



THE BROADCASTER

Bloom High School 101 W. 10th Street, Chicago Heights, IL 60411

A.C.T. /PSAE TESTING SHOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

Junior class weighs in on the importance of a test

By: Kaiilah Brown

Have you ever bombed a test that was excessively important? Did you feel any remorse, or did you just not care? Many teens, or should I say many juniors, take a very important test known as the A.C.T. The A.C.T. could have a positive or negative affect on your life; meaning, this test could provide you an acceptance letter from a college, a career, or a beneficial job. On the other hand, certain scores can get you a rejection letter to a college as well.

Some juniors take this test without any consideration of the effect this test has on their lives; yet, many juniors take this test with consideration for their future, as well as their lifels ultimate goals.

Numerous juniors do not care about the A.C.T. because they are not pursuing their careers or dreams through a college degree. Questionnaires on this subject showed that many students do not seem to care about this test because they feel its purpose was only for those attending college. "No, I do not care about the PSAE/ACT because I'm not going to college," states an anonymous student. A variety of students stated they do not care about the A.C.T. because they feel as if they can accomplish their goals without this test or the depressing scores they may receive. "I really do not care about the A.C.T. because you can still be successful without it," quoted an another anonymous Bloom student.

Fortunately, some juniors look at this as a big opportunity to push themselves to excel to their highest ability.

Not only is the ACT/PSAE important for college, it is important when it comes to applying for a job. To this day, many people regret that they did not take this test seriously because it could have helped them with attaining a future education. Nevertheless, they are stuck between a rock and a hard place.

As a result of questionnaires for the junior class, approximately 89% of the juniors believe that this test should be taken seriously; also, there should be more help provided for the following junior classes at Bloom High School. Many juniors appreciate the help of the Kaplan Test, which is a practice A.C.T. test provided by the school. "I have seen much improvements, thanks to Bloom, in my subjects that I am testing in for the A.C.T. through the



Kaplan practice test," said junior, Alexandria Jones. More than half of the juniors have seen improvements in their class subjects—english, math, reading, science, and their own practice test scores.

Meanwhile, the 2005-2006 junior class wishes the upcoming junior classes luck at achieving their goals, achieving great scores on their A.C.T., and making a difference in the negative statistics of Bloom High School.

Lynsie Bibian, junior, expresses, "If I could give any upcoming junior advice when it comes to the ACT/PSAE, I would tell them to study, study, study!"

Whats happening

BTHS?

Bloom Calendar
Schedule for last
week of classes
May 22nd to 26th

Monday- regular
schedule

Tuesday- regular
schedule

Wednesday -
Homeroom- 9:15-
9:35 Locker clean-
out
Period 2- 9:40-
11:10 (Final Exam)
Period 4- 11:15-
1:25
Period 6- 1:30-3:00
(Final Exam)

Thursday-
Period 1- 9:30-
10:40
(Final Exam)
Period 3- 10:45-
12:15 (Final Exam)

Friday-
Period 0- 8:00-9:10
(Final Exam)
Period 4- 9:15-
10:40
(Final Exam)
Period 5- 10:45-
12:15 (Final Exam)

Seniors 06

Graduation is
scheduled for
Thursday, May
25 at 7:00pm in
Nelson
Fieldhouse.
The doors will
open at
6:00pm.

This is the last issue of the Broadcaster. Inside you'll find a dedication to this year's senior class of '06- goodbye letters from Broadcaster staff, a collage, senior wills, and senior plans

Losing Another Pretty Face

Ms. Lloyd retires after 34 successful years of education

by Donte Rodgers



"I see myself reading, relaxing, traveling and working as a librarian or travel agent part-time." It has been thirty-four of the most "picture perfect" years that a person can experience in a career. Ms. Lloyd was interviewed and hired in May of 1972 by Ms. Paulsen. She became acquainted and inspired to excel by watching Ms. Paulsen, Ms. Larmer, and Mrs. Holloway (all former Bloom English teachers), do a wonderful job. Throughout the 80's and 90's Ms. Lloyd taught as an English teacher, and had such a tremendous impact on every one of her students.

As with every career, there are demands or certain standards that need to be met in order to achieve success, such as concentrating on responsibilities, brainstorming with others, and maintaining common sense. Ms. Lloyd has fulfilled these standards.

Ms. Lloyd's most memorable moment was the one-hundredth anniversary and seeing former students and Bloom alumni who had so much.

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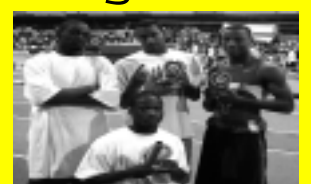


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Collage/Senior
Plans

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2006 Junior/Senior Prom: "The Closer I Get to You"

By: Raynita Douglas



Prom was held at the Villa De Bruno from the time of 7 to 11:30 p.m. on April 28th, 2006. The theme was "The Closer I Get to You." Post-prom was held at Odyssey Fun World. The price for the tickets was \$130.00 for couples and \$70.00 for singles. The prom queen was Kailah Brown. The decorations and food were well put together.

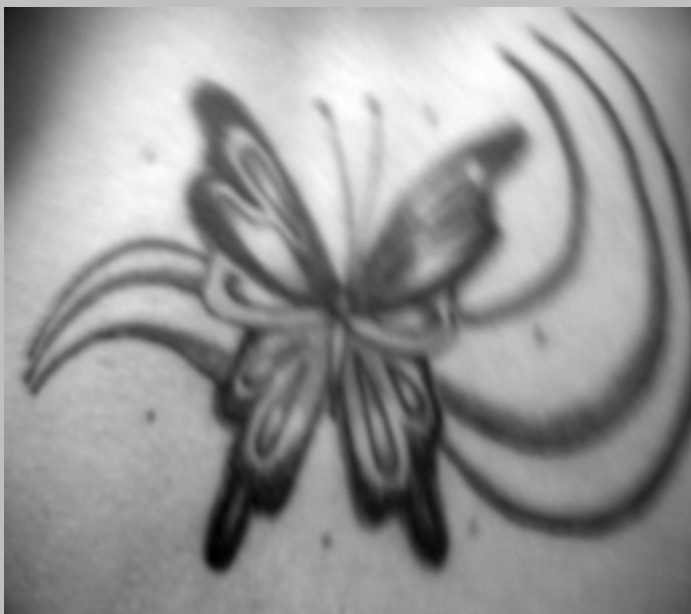
After attending, here are some tips to always remember for prom:

- 1) Get your dress/ tux early!
- 2) Figure out what color you want to wear ahead of time.
- 3) For a good result, get clothes that are made for your body.
- 4) Make a schedule for the whole day so you won't have to rush.
- 5) Try on all prom dresses, prom accessories, and prom make-up at least a week in advance.
- 6) For prom, don't forget your cash.
- 7) Remember to start saving early because going to prom is not cheap.
- 8) You don't want to regret your decisions later, so be safe and have fun

Kailah Brown, 2006 prom queen, declared, "I was very surprised, excited, and happy that I attended prom. I was very shocked and relieved of pressure when I won prom queen. If I could have changed anything I would have got more involved with the crowd and danced more." Andrea Smith, senior, concurs, "Prom was a very memorable experience. If I could I would go to school one more year just so I could go to another prom. The only change that I would have made was to make the court announcements earlier." Still, students are already looking forward to next year. James Carrell, junior, expresses, "I enjoyed myself and I can't wait to go next year so I can top myself."



Do you know which Bloom students these tattoos belong to?



Now That's Hot!

Tattoos are becoming a hot trend for young adults

By: Andrea Smith

Imagine sitting in a parlor as a loud, on-going buzzing sound seems as though it is slowly approaching you, and in that very second, fear conquers anticipation as your body tries to prepare itself for the very thing you've waited so long for. By now, you're sweating uncontrollably and your hands just won't stop shaking. A man approaches you clutching the buzzing needle-like instrument, grasping your designated body part. You wince; almost cry in pain as the buzzing noise drowns out into your skin. Just as the dizziness threatens fainting, it's over. You look proudly at your new tattoo, displaying it for all to see. This seems like self torture and even purely psychotic. Even still, tattooing is the new craze sweeping the nation and racing right into Bloom's hallways.

