

Mustangs Take On the Wildcats

Brittney Martin
Editor-in-chief

Though ultimately losing the game, the Kingwood Mustangs fought admirably against the Humble Wildcats last Friday.

"We were really proud of the team's effort and positive attitude throughout the game," Coach McDougald said.

This week during practice, coaches worked to correct the mistakes that were made. They say that the team improves more and more every week.

"Some players played better in this game than they ever have before. We played a good game," McDougald said.

The next three games will prove to be the most important. If Kingwood wins two out of the next three games, they will qualify for the state playoffs. If they win six games in the playoffs, they will make it to the state championship. Five teams have won the district championship since KHS' opening in 1979, and nine teams have made it to the playoffs.

"The game was good even though the end was disappointing, still, it is always nice to see some Mustang spirit!" senior Hannah Babich said.

The KHS Military Marching band and national champions, the Fillies, display their talents during half time every home game during the football season.

"This year is really good because there is so much more school spirit with all four grades. I really like going to

football games and seeing my sister in the band," senior Kate Stewart said.



Some players cheer for their team on the side of the field.



The Fillies perform during half time.



The team runs through the banner at the beginning of the second half.



Humble and Kingwood face off in the last few minutes before the end of the game.



The KHS Military Marching band lines up before their performance.

NHS Leadership Seminar

Kelsey Spinnato
Copy Editor

The National Honor Society held their fall Leadership Seminar on Saturday, October 18 from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. It was open to any students in Kingwood High School, whether they were current NHS members or prospective ones.

Attendees went to five different sessions. Two of those sessions were games involving the use of leadership skills, such as the human knot and a game using legos to strengthen communication and teamwork skills.

"I planned these activities to cater to the different learning styles of the participants, so that everyone could get something out of it," senior Emily Zinsitz said.

The other three were more discussion oriented, teaching students how to become more of a leader. In one, several quotes were posted around the room and students choose and discussed their favorite one. In another, they role played different kinds of leaders (i.e: self absorbed leader, overly friendly leader, and accusatory leader).

"I thought the officers did a really great job planning the activities and that the whole event was well organized," senior Sharon Mika said.

After registering and paying for their pizza for lunch, students listened to Linda Copeland speak on the idea of FOCUS, ways to act like a leader.

"I enjoyed the seminar," senior Lisa Malkamaki said. "It went by quickly for five hours."

Each of the officers ran one of the sessions, but the entire seminar was planned by Leadership Vice President Emily Zinsitz, a senior. She spent weeks preparing and organizing everything for each session and the speaker.

"I thought that everything went really well," Zinsitz said. "The other officers truly helped to make it go smoothly. I'm very pleased."

NHS will host another Leadership Seminar in the spring, on March 28. It will once again be open to all students at Kingwood High School.



Students work together to escape the "human knot".

New Program; AVID

Kingwood High School has just introduced a new program into their already-packed curriculum. AVID, Advancement Via Independent Determination, is the new tutorial class offered sixth and seventh period. Laura Ortiz is the teacher for the class, currently available to freshmen and sophomores.

"Teachers nominate students who are in all level classes," Ortiz said, "They are students who can handle at least one Advanced Placement course, with support."

The teachers at Creekwood and Riverwood Middle Schools recommend students with potential to succeed in a higher level thinking environment.

"It's really about thinking in a different way," Ortiz said, "Students need to make connections with their previous learning. It's all about delving deeper into the information."

Students are taught organizational skills that will help them all the way through college.

"AVID's kind of like a gifted and talented class," Ortiz said, "We teach the students Cornell Notes and every participant must carry a three-inch binder to stay organized."

Tutors help supplement the class, and study-buddies are implemented. Anyone with a similar schedule is placed in a group, and tabs are kept on upcoming tests and quizzes.

"Students bring their questions to

the tutors," Ortiz said, "We encourage high level questions that allow the kids to question each other. That's how they learn, it's called the Inquiry Process."

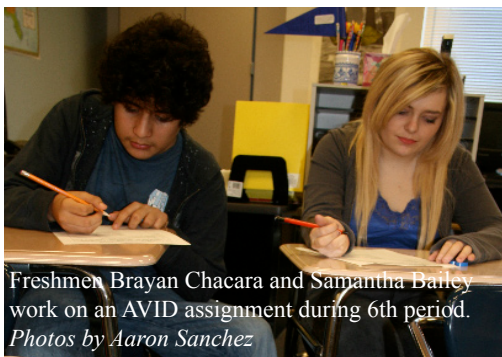
AVID is currently available for local credit only. In the coming years Mrs. Ortiz hopes that it can be taken for both speech and health credits.

"I don't want any stigma attached to AVID," Ortiz said, "Hopefully it'll be worth state-wide credit next year. That will encourage more students to join."

Mrs. Ortiz has seen the statistics

AVID offers. Ninety-six to ninety-eight percent of high school students enrolled in AVID continue on to a four year college."

"I saw a video on the new program and immediately thought, 'this is for me, I love to encourage kids to succeed,'" Ortiz said.



Freshmen Brayan Chacara and Samantha Bailey work on an AVID assignment during 6th period.
Photos by Aaron Sanchez



AVID students work in groups on Costa's levels of questions. The students try to use higher level thinking in their tutoring sessions

Hurrication

In light of Hurricane Ike, there is a new word floating around Kingwood, "Hurrication," a combination of the words "hurricane" and "vacation", referring to the two week break from school. 100 students in A and B lunch were asked how they spent their break.

24%
Evacuated before the storm

25%
Left town after the storm

51%
Stayed in Kingwood

Those who stayed in Kingwood entertained themselves in many ways, including playing guitar hero, board games, and spending time outside. Many charged up battery powered electronics before the storm in preparation for the lack of power. Others traded in their gas guzzling cars for their bicycles and Razor scooters. The heat of the first week sent students outside to meet neighbors for the first time and inspired some to lend a helping hand.

Volunteering after Ike

The week after Hurricane Ike, a great deal of time and effort was needed in order to restore Kingwood to normalcy. Throughout the community, many stepped up to the plate and out of their comfort zones in order to help others around them.

The National Honor Society recognized the need for help around Kingwood, and joined up with Strawbridge United Methodist Church to clean up yards for those people who were unable to do so themselves.

"It was pretty cool cleaning up random people's houses," vice president and senior Nick Panzarella said. "We attacked disheveled yards with unfathomable intensity and left their residents shocked and

vaguely pleased with humanity."

