

The Western Spirit

On The Internet: www.westernchristian.org/covina/students/journalism

APRIL 2006

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"To Provide A Christ Centered Community That Integrates Faith And Quality Education"

Love Conquers Death

By Aimee Legind
STAFF WRITER

The night was dark and the sky was thunderous. The air around me felt cold and bitter. I was walking along the streets by myself. My name is Peter.

As I was walking, I was searching for the place where they had led Jesus. The Roman soldiers had arrested him not long ago. They took him to a court where he was questioned and tried. The people said they wanted him crucified. But why would they want to kill an innocent man? He was delivered to the soldiers and sentenced to be put to death. I did not understand.

As I looked up, I saw a look in Jesus's eyes of pain and grief. A few soldiers led him to a place where he would be severely flogged. A soldier started to whip Jesus while another stood by and laughed. I turned my head and could not bear to look any longer. I remember seeing Jesus heal a little girl with a fatal sickness a little while ago. He even raised a dead man back to life. I could not stand to see him hurt like this now. Why were they torturing this innocent man?

As the day dragged slowly on, Jesus was taken to a place called Golgotha. It was called the "place of the skull". As I followed Jesus, I watched as he tripped and struggled to carry the heavy burden of his cross up the hill to where he would be crucified.

As he reached the unfortunate destination, the cross was laid upon the dusty ground. Jesus was placed upon it. A few soldiers gathered around and



grabbed some rusty nails. One of them took up a hammer. He stretched Jesus's arm as he began to fasten him to the rugged, wooden cross. I could not endure the pain I heard in Jesus's voice as I listened to him suffer. In a few minutes, the cross stood in the middle of the raging storm for all to see. A sign had been placed upon the top of the cross, saying, "Jesus, King of the Jews". A crown of sharp, jagged thorns was painfully pushed into Jesus's head and as he cried out to God, a soldier came along and

pierced his side with his sword. I just knew the moment would soon come and all would be over. I still did not understand.

Hours passed and time seemed like forever. At the peak of the storm, Jesus cried out to God. He asked him why he had turned away. Then, in a voice I will never forget, he yelled that "all was finished". He lowered his head and an earthquake violently shook the ground.

A little while later, I walked over to the cross. I glanced down at the ground

stained with blood. I looked up at the lifeless body of Jesus. It was broken beyond recognition. Through tear-filled eyes, I looked up to the sky and still did not understand. I covered my face with my hands and wept. I did not know where to go from here.

Jesus was taken gently down from the cross and prepared for burial. He was laid in a stone tomb and two soldiers were placed in the front to guard him. Three days went by. On the third day, all was calm. The storms had past, the soldiers were at their posts, and a few people came to visit the gravesite.

Suddenly, an earthquake hit and a bright figure appeared. It was an angel! The soldiers trembled and fell to the ground. They were so frightened, that they quickly ran away. The angel rolled away the stone and a man dressed in white emerged. It was Jesus, raised from the dead! He was alive, no longer held in by the grave or sin. I will always remember when he appeared to all of us. He even showed us the scars from the nails on his hands and feet.

At the very moment He came to us, and I finally understood. I realized that Jesus had to die at Calvary so I could be free. He had to walk the path to the cross so I would not have to.

A few days after he had risen, He ascended into heaven again, in all His glory. I looked up into the beautiful, bright sky. I remembered all the times I had with Jesus and I could not wait until it was my turn to go to heaven, to be with Him again.

WESTERN LIFE

WCHS

April 2006

www.westernchristian.org/covina/students/journalism

Anatomy Takes An In-Depth Look

By Silas Wolff
STAFF WRITER

When hearing about a bunch of high school students going to Azusa Pacific University (APU), it comes to mind that they must be looking at that college because they are interested in attending. Recently, however, WCHS students did not go there because they wanted to go to school there. They went to go see human cadavers, which helped

them get a better look at and feel of the human body than they could have gotten from any textbook. This was no ordinary "visit APU trip; this was a field trip led by Dr. Hansen with the anatomy class accompanying him. The anatomy class got to do something that the students of Western Christian High School have never done. They went to APU to get a very in-depth look at the human body by actually looking at cadavers. "The time of

examining the cadavers was the most interesting and shocking to a lot of kids," said Dr. Hansen.

Besides getting to do something so cool, they also got a college level lecture on blood. During the half-hour break they got to play soccer in the gym. However, this was no ordinary soccer match because they had to play in their socks. As one might imagine, people were falling and flopping all over the place. The team with Dr. Hansen and the

soccer stars were the losers of the game. One must not forget that no visit to APU could be complete with out a tour of the campus.

This was the first time anatomy has ever done anything like this. When asked if they were going to do it next year, Dr. Hansen said they would. "It was a great field trip."