"I wanted one!" That's what seems to be the common answer when students were posed the question, "What made you get it?" The new fad seems to be persuading teens to head out to their local tattoo parlor and get the prettiest "tat" they see.

There was a time when tattoos held meaning. The Greeks used tattooing for communication among spies. Markings identified the spies and showed their rank. Even in early U.S. history, tattoos were used to identify slaves and their ownership. The history of tattooing ranges from many different cultural meanings.

If you have never visited the world of tattooing, you are probably wondering about the experience. In this case, as with almost everything, the experience varies from one person to the next. Lisa Griffin recalls, "I thought it was going to be painful, but it actually wasn't bad at all." That seems to be the case with most "tattooers." The bark is worse than the bite. Or so it seems. To some, the pain makes a transition to pleasure. Tyree McAfee reported, "It didn't hurt really, it made me want another."

As the craze expands one is left to wonder, "Will the students regret these tattoos later?" Fads are, by definition, a fashion that is taken up with great enthusiasm for a brief period of time. So as this fad ushers it way out of the teen craze, a new fad is welcomed. What's left? Unwanted tattoos? Well, maybe not, but life is full of decisions. Let's make the best of them.

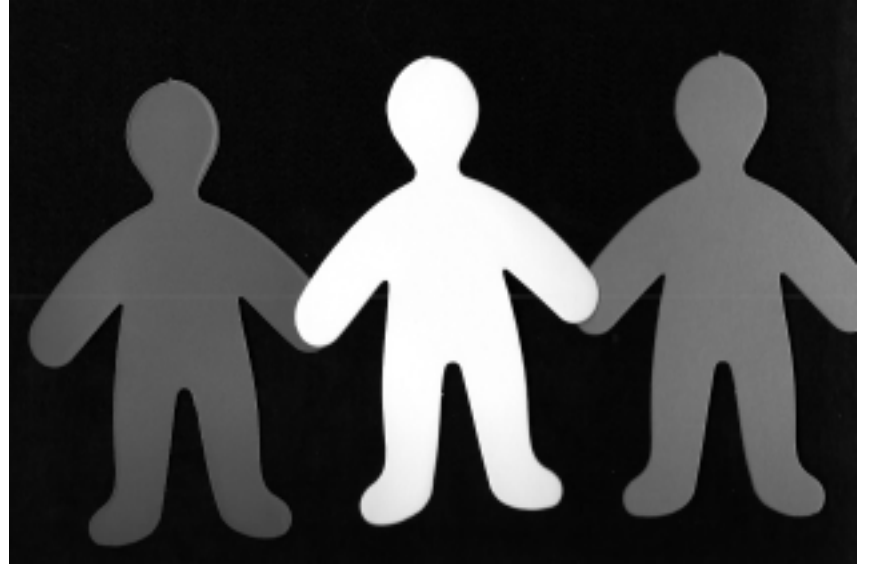
In the Life of a Volunteer

In our December issue, there was an article focusing on Mrs. Gill's class, and her volunteer community service assignment. The contest involved performing community service and writing a formal report. The winner of this contest was the Broadcaster's own Editor-in-Chief, Brittni Garcia—this is her inspirational report.

By: Brittni Garcia

For the past ten years, I have been busy volunteering at local churches, the Jones Memorial Center, Chicago Heights P.A.D.S. and WBG Management. As a high school senior at Bloom, I've put my busy schedule of work & school aside in order to give back to my community. I believe that without volunteers in the world, there would be more distressed people, more violence and more hatred. I see a volunteer as a person who performs services which help others. Volunteers make a choice; they choose to improve their communities.

During the months of October 2005 through February 2006, I volunteered my time to the Chicago Heights South Suburban Humane Society and WBG Management. I volunteered at the humane society because I love animals and I want to help those that are either unwanted or lost. I helped by cleaning the puppies' rooms, and cages. I would then walk each puppy and made sure that they each received the attention that they so desperately needed. By the end of the night, I would make sure that all of the rooms were clean and that the puppies had enough water to last until the next



morning. At WBG Management, I cleaned the hallways and laundry room for the maintenance man, who was off of work for a couple of weeks. I vacuumed all of the halls, cleaned the windows and gathered the mail.

If I had not given back to my community, I don't know what kind of person I would be today. I

feel that if an individual starts volunteering at an early age, then he/she will naturally want to continue to assist others throughout his/her lifetime. I feel that I set a positive example of how we should all give of our time in order to make our community a better place to live.

EYE ON A STUDENT:

Bloom student Rodney Spriull writes music without the "junk"

By: Solomon Adekale

Music is a very big part in celebrating life. It influences our ways of living, and helps us to cope with situations that, without it, would be an even harder struggle.

One form of music that has gotten very popular over the past twenty years is rap and hip-hop, which sports different types of artists and styles. There's the usual "gangster" rapper, the poet rapper, the "wanksta" rapper, and then... there's Rodney Spriull! The self-made, intellectually-inclined, unique rapper from Bloom High School, who stuns audiences with his works of art he calls "his music."

Rodney has been rapping for as long as he can remember, but he did not choose to get serious with this art form until his sophomore year of high school. He was about sixteen when he passed out his first CD, free of charge, called *Windy City*. With excellent feedback, he knew that this was his way to shine! Most people would think a man like Rodney would be conceited and only into his own work, but anyone who knows Rodney realizes this stereotype is not applicable. He is a down-to-earth and care-free kind of guy; yet, competitive to the point of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde!

When it comes to rapping and freestyle, he shows no mercy. But who has time for mercy when the music business itself shows none? A rapper can be in the spotlight one year, and the next, people won't even know how to pronounce his name. Fortunately, this is not likely for Rodney, who cleverly devised a plan for success- originality! His style of rapping cannot be compared to any other rapper because it is a style all its own. To simplify, it is much easier to name off characteristics of Rodney's music: smooth, in-your-face, real, hood, classic, and not very explicit. Rodney uses words the average person can relate to. "I feel that I can reach so many more people in a song, which is why I opt to not use overly explicit language. I just want to be Rodney, A.K.A. Young Chi, and nobody else. I want to be able to put in my CD and everyone can listen to it!"

In the age where being overly explicit and using unnecessary profanity is prominent to get a point across, it is nice to see a rising artist who can give the same effect without the "junk."

Rodney does not boast a posse like so many other rappers, but hopes he can get signed to a label soon. He wants to get started by letting people hear his story. "I feel through my music I can talk to a lot of people. They are going to have to take a walk with me down my road. It's all about having fun, you enjoy the people and the people will enjoy you!"

The future is very bright for Rodney Spriulls, who is determined and focused on succeeding, just like so many other Class of 2006 students here at



Bloom! In the future people will look back on Bloom High School's Class of 2006 and see that we were, we are, and we will forever be priceless because of motivated students like Rodney Spriulls! So we, the Class of 2006, hold our heads up high and smile because only our minds, hearts, and souls know that the sky's the limit!

What's Hot on The Tube? America's Next Top Model

By: Angelisa Giles

America's Next Top Model is show created by Tyra Banks that gives young women a chance at modeling. She opens the doors for them to live out their dreams at becoming a world renowned model. The winner of the model search will win a contract with Ford Models, a \$100,000 contract with cosmetic giant Cover girl, and a fashion spread in *Elle* magazine, which will be photographed by Gilles Bensimon, a prominent photographer.

Unfortunately eight girls have already been eliminated: Brooke, Furonda, Gina, Kari, Kathy, Leslie, Mollie Sue, Nnenna, Wendy, and Sara.

With still the chance at becoming America's Next Top Model, three girls remain: Joanie, Danielle, and Jade. The girls have been taking many pictures and even traveled to different countries, such as Thailand. The pressure is on the models now. With three weeks remaining, the girls have to step their games up in order to be on top.

