



Clear the Stage

Danielle DiQuattro

Feb/March 2013

Everyone looks forward to Easter. Spring is coming, a week off of school, good food, time with family, and of course, eggs and candy! Like us, many looked forward to the first Easter, but not because of the eggs and candy. They had been looking for a Savior. Christ had come, but all hope seemed to be lost at the cross. But, on the third day Christ rose again, conquered death, and gave His people all the undeserved gift of eternal life. So like those in the first century we rejoice during the Easter season, because of God's grace to undeserving sinners.

But this is also a sobering time. Christ came, died on the cross for depraved sinners, and we still fail him daily! We owe our lives to him, but he is often just an afterthought. How do we deal with the reality that we fail our Savior? Many great men such as Martin Luther or William Cowper suffered extreme depression trying to deal with this. But we don't need to be depressed like these men.

Christ forgives us for our shortcomings, but we should still put Him first in our lives.

So how can the Easter season help us put God as first in our lives again? Leading up to Easter many Christians observe Lent. I'm sure when many of you think of Lent you think of Catholics giving up chocolate or fish during the week, eating it only on Sunday, and giving it up again for the next week, then Easter comes and everything is back to normal. You can now serve whatever you want at dinner parties because your suddenly religious relatives are suddenly not so religious anymore. They are not observing Lent in a beneficial way. Lent should be a time to give up something that has become an idol in your life, and takes so much of your time and love that you have no time or love left for God. Jimmy Needham in his song "Clear the Stage" defines an idol as, "Anything I put before my God, anything I want with all my heart, and anything I can't stop

thinking of, and anything that I give all my love is an idol." The idea of Lent should not be rejected because of its Catholic roots. Lent can be a time to give up something in your life that has become an idol and takes precedence over God and then use that time to study God's word and worship Him. You don't get this idol back at the end of Lent. Putting Christ first in your life will not only show your gratitude for what He has done, but you will also see a huge change in your life. That trial that seems so big, won't seem as big compared to God's power. He'll help you through the darkness and show you the light, Himself.

Needham also says, "We must not worship something that's not even worth it; Clear the stage, make some space for the one who deserves it." Christ died in our place. He deserves to be the center of our lives. So this Lent season "clear the stage:" clear the stage of your idols and focus your attention on "the One who deserves it."

Easter Egg Hunt for Truth

Anita Witten, Samantha Yamasaki

In light of the upcoming holiday, we asked several elementary students to use their artistic abilities to design a festive Easter egg and answer the following question: "When Easter comes you usually think of candy, but what do you think it really means to celebrate Easter?" Here are several of the responses we received:

"It is all about Jesus raising from the dead because he died for sinner and he prayed for us in heaven because he knew he was going to die."

-Samuel, 2nd Grade

"Easter means to me that we should remember that God died for our sins."

-Sylvia, 2nd Grade

"Jesus dieing on the cross!"

-Nabila, 2nd Grade

"I think that Easter is a time to celebrate Jesus rising!"

-Mark, 3rd Grade

"It means that Christ has risen!"

-Audrey, 2nd Grade



Audrey, Second Grade



Francesca, Second Grade



Ethan, Second Grade

Twisting the Truth

Ethan Hastings

A school shooting in Newtown receives countless hours of airtime, yet a principal who uses a gun to prevent such a shooting is downplayed in the media. The intricate details of the Osama Bin Laden raid are discussed extensively, yet the White House's possible fault in the Benghazi 9/11 attacks is dismissed by mainstream sources almost immediately. Why do some stories seem to get so much more attention than others? The answer lies in the media's spin on stories. Whether it is for viewership or to push political views, mainstream news almost always presents a lineup of stories that supports an agenda. Getting news from only the major TV networks, radio, and news websites may leave large gaps in the big picture of current events.

Political agendas sway news more than any other factor. The three major news networks, ABC, NBC, and CBS, are constantly criticized by conservative groups as having liberal bias. The Democratic party receives over a million dollars in donations combined from these networks, almost ten times as much as

the Republican party. 61% of journalists in America identify their views as being consistent with the Democratic party, compared to 15% Republican. Fox News is generally regarded to be the only major conservative right-wing news network on TV. It claims to be the only "Fair and Balanced" news network, yet it has its own share of political bias. While ABC, NBC, and CBS, may be quick to defend the President and dismiss negative news against the White House, Fox is just as quick to attack.

