

The Nichols News

Homecoming 2004

Edition I

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A New Beginning

Akta Kaushal '08

High school turns into a very frightening experience for most freshmen. Though some people may have guidance from siblings, they still come across many difficulties while adapting to their surroundings. Coming to a new school and not knowing who your classmates and teachers are, creates many difficulties. However, after a few days, you learn to recognize your new environment and connect with the new people.

When I first came to Nichols, in the seventh grade, I was not too apprehensive of figuring out where to go or who my teachers were. I received assistance from my brother and sister and friends from my old school. I felt very comfortable with the new school and the new people. Coming to the high school, on the other hand, was different. It was very difficult for me to understand the different system of the high school, for example, the dress code was easier to abide by, but the different meetings were harder to accept. After a week or so, I adjusted to these changes and realized they were something I could easily grow to like and to familiarize with.

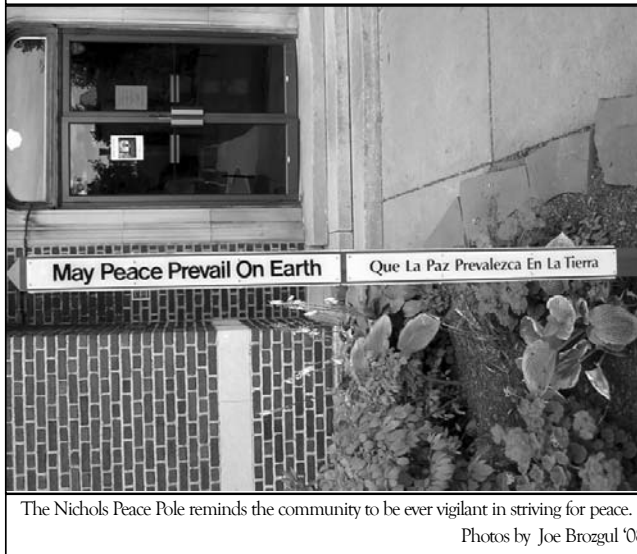
I only recognized half of the ninety-six students during orientation, and I did not know an easy way to approach the people I could not recognize. However, after we broke into groups, I felt more comfortable with the people around me. Orientation gave me a preview of how high school was like, and it seemed that I would enjoy myself in this new environment.

The first day confused me. I had a hard time finding my classes in the different buildings, recognizing the people in my classes, and trying to keep up. The first two or three days went well, however, and high

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Brooke McAdam '05 dominates her corner of the soccer field.



The Nichols Peace Pole reminds the community to be ever vigilant in striving for peace.

Photos by Joe Brozgul '08

So this was Summer?

Emma Rosen '07

For some (well, probably "most") of you out there, your memories of June, July and August comprise waking up late, lazing around by the pool, going to weeknight movies, and trying hard to think of excuses not to do summer reading. But for some Nichols students, this past summer meant "work" and hard-earned cash. Speaking with a number of you who had jobs, it was clear that not everyone's experience lived up to their expectations. In the event that you're contemplating getting a job next summer, some of these perspectives might prove useful.

Tony Elia: Weapon-maker.
Don't let that pink shirt

and silver tie fool you, Tony Elia has a lot "going on." In fact, he's the entrepreneur among us. He has his own website (<http://bsdomaindx.com/eliapaintball>) and his own business, and it's doing well. Since May, Tony has been advertising his machining business on the web. He cuts metal and customizes parts for paintball guns. To date, he's had customers from all over the U.S.: Texas, California, Washington, as well as New York. Tony has become expert in modifying paintball guns for anywhere from \$50 to \$250 a shot, so to speak.

"I like the hours," he informs me, "it's not like a normal job. I don't have to say I'm gonna work 8 hours a day. I don't have to commute. I can basically work when I want to. The satisfaction of seeing the finished product is immense, and it's interesting trying out the various guns and evaluating their efficiency. Deadlines are annoying,

but getting paid makes up for it." Hey, Tony made over \$2,000 this summer!

Melissa Kirkland: Secretary.