Ms. Romero Teaches From The Heart

By Sarah Ortega
STAFF WRITER

Ms. Romero is the newest member of the Western Christian family. Ms. Romero grew up in a large, tight family. "Family is the most important thing to me. I grew up with tons of cousins and I saw them every time we got together as a family, and that would have to be my best childhood memory, my family," Ms. Romero says. She always wanted to come to Western Christian for high school because she lived right down the street. "I didn't get the chance to come here so now I teach here," Ms. Romero said jokingly. Instead of coming to Western she attended Light House Baptist Academy. She graduated with a very small class. She also participated in many extra curricular activities such as planning their Senior Banquet. Along with that, she was involved in sports. She played volleyball for two years, basketball a year, and she was also a cheerleader for three years.

After high school she went to Azusa Pacific University (APU), and got her Bachelors Degree in Spanish. While in college, she was involved in different ethnic groups. She was in the Amigos and "BSA" (Black Student Awareness). She taught at Light House Baptist Academy Spanish

1 for first semester and at San Dimas High School for second semester. Ms. Romero has made her way to Western Christian and is loving it here. "I love teaching here. I love the students and staff



Staff Photo By Sarah Ortega

and facility", Ms. Romero said. She is currently the new ESL and NP English teacher.

Ms. Romero is also involved in church. She has been a Christian since she was fourteen and, like

many, just went to church to go. It was not until then that she realized what Christ had done for her. She attends Light House Baptist Church and teaches the Kindergarten Sunday School class, helps out with the high school class, and assists in youth group as well. She has been on several missionary trips including summer camp in Northern California, Indian Reservations, New Mexico, and Utah. Ms. Romero's favorite verse in the Bible is Proverbs 3:5-6. "This verse is really important to me because it

means to me that when I feel lost and when I felt lost God was always and will always be there with me. God is always in control", she concluded.

OPINION

WCHS

April 2006

www.westernchristian.org/covina/students/journalism

The Fashion of Modesty

By Katrina Tuason
STAFF WRITER

Everyone strives to express their individuality. Though there are many ways to decipher and convey differences in people, one particular way is most evident. Physical appearance is the simplest way to judge, or, as some may argue, misjudge, others. But does the

physical appearance, such as clothing, really portray who a person is on the inside?

Most people debate using two popular extreme points. Some say that the way a person dresses could cause a person to be stereo-typed and assumed to be someone completely different from who that person really is. Others claim that the way a person dresses

portrays that person's inward character. However, there is an alternate opinion that incorporates parts of the two. It can definitely be argued that the outside appearance does not enable a person to depict an accurate perception of a person. For instance, a man with many piercings, tattoos, and radical clothing can be more pleasant than a young girl with pigtails

and a sundress. It is also true that misjudgments are bound to happen if one were to base character on looks. Although, apparel often shows what a person is comfortable wearing. It also expresses how that person would like to be perceived by others, regardless if it communicates fact or fiction. And that, within itself, somewhat reflects on that person's heart.

As children of God and followers of His infallible Word, we know that God does not look at outward appearance. Instead, in 1 Samuel 16:7 says He looks at our hearts. However, that does not excuse his people from hiding the light inside of us, called Jesus Christ. Though our outward appearance may not be what is most important to God, we must glorify Him in all we do. Yes, this includes the way we look. Style and individuality is not outside of God's purpose. In fact, He created us with every intention of making each person very different from the next. Therefore, we must be careful to maintain a good and pure testimony, even in our daily apparel.



Staff Graphic by Silas Wolff / Staff Photo By Ryan Salwak

The Western Spirit

SPORTS

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WCHS

April 2006

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Baseball Team Starting and Finishing Strong

By Vy Ngo
STAFF WRITER

The Western Christian baseball team is a diamond in the rough. They have overcome adversity and difficulties; from the change of coaches to rained-out games. This season's team is quite different from previous teams. "You would recognize our team in a crowd of teams by seeing how they stand hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, and walking with their chest up," said Coach Gabbard. An obvious quality of the team is that they have great amount of unity. The team is led by Dustin Rich-

mond, Nick Muscato, and Matt Pendleton. "They aren't really captains, more of Senior Leaders," replied Coach Gabbard. Coach Gabbard wanted to make sure that the seniors would successfully lead the team. Leadership is a vital in baseball. The Senior Captains are leading by example and character. This season's team has a lot of drive to succeed and go far. "One of our goals is



they start their games out strong and finish strong. The scores of their games are exceedingly high. The team ranges from seniors to freshmen, making it a very diverse team. "The thing that would make a team good is that they are satisfied with the success of the team as well as the accomplishments of their individual performances," said Coach Gabbard.

to win the first game of league and become CIF champs," said Coach Gabbard. He is setting very high goals for the team, which definitely will be fulfilled as the games come. The difference between this season's team compared to prior teams is that

WCHS Golf Team Working Together

By Rebekah Valle
STAFF WRITER

On the Western Christian High School campus, golf is not a sport that gets much attention. The team has achieved a lot of things in their season so far. Each person has their own strengths individually and as a whole team. As a whole they are very talented and have a visible passion and drive to win. They are very encouraging and competitive. The team has had five wins and four losses and they have won two league games. Their first league game was against Aquinas and won 232-252 strokes. The object of golf is to get the ball in to last hole

with the least amount of strokes at the end. It is very difficult to get the hang of golf and takes a lot of practice and determination to be a great golfer.



