



## Check the stalls! *There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom* opens next weekend

By Dorothea Olson

The name may sound strange but "There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom" is going to be a play worth seeing. With multiple performances and many talented performers from Forest Lake High School, the play is sure to be a hit especially to younger crowds.

This oddly named play is one of many popular books for children written by Louis Sachar, others include "Holes" and "Sideways Stories from Wayside School". The play was chosen for the sole purpose of targeting the elementary and junior high school kids.

"I wanted to do a play for younger audiences," said Andrew Waldron, a language arts teacher and director of the spring play.

He believes it'll be a good experience for the actors due to the difference in who their trying to please and how the stage is to be set up. The stage itself is going to be relatable to kids. It features rotating platforms, with the set being a kid's room decked out in commonly found colors of a child's room. It's to be an "engaging space for kids to watch," said Waldron.

Auditions for the play were held

back in early March and the turn out was good. Thirty talented students showed up to fill the 15 roles available. One of the students who made the cut was Garrison Shea, sophomore, who plays the role of Jeff Fishkin. His reasons for trying out to begin with are basically that he enjoys acting and the show sounded interesting to him.

Shea is most excited to "be with friends and put on a good show."

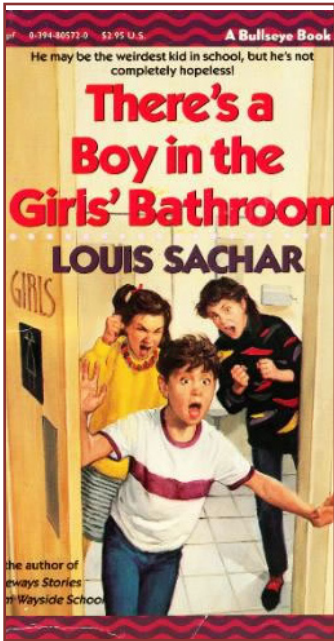
Shea's character, Jeff Fishkin, has many things happen to him. Shea's favorite part is actually when he gets beat up.

"I think about the first day of high school...that's what my character's like," Shea said.

Along with the other 14 actors and multiple stagehands, backstage sounds pretty hectic and fun. According to Shea, people are always talking and goofing off. It's emotional and there's always drama. Irony, huh?

The cast is performing for at least eight elementary schools and having four shows here, at Forest Lake High School. The play is being shown on April 30, May 7 and 8 with a possible FLHS student matinee on May 8. All play performances open at 7:30 p.m.

Ticket prices will be announced later in the week.



**Opening Night  
April 30**

## ACT or SAT?

By Rose Nelson

Awhile ago it was an uncommon choice for students to choose the ACT over the SAT exam. Fast-forward a few years and now almost half of students nationwide are choosing to take the ACT exam during the spring.

According to Kathryn Ungerecht, a dean at FLHS, there is more promoting of the ACT than the SAT at FLHS.

"The bulk of our schools our students go to accept the ACT," said Ungerecht.

Minnesota State University at Mankato admissions officer Gena Maahs, said that most Midwest schools accept the ACT.

"Throughout the Midwest, most colleges look at the ACT, but with MSU-Mankato, we will accept either," said Maahs.

The ACT and SAT exams are fairly different, so it's important to choose the test that specializes in a subject you excel in. For example, if you have strong writing skills, then you might want to consider taking the SAT, which starts with a required 25-minute writing exam. Although the ACT does not require students to participate in a writing section, there is an optional 30-minute writing test, which adds to your score.

If science is not your thing,

then the SAT would be the better choice. The ACT has a required science section, and the SAT does not. If you're not confident you'll score big in the science area, then it would be wise to avoid the ACT.

Unlike the ACT, the SAT has a penalty for wrong answers on the multiple choice questions. Every question answered wrong has ¼ of a point deducted from the person's score.

There are also time differences between the two tests. The SAT has a 3 hour and 5 minutes deadline, with 140 questions. The ACT has a 2 hour and 55 minutes time limit, but has 215 questions, all of which are multiple choice.

If you're having a hard time choosing which test to take, it might come in handy to take both. If a college administrator doesn't like your ACT results, they can see how your SAT test compares. Also, it might give you more options on colleges you wish to attend.

"[Colleges] may say they take either or. Some require the SAT and some require the ACT," said Ungerecht.

Though Ungerecht notes the ACT "is the most commonly accepted in the Midwest."

## Prom! That loved and dreaded four letter word is finally here!

It's that time of year! Corsages, slow dancing, and kids way over dressed. Last minute reminders and information on the loved and hated features of Prom inside.

