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In the mood for a great waffle? Check out Taste of Belgium

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Hoxworth Blood stops by to collect some donations

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Colonels saddle up for this year's Mom Prom



COVINGTON CATHOLIC TIMES

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Photo by Al Hertsberg

Colonels stand before the Supreme Court in defense of life.

March for Life

By: Sean Kiely

On January 22, 1974, one of the worst laws ever was passed in the United States. On this date, a decision was made in the Supreme Court case, Roe v. Wade, to legalize abortion once and for all. This case decision had wide spread reactions and none more so than the March for Life in Washington D.C.. This event is held annually on January 22, or the closest day to it that is not on a weekend. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people meet at a rally that is held in the National Mall that usually includes a speaker and music. The march starts near the National Archives; the marchers then walk down Constitution Ave., take a right on First Street, and end at the steps of Supreme Court. Many protesters, and Pro-Choice advocates, usually will stand right at the bottom of the steps and chant as the marchers go by.

My experiences on the March for Life have been especially exceptional to me, since I was raised in strictly Pro-Life household and believe in the same ethics. This year was my fifth time attending the march and yet again, I had amazing experience. Of course the sightseeing was remarkable, but the actual march is always so spectacular. It amazes me how many people travel all this distance to show their support against the Roe v. Wade decision.

This year, we were lucky enough to be almost in the front of the march. As we got to the top of Capital Hill, I looked back and saw everyone that was behind. I was astonished how many people there were, there were more people then I have ever seen in my entire life. We kept walking and we finally reached the steps of the Supreme Court and saw the Pro-Choice protesters. Some of the other Cov Cath students that I was with went and joined the group that had assembled around the protesters. We got closer and noticed that it was a big chanting war between the two groups, and of course, being from Cov Cath, we had to join. It was so cool to see how we, CCH kids, united forces with Moeller students and a school in Vermont to out-chant the Pro-Choice. All off the high school students and Pro-Life supporters of course won, but this was easily my favorite part of this year's trip.

If you are Pro-Life and have never been to the March for Life, you are absolutely missing out. It is an amazing experience that you will never forget.



Photo by Al Hertsberg

Gangstas for Life!

Justin Schmitt Moves to Select Band

By: Michael Best

The Northern Kentucky Select Band is a band composed of the most prestigious musicians in the Northern Kentucky Area. If someone wants to join this band, they must receive an invitation and an audition piece to play in front of judges to see whether or not they have what it takes to join.

Covington Catholic junior Justin Schmitt was fortunate enough to receive this invitation to try out for the Northern Kentucky Select Band. Justin was one of around sixty trombone players to have a chance to audition for the band. He was given his audition piece two months prior to his audition, and Justin said he practiced two hours a day, every day until the audition date. Justin's hard work paid off, and he was one of eleven trombone players that were selected for the Select Band making the band close to one hundred musicians total. The Northern Kentucky Select Band will perform a classical music concert on March 10th at Northern Kentucky University.

Justin said, "This is only a small step in the way of what I want to accomplish." His goal is to continue playing in college in hopes that one day he will be able to play for the Cincinnati Orchestra. Justin will also be trying out for the Governor Scholar of the Arts on March 2nd and the All-State Band sometime in November.

Congratulations to Justin on his accomplishments! Good luck to him in the concert and his future.

Transferring to Tradition

By: Chase Zimmer

Brady Willenbrink left Simon Kenton High School in hopes of finding a home. Well, that is exactly what he has done here at Covington Catholic. As a junior he fit in to the CCH community right away.

Brady hoped to find opportunity here at Cov Cath and that is exactly what he discovered. "I think that CCH will open many doors for me and most of all better prepare me for college," said Brady. When asked how he liked Cov Cath so far, he responded by saying, "Yeah it's not bad so far, but I can't wait to see what is in store for the future." Brady went on to say that his favorite parts of CCH are the lunches, the friendliness of the school, and the athletic programs. He hopes to run track for CCH either this year or his senior year. He is a great addition to the brotherhood here at Covington Catholic.

Good luck to Brady here at CCH now and in the future!



New Kid on Campus

By: Jimmy Tomlin

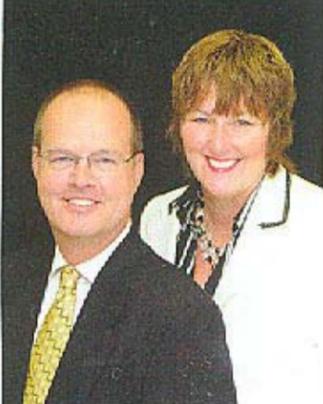
Highlands is not the most liked school here at Covington Catholic High School. However, when we get a new transfer student from Highlands we accept them as our own. Laine Harret, a freshman from Fort Mitchell, transferred from Highlands to Cov Cath on January 26 of this year. Laine transferred to Cov Cath because he did not feel the freedom he thought he deserved at Highlands. Cov Cath is also closer to his home in Fort Mitchell than Highlands. Laine says he likes Cov Cath so far and expects to stay here all four years.

Laine shadowed here on January 18 and loved it. For lunch that day was the almighty Chicken Patty Meal. Laine is also already getting involved in school functions, playing IBL and going to multiple basketball games. Laine's favorite teacher so far is Mr. Synder. When I asked Laine what made Cov Cath different from Highlands or any other school he has attended he said, "I feel like my opinion matters and I can speak my beliefs and people will listen. That is important to me and I didn't feel that freedom at Highlands."

Laine plans on playing tennis this spring and basketball next winter for Cov Cath. Laine has already met the Tennis coach, Coach Hertz, and says that Coach Hertz is, "A good guy." Laine has loved Cov Cath through his first couple weeks here and hopes his love and the fun here at Cov Cath will keep up.



Justin and his trombone.



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Coping With the Winter Blues

By: Nick Thelen

Dreary. Wet. That is what this year's winter has been like so far. With relatively no snowfall, rain has become the dominant precipitation, and winter seems all the more depressing because of it. Where landscapes should be softly blanketed with white powder, they are instead becoming soggy. Where there should be a crisp morning breeze, a damp gust is taking its place. The regular "winter blues" are becoming more potent. What can be done to overcome such melancholy?

The usual activities of sledding, snowball fights, making snow angels, and building snowmen are no longer options. What then? For starters, a nice cup of hot chocolate definitely still has the ability to warm a body; sitting in front of a roaring fire can accomplish this as well. Pleasure can also be had through the reading of books (perhaps while sipping cocoa and sitting by a fire at the same time). Simply enjoying time with family and friends can be fun, although that should happen regardless of the weather.

In conclusion, the key to coping with the weather is not to focus on the bleakness of such a time, but rather, to focus on the little things that bring happiness.

The Year of 2011 (The 2nd Last Year of the Earth)

By: Brady Reese

Years always seem to fly by, but when you really think about everything that happened, it helps you remember that there are 365 days each year. Some exciting and some depressing events occurred that forever influenced the lives of many.

Early in the year, the most viewed sporting event, known as the Super Bowl, kicked off on February 6th, 2011. After a tremendous season, the Green Bay Packers defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers, and Aaron Rodgers made the "discount double check" celebration famous. The Reds' rival, the St. Louis Cardinals won the World Series on October 28th, only to see Tony LaRussa retire and Albert Pujols sign with Los Angeles (2012 should be a Cincinnati year). Dirk Nowitzki won the NBA Finals with the Dallas Mavericks, defeating the "Big Three" of LeBron, Bosh, and Wade on June 14th, 2011. Kemba Walker and the UConn Huskies won the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, and the United States women's soccer team made a memorable run in the World Cup with Abby Wambach's legen...wait for it...dary header.

Many also remember the Royal Wedding on April 29th, 2011, which wedded Prince William of England and Ms. Catherine Middleton. Millions watched on television in one of the most historic weddings to this date. Also in good news, after a decade of searching, the United States Army captured Osama bin Laden and put him to death, easing the stress of many Americans, especially the soldiers across the sea. Along with the death, the troops were withdrawn from Iraq, returning many soldiers to their homeland of the U.S. People will also remember 2011 for the year of #winning with Charlie Sheen's drug abuse. Along with Charlie Sheen's legacy, the people of 2011 were haunted each Friday by Rebecca Black's annoying song, "Friday."