Approximately forty NHS members showed up on Monday, September 22 to rake leaves and clear away branches from houses whose residents needed assistance. The members split off into several smaller teams, each working on a different house around Kingwood. Each team worked on approximately two to three houses in the few hours that they worked.

"I really loved getting to help out like this," senior Amy Pavel said. "I got to help out the community with a lot of my friends. It just goes to show that service doesn't have to be boring."

Record numbers of people also showed up to volunteer at the FEMA pod at the Humble Civic

Center. Cars lined up for nearly a mile in order to receive post-hurricane provisions such as ice, bottled water, and meals-ready-to-eat, or MREs.



"I volunteer at HAAM a lot, and so we went as a team to go work at the FEMA pod one day," senior Elizabeth Christiansen said. "I think that after Hurricane Katrina, everyone is just really willing to help out to get everything back to normal."

So many volunteers showed up, in fact, that many were left waiting for an hour or more while they waited for a new shift to begin. Volunteers opened up cases of MREs, sorted them into categories, and then distributed them to the families waiting in cars.



Congratulations Homecoming Court 2008

**Senior King and Queen
Scott Meara and Caitlin Saunders**



**Junior Prince and Princess
Kyle Whalen and CC Coyle**

**Sophomore Prince and Princess
Dylan Henderson and Ellen Chancellor**

**Freshman Prince and Princess
Rhett Garcia and Melanie McQueen**

A Night At Sea

Brittany Milam
Reporter

“A Night at Sea” was the theme for the homecoming dance which took place at the Humble civic center on Saturday, October 11.

The entire evening was executed smoothly with the bustling overflow of students and their dates rushing in to the civic center.

“Homecoming was such a blast, its so great to see everyone have such school spirit!” junior Sydney Ware said.

As always, there were an unlimited amount of songs, laughs and pictures taken. If your legs were not sore by

the end of the night, you had not taken advantage of “A night at sea”.

“The theme was awesome, I really liked the look and style,” junior Alison Moss said.

Another advantage of the dance is that friends who do not typically get to see each other during the school day because of differences in schedules can catch up.

“It was well decorated and a lot of fun. I saw my friends that I do not get to see often and really had a good time,” junior Kristen Gilchrist said.

Along with an innovative theme

and student attendance, music selection is an important aspect of this dance.

If the D.J does not cater to the tastes of the students, the whole dance goes down on the rating scale.

Crowd favorites at the dance included everything from the popular 90’s tune “Barbie Girl” by Aqua, to “Dragostea din tei” by Romanian pop group O-Zone, but more popularly known as “Numa Numa” to “Get Silly” by Soulja Boy.

“I loved how they didn’t play Soulja Boy’s ‘Crank Dat’,” senior

Lucy Webb said. “I was really glad. That song is usually so overplayed at school dances.”

Even good dances must come to an end, however, and ours was no exception. The dance ended at eleven and everyone was on their way to do other things.

Many students left the dance to participate in movie nights and other such activities.

Overall the homecoming went as planned; full of stories and memories that could not have been made any other way than at homecoming ‘08.



Juniors Nakita Campbell and Hadleigh Hollingsworth jam out to the tunes at the dance.



The ballroom at the Civic Center was packed with dancing students on the evening of October 11.



Junior Cameron Purgahn shows off his moves in the center of a circle of fellow juniors.

Treats and Sweets

Veronica Martinez
Reporter

You will scream for these adorably scary Halloween-themed foods. Too busy to make a big gourmet feast for your costume party? Well, you are in luck because these are easy to make and are sure to satisfy your sweet tooth. These Halloween treats are to die for!

Frankenstein Cupcake

Ingredients: two dozen cupcakes, 3.4 ounce box of vanilla instant pudding, green food coloring, one cup of green melting candy, twenty four large marshmallows, skewers, waxed baking sheet, mini M&M’s, small knife, chocolate frosting, black edible gel, 48 green Tic Tac mints

1. Make or buy two dozen cupcakes.
2. Prepare the box of pudding and stir in a few drops of green food coloring until it becomes a nice shade.
3. Place into the refrigerator and chill.
4. Microwave the green melting candy for one minute at half power and stir.
5. Spear the marshmallows one at a time with a skewer and roll them in the candy, cooling the sides.
6. Set them on the baking sheet and

add the M&M’s for eyes, and chill again.

7. With the small knife, remove a one inch wide chunk from every cupcake’s center and fill the hole with a tablespoon of pudding.
8. Spread chocolate frosting around each hole.
9. Cover the hole with a chilled marshmallow and decorate it with black gel facial features and Tic Tacs for bolts.
10. Top each monster head with frosting for hair and keep chilled until serving time.

“Poisoned” Apple Punch

Ingredients: one gallon of apple cider, five half cup containers, red and green food coloring, fifteen gummy worms, punch bowl

1. Pour the apple cider into the five small dishes, leaving each a half-inch empty.
2. Add two drops of red and one drop of green food coloring to each dish and stir until blended.
3. Hang three gummy worms around the edges of the dishes and place them in the freezer. If you decide to use more than three, the ‘poisoned

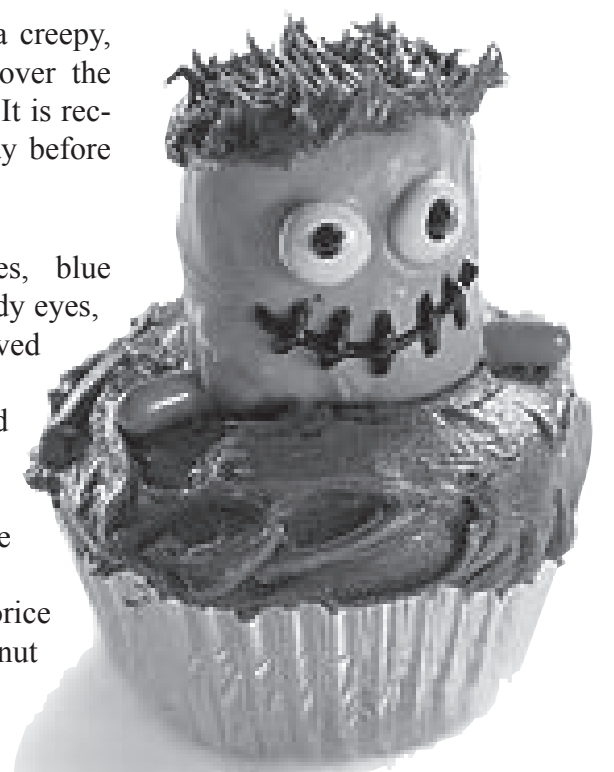
apples’ will not float.