Melissa went inside a Buffalo Law firm this summer, and caught a glimpse of real-life "Law and Order." Working at Ballard Lobban, at 69 Delaware Avenue, she did mostly secretarial work, delivered many legal documents, and worked with a lot of judges. While the only negative part of the job was having to wake up at 6:00 a.m. every morning, she was able to leave by 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon. Melissa enjoyed seeing the legal profession up close but admitted that a lawyer's life was not for her because there is no way she could defend someone who's guilty. (Well, does anyone have any contacts in the District Attorney's Office for next year?) The money

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Musings on Diversity

Pierre Islam '05

Ahhh, Diversity Week! Its blessings are apparent to the student body, as we are exposed to new people, new viewpoints, and new ways of looking at the world we would likely have never experienced otherwise. Of course, this diversimania has practical benefits as well—rather than singing in Chorus, playing an instrument in Orchestra, or pumping weights in PE, the school gets to sit in the Flipcap and listen to presentations! Add to that the possibility of truncated classes if said presentations head into overtime, and you've got yourself a winning combination.

Still, it is important to set aside at least a week (if not more) a year to raise awareness of diversity. Nichols is, after all, anything but an entirely homogenous community. Jews, Christians, and Hindus rub shoulders during classes, and Caucasians, African-Americans, and Asian Americans eat together at the same lunch tables. An understanding and appreciation of our differences is crucial for the smooth and amicable running of our community. Even so, in all the hubbub surrounding "celebrating diversity," I can't help but wonder if we're forgetting something even more vital than our differences—our similarities. However much we may differ in terms of skin color, religion, sexual orientation, or whatever, we still go to the same school, adhere to the same dress code (in theory, at least) and traipse in and out of the same buildings. Our differences undoubtedly contribute to a vibrant school community, but ultimately, it's what we share that holds us together.

Now, before anyone accuses me of being anti-diversity, let me point out how crucial tolerance is for me personally. Indeed, only in a community as open-minded as Nichols would my sizable plethora of quirks (such as my exorbitantly hairy face, fondness for mayonnaise and bacon-bit sandwiches, and penchant for wandering around campus giving people hugs)

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be as acceptable. Awareness of diversity is also an important part of our civic duty! Given our nation's present foreign-policy predicaments, it's essential for us as Americans to learn as much as we can about different people and cultures, in order to make better-informed decisions about our leadership and our country's place in the world.

As important as our differences may be, however, we also shouldn't lose sight of how ultimately insignificant they are. Black or white, Jew or Christian, gay or straight, we all bleed the same blood and shed the same tears. The differences Diversity Week celebrates have no bearing on how we love and hate, laugh and cry. My buddies may differ in skin tone and religion, but the friendship, kindness, and camaraderie they've shown me makes them pretty similar in my eyes. As fascinating as diversity is to study, and as important as it is to a vibrant and lively school community, our differences are shallow and superficial compared to the deeper ties that bind us.

The Phenomenon: Nichols Varsity Boys' Soccer

Kyle Winnick '05

The 2004-2005 season was looking bleak even before it began for team captains, Bob Shuttleworth, Joe Walter, and Kyle Winnick. Long-time head coach Rob Stone announced his retirement and three out of four defensive spots needed to be filled. What the captains didn't expect was that the combination of new players and coaches would create an omnipotent phenomenon. What's their secret?



Girls' J.V. Soccer stands to block a kick.

Photo by Joe Brozgul '08



Freshmen taking a break from their studies to make new friends.

Photo by Julia Ivins '07

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school didn't seem so complicated. Later, as we got accustomed to our classes, the work became harder, and I discovered that I needed to spend my time more wisely. I learned that the study halls are a privilege given to me and how extremely helpful they are. Now, I know many of my classmates and I have made good friends. My classes, though harder, demonstrate an understanding of the material, which, now, I find more straightforward and

less complicated than I did before.

My first impression of high school was one of my greatest experiences. I learned a lot from not just my classes, but from my new peers and new environment. I am now used to my classes and the new rules and I love being at school with my friends. The school, teachers, and students may be different, but the feeling is the same. I enjoyed myself in my high school experience so far, and I look forward to my new encounters to come.

"Summer" Continued from pg. 1

was also great and was useful when it came to buying those pricey back-to-school books.

Emma Rosen: Lifeguard.