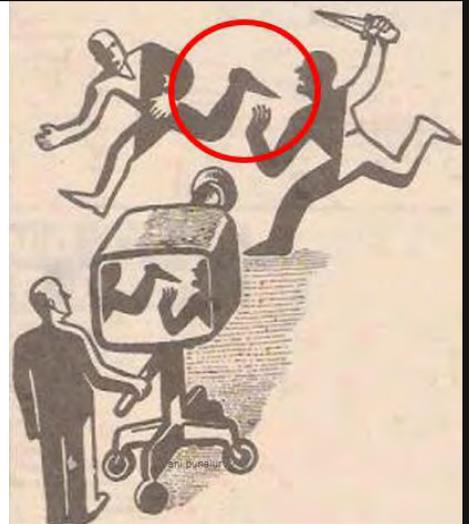
Another factor in news is the desire for profit. Private news services want maximum viewership for profit, so lots of focus will be given to stories that include action, scandal, and intrigue, regardless of whether they actually are the most important news. Imitating the coverage style of sports reports or action shows, exciting live coverage of major political crises and foreign wars is now available for viewers in the comfort and safety of their own homes. Domestic and fiscal stories have seen greater and greater decline over the last few years,

even though one may argue they affect us more than many foreign wars. News networks are also less likely to run stories that are negative toward the companies that own them, downplaying vital news about negligence in products and services.

Watch your daily news with a keen eye. Look for signs of bias and oversimplification. Often times the top stories will be simplified to fit into these five categories of news: appearance versus reality, little guys versus big guys, good versus evil, efficiency versus inefficiency, and unique and bizarre events versus ordinary events. News has depth and meaning beyond these oversimplifications. Try to ascertain the raw facts and draw your own conclusions, instead of just accepting what the media tells you. Take the time to compare different news reports and you'll find that disagreement originates from discrepancies in facts, not just differing opinion. Third party news services, while sometimes untrustworthy, provide non-mainstream opinions on major stories.

Examples of Media Bias

- Refusal to acknowledge the crimes committed by the Soviet Union: for half a century socialist and communist regimes' atrocities have been ignored by the popular media.
- In the 2000 Presidential election, reporting Bush had already lost Florida before the polls had closed, costing an estimated 10,000 votes.
- Downplaying stories regarding violence prevented through gun ownership
- Portraying the Tea Party as a radical Neo-Nazi group.
- Assuming terrorists have anti-government or radical Christian motives rather than radical Muslim motives.



March-April Calendar

Hot Lunch (10th).....	March 22
Spring Break.....	April 1-5
Monthly Morning Prayer Meeting.....	April 9
Spring Banquet.....	April 12
Pizza Lunch.....	April 17
Hot Lunch (9th).....	April TBA
Talent and Awards Night.....	April 25
Shakespeare Night.....	May 17

Blazer Culture

Kathleen de la Fuente and Samantha Yamasaki

Take a Moment. Read a Story.

John Aitken

Once there was a boy named Lyle. Lyle was an incorrigible young man who did not eat his greens as his mother told him. Lyle grew quite large; one might even say he grew obese, as his poor eating habits continued to exclude vegetables and all things green. Lyle eventually became so big, so titanic that he was able to bodily roll down streets, roads, and the like.

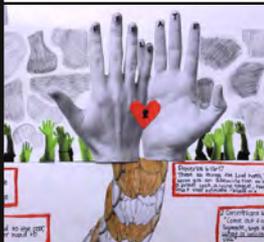
One day Lyle wanted to go on a vacation to Istanbul (for he heard there were even fewer greens there), but sadly Lyle's foresight was not as great as his stomach, and Lyle rolled into the Atlantic Ocean and drowned. The theme of this tragic tale is to eat your greens all the time, and to always listen to wise counsel.

Alison Champagne

Once there were two people, a man and a woman, whose names were Amelia Anderson and Daniel Stone. These two fell in love and married each other when both were no older than twenty years. They had their first child, and they named her Kylee Marie Stone, and they loved her dearly. As Kylee grew, so did their love for their only daughter.

But one day, Amelia gave birth to twin girls, who took hers and her husband's attention away from now ten-year-old Kylee. This made Kylee extremely jealous, for she had been quite spoiled her entire life up until that point. It seemed to Kylee that her parents' love for her was slowly transferring to the twins. So Kylee began plotting revenge...

