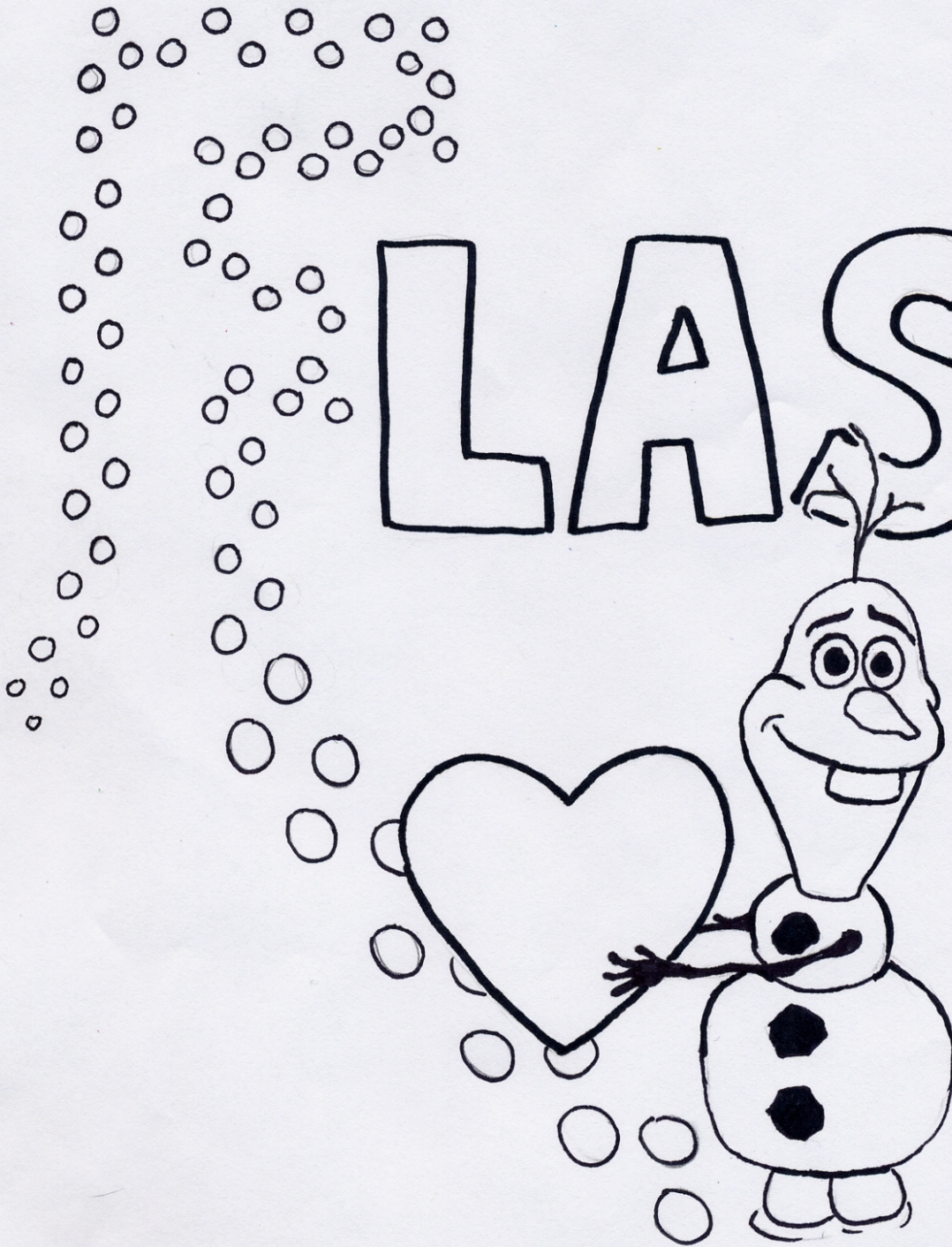
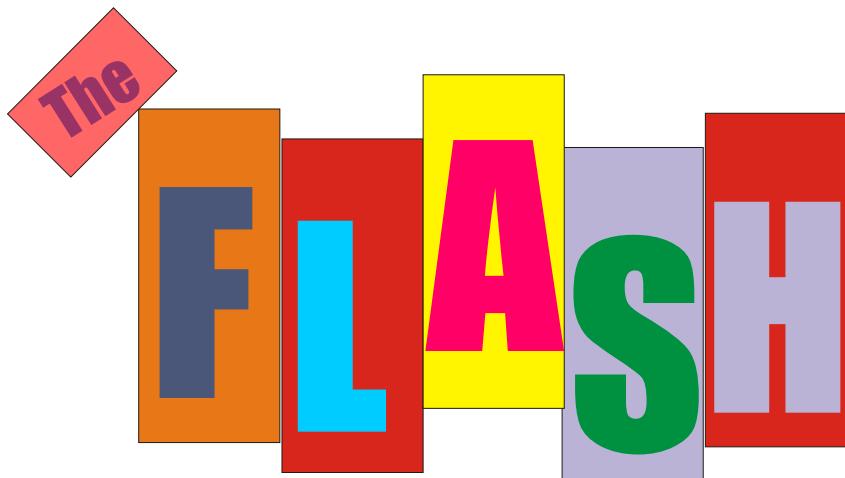


