

February 2009 Vol. 4 Issue 5

KHS has got talent

Brittney Martin
Editor-in-chief

After months of planning, the KHS talent show debuted last week. The show was packed with the classic singing, dancing and unique local bands, as well as some new additions such as Synchronized Swimming.

"The cast was great! Being gangster on stage is the biggest rush," senior Jenny Eakin said.

A group of senior choir girls performed the rap "Gangsta's paradise" but added their own choral twist.

"We saw our act on youtube and have been practicing on weekends and after school since January," senior Rebecca Hill said.

The performers are not the only ones who begin preparation months before the show. Student Council plans, organizes, and runs the event with the help of Mrs. Webber, Mr. Knight and Mr. Stenike and the KHS Theater department.

"We've been planning for talent show since the very end of last semester," junior and Student Council member Allison Lindley said.

Each performer must audition in front of a panel of judges made up of student council members. Most acts are chosen to participate based on various criteria.

"We judged each act on showmanship and whether or not they had fun with it, not so much on quality," junior, Student Council member and talent show judge Alex Schilling said.

Two acts that appear in the show every year are the KHS Varsity Yell Leaders and the Drumline. As always, the Yell Leader boys performed several unique and entertaining dances.

"It's been super stressful because we didn't have anything prepared, but we worked our butts off and got this thing down," senior Nick Panzarella said.



Top: Four of the five members of the Supertones rap "Gangsta's Paradise". Bottom right: three members of Playground Hustle dance their hearts out. Bottom left: The five members of Synchronized Swimming entertain the audience with a hilarious skit about a team of elite swimmers and their less-talented friend, Glack.

Photos by Kristen Webb

IN MEMORY OF WWI

Mansi Raythatha
Contributing Writer

It has never been doubted that when Kingwood comes together, it can achieve anything. Each year, Creekwood Middle School participates in a service learning project, and this year students at CMS have decided to raise money for the restoration of the District of Columbia's World War I Monument. In this way, Creekwood students hope to remind others that even though World War I has come and gone, it is our job to keep the memory of this Great War alive.

On February 6, David DeJonge's portrait exhibit began its national tour. First stop? Creekwood. Creekwood students worked hard to create an exhibit that displayed both their immense research and the faces of World War I. This exhibit featured David DeJonge's photographs of many of the last surviving veterans of World War I, and the last remaining veteran, Frank Buckles. The next day, this exhibit was made open to the public at the Humble Civic Center.

In addition to the portraits, members of Ms. Rioux's European History Class gave community members a review of the history leading up to WWI through the final armistice.

"Currently, the state of the WWI memorial is in shambles, so it was nice to support the rebuilding of one the veterans are truly worthy of," junior Sarah Monsen said.

Although Mr. Buckles was unable to attend due to his health, present at the exhibit was Congressman Ted Poe who has introduced legislation in support of this service learning project. To raise money and awareness for the WWI Monument, Creekwood students are selling WWI donor tags and t-shirts which you can purchase through their website or at the school.

Practical Writing Classes Reach Out

Anna Hojnacki
Reporter

Brooke Ley
Reporter

In Ms. Tutt and Ms. Burleson's Practical Writing Courses, students are extending helping hands to our community. With four periods involved in four different service learning projects, Tutt and Burleson have their hands full this month.

Helping Hungry Humans is just one of the projects being promoted. Students are trying to raise money to feed the hungry, through H.A.A.M (Humble Area Assisted Ministries). On February 28th the students from 4th period will be hosting a barbecue open to the community. It will take place after the

rugby game around noon, on the practice fields. Seniors Matt Meade and Reid Wilcox will be cooking.

In order to beautify our school, The Texas Tree Planting Society Association of America Club will be creating a garden. The PTSA will be helping fund the project. This service learning project will benefit the community by providing new landscaping.

People Against Road Texting have a message that may pertain to our student body more than the other projects. In an effort to stop the dangerous practice of texting while driving, People Against Road Texting are promoting their cause

by selling tee shirts, posting videos and fliers, and setting up a table at lunch.

On March 12th, Hope For Endless Time, another student service learning project, a table offering 'free hugs' and information about their project will be set up at lunch. With a mission to battle drug abuse and depression, Hope For Endless Time was created to help people dealing with those problems in their daily lives.

These four classes may be small, but they are making a difference in our community

as a whole. Leading by example, Tutt and Burleson are creating a legacy here at Kingwood High School.



Photo by Brooke Ley

In the midst of a crisis

Monica Castellanos
Feature Editor

Chelsea Williams
Sports Editor

It is a horrifying thought, but the U.S. and the rest of the world may very well be heading into another depression. The disastrous Great Depression of the 20th century was a trying and gloomy time. No one is prepared to think about the prospect that it could be just around the corner.

President Obama said in a statement on February 9 that “we are in the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.” This global economic decline is wreaking havoc everywhere it reaches.