4. Freeze until the ‘apples’ are solid.
5. Right before you serve the punch, slip the frozen wormy apples out of the dishes by submerging them briefly in a few inches of warm water in your sink.
6. Float the rotten apples in a large punch bowl filled with untinted cider.
7. To make the punch extra creepy, drape the gummy worms over the edges of the serving bowl. It is recommended to freeze the day before serving the punch.

Mini Monster Cupcakes

Ingredients: mini cupcakes, blue frosting, icing bag, two candy eyes, red licorice, one halved shelled peanuts

1. Unwrap the cupcake and flip it upside down.
2. With a writing or star tip on the icing bag, frost the cupcake from the top down.
3. Then add the eyes, licorice for the antennae, and peanut halves.



OBAMA OR MCCAIN..WHO'S NEXT?

Kimberly Kurtz
Op/Ed Editor



Sarah Palin. The name has become so familiar to the ears of many Americans, yet she remains the most unknown vice presidential pick in modern political history. Republicans define her as a hard-working and determined woman who will help convey the change that America wants to see, while Democrats argue that she has more experience catching fish than dealing with national affairs and foreign policy, also adding the she has never spent a single day in D.C. While both may be true, Americans are still looking for the facts about Sarah Palin that could win her the vice presidency.

"I know that Sarah Palin is a governor with a kid, and my mom says that she's really pretty, but that's all I've got," senior Keri Callegari said.

Sarah Palin was born in Idaho, but when she was still an infant her parents moved to Alaska to teach. In high

school, she was head of the school's Fellowship of Christian Athletes as well as the captain of the basketball team. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in communications-journalism from the University of Idaho and also placed second in a Miss Alaska beauty pageant. She is a fan of moose burgers and has five children - one with Down syndrome - named Track, Bristol, Willow, Piper, and Trig.

Despite being three years younger than Senator Barack Obama and an entire generation younger than the Senator John McCain, she has made accomplishments the Republican Party praises. Before becoming mayor, she served two terms on the Wasilla, Alaska city council. She is the president of the Alaska Conference of Mayors, holds a strong anti-abortion stance, and opposes gay marriage - but exercised a veto that granted benefits to gay state employees and their partners. Her biggest accomplishment, other than being the youngest person and first woman to be governor of Alaska, is that she is now the first female running mate.

"If there's one change that I'm expecting to see after this election, it would have to be no more Little Bush episodes on Comedy Central," Callegari said.

Joe Biden, senator of Delaware, is no stranger to the American public. He has run for presidency twice, passed multiple acts, and has had one of the biggest influences on Delaware, as well as on America. He graduated high school from St. Helena's School and Archmere Academy, attended University of Delaware, and went to Syracuse

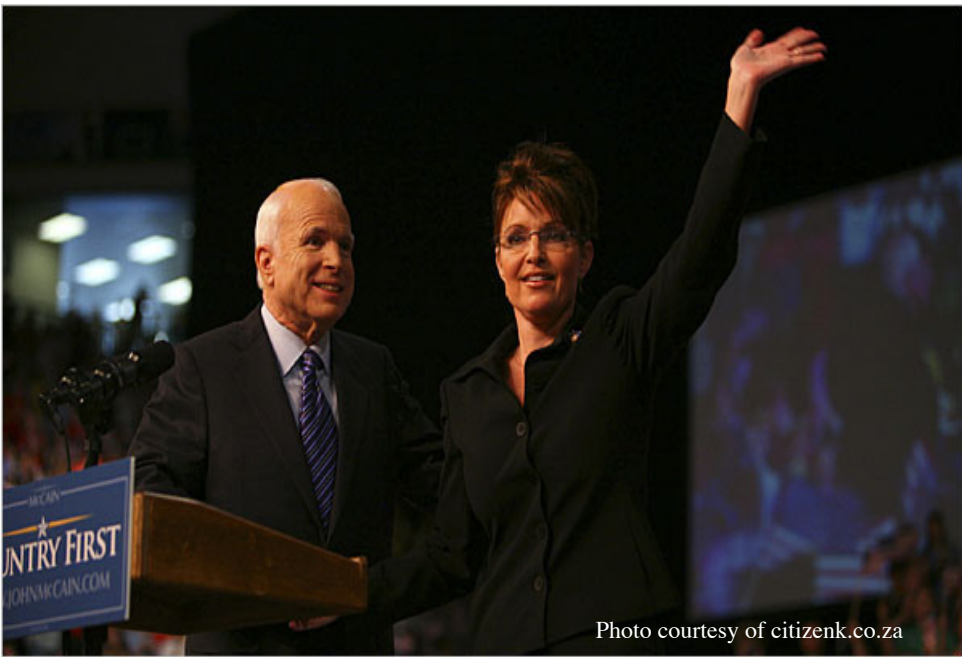


Photo courtesy of citizenk.co.za

University College of Law for three years. He is a husband, father of three, an attorney, a senator, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, a long-standing member and former Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and is co-Chairman of the International Narcotics Control Caucus.

Biden has represented Delaware in the U.S. Senate since he was twenty-nine years old. He is recognized as a leader in foreign policy and has helped preserve White Clay Creek and Delaware's coastline, as well as helping cover the costs of healthcare for children in Delaware and putting more police on the streets in not just Delaware but the entire U.S. He passed the Adam Walsh Act, which helps protect children against predators, the Violence Against Women Act, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, and introduced the College Affordability

and Creating Chances for Educational Success for Students (ACCESS) Act.

In addition to having a long-standing priority to making college more accessible and affordable for students and their families, he is also committed to bringing home our troops without leaving chaos behind in Iraq.

Recently, Biden and Les Gelb have offered a five-point plan on ending the war in Iraq which won by a 75-23 vote.

"It's important for kids our age to get involved with politics. It will help us when we can vote, and then we will be able to make a difference," senior Amanda Wheeler said. "The exciting part about this election is that we will either have our first female vice president, or our first African-American president."

ARE YOU IN FOR A SCREAM?