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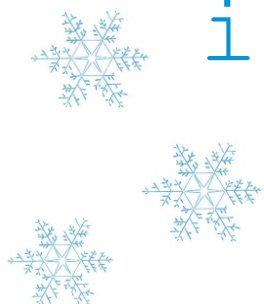




Volume 57  
Issue 5

February 3, 2014

# Things to do in the dorm when it's cold outside!!



By  
Olivia Albrecht  
&  
Becca Krause

Do you ever feel like you have nothing to do on the weekends because it's so cold outside? Well, we have Some super awesome ideas to get rid of that boredom!

- Do you want to build a snowman? I'm sure most of you have heard that quote going around school. It's from the new movie Frozen and I highly recommend you see it. You could also watch other movies with friends, either in the dorm or in the theaters!
- Make a music video!
- Bring out the best in your friends by playing some cards or a board game.
- Have a dance party! Plus you burn calories.
- Buy a bunch of food and eat it all.
- Make a slip and slide in the hallway. (Check with your dorm parent first!)
- Play hide and go seek.... in the dark.

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FROM  
YOUR

*Editors*

Third Quarter Blues. We have all had that moment when life just seems too busy but yet too boring. Basketball season stretches endlessly on before you with no end in sight. Old Man Winter has been here for far too long, limiting the amount of off campus time you get. Our wonderful school cares too much about our education to cancel even two hours of classes (But a one hour delay seems like a great alternative). Yeah, third quarter blues are the worst. But take heart! The snow won't last forever. Baseball, softball, and track seasons will start, the cold days will be replaced with beautiful spring afternoons spent walking off campus with friends, laughing about who knows what. It will get better. But for now, find some good things in your life. Look for any excuse to smile and make someone else's day a little better. If we all help each other out, our third quarter blues won't seem quite so bad.

Nate  
Buck

&

Becca  
Naumann

SUD  
OKU!

2

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

# Random Facts

BY EMILY HEIN

- It takes 8.5 minutes for light to get from the sun to earth.
- A crocodile's tongue is attached to the roof of its mouth.
- Your stomach needs to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks or it would digest itself.
- Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin.
- There are 1,792 steps in the Eiffel Tower.
- Koalas never drink water. They get fluids from the eucalyptus leaves they eat.
- In space, astronauts cannot cry, because there is no gravity, so the tears can't flow.
- There are 240 dots on an arcade Pacman game.
- Every time you lick a stamp, you consume 1/10 of a calorie.
- King Louis XIX ruled France for 15 minutes.
- If a frog's mouth is held open for too long, the frog will suffocate.
- Jimmy Carter was the first US President to be born in a hospital.
- Maine is the only state in the US whose name is only one syllable.
- A group of kangaroos is called a mob.
- A poem written to celebrate a wedding is called an epithalamium.

## The Secret Life of

## WALTER MITTY

By Becca Naumann

The short story "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" by James Thurber is a tale all Immanuel students know well. As freshmen, the cries of "Puppy Biscuits!" and "Overshoes!" were forever engrained into our memories as Prof Lau so loudly exclaimed. So when I discovered that one of the best short stories of Freshman year had been made into a major motion picture, tickets were purchased, popcorn was buttered, and a few friends and I headed to the theater.

