



THE LOOKING GLASS



“How cheerfully he seems to grin,
How neatly spreads his claws,
And welcomes little fishes in
With gently smiling jaws!”

Lewis Carroll - Through the Looking Glass

MONTROSE STUDENTS ATTEND BC CONFERENCE

BY CLAUDIA LAU '08

One of the advantages of being a Montrose student is that we have the opportunity to study philosophy, a class which very few high school students have the option to take. As a special treat to this class, several juniors and seniors were invited to attend a conference at Boston College entitled “Truth, Life & Solidarity: Philosophical Perspectives on the Thought of Pope John Paul II,” over two days of February vacation. A variety of college professors and internationally renowned scholars presented talks and led panel discussions during the total of seven conference sessions which spanned the topics of personalist anthropology to social theory as viewed by Pope John Paul II. Participants of the conference were able to examine the legacy of Pope John Paul II through his many essays, poetry, and dramatic works and study the philosophy which led him throughout his eminent papacy.

Montrosians were invited to attend the conference free of charge thanks to BC professors Dr. Laura Garcia, one of its organizers, and Dr. Timothy Muldoon who was heading the function. Dr. Laura Garcia first informed Ms. Rice of the conference and thus aroused Montrosian interest in the event. Then Dr. Muldoon, a friend of Ms. Noble, became highly impressed to hear that high school students were studying philosophy and proceeded to extend a free invitation to any Montrose student who wished to attend. Ms. Noble recounts the teachers' excitement following the invitation,



“Ms. Rice and I were eager to invite the junior and senior classes to participate in the conference for a number of reasons (not just because it was free!). First, we thought it would be a great opportunity for them to apply their knowledge of philosophy from Metaphysics and History of Philosophy courses. We challenged these two classes to risk taking an “alternative vacation” by participating in the conference and engaging themselves intellectually.”

Nine Montrosians became enthusiastic participants in the conference including juniors Veronica Lau, Caeli Russell, Julia Hopkins, Becky Adams, Bridget Baker, Maria Perdomo, Helen Keefe and Elysha Schickel as well as senior Elle Mahaney and current BC student and Montrose alum Molly Keefe.

I had the privilege to interview Elle Mahaney who gave me her very perceptive review of the conference. She informed me that she was drawn to participating in the conference for several reasons, among them her love for philosophy, her admiration for Pope John Paul II, and her excitement at attending a college conference. “I didn't get to go to the conference at Notre Dame, and I wanted to see what a college conference was like,” she said.

According to Elle, Ms. Noble and Ms. Rice's hopes that the students would be able to apply their knowledge of philosophy from their classes during the conference were fulfilled. “The classes I took at Montrose definitely helped me to understand what was being said. There was a lot of vocabulary from the philosophical world being used that I wouldn't have understood if I had been just a tenth grader.” (Montrose students begin studying philosophy as eleventh graders.)

For Elle the most memorable part of the conference was the final talk led by the “keynote speaker,” George Weigel. George Weigel, author of the biography of Pope John Paul II “A Witness to Hope,” tied together the talks of the whole day in the final session about Karol Wojtyla's development as a person into the renowned philosopher we know him to be. “Pope John Paul II wasn't trained as a philosopher,” Elle said. “He took it upon himself to look at the world philosophically throughout his years as a university student and priest so that he could apply the philosophies he formed to his life. His life really showed the importance of philosophy in normal every day life for everyone.” Elle was most struck by Pope John Paul II's incredible life story. “How much he accomplished through prayer and perseverance is amazing. It's inspiring how one man could impact the twentieth century so much.”

SASHA COHEN MAKES SILVER!

CLAUDIA LEON '12

This year the Winter Olympics was back, and they were held in Torino, Italy. One out of many popular sports was figure skating. On the ice was one of five United States representatives for figure skating. She was Sasha Cohen.

During the short-program, Sasha “broke the ice” with her outstanding creativity and style. When it came around to the free-skate, Sasha made a “slip” with her opening jump, but she still got back up, and earned the silver medal! It was Sasha's don't-give-up attitude that won her that medal. I'm sure if she did not make that fall, Sasha would have gotten gold no doubt!

Although Sasha Cohen did not win gold, she has become a role model for people of all ages. Even if you “mess up” on your first move, don't give up because you might get the next best thing. And that's what happened with Sasha Cohen.