Everything from opinions on cost to stories about FLHS staff's Prom experiences and even a little history on the universal dance.

Should Prom be purely for seniors? How much should it cost and why does it cost so much? Where did the tradition originate from and what was it like back in the day? This and more inside.



## Gym floor fundraiser falls short

### New source of income may bring corporate sponsors

By Nicole Hovatter

According to the high school website, gym floors have a life expectancy anywhere from 40 to 50 years. The gym floor at FLHS is 36 years old and, according to Activities Director Joel Olson, is beyond repair because the floor is too old to be sanded or resurfaced. Athletes aren't getting the benefits they could have from a newer floor, since the old one lacks spring or cushion. Not only is the old floor obsolete, it creates safety issues. The old floor is harder on the joints and there are uneven spots on the floor where athletes could get injured.

With all of these things in mind, FLHS came up with three different ways to raise money for a new floor: through businesses, through personal donations, and

through an Elvis impersonator concert. A packed house would have brought in enough money to reach their goal of \$50,000. However, the results of the show didn't turn out as promised and were disappointing for Olson.

However, Olson still has "cautious optimism" for the fundraiser, which has been extended to the beginning of May. Currently, the school has 32,000 raised for the floor. Their efforts may prove to be successful, since there are now 5 people joining Olson in the fundraising efforts. The fundraising team also secured Cub Foods to sign a five year contract for the new floor. If the new floor becomes a reality, it will have the Cub Foods logo on it.

## Students begin GSA meetings at FLHS

By Maxwell Nelson

Forest Lake Area High School students are getting a new club offered to them from fellow students. Junior Cina Dean and sophomore Sam Doten have put it upon themselves to start a student-led Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) for FLHS.

A GSA's purpose is to provide a place for all people to build friendly and healthy relationships, especially heterosexual and homosexual students. This is the "alliance" aspect of the group. The GSA also offers a place for students to come for help with sexual preference or to learn about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) events and issues within the community.

The alliance welcomes all who are interested in being educated or those who wish to contribute to making FLHS a more welcoming, empathetic place for all people.

Doten originally had the idea of forming a GSA after running across the Equal Access Act of 1984 in research, which granted equal status and opportunity for all student-led organizations in schools. Doten then decided to take advantage of this act and start FLHS' first GSA.

"I felt it only right that there should be a club that would promote the fair treatment of all, regardless of their sexuality," said Doten.

Doten believes a GSA at FLHS will "give students a way to network and make new

friends who are supportive of them, as they are, whether they are homosexual, bisexual, heterosexual, or questioning."

So far, the GSA has garnered most of its student support from Facebook and has held one actual meeting in Mr. Livermore's room, (543) and the cafeteria. Doten and Dean plan on holding meetings regularly throughout each month.

Doten holds the capabilities of a GSA to a high standard. He sees it as a way to connect all people through common principles, whether they are gay, straight or anything in between.

"I feel that all students have the right to feel safe and secure in school, and a GSA would dramatically improve the environment, not only with LGBT students, but for everyone to know that there are allies out there who are supportive of and happily embrace diversity," said Doten.

The group hopes to continue getting student and community support, hopefully evolving into a more significant group within the community and lasting long after Doten and Dean's graduation. Doten and Dean's overall goal is "...to make FLHS a better place for students to attend, focusing on the difficulties of being LGBT and the harassment and bullying involved," according to Doten.

If you're interested in getting involved, Sam and Cina are very approachable people.



# Prom 2010

## True costs

How much do couples really spend on one evening?

By Nicole Hovatter

Prom isn't what it used to be. It has evolved from the traditional into something much bigger- and spendier. Parents and grandparents talk about simple proms that were held in their high school gyms. Now proms are being held at fancy venues and take months of preparation.

There comes a point where you have to ask yourself: what is the point of prom? Is it to see who has the most expensive dress or who has the best hairstyle? I know so many people who are breaking the bank, just because they think that buying things is going to make their prom experience amazing.

When you add up all of the prom costs, the average total is \$285.00! If you work a job that pays minimum wage, you would have to work 38 hours to pay for prom. This is actually a low estimate. This doesn't include the extra costs that some people pay, like for tanning and limo rental! You could buy an iPod touch for 55.00 less than the cost of prom and buy 90 gallons of gas.

And then there is the whole debate on who should buy what for prom. Some girls insist that

their date pay for everything. I have even heard the other extreme, where a girl has a date and they have to borrow their date money for tux rental. Prom sometimes ends up tearing up friendships over money. Either way, it all adds up to a lot of drama.

