

The Bulldog Times



Principal: Mrs. Chamberlain

Advisor: Mr. Barnes

Northern Lehigh Middle School

Fall 2009

Issue 1

The life and times of a snake

By Jacob Satterlee

SouthEast Team

Snakes are very interesting creatures and there are a lot of people who don't quite understand them. What do they eat? What do they use for shelter? Why are people so afraid of snakes? Hopefully, you'll know the answers after reading this article.

There are many people in this world who are terrified of snakes, but there's really nothing to fear.



See Snakes, page 2

Opie, one of Mr. Herzog's three snakes that live in the building, chows down on a "pinky" mouse for lunch.

Seeing double (or triple) for Spirit Week



Twins and triplets roamed the halls for Spirit Week. (Left) Taryn Kemmerer, Alexis Middaugh and Erika McKay. (Above) Lydia Delong and Connie Hepner.

Fear of the stereotype, not the reptile



Cheetah enjoys an after-school snack.

Snakes, from page 1

A lot of people who fear snakes just fear the stereotype. They think that just because a snake is sticking its tongue out immediately means they're going to attack you and that's not true at all.

When a snake is sticking its tongue out, it is just getting acquainted to its surroundings. Snakes don't normally attack unless you are posing a threat to them or their eggs. More adults than children fear snakes.

As you all probably know, the newest teacher at NLMS is Mr. Herzog and he brought his three snakes with him. Mr. Herzog didn't actually have a snake until his nephew went to college. His nephew had a snake but he wasn't allowed to have it on campus so Mr. Herzog had to take care of it for him.

In turn, Mr. Herzog began to learn more and more about snakes, which got him into liking snakes enough to get one himself. From that point on, Mr. Herzog has had many snakes leading up to the three he has today.

Mr. Herzog has a California King snake and two Corn snakes. His King snake is named Jake and his Corn snakes are named Opie and Cheetah. California King snakes live mainly on dry land, such as the desert. They cannot be kept with other snakes because they will eat them. They will even eat their own species! When not eating other snakes though, they eat mice.

Corn snakes actually live around here. They can be kept together and live peacefully without devouring each other. It is very rare to find any that don't get along with other Corn

snakes. They also eat mice.

Snakes need to be kept in tanks that have heat-lamps and heating pads. They are cold-blooded reptiles; therefore, their body temperature adjusts to the temperature of their surroundings. It is possible that if they don't have a heat resource, they can die. Baby and newborn snakes cannot eat mice; instead they eat a thing called a "pinky," which is a newborn mouse. It is called a "pinky" because it has no fur and its skin is pink.

Hopefully now you are more educated and aware of how great snakes really are. Without them, we would have a much larger rodent population and we would lose a great pet. If you are still afraid of snakes after reading this article, ask Mr. Herzog to meet Jake, Opie and Cheetah and maybe they will change your mind.

Have classroom, will travel ..to classrooms

Mr. Herzog new to Northern Lehigh Middle School, but not the district

By Makayla Gordon

SouthEast Team

Mr. Herzog is a new teacher at Northern Lehigh Middle School this year. I interviewed him to ask some questions to find out some interesting things you didn't know about this well-loved teacher.

I had asked him "What was one of the things you miss most about the elementary school?" He said, "The things I miss the most are the teachers and staff I worked with."

I had also asked him what he liked best about the middle school and he answered, "I like the new faces and all the activities the middle school has to offer to the students. I also like the idea of the teams.

"It is something different that we didn't have in the elementary school."

Mr. Herzog loves to teach his

students because he loves making connections with them.

"I like that this is a smaller school, because it is easier to make connections and really get to know most of the students," he said.

In our interview, I asked

him what it is like being a "floater" and he said, "I like it. There are new grades and students every year so it never gets dull. It is kind of funny. I'm known as the *guy with the cart*. I have been thinking that I need to put some chrome and 'pimp' out this thing."

Well, we all know the school persona but what does Mr. Herzog like to do in his free time? "I love the outdoors... camping, hiking, kayaking. I love the show 'Survivor.' I want to be on that show like you could not believe!"

In the end of my interview, I had asked Mr. Herzog what he thought overall of the middle school. "I think the middle school is the hidden gem.