Kimberly Kurtz
Op/Ed Editor

Imagine walking into a twenty-first century nightmare where the floors twist and tilt, where mental hospitals are losing control, and where killers lurk behind every tree. Watch your step. Everywhere, there is something to be afraid of. Everything is scarier... in the dark.

You have just walked into the Phobia Haunted House, founded in 1995 and found at two locations - off I-45 and off 290. Phobia has eight separate attractions in all. There are two houses found at Phobia45 and six at Phobia290. The houses feature clowns, robots, cyborgs, zombies, chainsaw killers, and mutant animals. Phobia has 250+ employees that include actors, managers, security staff, and support crews.

"Every attraction at Phobia is built to have a high startle and scare factor," Proprietor Phylo Darke said.

Last year, the 3D Clown Phobia house was voted the best haunted house in the country by Rate the Haunt. The year before that, the Darke Institute ranked in the top three in the U.S. by



Rating: 4 out of 5
blood-curdling screams

Rate the Haunt. Phobia was also voted Best Haunted Houses in Houston by the Houston Chronicle and Houston Press.

"We are rarely disappointed with our show, and our customers reinforce that concept," Darke said.

Of course, ideas, houses, and themes can be executed. If it is bad, it is eliminated, whether the entire theme was disappointing or simply a poorly designed prop. Phobia is a year-round business, although it is only open to the public 75 hours out of the year.

"Only being open 75 hours out of the year requires intense planning, design, and implementation," said Darke. "We constantly redesign our show. Every year we rebuild, revamp, expand, and improve. We have a one week clean-up period after Halloween, and we start building again the second week of November for the next season."

Also, there are no bats, witches, pumpkins, or anything of that sort, so it is actually scary! What are you afraid of, anyway?

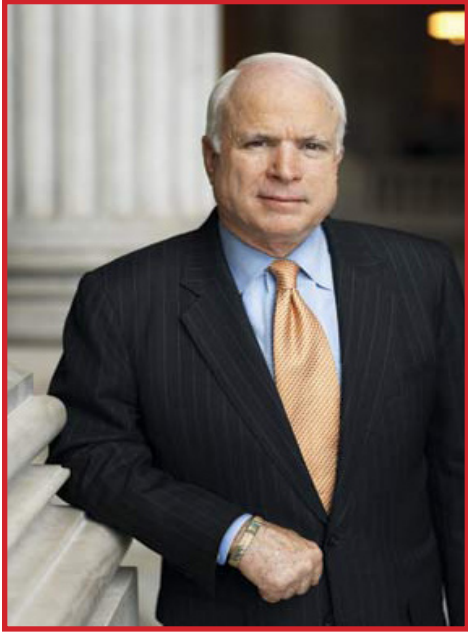


Photo courtesy of nationalpopularvote.com



In the electoral college, each state receives one vote per member in the Senate and House of Representatives. This map shows how many electoral votes each state receives.

the electoral process

Nick Doremus
Entertainment Editor

Most Americans understand the basics of presidential elections: they happen every four years, usually contested between Democratic and Republican candidates, and the American people have a say in who runs the country. However, many Americans, including a vast amount of new voters, are uninformed when it comes to the details of the election process. How much say does the public have in the election? What is an electoral vote, and how much influence does it have in respect to the outcome of the election? Additionally, how many Americans choose not to vote in an election or are uninformed in the aforementioned questions?

“I have to admit, I know nothing about the election process,” senior Brittany Abbott said. “I am not going to vote because I don’t like McCain or Obama, and I don’t think that I can actually make difference. What does it matter?”

The requirements to be an eligible presidential candidate are as follows: you must be at least 35 years of age, a natural-born citizen of the United States, and a resident of the United States for at least 14 years.

Many people want to be president and have different views on how the government should be run. Each party has several candidates vying for the presidency. That is why there are primary elections for the Democratic and Republican parties: to narrow the choices down to usually two main candidates. The prospective candidates begin raising money and support at least a year in advance. In the primary election, the delegates vote for their favorite candidate. It is usual for

delegates to cast their votes numerous times.

After winning the primary election of their respective parties, the candidates campaign around the country. In due time, the candidates will decide upon a running-mate, who will become the vice president if they win the election. In November of this year, the people will vote for their favorite candidate: either John McCain or Barack Obama. This is known as the popular vote.

Then the attention shifts to the electoral college system, where each state gets a certain amount of electors based on their representations in Congress. In December, when the electoral votes are tabulated, the candidate who receives over 270 electoral votes wins the election.

Two weeks later, the new president and vice president take their oath of office and are inaugurated.

“Not being an informed citizen and voter will force one to choose based simply on who one prefers or whose campaign sounds more to your liking, not considering the economic and social consequences of voting for each candidate,” senior Callie McDermott said.

Some students, however, do not care about the election.

“Im not 18 yet, so voting is out of the question for me,” senior Shannon Larson said. “I don’t really care about how the election turns out.”

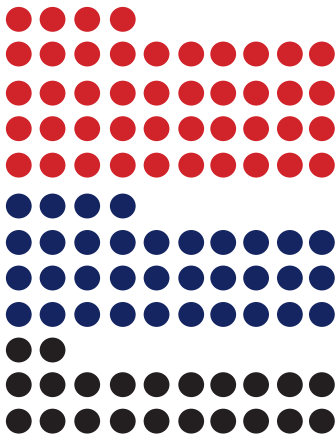
The presidential election brings out the diverse views within our nation. These views make America more democratic and free.

election

’08

100 students were polled during B lunch to find out who Kingwood High School would vote for in the upcoming election.

McCain 44%
Obama 34%
Undecided 22%



health care

Anna Hojnacki
Reporter

One of the most talked-about topics of the election this year is how the candidates will deal with the critical issue of health care. Each candidate has a different viewpoint and opposing plans for the country.

Barack Obama, the democratic candidate, is proposing a ‘National Plan’. His health insurance idea covers all children up to the age of twenty-five on their parents’ plan.

Obama hopes to provide insurance for individuals who are not enrolled with employer-provided companies, and do not qualify for existing programs. The ‘National Plan’ states that if an employer does not offer health insurance benefits for its employees then a percentage of its payroll must go towards the national fund. His plan does not mandate that one must have individual coverage and also allows the individual to chose between his ‘National Plan’ and private coverage.

The new insurance idea expands eligibility for Medicaid and States’ Children’s Health Insurance Program, so more people will be able to apply for insurance. The amount one pays is based on that person’s income.