The truth is, When you look back on the years, who won't remember what everyone was wearing but you will remember the friends you were with and the good times you had all through high school. Prom is one of the last high school memories seniors will have of all of their high school experiences.

Some people are discouraged from going to prom because of finances. It shouldn't be that way. Since most people don't use their dresses after prom, there are several places to donate, in order to make prom special for someone else. The Fairy Godmother Project, The Glass Slipper Project, The Ruby Room, Operation Fairy Dust, and [www.donatemydress.org](http://www.donatemydress.org) are all places to check out online to donate your dress.

**Average Prom Costs:**

**Dress or tux rental: \$100**

**Shoes \$30**

**Prom ticket \$35**

**Dinner \$20**

**Updo: \$40**

**Nails: \$20**

**Flowers: \$40**

**GRAND TOTAL:**

**\$285**

**(or 38 hours working at \$7.25 an hour.)**

## Last minute reminders

By Cody Eggers

The Forest Lake Prom will be held on Saturday, April 24th at the Great Hall of the US Bank Building in St. Paul. The Great Hall is located at 180 East Fifth Street.

According to the details listed on the school website, prom-goers should plan on arriving for the Grand March at about 5:45 p.m. The Grand March will end around 7 p.m. depending on the number of couples who attend. Last year, it ended at 6:45 p.m. The Grand March consists of introducing couples as they enter down an escalator and then walk along a path on the main floor, weaving their way through the audience of friends and family.

David Bank Studios will be taking pictures during the Grand March and the dance. Picture forms will be available in the student services office and pictures will be returned during

all lunches about two weeks after prom.

The Dance starts at 8:30 at the Grand Hall, and students will not be admitted back into the hall until 8:15 p.m. Students may not leave and reenter the dance and students who show up after 10 p.m. may not enter. Complimentary snacks and beverages will be provided.

A free copy of the entire Grand March and a montage video from the dance will be produced by the high school and provided for each couple.

\*Information from the highschool website.

**Grand March**  
**6 p.m.**

**Dance**  
**8:30 p.m.**

Have Prom pictures to share after the event?  
Send your favorites to  
[thebreeze@forestlake.k12.mn.us](mailto:thebreeze@forestlake.k12.mn.us)  
for a chance for them to appear in next month's issue!

## Tales of past proms from FLHS staff

By: Erienne Nelson

FLHS Staff members tell about their experiences with Prom.

Prom is powerful night. Sweaty palms, slow dancing into to sappy songs, and dressing up for the night it's hard to forget, no matter how much you might want to. It's one, universal school tradition that has been around for ages. Transcending generations from teacher to student.

"It was a celebration of all the times we shared. The experiences we had," said school nurse Heather Karstens. "It knew that after graduation, many of these people you would never see again."

Karstens went three of her

high school years, each with a date. She attended Forest Lake High School. Her senior year was 1987, the same year Dirty Dancing came out. She went with her future husband her senior year. She says more trivial things have changed than big dramatic changes from when she went to Prom. There was no party bus or overnight. The dresses were hoop skirted, lacy, and frilly. It wasn't common for people to just go in groups of friends, like it is now. They always had dates.

"The men and parents would pay, but the day after Prom, we would go on a picnic the girls paid for," said Karstens.

Dean Michelle Baland went to four separate proms, all in high class places. Her senior year she went with her husband. She said Prom was one of her favorite experiences in High School. Dances were a big deal when they came around. Baland also had her date paying for most things.

Not all Prom experiences are happy-ever-after however. Art teacher Nancy Sonnen had a less than cheerful Prom. She went her Junior year with her ex-husband, who had just broken up with his girlfriend when he asked Sonnen, but to Sonnen was more like he had gone with the other girl. The two danced almost exclusively

with each other.

"I should burn my Prom picture," Sonnen said.

Either way, prom tends to be a dramatic night which could make or break memories of High School.

FLHS staff members tell of memories of their proms.

## Seniors Prom should celebrate

By Maxwell Nelson

Prom titillates all. It is the quintessence of any junior or senior's spring. Prom embodies fun, poshness and a right of passage for juniors and seniors. But the right of passage makes Prom what it is more than anything.

Students anticipate Prom all year and await junior year for the ability to go. As a sophomore unable to attend until next year, I can honestly say that I have no desire to prom-it-up junior year.

Prom is an opportunity for seniors to have their last moment together, their last dance. And that's the way it should be.

