrong and causes permanent damage. However, there are some guidelines which can be used to create an amazing prank which will not cause any psychological damage.

Unfortunately, these rules are usually ignored and the prank will sometimes get the pranksters kicked out of school. So, here are the five most important rules and the five most important safety tips for creating a senior prank.

**The first rule** is to avoid using questionable materials. This means don't put empty liquor bottles in someone's locker. This "joke" will usually get them in trouble and if anyone

found out that you did it, they will question how you emptied the liquor bottles.

**The second rule:** Don't use anything that will cause mass panic. That means don't put smoke machines in the ventilation system. "Cold War era air raid sirens" are also discouraged. Everyone has probably heard one once while watching a movie and will know what it means.

**The third rule** is that live animals should not be harmed for the prank to work, or better yet don't use live animals at all. This means (even though it's funny) draining all the toilets so you could put real snakes in them to scare people should not be attempted.

**The fourth rule is,** even though this is against my better judgment (and religion), the use of flames or explosives of any kind must be avoided. This means no lighters, matches, or even smoke bombs should be used.

**The fifth rule is:** Do not offend any one's religion. This type of joke may be hazardous to your health. Don't even think of defiling any scripture, including the Levels System while in front of all of the faculty and students. You might not survive.

## SAFETY RULES

**The first safety tip** is to avoid any misunderstandings that result in 911 calls.

**The second safety tip:** Don't make the tile floor wet because it will cause the floor to become slippery and if something goes wrong you could put someone in the hospital.

**The third safety tip:** Avoid use of the school nurse's supplies.

**The fourth safety tip:** Do not cause any structural damage to the building. The walls may not be able to hold up the ceiling for the duration of your prank setup visit.

**The fifth safety tip:** Be sure you can pay for what you might possibly damage.



This is the result of a senior prank gone wrong. Don't over do it. Photo Credit: www.answers.com

# THANKS FOR READING OUR NEWSPAPER!

## LIFE AS WE SEE IT



Daniel Ludwig was a powerful force on the newspaper staff for four semesters. He started out as a cub reporter and worked his way up to Editor-in-chief.



Jacob Weinberger served for three semesters, first as a reporter, then, as Layout Editor when he put in many long hours and long days after school printing.



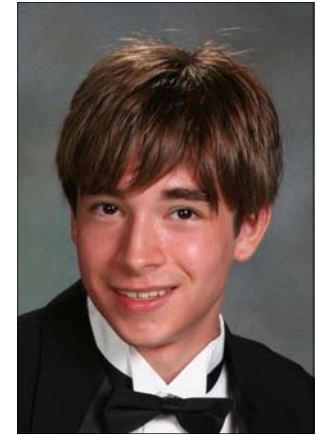
Sam Collins has been our most faithful freelance contributor for at least four semesters. Here he can be seen delivering one of his stern educational messages.



John Keappler, our Art Director this year, has been designing our cover pages for several semesters. Christmas was always his favorite holiday.



Tucker O'Brian was with *Kickin' It* for two semesters, as a reporter and as an aide.



Shawn May was an aide during the spring and made us all giggle with his wit and witticism.

*Kickin' It is a student newspaper for the Upper School and Communication Arts School of Mill Springs Academy, in Milton, GA. We publish about every three weeks. Students choose and research articles, find or take/process photos, write headlines and cutlines, proofread, print, assemble and distribute each issue. We are found online at [www.millsprings.org](http://www.millsprings.org)*

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