I blame my brother. He told me being a lifeguard was "cool," and that all I would have to do was to avoid going to sleep in the chair and refine my poker skills in the club house. It made sense. After all, I used to watch Baywatch and, despite the obvious differences between me and "CJ" (a.k.a. Pamela Anderson for the uninitiated among you), I began to fantasize about running across the deck, clad in red spandex, and carrying a large, plastic cylindrical object. Hmmm.... "Cut."

Lifeguard training was a bit of a shock: 5 days of "school" in the cold, murky waters of the Christian Union School on Franklin Street. But it seemed worth it when I was finally awarded my Lifeguard, First Aid & AED certifications, and was able to slither into one of those red swimsuits. While Eagle Ridge Club was a bit of a distant cry from the beaches of Malibu, I assured myself that this was just a stepping stone. Eagle Ridge and \$6.50 an hour today - Huntington Beach, Manhattan Beach, or even Malibu (plus fame and fortune), tomorrow. Then reality really began to set in.

The pool manager lived with his stop watch in his hand, and secretly "timed" all the guards to make sure we scanned our "zone" of the pool in 10 seconds.

Community Service Hits Nichols Hard

Chris Nolan '07

The moment the '04-'05 year started, the Nichols community learned of a new school program. The Community Service and Outreach is a new addition to Nichols and had caused quite a stir. The head faculty member of the newly developed program, Miss. Monika Nagy, came to us all the way from California. She brought with her, many bright and uplifting ideas that gives back to the community. Her brief talk at the morning meeting caused a great deal of talk in the halls and a lot of interest. I myself felt that this is a great opportunity for the Nichols School. There are many new ideas that students have brought, along with Miss. Nagy's various plans.

"The purpose of this program is to get involved with the community and help in any ways that we

can," said an excited Nagy when I met with her this past week. The students involved look forward to committing themselves to giving back to this great community.

The first step of the new committee is Community Service Awareness Day on October 15th at Nichols. The morning will be devoted to students being able to get in touch with local charities and organizations. All students will have the opportunity to get involved, and Nichols as a whole should truly think of how we might be able to help.

This newly developed program is one of the best Nichols now has to offer. Our community is in need of our help and this is our outreach to the community. For any further information in regards to Nichols' Community Service and Outreach program please contact Miss. Monika Nagy located in the basement of Mitchell Hall.

He constructed flow charts and graphs (that would be the envy of any math teacher) of our performances, and we all speculated on what else he did with the stop watch.... I had never seen "CJ" clean bathrooms, but this summer I learned that young boys and girls both have problems with their respective "aims." My days of looking mysterious, perched on the lifeguard's chair, peering out at the world from behind cool Oakley shades (my brother's), were limited because the weather was pretty bad. In addition, the pool fell victim to vandalism - usually the night before I come on duty - so I spent many a cold morning hour diving to the bottom of the pool to pick up broken beer bottles, gum, and other undesirable items. I didn't "save" anybody, unless of course, you count "saving" kids from falling down on the deck by constantly reminding them to "walk, don't run." And, you're right, I didn't like sounding

like a parent.

But I did improve my card game. Rainy days weren't that bad. The place emptied out, and the other lifeguards and I ignored our "designated summer reading" to play poker and lay odds as to who would have garbage duty. It was fun getting to know students from other schools and, looking back at the time, I relish the memory of pretending I was doing something when in fact I wasn't - and not have it matter. Wish I could get away with that now. (Oh, my summer job ended somewhat abruptly when the pump room exploded! Seems that there was some sort of unfortunate "chemical reaction." Lucky for Doc, I'm in his Chemistry class this year....)

More experiences in our next issue.



During Diversity Week, Dr. Hershini Bhana Young from South Africa, speaks to us about living under Apartheid.

Photo by Joe Brozgul '08

Girls' XC

Clare Plunkett '08

As we begin the school year, Nichols Cross Country is well under way. The girls' team is comprised of 11 runners. Mr. Potter reigns as our long time head coach, along with help from Ms. Simmons. We are categorized as a small school in Division 1; our competitors range from East Aurora to Alden. The girls and boys' teams began pre-season practices in late August, and we have been training rigorously ever since. Our hard work proved effective at our first meet, the Byron Bergen Invitational. The girls' team finished in the middle of about 20 competing teams. This race was a solid start to the season, and we were pleased with the results. We then competed in the Cross Country Officials Meet, held at Beaver Island. Many of our local competitors were there. We finished third overall in our division, which was an encouraging result. There are still many more meets left, and the team looks forward to a great season!