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JABBERWOCKY

AMERICANS VS. KOREANS: A LONG-TIME OLYMPIC RIVALRY

MEGHAN REILLY AND ALEX ERATH, '12

The Olympics. It seems like a friendly game when you see the commercials, but...it's not. In short-track speed skating...there was a scandal! There has been a long-time rivalry between the beloved Americans and the Koreans.

The Americans, playing fairly in the Olympics were faced with Korean skaters that competed unfairly and cheated. The scene of the crime: four years ago, the Winter Olympics, 2002. Not only did the Korean player of the 2002 Olympics cheat, but he showed disrespect to his country by...you want to know? Keep reading.

Apollo Ono and the Korean athlete were neck to neck the whole race. Finally, on the last lap, the Korean player pushed Apollo and skated ahead to claim the gold medal. He started his victory around the rink, but the ref stopped him. He declared the Korean skater had pushed Apollo (and pushing is NOT allowed in short-track speed skating) and was therefore disqualified. When he heard this, the Korean player surprised the public by throwing his country's flag on the ground and stepped on it. Apollo, who came in second with the silver, was awarded the gold medal right in front of the disqualified Korean. A vicious rivalry was born. The Koreans were mad.

This year, the Koreans *really* wanted to win. In this race, there were two Americans, two Koreans, and one Chinese skater. In short-track speed skating, as well as not being allowed to push, you cannot work as a team with another skater from your country to block other skaters. Anyway, at the end of the race, the American results were not good. The two Koreans had placed first and second, and Apollo Ono had barely managed to snag the bronze.

While the referee did not call anything, the popular belief was that the Koreans had worked as a team to shut the American skaters out. However, the Koreans were awarded the gold and silver. Now, both countries are anxious to win. Watch the next Winter Olympics. Who knows who'll win!?!?

SPIRIT WEEK

BAKHITA THORDARSON '12

Spirit week was a crazy week. All the various costumes symbolized every Montrosian's crazy side. Costumes that were jumbles of last minute clothing, costumes that were carefully prepared, and costumes that were dug out of your parents closet on Monday. All of them were great.

Decade Day, I have to say, was a bit of a disappointment. Almost everyone was wearing 80's work out aerobics clothes or similar. There were some good ones in there, like the poodle girls and hippies. Some people put a lot of effort into their costumes and we must give them credit. Class Unity Day was fun. Our class did business which was fun, because, in a way, we got to look like the principal. The eighth grade's alphabet was really cool also. Twelfth grade's '06 were pretty cool, except, their choice of pants was, let's just say, interesting. Tenth grade's rainbow was awesome. Character Day was my personal favorite. All the different characters from various movies, books, and shows were awesome. Tweedledee and Tweedledum earned every bit of their award. They had awesome costumes. I also liked Carolyn Carr as "Nancy Drew" with her pink notebook. She wrote a lot of class members as suspects of an unknown crime. Basically she just randomly wrote down names.

Red and White Day was a whole different matter. As well as having fun being all white or all red, there was a lot of competition. In the sixth grade, the red team sat on one half of the room, while the white sat on the other side. Various cheers and *ahem* insults were written on the boards. White's were "contaminated" if touched by reds. I'm sure older grades are mature enough not to have so much competition. I'm sure every year at Montrose, Spirit week is this much fun.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY - CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

HELENA KINANE '09

The person who was to become St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Wales about AD 385. His given name was Maewyn (pronounced as it is spelled), and he nearly did not get the job of bishop of Ireland because he lacked the required scholarship.

Far from being a saint, until he was 16, he considered himself a follower of a polytheistic religion. At that age, a group of Irish raiders that raided his village sold him into slavery. During his captivity, he became closer to God.

He escaped from slavery after six years and went to modern day France where he studied in the monastery under St. Germain, bishop of Auxerre for a period of twelve years. During his training, he became aware that his calling was to convert the followers of polytheistic religions to Christianity.

His wishes were to return to Ireland, to convert the native polytheistic believers to Christianity.

However, his superiors instead appointed St. Palladius. However, two years later, Palladius transferred to Scotland. Patrick, having adopted that Christian name earlier, was then appointed as second bishop to Ireland.