The game "Angry Birds" also swept the world in 2011, as it became the most played game of the year. Available on smart phones or I-Pods, Angry Birds provided a nice distraction at anytime. Speaking of the I-Pod, the new I-Phone was revealed in 2011, which would be Steve Jobs' last incredible invention, as he passed away suddenly. Also on a sad note, Oprah Winfrey made 2011 the last year for her "Oprah Winfrey Show." Many fans will miss her caring personality on television. Casey Anthony was convicted for murder in 2011, marking the most important court case of the year. Lastly, the last Harry Potter movie came to theatres July 15th, 2011, marking the end of that era.

2011 was an exciting year, and many things began while many ended. But we should remember this year because it might be one of our last according to Nostradamus...

Keep the Drive

By: Paul Kleier

The dawn of driving in the 20th century with the advent of the automobile sparked a worldwide change that would eventually impact almost everyone on the globe. Cars changed the way humans live and continue to do so. However, the positives of the automobile are counteracted by its negatives. Although the concern half a century ago was not texting, parents still worried about their children getting behind the wheel. Since then, the problem has only escalated. Now, texting is only multiplying the worries of parents. Teenagers die every day due to car accidents that could have been avoided, but were not because drivers are not getting enough information. The movement for safer driving should be a concern, not just on sites such as www.KeeptheDrive.com, but also of every person in the country and the world.

Statistics are aplenty that validate the claim that something needs to be done to improve the safety of our roads with just as many stories from the unfortunate ones who have been involved with accidents in the past. All of these are aimed at teenagers themselves, but anything further from that point is up to the individual opinion of the teens themselves. There is no guarantee that anything will change. The best way to affect change is to bring this problem to the undivided attention of state and/or national authorities. New legislation has to be passed if there is ever to be a safer tomorrow, new legislation that will protect the eleven teenagers who die every day in car accidents (Allstate).

There are so many ways to get hurt, yet so many ways to avoid it. The consequences are so severe that most teenagers simply use the age old thinking that "it can't possibly happen to me!" Although the odds are in your favor, you are never free from danger when driving recklessly. You could hurt or kill yourself or friends, earn a ticket, get sued, lose your license, pay more insurance, get arrested, or lose your reputation or job. Everyone has seen the posters in halls and the commercials on television. It is not a problem with other teenagers; it is a problem with all teenagers and all of us must act to protect the safety of the world's drivers.

Since before teenagers can drive they are aware and told repeatedly of the dangers that await them on the road. There are school presentations, nagging parents, commercials, and posters warning teen drivers about the dangers they might encounter. However, most teenagers do not do anything until it is too late. It is not enough to be careful once danger is already inevitable. Precautions must be taken to protect the roads, whether it be turning off the phone, wearing seatbelts, keeping both hands on the wheel, or making sure there are not distractions. Young drivers can ensure the safety of themselves and their passengers if only they were determined to keep the drive safe and secure for everyone.



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Loverboy Tour

By: Michael Helton

Although it is not a fad that is sweeping the nation, the new folk revival movement in music is gradually expanding. On October 10, this movement came to Covington in the form of a scrawny redhead boy named Brett Dennen.

Dennen came to the Madison Theater to promote his recently released *Loverboy* album. The album differed from his past work in the content of the lyrics. While previous songs touched upon social and political issues, his new releases contain a lighter sense.

The show opened with the band *Blind Pilot*—an eclectic band with an even more eclectic range of instruments including guitar, ukulele, banjo, dulcimer, trumpet, harmonica, keyboard, xylophone, drums, bass, and vibraphone. This variety made for a truly unique sound that miraculously blended together well.

Brett came out shortly after and opened with the first song off his new album “*Surprise, Surprise*.” He continued through most of the album, but tossed in several songs from past albums, including my personal favorite “*She’s Mine*.” With his quirky movements, raspy voice, and casual conversation with the crowd, he provided an unforgettable experience for all who attended.

The show closed with Dennen playing his most widely known song “*Ain’t No Reason*.” Although most concerts end on an upbeat note that leaves the audience exhilarated, this one concluded on a somber note that makes the audience think about the way in which we live.

Overall, I left the concert feeling incredibly satisfied. Surprisingly, it matched the Paul McCartney concert that I had been to a month earlier in terms of enjoyment. Needless to say, if Brett Dennen returns, you will be able to find me at the concert.

“Inclusions”

By: Eric Torres

Ben Sollee’s music captures the essence of Kentucky in such a way that immediately connects to his listeners. A passion for what he does underlines every song on his most recent album, *Inclusions*, and each song has a different feel that gets a meaningful message across. And among the intriguing aspects of his music are the flowing, simple melodies, artfully conceived lyrics, his instrument of choice—the cello.

Sollee uses it in all of its forms, from long, drawn out notes that accent his harmony in the track “*Embrace*”, to the chugging along of “*The Globe*.” The song “*Hurting*” shows this variation the best. Keep in mind that the cello is extremely difficult to master, do not be fooled by Sollee’s ease of play.

Sollee live in concert is a feat to behold. Who knew a cello and a simple drum set could inspire so many. His passion is obvious, as he means every word of his songs. And every word means something to his audience.

You can picture every word, and his light Kentucky voice perfectly matches his music. His lyrics express his own life and his own take on how it plays out. He doesn’t appeal to popularity, he appeals to honesty and simplicity.

Ben Sollee recently made the list of “*Greatest unknown artists of 2011*” according to a popular music magazine. It is impossible not to appreciate his music in some way.

His most well known song would be “*Electrified*” with features powerful lyrics and a pulsing riff on the cello that commands attention and accurately portrays the ebb and flow of our constantly changing world.

Overall, Ben Sollee’s music makes you proud that he represents Kentucky in the music scene of contemporary music as of now. His passion is audible in “*Inclusions*” and it deserves recommendation and commendation. He is truly a great artist of our time.



Photo By Taste of Belgium

Taste of Belgium

By: Ian Dollenmayer

Sometimes, getting good food requires going out of your comfort zone a little bit. After quite a bit of reluctance on my part, my Restaurant Tour partner, Michael, convinced me to journey to Over the Rhine with him to a little place called Taste of Belgium. In short, I experienced zero crime but tons of delicious flavor.

Taste of Belgium has its roots in Findlay Market (another place any food-loving reader should check out). It was just a small shop to stop and grab authentic Belgian food while perusing the long rows of fresh meats, cheeses, baked goods, etc. Met with justifiably great success at Findlay, owner Jean-François Flechet put down money on a property in Over the Rhine. He and Taste of Belgium have reached even greater heights with this new location.

It was to the Over the Rhine location that I went to eat recently. It is a quaint café with a welcoming atmosphere. The waitress brought out complimentary water and was incredibly friendly. Following Michael’s lead, I ordered a fruit and cream waffle. In a few moments, a small circle of glory was placed before me.

The first thing that must be understood is that a Belgian waffle is defined not by its size, but how it is prepared. The misconception that they are simply enormous waffles is just that—a misconception. A Belgian waffle only has a diameter of approximately four inches. In those four inches, however, is about four yards worth of flavor. Belgian waffles are made from thick dough and coarse Belgian beet sugar. Cooked on a cast iron press, the sugar caramelizes and the flavor is sealed in. This wondrous baked good, as I ordered it, is topped with rich cream and the sweetest strawberries outside of the field itself.

My first bite almost knocked me unconscious. The caramelized sugar, soft flavorful dough, fresh strawberries, and delicious cream all melded together in my mouth to form one of the greatest collective flavors I have ever experienced in my eighteen years on Earth. It took only one more bite to determine that there must be a third Taste of Belgium in Heaven where everyone gets breakfast every morning. That waffle was a beautiful thing.

The only real problem I had was a slightly imbalanced price-to-food ratio. That waffle, although quite good, was not incredibly huge and cost \$5. Something like that could easily turn many people away. I think the best way to solve this problem is a change of mindset. Taste of Belgium is more of a treat than a meal. In that regard, \$5 is a reasonable price for the outstanding product you receive.

My recommendation: Get out of your chair and go to Taste of Belgium right now. As long as it is daylight, Over the Rhine is more than safe, so you will have no problems there. That way, you can experience the pure delight that is Taste of Belgium. It is located at the corner of 12th and Vine Street near the Ensemble Theater.

Drake “Take’s Care” Of Business

By: Jacob Lange

Drake is a Canadian recording artist and actor, who is known mainly for his rapping. In June of 2009, Drake signed his first major label recording contract with Lil Wayne’s Young Money Entertainment/Cash Money Records Label. *So Far Gone*, Drake’s third official mixtape, is what caught the eye of his mentor Lil Wayne and brought him some early success. *So Far Gone* was later available for purchase, with only a few new songs added, and brought Drake most of his early success. *Thank Me Later* was Drake’s first full major label album and was released on June 15th, 2010, to a great amount of success. Drake also caught the eyes of many, and was asked to appear as featured artists on many other songs for his rapping, and also for his great singing voice. With such early success, Drake’s fans and many music lovers had high expectations for his second album.