Donald Trump @ UB

Edward Righter '05

On October 1, Donald Trump delivered a lecture at the University Alumni Arena. Currently, the man is on top of the world; his involvement in real estate and other business related ventures continue drawing in the green. His hit reality show, "The Apprentice," rocketed to the top of the charts and received mass-critical acclaim. I suspected his talk would cater to the average business student: a dull speech with technical financial rhetoric too difficult for the common man to understand. However, Trump opted for a different approach. He treated 6,000 attendants (including Mike Bauldauf and me) to some advice which can be applied to all rungs of life. He climbed to the height of fame and fortune employing a few simple principles: "Think Big," "Stay Focused," "Get Even," "Don't Lose Momentum," and "Get a Prenuptial Agreement". He explained how each point helped him persevere through the hardships of business and marriage.

At one point in the early 90's, Donald dug himself into 900 million dollars in debt. After attending Warton business school, he worked hard and experi-

Shoe Storm

Emma Rosen '07

You've seen them around campus, of course. Is it the sense of danger that attracts some people to them? The stiletto heels, the get-outta-my-way-or-I'll-hurt-you-look of the pointy toes? According to the dress code, it's O.K. for girls to wobble around on sky-high heels and cram their rounded toes into a shoe that's shaped like the end of some medieval sword, but it's not acceptable for a girl to wear, heaven forbid, something that's practical and comfortable - like a sneaker. Appearances are, after all, very important. And so, too, are band-aids. Thank you Johnson and Johnson - or should they be thanking us? One day you can view a fashionista in runway-style stilettos, and the next day you can amuse yourself by counting the number of band-aids that adorn their bruised and blistered feet. It's one of the curses of Nichols this Fall (the season, that is). But perhaps I'm not being completely fair, for there are some graceful, adept walkers in the school - girls, like Penfold, Roloff, Anderson, Barlog and Arena who can swish and sway with Beyonce and the best of them. Still, for the majority of us, wearing stilettos is a high-risk

enced his first taste of cash. However, after a while, he got too comfortable and started resting back on his laurels; he fell into a life of excess with women being his main problem. Trump told of his disastrous marriages, which is why he emphasized the necessity of prenuptial agreements. His former spouses had leeches mass amounts of money from his accounts. Due to economic problems at the end of the 80s, his business fell into a slump. He was walking down the street with his former wife one day and pointed out a vendor. Donald explained that man is 900 million dollars richer than I am - assuming the man owned zero dollars. Once Trump had reached rock bottom, he applied the principles he presented the audience. In no time Trump re-earned and expanded his wealth to what it is today.

Trump remained earnest and possessed a solid delivery throughout. He exhibited no hint of modesty; constantly giving himself pats on the back. However, when you're in Donald Trump's position, you earn the right to be conceited. Many parts of his lecture were really funny. He offered success in a nutshell and those who apply Donald's advice in their field of work can be assured results.

At the end, he took a few questions from the audience. He offered some insight into his political

venture - so why do so many of us do it? In August, The New York Times indicated that stilettos and other shoes with the skinny high (or short) heels and long pointy toes were "out," but the sassy shoes still seem to be the "hot item." Sure, they look dressy. They make legs look longer (important given the need for longer skirts this season), and they...yes...you got it... look "sexy." Now whether or not that's because they make women look vulnerable, or dangerous, or both, I don't know. And I don't know why such concerns should be an issue in school. What's wrong with sneakers? Sneakers are much more comfortable, and they are safer. Sneakers are easier to find, come in all sizes and shapes. But most importantly, with sneakers, a person can fly up (Pat Takats: read "run up") the stairs, walk down the stairs, step (not sink) on grass, and not slip on cement. What's wrong, of course, is that Nichols does not allow sneakers in school. Can we change that, please? Many of us would like to feel comfortable in shoes: we don't like bleeding, blistered, feet. We don't want to sacrifice comfort for fashion. But, the choices out there in the mall are fairly limited for girls. We need more options.

stance, but wouldn't admit who he's voting for. All of the questions that he considered stupid were completely shot down, which was hilarious. The room echoed with laughter. Patiently, Mike and I awaited someone to comment on Donald's comb-over. Finally, for the very last question, a cosmetologist took the floor. She remarked how ridiculous his hair style was and offered to fix it. Trump, obviously taking flack for his doo in the past, explained that he no longer cared. Donald ended the talk by explaining the hair is just a part of him and he's grown to accept it.