Who will win? Who will loose? "On the behalf of America's Next Top Model, I strongly argue that Jade should win amongst her threatening actions," comments top model fanatic Kailah Brown. Stay tuned to find who will be your next top model! America's Next Top Model airs every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

Stressed Out!



Pressures mount for students as they begin to feel overwhelmed

“One third of US teens say they feel stressed-out on a daily basis,” reports Rueter Health.

According to Rueters, researchers suspect US teenagers to be feeling stress as a result of overwhelming expectations by parents and society. Stress has the equivalence of a volcano. We, the lava (stress), build up more and more pressure until we go “kaboom!” All our build-up spills out slowly but surely. Once it comes out, so many things are affected: our loved ones, ourselves, daily activities, everything.

But lets say you are a volcano that held all your lava (stress) inside. Too much stress will have a negative affect on your body, mind, and feelings. How you handle stress has a lot to do with your health. When stress becomes overwhelming, it can become harmful. According to researchers at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in the study of more than 8,000 high school students and people in their early 20’s, close to two thirds of all subjects polled reported feeling stressed at least once a week. The most stressful situation for Matthew, 17, was his aunt dying. “She was family. And it was hard to pull the family back together.” Matt relieves his stress through the sports he plays: football, track, and wrestling. Matthew’s grades are his top priority. He believes that he can keep up good grades and his mother is behind him.

Dante Silguero, junior, states “I read, write, work out, run or meditate in order to relieve myself from stress. Teachers, faculty, staff, and administration may read this and think to themselves, *Teenagers don’t even know the half of stress!*”

But there is an adult here that differs. “Of course we all face pressures and understand what it is like to be stressed. Teens have some pressures on their behavior from peers, but until you have the added pressures of supporting a family, paying a mortgage, doing *all* the chores of the home, and still working some 11 hour days; then, these teens will see the real power of stress,” said Mr. Gasaway.

As being a teenager, we tend to feel more pressure to excel at everything, such as we need a certain score on the ACT, we have to be physically fit, have active social lives, and eventually have promising careers. Believe it or not, teens face the same worries as adults. As adults, teens worry about finances, family, friends, world issues, their future, their past (mistakes), and more. “Stressed-out” should be looked at as a cry for help rather than a lame excuse. If you are usually stressed don’t give up on yourself. Not all stress is bad. Sometimes stress is needed to make life exciting. Without stress, life is dull.

What’s New @ Library



PETER RUIZ AND MR. HAD COLLECTING THEIR READING RACE PRIZES!

By: Ms. Walsh



THE LIBRARY SHOWING OFF SOME OF THE NEW MATH AND SCIENCE MATERIALS THEY PURCHASED WITH THEIR WEED & FEED GRANT!

Race Winners:

This year the library had six teams compete (five students and one staff member per team) in the annual reading race. A total of 140 books were read over a 10 week period. Peter Ruiz read 39 books! Books by 47 different Illinois authors were read during the contest. The winners of this year’s race were: Grand Prize: Team Peter (Prize = Bowling and Borders gift certificates); First Place: Team ISS (Prize = Adventure Trails and Borders gift certificates); Second Prize: Team Prairie (Prize = Borders gift certificates) and Third Prize: Team Cool (Prize = Skyline Pool passes). Congratulations everyone. Thank you team sponsors for your help and support this year.

McDonald’s Gift Card Winners:

Congratulations to Arkesia Bonds, Beatriz Aceves, Peter Ruiz, Roseann Torres and Marchelle Jones for winning McDonald’s gift certificates for returning their library books. Trojans return your books now so that your name is entered into the last McDonald’s gift card raffle on Friday, May 19th.

Bloom Students are Winners:

The Bloom Trojans are definitely the winners of the Library Services and Technology (LSTA) “Weed & Feed” grant that the library received earlier in the year. Why? Because with this grant (administered through the Illinois State Library) the library was able to purchase 165 new math and science books and 8 VHS/ DVD tapes for students and staff to use and check out. Trojans, stop in the library and take a look at these new books.

...continued(page 1): Ms. Lloyd

...pride and love for their school,” says MS. Lloyd.

In the Fall of 200, a position was opening for the attendance dean. Ms. Lloyd felt that she could influence students in a positive, uplifting way. When she took over, she set a goal to keep the daily average attendance above 90% a day.

Over the years, Ms. Lloyd has learned that she’s not only responsible for attendance, but she has become a social worker, counselor, teacher, mentor, therapist, and liaison with the court. She has also learned to be tough for certain situations. Her strength comes from “compassion, love of learning, and being willing to do anything for kids.”

“The fact that I’ve influenced students gratifies me.”

Not everyone can have a career that was fulfilling and loved. Influential people are never forgotten and always have an affect on everyone around them. Ms. Lloyd has been just that, and much more to all of us.



I, **Soloman Adekale**, hereby and bequeath my **BloomsScene** skills and charm to Ricardo, you really need them!

I, **Luis Basatella**, hereby and bequeath my strength to come here every day to Kristen, you only got one more year.

I, **Ben Bijak**, hereby and bequeath my popularity and ditching styles to the Chi Heights boys and to all the underclassmen, keep y'all heads up it will be over before you know it.

I, **Shaqueena Blakemore**, hereby and bequeath my positive attitude to my little sister Latoya Blakemore to all the underclassmen I wish you best of luck in your high school years.

I, **Derome Boatman**, hereby and bequeath my knowledge and my toughness and sense of humor and also my popularity to my little brother Kenneth Blatcher.

I, **Jessica G. Bravo**, hereby and bequeath my smile, my humor, and my friends to my little cousin Elizabeth Gonzalez and to my home girl Karina Briseno I'll leave you my craziness and make sure you run-it next year love you all.

I, **Bob Bruno**, hereby and bequeath my respect and intelligence to my sister Jennifer Bruno.

I, **R.C Clayton**, hereby and bequeath my seniority, power, and respect to my little homies Todd, Kenneth, Tyree, and Devin for being there at times when needed.

I, **Dwight Connie**, hereby and bequeath my basketball skills to Jawan Nelson good luck next year.

I, **Olicia Cowles**, hereby and bequeath my locker and my attitude to Brittany Landers, Carlisha Banks, Rosilynn Irons, Brittany Alexander, Lisa Griffin, Tyann Riggins, and Jessica Banks. Shake all dem haters off and be motivators. Keep a positive attitude and that will help you get through any obstacles throughout your high school career.

I, **Chris Defries**, hereby and bequeath my good grades, parking spot, and sense of humor to my little Crystal Defries. For all underclassmen don't slack until senior year cuz it's easy.

I, **Diana Dillard**, hereby and bequeath my locker to my little sister Charquita Glesco to all under classmen, stay focus and always think before you act.

I, **Debrinah Dorsey**, hereby and bequeath my crazy personality to my cousin Brittany Jones, my academic intelligence to my cousin Alexandria Jones, and my sense of humor to my kid sister Heather Robison. Some advice to the underclassmen, take high school seriously now, and colleges will take you serious later.

I, **Raynita Douglas**, hereby and bequeath my personality, craziness, and love to my best friend Lisa Griffin, my sister Brittany Beny, my brother Clarence Martin, and Brittany Moore. To all the underclassmen, you can do all you put your mind to as long as you never give up.

I, **Tonitha Elam**, hereby and bequeath my loudness, craziness, laugh and attitude to all the girls good luck next year.

I, **Esperanza Estrada**, hereby and bequeath my sense of humor and my craziness to my best friend Bernice good luck next year and have fun.

I, **Stacey M. Fleisher**, hereby and bequeath my parking spot in the back row to Rachel Cagman and the other cool juniors and seniors because the back row is the spot!

I, **Timeka Frye**, hereby and bequeath my personality and humor to my junior friends and Jason Graham.

I, **Sergio Gallardo**, hereby and bequeath my locker and great memories to Gina Gallardo and Lynise Bibbian. You'll be lost without me, but good luck anyway.

I, **Brittini Garcia**, hereby and bequeath my writing and design ability to Angie Giles. Make sure you stay by your deadlines next year in the **Broadcaster**. I also leave my laugh and style to Crystal Defries and Erika Hieble. I love you juniors!