Most experts believe the problem that the United States is going through right now is actually a recession, which is not as severe as a depression. A recession is

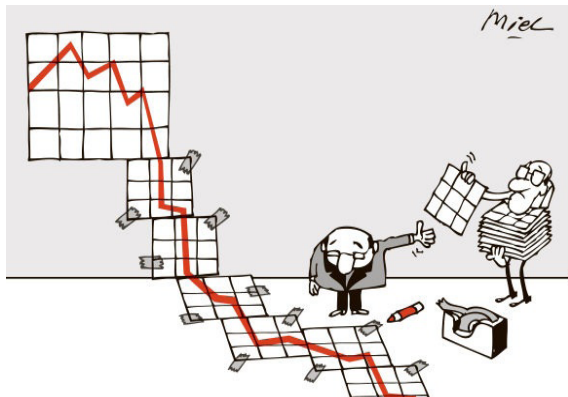
when the overall economy declines for two straight quarters. It is difficult to tell whether the country is in recession at the current time because it takes a certain amount of time to see the results.

The American dollar is declining in value by over 30%. So now Robert Reid, is speaking to you what is around the next corner. I have been there, and done it...That’s why I speak. Washington’s deficit is over one trillion dollars. The national debt is almost eleven trillion dollars. Factor in the seventy-eight million “baby boomers” imminent retirement, and most of us are ready to live under a rock or emulate Thoreau and live “Life in the Woods.”

There is no simple answer to what got

us into this mess. Job outsourcing, the falling housing market, the cost of the war in Iraq, a trade deficit with China, Social Security and Medicare costs, home foreclosures, exploding consumer debt, and imploding consumer confidence all played a part in causing this severe recession, a recession that can only get worse and become a depression.

It is important to know the history of economic crisis in the U. S. though. Since the Great Depression, the United States has gone through four recessions.



Cartoon courtesy of political-cartoons.com

The last recession was actually at the beginning of President George HW Bush’s time in office, but that was also a minor dip that lasted only a couple months.

As a result, the American consumers spend less money because they feel that prices are falling apart around them.

“The fact that the majority of people believe we are going into a depression ensures that the recession will get worse,” Anirvan Banerji, the director of research for the Economic Cycle Research Institute, said.

What can we do to alleviate the impact of the coming depression? Peter Morici, a former chief economist at the U.S. International Trade Commission, said that it is up to President Obama.

“The choices for the incoming president are simple, “ Morici said. “It’s either recover or depression. Fix the banks, energy policy, and trade situation with China or become America’s Nero.”

NHS Garage Sale

Hannah Babich
Reporter

The National Honor Society will be hosting a garage sale on Saturday, February 28 from 7 AM to 1 PM in the commons.

Members have been working tirelessly to prepare for the event, including accepting and organizing the many donations they have recieved. NHS hosted three “drop off days” to accept donations on January 21, January 30, and February 7 in the commons.

“I had a lot of things that I was happy to get rid of for a good cause,” senior and NHS member Justin Dauzat said.

All of the profits earned from the garage sale will go toward the already successful Habitat for Humanity fund. NHS has earned over



Senior Christina Curry unloads bags of donations in order to place them in the NHS storage unit.

three thousand dollars for the organization this year and expects the garage sale to be a major contribution.

Senior and NHS President Kristen Webb is running the event and is hoping that the hard work will pay off.

“I’m really excited, we’ve gotten a lot of really cool things to sell,” Webb said. “People have donated everything from a musical keyboard to clothes and stuffed animals.”

The NHS officers are confident that the garage sale will be a success; their only fear is that there will be more buyers than there are items to sell.

MEET THE SPEAKER

Robert Reid: retired NBA player

Q: What (or who) helped guide your success?

A: Coach Weldon Beard (Head Coach, Samuel Clemons High), Master Sargent, Ralph Reid and my Mother, St. Mary’s University Assistant Coach Buddy Meyers, and St. Mary’s University Head Coach Edward Messabauger [helped me succeed]. Every day those people saw something in me, and they would not let me fail.

Q: What do you enjoy most about speaking at schools?

A: As a father of 4 and a retired NBA player, when I talk to the young men and ladies, I am talking to them as if they are in my household, and their last name is Reid. So now I am speaking to you about what is around the next corner. I have been there, and done it...That’s why I speak.

Q: How does Black History Month affect you?

A: Up to my high school years in 1973, there was no black history month. From my freshman year to senior year in high school, whenever blacks in America came up, it was slavery, Frederick Douglass, or George Washington Carver, and that was only two or three pages in the history books. That was my black history. Now, as a History minor in college, I have read all the history books about about what Black American men and women have contributed to the United States of America, and it is vast. So now, I don’t look at Black History Month, I look and see Black, White, Hispanic, Asian, Muslim, Hindu, American Indian, Irish, and any other race, when they wake up in the morning and what they do to make this country what it is today.

Q: What famous African American do you look up to the most and why?

