

# The Western Spirit

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

JANUARY 2006

Issue: IV Volume:III

## Myspace: A Place for Friends?

By Lauren Langley  
STAFF WRITER

A vast majority of the students at Western Christian and even some of the teachers, have been sucked into the Myspace craze. According to Janet Kornblum from USA

*Today*, Myspace was started in January 2004 and in only two short years has accumulated over 47.3



million members. Sophomore Jaimie Mills says that she likes Myspace "because it is an alternative to wasting your time on the phone and you can talk to many people at the same time."

Myspace is a website where a person can log on and create their own profile. People use Myspace mainly to keep in touch with their friends through "comments" that they leave. One might be surprised at just how happy a "New Comments", flashing in red letters, can make a person. People can also learn more about their friends through the different information sections.

Many parents and concerned adults are worried about the students' safety. There have been reports in Mexico and on the East Coast of people getting attacked when they went to meet someone in person that they met through Myspace. There are many predators on Myspace that can make and access a profile very easily, pretending to be any kind of person that they want. That is why it is so easy for

Continues on E2 My Space

*"The lack of consistency and reliability with Link Line has been very frustrating because Western Christian has become so dependant on the services they provide". Mr.Doolittle-computer teacher*



Photo by Ryan Salwak/graphic by Silas Wolf

## Internet Access: Denied

By Ryan Salwak  
STAFF WRITER

From December 23 until January 11, Western Christian High School was disconnected from the Internet. As a result, teachers could not do their research off the Internet. Students could not e-mail messages to their teachers. Financial losses for the school could have possibly been incurred because future students could not get through to apply for enrollment.

This inconvenience happened when the school had an

unused DSL communication line, which Mr. Doolittle, the computer teacher, told Linkline, the liaison between Verizon and the school, to cancel. Accidentally they cancelled the school's active DSL line. When Mr. Doolittle called Linkline and told them what they had done, they plugged the campus back in from their end but failed to tell Verizon to stop the cancellation.

"It's Linkline's fault for not telling Verizon to stop the cancellation," Mr. Doolittle said.

"Linkline submitted a request

to Verizon to expedite the process to reactivate Western's DSL service" said Mr. Doolittle, but Verizon denied the request. At the time when the internet was down, Mr. Wheeler said, "It keeps me from getting my assignments off the Web and also keeps me from updating my Web site. I can't do any research for my classes off the Web, either."

As a result of this and other problems in the past with Link Line Mr. Doolittle said, "The lack of consistency and reliability with Link Line has been very frustrating because Western

Continues on E2 Internet down

# WESTERN LIFE

WCHS

January 2005

www.westernchristian.org/covina/students/journalism

## Fasting and Praying for a Revival

By Aimee Legind  
STAFF WRITER

It was an average day about 2,000 years ago. There were twelve men fighting amongst themselves who were obviously becoming very frustrated. They were trying to perform a miracle and heal a diseased man. Each one of their attempts failed and they could not understand why. A man then came up to them to solve their argument. This man was named Jesus. Jesus was able to heal the man. His disciples asked him why they all were

unsuccessful in their efforts. Jesus told them that in order to do great things in his name; they must first be willing to fast and to pray. To fast means not eating foods in order to concentrate more on God and what he wants you to do. Most of the time when Christians fast, they discover certain things that God wishes to reveal to them. They are more focused and do not have a lot of distractions on their mind. This is true to everyone today. If Christians wish to accomplish amazing things, they first must learn to desire God, pray to him, and

fast. When doing this, people discover a greater closeness to God.

Mr. Wheeler was asked questions about the success of the fast. He explained that, "The purpose was to start the New Year with an intense eye on God. I wanted the fast to be an introduction to spiritual discipline and I think we accomplished that. I think the student body was brought together." When asked if Western was going to have another fast again, Mr. Wheeler said, "Definitely. I believe a lot was accomplished and I am

looking forward to having a fast again some time soon."

There is a scripture that states, "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." This verse tells us that we do not live by food, but rather on the Word of God; the Bible. Food spoils and does not last forever, but God's words will never perish or disappear, because they are eternal and trustworthy. We can always rely on God for support because he is our strength and he will never let us down.

## "Shalom Barakten!" from Miss Thurber

By Katrina Tuason  
STAFF WRITER

Western Christian has yet another young teacher on campus. Amy Thurber, who teaches all of the Sophomore English classes, pleasantly presented her life story to the Western Spirit.

