



# The Blue Jay



STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EXTRA

Volume 87, No. 4

# CHAMPIONS!



Their faces say it all. The 2014 Jesuit football team and coaches celebrate with their new trophy on the floor of the Superdome after the team's breathtaking win against John Curtis to take the LHSAA Division 1 state title. The sixth-seeded Blue Jays defeated the top-seeded Patriots by a score of 17-14. Photo by Pierre DeGruy

## Jesuit claims 1st state title since 1960

### *Songy's Blue Jays defeat John Curtis 17-14*

By William Fine  
News Editor

It took more than half a century.

But in a season that many might have written off due to any number of circumstances, the Jesuit Blue Jays made history on Dec. 5.

Jesuit's football team overcame the top-seeded John Curtis Patriots to win its first state championship in 54 years, taking the Division 1 title in the Allstate Sugar Bowl/LHSAA Prep

Classic in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome.

The Jays peaked at the right time, closing the season with a six-game winning streak that included back to back wins against St. Augustine. The team was led by the outstanding leadership of Coach Mark Songy and his team of assistant coaches.

The Division 1 state finals got off to a late start, as both teams had to wait as earlier games ran long in the jam-packed Superdome. With both teams eager to get the action started, the game began slowly and, at first, didn't appear good for Jesuit.

The Jays could barely move the ball into the Patriots' territory, and Curtis was moving the ball pretty effectively with their triple option. Curtis finally broke through midway through the second quarter on a 75-yard drive. This woke the Jays up and the game continued at a heart-pounding pace.

The Jays answered with a 35-yard touchdown pass by quarterback Trey LaForge to leading receiver Kalija Lipscomb. The pass was set up by the rushing



Jesuit students filled the Superdome with cheers, shouts and signs to support the football team. Thousands filled the stadium to witness the heart-stopping championship game. Photo by Jay Combe

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# History made in Superdome

## Champions

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attack that had led them the whole drive.

The Jays defense was still having problems with the triple option however. Curtis drove down the field and scored their second touchdown with four seconds left in the half. The Jays went into the half trailing for the first time in the playoffs.

Jesuit drove early in the third quarter and came away with a field goal. The drive was led by Charles Jackson who rushed for 53 yards. The defense stepped it up in the second half allowing no points and forcing two turnovers. The Jays scored the game winning score early on in the fourth quarter. LaForge led the drive completing three passes for 60 yards. The drive was completed by Lipscomb with a 45-yard touchdown catch.

The defense came up big late in the game forcing a fumble with about five minutes left of play. On the last drive of the game, the defense stopped Curtis on 4th and eight. The ball was thrown in the direction of Jakirai Wiley who batted it down. With the win now assured, the Jays ran out the clock to close out the game and be crowned state champions.

Jackson was named the outstanding player with his game of 16 carries for 147 yards.

"This is the kind of stuff that you dream about, like when you're 4 years old, growing up on the playground," LaForge said.

Songy, who only returned to Jesuit this summer as head coach, emphasized that this one is for the entire Jesuit community.

### Path to playoffs

The road to get "jays2thedome" was nearly as hard fought as the championship game.

The Jays opened the playoffs against St. Augustine, just a week after defeating the Purple Knights 34-20. The weather was cold, but the Jesuit team was hot. The rushing attack ran for roughly 300 yards. On Jesuit's second possession, the team drove nearly 70 yards for a score. An equally as impressive third drive gained 52 yards for the touchdown.

The third touchdown occurred on a strike from LaForge to Lipscomb for a 35-yard score. The Jays had a 21-0 advantage at halftime. The Knights tried to mount a comeback with a second half touchdown but the Jays quelled any hope with two more touchdown passes from LaForge, giving the Jays a 35-6 lead. Jackson scored the final touchdown on a long touchdown run. The Jays won with a final score of 42-14.

In the state quarterfinals, Jesuit upset the St. Thomas More Cougars of Lafayette with a thrilling victory. Jesuit opened the game firing on all cylinders. The team drove the ball deep in the Cougars' territory but came



Thousands of Blue Jays filled the stands of the Superdome for the Dec. 5 state finals, resulting in a 'white out' of the arena. The supportive fans had to wait for the game to start, as earlier divisional games played out. The suspenseful game was well worth the wait.

up with no points. The defense held the Cougar's offense and the Jays went back to work, this time scoring a touchdown.

After a slew of miscues by both teams, including an exchange of interceptions, the Cougars scored a touchdown with about two minutes left in the first half, but failed the two-point conversion. The Blue Jay offense was stopped and had to punt before the end of the half.

The Cougars were headed to the end zone on the return until Crew Jacobs made a diving tackle with eight seconds left in the half. The Cougars opted to try for a field goal but missed. The Jays went into the half up 7-6. The Jays scored a second touchdown in the closing minutes of the third quarter to put them up 13-6. St. Thomas More tied the game up with a touchdown in the fourth quarter. After a couple of punts the Jays got the ball on their own 20. They drove 80 yards led by the rushing attack of Chris Mills and Jackson for the game-winning score, at 20-13 and set up a semi-finals match against Archbishop Rummel, which had handed Jesuit one of only two losses in the regular season. The Blue Jays had one goal - defeat the undefeated.

### Undefeated falls

They did just that. The Jays got up early and never looked back. The Jays second drive included an outstanding 35-yard run by senior LaForge, which was capped by a short touchdown run by Jackson. Jesuit's second touchdown came on a short pass and nifty run after the catch by tight end Alex Rabalais.

The Raiders answered with a long touchdown drive completed with 45 seconds left in the half. The Jays went into halftime leading 14-7. Mills answered the Raiders early in the third quarter. On a third and short, he got the ball on a draw and ran 56 yards to score. He had a gaping hole set up by the offensive line and made



Running back Charles Jackson receives the plaque from an official with the Allstate Sugar Bowl/LHSAA Prep Classic naming him the Outstanding Player of the game for his 16 carries for 147 yards.

Photos by Jay Combe

a great move near the 20-yard line to get there.

The Jesuit defense came up big all night and continued to stop the Raiders into the fourth quarter. The Jays had the ball at about the Raider 20-yard line, and sent Mills and Malachi Hull into the end zone. The ball was thrown to Mills but was deflected by a Raider defender. It bounced right into Hull's hands for a touchdown. The Jays now held a 28-7 lead.

