

Rewards are in place for those who earn them

By Alicia Vann

The VIP pass is a generous system rewarding students who deserve it the most. The passes have become a huge hit with many G. Ray Bodley students. The VIP pass is rewarded to students who have a 90% attendance rate for the semester, are 90% on time to school for the semester, who are passing all of their courses, and who have no major behavior referrals for the semester.

There are many benefits in receiving this coveted pass. This pass can be used in place of a pre-signed pass during a study hall or lunch

bell. The VIP also adds four extra passes per month in the agenda. VIP senior pass holders may also sign out of a study hall during bells 1-8 and go to the cafeteria.

One benefit that some seniors may not be aware of is the, "Sunshine for Seniors" program. Any senior holding the VIP pass may use it as a pass to eat lunch outside at the picnic tables near the LGI during their lunch bell. Now that the weather is becoming more spring-like, this benefit may be of interest to the seniors.

Although the VIP pass may seem like a very lenient system, those owning the pass should

not take advantage of the privileges and ruin the honor for future generations. Some of the guidelines include that the pass can only solely be used by the student it is issued to, the students must carry the pass and have it present when being used, the students should follow their class schedule and go to study hall first before leaving for an alternate location, and failure in maintaining the criteria or guidelines listed will make the pass null and void for at least a two week period.

Students should follow these guidelines in order to keep this reward around for future classes.

RaiderNet Daily

G. Ray Bodley High School, Fulton, NY

Volume 1, Number 135

Monday, May 10, 2010

Handling the stress of the AP exams

By Brenna Merry

Ready, Set, Study!

In the next few weeks' students will be enduring maximum stress as they worry about the upcoming Advanced Placement tests. These tests are for the accelerated students who want to challenge themselves with these difficult classes as well as look good on their college application. However, those first time AP test takers did not realize the toll that these classes would have on them and the anxiety is overwhelming.

On Thursday May 6, many juniors went through their school day with nothing on the brain but the AP U.S History (APUSH) test that awaited them that coming Friday. Despite the countless hours of studying, and the long nights doing homework, the students were not feeling prepared to take this difficult test. Even though Advanced Placement tests do not mean much to a student's average or their college career, not doing well on them is not a feeling these top students wish to endure. While classes passed, their minds still wondered and stomachs began to turn.

Test anxiety, in the long run, can harm a student's performance. Nerves are a powerful thing and they can take over rational thoughts. Tests are always stressful, even for the best of students, and dealing with this stress is the first

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May is teen pregnancy month, and in order to help students make good choices, members of the G. Ray Bodley High School S.A.F.E. Educators were on hand on Thursday to distribute information to their fellow students. Pictured from left to right are, front, Chad Cooper, Amanda Adamy and Desirae Collins. In the back row are Zach Wilton, McKenzie Swart, Sadie Adamy and Chelsea Avery. Statistics show that teenage pregnancy reaches its highest point in May, hence the push to give out information and create awareness of the consequences teen decisions can produce. Representatives from Americore and the Yout and Family Services health division of the OCO Youth Bureau were also there to give out information on their programs. (Senecal photo)

Opinion

Cinco De Mayo: the story behind the "holiday"

By Courtney Falanga

"Happy Cinco De Mayo!" You may have heard quit a few of those on Wednesday; the fifth of May. But do you even know what that means? We've all heard that once one turns 21 years old, it gives you the excuse to party, but for the rest of us; what is Cinco de Mayo? People like to believe that it is Mexico's Independence Day, but really that event happened September 16.

The day actually celebrates the Mexican victory over the French during the Battle of Puebla, which occurred in 1862. According to many people, it is more of a United States holiday than a Mexican one. According to Oscar Casares, a professor at the University of Texas-Austin, for the average Mexican, it was just another Wednesday. He also stated, "The holiday, which has never really been much of one in Mexico, crossed over to this side of the border in the 1950s and 1960s, as civil rights activists were attempting to build harmony between the two countries and cultures." The date gained more attention in the 1980s when it was



seen as a perfect opportunity to capitalize on the celebratory nature of the holiday, by marketers, largely including beer companies. A journalist from the Huffington Post reported, "It's actually a Mexican-American holiday, which was for some reason very popular in California, and over the years has become the official Mexican ethnic day, as Columbus Day is for the Italians ...In other words, it's a harmless, if totally fake holiday."

Although Wednesday was not truly a holiday, it gave everyone an excuse to celebrate the exotic, exciting, yet traditional Mexican culture. For once everybody in a way halted the debate on immigration, and just recognized the Mexican culture as a whole, not just a group of people coming into our country.

"The day actually celebrates the Mexican victory over the French during the Battle of Puebla, which occurred in 1862. According to many people, it is more of a United States holiday than a Mexican one."

Quick thinking report should become the norm

By Crystal Kimball & Raquel Vescio

On Saturday, May 1 a serious incident occurred in

Times Square, New York City. Many found it mysterious when a parked car was on the side of the road near a busy part of Times Square. Faisal Shahzad, originally from Pakistan, placed a bomb in the back of his car, which could have killed hundreds. He lived in Connecticut where he had a stable life. Later, he decided to abandon his house and went to Pakistan, where he practiced explosive training.