Take Care is Drake’s second major label album and was released just a few months ago, on November 15th, 2011. He is quoted as saying that the reason the album is called *Take Care* because “I get to take my time this go-round.” On this album, Drake does a good job of leveling out the amount of rapping and slower R&B type songs. The Deluxe Edition of *Take Care* is 20 songs, with which Drake does a good job of balancing his singing R&B style with his more up-tempo rap style.

The album had three singles prior to its release. “Marvin’s Room” was released onto the internet on June 9, 2011, and was not intended to be on the album. Due to its online success, it was put on the album and was released as a radio single on July 22, 2011. “Headlines” was the second single to be released and was released for purchase on iTunes, and as a radio single, on August 9, 2011. The song debuted at number thirteen on the US Billboard Hot 100. The third single for the album was “Make Me Proud” which features fellow rapper Nicki Minaj. “Make Me Proud” was released on October 16, 2011. With the great success of all these singles, Drake fans were excited for the release of *Take Care*.

The album does a great job of spreading out the slower-tempoed R&B songs and the Rap songs. In my own opinion, *Take Care* would be considered about half rapping and half R&B. The album has many great features from The Weekend, Nicki Minaj, Birdman, Rick Ross, Lil Wayne, Andre 3000, Rihanna, Stevie Wonder, and Kendrick Lamar. The overall balance of the songs, along with great main verses, features and production makes *Take Care* one of the only albums I can listen to all the way through over and over again.

There are many different recurring themes that show up on the album. In many of his songs, Drake raps or sings about his trouble adjusting to being famous so young, failed relationships, relationships with his friends and family, and concerns about leading a hollow life. Drake’s lyrics do not bring about a sense that he is complaining about being famous or about his everyday struggles, but that he is growing and understands that all people go through the same struggles that he experiences. These themes along with Drake’s lyrics and ability to rap and sing, allow for the album to have such a great sense of balance and stability.

Take Care received generally positive reviews from critics, including 81 out of 100 from Metacritic, which assigns a rating through 100 from many mainstream critics. A score of 81, according to Metacritic, indicates the album had universal acclaim. The album was placed at number 5 on Billboards “Critics’ Picks: Top Ten Albums of 2011.”

With the album being so well balanced with great songs, it makes it hard to pick out just a few stand-out tracks. If you are more of an R&B music fan, songs such as “Shot For Me,” “Marvin’s Room,” “Crew Love,” “The Real Her,” “Take Care,” and “Doing It Wrong” would be some of the track’s best suited for your liking. Songs such as “Headlines,” “We’ll Be Fine,” “Make Me Proud,” “HYFR,” and “The Motto” would be some of the stand out rap songs on the album.

Overall I would give *Take Care* a 5-star review for its overall quality of each song and its balance of Drake’s rapping style mixed with his R&B style. If you are a Drake fan, or even a music fan, I would recommend buying the entire album. Drake’s *Take Care* is available for purchase in music stores around the country as well as on iTunes.



Photo By Google Images

Ice Skating on Fountain Square

By: Michael Helton

Many citizens of Northern Kentucky often complain that there is simply nothing to do around the area. The truth is that there are a bunch of activities to partake in, but people often do not put in the effort to find out about them. One simple way to have a great time is ice skating on Fountain Square.

From January 2 to February 19, Fountain Square is transformed into a public ice skating rink. Here, anybody is invited to grab a few friends and show off their moves on the ice. For the amount of fun that is provided, the cost is cheap: \$3 for admission and \$3 for skate rental. Skaters are invited to stay the whole day if they wish. Live music and DJ’s will be providing further entertainment on many days. Afterwards, the Square offers many restaurants to refuel at: Tazza Mia, Graeter’s, Servatii’s, Starbucks, Chipotle, Potbelly Sandwich Works, Palomino, Via Vite, Ingredients, McCormick & Schmick’s, Morton’s, and Rock Bottom Brewery.

The only problem is parking, which is difficult no matter where you are in the city. An easy solution is the Fountain Square Parking garage that is offered to all the participants. Also, with the hundreds of parking meters that line the streets, odds are that one will be open. The hours that skating is offered are:

January 2 – February 19
 Sunday-Wednesday: noon – 6pm
 Thursday: noon – 8pm
 Friday & Saturday: noon – 10pm
 Holidays: Martin Luther King Jr. Day 10am – 6pm, Valentine’s Day (2/14) 7pm – 9pm

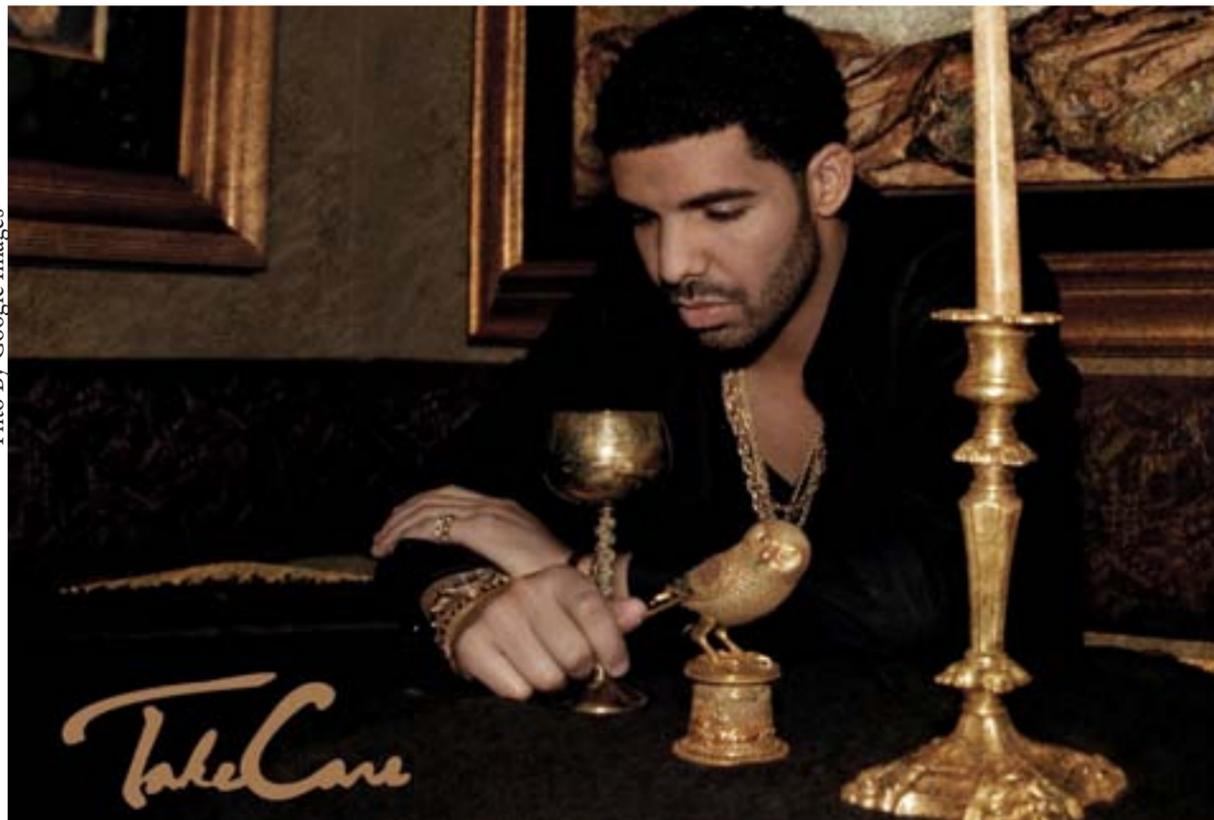


Photo By Google Images

Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol

By: Ian Dollenmayer

If Hollywood produces a sequel to a classic film, it can often be sketchy at best. By the time installment number four is reached, the best thing to usually do is close your eyes and pretend the greedy directors stopped making movies years ago. *Final Destination*, I'm looking at you. One of the few anomalies to this general rule is the *Mission Impossible* franchise, which has actually, like a fine wine, gotten better with age—albeit a wine packed with explosions, car chases, firearms, and brutal melee combat.

Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol is no exception to the *MI* rule. It elevates the series to greater heights and pulls viewers to the edge of their seats. *Ghost Protocol* places Ethan Hunt, played by Tom Cruise, in his most dire situation yet. The Kremlin has been bombed, the IMF has been disbanded and disavowed, and Russia and America are sitting on pins and needles. Nuclear war is eminent. As per usual, Ethan is the only man who can stop it. Joined by a new team played by Paula Patton, Jeremy Renner, and the hilarious Simon Pegg, Ethan sets off on an action-packed, globe-trotting adventure from Russia to Dubai and other places in between.

Tom Cruise returns to prove that no matter how eccentric he may be in real life, there is no human being better cut out to play Ethan Hunt. As he has previously, he executes the role flawlessly. Simon Pegg serves to lighten the mood with his quick witty humor as he usually does. It is the same wit as he always brings to the films he is in, but it finds a welcome niche in *Ghost Protocol*. The performance that really caught me by surprise was Jeremy Renner's. After *The Hurt Locker* in 2008, the public has slowly realized what a fine actor Renner truly is. He brings that skill to *Ghost Protocol*, proving once more that he is one of Hollywood's best kept secrets.

Put simply, the film is superb. The actors bring their A game, as did the director. It is a film that will keep the viewer at the pinnacle of suspense, but still bring emotions into play. Never once during the movie did I regret purchasing my ticket. My only regret is having not yet purchased another one.



Jo An: Authentic Japanese Food

By: Will McMurtry

Nestled in the corner of an ordinary office building, Jo An Japanese restaurant has been serving authentic Japanese food since 1997. Jo An's food, authenticity, and atmosphere make it a lunchtime hotspot for the workers of the nearby Toyota plant.

After being seated, customers are treated to hot towels and given a menu. A menu at Jo An has two parts: the first, a checklist consisting of a slew of the available sushi and second, a traditional menu. Featured on the second menu are grilled and steamed dishes, sashimi, and noodle soups. During my many times at Jo An, I have had at least one thing from every area of the menu and have never been disappointed. Of particular recommendation is the noodle soup. As for the sushi, it is fresh caught and imported from Japan.

However, I have a warning for those considering Jo An. If you choose to eat at Jo An, you will be having authentic Japanese food. There is no "kid's menu" and no adult, teen, or child will find a hamburger or grilled cheese to appease his or her palate. Jo An shines in its food and authenticity, and will not fail to please any who are looking for just that.

Jo An is located at 3940 Olympic Blvd, Suite 135; Erlanger, KY; 41018.



Photo by Michael Helton

An artistic photo by Michael Helton. Ironically, this picture has no correlation with anything on this page.

Sheehy's Story

By: Paul Kleier

The AP and semester Psychology classes were recently treated to a guest speaker. This speaker, Pat Sheehy, has suffered from Parkinson's Disease for many years and came to Covington Catholic to speak about his experiences with this disease. Mr. Sheehy talked about the causes, symptoms, and treatment for this debilitating illness and was able to teach students about a lesser-known disease.

Although there is no definite method to determine the cause of Parkinson's Disease, there are two widely accepted possible culprits. One is heredity. Many occasions of Parkinson's are found in the same family. Another cause is exposure to chemicals. Mr. Sheehy, for example, worked for many years and a plant that serviced aircraft and it is very probable that this is the reason for his Parkinson's Disease. There are even some chemicals that are illegal because they are thought to cause this and other disorders. Research is still continuing to determine definite causes for the disease.

Parkinson's Disease is the second most common psychological disorders in the United States. This disorder is characterized by uncontrollable tremors, random muscle freezing, lack facial emotions, an inability to roll over in bed, and slowed speech. Psychological effects include depression and a loss of independence. Although there are many physical and psychological symptoms of the disease, the victims are mentally healthy and simply have trouble moving and expressing themselves.

There are three accepted treatments for Parkinson's disease. Mr. Sheehy has received Deep Brain Stimulation, a treatment that, although dangerous, can relieve many symptoms temporarily. This treatment involves carefully placing electric stimulators in the brain that send out waves to bring the uncontrollable brain waves under control. Thanks to this treatment, Mr. Sheehy can walk without a limp again and only rarely has tremors. He is able to live a normal life now thanks to the benefits of this treatment. Unfortunately, it is only temporary and doctors are searching for a more lasting solution.

Many people know someone else with a debilitating disorder. Recently, Mr. Pat Sheehy, one such person, visited the Psychology classes at Covington Catholic. A long time sufferer of Parkinson's Disease, Mr. Sheehy volunteered to come in to share his experiences with the disease and to teach the students a thing or two about Parkinson's Disease.



The Legend of Coach T

By Eric Schneider

In 1964, a man by the name of Dan Tieman graduated from Covington Catholic, beginning a legacy that would be held up to this day. "Coach T" has always been regarded highly at Covington Catholic, including now which marks nearly 50 years spent in the halls of the old and new Cov Cath schools, gyms, and events throughout the area. Recently, at the Cov Cath v. Beechwood basketball game, Coach Tieman was honored for his contributions to the school and community when the student body scripted a "T" with numerous posterboards inscribed with blue "T"s. Coach Tieman "gave the cheering section a sign" with a wave, and Covington Catholic's basketball team gave Coach T a sign with a thirty point win against the rivals from up the street.

Coach T's dedication to this amazing high school is unmatched by any alumni or any teacher to ever walk the halls. He has exemplified the true Colonel, as he chased his dreams of becoming a professional basketball player when he played for the Cincinnati Royals with Hall of Famer Oscar Robertson. Following his professional basketball career, he embarked on his career as a teacher, mentor, and coach at his alma mater, Covington Catholic. Coach T only took a short break to work at Thomas More College, then decided to return to Cov Cath for the rest of his legendary career.

Coach Tieman held many positions at Covington Catholic, from head basketball coach to Dean of Discipline, but above his paid jobs at Cov Cath, he adopted the job of raising quality young men from this high school. This is what Coach T will be remembered for. This is what he will be thanked for. This is why Coach T is the ideal Colonel. His actions embodied what a Colonel should be. This is why we honor Coach T.





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Drive for Blood

By: Brady Reese

The annual Hoxworth Blood Drive at Covington Catholic High School was held on Friday, January 3rd, 2012. Seniors Charlie Mader and Nick Weber were in charge of getting the students to donate blood for people in need. Brain Fagel spent his day in the “Buddy the Blood Drop” costume to keep the students in high spirits.

On average, one unit of blood saves about seven lives. Senior guidance counselor Mr. Mott started off the day by donating one unit of his blood. Following Mr. Mott, 96 other units of blood were donated by Covington Catholic students and administration. Many students went out of their way and donated two units of blood. Therefore, Covington Catholic High School saved about 672 lives.

The 2012 Blood Drive was one to remember. Covington Catholic was 11 units away from setting our personal record. The students here are always thinking about other people before themselves, and it shows in the amount of blood donated this year.

Valentine’s Dance

By: Joe Robinson

In the past, freshman couldn’t go to any dances until the Valentine’s Dance rolled around, this year was no different. The freshman waited anxiously through the Homecoming and Silverbelles dance, and their time was finally here. There was a very good turnout of underclassmen attending the dance. Upperclassmen, on the other hand, did not show up in as great of numbers as the underclassmen. Regardless of how many upperclassmen showed up, the dance was still a success as usual.

The dance took place in St. Pius’s Miligan Hall as it always has. Upon arrival, there was a random breathalyzer test, and those who passed got their names in a drawing for chipotle gift cards. The dance started at eight, and the doors were open until nine. The dance was over at eleven thirty, but couples were allowed to leave earlier than that if they preferred to. This is not one of Cov Cath’s more popular dances, but it still proves to be a good time if you go to it. The next dance in line is Cov Cath’s junior/senior prom which will be held at the Newport Aquarium. Full attendance is expected.



War

By: Michael Best

On Tuesday, February 7th, the sophomores went to the Griffin Centre to watch the actors from the Cincinnati’s Play House in the Park performed the play *War*.

War is a play about four high school students who solve their problems through violence. Tommy, a hopeful future F-16 pilot for the United States Air Force, tries to get revenge on his ex-girlfriend, Sheila, and a wimpy high school actor, Andy. Tommy and his friend, Brad, an intense hockey player who dreams of one day playing in the NHL, team up and beat up Andy. Andy looks to get help from a punk street fighter, Shaun, in order to protect himself.