The team as a whole works very well together and is made up of players who have a lot of potential and who are leaders. Captain, Brad Hunt, is the team's

number one golfer and does a lot for the team. He has the best average and has the ability to stay focused in matches and shows a lot of passion for the

game. Steve Bracci has a huge responsibility on the team to make sure they pursue victory for God's honors. He was the most inspirational on the team

last year and still preserves that image. Charlie Chang has a lot of discipline and works extremely hard. He is an underclassman who has worked extremely hard to get where he is today. The team's strength is that they play to beat their personal best score and pursue victory in God's honor. With beating their personal best in mind they strive for greatness and it benefits the whole team. They have a very good chance to take league and make it to C.I.F. "We play with a ton of passion and competitiveness but yet we play by the rules. Our main focus is to do a good job of representing Western Christian and God at the same time," said Coach Hernandez.

The Western Spirit

CALENDAR

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WCHS

April 2006

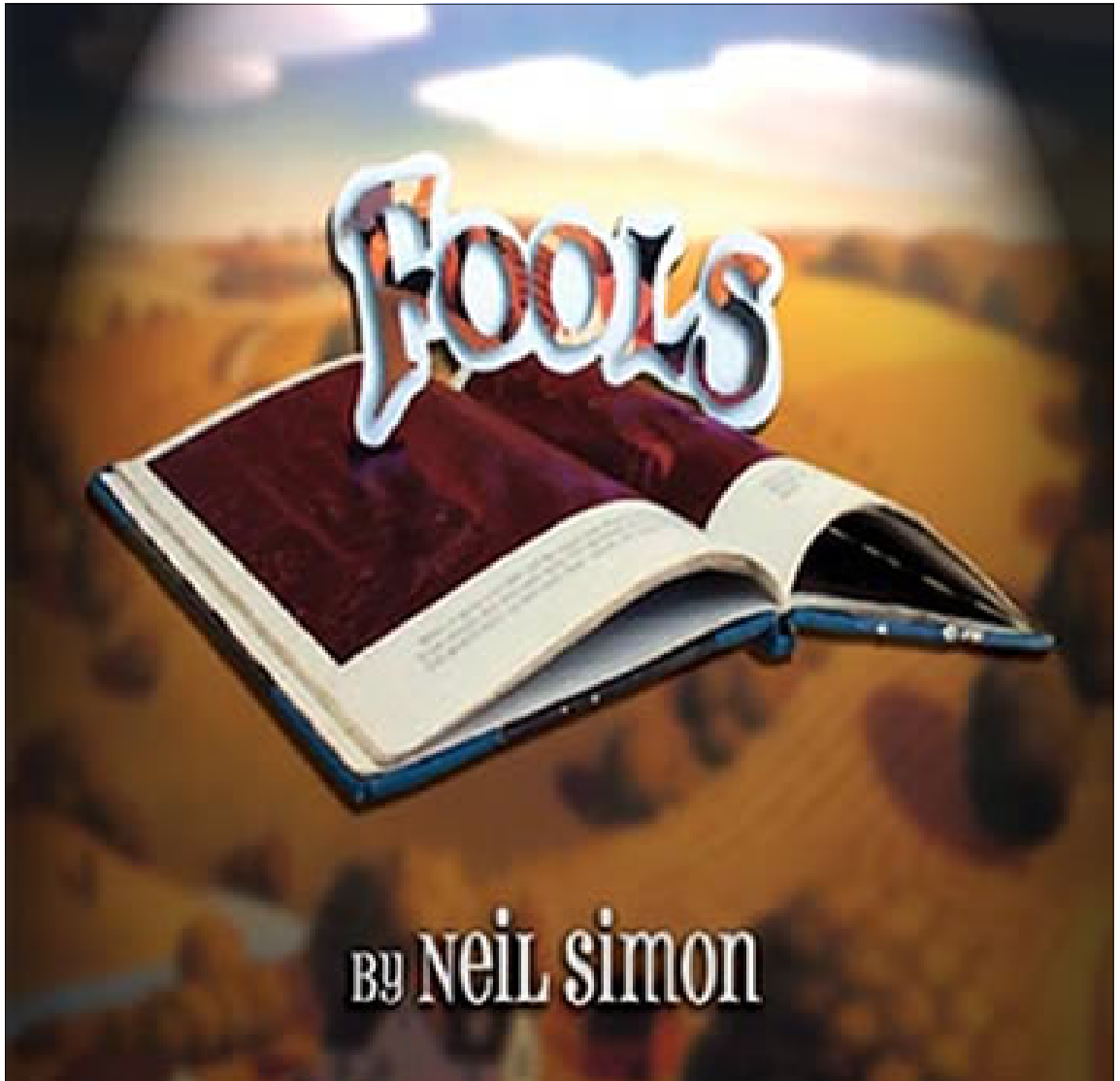
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Fools Fall In Love