A: Sidney Poitier because he could trade characters with the utmost digni-

ty. Jackie Robinson because as a professional athlete, to be in a white man’s world, yes, I was called the “N” word many times, but I remembered Jackie Robinson’s comments to play hard and win them over. Nelson Mandela because he stood strong while incarcerated and he even won his jailers over. Martin Luther King because he brought families to stand side by side. And last, Malcolm X, because we all have to have a little rebellion in us.

I am 53 years old. None of you were even born to see the things that I have seen and witnessed, which means I had to draw strength, not from one man, but from many gentlemen. [You have to] have an attitude, tenaciousness, you-have-lost-your-mind mentality, thank you Jesus, I got this movie ticket, and let’s throw some ribs on the grill.

Q: What is the proudest moment of your career?

A: In 1977, I had the opportunity to get my foot in the door to show the Rockets what I could do, a non-guaranteed contract, and I made it. Then in 1981 the first run at the NBA championship, with Moses, Rudy, Calvin, and myself, all on National TV. Churches Chicken meal...\$4.95. Having the fans of Houston all cheering for the Houston Rockets Championship...Priceless.

Q: How do you view Black History Month and how has it affected you throughout your life?

A: The recognition for Black History Month is great, but after February 28th and throughout the rest of the year, I am still black, my sons and daughters are still black. You are white students, hispanic students, Muslims, Hindus, all nationalities. I am hoping that the day comes that we don’t have to say, here is your time based upon race, and religion. We want to say...Look what our ancestors have contributed. We are Texans and American Citizens.

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GET DOWN WITH THE LEPRECHAUNS

Nick Doremus
Entertainment Editor

Saint Patrick's Day is an annual event that honors one of the patron saints of Ireland, Saint Patrick. This event, which occurs on March 17, is not regarded as an official holiday; however, many still celebrate it regardless.

Not only is Saint Patrick's Day an Irish tradition, it is regarded as a Christian celebration as well. The Catholic Church, the Church of Ireland, and other Irish denominations regard the day as an official holiday. Usually St. Patrick's Day falls during the season

of Lent. Furthermore, if the celebration is on a Friday, the Catholic Church will grant an indult, which allows people to eat meat on an otherwise "meat-free" day.

"Saint Patrick's Day is my favorite holiday!" junior Shannon Smith said. "I always dress up and hang out with friends. Plus, I really enjoy the traditional Irish customs."

The most common way of celebrating St. Patrick's Day is by wearing some form of green, such as green shirts or pants, even complete outfits if you are

really into the spirit, or just some form of green accessory. Many people, while they will wear green, do not know why they are actually wearing it.

"I believe it is because of tradition," junior Marilyn Babu said. "I do not really know for sure. I guess it is one of those traditions where you do not really know why, but you just go along with it."

The real reason for wearing green is because the color is associated with Saint Patrick himself. Also, it refers to shamrocks, which are traditionally green Irish clothes.

When people fail to wear green on Saint Patrick's Day, a popular "punishment" is to pinch the person, as it is seen as an insult to the holiday celebrations.

"There have been many years where I have not worn green on St. Patrick's Day," said junior Lindsey Millard. "Yes, I have been pinched."

Saint Patrick's Day is a traditional Irish celebration that is celebrated all over the world. So when March 17 comes around, do not forget to wear green. Otherwise, you might get pinched!

Spring Cleaning The Meaning

Cali Apodaca
Indepth Editor

For many years, people have become accustomed to the phrase, "Today is spring cleaning day." This event usually occurs every year at the start of spring, and the day consists of mopping, dusting, vacuuming, throwing away all the junk that has accumulated throughout the year, and even rearranging furniture.

For decades Persians have celebrated the holiday called Iranian Norouz, which is the Persian New Year that is celebrated usually on May 21. The festivities include "khooneh tekouni", which means the shaking of the house. Every member of the family contributes to cleaning the house from top to bottom.

During the 19th century, before the vacuum was invented, many North Americans felt that the month of March was just the right month to dust because the weather was becoming warmer but not too warm. It was the perfect temperature to open the windows and doors so that high winds could carry out the dust and so that the fume from chemical cleansers would not be as strong.

So the next time that your mom makes you clean for hours on end, at least now you will know why.

Working off the Winter Weight

Brittany Milam
Reporter



Photo courtesy of yahoo.com

Although the holiday seasons are wonderfully fun and full of fantastic dinners and desserts, it seems as though this is the one time of the year that everyone is bound to gain a few pounds, if not more. It seems almost perfect that we all wear multiple layers off clothing in order to keep warm. With thicker clothes on, it is easy to pull off a few extra pounds, so when spring rolls around and everyone goes shopping for bathing suits and sundresses, it seems as if it is always a disappointment.

The next problem is figuring out what to do in order to get rid of the unwanted weight that has been gained over the last three months. There is, of course, the solution of joining an expensive gym and trying to find time

to go work out between school, work, and time with friends, buying the next magazine you see on how Britney Spears lost all of her unwanted weight, or the option of going on some crazy diet that in the end makes you gain weight.