While the movie was decent, it didn't have much in common with the short story. Just about the only thing that the movie and story have in common is a man named Walter Mitty who daydreams because his life is a bit lacking in excitement. I liked the storyline of the movie and thought the actors did a good job in their portrayals. Kristen Wiig played Walter Mitty's (Ben Stiller) love interest. In the short story Walter is "happily married" to a bossy wife, so that is pretty different. The two worked well together and I really enjoyed their awkward romance.

Overall, I give this movie a 4 out of 5 stars. It was cute and funny, but it didn't hold true to the short story so near to all of our hearts.



# MEET

# Corey

By Ben Naumann


# THE NEW COLLEGE STUDENT

Corey Daniel Drehle is the new college student on campus. He was born on September 19, 1991, in Liberty, Missouri, to Jared and Kim Drehle. He was raised in Norborne, Missouri, with his two older brothers Jordan and Devin. He has worked in the food industry since he was fourteen. Corey was taking Pre-The courses in a Missouri Synod college in Texas. He heard about our college here through a CLC church in Texas. He decided to come up here and enroll in our Pre-The course and eventually become a pastor in the CLC. Corey is currently taking classes at Messiah. He likes to read and write in his spare time. So the next time you see him, walk up and say hello! Everybody could use a new friend!



## Joci's

## LINES



All the late-night memories,  
Of things children should never see,  
And all these years you've stood by me,  
As we watched the past fade into dream.

But some dreams haunt us endlessly,  
And fear slips stealthily into sleep,  
And all these years, a tragic tapestry,  
Its patterns are all the secrets we keep.

Every shadow is a sinister silhouette,  
Of defeated monsters I can't forget,  
After all these years I now confess,  
My scarred soul never found rest.

# 4

# Word Association

BY: JADYN MIELKE

## First Word

Ice

Baby  
Rattle  
Broken Machine  
Robot  
Wall-e  
Disney  
Walt  
Dance  
Joey  
Cousin  
Not Friends  
Despicable  
Homework  
School  
Sadness  
Vikings  
Pathetic  
McDonalds Workers  
Greasy  
Eww

Danielle  
Joseph A.  
Carl R.  
Nate B.  
Jack Mielke  
Becca N.  
Mattias  
Gabby  
Emily  
Tim  
Rachel G.  
Savanna  
Ned  
Becca K.  
Lydia  
Jonah A.  
Abi B.  
Joey B.  
Riley S.  
Sierra



## End Word

TTS

~Johanna M.

5

# Abigail

{ Emily  
Eve }

## BERNTHAL

By Joci Gamble



**JG:** When and where?

**AB:** January 15, 1996. St. Joseph, Michigan.

**JG:** Got a few siblings there, Abi. Think you're the favorite?

**AB:** Uh, no.

**JG:** Why not?

**AB:** I don't know! Who says that? ...It's probably my brother, 'cause he's the only boy.

**JG:** Plans after high school?

**AB:** Army. Hopefully, to be a medic.

**JG:** Favorite high school memory?

**AB:** Awkward moments with Kate. All of them.

**JG:** Favorite Mean Girl?

**AB:** Gretchen Wieners. "Her hair's so big, 'cause it's full of secrets."

**JG:** What sports do you play?

**AB:** Pretty much everything besides volleyball.

**JG:** If you were stranded on a desert island, what three things would you want with you?

**AB:** Riley Noeldner. 13 sticks of dynamite. A combat knife.

**JG:** Any advice for the youngins?

**AB:** Just remember, I'm sorry, and my bad mean the same thing. Except at funerals.

# 6

### [FAVORITES]

Prof: Sippert Candy: Sour patch kids or Swedish fish  
Season: Winter when it's not super cold...so mostly spring.  
Pet peeve: "Don't have any"

# Michaela

## MARIE Naumann

By Olivia Albrecht

When and where were you born?

December 28, 1995, in Luther Hospital, Eau Claire,  
Wisconsin.



What do you plan to do after high school?

I am probably going to come back and teach.

Favorite childhood memory? High school memory?