Obama also wants to eliminate Bush’s tax cuts for those earning over \$250,000 to fund the fifty to sixty-five billion dollar plan. The Senator will allow states to experiment with different health care plans, as long as they meet the minimum requirements.

Obama wants to dedicate ten billion dollars a year for the next five years, to convert all medical records to the computer, so they can be sent easily from doctor to doctor.

Joe Biden supports Obama’s idea for a ‘National Plan’ and also advocates bringing health care costs under control. The vice presidential candidate wants to expand the Chil-

dren’s Health Insurance Program and increase the funding for biomedical research.

John McCain opposes federally mandated universal coverage. He believes that competition between companies will improve the quality of health insurance. McCain said that “through safe re-importation of drugs and faster production of generic drugs,” he would foster greater competition in the drug markets.

He believes that families should be able to purchase insurance nationwide and that their policies should follow them job to job. McCain would like to offer choices of insurance companies beyond employer-based ones. Senator McCain wants to work individually with each state to produce a “best practice model.”

The Children’s Health Insurance program would be promoted, and people would be urged to take advantage of the offers.

McCain promotes rapid deployment of twenty-first century information systems that allow doctors to practice across state lines.

“[I’d like to] pass medical liability reforms that eliminate lawsuits directed at doctors who follow clinical guidelines and adhere to safety protocols,” McCain said.

McCain also cosponsored the Combating Autism Act of 2006.

McCain’s running mate, Sarah Palin, supports competition in health care through flexible government regulations.

“[Competition is] needed and... proven to be good for the consumer,” Palin said.

Palin also believes that competition will alleviate health care costs and reduce the need for government subsidies. She also advocates a patients right to full medical billing information.

education

Spencer Williams
Reporter

In this year’s presidential election, there have been many differing opinions, and many issues that have been debated. One of the most important issues is education. Both of the candidates believe that going through life uneducated is unacceptable and should not be allowed to happen in this great country.

Obama said that The No Child Left Behind Law is a well-intentioned attempt to erase long-standing achievement gaps between white and minority students.

Both candidates have different laws they support and different ideas they believe in. The law referring to education today is the No Child Left Behind Law. This is one of the many issues that Obama does not believe in.

“We have an obligation and a responsibility to be investing in our students and our schools,” Obama said. “We must make sure that people who have the grades, the desire and the will, but not the money, can still

get the best education possible.” Obama believes more in the quality and accessibility of education, he believes in making school affordable for everyone, in making sure that every teacher is qualified to teach, and in increasing all teachers pay. He also believes in the “Zero to Five Plan”. This plan will provide critical support to young children and their parents. It emphasizes on early care and education for infants and young children.

On the other hand, John McCain, while still worried about the quality of schools, is arguing that the schools should choose what they teach. However, he believes that the parents and students should decide whether they attend a public school or private school.

“I want schools to answer to parents and students.” McCain said.

Later in his speech, McCain said that he wants the school system to decide what they will teach. He wants education to be equal, affordable and easily attainable to every American citizen out

there no matter what the circumstances



are. This shows that he knows what he is talking about, but it is not his best subject to talk about.

Overall, in the debate over education, Obama seemed to come up with more answers to today’s questions about education than McCain did. Each of them prove some good points on this subject, but neither came up with anything new. For example, Both candidates seemed to basically build their answers off of what each other said.

So far there is no apparent victor. But this issue of education in America is one of the biggest issues in the debate, and it will probably be one of the big deciding factors in who the people will choose as the next president.

Monica Castellanos
Feature Editor

energy independence, it would be worthy of our consideration, regardless of the risks.”

Thirty-nine states are predicted to experience a water shortage in ten years. Obama wants to develop a national plan to aid populated areas with their water resources.

“First, prices and policies must be set in ways that give everyone a clear incentive to use water efficiently and avoid waste,” Senator Obama said. “Second, information, training, and in some cases, economic assistance should be provided to farms and businesses that will need to shift to more efficient water practices.”

McCain advocates renegotiating the Colorado River Compact since populations affected by this pact have changed radically since it was passed in 1922. McCain told supporters in Colorado

“Hello, I’m John McCain. I’m from Arizona and I’m here to take your water.”

environmental issues

The welfare of our planet will be a big issue in the upcoming presidential election. While both Barack Obama and John McCain believe that humans have affected global warming, each candidate has a different plan on how to deal with pollution, water shortages, and more.

“I am among those senators who believe that carbon from human activities contributes to climate change, that it is an immediate threat, and that we must immediately require emission reductions through a strong cap-and-trade system,” Obama told the Senate.

McCain introduced the Climate Stewardship Act in the Senate in 2003, proposing an energy solution called The Lexington Project. He recognizes that the U.S. benefited from oil- and gas-using industries. However, he also recognizes the cons.

“There were costs we weren’t counting, and often hardly noticed. And these terrible costs have added up now - in the atmosphere, in the oceans, and all across the natural world,” McCain said.

Obama wants to invest \$150 billion in the next ten years to develop alternative energy sources. His cap-and-trade system will limit carbon emissions, which he hopes to reduce to eighty percent below the 1990 levels by the year 2050. He plans to charge carbon credits to companies that pollute more than they are allowed and sell them in a government auction.

McCain agrees with the cap-and-trade system and carbon credits but believes the credits should be free. He wants to reward owners of zero-emission cars with a \$5,000 tax credit and give \$300 million to the winner of a competition to develop a battery for plug-in hybrids and electric cars. His goal is to reduce carbon emission to sixty percent below 1990 levels.

Though not stating a clear stance on

renewable energy, McCain believes ethanol should be used as a biofuel, but the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency needs to produce less. Obama plans to shift corn ethanol production to cellulose-based sources that will not affect feed prices like ethanol does. Obama also supports corn ethanol and told farmers in his home state of Illinois that he advocates federal mandates that will make yearly nine billion gallons of it for fuel.

McCain favors drilling submerged federal land away from U.S. shores in the Outer Continental Shelf, so that the U.S. learns to rely less on foreign oil and gas prices go down.

“Drill, baby, drill,” McCain said. “We must drill offshore.”

Obama flip-flopped his stance on U.S. drilling. After being completely opposed to it, he now believes that if “offshore drilling would provide short-term relief at the pump or a long-term strategy for



economy

Brooke Ley
Reporter

Americans wish for lower gas prices in 2009, as well paying lower taxes. Most think it would be a good idea to cut the spending budget on the war, and use it for different issues. Each candidate holds different opinions.