From limousines to tuxedos, the extravagance of Prom is what makes the night special for most, but to me, it is only exciting for its symbolization of your academic progress and being amongst your fellow, graduating peers.

When I watched my two, now graduated siblings attend Prom



# Through the ages

## Vintage prom fashions return

By Megan Daly

One of the many milestones teenagers face in their high school careers is prom. You find a date, rent a limo, and dance with friends all night long. It is a pricey, yet long-awaited tradition for most American high school students. However, the prom was not always such a lavish affair. In fact, it was created not for high schoolers, but for elite colleges in the late 1800's. These colleges put on large balls and the "promenade" at the beginning of the evening was where prom got its abbreviated name.

When high schools found the inspiration to throw such dances, they were seemingly simple gatherings. But what has made prom night the raging party it has come to be? It all started in the 1950's when Americans began to enjoy a post war economy, and the freedom of casual dating. New dance clothes could be afforded

and bringing a date to a dance was more acceptable.

Slowly, throughout the 60's and 70's, the monster inside of the dance grew until the 1980's when the expectations for a red carpet prom night became standard. Let me break down the prom experience for you as it changed over the decades,

**1940's:** Teens attending the school would show up in their Sunday best and socialize.

**1950's:** The prom started to be recognized as one of the most important social gatherings put on by the school. A post war economy allowed students to spend more money on their clothing and dates.

**1960's:** Locations moved to elaborate venues, like ballrooms or rented halls.

**1970's:** Prom started to become a "coming-of-age" ceremony amongst teens.

**1980's:** Movies such as *Pretty in Pink* projected the importance of prom. This era truly defined the party of prom.

**1990's:** Prom night started featuring a sit-down dinner and a dance along with a grand march that started the evening.

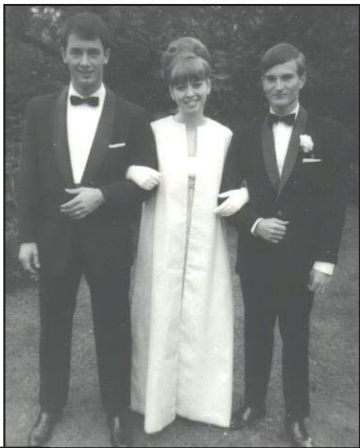
All of this has led up to what our generation's prom is like. According to [usatoday.com](#), it is "normal" for a couple to drop at least \$400 apiece on their experience. This includes clothes, food, tickets, and transportation.

Prom is something that has meaning placed on it from the moment many of us started high school.

From tickets to tuxes and dresses to dinner, prom night has changed through the generations, and the memories made have stuck with those who attended, no matter the decade.



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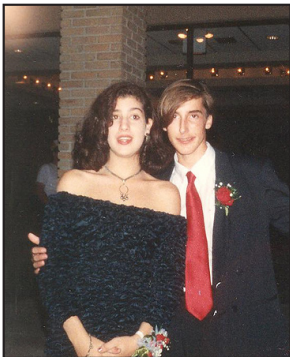


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Fairytale

## s only?

### celebrate graduation

exclusively their senior year, I remember the sense of pride they felt, the sense that only a month and a half remained in the only life they had ever known to that point. They would move on to the real world where life isn't run by a bell. This one night of youth, elegance and liberty was a moment to celebrate that fact with the kids they've known since kindergarten. I am expecting most juniors to scoff at my Prom theories. I am probably the minority believing what I do, and I can see why. I understand the school undoubtedly matches funds better by having both juniors and seniors attend and I understand that there is a Senior All Night Party specifically designed as a last-urrah type occasion for seniors. But, I also believe that if Prom were made exclusive, seniors

wouldn't have to pay additional money to attend the All Night Party, as the school may feel less obligated to hold one. If the All Night Party were eliminated, the funds saved from not having one could compensate for less money made from making Prom exclusively senior. But these events are expensive for anyone. And to go to Prom twice doubles the cost of attire and any other expenditures.

I know breaking tradition is hard to imagine. And I know you'd feel hoodwinked if the tradition changed the year you're allowed to go. But Prom has potential to be more about appreciating your graduation than appreciating lavish adornment.

## Imagine...

## A black and white prom?

By Dorothea Olson

Imagine. Friday night. All of the "white" students at Forest Lake High School going to prom. Saturday night. All of the "colored" students going to a separate prom. I know what you're thinking. That's not how we do things anymore in America.