I flew when I was 5 years old to Seattle. Me, Abby, and Becca got matching princess shirts and Ben was mad because he didn't get one!

Emily, Lauren, and I had an indoor picnic in Emily's room when we didn't like what was being served. When Brooke and I went to a TobyMac concert.

If you could be any superhero, who would it be and why?

Captain America, because he is just so caring for people... which I think is awesome. And he is also very attractive.

Words of wisdom?

Smile a lot. Pray a lot. How you treat someone will make a big difference. Trust God unconditionally.

Also, Michaela is going to Nepal this summer! She absolutely LOVES Starbucks and zebra stripes. She likes photography.

## Where do you see Michaela in ten years?

**Sierra:** She will be working at Pinterest making pretzel and chocolate covered things, all while balancing ten kids and owning stock at Starbucks.

**Abby:** I think she will have two kids and come over to my house every day for lunch because she can only make mac&cheese and alfredo.

## *Favorites:*

**Color:** Pink

**Prof:** Sullivan

**Movie:** Knight and day or the Lion King

**Song:** "Rhythm of Love" by Plain White  
Tees and "Wanted" by Hunter Hayes

**Passage:** Jeremiah 29:11 and  
Deuteronomy 31:6





# Nathaniel

## PAUL KRAUSE

By Jimboslice

Where and when were you born?

**February 27, 1996, in Aberdeen, SD.**

In one sentence, describe your childhood.

**Fun and adventurous, and then I moved to Wisconsin.**

So how many school plays and musicals have you been in?

**4 - 2 plays, 2 musicals.**

What was it like wearing that pink dress?

**A little tight around the midsection. Otherwise, it was an interesting experience.**

What are your wise words of wisdom?

**In the words of my father, always where under where (underwear).**

What's the most traumatic ILHS memory you have?

**Probably going to the ER 3 times in the same year.**

How many nicknames do you have?

**27-35**

What do you plan to do for college?

**Going to pre-the.**

So how does it feel to be an honorary junior?

**We have a lot of "GOOD" memories.**

Best Brett Lau story?

**Fudge.**

What is the most outrageous thing you've cooked in a hot pot?

**Scrambled eggs.**

What is your record time for falling asleep?

**5 seconds.**

Did you choose the doorknob or did the doorknob choose you?

**Obviously the doorknob chose me.**

So any interesting hobbies?

**Cooking, pumpkin carving, snowflake making, soap carving, playing drums, reading, making maps.**

What is the longest word you know?

**Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis. (45 letters)**

8

FAVORITES

### Food

My own grilled chicken, or my saliva; I eat that more than anything else.

### Movie

Mrs. Doubtfire

### Song

Soy Guapo

### Class

Chemistry

### Video game

Skyrim

### Color

Orange

### Food at ILHS

Cheeseburger casserole

### Prof

Sullivan

# A Fresh (men's) VIEW ON Sports

BY SAM BUCK  
AND GUNNY SIPPERT

## Super Bowl

As you may recall, back in September, we predicted what the Super Bowl matchup would be. Sam said Seahawks vs. Patriots (so close), and Gunny said Broncos vs. Giants (less close). Both writers got one team correct. And now, after quite an intense conference championship round, Super Bowl XLVIII is set for February 2nd in East Rutherford, New Jersey. The Denver Broncos handled business on their home turf, beating the New England Patriots 26-16 (much to Austin Mayhew's liking). The Seahawks, in a much more flashy way, won the NFC on a last-second tipped interception to beat the San Francisco 49ers 23-17. The teams are ready to battle the elements at the outdoor Metlife Stadium. Let's preview the teams.

### Denver Broncos

The Broncos are, of course, spearheaded by Omaha-callin', Tennessee graduate, veteran quarterback Peyton Manning. Manning set both the single-season records this year for passing yards (5,477) and TD's (55). Manning also was the leader of the (statistically) most dominant offense in NFL history. Manning has a plethora of deadly weapons in his arsenal. Wide receivers Demaryius Thomas (14), Eric Decker (11), Wes Welker (10), as well as tight end Julius Thomas (12), who all had ten or more receiving touchdowns. Along with all of these offensive options, Manning has a stellar offensive line blocking for him. On the defensive side of the ball, the Broncos are not so great. They rank 19th in total defense, but have stepped it up in the playoffs, only giving up 30 combined points in two games. They have many great pieces, such as Terrance Knighton at nose tackle and Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie at cornerback. The Broncos defense as a whole is definitely outmatched by the opposing defense. On special teams, the Broncos are second-to-none. Kick returner Trindon Holliday and punt returner Eric Decker are some of the best in the league. Kicker Matt Prater set the single field goal distance record against the Tennessee Titans this year with a 64-yarder. Prater also only missed one field goal on the season.