“McCain pledged to help Americans who struggle to buy groceries, fill up their gas tank and make their mortgage payments,” Republican Rich Newman said.

His goals include limiting government spending and increasing jobs so more people have the opportunity to work and earn money. He strives to give the dollar bill more purchasing power so its higher value can be used to buy more. McCain proposes to create more nuclear power plants, and also more offshore natural gas drilling. A greater amount of natural gas drilling would decrease the sky high gas prices. That process could take up to more than a decade, however.

“Presidential candidate Barack Obama’s mantra for change in economic policies amounts to this: a huge increase in redistribution of income at the hands of the federal government,” Edgar Browning said.

Obama plans to provide a rebate of a thousand dollars to families in case of an emergency, as well as ensuring fifty million dollars to jumpstart the economy and prevent career loss among workers.

“One might think we do very little to help the poor and disadvantaged,” Democrat Edgar Browning said, but Obama actually has been working diligently to lower taxes for working families.

A lot has happened within the economy in the past eight years, and a lot of change will take place whether McCain or Obama wins the presidential election.



So you think you can dance

Kelsey Spinnato
Copy Editor

Flashing lights, loud music, thirteen dancers, excited screams, numerous rounds of applause, and cries of “Joshua, marry me!” characterized the “So You Think You Can Dance” show at Reliant Arena on October 11.

Juniors Carson Roper, Catherine Cunningham, and Laura Felder missed out on Homecoming to attend the Houston stop on the Season Four tour.

“It wasn’t hard at all to choose the tour over Homecoming,” Roper said. “I don’t really like school dances. Plus, I was really looking forward to the show.”

The tour featured the top ten dancers from the past season plus a few alternates. They danced favorite routines from the television show to popular music such as “No

Air” by Jordan Sparks and Chris Brown and “Dreaming with a Broken Heart” by John Mayer.

“They didn’t do my favorite dance,” Roper said. “The one where Katee and Joshua dance to ‘Hometown Glory’ by Adele.”

The show, set up like American Idol, did not focus on just one genre of dance. They danced everything from Crump and Hip Hop to the Viennese Waltz and Foxtrot. They even danced styles from around the world, including Trepak and Bollywood.

“I really liked Chelsie and Joshua’s Argentinean Tango,” Roper said.

As filler between routines, so the dancers could change, the others provided scripted entertainment of obvious, clichéd lines. At one point, Gev, one of the dancers,



Top: Viennese Waltz by Kherington and Twitch. Bottom: Final dance to “You Can’t Stop The Beat.” Photos by Kelsey Spinnato

Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist

Chelsea Williams
Sports Editor

The previews indicated a great musical adventure about love and getting over past heartaches, but the movie did not exactly live up to the expectations. The plot was as expected, a girl and a boy meet and fall n love in one chaotic night. The problem was not the story-line. It was the dialogue.

Michael Cera plays Nick, a monotonous bassist who is suffering from the denial over his recent break-up. After seeing his ex-girlfriend

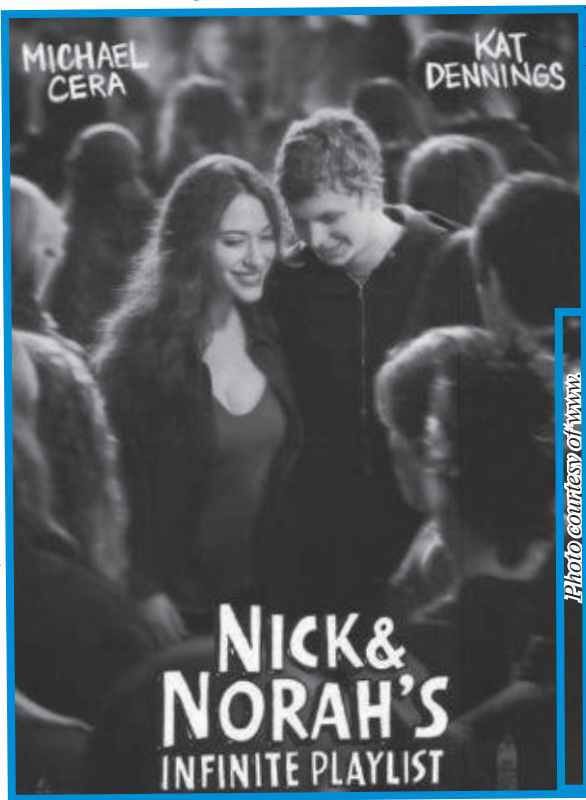


Photo courtesy of Twitter

reluctantly tags along with the lovesick Nick, hoping to help him out of his misery. Nick and Norah panic when Norah’s friend gets loose in the city.

The movie was funny at times but never hilarious. There was no action, and, again, the dialogue was terrible. Those who are expecting to hear a great soundtrack, go see another movie. There were not very many songs, and only a couple of them

were good. But if you really want to see this movie, wait until it comes out on DVD. There’s no point in wasting your paycheck or allowance.

QUARANTINE

Their stories were never told...until now.

Chelsea Williams
Sports Editor

Imagine being trapped in an eerie apartment building with a disease that is turning everyone into rabid animals. How can you escape when the people who are supposed to be saving you are the ones who are trapping you? Quarantine will trap you in a creepy thriller where a news camera is your only hope of broadcasting your story.

Quarantine is made up of an unknown cast, which makes it even better because you are not focusing on one particular person. This movie is about a large group of individuals including two newscasters, three firemen, a police officer, and all the residents of the apartment complex. The newscasters had been doing a story on a group of firemen when the station’s paramedics

were called to an emergency. The newscasters tag along, not knowing they are walking into an unbelievable nightmare.

The movie was filmed much like the Blair Witch Project or Cloverfield, only with less jerks



of the camera and headaches. The camera made it impossible to see certain angles, which made Quarantine even scarier because you did not know what was around the corner.

Over all, Quarantine will make you jump, but the movie will not necessarily make you scream. It is the right amount of scary, but it does have its gruesome parts.

Remedy Drive

Kelsey Spinnato
Copy Editor

Remedy Drive, a four brother Christian rock band, released their debut album entitled “Daylight is Coming” on August 26.