I, **Joshua Giles**, hereby and bequeath my cheerleading skills and sense of humor to Talisa McGuire, Mechelle Haynes, Ariel Fuller, and Monique James. My sense of humor to my little sister Angelisa Giles, Ashley Allen, Jasmine Mitchell good luck underclassmen and stay in school.

I, **Jasmine Gray**, hereby and bequeath my happiness and love to Michael Jones without you I wouldn't be the person I am today.

I, **Brenda Harden**, hereby and bequeath my goofiness and sense of humor to Quinetta Blair and all of the other underclassmen good luck.

I, **Julian Hatchett**, hereby and bequeath my laid back style always with a smile to class of 2007 stay real good luck with the pressure of being a senior.

I, **Antoine Haynes**, hereby and bequeath my athleticism and humor to my two younger sister Markita Haynes and Mechelle Haynes.

I, **Jose Horta**, hereby and bequeath my orange truck's memory to all sophomores since I started driving without my license sophomore year.

I, **Latisha Jackson**, hereby and bequeath my sense of humor, patience, loudness, sarcasm and attitude to my brother Tyrone Jackson, my sister Mya White, Raven Hunter, and Kaililah Brown. To all the underclassmen, keep your cool and let no one steer you in the wrong direction.

I, **Amelia Johnson**, hereby and bequeath my locker, goofiness, good sense of humor, and good personality and open-mind to my little sister Anyra, Nikki, and Chiant and my parking spot to Lurja Jenkins. To Quinetta Blair and the upcoming seniors of 2007 good luck next year. To the underclassmen keep hope alive your time is coming two fingas to ya!

I, **Jared Johnson**, hereby and bequeath my gym shoes to Melissa Thorton because she will need them to walk to school since she can't drive

I, **Angela Knox**, hereby and bequeath my personality, intelligence, and my locker to my nephew Brain Conway. Stay focused in your school work and basketball, and leave these thirsty girls alone.

I, **Alexandria Lifschultz**, hereby and bequeath my ability to deal with whatever comes my way to my little brother, Alec "third" Lifschultz, and my sister Lurja Jenkins because there are many obstacles that will come your way but you have to just look at them as road blocks and keep your eye on the prize.

I, **Miguel Magana**, hereby and bequeath my lunch money and my hospitality to my niece and nephew, Juana and Arturo. To my upcoming freshman niece stay out of trouble.

I, **Blanca Martinez**, hereby and bequeath my sincerity to all the underclassmen, to have fun and good luck for next year.

I, **Tramaine a.k.a Liberatchi**, hereby and bequeath my realness, and attitude to my best friend Brian Forteney keep it real be yourself no matter what anybody say and they gonna say (thank!)

I, **Kara McCollum**, hereby and bequeath my leadership, loyalty, and my flirtatious ways (lol!) to my girls Kendra Torres, Joelitta Ansona, Terry Walker, Allison Trujillo, Aisha Levon, and Carlisha Banks. Make sure y'all hold Bloom down next year!

I, **Gabriela Mejia**, hereby and bequeath my craziness, my mouth, and attitude to my brothers Antonito, Miguel, Crystle Cruz, Tracy Cano, and Brenda Mendez. To the underclassmen good luck and don't give up.

I, **Esmeralda Morales**, hereby and bequeath my son, Jeremiah and my daughter Ruth to the hands on teachers and faculty. Take care of my babies! Thank you Peter for the rice crispy treats.

I, **María C. Morales**, hereby and bequeath my spot as a Duchess in French Club to any girl French honor society members. Je t'aime! Take care of my mommy Mrs. Keene for me!

I, **Tiffany Nix**, hereby and bequeath my ability to be cool with everyone and my beautiful smile to my little Bloom sisters April Miller, Carlisha Banks, Gina Gallardo, Jerrica, and Kaililah Brown. Being seniors you have to realize gossip and haters are a part of life; learn to laugh at things and love everyone even if they don't love you. It's the best way to get through life. Stay happy and always smile, cause your effects somebody in some way.

I, **Marcelina Orellana**, hereby and bequeath my tech work to my favorite guys, Lawrence Barajones and Aaron Fish, keep tech loud and lite up. To all the drama people, Cara Leiser, Scott Tillman and Sheurica Robinson, always keep drama alive. Good luck next year class of '07'!

I, **Patty Ortiz**, hereby and bequeath my charming personality, leadership qualities to Sandra Carvajal, Ezra Amreola, Giancarlo Narcissi. Good luck next year with the NHS!

I, **Alesha Posey**, hereby and bequeath my sense of humor and good looks to both of my loving sister Andrea Posey and Ta'neah Kennedy. I love both of you and I wish you all the best of luck! Don't let them boys get to them heads either!

I, **Justin Puckett**, hereby and bequeath my hopes and best wishes to all the underclassmen and friends that I've made these 4 years! They went by fast, good luck and hope to see you in the future. Peace!

I, **Jacque Raices**, hereby and bequeath my performance space on stage and chair seat to upcoming performers. Please take pride in what you do and never let someone mess that up. Take care of my drama dept. and don't mess anything up.. Wonderful memories are needed there.

I, **Rachel Ramos**, hereby and bequeath my sense of humor and loud mouth to Denise Rodriguez, good luck with the fellas at Bloom.

I, **Charlia Riley**, hereby and bequeath my love for drama, choir, and ROTC to all participating members and future members.

I, **Jackie Robinson**, hereby and bequeath my first-hand experience and my best wishes to Damon Banks, Carlisha banks, Kynyahta Walter, Lisa Griffin, Robert Williams; "Please never give up don't make my mistake. Be the best you can once you have your education; there is one more thing beyond the cliff.. Immortality, its yours take it."

I, **Donte Rodgers**, hereby and bequeath my smile, and personality to Precious Ellis don't let these haters get you kicked out and stay focused it was nice having you around represent for '07' and to my little brother Donte Brian don't get caught up in the moment keep your mind set on graduation and stay out of trouble. To all of the underclassmen good luck high school will be over sooner than you think.

I, **Sergio Rodriguez**, hereby and bequeath my knowledge and leadership qualities to the current and upcoming NJROTC cadets and senior officers for the best of 2006-2007 school year.

I, **Amy Roeske**, hereby and bequeath my knowledge to my sister Becky Roeske to share with all our underclassmen friends.

I, **Mia Ruiz**, hereby and bequeath my locker, laugh, and sense of humor to my brother Marcelino and Maxamillion, my friends Andrea Ayala, Gina Gallardo.

I, **Shawrese Showers**, hereby and bequeath my positive attitude, and my belief of never giving up to my best friends sisters Amberlie Perkins, Mya White, Nakia Reed and Santana Reed. I love you guys so much. Do it big next year and always remember '06' run it!

I, **Andrea Smith**, hereby and bequeath my name and all it carries, my crazy personality, my highly advanced vocabulary to Andrea Boyd, Angelisa Giles, and Jessica Prince Muanz.

I, **Erica Tama**, hereby and bequeath my volleyball skills to Tabitha, Hailey, and Liz. I love you guys and you need to represent us Bloom girls next year!

I, **Rachel Tamale**, hereby and bequeath my craziness, intelligence and parking spot to my little brother and underclassmen. Live today like there is no tomorrow!!

I, **Armani Thomas**, hereby and bequeath my popularity, sense of humor, craziness, and everything else to Montez O'Brien because he is a late and is going to need it all to live up to my high expectations.

I, **Josef Tidwell**, hereby and bequeath my black book and 3hb penal to Antony Castro.

I, **Corina Vazquez**, hereby and bequeath my locker to Maggie Vazquez, because you still have a couple years to go. Good luck for those years.

I, **Raul Vega**, hereby and bequeath my Jordan's, flyness, and confidence to my little brother Manie. To all my cousins, and underclassmen make sure you rep the heights well.

I, **Veronica Ventura**, hereby and bequeath my fun and crazy memories here at Bloom to the class of '07'.