Denver, with a spectacular offense, a good defense, and great special teams, have definitely proved that they are the best of the AFC and deserve to be in Super Bowl XLVIII.



## Seattle Seahawks

The Seahawks are also led by a top-ten quarterback in Russell Wilson, but their offense is based on the ground. With bruising running back Marshawn Lynch and a better offensive line than Denver's, they had the NFL's 4th overall rushing attack in the 2013 season. Wilson's weapons, however, are not as great as Manning's. Percy Harvin has been injured all season long, and no other player had more than five receiving touchdowns in the regular season. Their offense is more free-flowing than the Broncos', because of Wilson often extending plays by running around in the pocket before finding (usually) an open man.

Seattle's defense is one of the best in the league, if not the best, and it will be the Seahawks' key to winning on February 2nd. Led by Richard Sherman, a trash-talkin' cornerback, who lives up to his own hype, the Seattle D shows up every game ready to dominate and punish the opponent. The Seahawks led the NFL in the regular season with the least number of total yards per game given up, as well as the fewest passing yards. Joining Sherman in the secondary (The Legion of Boom) is fellow corner Byron Maxwell, and safeties Earl Thomas and Kam Chancellor. On special teams, the Seahawks have an amazing kicker, Steven Hauschka, who only missed twice this regular season. Wide receivers Golden Tate and Doug Baldwin are also explosive returners, and will be sure to give the Broncos' coverage teams difficulties. The Seahawks will be led by their defense into New Jersey, along with a big time offense and a solid group of special teamers.



## Sam's Prediction



**28**



**21**



**26**



**24**

## Gunny's Prediction

**10**

# Who would

The Google logo is displayed in its characteristic multi-colored font: blue 'G', red 'o', yellow 'o', blue 'g', green 'l', and red 'e'.

# THAT?!

By Nate Buck

Google is a very useful tool. But a whole other story is Google search suggestions that pop up when you plug in a few words or letters and Google tries to autocomplete it for you based on how many other people have searched the same phrase. So, here are a few funny, albeit, weird ones.

**Help.....** how can I keep from singing

... I accidentally built a shelf

... I am a fish

**Is a.....** banana an herb

... shark a mammal

... coconut a nut

**Squirrels.....** are the devil's oven mitts

... are mocking me

... are people too

**In 1997.....** Steve was chopping wood

... a sound was detected in the ocean

**Don't you hate it when.....** a sentence doesn't end the way you think it octopus

... a chinchilla eats the universe

**Why do all.....** these old bands keep copying Glee songs

**Aren't you.....** relieved to know you're not a Golem

**I think.....** rhinos are just obese unicorns

**How do you.....** search on Google

**Why are Americans.....** afraid of dragons

**Ben.....** Jones eats a roach

**Why is Nicolas Cage.....** on the cover of a Serbian biology textbook

... 's hair a bird

... 's face on everything

**How to raise.....** your IQ by eating gifted children

**Charles Darwin is.....** my homeboy

**How come.....** a cupcake is not a mineral

**Whenever.....** Richard Cory went downtown, we people on the sidewalk looked at him

... John delivers newspaper he throws it in the bushes

**When life gives you lemons.....** throw them at pedestrians

... make beef stew

... crawl in your shell

**Working is.....** the curse of the drinking class

**Amish.....** online dating



# LIFE. HACKED.

By Emily Marzofka

## WHAT IS A LIFE HACK?

It was born to create a world in which you can live with utmost efficiency, enjoyability and popularity. It was originated by the greatest minds in our country, the most genius thinkers in the New Age. Life hacks are the epitome of a world without complications, or at the very least, a world that has overcome them.  
This is, Life Hacked.