Or you could just follow a few easy steps that take fifteen minutes every other day and make sure to eat healthy, and the results can blow you away.

This fifteen minute workout focuses on arms, shoulders, thighs, calves, core, buttocks, chest, biceps and back. If you are interested about the rules or curious about the workout routine, check out this website: www.aolhealth.com/fitness/fifteen-minute-workout.

We all want something that works, but the task is figuring out what works without wasting time in the process. There are some web sites that are created for your use by personal trainers, professional weight trainers, and more. Some of these features are on aol.com and yahoo.com. There are some workouts that will give you back your summer body and not absorb all your time at the gym or crashing from a fad diet.

Take a trip with T.R.I.P

Cole Gratz
Reporter

This year the T.R.I.P. (Travelers Researching Interesting Places) club has its eyes on the trip of a lifetime. The club will be making a round trip in Italy and Greece, seeing Venice, Florence, Rome, Sorrento, Assisi, Metora, Delphi, Argolida, Epidaurus, Mycenae, and finally Athens.

The trip will be done over an eighteen-day period, spending two days at each destination. Students will be learning the history of each destination from the interesting statues and the fascinating museums.

"I am really looking forward to this trip and excited to see Italy," junior Slade Solcher said.

This is a roundtrip with twelve overnight stays in hotels and a daily set of breakfast meals and dinner meals. On the trip, students will have a full time bilingual EF tour director, showing and telling interesting facts along the way. There will be ten sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides with accents. Students will be given fifteen visits to special attractions throughout the trip.

With only a little more than one hundred days left before the tour, there are fifteen students already signed up with two adult chaperones. If you are interested in seeking this great adventure to Italy and Greece and want to make the summer a lot less boring, then talk to librarian Susan Schilling for details.

Veronica Martinez
Reporter

"Mardi Gras was a blast," sophomore Alexis McCracken said. "I went to Louisiana last year and partied like crazy! The best part of Mardi Gras would definitely be the parade. Another amazing part of Mardi Gras would be when people dance on the floats and throw the beads everywhere."

Mardi Gras is also celebrated in other countries, including Belgium, Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, El Salvador, the Caribbean Nations, Colombia, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Italy (Venice), Mexico, Panama, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United States. The type of the celebrations of Mardi Gras are local, cultural, and Catholic. The date for this year's Mardi Gras was February 24 in New Orleans.

Beads, Masks, Mardi Gras Oh My!



Mardi Gras is an event that is celebrated by everyone, adults and children alike. In New Orleans, Galveston, and Los Angeles people celebrate Mardi Gras every year. Mardi Gras goes through the night of Tuesday February 24, and at the stroke of midnight everybody throws colorful beads at the people standing around to catch them.

"Mardi Gras is a blast," sophomore Shannon Sampson said. "I'm going to New Orleans, and I look forward to it every year. I also went last year. The parade is the best part of Mardi Gras."

Mardi Gras's traditional colors are purple, green, and gold. The Rex Parade is the largest parade, and the theme "Symbolism of Colors" gave the colors their meanings for Mardi Gras. The

meaning of the colors are Justice (purple), Faith (green), and Power (gold). Mardi Gras colors are celebrated all over cities, including Galveston, New Orleans, and many more.

"Mardi Gras was like sha'bam" sophomore Jasmine Manning said. "I loved the parade like most people would. I went last year and it was good. I like all the different colors and decorations. The colors are amazing and the decorations on the floats are the awesome part of the parade."

The Mardi Gras event is also known as Fat Tuesday in France and Shrove Tuesday in England. It lasts from Epiphany to Ash Wednesday. The day of Mardi Gras is the day which falls on the day before Ash Wednesday.

KHS students celebrate Black History Month

Black History Month is a time to celebrate equality and freedom in America. It is a time to celebrate the dedication that the African American heroes, as well as every other supporter of civil rights, have for freedom and equality.

Nick Doremus
Entertainment Editor

Every February, America recognizes and celebrates the African American heroes, community, and culture. From the heroic acts of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad up to the present day and Barack Obama's presidency, Black History Month has many reasons to be celebrated.

Several American heroes, such as Tubman, Dred Scott, and Martin Luther King Jr., have dramatically influenced American culture and life. It is no wonder that they are studied and represented as heroes who were trying to make a positive outcome on their generation, as well as many others to come.

Tubman and her part in the Underground Railroad saved hundreds of lives

from difficult and suppressive conditions. Her heroic acts influenced other generations to continue to pursue goals such as freedom and equality.

Dred Scott in 1857 challenged the southern slave owners when he escaped to the "free state" of Wisconsin, and he went to court to legalize his freedom. While his plea was unsuccessful, it opened several doors and minds to the issue of slavery and caused many northern abolitionists to strive harder for the demise of it.