I, **Lisa Wehrle**, hereby and bequeath my photography binder and my childish ways in Mr. B's class. To my "daughter" Melissa Thomson.

I, **Paul Wiberg**, hereby and bequeath my quirky personality and intelligence to Giancarlo, Ezra, Dante, Cesarina, and the rest of the underclassmen have fun guys.

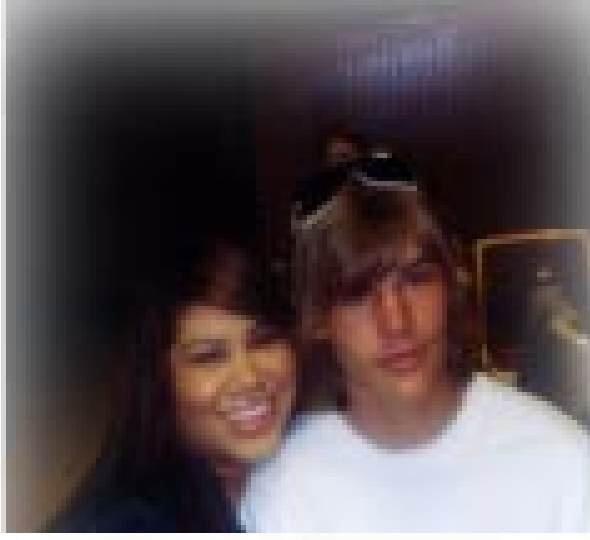
I, **Tiffany Wilson**, hereby and bequeath my loving personality to all of my friends who are underclassmen. So I will always be remembered.

I, **Ashley Young**, hereby and bequeath my personality, wisdom, sense of humor, and intelligence to Andrea Boyd and Enjoli Wilson good luck girls and never give up. Remember always keep your head up.

Where will the Bloom 2006 Trojans be next year?

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| Solomon Adekale Columbia College, Chicago Film and Video | Esperanza Estrada Prairie State College Chicago Heights Nursing | Angela Knox University of Illinois at Chicago Chicago, IL. Biology/ Pre-Med | Jackie Robinson Undecided Art |
| Luis Bagatella Undecided | Stacy Fleisher Eastern Illinois University Charleston, IL. Criminal Justice/Sociology | Alecsandria Lifschultz Northern Illinois University DeKalb, IL. English/Education | Donte Rodgers Undecided |
| Ben Bijak Trade School Pipefitting | Timeka Frye Westwood College Nursing/Medical Assistant | Miguel Magana Workforce | Sergio Rodriguez Florida Culinary Institute West Palm Beach, FL. Culinary Management |
| Shaqueena Blakemore Kennedy-King College Chicago, IL. Early Childhood Development | Sergio Gallardo University of Wisconsin-Madison Madison, WI. Integrative Biology | Blanca Martinez Undecided | Amy Roeske Valparaiso University Valparaiso, IN. Accounting |
| Derome Boatman North Park University North Chicago, IL. Architecture | Brittini Garcia Eastern Illinois University Charleston, IL. Journalism/ Mass Communications | Tramaine McAdams Prairie State Chicago, IL. Performing Arts | Mia Ruiz Prairie State College Chicago Heights, IL. Nursing |
| Jessica Bravo Triton College Nuclear Medicine Technologist | Joshua Giles Western Illinois University Macomb, IL. Zoology | Kara McCullum University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign Champaign, IL. Pre-Med | Shawnese Showers University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign Urbana-Champaign, IL. Business Management |
| Robert Bruno Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL. Engineering | Brenda Gonzalez Grand Valley State University Michigan Pre-law/Interior Design | Gabriela Mejia Northern Illinois University DeKalb, IL. Medicine | Erica Tama University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign Urbana-Champaign, IL. Biology |
| Amber Chandler Prairie State Chicago Heights, IL. English | Jasmine Gray Purdue University West Lafayette, IN. Veterinary Medicine | Esmeralda Morales Cottey College Nevada, MO. Nursing | Rachael Tamale University of Illinois at Chicago Chicago, IL. Bio Chemistry |
| Renauld Clayton Northern Illinois DeKalb, IL. Criminal Justice | Brenda Harden Undecided Nursing | Maria Morales University of Texas San Antonio, Texas Linguistics and Dance | Armani Thomas ITT-Tech Minnesota Computer Specialist |
| Dwight Connie Undecided Computer Programming | Julian Hatchett Robert Morris Chicago, IL. Business | Tiffany Nix DePaul University Chicago, IL. Medicine | Josef Tidwell Eastern Illinois University Charleston Art |
| Olicia Cowles University of Illinois at Chicago Chicago, IL. Political Science | Antoine Maurice Haynes Illinois State University Bloomington, IL. Management | Marcelina Orellana Northern Illinois University DeKalb, IL. Design and Technology: Theatre | Corina Vazquez DePaul University Chicago, IL. Law |
| Timothy Davis St. Norbert DePere, Wisconsin Undecided/Football | Jose Horta Workforce | Patricia Ortiz University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign Urbana-Champaign, IL. English | Raul Vega Undecided |
| Chris Defries Universal Technical Institute Glendale Heights Auto | Melquetta Hughes Saint Xavier University Chicago, IL. Medicine | Alesha Posey Alabama State University Birmingham, AL. Criminal Justice | Veronica Ventura Prairie State College Chicago Heights, IL. Photography |
| Diana Dillard Prairie State College Chicago Heights, IL. Business | Latisha Jackson Chicago State University Chicago, IL. Pre-med | Justin Pukett Undecided | Lisa Wehrle Saint Xavier University Chicago, IL. Nursing |
| Debrinah Dorsey International Academy of Design and Technology Schaumburg, Illinois Fashion Design | Amelia Johnson Northern Illinois University DeKalb, IL. Criminal Justice | Jacque Raices Columbia College Chicago, IL. Musical Theatre Performance & Dance | Paul Wiberg Eastern Illinois University Charleston, IL. Management |
| Raynita Douglas Chicago State Chicago, IL. Registered Nurse | Jared Johnson University of Illinois at Chicago Chicago, IL. Business Marketing | Rachel Ramos Undecided | Tiffany Wilson Southern Illinois University Carbondale, IL. Psychology |
| Tonitha Elam Chicago State Chicago, IL. Registered Nurse | | Charlia Ray United States Navy Great Lakes, IL. Nurse/Doctor of Navy | Ashley Young Tennessee State University Tennessee Nursing |

SENIORS



The Broadcaster would like to congratulate the entire class of 2006. You were an inspiration to the underclassmen and we hope to see great achievements from all of you in the future. We especially want to say goodbye to five outstanding journalist: Solomon Adekale, Raynita Douglas, Brittni Garcia, Donte Rodgers, and Andrea Smith



Congratulations Bloom High School Class of 2006. Dozens upon dozens of days of student strife, joy, and waiting comes down to the graduation of the class of 2006. The seniors will enter the real world and bid a fond farewell to Bloom High School.

Senior Issue: Class of '06

Good-bye from the Editor-n-Chief

Brittni Garcia
Editor-in-Chief 2003-2006



Senior year has been a time I have spent reflecting back on all those years in the classroom, while looking ahead to new adventures of college. Throughout senior year I have made important decisions and made new friends.

You see it all started when I got out of my sister's car on the first day of school. Walking up the stairs, with big glowing eyes, I slowly concentrated on the diverse people running up to the school and screaming out their friend's names. I took a good look at the people and slowly walked into the front doors, and I turned around to see my sister leave.

It was my first day as a high school freshman. You see, I came to Bloom only knowing three people. I attended a local catholic school where graduated 8th grade with only 23 people. As I walked the halls of Bloom, I realize the pride and honor I have developed throughout the years. Without many people here at Bloom, I wouldn't be the person I am today.