Well, you'd be wrong. Segregated proms *do* still exist in the United States. It's not racism exactly; it's just how things are and how things have been. In an article in *Seventeen* magazine that I read last year, they talked about a school in Georgia that still had segregated proms. When I called them to ask about it, they said they no longer sponsored a prom. Maybe they got sick of the publicity, who knows.

But the article intrigued me. They said it was just tradition,

but they also said that it was the parents choosing. If you think your parents are ruining prom with all the pictures and whatnot, then just think if they wouldn't let you go to prom with your friends because they were "white".

Some people would say that wouldn't work at our school. It's a majority white school. Well, if you count the Hmong, the Chinese, the Hispanics and all other "colored" racial groups including those with Native American blood such as myself, then yes it would work out.

Now, I'm not saying that's how it should be. I'm completely against segregated proms, considering that most to all of my friends are white and I'm not. And the "Forest Lake is Racist" groups would then have something legitimate to base

their group off of. And that would most definitely not be good.

Now, imagine FLHS did sponsor two separate proms for the two racial groups. Would you be happy with that? Not being able to go to prom with all of your friends because they're "white" or "colored". What about your date? Would you pick a new one to fit your race or just go single? Now, how much fun would that be?

And after prom, you'd still be on the same sports teams, in the same classes together and you'd still graduate as one big class. Doesn't that seem strange?

So, be grateful that Forest Lake isn't a racist town and that students are allowed to all go to prom together as one big multi-racial class.



# Lacrosse earns Varsity status

By Dorothea Olson

Money and popularity. It rules a lot in high school social groups. It's also the reason lacrosse is finally an official Forest Lake school sport.

The boys and girls FLHS lacrosse teams have already started their first season with Rahol Cheikh and Krista Seipel as Varsity coaches. It took a lot of "coaxing the school board [to get the sport at FLHS]," said Seipel.

Seipel coaches the 31 girls on the Varsity and JV teams. With 24 girls split evenly between the Varsity and JV and eight girls who "float" between the two.

"From day one to now, I've seen [a lot] of improvement," said Seipel.

According to Seipel, the team is more cohesive, getting along well and already formulating plays. The only thing they need to worry about is constant communication on the field.

"[Our biggest challenge] is probably playing against other, more established teams," said Lauren Erchul, sophomore and Varsity player.

Seipel agrees with Erchul saying that the already established teams have plays down and are able to think on their feet.

But the players are optimistic.

"I look forward to working with my team, building skills and using [those skills] in games," said Erchul.

The girls JV and Varsity team won their first game on Friday, April 16 against Columbia Heights.

Cheer on the lacrosse teams at their next games. Girls play away on April 26 against Spring Lake Park. JV plays at 5 p.m. and Varsity plays at 6:30 p.m. Boys play home on April 28 against East Ridge/Park at the CLC. JV plays at 4:30, Varsity at 6 p.m. The girls play on the 28<sup>th</sup> as well, against Park. JV plays at 5:30 p.m., Varsity at 7 p.m.

FLHS lacrosse player, Amy Enrooth, goes to score in a game. Photo by Maxwell Nelson



# FFA ‘Horsin’ around Horseshow draw large crowd

By Erienne Nelson

This last Saturday was FFA class Horse and Horsemanship's yearly show. The crowds seemed to agree that the weather couldn't have been nicer, leaving red sun streaks across their cheeks afterwards. The classes ranged in everything from pleasure classes to barrel and pole games to crowd pleasers like the egg and spoon class.

"We had roughly 150 horses and 160 riders attend," said teacher and show director Veronica Ward. "It was chaotic, but fun."

The show counts as an official WSCA show. It started off as a small gathering in the old hockey rink/parking lot and has tripled in size and popularity. People from all parts of the state were included in Saturday's events. The show began around 7 am and went until 9 pm. It moved when the school built on and Dead Broke Stables has generously offered their land free for the day ever since. Students in the Horse and Horsemanship class are required to go and help out at the show as an assign-

ment.

Some of the highlights included when Mrs. Ward's four year nephew rode out for poles, making the audience swoon. The egg and spoon class remained a fun experience. With the remaining eggs after the class, Dead Broke turned into a battlefield as FFA boys threw eggs at one another.

Some of the riders took a face full of arena dirt including a jaw-dropping spill during one of the races and one heart-stopping moment where one of the horses bucked its rider off, kicking her on the way down. She got up none too worse for wear and rode out of the arena, unfortunately disqualified, but with a smile on her face.