Even every day heroes, such as Rosa Parks, who did not necessarily make great advantages in her time, opened the doors for change. Just by simply choosing to sit in the front of a bus, which was, at the time, designated to the white race, caused many to hope for more freedom and change. While Parks

went to jail for her protest, she inspired a massive boycott of the bus system, the Montgomery Bus Boycott. This boycott was successful and is still discussed in history textbooks.

King is one of the most influential African American figures celebrated and remembered. His "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963, which was delivered in front of 250 thousand individuals of all races, is considered the largest demonstration in the history of the nation's capital, while dually representing the most significant demonstration of civil rights. After this speech, King became the most prominent figure of the civil rights movement. His death only furthered the cause for civil rights, labeling him as a martyr for freedom and equality, while instilling his memory in the hearts of millions for years to come.

Black History Month is not celebrated by all. Every year, there is a debate concerning whether or not Black History Month is a worthwhile celebration of history. The opposition's main argument is that Black History Month is a study and celebration of only one race in American culture. They additionally question the fairness and usefulness of Black History Month.

Black History Month is a time to celebrate equality and freedom in America. It is a time to celebrate the dedication that the African American heroes, as well as every other supporter of civil rights, have for freedom and equality. It is amazing to think that the simple acts of rebellion early on by a few individuals has permanently transformed the American way of life.

The KHS Black Student Union

Kelsey Spinnato
Copy Editor

The Black Student Union, newly formed this year, focuses on the minorities of Kingwood.

For Black History Month, the members of BSU are doing multiple things to raise awareness and funds for the club. The first was a "teacher torture" where any student could vote for a teacher to be pried in the face by putting money in the jar designated to that teacher.

"Teacher torture is to raise money for the club, but we will also do other things before the month ends," senior Kellie Thompkins said.

Coach Donovan Jones, the student picked winner, was "tortured" February 10 during half time at the varsity boys basketball game against Atascacita. Students could vote for Page, Hofstad,

Steinke, Myers, Payton, Chuter, Bodron, Ledlow, Ogden, Salinas, Kniess, Hendrix, Jones or Rosenberg, who won the nominations.

"Coach Jones is just here to supervise," Ashley Thrower said. "All of our decisions have to go through him first."

Jones is the club's sponsor. BSU has a slate of officers comprised of junior and President Michai Washington, junior and Vice President Ashley Thrower, secretary Kellie Thompkins, junior and treasurer Hailey Hopkins, and sophomore and assistant secretary Cydney Thrower.

"Black Student Union is an idea that Ashley Thrower and Coach Jones came up with," Washington said. "I didn't know who he was. I thought it was a good idea to put something together for the minorities of Kingwood High School."

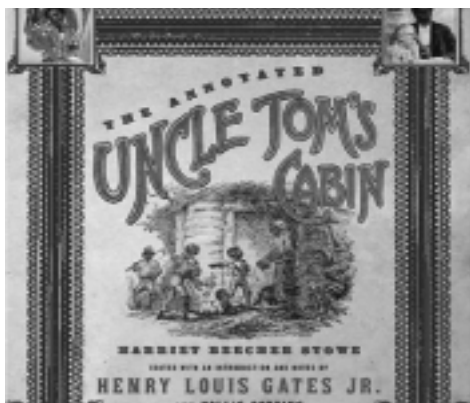


1619 The first African slaves arrive in America

1793 Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin: this spurs renewed interest in slavery

1808 The importation of slaves is banned by Congress

1831 Nat Turner leads the most successful slave revolt in history



1865 Freedman's Bureau is established to protect the rights of newly freed slaves

Lincoln is assassinated

The Ku Klux Klan is founded

The 13th amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified: it abolishes slavery



1849 Harriet Tubman escapes slavery: she effectively leads the Underground Railroad

1852 Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes Uncle Tom's Cabin: it is one of the most influential anti-slavery novels

1861 Civil War begins between the Union and the Confederacy

1863 The Emancipation Proclamation is issued by President Lincoln. It frees all slaves in rebelling states



1868 The 14th amendment to the U.S. constitution is ratified: it states that newly freed slaves are also citizens

1870 The 15th amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified: it gives blacks the right to vote

1909 W.E.B. Du Bois founds National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as a African American Civil Rights platform

1920's The Harlem Renaissance gives African Americans a racial identity through intellectual, musical, literary and artistic movements

1947 Jackie Robinson is signed to the Brooklyn Dodgers

1952 Malcolm X becomes a minister of the Nation of Islam



1964 Martin Luther King Jr. receives the Nobel Peace Prize

1965 Malcolm X is assassinated

1967 The phrase 'Black Power' is coined by Stokely Carmichael

1968 Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated



1955 Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus for a white woman. This sparks a year-long bus boycott that leads to non-segregated buses in Montgomery

1959 The Little Rock Nine graduate from the same all white high school



1978 The Supreme Court case Regents of the University of California v. Bakke says that Affirmative Action is constitutional as long as it does not disenfranchise the majority

2009 Barack Obama becomes the 44th president of the United States

Obama: The new MLK?