Patrick was quite successful at winning converts. In addition, this fact upset the Celtic Druids (which are people in of an ancient Celtic priesthood appearing in Irish and Welsh sagas and Christian legends as magicians and wizards). Patrick was arrested several times, but escaped each time. He traveled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches, which would aid him in his conversion of the Irish country to Christianity.

His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. After that time, Patrick retired to County Down in Northern Ireland. He died on March 17 in AD 461. That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since.

Many Irish folk tales surrounds St. Patrick's Day. Not much of it is actually proven.

Some of this lore includes the belief that Patrick raised people from the dead. He also is said to have given a sermon from a hilltop that drove all the snakes from Ireland. Of course, no snakes were ever native to Ireland, and some people think this is a metaphor for the conversion of the polytheistic believers. Originally a Catholic holy day, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into more of a secular holiday.

One traditional icon of the day is the shamrock. This stems from a well-known Irish tale that tells how Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day.

The St. Patrick's Day custom came to America in 1737. That was the first year St. Patrick's Day was celebrated publicly in this country. Boston, Massachusetts was the first city to celebrate this day. Today, people celebrate the day with parades, wearing of the green and drinking beer. One reason St. Patrick's Day might have become so popular is that it takes place just a few days before the first day of spring. One might say it has become the first green of spring.



Editor's Note: *The Looking Glass* is the official student newspaper of Montrose School. It seeks to provide news information for the Montrose community, as well as to provide a forum for the discussion of issues related to the world, national, and school affairs. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *The Looking Glass*, or Montrose School. The editors reserve the right to reject or edit any/all submissions, but only signed submissions will be considered for publication. If you would like to offer a submission, please contact one of the editors.



Dear Alice,
I am having trouble finishing my homework because my older siblings continuously interrupt my study hours. What should I do?
Quiet studier

Dear Quiet studier,
I completely understand your situation; I am also a more diligent student and finish my homework at a reasonable hour. However there is always constant chaos, what I do then is remain calm, pick up all my materials and move to quiet space. I notify my parents so any interruptions can be prevented; I suggest then that you do the same.

Dear Alice,
This winter has been terrible. I didn't exercise over the winter and now I leave gym class exhausted! How can I get back into shape during the spring?
Out of Shape

Dear out of shape,
There are two ways you can get back into shape. One consists of scheduling your time correctly in order to fit in a 25 minute run during your week. The other is simple stretch and dieting to stay healthily during a busy week.

Dear Alice,
I have a dilemma. My class has a project, and I find that I and one other of my partners are the only ones working out of the three. The other girl always gives excuses on why she didn't do her percentage of the project. And is always going on about how she will do it, but doesn't. Please help me Alice, I am desperate!
Worried with a Whiner

Dear Worried with a Whiner,
I understand your frustration, even though this girl's lack of responsibility will not hurt your individual grade, you still worry about the outcome of the entire project. The only thing to do then is communicate with the girl, get to the root of her problem. You may find that she really is busy and has an impossible schedule. Then your group can find another way to divide the work. However if it is just a lack on her part, then involve an authority, talk to a teacher or an advisor on how this situation can be resolved.

Congratulations to Sarah Custodio and Alexandra Ghiz for their fabulous planner design!



WORD OF THE MONTH

HELENA KINANE '09

Abulia

- \ay-BOO-lee-uh\
- noun
- abnormal lack of ability to act or to make decisions

Example sentence:

"Since her college graduation, my daughter seems to be suffering from abulia - she just can't decide what he wants to do next," sighed Mrs. Jones.

Did you know?

"I must have a prodigious quantity of mind," Mark Twain once wrote. "It takes me as much as a week, sometimes, to make it up." The hesitation Mark Twain talks about is fairly common; only when inability to make decisions reaches an abnormal level does it have an uncommon name: "abulia." The English term we use today comes from a New Latin word that combines the prefix "a-," meaning "without," with the Greek word "boul-," meaning "will." "Abulia" can refer to the kind of generalized indecision that makes it impossible to choose what flavor ice cream you want, though it was created to name a severe medical disorder that can render a person nearly inert.