The Raiders got the ball back and drove down the field for a touchdown. The only hope the Raiders had was to recover an onside kick. They did recover the kick but the Jays' defense would have none of it.

They promptly stopped the Raiders. The Jays ran out the clock and right to the Superdome. They closed out the game with a

28-14 win.

"We picked the right time to play as well as we could and I think the guys knew everything that was at stake," Songy said, following the game.

The Jays found themselves in an unfamiliar territory now.

The football team had not been to the finals since 1978 and had not won the finals since 1960. Jesuit was now the underdog. The team had upset the third-seeded St. Thomas More, and the second-seeded Rummel Raiders. But going after No. 1 isn't easy.

In the school's history, Jesuit had only won eight football championships. Since Jesuit's last title, John Curtis had 26.

Sometimes, however, being the underdog isn't such a bad thing, after all. It's time to add a new page to the history books.

## THE WINNING ROAD TO THE SUPERDOME

2014 season recap

vs. Karr (Aug. 28)  
WIN 17-15

vs. Ponchatoula (Sept. 5)  
LOSS 24-21

vs. St. Paul's (Sept. 12)  
WIN 49-22

vs. Central (Sept. 19)  
WIN 35-6

vs. Pensacola (Sept. 26)  
WIN 49-17

### HOMECOMING GAME

vs. East Jeff (Oct. 3)  
WIN 40-14

### GREAT AMERICAN RIVALRY GAME

vs. Holy Cross (Oct. 10)  
WIN 56-14

vs. Shaw (Oct. 18)  
WIN 49-14

vs. Rummel (Oct. 25)  
LOSS 10-7

vs. Bro. Martin (Nov. 1)  
WIN 17-14

vs. St. Augustine (Nov. 7)  
WIN 34-20

### STATE PLAYOFFS

vs. St. Augustine  
(Nov. 14)  
WIN 42-14

### STATE QUARTERFINALS

vs. St. Thomas More  
(Nov. 21)  
WIN 20-13

### STATE SEMI-FINALS

vs. Rummel  
(Nov. 29)  
WIN 28-14

### STATE FINALS

vs. John Curtis  
(Dec. 5)  
WIN 17-14



# The Blue Jay



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## Jays runners take state title

By Nick Slay  
Staff Writer

Few sports may seem to rely more upon the individual athlete than long-distance running. The members of Jesuit's cross country team, however, prove that a collective team effort is as important a key to success as it is in football or basketball.

And now they have the trophy to prove it.

The cross country team, under the guidance of Coach Rudy Horvath, captured the state championship title at the finals meet last month at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches.

The team championship was the first for the Blue Jays since 2010, and the first for Horvath since he replaced Peter Kernion upon his appointment as principal.

While the Blue Jays didn't place a single runner in the Top Ten, the combined team effort edged out district rival Brother

Martin, as well as Catholic High and St. Paul's.

Central to the win was the tight pack running of Mathews Vargas, Eli Sisung, Carlos Zervignon, Patrick LaCour, and Michael Schwing.

"This is about as close as it gets," Horvath said. "We had four great teams out there slugging it out.

"Our guys, to a man, rose to the occasion."

While Jesuit has long been a force in the sport, and was expected to do well this

season, there were hurdles to overcome.

Last year, Jesuit had an extremely young team and came in with a third place finish at the state meet in Natchitoches. But Jesuit lost only two seniors from last year's top seven, giving this year's roster a lot of experience from athletes who ran last year.

The team started its training in the third week of the summer with practices starting at 6 a.m., five days a week. This

See **CROSS COUNTRY**, Page 8

## Thanksgiving Drive 2014



Opening well before dawn on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, Robert's Fresh Market generously played host to Jesuit students and faculty who shopped for the last-minute items to complete the baskets, which would be delivered to families later that morning. Photo by Noah Billeaud

## 'Best day at Jesuit' helps 460

Since 1927, annual tradition embodies spirit of giving

By Jason LaHatte  
Features Editor

More than a month in the making, and involving every aspect of the Jesuit High School community, the school celebrated, in the words of Father Raymond Fitzgerald S.J., "one of the best days at Jesuit" last month with the annual Thanksgiving food drive and deliveries.

Showing what it truly means to be men for others, this year's drive enabled the Blue Jay community to provide about 460 families throughout the New Orleans area with the provisions for a fine Thanksgiving Day meal on Nov. 26.

Leading up to that busy Wednesday morning, however, includes much preparation and planning. Throughout November, students collected canned goods and other non-perishable items and donated money towards the Wednesday morning grocery shopping.

For years, the Robert family,

which includes many alumni, has opened and staffed their Lakeview store before dawn, allowing Blue Jays to shop for those last minute items to complete the traditional baskets. Following a hearty breakfast, the market's aisles were quickly filled.

Arriving at school in time for homeroom, with the morning already well underway, the sorting and organizing baskets, boxes or bags of groceries began. Turkeys for each family were provided by the members of the

Class of 1983.

Before making the deliveries, the community gathered in the Chapel of the North American Martyrs for a brief prayer service. Senior Evan Duhon discussed the meaning of the drive, and Julio Minsal-Ruiz, S.J., gave an impassioned reflection on the spirit of generosity and charity.

Following the service, Kevin Murphy, director of Jesuit's

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Helping to deliver the Thanksgiving bundles to one of the families for his homeroom, sophomore Travis Kieff, left photo, is greeted by the lady of the house. As he helps carry boxes of food to the waiting cars and trucks, sophomore Kyle Bardell, right photo, flashes a smile showing the joy that the annual drive brings, making the day 'one of the best days at Jesuit.' Photos by Matthew O'Neill



# Jesuit's best highlighted at Open House

By Donald Barrett  
Staff Writer

Company's coming!

After weeks of spiffing things up to get ready, Jesuit opened its doors to nearly 700 prospective Blue Jays, along with their parents and families, as the school held its annual Open House.

As one of the most important ways to showcase Jesuit to potential students, and attract them to begin the application process, Open House requires a lot of careful planning.

Admissions Director Bret Hanemann has been in charge of the operation for the past three years and knows firsthand the monumental task required to make this night a success.

"Finding enough helium for the balloons is the hardest part," Hanemann said with a laugh.

"The easiest part is getting the boys and bringing them together," he quickly added. Approximately 500 students volunteered to participate in Open House, assisting both behind the scenes and as invaluable tour guides. That participation is vital.