Hannah Babich
Reporter

Americans everywhere celebrated the many accomplishments of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. only a day before Barack Obama was sworn in as the first ever African American President of the United States of America. The ironic proximity of the two historically meaningful events has lead to the inevitable comparison of the two most influential African Americans in the history of the country.

Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929. He attended segregated schools for the majority of his life and eventually became a pastor like his father and grandfather before him.

King was also a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the premiere civil rights group of his day. King quickly rose in the ranks of the NAACP, participating in various demonstrations, including the famous Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955.

King was arrested a total of thirty times during the course of his civil rights protests, his home was bombed numerous times, and he was constantly threatened. However, through it all, King remained staunchly nonviolent.

King was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957 and derived inspiration from famous non-violent spiritual leader Muhammad Gandhi. Between 1957 and 1968, King traveled the country, speaking over 2500 times.

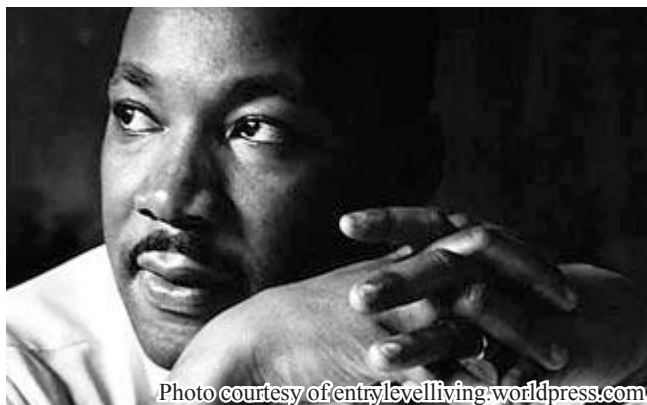


Photo courtesy of entrylevelliving.worldpress.com

King wrote five books and an extensive collection of articles, including "Letter From a Birmingham Jail." He led the peaceful March on Washington, D.C. where he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech on the mall. King was named Man of the Year by Time magazine in 1963 and at the age of thirty five became the youngest man to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. On April 4, 1968, King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

Barack Obama was born on August 4, 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii during the peak of the civil rights movement. Obama's mother was a white American while his father was an African American from Kenya. His father left him in the care of his mother in order to return to Kenya, and Obama was placed under the care of his grandparents.

Obama progressed through school, eventually attending Columbia University. He was plagued with racial tension, and eventually moved to Chicago.

Like King, Obama became devoted to fighting oppression, becoming a community organizer devoted to helping poor South Side residents cope with job loss and poor living conditions.

Obama later attended Harvard Law School and became the first African American editor in chief of the Harvard Law Review. He turned down numerous prestigious offers in favor of practicing civil rights law in Chicago. Obama worked for the progression of voting rights legislation and battled

housing and employment discrimination. He then took a teaching job at the University of Chicago Law School and remained there for twelve years.

In 1996 he ran and was elected to the state senate from his district. He served in the state legislature until 2004 when he won the Illinois Senate seat. Obama delivered the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention in 2004, and earned recognition for his skill as an orator.

In 2008, Obama became the democratic nominee for the presidency and was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States of America in 2009. He

is the first ever African American to hold the position.

There are, clearly, many similarities between King and Obama. They are both proponents of Civil Rights, each dedicating significant portions of their lives to combat racial discrimination. They have both been noted for their oratorical and inspirational power.

"They are both amazing speakers and great at inspiring hope," senior Ellie Meyer said.

King's "I Have a Dream Speech" was delivered in almost the exact place in Washington, D.C. in which Barack Obama was sworn in as President of the United States and delivered his Inaugural Address.

"I think the fact that they both delivered speeches in the same spot in Washington D.C. is really cool," senior Kyle

Gibson said.

They have both written books and articles addressing ideals and solutions. They both expressed their deep concern and goals for the future of their children and the future of the country. King, in fact, predicted just before his assassination that there would be an African American president of the United States in forty years. Obama seems to be the fulfillment of King's prophetic vision of the future.

"Martin Luther King Jr. was more a symbol of civil rights, while Obama is a symbol of a more extensive change," senior Kim Summers said.



Photo courtesy of nymag.com

The question, however, is not whether Obama is the King of the twenty-first century, but rather if Obama is a continuation of King's visions and aspirations. America has not created a new civil rights movement-it has simply progressed in what King began so long ago to form a new branch of the old movement.

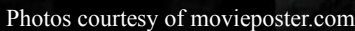
"Obama is the new and improved version of what Martin Luther King Jr. represented," senior Ashley Willies said.

With the acceptance of an African American leader of the nation, the racial barriers King worked to overcome have fallen, and present stereotypes have been defied.

"I think the fact that we have a black president shows how much we've progressed since Martin Luther King Jr.'s time," senior Mandy Chapman said.