"There are so many clubs and activities for the students."

This concluded my interview. So next time you see the *guy with the cart*, stop to say hello.



Mr. Herzog moved from Slatington Elementary to our middle school and has become the "floating" teacher.

Halloween dance tomorrow night!

By **Kelcie Kramer**

North Team

Mark your calendar because the Halloween dance is tomorrow, Oct. 17th, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Tickets have been on sale since Oct. 13 and were \$3. They cannot be purchased at the door. Students may come in costumes but it is not required. Costumes must comply with our school's dress code.

There are to be no masks or short skirts. You may wear a tank-top, as long as you also wear a shawl. If you are planning on wearing a short skirt, you are required to wear "leggings" or tights underneath.

Candy, soda and cookies will be served. No inappropri-

ate dancing!

Couples are allowed to slow dance and the DJ, Sonic

Sounds, will be taking requests. Buy a ticket and we'll see you there!



Getting back into the swing of things

By **Katlynn Golden**

SouthEast Team

The toughest part of getting back into the swing of school would probably be getting up in the morning. I know there is homework and other school things but I would rather sleep in! What are some other things Northern Lehigh Middle School students have

had a hard time with in 2009 already?

"Getting up in the morning is definitely the toughest part," *Katie Fritchman*.

"The toughest part is when I get up in the morning and it's dark and when I go home, it's dark again," *Mr. Barnes*.

"The toughest part of this school year so far would

probably be getting all the papers thrown at me," *Stephanie Stein*.

"The toughest part is getting out of bed," *Taylor Hoffman*.

"The toughest part is getting back on track with homework," *Alex Abruzzi*.

"Getting my locker straight is the toughest part!" *Sam Rex*.

Mr. Graver takes 'history show' to the SouthEast hemisphere

Social studies teacher changes direction and moves out of 'West'

By Stephanie Stein
SouthEast Team

Graver said "I love my new room. My old room was so small that I had to leave just to change my mind."

As far as new technology, he could not be more excited to get his new projector hooked up. He also can't wait to get his

Everyone who was on the West team last year knows Mr. Graver. This awesome teacher headed to the SouthEast team after spending eight years on West over the summer break.

Mr. Graver said that moving was tough but the awesome teachers on SouthEast helped him. He said it is different because of now teaching eighth grade.

"It's also different because of their field trip," Mr. Graver said, "and having two grades on the team."

He mentioned that he spent the whole summer planning for the 8th grade. Mr.