Ms. Thurber was born in Long Beach, California on December 11, 1982. She did not live there very long, but moved to a place called Lake Nacimiento near Paso Robles, when she was four years old. She came to know the Lord at a young age. She accepted Jesus Christ at nine years old, when a grandpa figure at church asked the children if they wanted to know Jesus. Only then, on the third floor of her Baptist Church, did she come to know Christ as her Lord and Savior. However, she recalls that her relationship with him "became real" when she was a sophomore in high school. She

added that perhaps, this is why she loves her sophomores so much. Ms. Thurber practiced her dependence and trust in the Lord her sophomore year because it was a challenging time for their family. Though she has two younger sisters, they were too young to understand at the time.

As a result, she turned to Christ.

She attended kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade in San Miguel and graduated with a class of

only 62 students. After that, she

went on to Paso Robles High School and graduated with a class of only 576 seniors. Ms. Thurber jokingly added that that is what happens "when you live in the boonies". She enjoyed playing soccer during her elementary

and high school years. This explains why she is now coaching Western Christian's amazing girl's soccer team. She talked of her fondness toward them and

said, "It is fun to bond with them". It is no shock that she bonds with the girls so well, since she played soccer from age four to eighteen. After she graduated high school, she went to Azusa Pacific University. She entered as a pre-med student and wanted to become a Pediatric Cardio surgeon. However, after getting a tutoring position at APU during her first year there, the Lord caused her to change direction in her career pursuit. Ms. Thurber heard God tell her, "I know the plans I have for you. They are not the plans that you have for yourself." Because of this, she received her Masters in education.

For a year, she took a Biblical Hebrew class. She wants to send a message to the student body saying, "Shalom barakten." This means peace and blessings to all of you.



# The Western Spirit

# SPORTS

C

WCHS

January 2006

www.westernchristian.org/covina/students/journalism

## Boys Basketball Team Strives to Excel

By Beka Valle  
STAFF WRITER

"Setting a goal is not the main thing. It is deciding how you will go about achieving it and staying with that plan," -Tom Landry.

The Western Christian boy's basketball team has set a goal to go far and is going to strive to achieve it. In previous years the team has done well but will most likely go further this season. The captains for the varsity team are Jordan Doolittle, Matt Pendleton, and John Rogers. They would like everyone on the team to have great determination in having the same goal to win and excel in greatness.

The team finished the Webb tournament where they won two games and lost one. They won 45-32 against Whitney, 50-38 against Webb, and lost to Upland Christian 49-59. Before the season began they played the Catalina tournament, but did not win. However, the team has won twelve games and lost six.

The boys are expected to win league and go beyond expectations into the playoffs. They have had four league games against Ontario Christian, Woodcrest, Arrowhead Christian, Loma Linda Academy and Aquinas. They are showing great stamina and have had very great progress so far in the season.

Many players this year show great progress and a lot of potential to be great assets to the team this season and in the future. Captain Matt Pendleton said, "Robert Mathias is a sophomore who has a ton of potential and also junior, Luke Fernandez has a lot of potential to be something great."

The bar is set high for the team and they will try to do no less than what is expected of them. With their profound determination and the help of supporting fans they will presumably accomplish their goal.

Each team plays differently together, some well and others not so well. It is said that this particular team plays very well together but could always be better. They would like to do a lot better than they have done in previous years. They want to blow everyone away this season. During the Christmas break they had two tournaments. In the Mountain View tournament they won two and lost one. That tournament was played in Las Vegas. In the Linfield tournament they won one game and lost three.

Obviously this team is doing as well as they expected and all are glad to see them succeeding.



Courtesy of www.westernchristian.org

## Lady Lancers Celebrate Unity

By Vy Ngo  
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Lancers finished off the year with a great Christmas party held by Coach Bartholomew (B). Danielle Baciu said, "Yeah, it was fun. Our gift exchange was fun, especially since we could only buy things from the 99-cent store." Coach B's annual Christmas party included gift exchanges, mall scavenger hunts, movies, food, and the Christmas story from the Bible. He has been having the Christmas party for 19 years now and says it is fun! Nicole Llorens said, "My favorite part of the party is the scavenger hunt. We take our digital cameras to the mall and take pictures of what B. wants us to do on the list. One time we had to form a WC on the first floor of the mall, and then take the picture. It was awesome to see other people do odd things." Danielle also said that her favorite part of the party was the gift exchange because she felt that their personalities really showed. The gift reflected how close they are and all the inside jokes they had. Lindsey Gutzwiller said, "It is a lot of fun getting together with the girls. They are beautiful and genuine people. There is never a dull moment with the girls' basketball team, that's for sure." It is obvious this group of girls just click with one another. Danielle thought that the team's strongest point is their friendships. Not only are they teammates but they are also best friends.