"It's the students that make our Open House," Hanemann said. "Our students sell Jesuit High School every year."

Each tour group was treated to quite an experience. The tours began in the auditorium.

"This year, the auditorium presentation was the best that we have ever had," Hanemann said. While coming into the auditorium, guests were treated to a performance by the Jesuit Jazz Band.

Seniors Harrison Bond and



Senior Mason Page leads his guests past the Mathematics Department's display and towards the world of Social Studies in the Student Commons during Jesuit's annual Open House on Nov. 5.

Juan Martinez spoke movingly about each of their unique Jesuit experiences. Then Fr. Anthony McGinn, S.J., president, and Principal Peter Kernion described to parents some of the ways in which Jesuit would help their sons become successful, while also dispelling various myths about the school.

Finally, a video presentation gave personal outlooks about Jesuit from a number of students, alumni, parents and teachers.

The prospective Blue Jays were led through the school to see all that Jesuit has to offer. The tour groups saw the academics, athletics and co-curriculars.

During this time, upperclassmen guides deftly answered questions, moved through the line, and enlightened tour groups about the school.

The tours ended in the gym, where the spectrum of sports and co-curricular activities was displayed.

Jesuit has been fortunate enough over the past few years to recover a strong student base after Hurricane Katrina. Like most high schools in metropolitan New Orleans only a few years back, Jesuit struggled to meet its admission goals.

Today, due in part to the successful recruiting efforts like Open House, applications are flooding in again and its student body has now surpassed pre-Katrina numbers.

## Cadets in tip-top shape



With crisp precision and disciplined military bearing, the Jesuit MCJROTC program earned the highest grade of 'Outstanding' during the Inspector General's annual inspection on Nov. 18. The annual review conducted by Marines from the Marine Forces Reserve Headquarters in Algiers, and the Marine Air Group from Belle Chasse, included a 100 percent personnel inspection of the Jesuit Battalion, as well as drill by five platoons and the Battalion Color Guard. The results serve as the MCJROTC's grade for the entire year. As such, the inspection is of great importance for the cadets. Of the 111 cadets, 57 earned the grade of Outstanding, receiving meritorious promotions to the next highest rank. Second Platoon, B Company, led by senior Cadet 2ndLt. Andrew Liang, was graded as best drill platoon. The MCJROTC Band, led by junior 2ndLt. Dane Castillo, had the highest average inspection score. The Battalion Color Guard, led by junior Cadet SSgt. William Waguespack, earned an outstanding grade for proficiency in drill. Overall, the cadets did a fine job and earned the program an overall ranking of Outstanding.

## New web Forum gives Blue Jays their say

By Patrick Fine  
Editor-in-Chief

Many Blue Jays have discovered the new feature of the J.A.Y.S.O.N. page for students. The website now offers the Blue Jay Forum.

Just like the ancient Roman Forum, here is an opportunity for

students and teachers alike to voice their opinions publicly on a variety of topics. Each week a new topic is posted there, with previous discussion threads placed in a read-only archive.

Of the first few topics, there have been serious conversations about banning homework and not-so serious conversations about superhero battles.

A part of the new Media

Club, the space has only been open for about a month. Discussions have been positive, dynamic, and fruitful with input from all grade levels.

Several teachers have also made some interesting comments as well.

Here is a perfect place for students to discuss healthy changes to an ever-changing environment.

## 'Truth and Glory' seeks spirituality in friendships

By Matthew Torres  
Staff Writer

Have you ever thought: "I would really like an event at which I could connect with God and deepen my faith along with other Catholic young adults."

Then "Truth And Glory" is for you. The upcoming event, a joint production of the campus ministries of Dominican and Jesuit high schools, focuses on time for prayer and socializing to help bring like-minded young people together in a healthy and spiritually wholesome setting.

The origin of the event's name come from the combination of Dominican's motto — "Veritas" or "truth" — and part of the Jesuit motto — "Gloriam" or "glory."

Commonly known as "TAG," it will be held at Dominican High School on Dec. 18, following the second-quarter exams.

The evening will begin at 7 p.m. with a period of Eucharistic Adoration, led by Archbishop Gregory Aymond in Dominican's Upstairs Chapel. A brief presentation will be given by a Deacon Brad Doyle on the life of Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati, followed by a discussion period. After the group discussion, there will be a social with food and live music

until 9 p.m. As if you needed any more reason to attend, there will be dozens of Dominican girls at this event worshipping and socializing along with you.

"I think it is important for Jesuit and Dominican to team up to promote adoration because Jesus is at the heart of everything we do as Christians," Jesuit Campus Minister Jeremy Reuther said.

"The Eucharist is a constant reminder that Jesus is true to His promise: that He is with us in each moment, that we are not alone, and that the love of God is stronger than any darkness we face," Reuther said. "The more our friendships are based on this presence of Jesus among us, they will be rooted ever more deeply in freedom and joy."

Dominican has graciously opened its doors to play host to the first meeting. Jesuit will most likely hold a similar event in the spring semester.

However, all the work put in by the student ministers go to waste if there is no attendance. Celebrate the end of the semester, invite a friend or two, or make dinner plans with a possible prom date. This event is made specifically for young people to connect through a friendship at which Christ is at the center.

In today's world, where Christ is so often left out, this is an opportunity not to be missed.

# Muller also in his element with arts, languages

*Chemistry teacher uses broad education to inspire wide-ranging worldview*

By Baasel Syed  
Staff Writer

Teacher  
Feature

If they haven't had him for class yet, many students might wonder who the pensive, witty, bearded man is who they see in the fourth-floor hallways.

He's chemistry teacher Peter Muller.

No stranger to Jesuit, as a member of the Class of '81, he joined the faculty following the retirement of longtime Chemistry Department member Harry Clark.

When he was a student at Jesuit, he was known for top achievements in virtually every activity in which he was involved.

His students today enjoy watching video clips of Muller on Prep Quiz Bowl.

Students cheer and beg to watch Muller tear through competition as a high-schooler, and moan when he might miss a question.

So dominant in academia was Muller that some classmates

remember calling him "Peter Perfect."

After high school, Muller took his talents to study at some of the most prestigious universities including Tulane, University of Chicago and Princeton.

He also was a Rhodes Scholar, studying at Oxford University in England. He originally went to study Classics and foreign languages.