Thankfully, a t-shirt vendor called the police on Saturday afternoon when he saw the man run away from his car suspiciously. Luckily authorities were able to catch him before he departed back to Pakistan. He was arrested on the spot for the bombing attempt. Several other individuals in Pakistan were arrested for having connections with the

bomb scare. "Based on what we know so far, it is clear that this was a terrorist plot aimed at murdering Americans in one of the busiest places in our country," Sergeant Holder said. If the bomb blew up it could have resulted in a terrible tragedy. This is very scary, because there could be other attacks being planned on the United States that we do not know about. Hopefully security is improving so nothing like this will happen again.

Fortunately the bomb failed and the t-shirt vendor saved hundreds of lives and is a hero to Americans. President Obama made a special call to the t-shirt vendor, thanking him for making the call to the police. Hopefully if this were to happen again, and anyone saw it, they would report it just as he did.

Nothing "Great" about Pacific Garbage Patch

By Sarah Allee

After seeing a random status update on Facebook the other day, my eyes opened to a whole new controversy that I had never even heard of. Someone had posted a video about The Great Pacific Garbage Patch - a spot in the Pacific Ocean that stretches from California to Japan, completely filled with litter; 90% of which is estimated to be plastic. Plastic is non-biodegradable, which means it just continuously breaks down into tinier and tinier pieces. In fact, all of the plastic that has ever been made is still on our Earth today.

Scientists say that the world's largest garbage dump isn't on land - it's in our oceans. The Great Garbage Patch is estimated to be twice the size of Texas, and in some spots, the litter goes as far down as 90 feet.



Approximately 80% of this trash is from land, whether it is dumped directly into waters or blown into rivers, even from states as far away as Iowa. Wrappers, toothbrushes, bottles, pacifiers, toys - you name it, and you can probably find it within this garbage dump.

Scientists found that the ratio of plastic to plankton, which is the main food source for many sea creatures, is 6:1. Thus fish, turtles, whales, and even birds, are eating pieces of plastic because they can't find food. When a dead albatross was cut open for research, they found nothing but plastic, and even a cigarette lighter. There have even been beluga whales diagnosed with breast cancer from the chemicals they are ingesting. These animals are suffering because we have let this get out of control.

If you're starting to think, "this has no affect on me," you're wrong. Even though the plastic is entering the animals, it is starting to enter our food chains, and it ends up on our plates. Even the pesticides that

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Weekend brings mixed fortunes for Raider teams

It was a rough Saturday for the girls varsity lacrosse team as they took a tough loss at non-league opponent Manlius Pebble Hill. Right from the first draw, both teams could tell that it was going to be a tough game.

MPH was the first to score, but Fulton retaliated and put one in to tie it 1-1. MPH then put in another one but the Raiders then fought back and notched another one to tie it once again at 2-2. The Raiders had their momentum going and tallied another one to make it 3-2, their first lead of the game and unfortunately their last.

The Trojans then put in three more while Fulton put in one more to make the score at halftime 5-4. But it was a different story in the second half as the Trojans came out strong and began to control the game. While the Raiders only put in three, the Trojans fought hard to tally six goals to make the final score 11-7.

Leading the Raiders was freshman Alannah McClellan with two goals and one assist followed by sophomore Caitlin LaVoie with two goals. Jordan Rizzo recorded one goal, one assist while Kirsten Francis and Erica Knaub each had one. Emily Rothrock also had one assist. Kara Pafumi tallied 10 saves in the net. Leading MPH was Kate Shaw who ended the night with 7 points (5 goals, 2 assists). Trojan

goalie, Lucy Smith, also had 10 saves.

The Lady Raiders will be back in action today at 4:30 at the junior high field taking on the Jamesville-Dewitt Red Rams for a league matchup. *By Emily Rothrock*

Tennis belts ES-M

The boys tennis team blasted out of a recent slump by thrashing East Syracuse-Minoa 6-1 on Friday. Fulton swept the singles matches, yielding just 10 points along the way as Derek Bateman won 6-1, 6-2 and Adam Wolford won 6-1, 6-0 while Richard Reeschke blanked his Spartan opponent 6-0, 6-0. Eric Naioti had a slightly tougher time of it in winning 6-4, 6-2 at second singles for the Raiders.

In the doubles competitions Tyler Crandall and Mark Bailey overcame a 1-6 opening set to cruise 6-0, 6-0 at second doubles and Nathan Deavers and Michell Lalik prevailed in the most competitive match of the afternoon, winning 6-3 and 7-5 as Fulton improved to 4-5 on the season.

Girls compete

The Fulton girls track team placed seventh among Division I schools at the East Syracuse-

Minoa Invitational on Saturday, scoring 36 points in the process. Anna McKay claimed top honors in the high jump by clearing 4-foot-9 and Morgan Cooper was second in the 400 meter dash at 1:02.66 with teammate Kayla Distin right behind her in third place at 1:03.98. Brittanie Lamie ran home sixth in the 3000 meters at 12:06.05 while the Raiders were sixth in the 4 x 100 meter relay and third in the 4 x 800 relay to round out their scoring.