Though they did not start the league off with a good start, they did triumph over the next two (Pomona Catholic and Aquinas) games, making them above .500, which surpassed B's goal. They are headed towards Loma Linda High School and then to Arrowhead Christian. "Though Loma Linda is 0-3, does not mean they are not on our radar. We should play as if it is our last game and with as much intensity as any game," said Grace Casale. Danielle also agreed with that because she thinks all teams are a challenge. They both felt that Ontario Christian was a strong opponent. Danielle thought so because she felt that they got into their heads. They were as talented as them, but mentally they did not succeed. "Though they have one person that plays well, we have a whole team," said Grace. On any given night things can happen, they can make all their shots and we can miss ours or visa versa. She also believes that if we do what we have been doing and execute to perfection, no team will be a challenge. "I have never played with a better, more dedicated, amazing group of girls in all my years playing basketball," said Danielle. Nicole stated that they love each other. The girls have started the league with unity and focus. Because they began so strongly, they will be more likely to succeed in many more games to come.

## Bringing Good Cheer to Those In Need

By Sarah Ortega  
STAFF WRITER

The Western cheerleaders did an amazing job at Nationals. The cheerleaders recently went to the National Christian Cheerleading Championships which were held in Orlando, Florida. There they competed against eleven other Christian cheer squads for the Large Varsity Division. Among the eleven squads present and aside from Western, were two squads from California. These squads were Maranatha in Pasadena and Vacaville Christian which is in Vacaville. After the performance, they were so excited because they did so great. The cheer coaches were even crying. "As a freshman, I was really excited but scared at the same time. I know that Western has a high reputation so I was nervous but I was so excited that I was part of Western. What also helped my nerves calm down were the words of advice and wisdom that came from the coaches and older girls. They told us to go out there and do our best and God will do the rest," Amanda Mizell explained. Along with their busy schedule, the squad went to visit children who are a part of the One Wish Foundation. After the finals, the girls went to share the Word with the children and they also showed them some stunts that they performed earlier. It was a happy but sad experience because they knew that some of the kids would not live to see their next birthday. Even though it was a competition, they still made friendships with other girls. Each WCHS cheerleader met someone new from Riverside Christian and Whittier Christian. The girls took Nationals last year but this year they got 3<sup>rd</sup> place. They gave it their all and would not change their performance for the world. Western is extremely proud of the cheerleaders.



# OPINION

WCHS

January 2006

www.westernchristian.org/covina/students/journalism



Staff photo by Ryan Salwak / Staff graphic by Silas Wolf

## By Silas Wolff STAFF WRITER

My whole life is not what it once was! That is something you might say if you lost the power of the Internet. When you have had the net for a while and then lose it abruptly you realize that it is hard to function with out it. The Internet really controls the way you live and you really cant begin comprehend how much you use the Internet until you lose it.

With the use of the Internet I can do many things which conveniences me and speeds up my life. You use the Internet for entertainment such as music and movies. Right now you can rent movies to your desktop so you do not even need to leave the

use it ever, it is just like if you go looking for trouble your going to get trouble. So if you try your best to stay away from viruses and such then you will be fine. Just remember the Internet is a double-edged sword.

People who have had the Internet and lost it also rely on it for other things. Such as you do your taxes online and if you cannot get out to have someone do it or do not have the money for someone to do it for you just use the Internet. People would also have their business slowed down to a halt because some business's use a program that are on the internet so if their computer dies its all on the internet so they cant continue to work.

house. If you need food just order it online and it will be delivered to your door. Have a research paper due no need to go to the library to look up stuff I can do it straight from my desk. When you think of it you really never have to leave your house again when you have the Internet. This all makes modern life much faster paced. The pre-web days were much slower just look at the concept of mail, it is now sent to you in the blink of the eye no carrier needed. But what comes with the good also comes bad. You can put your whole life on a computer and in a instant it can be gone and anything personal is now public then due to one tiny little virus your identity can be stolen. The Internet is by no means a safe place period. That is not saying do not

When you think about it, it's pretty sad how dependant the entire world is on one thin; if it were taken away who knows what the world would do. The Internet is one of the greatest things ever made but it has its good side and it has its bad side. Still you can't beat something that speeds life along. So, while it has its bad side that is the way with most of life. Take cares for example. Sure they cause smog and pollution and we could stop using them and go back to riding horses but how realistic is that. So as life and technology marches on use the Internet wisely. Don't forget there is more than one way to get the job done—there's always pencil and paper and good old human ingenuity.