As a result, he's studied French, German, Latin, Greek and Hebrew, and even a bit of Mandarin Chinese. Not surprisingly, his "favorite subjects while attending Jesuit High School were languages," he said, adding that he considers the development of languages among "human's greatest achievements."

When not continuing his study of languages, Muller said he likes to be outdoors, walking and running in the park, as well as playing the piano.



Using his own background and life experiences as an example, chemistry teacher Peter Muller encourages his students to use the lens of hard science, as well as the arts and music and language, to find beauty and truth in the world around them.

Staff photo by Matthew O'Neill

He said he has a love of classical music, and students can hear his favorite orchestras playing during lab days.

He's also a movie fan, preferring the classics, "especially thrillers like Alfred Hitchcock movies."

With such a background and love of liberal arts, what drew him to study and teach chemistry?

Primarily, it was something new and engaging.

While previously living in Germany, he worked as an attor-

ney, then later as a securities lawyer in London.

While his broad education gave him the opportunity to travel the world and living the life he wanted, those individual career paths often left him wanting more.

"None of the jobs really engaged me or kept me interested for long periods of time," he said.

The timing was right when a classmate, Mike Giambelluca, former principal of Jesuit, as well as Muller's friend, Fr. Raymond Fitzgerald, S.J., asked him to

consider returning to his alma mater to teach.

In classic fashion, Muller thought, "Why not," returning to Carrollton and Banks to begin yet another adventure.

His own journey serves as a strong example for his students to study an expansive range of disciplines. You never know where the path of life will take you.

The chemistry lessons learned are but a very small part of the larger worldview a man like Peter Muller can offer his students.



Senior Evan Duhon was one of the speakers at the morning prayer service. He spoke movingly about the importance of charitable works, and how the smallest act can have great effect.



Sophomore Kyle Baudier cheerfully prepares to load up boxes of food destined for a needy family's Thanksgiving table.

Photo by Matthew O'Neill

## Thanksgiving drive shows 'men for others' is way of life

Thanksgiving  
Continued from Page 1

Service Projects program, gave some final instructions and Blue Jays took off in all directions, cars and trucks loaded with the fruits of a month's labor, to personally deliver baskets to families who might not be able to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.

The Thanksgiving Drive is indeed something special. No other school function sees students waking up to go shopping at 5:30 a.m.

It also takes students out of their comfort zones. On the

deliveries, students visit areas of town that they might typically never visit, and meet people who are living in circumstances most of us have never experienced.

The tradition began in 1927, when members of the Sodality at Jesuit began collecting food for the neighborhood's poor. Every year, the drive has grown, but there is always the need to reach out and do more, for the waiting list also grows each year.

Jesuit proves itself every year with the Thanksgiving Drive, and a little more effort can always be given. It is truly the embodiment of what it means to be men for others.



As is their tradition, members of the Class of '83 provide the many turkeys for the baskets. Alumni gathered Tuesday night to pluck the birds from the truck

It takes students out of their comfort zones. On the deliveries, students visit areas of town that they might typically never visit, and meet people who are living in circumstances most of us have never experienced.



There is 'No Place for Hate' at Jesuit High School. For the second year in a row, Jesuit was recognized by the Anti-Defamation League for its efforts to stop bullying and hatred. The ADL's Lindsay Baach Friedmann, right, presented the banner this month at a morning assembly. Here, she is joined by science teacher Lori Fasone, who also is coordinator of diversity, and juniors Kolby Weber and Andre Nguyen.

## Jesuit recognized for efforts to stop hate, push tolerance

For the second consecutive year, the Anti-Defamation League has designated Jesuit as a "NO Place for HATE" high school.

Lindsay Baach Friedmann, project director for the the ADL's No Place for Hate initiative, presented the school with a banner recognizing the accomplishment at morning assembly on Dec. 1.

"I want to thank you, the students of Jesuit High School, for owning your responsibility to be allies and leading the way to effect positive change in attitudes towards each other," Baach Friedmann told the assembled Blue Jays.

The Anti-Defamation League was founded more than 100 years ago with the sole mission of securing justice and fair treatment for all.

Accepting the banner for Jesuit were science teacher Lori Fasone, who is the school's coordinator of diversity, and juniors Kolby Weber and Andre

Nguyen.

Nguyen spoke to his fellow Blue Jays about a recent visit with an African-American World War II veteran. He recalled a time when he and his fellow black soldiers couldn't drink from a water fountain in Tennessee because of the color of their skin. Nguyen also discussed meeting with a group of Holocaust survivors.

Based on his meetings, Nguyen asked his classmates to remember the following messages:

"Pulling someone down will never help you reach the top."

"Speak loudly because your silence is your acceptance."

"We are all born equal. There are no White Jays or Black Jays, Latino Jays, or Asian Jays. There is only one type of Jay out there, and that is what we are together as a whole. Blue Jays."

## Two Jays get perfect ACT scores

Jesuit seniors Garth Cook and Matthew Sentilles each earned a top composite score of 36 on a recent ACT test.

Cook and Sentilles join classmate Matthew Stuckey who made a 36 of his own during his sophomore year at Carrollton and Banks

Nationally, while the actual number of students earning a composite score of 36 varies from year to year, on average, less than one-tenth of 1 percent of students who take the ACT earn the top score.

Among test takers in the high school graduating Class of 2014, only 1,407 of nearly 1.85 million students earned a composite score of 36.

Cook earned the perfect 36 on his third time taking the test. He attended elementary school at Stuart Hall School in New



Seniors Garth Cook, left, and Matthew Sentilles recently earned perfect scores of 36 on the ACT.

Orleans. He currently participates in Cross Country, Campus Ministry, the Pro-Life Club, and the National Honor Society at Jesuit and hopes to study medicine in college.

Sentilles, who earned the 36 on his second try, attended Christian Brothers School in New Orleans. At Jesuit, he is involved with Academic Games, Mu Alpha Theta, and the

National Honor Society and hopes to study mathematics or engineering in college.

Stuckey scored a perfect 36 on his ACT as a sophomore. Before arriving at Carrollton and Banks, he also was a student at Christian Brothers.

The ACT consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science.

Each test is scored on a scale of 1-36, and a student's composite score is the average of the four test scores.

In a letter recognizing this exceptional achievement, ACT CEO Jon Whitmore said, "While test scores are just one of the many criteria that most colleges consider when making admission decisions, your exceptional ACT composite score should prove helpful as you pursue your education and career goals."