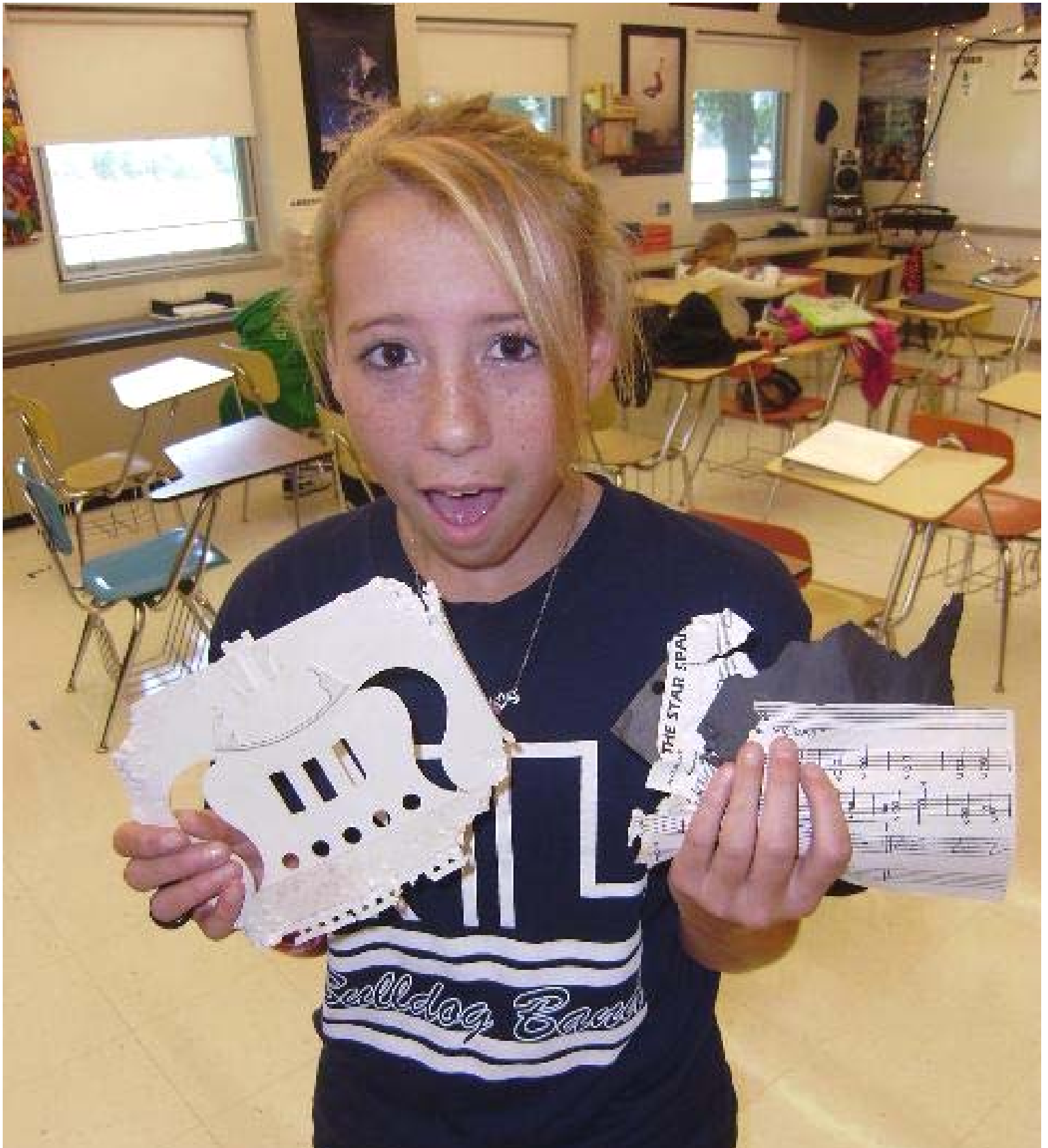
air conditioning fixed. Mr. Graver may seem like a history wiz, but he is actually learning right along with us. He only taught history for two years out of his 12-year teaching career. Unfortunately, Mr. Graver does miss some things like all of the West team teachers and all the seventh grade.

This year, though, he loves working with the SouthEast teachers, saying they are all professional and have a sense of humor. Mr. Graver also said he cannot wait for all the new challenges. I am happy about having Mr. Graver this year and being able to learn right along with him.



Mr. Graver, new to the SouthEast team this year, receives some schoolwork from seventh-grader Ryan Feifel.

Wait... this really happens?!



Eighth-grader Katelyn Kirchner had to convince NLMS music teacher Mr. Carroll that dogs do, in fact, eat homework — or sheet music. Mr. Carroll reportedly accepted the evidence but the dog could not be reached for comment.

From the farm to our classrooms

Middle school hits 21st century with new C.O.W. technology

By Julie Knerr

SouthEast Team

The middle school has recently acquired new laptops. A lot of the teachers found this very helpful. I interviewed Mrs. Chamberlain about the new computers.

Mrs. Chamberlain felt the laptops were needed. She said that because of a lack of classroom space and only two computer labs, there wasn't a good way to bring in new technology for the school.

As time goes on, she plans to integrate more advanced technology into the school. The laptops were paid for through the school's budget.

When I asked Mrs. Chamberlain how she felt about getting the laptops, she said, "I was very excited. We definitely needed them to keep up with the students' curriculum."

I asked Mrs. Chamberlain if she knew how the laptop cart got its nickname "the rolling cow." She told me that in a way, the cart looked like a cow. If you think about it, the cords resemble utters and it "walks around" all day. "It would look really good in a black and white suit!" she joked.



Seventh-grader Nathan Snyder uses one of NLMS's new laptops with the wireless network that is accessible throughout the school. The "Computers on Wheels" are available for any teacher to use.