Tommy’s girlfriend breaks up with him, and he suspects that Andy was the cause of it. Tommy meets Andy after school with Brad as his backup. They are surprised when they get there because Shaun is there backing up Andy. This frightens them away. Brad becomes enraged when he finds out he has been demoted on the hockey team and a female has taken his spot. He takes his rage out on Tommy as he taunts his manhood. This causes Tommy to attack his ex-girlfriend and send her to the hospital. Seeking safety in numbers, Brad goes to Andy and asks if he can be friends with him and Shaun. Andy’s dream of becoming more violent is shattered when Shaun is fatally wounded. The characters are left to examine whether or not violence is the right way to solve conflicts or not.

Overall, the play demonstrated that violence is not the way to try and solve your problems. The characters in the play tried to use violence and it only caused more problems and even the death of a friend.



Photo by Michael Helton

Blake Perkins is more than ready to have his blood drained!

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Hofbräuhaus

By: Joey Drees

On Wednesday, February 8th, all of the German students at Cov Cath, led by Mr. Kaelin, went on the annual field trip to the Hofbräuhaus in Newport. Principal Rowe and faculty members Mrs. Osterhaus, Mr. Ryan Collins, and Mrs. Rasp also joined the students. The purpose of this trip is to experience German food, learn about the German heritage, and to have fun. It is truly a day that all of the students in German look forward to every year.

The day starts off at 11:45, when the participating students are called down to board the bus. After arriving at the Hofbräuhaus, the students were shown to their tables and given sodas of their choice. Shortly after, the food arrived. Each person received a sample platter, which consists of sauerbraten, wiener schnitzel, potato pancakes, spätzle (German noodles), and wurst (German sausage). After eating the delicious entrée, the servers brought out a delectable Bavarian cream puff for each person. While everyone was enjoying their desserts, Mr. Jim Egbers of the Hofbräuhaus spoke to the students about the history of the Hofbräuhaus, including the founding of the original building in Munich in 1589, the progression and various types of beer sold at the Hofbräuhaus, and the founding of the building in Newport in 2003.

After the completion of the meal, the real fun began. The accordion player, an alumnus of CCH, played the chicken dance for the group, who stood on the benches and danced along. Following this, there was a march around the restaurant, led by German exchange student JD Schütz and German III/IV Seniors Mark Hiltz, Paul Kleier, and Joey Drees. The physical activity caused several people to become hungry again, as many of them ordered extra desserts, such as Black Forest Cherry Cake or another cream puff. The day came to a close at about 1:45, and Mr. Collins drove the students back to school. Hofbräuhaus Day 2012 was a very successful day yet again, and all German students now look forward to next year when they will make the journey back.



Ross Rohling and J.D. Schutz, our resident German, chow down on German cuisine.

Catholic Schools Week

By: Eric Torres

Catholic Schools week is a week that appreciates the many benefits and blessings that Catholic schooling affords to students as they grow academically and spiritually.

The teachers, the environment, and the faith-enriched atmosphere are all factors as to why Catholic schooling stands a cut above the rest.

Catholic Schools week at Cov-Cath is a special week. It was held January 30th through February 3rd.

Sundaes on Monday kicked off the week, followed on Tuesday by faculty appreciation day, where faculty were given a continental breakfast donated by parents. Student appreciation was seen through the stellar lunches throughout the week, such as chicken patty meal and chicken quesadillas.

An all-school mass was held on Thursday, with a special performance of "Lean on Me" performed by Mr. Wolfe and the Chamber Choir during the Communion Meditation.

Bishop Foys usually presides over a Diocesan-wide mass at the Cathedral, but the mass was held two weeks prior because of obligations in Rome for the biannual gathering of American Bishops. As an added bonus for Catholic Schools Week, a D-Schedule (9:20 start) was held the following Monday, February 6th.

Mom Prom: Colonels Gone Country

By: Alex Flynn

The country Colonels gathered on January 28th at Receptions with their lovely dates. Many Colonels escorted their mothers to a night of delicious food, wonderful conversations, and entertaining dancing.

The night began with check-in and casual conversations between the young men and their mothers. After a little time, the seniors were called to the stage and presented each of their mothers with a sunflower and a poem. After prayer, the food was served. It was a true "Southern home cooked meal" of fried chicken and roast beef complemented by corn, green beans, and a potato casserole. As always a salad and rolls completed the meal.

After a delicious cheesecake dessert, the tables were cleared and the dance floor was opened. The Colonels stormed the dance floor with a variety of dances: square dancing, fist pumping, and everything in between. The night flew as the seniors had their final dances with their mothers.

When all was said and done, mothers and sons left arm in arm with huge smiles on their faces. The night was a huge success and gave so many men and their mothers life-long memories.



Eric Schneider and his mother pause their racous hoedown for a picture.

Photo by Prestige

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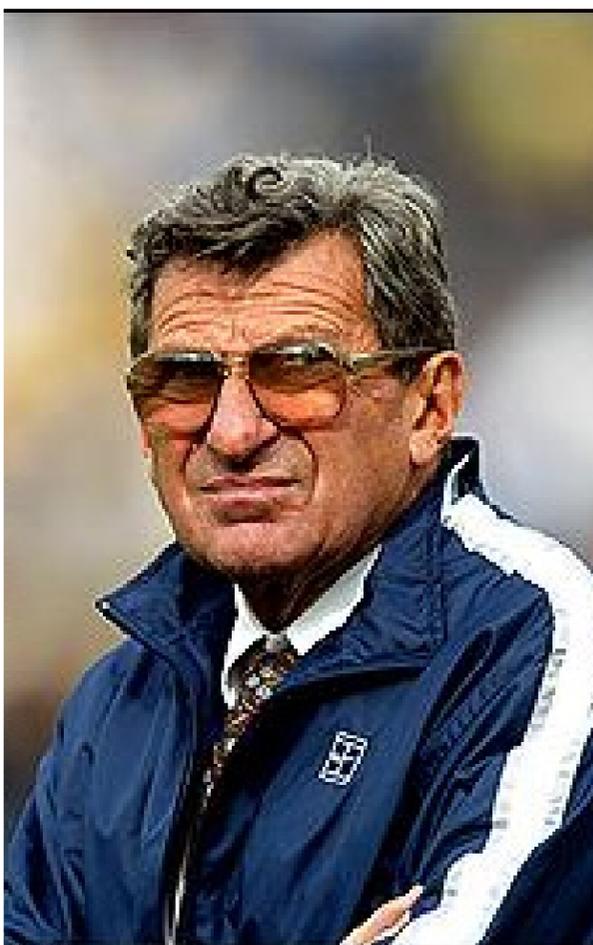
The Passing of a College Football Legend

By: Sean Kiely

On January 22, the nation lost one of the greatest men of college football ever. Joe Paterno was easily the greatest coach ever in college football history and left indelible mark that will last forever. He started his career in college football when he starred at Brown University as a quarterback and a cornerback from 1946-1949. After his playing career, he joined the Penn State as an assistant in 1950, but was finally promoted to the head coach spot in 1965. During his career at Penn State, he won a record 409 games surpassing the Division I record held by Eddie Robinson from Grambling State University. He was also named the National Coach of the Year in 2005 by the Associated Press, Sporting Press, and the Home Depot.

Hopefully, though, with all his accomplishments, he will not be remembered for the so-called "Sandusky Scandal". Paterno left on a very sour note, when on November 9, the Board of Trustees voted to relieve him of his duties as the head coach of Penn State. Even though he had nothing to do with the actually scandal, they felt that he could have done more to stop it for going on. It was a bad way to leave Penn State after sixty-two years, but the Board of Trustees felt it was absolutely necessary.

After being relieved from Penn State, his son, Scott, finally came out to the press and told everyone that Joe Pa had a treatable form of lung cancer in November of 2011. Yet on January 13, 2012, he was admitted to the State College Hospital for complications with the cancer. Paterno's health deteriorated every day until his eventually death on January 22. When news spread that he had finally died, people flocked to his statue in front of the Penn State Stadium. The scene has been all over news station of students and fans leaving flowers, candles, and special memories of him around his statue. It really shows that he is a legend and never will be forgotten.



The Hunt is on for Beetles in Clermont County

By: Ryan Dickmann



Asian Longhorned Beetle

Invasive species have always been a problem in the United States. Animals often stowaway on cargo ships or are brought into the country as exotic pets. This can be a tremendous problem when the animals escape and begin to procreate. The invaders disrupt the environment due to the lack of natural predators and can wreak havoc on the populations of native species. One such species is knocking on our back door. The Asian Long-horned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) has been infesting the wooded areas of southern Ohio for more than a year and threatens to spread to Kentucky and other nearby states. The Ohio Department of Agriculture hopes that their new plan for eradicating this pest will be an effective one.