How could his advice be applied to an average Nichols student? Well if you apply his words on a short term basis, they could get you through an average school day. "Think big" - when awaiting a serving of fried chicken don't settle for anything less than a breast. "Get Even" - if somebody messes with you, get Mr. Wright to take them out. "Stay focused" - don't fall asleep during assemblies; it results in a blue slip. "Don't lose momentum" - if you want to remain ranked in PE football, your fire can't dwindle. "Get a prenuptial agreement" - ummm, well maybe not a Nichols student but I'm sure some alumni could benefit from this advice.

"George W." Continued from pg. 4

like he is quoting Orwell? I'll play nice. I'll treat Bush as if he was a little kid and give him the benefit of the doubt that he really thought that there were WMD's in Iraq and that Sadaam was connected with 9/11. I'll ignore the fact that he had to testify before the 9/11 commission with Cheney holding his hand, in his private office, NOT under oath. We can forget about all those memos that just about spelled out what Bin Laden was planning to do. Hell, who cares that Bin Laden was trained by the CIA. I can view history just like our government, anything beyond the past term doesn't matter, unless of course it is detrimental to another candidate. This of course includes Bush's lack of service in the National Guard, coupled with his all but admitted cocaine habit, and his alcoholism. I'll ignore the complete and utter lack of fiscal responsibility. I'll ignore the fact that our future is being compromised. I will give President Bush the benefit of every doubt, but there is one thing that I will not give to Bush. The war in Iraq/Operation Enduring Freedom/The War on Terror/whatever catchy slogan we have for

our plundering of the middle east.

At least 16,000 dead. I keep coming back to that for a reason. That's everyone you know. Dead. Look around you. Everyone they know too. What have we accomplished, what has our currency paid for? Have we caught the criminals behind September 11th? We are barely even looking for them. Have we made the world a safer place? Not by a long shot. Have we reduced the number of terrorists who hate us? No, we've just created more. Iraq is almost as bad as it was under the rule of Sadaam. 70% of Iraqis have no job; under Sadaam they were somewhere around 30%. A good portion of Iraq is still not under US control. The puppet government we have set up is shaky at best. Much of Iraq is destroyed and there is a weak central government, that governs only a portion of the country. 16,000 dead. What has their blood paid for?

Girls' Tennis

By Natasha Mozumdar '07

The girls' tennis team is off to a great start this year. Many new freshmen have joined the team this year, and it was great to get to know all of them. We have had many matches so far at many different schools, such as at Orchard Park, Clarence, Western Reserve Academy, Harley, etc. The team has won eight out of nine matches so far and we have many more matches coming up.

This year we only have two seniors on the team, and they are Jordan Matheson and Taniya Kaushal. We will definitely miss them next year because they have been a great asset to the team. Even though we are losing 2 seniors next year, Elise DeRose (1st singles) and Courtney Douds (3rd singles) will be seniors next year. So we will always have some seniors to lead the team. Our captains, Elise DeRose, Emma Rosen (2nd singles), and Courtney Douds have been really supportive and have been helping the freshman to feel comfortable on the courts.

We traveled to Cleveland on September 11th and we all had a lot of fun. The bus ride with the volleyball team made our journey to Cleveland even more fun. We won against Western Reserve Academy 5-0, so we had a great win. Everyone on the team gets along with each other really well. We have three great coaches, Mr. Schwartz, Mr. Mayer, and Mr. Crowell and they always support and encourage all of us in all of our matches, which helps us to be the winning team everywhere we go.