# HUNGRY FOR

# ADVENTURE?

By Michaela Naumann

Formal this year is taking a popular, and adventurous twist. This year's theme is the Hunger Games, themed after the highly rated trilogy written by Suzanne Collins, the first book published in 2008. Tables will be represented by each of the 12 Districts from the books. You can expect the Activities Committee to put up some amazing decorations for this much anticipated theme. For those of you who don't 'get' formal, here's the low-down. Basically, you go with a friend and get all dressed up. You arrive in the Commons around 5:30 pm on February 9th and take pictures with your friends and/or your date. At 5:45 you'll be ushered into the decorated cafeteria, and sit where your name is on the table. You eat the delicious meal, provided and prepared for you by some pretty special people. This year Prof. Rodebaugh volunteered to cook! At this time, the legend of the Emerald Knight and the Crystal Princess is read and they are crowned, along with their court (Jester and Lady in Waiting). Don't forget to vote for them the week of formal!! While you are finishing up, the Profs have a skit or short video for entertainment. We usually finish up with thank you's and the Alma Mater.

So now that you know what to expect, make sure you sign up!! Hope to see you there! (Sign up sheets are located on the wall by the Gym.) May the odds be ever in your favor at this formal!

**D** **O**  
**or**

**D** **Y** **E** **!**

By Faith Lillo



Lately it seems the girls at Immanuel are going to look good or dye trying. The hair dyeing epidemic is spreading faster than the buzzcut craze with at least 20 girls sporting new colors (by my quick, unreliable count). The members of the approximate twenty range from first-time dyer Claire Naumann to Shannon McDonald, who has dyed her hair over 15 times and had to take a moment to remember what her real hair color was.

Most dyers go for natural-looking shades, but there have been a few vivid greens, reds, pinks, and blues dotting the halls. People may assume that girls with these eye-catching colors must be attention-seeking or rebellious, but I've found that their motives were pure. Almost every girl who I spoke with said that they were simply craving a change. They just wanted something exciting to find in the mirror each morning, something to give them a sense of individualism, or something to shake up their lives a bit.

So what's next for the dyeing trend? It doesn't seem like many of these girls are going back to their roots anytime soon. More and more people are feeling inclined to get loud locks, and I'd encourage anyone who's thinking about dyeing their hair to go for it.

# INSIDE IDIOMS

By Prof Lau

The English language is full of idioms, accepted phrases or expressions having a meaning different from the literal. In this regular column I will introduce several common, and some not-so-common, idioms. I'll include what the idiom means and its origin. Hopefully, readers will gain new insights into idioms and sound intelligent in social settings.

## Beat around the bush

To avoid answering a question, or to approach something in a roundabout way.

"The child beat around the bush when his parents asked about his report card."

In the 1500's hunters hired people as "beaters" to drive small animals out of hiding to afford the hunters a better shot. They used long sticks to strike areas around the bushes, not hitting the bushes directly.

## Back to square one

Having to start once again from the beginning.

"When their model bridge broke before their demonstration, the students had to go back to square one."

Several possible histories of this idiom exist, but it most likely comes from the board game "Snakes and Ladders," called "Chutes and Ladders" in the United States. Unfortunate players landing on the wrong square could find themselves sliding all the way back to square one.

## No dice

Used to show that there is no chance of an event happening.

"The teacher's response to the student asking if he could chew gum in the classroom was, "No dice."

When gambling was illegal in many states, those gambling would often hide their dice when police arrived because the evidence of dice could be used against them in court. For many, no dice meant no conviction.



The

FAMILY

# Business

By Kevin Schrader

Lurking, hiding in this very school, are two students who live alternate lives. During the fall, winter, and spring months, these two individuals act, dress, talk, and complain like high schoolers. But as soon as summer hits, they pack up and head west to begin their lives as. . . loggers! That's right, two of your fellow students are plaid-wearing, axe-wielding, "Timber!"-shouting lumberjacks. Their names? Riley and Jesse Noeldner. In fact, their entire family is made up of tree-choppers! And each summer, the entire family gets crammed into a van and driven out to California to work in the family business. I met up with these two Bunyans to find out more.

The job according to Jesse and Riley. . .