~Courtesy of Merriam-Webster Online, www.m-w.com.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"The important thing is not to stop questioning."
-Albert Einstein

THE WIZARD OF OZ: A MUNCHKIN'S VIEW

ALEX ERATH, '12

From the "smallest" member of the cast, the view of The Wizard of Oz can be very different from the Lion's perspective. Makenzie Mitchell, a member of the Munchkin Lollipop Guild, says,



"Rehearsals are interesting... sometimes we sing the wrong thing and our blocking gets messed up- but mostly everyone gets it right. Doesn't matter what happens, it's really fun!"

Other Munchkins agree:

"Rehearsals are fun and funny because of the really funny jokes Mrs. Gahagen makes!" Carolyn Carr, a member of the Lullaby League says. "I love them- they're not at all boring."

Different actresses think that rehearsals can be monotonous- they go over the same things over and over again...nothing new.

"We do the same thing over and over again." But another defends, "That's what rehearsals are for!"

Sometimes Munchkins have to go to entire cast rehearsals. They say it can be boring after they've done their scene because they have to wait until the show is over (for the curtain call) and they have to be quiet so they won't distract the actresses. There is nothing to do.

However, Mrs. Gahagen adopts the schedule for Munchkins. Usually they can leave early if they're not in Act II.

Nonetheless, all the Munchkins seem to agree on one thing: The Wizard of Oz is going to be one smashing success, and as one Munchkin quotes,

"The Munchkin scene will be the best!"

CURIOUSER & CURIOUSER

REMEMBERING CORETTA SCOTT KING

ALEXANDRA GHIZ '08



Only a few months ago, on January 30, 2006, the woman called Coretta Scott King died battling a stroke and ovarian cancer. How fitting that at the end of Black and Women's history months, we come to remember a woman who had devoted her life to the advancement of African American and women's rights. Throughout her early life, Mrs. King was commonly identified as the wife of the famous civil rights leader and passionate speaker Martin Luther King Jr., but in recent decades following his assassination, Mrs. King followed worked to secure her own dream of a better American society.

Even as a young girl, Coretta was determined to be her own person. Though her family was not wealthy, Coretta's parents both had jobs, setting the scene for her pointed independence in her adult life. As a girl, Coretta studied voice at New England Conservatory and planned a career in voice, as one of her classmates remembers, "an outspoken girl with a beautiful singing voice." Later, in 1953 Coretta got married, and to ensure equality in her marriage, she asked the minister (none other than Martin Luther King, Sr.) to remove from the wedding vows the promise to obey her husband. As Coretta became more involved in her husband's dream, she became far more than just a supportive spouse. As MLK Jr. once said in an interview, "I wish I could say, to satisfy my masculine ego, that I led her down this path, but I must say we went down together, because she was as actively involved and concerned when we met as she is now."

This partnership was tragically severed with Martin's assassination on April 4, 1968. Though grief-stricken, Coretta continued to carry on her husband's work, and keep his legacy alive. Coretta became involved in many civil rights movements including fights against hunger, unemployment, voting rights and racism. However, Coretta's two main goals to achieve before she died were to achieve a national holiday in honor of Martin Luther King, and to build a nationally recognized center in Atlanta devoted to his memory, continue his work, and to research his cause and advance civil rights. Today we have the Martin Luther King Day in January and the King Center in Atlanta as monuments to the devotion both the Kings put into their work.

Coretta Scott King lived a full life, not without sorrow, but complete with dedication and passion for an ongoing cause. She set high goals for herself and recognized the value of independence and devotion to a belief, even unto death. Though Coretta's dream remains unfinished, her passion for civil liberties has traveled into the 21st century where hopefully, it will live and flourish.

SUDOKU

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

RIDDLE OF THE MONTH

BAKHITA THORDARSON '12

There was a man who wanted to marry a farmer's daughter. The farmer says that he can have his daughter. First, he has to go to the apple orchard and pick a bunch of apples. When he comes to the first fence post, he is to leave half the apples he has and half an apple more. When he gets to the next fence post he is to again leave half the apples he has and half an apple more. Finally, at the last fence, he is again to leave half the apples he has and half an apple more. When he reaches the farmer and his daughter, he must have one apple left to give to his daughter. He is not allowed to cut, bite, break, or mangle the apples in any way. How many apples does he have to pick when he goes to the orchard?



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SOLUTION

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

15 apples