The Asian Long-horned Beetle reproduces in a way not unlike other beetles; they plant fertilized eggs into the bark of trees. The tree provides nutrients for the developing larvae and support it until it is fully grown. The problem with this particular beetle is the excessively high numbers that their populations can reach due to their lack of competition. Since so many eggs are being deposited, the trees will often die after three years. This becomes a major issue when the beetle targets the native wildlife.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture has been working side-by-side with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to formulate a solution to the problem in Clermont county. While they test the ecological effects of injecting the trees with pesticides, officials are planning to quarantine the insects by killing the trees host to the insects. There are 6,000 trees found to be infested, but the plan may required upwards of 100,000 trees to be cut down. This has many of the area's residents worried and many oppose this plan. The problem with selectively removing trees is that only about thirty percent of the lightly infested trees can be detected from the ground. A more aggressive approach, similar to the methods used to fight forest fires, would decrease the risk that the beetles will survive. The method of eradication will be determined by committee later this month.

Winter or Spring: You Decide

By: Luke Roberts?

This may be the question that many people find asking themselves. This winter has been one of the most unusual winters that many have encountered in years here in Northern Kentucky. During winter the people of Northern Kentucky are used to preparing themselves for a very cold and snowy day, keeping their coats and snow boots close to the door. Unusually enough, this year has brought us very mild temperatures to be in the dead of winter and hardly any snow up to this point. It seems as if we are in spring with all of the rain we have had lately. The tri-state average rainfall so far for 2011 is 73.28 inches. Close to the average rainfall a rainforest is supposed to get.

Many people are not complaining of the unusual weather, stating that "they could do without the snow and cold weather." Those who rely on the snow to make profit are beginning to become frustrated with this mild, wet winter season for they hardly have any form of income. These people are those who work for and own lawn care companies in the Tri-State area. So for many it is a sigh of relief, but for some it only proposes troubles. So which is it? Winter or Spring?

Timeline

By: James Tomlin

Are you a member of Facebook? There have been many changes recently to the layout on Facebook. But be prepared for yet another change. Facebook will be making their users change the layout of their profile to the 'timeline'. Some users have already voluntarily switched to the timeline layout but Facebook will soon make all of it's users switch.

According to Facebook Officials, the timeline will make photos, links and personal musings from the past much easier to find. The Timeline doesn't expose anything that wasn't available for sharing in the past. Many of those older posts had always been available. People could get to them by continually hitting "Older Posts," although most wouldn't have bothered. Timeline allows people to jump to the older material more quickly.

Although the Timeline may be hard to get use to, this new layout will make it easier to access information on users' Facebooks.



Academic Team Update

By: Joey Drees

The Academic Team looked to finish off their season strong after starting off 4-3. Their last four matches took place against Notre Dame, Holmes, Newport Central Catholic, and Newport. The team consists of seniors Ryan Dickmann, Tyler Hoefinghoff, Michael Maurer, Jim Nutter, Austin Schroder, and Casey Stewart. They put in a lot of hard work and dedication, with their practices being held before school on Tuesdays.

The Colonels had two important matches before heading off for Christmas Break. The first match was a highly anticipated battle against the Notre Dame Pandas. It was held at home on November 29th, and the Colonels were able to come out with the victory. The team then traveled to Holmes to take on the Bulldogs in the last match-up of 2011. They went on the road and took a victory home to push their record to 6-3 before the break. When the Colonels returned in 2012, they looked to complete a strong season. They started the year off with the final home match against Newport Central Catholic. Unfortunately, the team came away with a loss against Newcath. With the final match on the road at Newport, the Colonels tried and succeeded in finishing off the season with a victory. This gave the team a final record of 7-4.

Most people on the team agree that Jim Nutter would be classified as the overall MVP of the season, but other team members excelled in individual areas. Nutter is considered to be the best in math. Michael Maurer, also one of the outstanding members of the season, seems to be the best in the category of US History. Ryan Dickmann excelled in literature, poems, and mythology. Overall, the team had a successful year under the leadership of Mr. Balskus.

On Saturday, January 28th, the Academic Team took part in the District Governor's Cup. The Colonels dominated the competition, finishing with a comfortable first place victory. They finished with 54 points, and Notre Dame, the second place team, had only 29 points. In the Mathematics Assessment, Michael Maurer came in second, Kurt Wittmer came in third, and Brian Fagel came in fourth. Cov Cath swept the top three places in the science competition. Jim Nutter came in first, Michael Maurer came in second, and Brian Fagel came in third. Ian Dollenmayer won the Composition Competition, and Paul Kleier and Alex Mize tied for third. Paul Kleier came in with a first place victory in the Social Studies Assessment, while Alex Goddard came in third. In the Language Arts Competition, Jim Nutter came in second, Casey Stewart came in fourth, and Alex Mize came in fifth. Ian Dollenmayer and Ryan Dickmann both placed in the arts & Humanities Assessment, with Ian coming in third and Ryan coming in fourth.

The victory at the District Governor Cup was a very successful showing for the Colonels and the Academic Warriors, but it is just the beginning of the road. The Regional Tournament will be held on the Covington Catholic campus the week of February 13th. The team hopes to continue their domination and take the region.



Colonels pause for a photo during the Ski Club trip.

Ski Colonels

By: Bryan Metzger

This year seems to be a downer for the Ski Club at Covington Catholic. Due to the unseasonably warm weather, not many Colonels have hit the slopes.

Sean Kiely says, "I haven't even picked up my pass yet because of the weather." Unfortunately for many skiers, this means this year's pass may go to waste.

On the plus side, the Colonels helped out in a big way this year with the Special Olympics Skiing. They moseyed their way on over to Perfect North Slopes early in the morning on January 12th to assist mentally handicapped children have a fun day on the slopes. This event is typically well attended and the students usually say they get a lot out of it.

The members hope to get some chilly days in the coming future, and they hope, at the very least, snow isn't out of the question.



Preparing for a daring journey down the windswept, snow covered slopes.

School of Service

By: Paul Kleier

Covington Catholic has prided itself on its community service efforts since the program's creation. Since that time, thousands of hours have been completed by willing students who help out for the school, for the disabled, for the impoverished, and many other worthy causes. Every year there are favorite events and service opportunities that are consistently full of volunteer workers. Such events include the CCH Spaghetti Dinner, Steinford Toys, and the Special Olympics. The community service director, Mr. Bill Snyder, has worked hard to procure opportunities for students to meet the required fifteen hours of service per year and has assisted many to go above and beyond that requirement and achieve, in many cases, over forty service hours every year. The total student body service requirement is 7,500 hours every year, but the students consistently go above that requirement to at least 13,000 hours of service for the past several years. Service is one of the cornerstones of the Covington Catholic tradition and it will continue to be in the future.

This semester holds exciting new service opportunities for students. The Skiing Special Olympics has already taken place and was very successful, and there are more Special Olympics events still to come. The CCH Spaghetti Dinner is held this semester, and there are always available service venues for those who are willing to tutor Prince of Peace or St. Augustine students. This year students have answered the call to serve with gusto. It is with great hope that we look forward to another great semester of community service.

Photo by Julie Stengle

Photo by Julie Stengle

Sophomores

By: Joey Drees

IBL season is one of the most anticipated times of the year at Cov Cath. After one year of IBL action in the books, the sophomores hoped to come back strong and top their performances from last year. The sophomores play on Monday nights, and the league opened play on January 9th.

The first game of the year was a low-scoring matchup, with Team Day beating Team Trentman by a score of 28-25. Tony Goebel scored 8 points for Team Trentman and Michael Brunot and Brian Menke both put in 6 points for Team Day. In the next matchup, Team Atkinson beat Team Harden 47-23. Atkinson scored 16 points to lead his team, and Pat Connaughton scored 8 for Team Harden. Team Thiel topped Team Kinsella in the third game of the night. Thiel led his squad with 13 points, while Daniel Chal had 6 points for Team Kinsella. In the final game of the opening week, Team Way beat Team Ellison 54-48. Timmy Fritz scored 11 for Team Way and Blake Nelms led Team Ellison with 12 points.