Boys' Golf

Chris Covelli '05

The Nichols Varsity golf team is off to another good start beating Canisius and Kenmore East. After losing three key players, the spots have been filled in, and the team is looking to complete another undefeated season. The team consists of: Chris Covelli, Andrew Stegemann, Willie Edge, Teddy Reynolds, Arjun Jain, Tom Hadala, Andrew Whitmore, Peter Randaccio, Joe Livey, Evan Baskin-Evans, Matt Donahoe and Brandon Braud. The team is undefeated the past two years, we have lost two matches in the last nine years and we are 3-time defending state champions in the NYS Independent School league. This year's schedule includes matches against: Canisius, St. Joes, Lew-Port, Western Reserve, Lockport and local powerhouse- Clarence. The golf team has three home courses to practice and play matches at: Crag Bum Golf course, Country Club of Buffalo and Cherry Hill country club. We have our work cut out for us, and beating all of these teams would cap off another stellar year for the Nichols Golf Program.

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The Terrible Incredibly Rich Nichols Snobs: Fact or Fiction?

Elisa J. Peebles '08

"My dad makes more money than yours does," "So, at least we have three yachts. How many do you have, one?" "You better leave me alone or else I'll call my lawyer and he'll go kick your lawyer's butt."

Isn't this the average conversation here at the Nichols School? What else could all the super rich preppy snobs who walk around the hallways with their noses in the air have to do besides talk about their wealth? Students here don't have to do any work because they buy their way through high school and they are most certainly not practicing on a sports team because all Nichols sports teams suck. So at the end of a lazy day, Nichols students

sit outside on the perfect grass or lounge on their Hummers and Mercedes to discuss the pleasure of being better than everyone else, right?

To a Nichols student the answer is no, but to outsiders, this is what Nichols is all about. "I think they are

snooty and stupid," said Steven a freshman at Canisius High school. Steven isn't the only one who thinks this way. Ask a stranger from another high school or even grammar school and they will more than likely give you a response like this: "All the

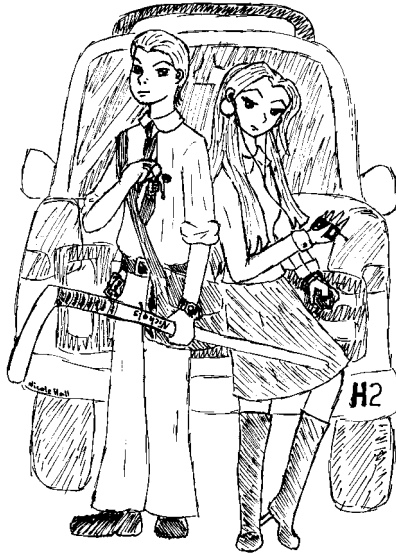


Illustration by Nicole Hall '08

kids who go there are underachievers and people who are over-privileged. And they push the fact that they have money in your face," said one eighth grader from Catholic Academy of West Buffalo.

Although most people know "Absolutely nothing except that they're kind of preppy," as Michael Israel, a 9th grader at St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, puts it. Those that do get the chance to shadow or experience life at Nichols find out that these rumors are untrue. "Lots of people said they were snotty and rich. My stepbrother shadowed and said they were really nice," stated Alexis Li of Holy Angels. Candace Desta, a freshman here at Nichols also found that real Nichols students are not like the stereotypes. "I expected everybody to be snobby," she said, "Now that I'm here I know they're not snobby. Everyone is really nice."

One could say that the reason everyone thinks Nichols students are rich is because the amount of money parents have to pay

to send a child here. What they don't know is that not everyone is really a rich snob. "Many students receive some form of degree of financial aid," declares Mrs. Walsh, III form dean. About 25 % of students here are on financial aid, but most people don't know or take the time to learn that. Most people wouldn't take the time to actually walk to the back of the school and see the parking lot either. "I thought I was going to see limos and BMW's" claims on freshman mother, "But now I see that people are driving pretty normal cars, nothing really extreme."

As for the sports teams, maybe varsity football and freshman soccer isn't doing that well, but the other teams aren't that bad at all. Varsity field hockey hasn't lost a game yet and neither has boys' varsity soccer. JV boys soccer, field hockey, girls varsity soccer, and girls tennis have only lost once so far and the rest of the sports teams aren't doing badly either.



P.E. Warriors returning from battle.