By Lauren Langley
STAFF WRITER

For those who were foolish enough to miss the spring production of "Fools", this play was rounded out with an excellent array of students. The play was about a town that was cursed with foolishness by Count Gregor Gooniface (played by Erin McCormick). Leon, the school teacher (played by Gio Helou), is hired by Dr. Zubritsky (played by Mark Luchtenburg) and his wife, Lenya Zubritsky (played by Kari Bixby), to teach their daughter, Sophia Zubritsky (played by Jaimie Mills). The part of Snetsky was played by Brittany Lokar, and the part of the magistrate was played by Scott Doolittle. The part of Sam the Butcher was played by Morgan Barajas, the part of Michael the Postman was played by Derek Bargaehr and the part of Liza the Vendor was played by Jessica Pandzic. The background players were played by Jessica Luchtenburg, Greg Bargaehr, Victoria Jochimsen, Elizabeth Spalding, and Jesse Wohler. The teacher only had 24 hours to break the curse, or else he would be cursed with foolishness himself. Leon did not count on falling in love with Sophia, and he encounters many obstacles down the road. However, in the end, true love wins and they get married and live happily ever after. There were plenty of mishaps along the way, with added laughs and plenty of foolish fun.

The play took place over a series of two weekends. The cast, crew, director, and everyone involved took lots of time and



made many sacrifices to be able to make this play a reality. The cast had to endure many practices, and as always, tech week was filled with lots of work and little sleep. However, it was all worth it in the end, when the play was such a huge success. This play was different from previous plays because of the larger set, and because there were many added special affects. There was a small screen to the right of the stage that added little snippets through out the play.

Tickets were sold during lunch at school the entire week before the final weekend and tickets for the special April Fool's Day show were sold out almost an entire week before. Tickets for Friday night's showing were sold out by Wednesday. There were even people waiting outside the show, just hoping that some of the pre-sold ticket owners would not show up, or that it might be possible to squeeze in a few extra seats. The "cafetorium" was filled to the brim with excited

people. Even the set was quite elaborate, taking up most of the stage, which took up nearly a third of the cafetorium itself. This was a first in Western Christian Drama Club history, to sell out two nights, before the night of the actual plays taking place. This success will help future plays to be even bigger and with even more special effects. Hopefully this success will continue in future plays.

Q&A

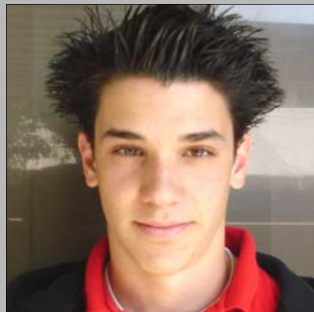
The Western Spirit decided to ask the student body a question as a means of learning more about the hearts and minds within the school. Our question:

As a child, who was your favorite super hero and why?

Below are some responses organized by class.



Freshman: April Hobby
 "Storm was my superhero as a child. She could cause the weather to attack her enemies!"



Sophomore: Nic Verlingo
 "As a young child, my favorite superhero was Batman. His costume made him so mysterious."



Junior: Matthew Moreno
 "My favorite superhero was Superman, because he is so muscular and good looking."



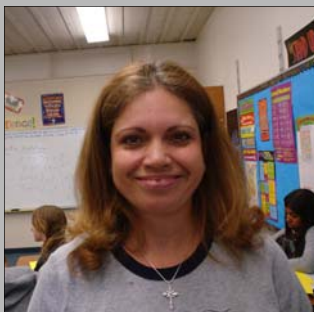
Senior: Alberto Fung Mock
 "Spiderman was my favorite superhero because he could swing on his spiderwebs."

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Mrs. Ghobrial: "My super hero was my dad because he was very successful, kind and very smart."



Mr. Ingram: "My favorite super hero was James T. Kirk on *Star Trek* because whatever situation he was in, he could get out of it."



Mrs. Garside: "My favorite super hero was Superman, because he could fly."



Mr. Coulter: "My favorite super hero was Spider Man because he had spider-like characteristics. He intrigued me."

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