Sadie Porter
Photographer

Soon after her seventeenth birthday, the adventurous Kim Mills and her friend Amanda decide to take a trip to Paris,



though. This movie will really draw you in. Liam Neeson played the perfect father and secret agent role. I would encourage anyone to go see this film. It is worth your time and money.




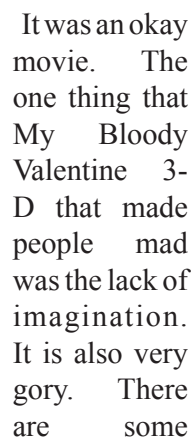
Cole Gratz
Reporter

Photo by Cole Gratz

are eager for some delicious seafood close to home, or maybe a new job, then Sharky's should be an option in the next decision on where to eat.

Veronica Martinez
Reporter

Tom gets up and the murderer sees that he is alive and goes after him. Tom falls and when the killer is about to kill him, the sheriff shows up and the killer runs off. Hanniger finds himself as the suspect for committing the murders and it seems like his ex-girlfriend Sarah Palmer (Jaime King), is the only one who will believe that he is not the



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How to cope Valentine's Day's ups and downs

Chelsea Williams
Sports Editor

Dealing with a break-up is never easy, especially when it is around Valentine's Day. Maybe it is the pressure of being the perfect boyfriend or girlfriend after such an amazing day or realizing that you just don't connect with that person anymore, but for whatever reason, it is a sad situation.

As sad as it is, most break-ups happen around Valentine's Day and Christmas. Everyone wants to make their boyfriend or girlfriend happy, especially during these special holidays, but the pressure you put on yourself will only strain your relationship as well. You worked so hard to impress your girlfriend or boyfriend on Valentine's Day that now they expect this type of devotion all the time. If you still enjoy being with this person, then you should just talk with him or her and be honest. Not to sound like therapist, but talking about your relationship with your significant other may help solve some of the problems you are going through.

What if you are the person that was broken up with? Well, the best way to cope with a tough break is with friends. If you occupy your time with friends and school, you don't have time to think about your broken heart. Even something as simple as a movie night may help raise your spirits. What's better pigging out on junk food and watching

your favorite comedy movie with your best friends? If you decide to continue being friends with your ex, simply act as you would with any of your other friends. There is nothing more annoying than a clingy ex who calls every couple of hours.

If you are the one that wants to break up, be understanding of the person's feelings. Tensions are high during Valentine's Day, and a break-up may just push someone over the edge. Do not use the line "It's not you, it's me." Everyone always takes that the other way and actually believes it is their fault anyway. Using this line only proves his or her suspicions because if it was not his or her fault, then the relationship would have lasted. Tell your significant other how you feel and try to put yourself in his or her shoes. What would you like to hear if someone broke up with you right after Valentine's Day?

Valentine's Day is both one of the most hated and most loved holidays, depending on the status of your love life at the time. But think of it this way: most relationships end at its peak, but if you just relax and be yourself, the relationship might just make it through the rough times. Just be aware of the pressure of Valentine's Day and do not change yourself just to impress your significant other. Then he or she will not expect so much after Valentine's Day.

Internet Do's and Don'ts

It's not as private as you think it is...

Monica Castellanos
Feature Editor

You might want to think twice about posting that questionable picture on your Facebook. More and more parents, cops, college recruiters, employers, and other authority figures are looking to Facebook, MySpace, and other social networking sites to see what people are up to in their once-private internet lives.

Juniors and seniors especially should be wary of their online personas. During the college application process, admissions officers, teachers writing letters of recommendation, and potential employers sometimes turn to personal websites to judge character. Once in college, the admissions staff, professor, employers, and residential advisors also peek at Facebooks to see what people are up to. If you get in to trouble, even campus judicial board and campus and local police look for discriminating evidence to use in a trial.

Kaplan conducted a survey last year by telephoning 320 admissions officers from the top 500 schools between July and August 2008 as part of their fifth annual college admissions officers survey. They concluded that 10% of admissions officers have visited an applicant's social networking web site, with 25% of them saying the sites were beneficial for the applicant but 38% saying the sites were detrimental for the applicant.

The admissions officers at 9% of business schools, 14% of medical schools, and 15% of law schools said they used websites like Facebook and MySpace to aide them in the admissions process.

The University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth's center for Marketing Research reported in a survey in 2007 that 21% of universities sometimes look at students' social networking sites while 26% turn to search engines like Google to research the students.

Remember that while it is illegal for other people to demand information on your disabilities, religion, ethnicity, and other information, it is not illegal for them to simply go to your MySpace and find out for themselves. And if the numbers above make you wary about the content of your own website, use these tips



Kingwood entrance sign, or lack thereof

Anna Hojnacki
Reporter

What costs \$750,000 and has the aesthetic appeal of a Kindergarten project? I will give you a hint, it sits at the front of Kingwood, but cannot say the word 'Kingwood'. Still cannot figure it out? It's the brand new Kingwood entrance sign that was approved by the Kingwood Service Association Parks Committee.