Photo by Joe Brozgul '07

Boys' Football

Phillip Jadd '05

The Nichols Vikings Varsity Football team started the pre-season with an intense 4 weeks of training camp. During the camp the Vikings showed immense effort and determination, having two practices a day, in order to be a strong contender in the Monsignor Martin League. The regular season started with a scorching of a first game against Linsley School. Lacking in numbers, many of the players were playing all three sides of the ball: offense, defense, and special teams, also known as iron man football.

The second game of the season was against Olean Walsh School whom last year the Vikings lost to in an exciting triple overtime. This year was no different, the game started with a bang, when Brian

Smith ran back the opening kickoff for a touchdown.

The score was close throughout the whole game, but Olean managed to squeeze out a victory. Going into week three 0-2 the Vikings still held their head high as they headed off against Charles Finney school at home. Again, the Vikings played strong but due to lack of numbers and some questionable calls, Charles Finney was able to hold onto their lead at the end of the game.

On Friday September 24th, the Vikings are playing St. Mary's in their second league game of the season. With a win against them, the Nichols Vikings Football team will do something that they have not done for a long time that is go to the Monsignor Martin League playoffs. So please come out on Friday and cheer on your Nichols Vikings.

The Junior George Bush and the Currency of War

Jonathan E. Medeiros '05

I've never written an article for Nichols News before, so I thought it would be wise to ask a friend how to start it off. He told me to start with a joke. George Bush. Now that I have my immature bickering out of the way, I'll move on to something that is significantly more serious. Dead bodies.

Certainly we all can agree that money is the currency of commerce. If this is true it must also be true that faith is the currency of religion, and trust is the currency of government. By this same principal it's fair to say that human life is the currency of war. The easiest, and perhaps most efficient way to judge the validity of a war is to stack up the loss of life in comparison to what has been gained. For example, in the second World War, 240,000 US soldiers died. Add to this the thousands of injured and the millions of innocent civilians and foreign combatants killed and you reach a pretty hefty figure. Despite these high numbers there is a general consensus that the loss of life was justifiable in order to rid the world of the evil of Hitler. In fact, war

advocates, if you want to call them that, when faced with the pacifist argument of "no war is justified" point to World War 2 as a war that was necessary. In fairness to the pacifists, World War 2 probably wouldn't have occurred if it wasn't for World War 1. Alas, I wander beyond my point...

Recently we have reached the unpleasant benchmark of 1,000 US casualties in Iraq. In comparison to other wars, this is relatively low. Rush Limbaugh and like Republicans love to point this out to you. What they fail to acknowledge, however, is the one major hole in this logic. That's where the currency comes in. Before I explain myself, let me explain how the government and the media is misleading us. While we hear all the time about US casualties, we rarely hear about US injuries. So just how many Americans have been injured? Do you really want to know? I'll give you a hint, you won't find that out by watching any of the major news channels casually. Well over 7,000 US troops have been injured. These are not cuts and scrapes either. These are injuries that would require a trip to the hospital, roughly 3,000 of these injuries have resulted in amputation of at least one limb. Another number you don't hear is the number of civilians in Iraq that have died during the war. As of September 15th, between 13,000 and 15,000 non-combatant Iraqi citizens have been murdered. And those deaths are only the ones that have been confirmed by at least two sources. You can read all about them at

Iraqbodycount.net. Most likely the total is double that, as many casualties have yet to be reported, and, as in any war, many will go unreported.

Let me remind you, though, that this war is important. We are making progress, according to George Bush. You see, these 16,000 deaths that George Bush has indirectly caused are apparently okay, because we are "seeking out evil-doers." For a while I wished someone would remind Bush that you can't avenge the death of 4,000 on 9/11 by sending 16,000 plus to their graves. Somewhere around the time I saw Bush joking about not finding WMD's at the National Press Club Dinner I realized that it didn't matter. In George Bush's world war is peace, freedom is slavery, and ignorance is strength. You may think I'm going overboard here, but I'm simply paraphrasing what our "leader" said in the 2000 debates. The actual quote was "the mission of the US military will be to be prepared and ready to fight and win war. And therefore prevent war from happening in the first place." This wasn't one of Bush's famous butcherings of the english language either, as he said it later on. "I believe the role of the military is to fight and win war and, therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place." I swear I've seen this before...oh, yeah, it was in that classic story of authoritarian rule, 1984. They called it doublespeak. Isn't anyone concerned with having a President that sounds