## Spirit is found both on and off the playing fields

By Kevin Credo  
Opinions Editor

Thoughts  
of a Blue Jay

Here at Jesuit, we really have an active school life. There are so many classes and academic awards, so many athletic meets, and so much to do just around the school. It seems like every day, we have some new event to go to, some new club to join, or just some interesting thing to perk up our day.

With so many things making this school what it is, there's something we frequently hear to describe it: "Blue Jay Spirit."

People are often told to have, to embrace, and to live by this spirit of ours, but just what does it mean?

Is it supposed to mean attending every sporting event and making a perfect GPA? Is it supposed to mean having a massive group of friends who you converse with at spirited events of mandatory attendance? Is it supposed to mean fondly regarding the older generation of students that graduated right before us, and then the group right before them, and so on – eventually forming a Jesuit dynasty that goes back to the Civil War?

Well, I think that it means a lot of things.

First of all, a nice place to start with Blue Jay Spirit would probably be the students. When I ask students to talk about what they think about Blue Jay Spirit, I get a wide range of responses. Many of them agree that it's a pretty ineffable concept.

One reply that stood out to me a good bit was that during football season, it could be best described as something to the effect of "a bunch of screaming teen-agers." When you go to the football games, I don't think anyone would find that description inaccurate.

This year there's been a lot of talk about the student section at football games being renamed "The Gizzard," but I think that it's quite an inspiring sight no matter what you call it. There's something very special about choosing to show up at a sporting event outside of school and supporting the football team. It shows the football team (and the band, cheerleaders and many other groups) that the community here definitely cares. Even if it is named after an obscure bird organ.

Now having the students hyped up at a football game is definitely Blue Jay Spirit, but is that all there is to it? Is there really anything beyond yelling at a field goal in unison to a cheerleading chant, only to win anyway and ride home on a "Spirit Bus," euphoric from the uplifting

presence of our beloved mascot Jayson, empowering us to levels of victory we have already achieved several times in the past? I like having the school win championships as much as the next guy, but I think there's more to what school spirit really means.

Praising someone for their achievements in various sporting events is worthy, but is the relatively smaller percentage of the school that makes up those achievers the only group that deserves any noticeable laud?

Our sporting Blue Jay brothers would undoubtedly be among the first groups to say no. There is one thing that accomplishments in sports, academic excellence and service to others all have in common – they require a great investment of time.

Whether we are striving to be better on the playing field, racking up library hours in pursuit of academic excellence, or just giving our all to increase one letter grade in that tough course whose subject matter doesn't come naturally to us, we are all showing Blue Jay Spirit. Perhaps in the future we need a pep rally that celebrates all of these accomplishments. That would certainly be a nice addition to the school calendar, wouldn't it?

Jesuit is fortunate that it regularly wins state and national championships across the board in lots of different areas; and we are all justifiably proud of all the hard work that goes into making this happen. But perhaps if we spend some time thinking about the small battles that Jesuit students win on a day to day basis in just trying to help each other out, we might find that we have a whole lot more to be thankful for than we realized. During our celebrations, we need to remember that both the victory and the spirit are essentially means for praising real students.

As senior Class President Harrison Bond described, Blue Jay Spirit is "the sense of pride that the students get from any of their achievements in the classroom, on the athletic field, around the school, or anywhere else within Jesuit."

Blue Jay Spirit isn't just about the school or the awards; it's about the individual students here being able to link themselves to the only Spirit that really matters – the Spirit of Christ working within each of us.

If you take the time to think about just how amazing the students here at Jesuit are and can be (not just on the field of play), you'll realize that there's definitely a lot to be spirited about.

# The Reasons for the Seasons

*Advent  
a time to  
pray,  
prepare*

**By Brady Stiller**  
*Entertainment Editor*

With Christmas around the corner, a to-do list of demands is sure to begin to consume our minds.

What will I get my family for Christmas?

What do I need to prepare for the Christmas Eve party?

Do I want an Xbox or a new phone?

Surely these tasks take control of our lives with the arrival of the Christmas season. Contrary to all the chaos, however, we're not even in the Christmas season yet.

This is the liturgical season of Advent, and that doesn't just mean it's a time of opening little doors on a calendar, or seeing the priest wearing violet vestments.

Advent is a time of preparation. The season's name comes from the Latin for "coming," that is the arrival of Jesus Christ into our world.

In order to fully celebrate the humble Incarnation of our Lord, we must make time to focus on the true meaning of Christmas and block out the many distractions that come near the turn of the year.

While Advent may seem like a commemoration simply of Jesus' coming to the earth through the Virgin Mary, Christians celebrate His purpose of the past, present, and the future. Advent points to three comings of Christ: his past Incarnation, his current presence in the Blessed Sacrament, and his future coming on the final day.

Moreover, Advent is a time to quietly reflect upon Christ's ubiquitous presence here and now in our lives and to acknowledge Him more frequently. It is a time to slow down rather than to get completely caught up in the frenzy of the secularized holiday



**The colors of the candles of the traditional Advent wreath remind us to look for the coming of Christ in the past through His Nativity; in the present through His constant presence in our lives and in the Eucharist; and in the future through His Second Coming.**

Son.  
A great way to focus on the arrival of our savior in all three realms of time is the tradition of the Advent wreath.

The simple wreath holding three purple candles and a pink one actually contains profound symbolism. As most people know, the candles are lit on each of the four Sundays in the Advent season, which began Nov. 30.

The flame of the candles represents the light of Christ coming into our lives, whether through the Eucharist or His taking on human flesh. Between our holiday baking and our long lists of presents, we should take time with our families to gather around and reflect upon the Advent wreath and Christ's arrival.

The four candles on the wreath are named after either the weeks' readings with which they are associated or the particular "theme" of that Sunday's Scripture reading.

The first purple candle is named the Prophecy Candle or the Candle of Hope. That first Sunday Mass's reading recounts the Lord's lineage from Jesse and his following patriarchs. Thus, we can have hope that God will keep His promises as He did when He sent His only beloved

The second purple candle is called the Bethlehem Candle or the Candle of Preparation. The reading associated with this candle proclaims that Jesus will be born in the city of Bethlehem, so we must prepare ourselves to be ready for his coming.