Week Two of Sophomore IBL took place on January 16th, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Team Atkinson beat Team Ellison 58-50 in the first game of the night. Austin Oberhausen led all scorers with 21 points. The next game saw Team Thiel coming out with a victory against Team Way, 72-64. Thiel once again led his team with 20 points, and Sam Hatter scored 14 points for Team Way. In game three, Team Harden beat Team Trentman 50-38. Luke Bir and Matt Miller both scored 14 to lead their teams. The final matchup of the night was the best the season had seen to that point. Team Kinsella narrowly escapes defeat by beating Team Day 45-43. Michael Brunot gave all he could in the loss, scoring 22 points. Jake Kleier led Team Kinsella with 13.

The sophomores came back on January 22 for week three. In the first matchup of the night, Team Ellison blew out Team Kinsella 64-31. Oberhausen put in 22 points for Team Ellison, and Kinsella scored 14. The next game saw an even larger blowout. Team Harden scored 65 against Team Day while only giving up 24. Luke Bir scored a season-high 30 points, and Matt Quinn put in 8 for Team Day. Game three was a much better matchup, as Team Atkinson beat Team Thiel by 5 points, 42-37. Grant Schreiver and Joe Walsburger both scored 8 for Team Atkinson, and Sean Nemann led Team Thiel with 11 points. In the final game of the week, Team Way beat Team Trentman 45-37. Jason Meyer scored 16 to lead all scorers, and Trentman and Brandon Beck both scored 8 for Team Trentman.

At the halfway point for Sophomore IBL, Team Atkinson is the leader of the league with an undefeated record of 3-0. This is still anybody's league for the taking. Three teams are tied with a 2-1 record, and three more are tied with a 1-2 record. Team Trentman will look to turn things around and make a run for the top. Everyone knows that IBL is not settled in the regular season. The tournament provides a great opportunity for upsets to happen, so no matter how poorly a team finishes the regular season, they can always come back and win it all.

Juniors



Ryan Basford fumbles for the ball.

By: Sean Kiely

Junior Intramural Basketball action got off to a hot start in week one on January 8. The anticipation was sky high the entire week and the basketball didn't fail. The games started off with Team Erpenbeck pounding Team Groneck 67 to 43 with Matt Litzler scoring nineteen in a losing effort for Team Groneck. The next three games were all very close with Team Stratman beating Team Kunkel 57 to 55, Team Bir over Team Micek 58 to 50, and Team Summe over Team Hellmann 53 to 49 in a nail biter. High scores of the night were Nate Kunkel with 25 for Team Kunkel and Cam Stansberry with 21 for Team Stratman.

The next week was no different with two blowouts as Team Stratman beatdown Hellmann 58 to 35 with Adam Goddard scoring 20, and Team Micek over Team Groneck 65 to 35. The next two games were close with Team Bir over Team Summe with Blake Bir scoring 21, and Team Kunkel over Team Erpenbeck 77 to 71 with Erpenbeck dropping 35.

In week three, it was a total "scoring-fest". The first game was a nail biter with Team Stratman over Team Bir 54 to 53 as Brandon Sullivan for Team Stratman and Tanner Fangman for Team Bir both scored 18. The next game was another blowout of Team Hellmann as they lost again 59 to 37 to Team Micek with McCoy Dressman scoring 18 for Team Micek. The third game was highest scoring game of the year so far as Team Kunkel edged out Team Groneck 85 to 78 as Matt Litzler scored an amazing 35 points. The night capper was no different as Team Erpenbeck beat Team Summe 77 to 75 with Erpenbeck dropping 32.

The Junior League seems to be forming to a great race to the finish as Team Stratman leads the pack with a solid 3-0 start. Close behind though are Teams Erpenbeck, Kunkel, Bir, and Micek, all with records of 2-1. Although Teams Groneck and Hellman both are 0-3, there is still plenty of time to make that up with three weeks left to play in the regular season before the playoffs start.

Fresh IBL Update

By: Brady Reese

As Monday, January 9th rolled around, the freshman Colonels were introduced to their first career IBL season. There were 8 captains and the teams were set. Before the season had started, all teams were aiming to beat Captain Jonathan Pieper and his warriors. Captain Pieper is an unguardable, Michael Jordan-like jump shooter, who can also dribble, pass, and rebound.

Week 1 featured Team Bailey over Team Sommers 46 to 28. Spencer Hughes led all scorers with 10 points. In game 2, Team Aguirre won in a tight battle against Team Biersdorfer 45 to 42. Logan "Lil' Meach" McDowell led Team Biersdorfer with 20 points. Team Woodcock fell short to Team Fathman 31 to 51 in game 3. In the nightcap, Team Pieper lost against Team Pangallo in a close match 37 to 17. Jonathon Pieper led his team with a hard fought 10 points in the loss.

As week 2 rolled around, the Freshman teams were now settled down from their exciting week 1 match ups. Game 1 featured Team Pangallo winning in a clone one against Team Turner 54 to 52. Adam Wagner put up 14 points for Team Pangallo in the victory. Team Fathman rolled over Team Pieper 54 to 43. Jonathon Pieper played strong putting up 18 points. Game 3 hosted Team Bailey losing to Team Aguirre 51 to 53. The nightcap featured Team Woodcock destroying Team Sommers 66 to 36.

Heading into week 3, it was obvious which teams were playing well, and which teams had no chance at winning the championship. Team Fathman opened up beating Team Biersdorfer 57 to 36. Grant Gunther led all scorers with 14 points. Game 2 was played by Team Aguirre and Team Sommers. Team Aguirre beat Team Sommers 47 to 29. Team Aguirre is playing strong and heads into week 4, 3-0. Game 3 featured Team Pangallo winning over Team Woodcock 61 to 44. Adam Wagner once again led all scorers with 26 points. Team Pieper, in game 4, lost once again. Team Bailey played hard beating Team Pieper 57 to 36.

Week 4 is just around the corner and every team is playing hard to get the number 1 seed. Come out on Monday nights and watch the Freshman Colonels take action.



Jake Erpenbeck awkwardly runs the courts.

Senior IBL: Intense Basketball League

By Eric Schneider

With the first two weeks of IBL finished and the season underway, there are many questions to be answered in the senior league. Will JB take his fourth championship in a row? Who is the sleeper team? Is the high rated Mader team a team to beat still after starting 1-1? Only time can answer these questions. So far, JB's team seems relatively unstoppable. With two double-digit wins in the first two weeks, the team seems hard to stop. To all other teams: **PLAY A 2-3 ZONE AGAINST THEM.**

Throughout the past two weeks, the league has seen stellar performances from Evan Talkers, Bryan Metzger, Jake Lankheit, Charlie Mader, Brady Reese, Tommy Arnzen, and Sam Ruwe. With the combo of Talkers and Metzger on Team Bernhard, there are tough times ahead for all other teams. But Sam Ruwe, who had 28 points in his 2012 debut could possibly end the streak. Or could it be the trio of Gabe Gray, Michael Best, and Charlie Mader? Brady Reese informed me earlier, "Yeah I'm ready for JB. Probably gonna drop 30 on them. It should be not trouble for Team Castenada." With all of the talk, fans are left to wonder if these teams can talk the talk. We will see how the rest of the season plays out. That's it for your IBL action updates.

The Dawn of a New Age: Ruthsatz's Debuts and the Basketball Games That Followed

By: Michael Best

The Varsity Basketball team was fortunate enough to acquire such an elite coach during the off season. Coach Scott Ruthsatz came from the best high school basketball team in the country, St. Anthony.

The basketball Colonels started off their season on November 29th against George Rogers Clark. The Colonel Crazies were strong in number, but unfortunately the Colonels could not start the season the way they wanted, losing 49-54. Sophomore Nick Ruthsatz was the leading scorer in his debut as a Colonel as he scored 20. Ryan Hayden had 12 rebounds. On December 2nd the Colonels traveled to Lexington Catholic to face off against the Knights. Lex Cath proved to be too much as they won 48-51 in a nail-biter. The following day, Cov Cath rolled over Mercer County 106-54. On Tuesday, December 6th, the Crusaders of St. Henry came over to Cov Cath. The Colonels kept their momentum going as they won 65-39. Hayden led the Colonels to victory as he scored 17 and had 8 rebounds.