[continue reading at the TCS website]



Left to right: Tori Holmes' *Holy War* poster. Chris Rumeau's assignment book doodles. A Teacher Appreciation mug made by Ben Smith. Sarah Chuang creates a monarch butterfly.



The Most Unexpected Mediums

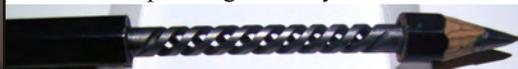
Art is more than just pencils and paint. It's that light-saber you just made out of a paper towel roll. It's that stack of paperclips you just fiddled with and turned into a sculpture. It's that eraser that you just shaped into Texas. It's all the creative little things that have the potential to grow into art if you'd let it. Here are just a few examples of how people have found art in the most unexpected places...



(Rashad Alakbarov) Ever heard of using shadows and lights to "paint" a picture?



(Josephine Ryan) I love the smell of coffee, as well as the taste. Never had I thought it could be so pleasing to the eyes as well.



(Artist Unknown) While most people merely see a writing utensil, some people see a sculpture to be made.



(Artist Unknown) Plenty of people doodle, but just a change in perspective like this can make a doodle really stand out.

A creative writing prompt for you to try: Write a poem using these words: volcano, love, television

If you have any artwork or creative projects that you would like to contribute to the newspaper, talk to Kathleen or email the Trinity Times directly at tcsnewspaper2011@gmail.com.

Blazer Broadcast

Daletyn Harris and Danielle DiQuattro

Varsity Boys Basketball Season Awards:

Best Newcomer: Daletyn Harris
Best Defensive Player: Jonathan Campbell
Christian Testimony: Andrew Justnes
Most Improved: Oliver Budd
Best Offensive Player: Erick Justnes
Coaches': William Martone
MVP: Daniel Larrazabal

Coaches: Daniel Justnes
Erik Olsen
Paul Sullivan

Junior High Boys Basketball Season Awards:

Most Improved: Joseph Boch
Best Defensive Player: Nicholas Yamasaki
Best Offensive Player: Matthew Borowski
MVP: Peter Yamasaki

Coaches: Mr. Yamasaki
Mr. Sifonios
Mr. Champagne

Junior High Girls Basketball Season Awards:

Best Newcomer: Ariana Torres
Best Defensive Player: Victoria Holmes
Best Offensive Player: Karlea Zazopoulos
MVPs: Caroline Chicola
Hannah Campbell

Coach: Mrs. Holmes

Varsity Girls Basketball Season Awards:

Comeback: Rachel Voigt
Christian Testimony: Heather Martin
Best Offensive Player: Alexa Mallack
Coaches': Sadie Gann
MVP: Kaitlyn Carbone

Coaches: Mr. Zazopoulos
Mr. Mallack
Mr. Vande Vrede

Ride Coordinators: Mrs. Witten
Mrs. Justnes

Bookkeeper: Mrs. Martin

Behind the Scenes

Greg Tanis and Jestira Mladenovic

The students at TCS see staff members diligently working everyday but do not realize how vital they are to the school's operation. To generate a greater awareness and appreciation of their efforts, the Trinity Times interviewed Mrs. Frank and Mrs. Cutler about the work they do everyday.

Is your position at TCS what you expected it to be when you applied for the job? Why or why not?

I expected to be able to use the computer skills the Lord allowed me to obtain through my business and programming experience to improve the systems at TCS.

What tasks does your position include? Which task takes the most of your time?

My official title is Assistant to Administrative Director and Database Administrator. My tasks include helping Mr. Holcomb send mass emails and organize events such as the Fundraising Banquet. As a Database Administrator the tasks include creating, maintaining and improving on Microsoft Access database applications used to streamline administrative tasks. Some examples of these tasks are managing student, family and other contact information, creating secondary report cards and transcripts and managing Easy Pay. I manage the content of the TCS website and use Adobe FormsCentral to create online forms for permission slips, Easy Pay orders, etc. This year I have been assigned the tasks of overseeing all TCS events and helping with secondary class scheduling.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy being in a Christian environment where young hearts and minds are presented a Biblical worldview.

What future plans do you have to improve the school?

I plan to continue to use technology to automate systems making life easier for the administration, faculty, students and families.



How long have you been teaching in TCS?