The third is a pink candle, the Shepherd Candle or the Candle of Joy. We remember the angels who joyfully bore the message of the coming of the Messiah to the shepherds; we too should jump with joy at the news of His arrival.

Lastly, the fourth candle is purple, labeled the Angel Candle or the Candle of Love. As we look at John 3:16, the perfect love of God is expressed in His promise to send "His only begotten Son" for our sake. May we rejoice and be thankful for God and his mercy and love for us.

With such a helpful instrument to keep track of the weeks of Advent, Christ's coming should always have some place in our thoughts. Christmas is a time for joy, anticipation, camaraderie, and generosity. However, we should make time and space to put these feelings in their proper place and focus on what is truly important.

*Christmas spirit  
hard to find amid  
commercial chaos*

**By Patrick Fine**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

**A Point of View**

Frosty the Snowman, Santa Claus, Reindeer, and Christmas lights along with the sweet smell of pine needles, brisk December air, and autumn leaves make it easy to become totally absorbed in the Christmas spirit.

Christmas carols on the radio and sales in department stores all bring in the cheer of Christmas almost like the last week of exams does at school.

However, I have a bone to pick with what is passing as Christmas spirit. It seems like Halloween is barely finished when we are confronted with the enormous, obnoxious, and frightening wall that is the "Holiday season."

I am not against Christmas, nor do I hate that exciting nature of the holidays, but I simply find media and pop culture overbearing for this period.

Soon after we take down our ghosts from our front porches, people are stringing lights from every orifice, crevice, and ledge in their house. This does not even mention the inflatable Christmas characters residing in several front yards by the middle of November!

Signs for Christmas tree lots were put up before the end of October. That annoying salesman on television is telling me how best to budget my Christmas shopping list before I put the turkey on the table at Thanksgiving. The Christmas feel-good movie is being previewed as early as September. I hear stories of people leaving Thanksgiving dinner early to camp out at Best Buy only to get trampled by the other hundred shoppers vying for the exact same item on Black Friday.

I ask myself as I listen to all these insane activities: "At what point will our society finally revolt?" When will the normal people in this country have enough of this phony celebration of Christmas?

Maybe some people like Christmas music in June. I don't. Yet at least the person that listens about snow in August doesn't force me to listen to it as well. I refuse to believe that most people

enjoy being brainwashed by sales pitches, hot chocolate, and the "spirit of the season."

That is another aspect of Christmas that I despise. How can I catch the "Christmas spirit" when I am sweating all over in November? I cannot fathom buying a sweater for only two weeks of use. The Christmas tree needles are falling off due to excessive heat. I would rather a cold lemonade right now than a hot chocolate.

It is really necessary to run over your fellow man with metal carts in order to grab that new electronic game before he does? The game will be there in February at a lower price. Buying that plastic car for your little girl or getting six guys around the neighborhood to load that oversized playhouse into your car is a waste of time. One: the child only uses it for about a month; and two: by the time the child revisits the old toy, it is broken. I have seen children have more fun with a refrigerator box than a remote control airplane.

Even though all these things may not change, I encourage all of you to try your best to focus on the real purpose of Christmas: Christ. I love the Christmas feeling as much as the next guy; I simply prefer it in moderation and at a decent time. Maybe this complaint is because we live in one of the warmest cities in the nation. Yet, any sane human being will admit that Christmas and all the facets that go along with it become a little much. I want to enjoy Christmas, not be eaten by it. I love seeing family over the holidays, but don't like to suffer for three months beforehand.

I hate these acts of sheer stupidity all in the name of Christmas. Shouldn't we be a little more Christ-like in Christmas? Holidays should be relaxing, giving time and space for each person to enjoy Christmas how they want to. Much of this wouldn't be a problem if the focus would be shifted a little more to what Christmas is all about.

**Shouldn't we  
be a little more  
Christ-like in  
Christmas?  
Much of this  
wouldn't be a  
problem if the  
focus would shift  
to what Christmas  
is all about.**

**You better not pout, I'm tellin' why . . .**



*A Blue Jay editorial cartoon by Ethan Gilbert*

# What's Hollywood putting under the tree?

By Mason Page  
Staff Writer

Movie fans have a wide range of major motion pictures to unwrap during the Christmas break.

It's always a time when Hollywood releases its "big pictures," often expecting to catch the eye (and votes) of Academy Award voters.

Here are our picks of some key choices in various genres, along with the release dates this month.

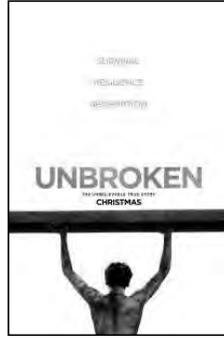
**Unbroken (PG-13)**  
**(Christmas Day)**  
**Action, War, Drama**

*Unbroken*, based on the best-selling book by Laura Hillenbrand, follows the true story of Louis Zamperini, played by Jack O'Connell.

Zamperini is a rebel turned Olympic athlete, turned flight gunner in World War II, and finally a rebellious prisoner interned and tortured in a Japanese POW camp.

In his youth, Louis was a troubled child, always fighting, always getting in trouble with the police. His brother suggests that he channel his energy into something positive.

He chooses track. His efforts put him on the global stage at the



Olympics.

After the Olympics, he enlists in the Air Force. While flying over a stretch of ocean, Louis' plane is hit and sinks into the ocean.

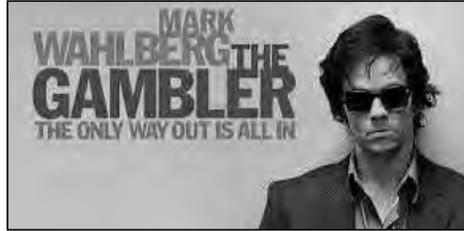
Several crew members survive, clinging to life rafts in open water. They face sharks, dehydration, storms, and relentless sun.

The surviving members are "saved" by a Japanese battleship. In the Japanese prison, the guards attempt to break the spirit of the strong-willed athlete.

This is a very inspirational movie, with a heavy helping of national pride.

And it has "Oscar" written all over it.

(Other action options: *American Sniper*, *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies*.)



From drama to comedy to horror to an insiring true story, Hollywood is unwrapping something to please just about every movie-goer's taste this Christmas.

**The Pyramid (R)**  
**(Dec. 5)**  
**Horror**

A Greek myth takes a vacation in Egypt.