The band, influenced by artists such as Weezer, Cold Play, Radiohead, Reliant K, and the Killers; wrote their own clean lyrics for this album to a modern sound. The lyrics mean something, instead of being just a bunch of screaming. They urge all to search for something more.

The album has a bit of something for everyone. Any fan of Christian music will appreciate Remedy

Drive for their content, but any fan of rock music will enjoy the sound and musicality. There are songs perfect for singing along with in the car, but there are also songs that make one get up and dance.

The upbeat tempo makes each song something new to listen to, and their sound is similar to a more mellow Switch-foot. Some of the tracks have a slower rhythm, however, and are wonderful to listen to while relaxing.

“Daylight is Coming” deserves to be recommended to everyone.



Photos by: Kelsey Spinnato

Chuy's Mexican Dining

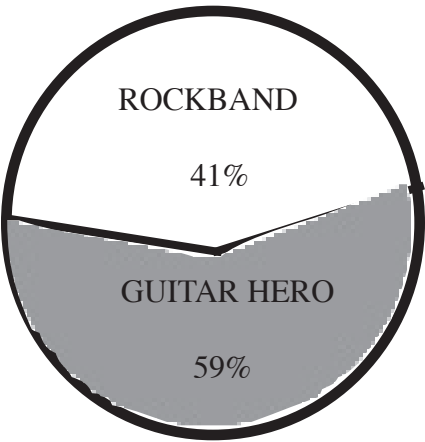
Anna Hojnacki
Reporter

Bring a lot of patience when dining at Chuy's Mexican Restaurant. At Humble's new feature everyone is stopping by for a taste, which causes waits up to an hour and a half. The restaurant also offers an “open car” full of chips, salsa and queso every week night from 4-7 pm. Their menu offers all the Tex-Mex favorites; tacos, enchiladas, fajitas, and even

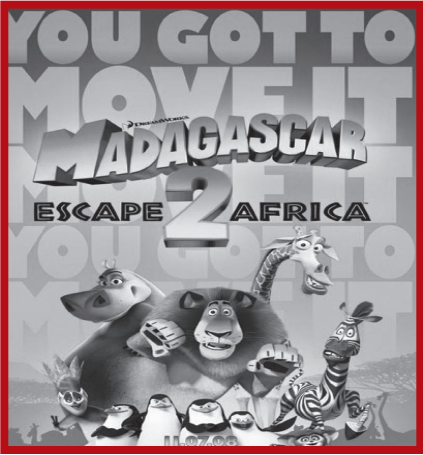
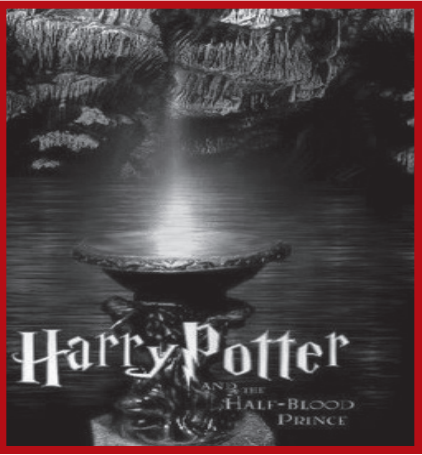
burritos ‘As-Big-As-Yo-Face’. Their house specialties include a “Chuychanga” and “Elvis Green Chile Fried Chicken”. Chuy's also offers a kid's menu that has all the ‘house favorites’ in half portions. The restaurant itself is in the old Smokey Bones building, though it has been fully remodeled. The interior is painted bright primary colors and the walls are covered in eclectic art. The music is played quite loud, and shouting is needed when ordering. The managers have greatly overstaffed, and the waiters need to push through crowds of busboys in order to get to the table. The food and service at Chuy's is okay at best, but the atmosphere and newness are worth the trip.

Rockband VS. Guitar Hero

Our staff polled the students of Kingwood High School, asking which they think is a better game: Rockband or Guitar Hero? 250 students were polled during A, B & C lunch



Movies to Watch for:



Bouncing Off The Walls

Chelsea Williams
Sports Editor



Ouch! Have you noticed the rather large barrier dividing the hall that branches into the house? Honestly, it is kind of hard to miss. I know I have ran into it about a thousand times now! If I am not running into the wall, I am being pushed into it by a large herd of other students. What is the purpose of this awful wall?

I believe this wall was intended to possibly help the hallway traffic, but unfortunately this idea has caved in on us. Not only do we have to worry about dodging other students, but now we have to worry about this ridiculous wall.

True, we have more people in the school now that the freshman are with us, but I still believe traffic in the hall would not be as problematic without the wall.

The dividing wall is not the only wall that is blocking our journey from one class to another. The glass walls that separate the houses are also a big problem of mine. I can not help but feel the need to get to my class, which lies just beyond the glass. It is almost like they, meaning the builders, put the glass walls there just to tempt us.

I leave Kingwood High more frustrated about the school walls than school itself.

However, there are ways to avoid

the crowded halls and dangerous walls. Simply use the back halls and staircases instead of the main hall, and you should have no problems with getting to class on time.

It takes time to get used to a new school, but this is not a matter of just trying to find your classes the first day of school. No, this is going to be a continuous problem. All the halls look the same and there are no signs to indicate which halls are which. So, you turn into the wrong hallway (because lets face it, they all have the same bleak walls), but you don't realize this until you are half-way down this strange new hall.

You freak out because the minute bell rings, and you have to make your way through a maze. It is a race against the bell as you begin to speed up your walk into a stride, then into a run as you see your class. You are so close, but not close enough. The bell rings, and your teacher implements the ritual tardy routine.

There are simply too many walls in this school now, and even the upperclassmen are finding it hard to avoid the barricades and maneuver around the tight corridors. I admit that the school is SO much better than previous years, but I also have twice as many bruises from running into all these walls. Ironic, huh?

Editors Column:

Brittney Martin
Editor-in-chief

Seniors at last

Kristen Webb
Editor-in-chief

Now that school has finally been in session for a few consecutive weeks, senior year has finally begun to sink in for the graduating class of 2009. Although the work load certainly has not let up, the actual work done by the students is definitely declining. Most have already gotten a jump start on their college applications, which means one thing: senioritis.

As seniors, we got our first taste of the long-awaited "senior privileges" several weeks ago when we got to sleep in during sophomore and junior PSATs. For three years now, we've heard the dreaded phrase "Just wait until you're a senior." Finally, it is our time. This year, we finally get to partake in senior picnics, late arrivals and early releases, and, of course, Senior Prom.