THIS WEEK IN RAIDER SPORTS

Today: Girls lax vs. J-D (V-4:30/JV-6 p.m.).

Tues. May 11: V baseball & softball vs. CBA (4:30); JV baseball & softball @ CBA (4:30); Tennis @ Fowler (4:45); Boys lax @ ES-M (4:30/v-5 p.m.);

Wed. May 12: Track @ Cortland/Fowler (4:45); Tennis vs. Cortland (4:30);

Thurs. May 13: V softball, JV baseball vs. Homer (4:45); JV softball, V baseball @ Homer (4:45); Tennis @ Chittenango (4:30); Boys lax @ Whitesboro (5 p.m.); Girls lax vs. Whitesboro (V-5:00/JV-6:30).

Sat. May 15: Track @ VanDusen Invitational in Ogddensburg.

(due to weather conditions, spring sports schedules are subject to change)

Dealing with exam stress (from page 1)

step toward getting a good grade.

There are, however, many ways to prepare for tests. First of all, test anxiety can be minimized by getting adequate amounts of sleep.

Garbage (from page 2)

you spray on your lawn are said to end up in our oceans.

Sadly, the litter isn't limited to just the Pacific. There is a garbage dump in every ocean on our planet, including many major rivers. If you want to make a change, there are many little things you can do to help out. Begin by using reusable grocery bags as opposed to plastic bags. Stores carry these more often now, so they're easy to find. You can also stop buying plastic water bottles, and replace them with a water filter. Buy a few reusable water bottles to fill up - and think about the money you'll save! The only solution to stopping the garbage dump starts with you reducing your plastic use. You may think you won't make a difference, but if a million other people think the same thing and decide to change, they could make a huge difference together.

This means at least eight hours a night! When a person has not rested their brain is not working to its fullest potential and they can make silly choices. Often time's students spend night after night cramming, but in reality this might be more harmful than helpful. Spacing study times out over a large span of a time is another way to decrease stress. This way, a person will feel confident that they know what they are doing.

Another key to overcoming the horrible feeling of anxiety is believing in oneself. If you imagine yourself doing well and believe that you have prepared yourself the best you can, you will do just fine. Also, stay calm. A bad test is not the end of the world and there are plenty chances to redeem oneself in the future. One trick to staying calm is spacing your breathing. In fact, did you know that stress can impair your memory? So, figuring out how to calm down can make your test grades shoot up.

The best of luck to all of those taking AP tests in the upcoming weeks. Just remember, a little stress is a good thing, but too much stress can harm your body as well as your grades.

Upcoming events:

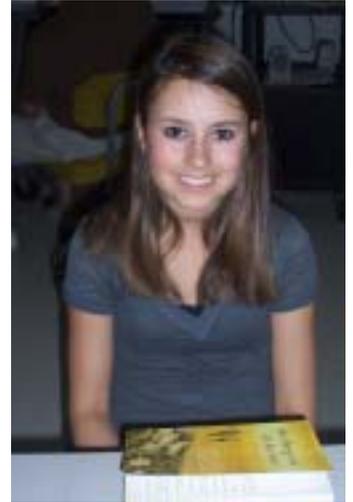
May 3-10: Gone4Ever display, sponsored by SADD. Exhibit open 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. @ GRB.

May 10-12: Class of 2012 days at Mimi's Drive-in.

Friday, May 14: Junior Prom at DoubleTree Hotel, 7 p.m.

School of Thought compiled by Crystal Kimball & Raquel Vescio

How much money has the prom cost you so far?



"Five-hundred dollars."
Kirsten Francis

"\$220."
Jim Marsh

"\$200."
Bobby Bonnie

"Five-hundred dollars."
Kali Kearns

Morning announcements for Monday, May 10

Attention seniors! The final due date for all cedar point money as well as paperwork is Friday, May 14th. The total cost for the trip is \$125, which includes entry to the park and unlimited soda. Seats are limited, so hurry and grab one today.

Senior shirts are in. Please pick them up in Mr. Perry's room.

Senior dinner dance tickets will be going on sale soon.

FBLA members take note: there will be a mandatory meeting after school today to elect new chapter officers and listen to a guest speaker. To run for an office, please stop by room 110 to sign up.

Help support Timmy Connors and others by buying an orange bracelet. They will be available for five dollars during all lunch bells.

There will be a presentation in the auditorium on Thursday, May 13 during advisory entitled "your college search-what to consider" for all juniors thinking about college. Students need to report directly to the auditorium following bell two on Thursday.

Meteorology and you by Carson Metcalf

Today: Sunny skies. High in the mid-50s.

Tonight: Mainly clear. Low around 30.

Tomorrow: Sun and clouds. High in the upper-50s.

GRB sophomore Carson Metcalf is an aspiring Meteorologist and the creator of the Central New York Weather Center @ www.centralnewyorkweather.com ...Look for his weather forecasts on RaiderNet Daily.