The turn out was a little less for pleasure, but the bad economy hasn't seemed to effect shows too much. It could never have happened without devoted sponsors, such as Ace Tack, Hardwater Creek, and of course, the stables themselves. Ward hopes for next year to be as good as this year was!

# The voice of FLHS

By Nicole Hovatter

The wall in the English wing of the building serves as a symbol of success for the speech team. The team traveled to Buffalo and Centennial, where they took second place overall. The team also won the Section AA championship, where they competed against 17 teams. The dedicated members of the speech team lived up to the expectations of both the coaches and individuals.

"Every year we want to go to sections," said Tim Newcomb, Language Arts teacher and Speech Team coach. Newcomb is one of the co-head coaches for the team, along with Andrew Waldron. Teachers Angela Butler, Becky Haven, and Joe Mueller are also coaches. According to Newcomb, they all work together to help the team members "make discoveries on how they can be better."

These individual discover-

ies led to individual successes. Seniors Gweir Glewwe, Derek Waller, and Nick Bergantine were all semi-finalists at the national qualifying meet. Section champions included Bergantine, seniors Chloe Miron and Laurel Zoff-Pelton, junior Vanessa Agnes, Brad Mondlock, and sophomore



Niel Peterson. These students will compete at the State Meet today.

The speech team was definitely diverse, since it caters to people with different interests and skill levels. There were several different categories of speeches to choose from and a good mix of students from all grade levels participated. Senior captains Waller, Glewwe, and Eve Yang led the team of 29 members, many of whom were sophomores.

"Even though we were small, we were still up there with the big schools," said Newcomb.

With a bigger team, Forest Lake will have even more of an advantage. Students are encouraged to join the team to help achieve a bigger goal of sending individuals to state and nationals. However, this season isn't over yet. The team is hoping for the best today, when they travel to Gustavus to compete in the State Tournament.

# Impromptu peer poetry

By Megan Daly

What would you do if you walked into a Starbucks and it was taken over by teenagers? You see them everywhere, standing on the window sill, piled on the couches and dragging every chair in the joint to the front room. Well, this is the experience many customers had on a Thursday night a couple weeks back when students at FLHS held an impromptu poetry reading at the Forest Lake Starbucks.

The invitation was open to whomever wanted to come. A post on Facebook stated, "poetry reading at Starbucks tonight. Be there. Starbucks doesn't know it yet."

At first I was skeptical of showing up. Personally, I am not a fan of poetry, and I didn't know if it was going to be worth it. However, I'm so glad I changed my mind.

As we walked in, I saw a lot of people from our school, from every "clique" mingling and enjoying their over-priced drinks. As more people showed, the coffee

shop turned into organized chaos, and the reading began. Whoever was reading their poem stood on the windowsill, which served as a makeshift stage, and was the center of attention. It was all original material, either written for pleasure or for creative writing class, and subjects ranged from love, to death, and everything in between.

There was something truly beautiful about people getting up in front of a crowd of friends, or



possibly even strangers, and sharing poems that, for many, caused vulnerability. It was something that could not be replicated. There is talk of it being made into a weekly event, but it has not been repeated yet. Maybe that is for the best, because I think that night was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

# Student experiences ‘Drive-Thru Difference’

By Megan Daly

It has been said that one act of kindness can turn around somebody's whole day. An experience I had at a coffee shop last week made me realize the truth to that theory. I pulled into the drive thru, and waited for a large shot of caffeine. I was tired, groggy, and in fear of being late for class. However, when I pulled up to pay, the barista cheeped at me in a peppy tone, "Well there's some good news! The person in front of you paid for your order."

I was ecstatic. What kind of a stranger would pay for my morning pick-me-up? In fact, I was so inspired that I paid for the person in back of me. Was this just an act of kindness, or was something motivating this movement? After research I discovered a program had been started by a local Christian radio station, 98.5 KTIS. They call it the "Drive Thru Difference".

Listeners are encouraged to spread some good by paying for

the person behind them at the drive thru. When they do this, they hand the cashier a note to give to the person for whom they paid. The note states, "Hi! You don't know me, but I've just paid for your order. No gimmicks – it's just something I felt like doing. I heard about people doing things for others on the radio station KTIS at 98.5 on the dial. They call it the 'Drive Thru Difference'. Maybe you'll feel like doing it for someone else! Signed, The Stranger in the Car Ahead of You."

Now it doesn't really matter if you are interested in Christian radio. Receiving a note like this does not make you obligated to listen to KTIS. However, it does have the potential to brighten someone's day, like it did mine. So, if you are ever faced with someone floating your bill, pass it on.