As the year drags on, it becomes harder and harder to focus on schoolwork. It is only October, and yet the senioritis bug has infected a great many of the students in the class of '09. After college applications have been completed, the knowledge that we're practically out of high school becomes that much more apparent. Why do work when you're already accepted into college?

Of course, final transcripts are still a huge part of college acceptance, and many colleges will withdraw acceptance if final transcripts do not meet their standards. All the same, senior year represents a great deal of responsibility that has nothing at all to do with homework.

As the new "top dogs" in the school, we are expected to be the leaders for the

underclassmen, to set an example for the rest of the student body. On top of that, many have the responsibilities involved with leading clubs and organizations, extra-curricular activities, and varsity sports. The stress piles on until school becomes more about the activities after 3:00 than the actual learning process itself.

So what do we do about all this? Obviously we cannot just stop working entirely, however tempting it may be. With the senioritis plague pressing ever onward, it becomes still harder to do the work assigned to us. It seems that we have no choice but to press forward with the gleaming prospect of walking across the stage at Reliant Arena on May 30.

In the meantime though, we must take advantage of all the opportunities senior year has to offer. The real world will not offer us the same amenities and privileges of high school, no matter whether we attend college or not. No matter where we choose to go after this, we only get one senior prom, one graduation, and one year where we are the oldest and most responsible in our own sheltered community until we go on to become college seniors.

Despite the lack of motivation, we only have this one year together as seniors of Kingwood High School, so we had better make the best of it. So next time you leave the building, rub the hoof, because you only have one year left.



Photo by Kristen Webb

Jostens sells senior merchandise during all lunches. Senior packets are due today for cap and gown purchases.

Bush: Help or Hindrance

Brooke Ley
Reporter



President Bush places his hand over his heart as the national anthem plays. Photo courtesy of www.arlingtoncemetery.net

Everyone has a memory of where they were when they heard the terrifying news of September 11, 2001. Whether you were at school, work, home or even an airport, it was an eerie day no one will ever forget.

President George W. Bush just happened to be visiting to a class of young kids on that day. While reading the children a story, he was notified of the terrorist attack. With a face filled with fear he continued reading to the children and when he was finished he exited the school, not knowing the huge obstacles ahead of him.

Our current president has been portrayed as the reason we are fighting the war in the Middle East. We never get to hear his accomplishments or the good he has done for our country.

Becoming president in 2000, he helped raise the productivity growth to the largest its ever been in more than

fifty years. Also, in 2003, the year was reported with having the lowest unemployment rate since 2001, with only 5.4% jobless. Not only did he focus his attention on the middle class, but he strived to assist the needy. He announced the plan for AIDS relief which was "a five year, \$15 billion initiative to turn the tide in combating the global HIV/AIDS pandemic", George W. Bush stated. Not even a week after his inauguration, he established the NCLB (No Child Left Behind), which is an educational reform to aid children in need.

Bush's main goal for healthcare was to create an insurance plan that was affordable. With this plan it made insurance available for more small business' and individuals. In aiding the elderly and disabled he and the legislation enabled more "prescription drug coverage available to 40 million senior citizens and people with disabilities through the Medicare health system," says Bush.

Projects done to help our environment were also done in Bush's presidency. He reduced the ratio of greenhouse gas emissions to economic output. He aimed to restore the vitality of forest to decrease chances of devastating wildfires.

Many people have a lot of hatred for President George W. Bush, and the War on Terror. However, there was never a draft for this war, meaning all the soldiers made the choice to serve our country. Between the war and catastrophic hurricanes George W. Bush has had his share of bad luck.

PLAYIN FOR THE CURE

In a gym where spirit is the color blue, pink suddenly dominated the clothing of both the home and away fans. Even the rival players supported the cause with their pink uniforms.

The pink game is Humble ISD's way of supporting the fight against breast cancer. Kingwood showed its support with a concession stand which sold light snacks and shirts for finding the cure.

The night was only made better by the Mustangs' complete domination against the rivaling Atascocita Eagles. The girls destroyed the Eagles in three games, causing an uproar from the pink Kingwood fans.

Although the win was exciting, it was the amazing turn out of supporters that was impressive.



Chelsea Williams
Sports Editor



Photos by Cassidy Gregerson



Christina Curry, 12, focuses on the oncoming serve.



The volleyball team gets pumped up before their game.

Abbey Keister

Kristen Webb
Editor-in-chief

Q: How long have played tennis?

A: I've played for seven years, but I started taking it seriously like five years ago.

Q: Do you play tennis competitively outside of school? How many hours a week do you practice?

A: Yes, I play for about 12-13 hours a week.

Q: What is your favorite sport to watch other than tennis?

A: Either gymnastics or trampoline.

Q: What is your favorite memory from tennis?

A: Definitely winning my first tournament in 8th grade. I got to get my cartilage pierced after that.

Q: Where all have you competed?

A: I have tournaments all over Texas in all the major cities, and I played some tournaments in Argentina while I was a foreign exchange student there.

Q: What would you consider your highest accomplishment?

A: I don't really know what my highest accomplishment would be, but I guess it would be winning district in freshman and sophomore years.

Q: What is the biggest difference between playing tennis here and in Argentina?

A: Where I trained in Argentina, it was just more relaxed. We just played to have fun.



Abbey Keister, 12, prepares for a return hit.
Photo by Brittney Martin

X COUNTRY

Cole Gratz
Reporter

"The course was fast and it felt good outside," junior Zach Woolley said.

Some think cross country is one of the least recognized sports in the school. These athletes need to utilize persistence, strength, and will power to achieve their goals as runners. On October 11, the Cross Country boys went out to run against College Park.

The cross country boys have run in a lot of races and have seen many courses. Some courses Kingwood runs are tough, and others are more comfortable. It is promised that no matter how tough the competition is, our team will be giving

"We improved greatly from our last meet, and accomplished our goals," junior Capers Wilson said.

The boys and girls are improving week in and week out. They have taken large strides to improve their times.

The team takes many precautions outside of their races to perform their best. Before school the team meets at 6:30 in the morning to begin their workout in order to prepare through first period. They have practice most days after school. Tuesdays and Thursdays they run long workouts to prepare them for their next meet on Friday, October 24.



Photo by Sadie Porter



Photo by Kelsey Spinnato