A crew of archaeologists uncovers a new three-sided pyramid. Upon opening the tomb, a poisonous gas escapes and kills all bystanders. The Egyptian government tells the team not to enter the caverns. So what does the team immediately do? You guessed it! They enter the caverns.

In a chamber, the walls of which warn of doom to anyone who enters, the floor gives way. The archaeologists find themselves in a labyrinth.

This is a "jump scare" movie. It seems to progress like any other jump scare movie: the only point is to have the cute girl

next to you to cling to you in fear and practically jump into your lap.

(Other horror options: *Amityville: The Awakening*, *The Babadook*.)

**Inherent Vice (R)**  
**(Dec. 12)**  
**Comedy**

A washed-up looking Joaquin Phoenix plays down-on-his-luck detective Doc Sportello. He is enlisted by an old flame to help kidnap her current boyfriend, a married millionaire land developer.

Ridiculousness ensues. Doc is in way above his head and must scramble to find leads and save his own skin.

While somewhat billed as a romantic comedy (see end of trailer), this movie appears to me to be a perfectly acceptable



excuse for a guys' movie night as well. Don't let the love part dissuade you.

(Other comedy options: *The Interview*.)

**The Gambler (R)**  
**(Dec. 19)**  
**Drama**

Raggedy-looking Mark Wahlberg plays Jim Bennett, an English professor and high-stakes gambler. After offering his own life as collateral to a gangster, Jim must outrun his debts and shake the mob.

He attempts to pit the gangster against the operator of a gambling ring, then escape the wrath of both men. Despite critics' less than stellar reviews, *The Gambler* should provide an intriguing experience.

(Other drama options: *Selma*.)

## Unique spices at Mona's Cafe make it a treat up the street

By Felix Rabito  
and Nick Slay  
*The Taste Buds*

Mona's Café is an informal local Middle-Eastern restaurant chain with locations all around New Orleans.

The original, and arguably the best of all, is the Mona's that is a short stroll down Banks Street from Jesuit.

At about 7 on a recent Friday evening, Mona's was serving a small but steady stream of patrons dining at the neighborhood restaurant, creating a peaceful and relaxed atmosphere. At about 7:05, however, this all changed when the Taste Buds, accompanied by the taste testing caravan of Robert Weiss, Patrick Rye, and Dominic Sunseri, quickly turned a quick bite into a gustatory experience we wouldn't soon forget. This taste fest was shared over the unique cultural experience offered by Mona's.

When we entered the restaurant we were put at ease by the small crowd and our choice of sitting at an American style booth, a traditional table, or a cultural lounge/hookah station with Persian silk throw pillows.

Upon being seated at the table (we're not that adventur-



ous), we were quickly served by a waitress who took our orders for appetizers. We ordered the meat pie, hummus, and fried cheese. Also (maybe feeling a bit adventurous), Patrick ordered a substance that resembled pita bread covered in dirt otherwise known as Zater Bread.

Whether we were thoroughly enjoying the company of our fellow Jays or the impeccable service, we received our appetizers in what felt like a few short moments. The appetizers were absolutely to die for. Everything seemed to hit the spot just right. Most notable however are the fried cheese and the dirt-like substance. (The "dirt" is actually a blend of ground thyme, oregano, sumac, and sesame seeds.) Both were unexplainably amazing culinary masterpieces.

When it was time to order the main course, our hungry posse stuck to the basics and ordered sharing sizes of the gyro

### The Taste Buds

Mona's Cafe and Deli  
3901 Banks St.  
Sun-Thur 11 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Fri-Sat 11 a.m.-10 p.m.  
504-482-7743

monascafeanddeli.com

### The Taste Buds

give it:

\*\*\*\*

and the chicken shawarma. Both were extremely delectable and were enjoyed by all in our company.

The meat literally melts in your mouth. I can't remember the last time I was as satisfied after a meal as I was after I finished eating at Mona's.

The gyro and chicken were bold in flavor but lighter in effect upon our stomachs than a meaty burger.

After paying for the very reasonably priced meal we checked out the deli next door, which had anything one could be looking for.

The Taste Buds give Mona's Cafe four stars for taste and five stars for the overall experience.

## Philelectic Society brews bewitching Crucible for fall

By Patrick Hazard  
Staff Writer

### A Review

witches at the trial was particularly insidious.

Other noteworthy performances were given by Ben Gillen as the loquacious Rev. John Hale, Alex Daigle as the greedy, self-centered Rev. Samuel Parris, and Bob Roso, member of the English Department faculty, who played the stern Deputy Governor Danforth.

Key performances also were offered by Sylvia Owen as a whimsical Mary Warren, Ashley Busenlener as the dutiful, devoted Elizabeth Proctor, and Adam Ledet as the litigious Giles Corey.

The rest of the ensemble offered pleasing supporting work.

Director of the Phils, Kate Arthurs-Goldberg, helmed the production with a steady hand.

Shortly after we return to school from the Christmas break, be on the lookout for the next production by the Phils, a one-act version of *Huckleberry Finn*, which will run Jan. 22-24. Also, look forward to the announcement of this spring's major musical production.

The Jesuit Philelectic Society, with its second production of the season, presented an outstanding version of *The Crucible*.

This 1953 play was written by Arthur Miller as an allegory of McCarthyism and takes place during the Salem witch trials of 1692.

The Phils' rendition of this American classic was executed with precision and was anchored by several outstanding performances.

The leading actors, Jarod Larriviere and Catherine Sillars, gave great performances as John Proctor and Abigail Williams.

Making his Philelectic Society debut as Proctor, sophomore Larriviere delivered a powerful and convincing performance of the conflicted Puritan farmer.

As Abigail Williams, the devilish, whimsical accuser in the Salem witch trials, Sillars delivered a treacherous and crafty performance.

Her visualization of the



The members of the Homecoming Court performs their formal dance at the annual Homecoming Dance, which was held Nov. 8 at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. With the men of the court in their white ties and tailcoats, and the ladies in formal gowns, the waltz is always one of the elegant highlights of the Homecoming Dance.

## Homecoming: A grand night for dancing



Come on, guys! Dance with the girls! The crowds were out in force but it took a few guys a bit of time to ask the girls for a dance. Meanwhile, the King and Queen of the Homecoming Court, Michael McMahon and Sophie Millet, at right, were all smiles as they reigned over the Homecoming Dance.