**KS:** "So where do you log?"

**JN/RN:** "Mammoth and June lakes"

**KS:** "Who do you work for?"

**RN:** "My mom and my dad. Probably mostly my mom."

**JN:** "My dad acts like it, but my mom is the boss."

**KS:** "Who do they work for?"

**RN:** "Themselves. Customers. I don't know. . . Forest Service. . ."

**KS:** "So what's your job?"

**JN:** "I cut the limbs off the trees and cut them into 20ft sections."

**RN:** "Everything but cut. I split, load, haul, deliver, and stack."

**KS:** "How many trees do you do each season?"

**JN:** "Couple thousand. . . 1,500-2,000."

**KS:** "Wow, that's a lotta trees! Does your whole family log? Youngsters too?"

**JN:** "Yeah, but not Jake. He's lazy. And not all of them, but some are forced to go out and do stuff by my mom and they cry."

**KS:** "Is logging fun?"

**JN:** "I think it is horrible. . . I just like the money."

**RN:** "Most of the time, no. But sometimes I do."

**KS:** "Are there ANY fun parts?"

**JN:** "We go to the coast once a month for church and communion."

**KS:** "Which is better: Wisconsin or California?"

**JN:** "Wisconsin."

**RN:** "California weather, Wisconsin people... I don't know, I don't know. If the whole school moved to California, and the green stuff, I'd love it."

**KS:** "Favorite memories?"

**RN:** "Either Alex cutting her finger off, Joe Naumann cutting his arm, or me showing a bear who's boss."

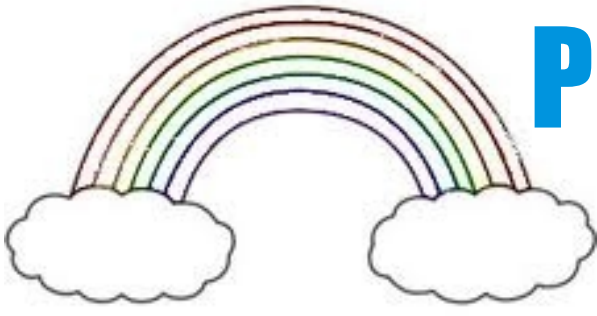
**KS:** "Alex cut her finger off?"

**JN:** "No, it was dangling by the skin so they just put it back up and sewed it on."

**KS:** "Yuck."

So there you have it. Lumberjack Riley and Jesse Bunyan's secret is out. And if you ever think you might wanna log someday, feel free to contact either of those two. Odds are, they'll talk you out of it.





# POWERFUL CINEMATICS

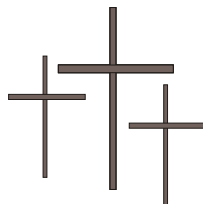
By Kevin Schrader

As winter drags on, it's common for students to search for a means of entertainment that won't send them into the fierce jaws of Old Man Winter. A great source of said entertainment can be found at the movie theater. If you're willing to spend some money, the theater offers a few hours of padded seats, stunning visuals, and sound you can feel. As Christians, it can be a challenge, however, to find movies that are entertaining without being overly inappropriate. This year, however, is shaping up to be a little different. This February, The Son of God will hit theaters. Eight days later, a movie chronicling the story of Noah will hit the silver screen. So, do these films faithfully follow the Biblical source? Or do they stray far from their holy origins into apocryphal tales?

Well, let's start with The Son of God. This movie, slated for release on February 28, centers on the life of Jesus Christ. It pulls much of its material from the History Channel's program "The Bible," with Diogo Morgado reprising his role as Jesus. From what can be gleaned from the trailers, the movie appears to be a fairly good representation of what the Bible describes. It does rewrite some dialogue to allow some flow. Although I am hesitant to accept whenever people put words in Jesus's mouth or attempt to add to the Biblical story, these changes do seem to be necessary to make a compelling film. Whether or not it is acceptable to God is unknown to me.