I have been teaching at TCS for 27 years. I taught in two other schools before TCS for a total of 7 more years.

Do you enjoy teaching the first graders?

I enjoy teaching the first graders because they are enthusiastic about school and they think that learning

is fun. They even think that tests and homework are fun. I hope they never learn otherwise!

How different was TCS when you first started teaching?

When I started teaching at TCS the school only had kindergarten, first through fourth grade and a special ed class. The whole school fit into the one hallway that now has the library, computer room, and classrooms.

What encouraged you to keep on teaching the same grade each year?

I have continued teaching the same grade each year because I love teaching beginning reading skills. It is a joy to see children learn to love books as their skills mature. I love teaching reading groups and having children be able to choose from activities while I am working with the other groups.

What has surprised you over the years when teaching and what still surprises you?

Not much surprises me after a total of 34 years of teaching. The children are always surprised that I know the answers to their riddles and knock-knock jokes.

"Typical New Jersey Guy"

Heather Martin

"The greatest thing about being governor is that every morning I have the chance to do something great and a chance to change people's lives for the better." When people vote for a governor, or for a president, or even for a class representative, they all have one thing that is kept in the back of their minds while deciding. Voters want to choose the candidate that will best represent them. They want a person who will get the job done and not just sit around and talk about the job. When the elections for Governor of New Jersey were taking place in 2009, the voters knew they needed a man that would truly get the job done and make New Jersey a better place to live, so they elected Chris Christie to fill that position.

Over the past few years Christie has raised the taxes zero percent. Despite this fact, Christie still believes that New Jersey is overtaxed. At the recent town hall meeting in Montville, Christie brought up the issue of property taxes. In



the past ten years, property taxes have gone up 7%. Christie's solution is to put a 2% gross cap on everything with a few minor exceptions. He brought up the fact that he can make caps and laws all he wants, but if the mayors don't see the caps as it is, it does not help anyone.

Another issue that Christie brought up was the fact that many towns feel the need to have their own exclusive services, like police stations, hospitals, and the list could go on. Christie

proposed the idea of shared services. It is not necessary for every town to have their own public services. It wastes money and is frankly a divider of community and unity among neighbors. Christie summed it up by saying that, "we are basically paying for vanity."

Chris Christie is your typical New Jersey guy. He tells it how it is and is not afraid to be himself. He loves New Jersey and the people of New Jersey regardless of how obnoxious and greedy we can be at times. Chris Christie has a lot of great ideas to prosper the people of New Jersey and, so far, in my opinion he has done a great job. I think the voters in the upcoming election in the fall need to focus on how much Christie has done in the past few years and see the progress he has made in comparison to Governor Corzine. Chris Christie is much in favor of making New Jersey a more enjoyable place to live and I personally hope he gets the chance to show that to us even more over the next four years.

$$\sqrt{-1} \quad 2^3 \quad \sum \quad \pi$$

Daletyn Harris and Greg Tanis

Each row, column, and shaded region must contain exactly the first twelve digits of pi, including repeats:
3.14159265358

3			1	5	4			1		9	5	
	1			3						1	3	6
		4			3		8				2	
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	9			5				5				
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Elementary Math Stars

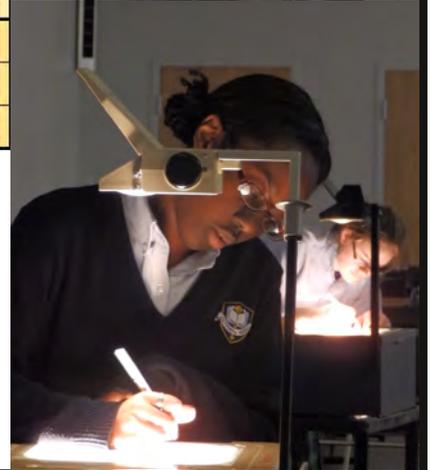
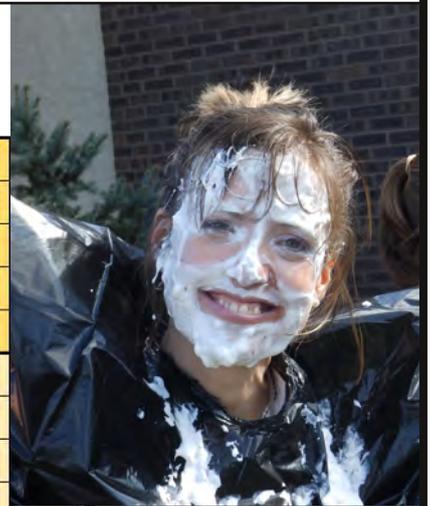
2nd Grade: Audrey Mills