Proper use and care will ensure these C.O.W.s stay healthy for many years.

Miss Binder finds a home in room 30

By Marissa Marsh
North Team

Ms. Binder, English teacher on Team West, got her own room this year after two years of pushing her “classroom” around. After being asked if her teaching has improved she said “It definitely has because I’m not so distracted by setting up and getting everything ready.”

She is starting her 11th year in teaching, which includes substitute teaching, full-time at Marian Catholic High School, and currently at Northern Lehigh.

It was a pain to push the cart around to different rooms, she said. There were always kids running around in the halls and she would get held up. Also, during schedule changes, she had to tell her students where she will be during their period. Ms. Binder’s days are a lot less stressful now! She is enjoying decorating and making her room more personal. Now, Ms. Binder and her students can take more pride in displaying their classroom projects!



Ms. Binder has a permanent blackboard this year in room 30. She has spent the last two years as a “floater.”

Marching band begins prepping over summer

By Katelyn Kirchner
SouthEast Team

Do you like music? Well, if you love concert band, come join us for marching band! Over the summer for two

weeks, all the marching band students went to the high school and practiced the show.

It may seem difficult at first, but once you get it, it’s a piece of cake. Mr. Carroll is the director of our middle school

marching band. This year’s show is called “Shades.”

In marching band, you have many football games, parades and competitions. Once you get the hang of it, it’s a lot of fun!

Top Mile Runners for Fall 2009

8th grade boys: Alex Hoffner (5:38), Matt Egan (5:55), Tyler Dibilio (6:13), Nate Czarnecki (6:15), Travis Nelmes (6:22), Austin Stevens (6:48), Carlos Medina (7:03), Chance Delong (7:09), Victor Berrios (7:22), Brad Owens (7:33).

8th grade girls: Cassie Toth (7:00), Meghan Weil (7:08), Samantha Kern (7:14), Brook Seyler (7:16), Kelsey Follweiler

(7:26), Kaelah Horwath (7:43), Morgan Zellner (7:43), Abbey Sauerwine (7:50), Morgan Konek (7:59), Chelsea Harlan (8:41), Rachel Hams (8:42).

7th grade boys: Zebulon Shifert (6:01), Jeremie Tomkins (6:19), Isaiah Ortiz (6:19), Bryce Moser (6:38), Quintin George (6:49), Andrew Tarafas (6:56), Aaron Hofmann (7:01), Nathan Snyder (7:08), William Andino

(7:24), Dontae Dabney (7:28), Ryan Rubio (7:29).

7th grade girls: Jessica Olewine (7:06), Anna Barnett (7:09), Erika McKay (7:33), Amber Marlow (7:59), Alexis Mid-daugh (8:02), Devin Pepe (8:10), Laura Beltz (8:30), Taryn Kemmerer (8:34), Scarlet Ojeda (9:06), Innacience Rosado (9:28).

Intramurals begins; CPR training planned

Net Sports Intramurals (tennis, volleyball, badminton and ping-pong) began on Sept. 21 and will end on Oct. 21 with a pizza party. If you missed out on the fall intramurals, we will have the same activity beginning on April

12, 2010. Also, **CPR instruction will be offered** after school for parents and their middle school child in January. See Mrs. Raber if you are interested. **Congratulations to the following students** who were elected by their class-

mates to be officers of Intramurals for this school year: President: Samantha Miller-Brown, Vice-President: Austin Steigerwalt, Treasurer: Cody Schmoyer, Secretary: Thomas Quigley.

Once Again...

By Keldie Kramer

Once again it's time to say,
Time to get up for school today.
Once again it's time to see,
Your friends and teachers all with glee.
Once again it's time to hear,
The ringing of the bell the rest of the year.
Once again it's time for no rest,
Because it's time for another test.
Once again it's time to think,
Once again it's time to talk,
Once again it's time to laugh,
Once again it's time for school,
So hop on the bus and think of the cool,
that fall will bring.
Soon winter will pass and it will be spring.
Then summer will come sooner than you know it.
But school will visit again in a bit.

Remember the 80s?