Next up is Darren Aronofsky's epic Noah. Due to be released on March 8, this film spans the life and struggle of Noah (portrayed by Russell Crowe). Unfortunately, this movie is rumored to take quite a few liberties with the Biblical accounts. According to some sources, Noah includes fantastical pre-flood creatures as well as human interaction with giant, six-armed angels called Nephilim. (In the Bible, the Nephilim are the giants who inhabited Canaan, and are first made mention of shortly after the fall of man.) While neither of these liberties are impossible, both seem to paint Scripture as no more than a child's fairy tale. Perhaps worse than these liberties, director Darren Aronofsky has also described Noah as the "first environmentalist," insinuating that the movie could be focused more on environmentalism than the relationship between God and men. Regardless of these wanderings, Noah does appear to be the best visual rendering of Noah's journey available to Christians.

No matter what your outlook on these films, I firmly believe they could be a very worthwhile watch. Even the short glimpse of their respective trailers left me with chills down my spine and tears welling in my eyes. They are powerful, evocative films that cast a new light on the stories that many of us simply scan past. If you do decide to check these films out, don't be surprised if you find me there with a bag of popcorn and a soda in the theater with you.



# 2014 Sochi: Behind the Facade

By Nathan Buck

February 7 is the opening of the 22nd Winter Olympic Games. While perhaps many of you closely follow the Summer Olympics, some may not have really paid much attention to its winter counterpart.

The Winter Olympics were started in Chamonix, France in 1924. They were interrupted by World War II, but continued after 1948. This year, athletes from 87 countries will attend. The Winter Olympics have only been hosted in 3 continents, and have never been hosted by a country in the Southern Hemisphere. The U.S. has hosted the games four times, France has hosted three times, Austria, Canada, Japan, Italy, Norway, and Switzerland have all hosted the games twice, and Sochi will be Russia's first game hosting ever. The Olympic torch-running to Sochi is to be a record setting 65,000 miles by 14,000 torchbearers; that's an average of 4.6 miles per runner/swimmer/cosmonaut (well the space mileage isn't included). Yes, Sochi's torch is the first to be carried into space onto the International Space Station (thankfully, unlit).

Sochi is located in the North Caucasus region (by Georgia, on the shore of the Black Sea). If you are unfamiliar with current events and political geography, that means this year's games will be taking place in an area wrecked by revolution, torn by civil war, and still a hotbed of conflict and terrorism. As a result, an average of 100,000 security personnel will be in Sochi during the games, according to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Putin says the games will be "the safest Olympics in history."

And just observing, they may be. For those who are very scared of the threats going towards the games this year, keep in mind that this has happened almost every time an international event of this size occurs. You are always going to have people who complain, and perhaps even those who resort to violence; it's human nature. So hopefully Sochi will go through peacefully. The above-mentioned factors, the Olympic venues and stadiums, and the highways and infrastructure needed for the games in Sochi came at an estimated price tag of 51 billion US dollars, a new record! This tops Beijing's 2008 Summer Olympics cost of 44 billion.

And yet, Sochi has a dark secret - a skeleton in the closet. Sochi is home to 350,000 people. The 2014 Olympics has promised change to the people. Before the venues and stadiums were even beginning to be built, much of outer Sochi was rife with poverty. Slums festooned with overcrowded people "graced" each village. Abandoned factories, dilapidated apartments, communal outhouses--Sochi also had terrible waste management, frequent power outages, and ill-kept roads. And the Olympics have brought change... but perhaps for the worst. Though roads have been improved, buildings, plumbing, and power plants added, and new international stores and brands have moved in, the poor still live, but now next to "Olympic" sized landfill piles. Anything that was an eyesore, was torn down, even still-wanted or needed things. Power outages still occur, the outlying villages are still overcrowded, poor, and filthy, and most residents have been cut off from the city's center. As Associated Press writer Nataliya Vasilyeva writes, "a crumbling city awash in poverty hides behind shiny facades." And it seems this is the truth. And it seems an age-old question of the games is always, "What will happen to the country and city that hosted the games?" Well, Sochi could definitely use some help. Already, organizers have plans for using the stadiums after the closing ceremony on February 23. Plans are to use the buildings as training areas, sports and debate arenas, and other uses.

Time will tell if the 2014 games will hurt or help the city of Sochi. However, there is no doubt that during the Sochi Winter Games viewers will be in awe of breathtaking architecture, surreal landscape, and amazing athletes. I hope all of You can watch. Go USA! And Zimbabwe! (1 participant: Luke Steyn- men's slalom)