In Freshmen Focus, Ms. Hines, taught me how to manage my time, and believe me, I'm happy she did! Ms. Orr, English Department Coordinator,

was always there for me when I needed help with writing or just to mentor me. She is a woman with pride and will. I will never forget Mrs. Wright for always being concerned about my knowledge in math and kept me focused as obstacles came my way. If it wasn't for Mr. Nie, history would be boring! Junior year history class with Mr. Nie was a blast. Before I leave I want to thank Dr. Navarre for always believing in me and always sticking by my side as deadlines were approaching. Ms. Stella and Ms. Tamez, counselors secretaries, what would I do without them? Those ladies are two of the most hardest workers and two of the most sweetest ladies I have ever spoke to in Bloom High School. They greeted me every morning and encouraged me to work hard throughout my senior year. Although it might sound cliché, they showed me how to be true to myself. You see after being concerned of showing people who I really am, I finally feel comfortable with many people here. Now that I'm graduating I understand that truth of being a high school student. It's not about what you have or what you wear, it's about who you are and where you are going.

However, some high school students see the conception of a high school career as designated for being a time to have fun and not worry. But it's not true. High school has given me responsibility. For the past four years I have had the busiest time. I sit here writing as I reflect on the important decisions I have made.

In the next months to come, I will be a whole new person and I'm excited. I am ready for the adventure. Although my best friends and I are going away to all parts of the world, I can say we will stay in touch forever. My group of friends have been the best group ever! From attending concerts to going out to dinner, we will never forget those memories and will continue to keep in touch. Yeah I have lost some friends in high school, as drama came and went. Who didn't have that high school drama? I feel its time to move on and worry about myself. Senior year in high school is a long series of farewells. I have no regrets from high school. I attended the last dance, the last pep rally, the last assembly, the last lunch, and now it time to say good-bye. Next Fall, I will be on my way to Eastern Illinois University where I will study journalism. Who knows I may come back to visit Bloom being the next Star Jones, Oprah, or a reporter in Iraq. Hopefully I will be remembered as the humble one who will succeed and say I am proud to be a Bloom Trojan.

Farewell! But Not for Long!

By: Solomon Adekale



Many folks may not believe this, but when I came to high school I was more nervous than President Bush answering questions on Iraq! I did not know what I wanted to do, and all I heard about high school was that it's very hard! But it turned out better than I thought.

Freshman year was definitely the most spontaneous and exciting year. It was the year that I started to develop my character, which would build the present day Solomon Adekale. It was also the year I got into a lot of unnecessary trouble because of decisions I made; yet, it was a necessary learning experience strictly for future decision making. Freshman year was also the year I met my best friend in high school, Timothy Davis.

Next came sophomore year, or the *year of fate!* First, the year began going extremely bad. I tried out for the basketball team and did not make it, which made me cry (yes I did cry, but might I add they were very manly tears)! However, the joy would rise again. I joined the Bloomscape class as sports anchor, and I began to entertain Bloom three days a week. Then, I tried sports again by joining Bloom's track and field team. That didn't work out like I thought it would. Long story short, I hardly came to any of the practices and I got kicked off for eating McDonald's before a track meet (thanks Coach Schmidt!). This year, I got my first chance to make a commercial, which I must say was "garbage!" But hey, I was still the best on Bloomscape,

and no one could deny that but Sean Johnson and David Cherry, my Bloomscape rivals!

Then, we have junior year, or the year of enormous change. In this year, everything slowly started to come together for me. I started to get a little more attention from the ladies, which is never a bad thing. Also, I made more friends (and I'm not talking about fake friends). My vocabulary expanded at an alarming rate, due to an amazing function of the human brain I call "study analysis." I started to do all of my work in class and I joined a club which I regret I did not join earlier in high school- Drama Club! I got a two leads in my first year and won two awards for drama (I know I made Mr. Polyak proud), it was like an episode of "Made" from MTV. I know my counselor Ms. Fushi won't ever give me a crazy challenge again because I just might do it! Junior year was full of many surprises, and fortunately, many more ups than downs.

And finally Senior year, the year of favorite teachers, V.I.P. status (yes I was a very important person), relaxation (senioritis), and great reminiscence. I look back on my years in high school years and I see how much I have progressed from the tall nerdy kid who swear he was cool to the tall cool kid who could care less if he was nerdy! I have to say my senior year was a breeze, not to much work and lots of fun! Most of my teachers would say I was really lazy, but I am here to say that Senioritis is a real disease. It had me sick the whole year, but I'm cured now. I don't have any real regrets because mostly everything that happened to me in high school I believe happened for a reason. Instead I like to reminisce about the good times I had with all my favorite teachers like Mr. Gasaway and his English class, or Ms. Neubauer (I'll never forget her). I feel like Ms. Fushi was not my only counselor. There was Ms. Dokos, Mrs. Egan, and especially Mrs. Woods, who was always too thirsty to know where I was fifth period. And would anyone believe it, I finally made a decent video project that got me two scholarships! I definitely will miss a lot of the administrators, like Ms. Lloyd, who has gotten me out of more trouble than I can handle. Mr. Neubauer and Mrs. Zuidema, who gave me more chances than I deserved. Mrs. Israel, who always let me know the truth even if I didn't want to hear it. I will most especially miss Ms. Tamaz and Ms. Stella who are the sweetest ladies in Bloom hands down. I am thankful to all the staff in the attendance room and library, including Mrs. Walsh. To our top flight security Mr. Weekly and Mr. Mcoy, my T.V. Production class, and Mr. Eskew, who gave me my first start. Thanks to Mr. Rusk and his economics class (I promise all of that knowledge will not go to waste), Mrs. Gill, who always kept everyone in check. Big thanks to Dr. Gianetti, who is the coolest superintendent in the world, all the Board of Education, especially my main man Mr. Bob Rossi. To Mr. Polyak, who put up with my laziness all through Drama Club, and finally, my good ol' buddy Dr. Navarre, who came my junior year and changed Bloom High School for the better. I don't know what the future holds for me, but if I can meet more people like I have in Bloom, I know it'll be just fine. Farewell Bloom High School... farewell, but not for long.

Relay for Life Races to Fight Cancer

Bloom faculty, students continue to aid a wonderful cause

By: Brittini Garcia

Editor-in-Chief



Do you know someone who might have or may be affected by cancer? You can be the one person who can make a difference.

On May 19-20th, Chicago Heights will host its Relay for Life at Bloom Trail High school. Relay for Life is an exciting, eventful overnight stay designed to celebrate people who have survived cancer and raise money to help the American Cancer Society. The American Cancer Society helps those who have been touched by cancer and helps individuals fight back against this disease.

In the mid-1980s, Dr. Gordy Clatt wanted to enhance the income of his local American Cancer Society, so he set off spending 24 hours circling the track at Baker Stadium on the campus of University of Puget Sound, in Tacoma. He circled the track for more than 83 miles. He made a deal with his friends, and they either paid him \$25 to run or walk 30 minutes with him. He raised \$27,000 to fight cancer. That first year, nearly 300 of Dr. Klatt's friends, family, and patients watched as he ran and walked the course.

The Chicago Heights event starts off with the survivor walk at 6:00 pm and ends with a team lap at 6:00 am. This event consists of teams with ten or more people. Each team must have a member on the track at all times. For Ilse Parades, junior of BTHS, walking in the relay is more than a walk-a-thon, it's a time to raise awareness to the community around her.

Relay for Life is much more than a walk around a track; it is a time to help others overcome the disease and celebrate those who have survived. "Participating in the last years Relay for Life helped me realize how I could help out and make a change. This year I plan to walk with my team in honor of many people and help bring awareness to my community," said senior, Sergio Gallardo.

Each member is responsible to raise money for the event. It is a night for people who have shared the same experience to comfort and console one another. Together, the National Honor Society, Bloom administration, and The Broadcaster, along with other dedicated people and clubs, will join together to help and raise awareness about cancer. Everyone is invited to participate.

Mrs. Laura Michael, BTHS librarian and cancer fighter, states that monetary donations would be a great help towards the cure for cancer. For more information please contact Teresa Meyer at 708-633-7770 ext. 239, or email teresa.meyer@cancer.org.