# CALENDAR

WCHS

January 2005

westernchristian.org/covina/students/journalism

## Glorifying God with Talents

**Kaleigh Scott**  
STAFF WRITER

Students put on your dance shoes because Western's dance team is here and ready to go. The whole team is completely new from last year and they all happen to be freshman. "This is the best dance team we've had," says Diana Boyd, the team instructor. Dance Team meets every Monday and Friday from 3:30 to 5:30. "We usually don't get out of there until six, though," says Jessica Davis, a member of the dance team, "we work really hard at practices and don't want to stop. It's just so fun." The Dance Team has already performed twice. One performance was at Christ's Church of the Valley (CCV) and the other at Knott's Berry Farm. Other performances include rallies, basketball games, the Asian/American Expo, parades, and the Spring Dance Show. The girls are very excited about the new dance team. It is visible through their smiles. Each dance is packed with complicated moves and fun twists. But, of course, they always keep the dances clean. "We can't really call our dances hip-hop because that's not quite what it is. We make sure our dances are the kind you can perform anywhere for anyone," says Alisha Anderson, another dancer on the team. Dance Instructor, Tina, says, "We give our dancing spirits up to God. He's who we're dancing for." They make sure to pray before every rehearsal and every performance.



**“We give our dancing spirits up to God. He’s who we’re dancing for.”**

*-Dance Instructor, Tina*

# 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:  
**What music inspires or encourages you and why?**

Below are some responses organized by class.

Column by *Aimee Legind*



**Freshman:** Tiffany Lin Pickens: "My favorite type of music is Asian Pop because most of my CD's are not in English and they are really fun to listen to."



**Sophomore:** Brianne Ray: "My favorite types of music are classic rock and Christian. I like classic rock because my dad and I always used to listen to it together."



**Junior:** Tim Mulko: "I love listening to techno types and rock because they are different than a lot of other types of music, and also they're a little random."



**Senior:** Scott Esterly: "I think my favorite type of music would have to be trans metal because it's slightly different than all the rest."

### My Space

*Continued from front page*

parents to only see the negative side of myspace. However, these dangers are all also true of any kind of chat room. A student could go anywhere on-line to meet new people just as easily as they could on myspace.

Myspace has taken a few different precautions to try and protect its members. The age minimum on myspace is fourteen years old. Granted, a younger student could pretend to be older, but myspace has no control over that. Myspace will immediately delete any profiles that have any pictures that might

be inappropriate due to graphic content. Also, there are different kinds of restraints that a person can put on their profile to protect themselves. A person can make it so that no one can see their profile without becoming their "friend". A "friend" on myspace is someone who can go onto a page and leave you comments, just to say hi or anything else they may want. Even if one does not have a restraint like that, no one can leave any kind of comment unless they labeled as "friend." A person also has total control over exactly how much information they give;

they do not have to put pictures up and they do not have to give any more information that they choose to.

All that is required to get a Myspace account is an e-mail address. Many people love Myspace because it helps them to keep in touch with people with whom they might not otherwise due to distance or time. Myspace is a great tool for communication *if used wisely.*

### Internet Down

*Continued from front page*

Christian has become so dependant on the services they provide".

The school just did not know when the internet would go back on. As a result, the school was at the mercy of Verizon.

As of January 11 at 8:24 a.m., the school was back on line.

Margie Ginter, who works in the office, announced over the school wide intercom, "The internet is back on!"

Now since the school has the internet back, teachers are able to update their web site, students can get their assignments and future students can call for enrollment at the school.

# The Western Spirit Staff

**Editor in Chief**

Katrina Tuason

**Assistant Editor**

Lauren Langley

**Layout Editor**

Ryan Salwak

**Assistant Layout Editor**

Silas Wolff

**Opinion Writer**

Silas Wolff

**Staff Photographers**

Ryan Salwak

Sarah Ortega

**Distribution Manager**

Ryan Salwak

**Faculty Advisor**

Mr. Attwood

**Staff Writers**

Vy Ngo

Katrina Tuason

Lauren Langley

Sarah Ortega

Amy Legind

Kaleigh Scott

Rebekah Valle

Silas Wolff

Ryan Salwak