3rd Grade: David Krug

4th Grade: Priscilla Tam

5th Grade: Charlie Mills

6th Grade: Matt Falciola

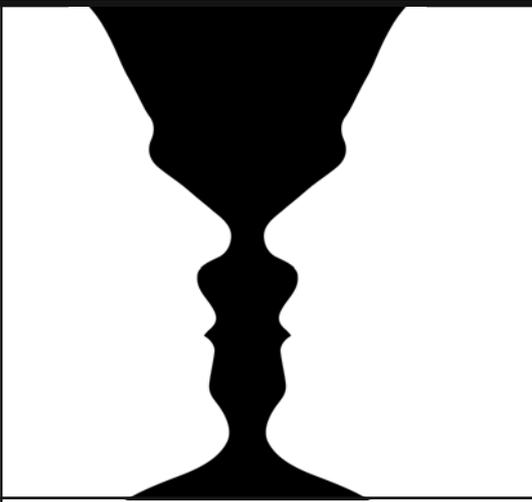


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G. Tanis - Reporter
A. Witten - Reporter
S. Yamasaki - Reporter



What do you see? A vase or two faces? An old woman or a young woman?

The Family of God

Mrs. Beverly Hanko

"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." I Tim. 4:12. This verse has a special place in my heart. Paul speaks to Timothy, a young man called to be a leader in the church, and encourages him as a father to his son, instructing and exhorting him. It is clear that we all have a calling to godly living and we all need encouragement, often best given and received with the consciousness of the familial relationship.

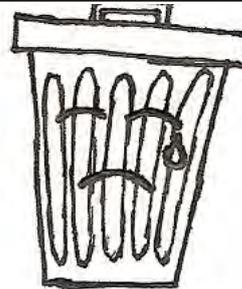
As teens, we often think those in authority over us don't understand where we are or what we feel. When young in faith, we sometimes get the impression that we are not quite accepted or good enough, and our faith is suspect. I experienced this myself when I came to faith at 29. Some thought me too young to know what I was experiencing as God worked in my life. The questioning looks and doubting comments directed toward me hurt, and it took quite awhile before anyone at my church encouraged me in my faith. My first response to this verse was, 'They are despising my youth; they are at fault!' But with God's fatherly instruction, and a sister's support, I saw that the onus was on me. I was called to be the example. I was to be full of faith!

One of my little sisters was a positive influence. She was joyful in my salvation; she had prayed for it for many years. Together we studied the Word, prayed, and grew stronger. My excitement over God's Word renewed and refreshed her excitement. Her experience gave me deeper insight of the Christian life.

Whatever our age, we need to be willing to be fathered, mothered, sistered, and brothered by fellow believers in the family of God. This demands love, dedication, and service. It demands good communication and the fruits of the Spirit as we give and receive instruction. It requires honor and respect of authority and obedience to God's Word. As we grow, we then become fathers, mothers, sisters or brothers to others.

Bringin' It to Blaze

Anita Witten and Danielle DiQuattro



The Trash Can

This is where most of our "Bringing it to Blaze" handouts end up. We want to know how we can get you involved in "Bringing it to Blaze." The computer seems to be the solution. Some suggestions have been sending out an email, or having the questions and polls right on the Trinity website. So please tell us how we can make "Bringing it to Blaze" more interesting and accessible, and what is the most likely way you would answer our questions and surveys.

Prayer Requests:

- That God would bless us with many donations at the Fundraising Banquet.
- That those participating in track will set goals and persevere as they start another season.
- The seniors as they are making critical decisions for college.
- For Mrs. Holmes as she continues to recuperate following knee surgery.
- The Hamiltons' work in China

Student Poll Results:

Are you a morning, afternoon or evening person?

33.33% said they were a morning person
0% said they were a afternoon person
66.66% said they were a evening person
0% said they were a no time ever person
1 person said that they were all three

Please send all contributions to tcsnewspaper2011@gmail.com or put them in the folder downstairs at the end of the locker hall. Thank you!