FINALS WEEK IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Here are 12 very important tips from the Broadcaster to help you get the best scores possible on your final exams:

Think about it. One week can immensely determine or effect your final grade in every class. Finals week is where you will either SINK or SWIM. The question is, do you know how to guarantee that both you and your GPA will "float through" finals successfully? Check out the following suggestions and put them to work for you.

1. **Start early.** Preparation for finals begins even BEFORE the actual day of the exam. You cannot cram an entire quarter or semester's worth of information into one night of studying. Get started the week before final exams. Think of finals week as finals weeks.

2. **Eat and sleep.** You need at least six solid hours of sleep a night to function. Finals are designed to make you think. If you are sleep deprived, you won't be able to comprehend (or answer) the challenging questions you will face. Studies have also shown that a well-nourished test-taker focuses better, so eat a balanced meal.

3. **Determine what type of final you will be taking.** A non-comprehensive final will cover all the information given/discussed after the last mid-term exam. There are also comprehensive finals. Comprehensive finals cover all of the information covered from day one of the class. Determining which type of final you will be taking could make a huge difference in the time you'll need to commit to studying for a particular final.

4. **Focus on your notes.** If you are chapters behind in your reading for a class, don't spend the night before the final trying to read the material for the first time. You're better off focusing on your notes.

5. **Hide.** Study in an out-of-the-way place. As tempted as you are to study with your friends, you're best bet is to find a place of your own where you can think. Avoid areas of mass hysteria.

6. **Stop cramming five minutes before the test.** Use this time before the test to relax, catch your breath, and take a minute to get focused. By cramming until the last 30 seconds before you sit down to take the exam, you will more than likely just confuse yourself or walk into a wall trying to read and get to your desk.

8. **Read all of the directions carefully.** Read through the entire test to see what you are up against. Determine if you will have any time pressure and if it is manageable. Determine where the easy points are. Answer those questions first if you think you may be short on time. This will leave the most time to focus on the harder portions of the exam.

9. **Stay calm during the exam.** If at first glance, the test is overwhelming, remember to breathe! Do not panic. If you don't know the answer to a question, move on to the next question and come back later. Remind yourself that you are well prepared, and take the exam one question at a time—and you will do better by keeping your head in the game.

10. **Ask questions if allowed.** If you do, you may find that you gain a great deal of clarity about what the teacher is truly getting at with the question. You might even get a feel for the answer the teacher is looking for if you listen closely.

11. **Focus on the exam for the entire period.** Reread the questions and your answers to them. Make sure you understand what the question is really asking and that you have answered the question completely and accurately.

12. **Remain calm after the exam.** Even if you think you did horribly, worrying about it afterwards will not change a thing; it may however, effect how you do on your other finals. Keep your head up and move on to the next exam.

SHOULD WE ALL SING ALONG?

Bush Against "National Anthem" Sung in Spanish

By: Angelisa Giles

"I think the national anthem ought to be sung in English, and I think people who want to be a citizen of this country ought to learn English and they ought to learn to sing the national anthem in English," stated the president of the United States of America George W. Bush.

A British music producer by the name of Adam Kidron rewrote the Star-Spangled Banner using the same words; yet he wrote and produced it in Spanish. Kidron said his reasoning for rewriting America's national anthem in Spanish was to honor America's immigrants.



This issue is causing some controversy in America and is causing people to choose sides. If the words are still the same and still mean the same thing, than I feel that you can say them or you can sing them in French, Japanese, Chinese, or Spanish if you want, as long as you are a citizen and understand the song, and its meaning. However, I feel that if you are at a function such as a baseball game and the Star-Spangled Banner is being performed it should be sung in English for the simple fact that, that is the most common language in America.

On the other hand, some people disagree and feel that the 'Star-Spangled Banner' should not be altered. "I side with the president. It's the National Anthem for the U.S.A and should be sung in English, the language of the U.S.A. If he wants to honor the immigrants he should do it in another fashion, leave this piece of history alone and don't desecrate it any fashion," states social studies teacher Mr. Lale.

He is not the only one who feels this way about the whole situation. Senior, Russell Yates comments, "I feel that if you are going to live in a country, that you are not from, them you should accommodate yourself to the customs of that country. I'm not saying to send immigrants back where they are from, but I do feel that if they want to be in America, then they should adapt to the American

culture. That means not changing the song that we have been singing for years."

Adam Kidron recorded the 'New National Anthem' and it can be heard on some radio stations. There are numerous people are all for the National Anthem of the United States being sung in another language, and there are those who are against it. So, who do you agree with, Adam Kidron or the President? If Francis Scott Key was alive, I wonder who he would side with.

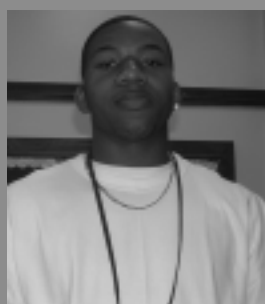
LUNCHTIME POLL: What are you doing this summer?



Shaqueena Blakemore:
Going to the store, classes at PSC, and working



Tiffany Wilson:
Partying and getting ready for college



Tim Davis:
2006 Mid-west All-star football game in at Illinois State University



Erica Ruiz:
Getting married & preparing for college

Blaze Up



- to my senior Broadcaster family: Brittini Garcia, Andrea Smith, Solomon Adekale, Raynita Douglas— you will be missed!
- to Prom '06, *The Closer I Get to You*
- to the Class '07, for studying hard during the two days of testing
- to the "varsity baseball team for playing awesome this season," states Mr. Gasaway
- to the yearbook staff for making a wonderful memory book
- to Kaiilah Brown, 2006 prom queen
- to those who ended the school year on a good foot
- to getting a job during the summertime
- to Letoya Luckett for coming out hard with "Torn"
- to the fifty cent juices in the café
- to stunner shades (\$5-\$10)

Blaze Down



- to ditching class the last two weeks of the school year
- to hot classrooms (e.g. Room 325, 205, 337)
- to stepping on the Trojan head-
- to not knowing why stepping on the Trojan head is wrong
- to snapping your fingers to every song
- to losing school books (stop slips are coming for you)
- to taking your grades seriously the last two weeks
- to dressing too hot for T.V. and this school
- to Wal-Mart's watered down gas

By: James Carrell

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Duke Rape Case Gains Popularity as "The Trial of the Year"

By: Brittnei Garcia
Editor-in-Chief

Every year there seems to be a trial that plagues the evening news every night and becomes an obsession by the American public. The trial obsession of 2006 appears to have already begun.

Duke University has been under a huge investigation for the past couple of weeks. DNA samples have been taken from 46 Duke Lacrosse team members in the investigation of an alleged rape. An exotic dancer told police she and another dancer were hired on March 14 to perform a small bachelor party, but later found out they were being



surrounded by dozens of men at a house near Duke's East Campus.

The dancer, who is a present student at North Carolina Central University, told police she was taken into a bathroom where she was beaten and sexually assaulted. Due to the conduct that took place at the party, which included alcoholic servings to underage students and hiring women from an escort service, the next two lacrosse games were canceled and demanded a forfeit.

On March 24th, the 46 undergraduate men's lacrosse team traveled downtown to be photographed and they provided identifying information. On March 25, 2006 Duke University's Director of Athletics, Joe Allewa, said, "Several players who were present acknowledge, however, that they did hire private party dancers and that underage drinking occurred. The judgments of the team members to host and participate in this event are inconsistent with the values of Duke Athletics and Duke University and are unacceptable. Accordingly, I have notified Coach Pressler that I have decided that we will forfeit today's game and next Tuesday's game. I have told President Brodhead of my decision and he fully supports it."

Bloom Township baseball player, Luis Sadowski, believes that until Duke's Lacrosse team is proven guilty they should be able to continue their season without any forfeits.

According to ESPN News, a campus police officer overheard city police discussing the credibility of the accuser in the Duke University rape case, including their judgment that the accuser "kept changing her story."

"Those remarks said by police were cited in an independent university report released earlier this week as a reason school officials underestimated the seriousness of the woman's allegations and responded slowly," stated by ESPN. The report did not say how school officials learned about the police comments.