Mrs. Hubbs, Mr. Barnes and Ms. Binder reconnect with their youth on 80s Day during Spirit Week.

Books, minds remain open 'After the Bell'

By Mrs. Marushak
SouthEast Team

The After the Bell Reading Program began on Tuesday, Oct, 6, 2009. Students who have opted to strengthen their reading skills receive free tutoring during these sessions.

There will be 40 classes, every Tuesday and Thursday from October to February. We are excited to begin working with these motivated and conscientious students. The tutors, Mr. Barnes, Ms. Binder, Mrs. Filipovits, Mrs. Lieberman, Mrs. Raber, and Mrs. Cox hope all participants will gain confi-

dence as readers and become life-long learners.

Incentives for participation are provided locally by Subway, McDonalds, Burger King, Hampton Lanes, and Weis. We appreciate all of the people who help make this program a success — Mrs. Karen Beltz, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, and the dedicated teachers who make it all work! Thanks to parents who encouraged your child to participate. There are still openings in the classes. If you would like to sign up, or if you have any questions, please call Mrs. Marushak, ATB Coordinator, at the middle school at 610-767-9812.



Mackenzie Witmer and Ashley Hough, eighth-graders, "pinked" it up for Twin Day during Spirit Week.

76ers legend heads to LCCC

By Tyler "T.T." Trumbauer
North Team

Over the summer, Lehigh Carbon Community College needed a new basketball coach. They went out and searched and found an NBA Legend. His name is Darryl Dawkins.

Back in his NBA career he played 14 seasons for the Philadelphia 76ers, the New Jersey Nets, the Detroit Pistons and the Utah Jazz. In his career he had plenty of historical moments. In 1975 he was drafted by the 76ers straight out of high school.

He was the first person ever to just bypass college and go straight to the pros. Then in 1979 he broke 2 backboards in one month. While only very few people in history have ever done it once, he did it twice. He then retired after the 1989 season. During his retirement he had some coaching jobs with the Nets and also the Pennsylvania ValleyDawgs.

Now he is coaching a community college's team. Now I'm sure you're asking why an NBA legend would want to coach a community college team. Well, living close is one of the things he said as a reason.

He only lives on Walbert Ave. Also when he coached the ValleyDawgs, LCCC let them use their gym and another thing



Tyler Trumbauer (far right), eighth-grader, gets an autograph from former Philadelphia 76er Darryl Dawkins.

is that Darryl's wife used to work at LCCC. Along with coaching, Darryl says he wants to be big in the community. For instance, go to the girls games and go to churches around town. He just wants to interact and have people believe in him. When it comes to the basketball part, Dawkins wants to make his kids run and

wants to have a great team. He also said he wants one of his players to make it to the NBA.

Overall he says he is very excited to be coaching. So, everyone should come out and support his team. Their first home game is Nov. 12. I hope you will be there because I know I will.

OPINION

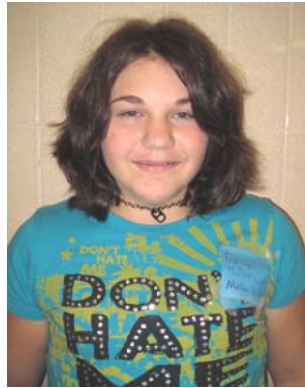
Dress code sparks First Amendment debate in neighboring district

As you may have heard, Palmerton High School has recently acquired a new dress code.

I have asked a couple of students at our school, Northern Lehigh Middle School, what their thoughts are on the dress code and how they would feel if it were to happen at our school.

The new dress code for Palmerton is as follows: No unnatural hair coloring, or visible piercings on the body anywhere other than the ears. I asked some students what they think about these rules.

Julie Knerr [7th grade] says she agrees with the school board: That the piercings and colored hair is a distraction to stu-



Makayla Gordon

dents. “You don’t need to ruin your hair or put holes in your body to express yourself. I write to express myself and I don’t need holes in my lip or nose,” Julie said.

Some students might agree with Julie but many other

students do not and these are a few arguments from the other

side from various NLMS students...