Photos by Noah Billeaud

# Blue Jay Band puts on a show, scores top ratings at music festival

By Jason LaHatte  
Features Editor

During halftime at every football game, the Blue Jay Band takes the field for practice and preparation for their final festival.

Just like any athletic team, the band goes to camp in July to learn drill, practice up to three times a week in grueling two-hour blocks, and prepare the Friday night shows.

The fans have seen bits and pieces of the full show with some dance features in between. All 126 members of the group are essential for a great show.

The band's show this year, titled "Rhapsody in Blue and White," featured three rhapsody songs: George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," Rachmaninoff's "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini," and Queen's famous "Bohemian Rhapsody."

Continuing the trend of the

past three years, this show was radically different from a traditional marching band presentation.

The Blue Jay Band and the Jayettes wore lights on their uniforms, which were lit blue for one half and white for the other half of the group. In addition, each half of the band wore either blue or white plumes. The different arrangements helped visualize the show's title.

The band marched a show that brought out the color arrangement; twice in the show, both halves of the band cross, which perfectly demonstrates what the blue and white theme was going for.

When asked about this year's show, Joe Caluda, the Blue Jay band director, said, "This year's show continues to push the envelope of what the band and Jayettes can do."

"They worked hard since July to develop a show that peaked during the festival," he said. "I am extremely proud of



The Blue Jay Band showed it musical talent and precision moves to earn superior ratings at the recent LMEA marching band festival.

the band and Jayettes for this."

"Rhapsody in Blue and White" featured three soloists: junior Anthony Stoner on mellophone, freshman Kyle Selle on baritone, and a stellar trumpet solo performed by senior Matthew Stephens.

Last month, the Blue Jay

Band and Jayettes finished their marching season with a superior ranking at the Louisiana Music Educators Association marching band festival.

The band's hard work finally paid off. The band's complete scores: the Jayettes, Superior; percussion, Excellent; drum

major Patrick Fine, Superior; overall band, Superior.

Each year the band provides Jesuit with a modern show; and when asked about what next year's show will bring, Caluda simply said, "I have no idea what's in store for next year, but it will be something different."

# Swimmers reach state semi-finals, win three individual championships

By Jackson Scott  
Staff Writer

The Jesuit swim team recently wrapped up its season with a hard-to-swallow loss to Catholic High School in the LHSAA state swim meet in Sulphur. This second-place finish extends the program's record to 37 state championships and 17 state runner-up titles in its 63-year history.

Despite falling short, the team put forth an outstanding effort. The 2014 Jesuit swim team was the strongest it has been in quite some time with three individual state champions and 15 of the top 16 finishers in the state.

Senior Chris Simmons became the state champion in the 50-yard freestyle. Senior Michael Conrad is the state champion in the 500-yard freestyle, and junior Cade Fuxan achieved the state championship in the 100-yard butterfly.

The seniors had several impressive swims. Francis Plough finished fourth in the 100-yard freestyle and seventh in the 100-yard backstroke.

Sam Johnson finished seventh in the 100-yard breaststroke



Teammates cheer on a Blue Jay swimmer during the LHSAA State Championship Swim Meet at the Sulphur Parks and Recreation Aquatic Center in Sulphur, La



Junior Cade Fuxan competes in the boys 100-yard butterfly, winning the state title.



Senior Chris Simmons competes in the boys 100-yard freestyle.

and 14<sup>th</sup> in the 200-yard IM. Simmons, on top of his first-place finish in the 50-yard freestyle, also finished second in the 100-yard freestyle.

Patrick Cecola finished ninth in the 100-yard freestyle and sixth in the 50-yard freestyle.

In addition to his championship win in the 500-yard freestyle, Conrad finished second in the 200-yard freestyle. Taylor

Giorlando-Wall finished 14<sup>th</sup> in the 200-yard freestyle.

Daniel Edmund was named as a recipient of ExxonMobil/ISC 2014 All-Academic Scholar Composite Boys' Swimming Team before the meet for his 4.0 GPA.

Coach Bret Hanemann '85 told his swimmers after the meet that he was "not upset about the loss because everybody put forth

their greatest effort and swam personal best times."

"There is no reason to hang your heads. Other teams would be elated to get second," he said. "We just hold ourselves to a higher standard." Indeed, the Jays were not far off from winning some of the events, which were decided by just a fraction of a second.

The swim team looks strong

for next year. Despite losing many seniors, there are already sophomores and juniors training to fill the shoes being left by the Class of 2015.

Plough summed it up best. "Catholic got us. They won," he said. "But we put every single ounce of heart and soul into the meet. I have never seen a group of young men try harder to win something they truly love."

## Pack running strategy pays off for cross country

### Cross country

Continued from Page 1

year's team ran an average of 30 to 40 miles a week throughout the summer and into the school year.

The hard work paid off as the team won its first meet of the season. The following week, the team traveled to Pensacola to compete in one of the south-east's largest regional meets.

The Jays ran for a second place finish,

which would be their only loss of the year. The Jays continued their season defeating the rest of their competition in victory after victory.

Despite the team's excellent record, no single runner was a standout. They were winning through "pack running" where the Jays would have little time separating the first runner from the seventh runner.

This strategy works well in cross country, as the team with the lowest number of points (the positions of the runners added together) wins.

Since the Jays run in a pack, another team would be hard-pressed to push even three or four runners ahead of Jesuit's five packed close together.

The other teams would consequently have lower positions and more points. Often, it would be a mere 30 seconds separating the top runner from the back runner, an incredible feat.

Even with that success, however, the Jays still had a tough challenge in beating Brother Martin to win district.

The Jays did so, with all seven runners running their personal bests.

In the weeks leading up to the state meet, the Jays were optimistic about their chances, but were prepared for tough competition from Brother Martin, Catholic High and St. Paul's.

The conditions the day of the meet in Natchitoches were not prime for running.

The temperature was fairly cold and the course was muddy.

But the pack running strategy paid off.

And things just got a bit tighter in the Jesuit trophy cabinets.

### Verbatim

"If you got a flu shot, you can fly, right?"

"I coach underwater basket weaving."  
Dan DiRosa

"Saudi Arabia passed a law to let women use forks."

"Futurism, look it up on Wikipedia, don't tell the librarians."  
Cyril Lagvanec

"Isaac Newton did not invent gravity."

"I change Wikipedia."  
Mona Anchan

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