Kingwood was founded in 1969 and is now one of Harris County's largest master-planned communities. You would think that with this sort of reputation we would get a nicer entrance. A design that was originally meant to emphasize and beautify our city, can barely be seen from the highway! Furthermore, Texas Department of Transportation forbids the use of the word 'Kingwood' on the brick wall bordering Loop 494, because this is considered advertising.

Summerwood, although developer owned, has a fountain at its entrance, but a long established, influential city only gets the visual equivalent of a used cigarette butt. The Woodlands has mul-

tiple entrances, all with designs worthy of the town, while Kingwood has an undersized silo surrounded by a drained lake.

What can the concerned citizens of Kingwood do? Surprisingly, not much. The entrance sign has been built, and a select few were surveyed with regard to the designs and layout. Next time, we need to speak out about the construction that is being done in our city. We have been around for forty years, so we deserve a say, too!



Photo by Anna Hojnacki

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The Kingwood Courier is the student newspaper published by the advanced Journalism-Newspaper class at Kingwood High School. Letters or comments are welcome and encouraged, but they must be signed. The Kingwood Courier is a member of the University Interscholastic League and the American Scholastic Press Association.

The articles herein are the individual views of the authors. These views may not necessarily be shared by The Kingwood Courier staff and its advertisers, or the teachers, administrators and students of the Humble Independent School District. All advertisements are paid for by individual businesses in the surrounding community.

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RUN THE BASICS

Spencer Williams
Reporter

In the world of sports, baseball is said to be America's greatest past-time and one of the greatest games ever played. It is known for its unforgettable plays and its heart pounding suspense. Kingwood baseball is no exception.

For the sophomores, the first practice began on Friday January 30, and the first game was held at home on Tuesday February 24. Throughout the whole season the fighting Mustangs will play 24 games in the season including 11 non district games and will have 13 district games.

"We have been working our butts off for the start of the season, we want to look great and if we are going to do this we will have a lot to do still." Freshman Jordan Andrepont said.

The Kingwood coaching staff is filled with experienced coaches and includes veteran coaches Kelly Mead and Dennis



Whitmer.

"The coaching staff has really helped in giving me tips and pointers in how to adjust to fast pace innings and plays," Freshman Robert Blalock said

Coach Whitmer is the coach of Kingwood's sophomore baseball team and has been here for 4 years. Last season he led his team to a 15-4 and 1 record with a 9 and 2 record in district.

The new sophomore team has been practicing hard in hopes that they can win district and up hold the tradition of excellence in Kingwood baseball.



The Kingwood Boys Baseball team stretches before practice. Photos by Spencer Williams

Playing with the girls

Sam Mendez
Reporter

Coach Hendrix coaches softball which started this month. The softball teams won their first game against Pasadena. The team seems to be confident and excited for the Season.

"I cannot wait for the season, I think we will be improved our game since last year." Sophomore Jordan Jezek on JV said These students are dedicated to their team.

"I would do anything for this team i have such a great time although it may be tiring a times." Said Sophomore Annie Nelson

For most of these players this sport is what they love to do and it will be what they remember of their high school years.

"I love playing softball it is just a shame that there isn't much to look forward to since you can't go pro; but I think I will always remember High School softball." said JV first base player Sophomore Jenna Pullen

The team usually has practice every-day after school until five, other than on game days. They ordinarily have games

on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays.

Varsity had their first tournament on the twentieth with many to come; see their site on the KHS website for their schedule.

The varsity team's next home game is scheduled for Friday March 13th at 6:30pm, and JV is scheduled at 5:00pm on March 13th against MacArthur.

Varsity softball player, April Jones, sends the ball flying. Photo by Sam Mendez



Kicking it with Amanda Essay

Spencer Williams
Reporter

Q: How did you get into sports in the first place?

Essay: "My parents put me in different sports when I was younger to see if I liked any of them."

Q: Other than soccer, what sports do you play?

Essay: "I also play volleyball."

Q: What position in soccer do you play? Which is your favorite to play?

Essay: "I like attacking and playing mid-field."

Q: What college do you want to go to? Does your decision have to do with playing a sport there?

Essay: "I plan to play soccer at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee."

Q: What is your favorite part of playing a sport or sports in general?

Essay: "I enjoy being part of a team and making new friends."

Q: How does playing a varsity sport affect your school work and your social life?

Essay: "I still manage to get my homework done and I spend as much time with my friends as I can."

Q: How do you think the soccer team will do this year?

Essay: "Hopefully, we will make it to State."

Q: What is some advice for someone who might want to go out for the team?

Essay: "It is a lot of work, so be prepared."

Q: What is your most memorable moment while playing soccer or another sport?

Essay: "This year's most memorable moment was beating Clear Lake in a shoot-out."

Q: How has Kingwood High School and the coaching staff affected not only your school career, but your sports career?

Essay: "The coaches at Kingwood are great, and I love them. They make playing soccer fun, and they know what it takes to win."



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