“Yes, we do need a dress code but, not to the extent of limiting our individuality. A little hole in your nose is not a distraction to us. It should be our parents who decide if we can get piercings or dye our hair, not the school. This is the time to express ourselves because of future limitations. We can’t have piercings in most careers so why can’t we now? Why can’t we just be kids?”

Gary Dise has a different opinion, saying, “It is a very strange dress code for a small group of people. Even though they are in high school, they have a right to express themselves freely.”

These are some of the thoughts and feelings of some of our Northern Lehigh Middle School students. Piercings, dye or writing... what do you think is best?



OPINION

What really curdles my milk?

3-D TV IN OUR HOMES!

The first thing that curdles my milk this year is that people in a couple of years will be able to have a 3-D television in their house. Yes, that is right...you will be able to see *The Hills* in 3-D. Sony and Panasonic have announced that they will release home 3-D television systems in 2010.



Tyler "T.T." Trumbauer

Mitsubishi and JVC are reported to be working on a similar product, and for the sports fans out there, ESPN is said to be test-recording some sporting events in 3-D, using cameras with two sets of lenses, which will make it seem like the football players are jumping out of your screen during those broadcasts.

Now you are probably thinking that this is some rich person thing but you are wrong. Even though television makers haven't announced details yet the price of a 3-D TV — which requires a new TV, broadcasting content and 3-D glasses — is not supposed to be that much higher than some high-definition televi-

sions on the market now. Except there is another problem with this idea, and it involves headaches and too much items. These next-generation televisions will be able to broadcast shows in 2-D or 3-D. They also will be able to show video games in 3-D. Also Blu-

Ray is working on a product that will play movies in 3-D.

All of these companies and others are trying to improve this invention for it to be easier to use and cheaper to make. Then again what items aren't companies trying to do that to? A representative for Panasonic said he thinks 3-D TV will be common in homes within 5-10 years. He also said that technology will allow us to make a 3-D TV without glasses in 10-15 years.

So, I'm sure you are wondering why I don't

like this idea. Well, it just shows how lazy we Americans are. I mean we just came out with 3-D movies. This meant we had to get out of the house and drive to a movie theater; soon we will just have to press an ON button and it will be right there. This is just sad that we need *everything* to be easy. It wasn't that long ago that TV went from black and white to color. Now, Peter Griffin will just jump out of your TV. Isn't that great? I don't think so.

Now, *that* is why 3-D television curdles my milk.



OPINION

Is Michael Vick's second chance merited or 'for the dogs'?

A lot of people are familiar with the Michael Vick controversy – whether or not he should be given a second chance as an NFL quarterback after being convicted of his involvement in an illegal dog fighting ring.



Allen Dailey

Well, I think he should be given a second chance. I know he did some cruel things involving dog fighting, which he definitely should not have done, but I think he deeply regrets his actions and probably will continue to do so for the rest of his life.

He knows that what he did was terrible but I think his intentions are pure because he wouldn't have went through all the grief, publicity and press

conferences that he went through if he wasn't sincere. He did 18 months in jail, he served his time so he had time to think about his actions and learn from them. I'm sure that he wishes he could take it all back as he has stated before.

Now a lot of people are probably thinking that if he knew he would pay for it, then why did he do it? Well, sometimes you're just going to have to learn to forgive people.

Put your-

self in his shoes. Would you want a second chance? I'm pretty sure that you would and I'm sure that he is grateful that any NFL football team even took him back and was granted that second chance in Philadelphia.

Nobody is perfect in this not-so-perfect world. Everybody makes mistakes and bad judgment calls and that is why I think Michael Vick deserves a second chance at doing what he loves to do and is good at doing – playing football.



ANNOUNCEMENTS! ANNOUNCEMENTS! ANNOUNCEMENTS!

The West Team will be conducting a hoagie sale from October 16th through October 28th. Please do your best to support our team in an effort to host a spectacular field trip to Medieval Times. The hoagies cost \$3.50, which is a small price to pay for a lifetime memory. The West Team is also selling \$5 coupons for a day of shopping at the Bon Ton on November 14th. Anybody interested in these coupons should see a West teacher. **The SouthEast Team** will hold its hoagie sale from Oct. 26 through Nov. 6 to help fund its field trip to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. See any SouthEast teacher for more details!