Covington Catholic tried to make it three in a row as they traveled to Pendleton County on December 9th in a game that was thrilling until the final buzzer and beyond. The game went into four overtimes as the Colonels fell short 94-100. The high scorer was Ruthsatz with 31. The following day the Rebels of Boone County came over to Cov Cath. The Colonels proved to be too much for the Rebels as they won 78-69 with Ruthsatz scoring 15 as the leading scorer for Cov Cath. The Colonels made it

Junior Varsity Basketball

By: Nick Thelen

The team started off the season well. They defeated George Rogers Clark with a solid score of 42-37, but would fall to Lexington Catholic in a heartbreaking loss of 36-37. The Colonels would then go on to win four games in a row against St. Henry, Pendleton County, Boone County, and Conner. However, against Louisville St. Xavier, the junior varsity would again suffer a tough loss in a 33-34 point game.

Despite this, the Colonels were able to rally and secure five consecutive wins against Campbell County, Winton Woods, McNicholas, Highlands, and Beechwood. Then on Tuesday, January 10th, the junior varsity squad would have their winning streak abruptly ended by Holmes. It was a hotly contested game. In the end though, the Bulldogs pulled away with a score of 37-31.

With their last game to date being a win against Newport Central Catholic, the team heads into their game against Ryle with confidence. Hopefully the JV squad can pull out a W.

This season so far has been good to the Colonels' junior varsity basketball team. Over half of the season is over, and they hold a record of eleven wins, three losses, and no ties. With a talented young team and a promising future, it can be expected that this group of young men will continue to perform extremely well.



Photo by Diane Ruth

J.B. Bernhard defensively extinguishes the flame.



Photo by Prestige

Ruthsatz looks for an opening against GRC.

two in a row as they beat the Conner Cougars 62-52 at their place. Nick Ruthsatz went off scoring 34 points. The high powered Tigers of Louisville St. Xavier made the trip to Park Hills. Covington Catholic played a great game and beat the Tigers 69-49 on December 16th.

The next day the Colonels traveled to Campbell County to face off against the Camels. The game turned out to be a thriller as Cov Cath won 57-51. On the 21st Covington Catholic went to Winton Woods. The Colonels did not show up to play as they lost 70-77 with Ruthsatz scoring 24. On December 23rd the McNicholas Rockets crossed the river to play the Colonels. Zach Toller had a career night scoring 22 points as he

led the Cov Cath to a 68-54 victory. After a long Christmas break, the Colonels played in the Kiwanis Holiday Hoops Classic at Granville High School. Covington Catholic won both games in two days beating the Coshocton Redskins 69-60 and the Columbus East Olympians 80-41.

The Colonels started off the new year on the right foot as they beat their long time rival the Highlands Bluebirds at Covington Catholic. The Colonels thrashed the Bluebirds 73-49 and Nick Ruthsatz was the leading scoring with 20. On January 6th the Little Tigers of Beechwood faced off with the Colonels. The Colonels continued their winning ways as they beat the Tigers 81-52. Then Cov Cath traveled to downtown Covington to play the State Champs Covington Holmes Bulldogs. The game was back and forth all game; however, the Colonels fell short on a very controversial call 55-57. On the 13th the Thoroughbreds of Newport Central Catholic traveled to Park Hills and beat the Colonels 53-63. The following day, the Colonels played the Cardinals of Colerain in the Bluegrass-Buckeye Charity Classic at Dixie Heights High School. The Colonels sent the game into overtime with a last second alley-oop from Clint Massie to Ryan Hayden, but in the end Cov Cath came up short as they lost 60-68. Nick Frederick was the leading scorer as he dropped 18.

Good luck to the basketball Colonels as they finish their season and try to make a run to Rupp Arena.

Interscholastic Bowling Colonels

By: Jacob Lange

The bowling Colonels' season got off to a bitter-sweet start with a 4-3 victory over the Holy Cross Indians on December 1st. Although this match did result in a victory, Coach Kaelin and some of the bowlers were not very happy with their performance. This 4-3 victory gave the Colonels a wakeup call, and they now know that their potential journey to the state tournament will not be handed to them on a silver platter.

The Colonels continued their winning ways in their second match against the dreaded Highlands Bluebirds. Many of the Colonel bowlers brought their "A" game which allowed the Colonels to win in a 5-2 victory. This victory seemed to give the Colonel bowlers some momentum heading into their December 10th tournament in Louisville.

It was an early morning for the 8 Colonel bowlers who made the trip to Louisville for the Louisville St. Xavier Pins Down Invitational on December 10th. This tournament gave the Colonels their first look at some tough competition from all around the state. The colonels were one of 12 schools invited to the invitational. The Colonels received a favorable draw for their pool play. The Colonels swept their pool 3-0 which consisted of Taylor County, Louisville Moore, and North Hardin. With their sweep, the Colonels were into the semi-finals. The Colonels took on a very strong opponent in Bullitt Central. The Colonels bowled some strong games, but ultimately fell short losing to Bullitt Central, and were forced into the third place game. In the Battle for third place, the Colonels took on DuPont Manual. The Colonels had their strongest game of the day, but fell short losing 825-779. The Colonels received the fourth place plaque, which is the first trophy/plaque ever received by a Covington Catholic bowling team. Coach Kaelin was pleased with the Colonels' showing in Louisville, with 5 of the 8 bowlers having an average above 160 for the day. Senior Alex Tilford had the highest average on the day with a 190.3 through 3 games. Sophomore David Hacker was next in line with a 190.2, but bowled in all 5 of the Colonels games. Seniors Colin Alig, Jacob Lange, and David Bitter followed with averages of 180.4 174.5 and 161.5 respectively.

The Colonels returned home with a winning mentality, winning their next match against the Beechwood Tigers 6-1. The Colonels only loss of the day came in the final Baker game of the day, which denied the Colonels a chance to sweep the Tigers. With the way the Colonels had been bowling, both in Louisville, and against the Beechwood Tigers, the Colonels had high hopes for their next match against the Rebels of Boone County.

Unfortunately, the Boone County Rebels put a stop to the Colonels hot streak. The Rebels took 5 of 7 points from the Colonels in another bitter-sweet matchup. Coach Kaelin stated after the match that it could

have easily ended in a 4-3 victory if the Colonels ended their games stronger. In the final 2 games before bowling baker games, one team of Colonel Bowlers was up 45 pins entering the 9th frame, and ended with a loss. This left the Colonels in a 3-1 hole entering the final two baker games. With an inspirational speech given by seniors Alex Tilford and Jacob Lange, the Colonels started off the first baker game strong, winning 192-187. That inspiration did not last long because the Colonels dropped the final baker game in a close 188-201 game. This final game gave the Rebels their 5-2 victory, and left a bitter taste in the mouths of the Colonels heading into their weekend match; the 2012 Covington Catholic Bowling Challenge.

Covington Catholic hosted their first bowling invitational, the 2012 Covington Catholic Bowling Challenge, on January 7th. Louisville St. Xavier and Louisville Trinity returned the favor and traveled up to participate in the invitational. Holy Cross evened out the playing field, bowling whichever Louisville school our bowling Colonels were not taking on. The Colonels woes continued winning only 1 of the 14 points up for grabs against the two Louisville schools. The Colonels had many strong averages on the day, but many of them were not consistent enough to bring home some more victories. David Hacker, David Bitter, Colin Alig, Jacob Lange, Blake Tewes, and Austin Stetter all had averages above 160 for the day. Two trophies were given to each team, one for the highest average, and one for the highest game. David Hacker received the highest average trophy for the Colonels with an average of 208.25, and Blake Tewes rolled the highest game of the day for the Colonels with a 266.

The Colonels got back on the winning track against the St. Henry Crusaders. The Colonels got the win 4-3, but Coach Kaelin, as well as some of the Colonel bowlers were not very happy. The Colonels were up 3 games to 1 heading into the final 2 baker games. The Colonels lost these final two games and only got their 4th point because they won the total pins. Coach Kaelin, Coach Simon, as well as the bowlers believed that this match should have easily been a 7-0 or 6-1 victory.

With the season at its halfway point the Colonels have a record of 21-14 and sit in 5th place in their division. The Colonels face a much tougher schedule in the second half of the season bowling Cooper, Dixie twice, Boone County, Campbell County, Simon Kenton, and Scott to round out the rest of their schedule. The key to the second half of the Colonels' season is consistency. At the halfway point, the Colonels have 10 bowlers with an average of 153 or higher. It will take the Colonels all they've got to remain in contention for the regional and state tournaments. Obviously, however, they will accomplish this task.



Photo by Prestige

Jacob Lange shoots to kill...or get a strike.



Photo by Prestige

Casey Stewart takes no prisoners.

CCH Times Staff

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