The Duke Police Chief, Robert Dean, said that the campus officer who overheard the conversation did not ask Durham police any follow-up questions on the trial. According to the new release on May 11, a campus police report filed on March 14 states that the accuser, who is African-American, initially said she was raped by 20 white men. It goes on to say she changed her story several times, and it adds that the Durham police stated that the charges "would not exceed misdemeanor simple assault."

The issue of the accuser's credibility has been raised by defense attorneys, who have asked the court to hold a hearing on her reliability.

"What doesn't kill you, makes you stronger. As long as you are alive and okay, they need to just move on," declares Joelitta Ansang, sophomore. According to the 2004 National Crime Victimization Survey, there were 209,880 victims of rape, attempted rape or sexual assaults. Of 204,370 victims in 2003-2004, about 65,510 were victims of completed rape, 43,440 were victims of attempted rape, and 95,420 were victims of sexual assault.

If anyone here at Bloom is in any need you can contact the Chicago Heights Police Department, the counseling office, or visit 911rape.org.

Illinois Looks Towards November

Upcoming elections have Bloom students asking, "Why do we care?"

By: Janese Carrell

Not old enough to vote? Doesn't matter! You should be getting yourself ready to vote. Although, it may not seem that voting hardly changes or means anything, it does. It all started after Vietnam. Americans fought to vote and you had to be 21. People don't realize the rights they have until they're taken away.

Voting is what runs the country. And who said old people don't do anything? It seems one thing they do very well is vote. Most of the time the complainers are the people who are non-voters. What a coincidence!

"You don't have the right to complain if you don't vote," said Miss. Jern. The most important vote is the one within your community, the little vote. Have you ever been in front of a judge and things didn't go your way? Guess what? Your community elected that judge. One of the more important elections are coming up in November. In this election, citizens will be voting for Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Comptroller, and State Treasurer.

Who's on deck for Illinois?
D=Democrat R= Republican

GOVERNOR & LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
Rod Blagojevich (D)
& Pat Quinn (D)

- **Judy Baar Topinka (R)**
State Treasurer, Ex-State Sen., Ex-State Rep. & Ex-State GOP Chair
- **Joe Birkett (R)**
DuPage County State's Attorney & '02 Attorney General Nominee

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

Lisa Madigan (D)

- **Stu Umholtz (R)**
Tazewell County States' Attorney

- **David Black (Green)**

SECRETARY OF STATE:

Jesse White (D)

- **Dan Rutherford (R)**
State Senator, Ex-State Rep., Businessman

STATE COMPTROLLER:

Dan Hynes (D)

- **Carole Pankau (R)**
State Sen., Ex-State Rep. & Ex-DuPage County Board Member

STATE TREASURER:

Judy Baar Topinka (R)

* Candidate for Governor in 2006.

Active Candidates:

- **Christine Radogno (R)**
State Sen., Ex-La Grange Village Board Member & Social Worker
- **Alexi Giannoulis (D)**
Bank Vice President

The Final Lesson: Leo's Lessons End



This has been an incredible year for sports all over the state of Illinois. Not just for the professional sports, but for the many different prep sports, too. It has been my honest pleasure to be able to report to you so many stories. I really must thank everyone for their support of Leo's Lessons and all of the different types of sports that have been put in the lessons. I can put all my faith in the future. This year, the Leo's lessons were the closest to me as this is my last year, and all of them were for the class of 06.

There have been plenty of stories that have been put into the Leo's Lesson in the past two years, from the pros, to college, to high school.

In each one I compose I have tried to top the previous one before it; they could not have been so successful if they were not backed up by the student body. All of the compliments, sarcasm, and constructive comments helped push me forward to come out with a new topic each issue. I am humble to the people that read my column. Every time I thought of a topic, I strived to make sure that the topic was not just good enough for me, but good enough for the groups of people that were going to read it.

There have been teachers that taught my how to write, and I would like to thank them personally. First, I like to thank my freshmen English teacher, Ms. Neubauer, whom everyone knows and loves. I always admire the way that she teaches. Then, Mrs. Gill, for the way that she made us use stronger words than what we would usually choose to write. Next, I'd like to thank Ms. Orr, especially for the way that she used to edit my papers; even though, I was upset when I got all of those red marks, it did make me a better writer. Last, Mr. Gasaway for taking over journalism and helping my senior year paper become one of the best issues of the past few years.

Coming to a Close

Running Trojans still racing towards the finish

By: Juan Sanchez

"Running is an unnatural act. Instead of running from the pain, you stride into it." These are events that help keep the running Trojans racing towards another championship. This year, they trained hard and had multitude of great performances; however, it will not be easy for the track team. They lost plenty of good seniors last year, like Jamar Jackson, Lee Harris, Vincent Wicklund, and Tim Sandoval; however, they are not worried as they still have a lot of athletes from last year.

On Thursday, they had conference. The team performed really well. The only problem was that the weather was terrible! It was pouring, and the wind was way too strong. "There was no time to postpone the meet because Sectionals was the following Thursday," said Coach Schmitt. The team still came in second behind Thornton, and they came in first place for a couple of events.

John Tessling won the mile and two-mile run. "It's exactly what I wanted to do. I felt pretty good in that weather and I did what I had to do," he exclaims.

Matt McLaurin won the 400 meter dash. Deron Boyett and Leonard Carey came in one and two in the triple jump. Finally, there is no stopping our 800 meter relay team. Overall, I think they could not have done better. "I was very proud of our kids on that day," said Coach Schmitt, "A day like that really shows the heart and commitment of our kids."

Next, they compete at the IHSA Sectional meet. If you do not already know, last year they won that meet, and had a lot of athletes go to state. I do not see any reason why they should not win it again. They are loaded with some of the top athletes in the state, such as Aaron Lowe, Deron Boyett, Imani Carey, Martin Baylor, and John Tessling leading the team. All these runners/jumpers are looking forward to the Sectional meet. Hopefully, they will take the championship once more.



Excellent Conference Performances:

Varsity

100m: Aaron Lowe-2nd Imani Carey-3rd

200m: Aaron Lowe-2nd

4x100: 2nd (Baylor, I. Carey, Lowe, McLaurin)

400: Matt McLaurin-1st

4x200: 1st (Baylor, I. Carey, Pennington, Lowe)

1 mile: John Tessling-1st

2 mile: John Tessling-1st Juan Sanchez-2nd

300 Hurdles: Nick Carey-3rd

Triple Jump: Deron Boyett-1st Leonard Carey-2nd

New Season, Better Results

Girls soccer team is poised to continue their improvements, shows in their attitude and play

By: Cristal Cruz

"She makes a good pass, dribbles the ball down the field and she shoots! She scores! Gooooo!" The enjoyment of soccer has been passed on throughout the years. Last year, the soccer season for the girls did not go so well. Many girls decided to quit before the season was over and left the rest of the team with no choice but to give their best at the rest of their games.

This year there was an increase in girls who wanted to try out for the soccer team. In fact, there were so many girls trying out and putting their best effort to be on the team that Mrs. Gutierrez was convinced to make three teams:

Freshman/Sophomore team, Junior Varsity team (.JV.), and Varsity team. All the girls were happy to find out they were going to be playing for one of these teams. "With a young inexperienced team, we had to first teach them to play. We tried girls in different positions on the field to see where they could help the most," said Mrs. Gutierrez. The girls had to spend two weeks to get in shape running two laps around two of the soccer fields, practicing defensive and offensive drills, and having to work on communication with one another before their first game.

"Every girl has played to the best of their abilities and that is all that can be expected of them."

-Coach Gutierrez

The Freshman/Sophomore team has been trying their best to go to the top. The J.V. team, being their first year, has been performing well with Coach Radke on their side telling them to keep it up. The Varsity girls are doing a lot better this year. With their record being 8 wins, 8 losses, and 1 tie (6 wins, 4 losses in conference) the girls are giving their best! These girls really want to be at the top of the mountain and refuse to give up! Whether on the Freshman/Sophomore, J.V., or Varsity team, these girls do not mind because they have been proud to have represented the Bloom Trojans.