

# Music Department to present pair of concerts

The G. Ray Bodley Music Department will be hosting two days of concerts this week. Wednesday, October 26 will consist of the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Orchestra, and the Jazz Ensemble. Concert Band and Concert Orchestra will be performing Thursday, the following night. Both events commence at 7:30 in the high school auditorium.

For the freshmen, this will be their first high school level performance, so there will be great excitement for both the students and parents alike. Students will be arriving a

little earlier on these nights for yearbook pictures, so one can be assured they will look their best in their tuxedos and concert dresses. Both concerts should not last too long, so people will not have to worry about getting home late.

Mr. Caviness will be conducting the bands while Ms. Santy does the same for the orchestras. A full orchestra piece, consisting of performers from both band and orchestra, was planned on being played at this concert. Unfortunately it was unable to come

through during the first part of the year, but people can be sure that the group will be prepared to play it the next time around.

A rock ensemble is also underway for the next concert, which will be taking place around Christmas. Smaller groups and individual performances will be sure to follow as well. Also, just a note that Mr. Nami's choruses do not perform in this concert series. Their first concert will be in December, getting people in the mood for the Christmas season.  
*By Nick Abelgore*



## RaiderNet Daily



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# Bodley alum delivers message of hope

*Co-authors book*

*Classified: Terminally Ill*

By Vanessa Langdon

As an infant his parents were told that he would be lucky to see his second birthday. Now, 22 years later, Craig V. (C.V.) Abbott has written a book about his experiences of defying the odds.

Craig V. Abbott II, or C.V. as he prefers to be called, graduated from G. Ray Bodley High School in 2007 and he is not your average everyday guy, although in many ways he is. The biggest difference is that he has Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Type 1. C.V. was born with SMA Type 1, a genetic neuromuscular disease that is extremely rare, but inhibits the growth of muscles and affects the immune system. "They give you a life expectancy of two years old," he commented. But they were wrong.

Now 22 years old, he has exceeded everyone's expectations. C.V.'s strength of character is palpable, he is a funny and smart young man who has overcome many obstacles in his 22 years and is writing an autobiography detailing those triumphs. The book titled *Classified: Terminally Ill* is not just about SMA although there are chapters written by C.V.'s neurologist and various nurses. Instead it is a tale of triumph about overcoming life's struggles in general.



**Class of 2007 G. Ray Bodley High School graduate C.V. Abbott, right, has recently co-written an autobiography, *Classified: Terminally Ill*, with longtime friend Joe Abbate. (Senecal photo)**

C.V. was diagnosed with SMA Type 1 at six months old and this disease not only affects muscle growth making the person unable to sit up, roll over, crawl, and later walk, but also affects the immune system leading the person to get a common cold and then have it turn into pneumonia. As a child, C.V. said that he personally had pneumonia about seven times a year, each time lasting for three

to four weeks! Thankfully ever since a back surgery, when he was 13, and some improved new equipment, the pneumonia and his health in general have improved.

C.V. went on to say that, "right now SMA, all types, is the leading killer of infants," but even with that fact people don't know very much about it. As C.V. noted, "All the time I see commercials to make people more aware of breast cancer and muscular dystrophy, and I'm like 'okay, where are the SMA commercials?'"

While SMA does affect the body, it does not affect the mind, something that C.V. is a prime example of. As his nurse Joanne Parkhurst put it "he's smarter than the average bear!" C.V. said he himself has never seen someone talk or act around him as if he was mentally handicapped, but Ms. Parkhurst said that a lot of people probably do think this way at a first glance, once they see the wheelchair. But that is not the case with SMA type 1. C.V.'s personal story is detailed and filled with clever anecdotes that C.V. is a master at telling, it is no surprise that he is in the process of publishing an autobiography.

The autobiography C.V. and his co-author and close friend Joe Abbate have written was a thought put into process after C.V. went to talk to doctors in Ohio who specialize in adults with SMA. At first the team of doc-

(continued on page three)

# Show some respect and pick up your own mess!

By Nate Dean

Every day when I walk into lunch I have to clean the table off before I can actually sit down and eat without putting my arm in spilt milk or pizza sauce. The lunch room is a place where people should be able to go in, sit down, do some homework, and enjoy their lunch.

But instead they have to worry about stepping in something or brushing their arm through random liquids that have been left from the lunch bell before that.

Lunch monitors Mrs. Wilmot and Mrs. Cook both wish that students wouldn't be so rude and actually show respect for their school. Mrs. Wilmot says, "I don't think it is right for students to have to sit in other students messes."

Not only does leaving a mess disrespect other students, but it disrespects both Mrs. Wilmot and Mrs. Cook as it is not their job to clean up after irresponsible students. Students these days may be used to others cleaning up after them at home, but this is a public place and should be treated with respect.

Many students complain about the mess in the lunch room such as Tony Torrese, who says, "I can't stand walking into lunch and dealing with the messes that are left from other students." He also said, "It's ridiculous how students can just leave stuff all over and don't even care that other people have to pick up after them."

As Mrs. Wilmot noted, "I don't get paid extra to clean up after the students that leave messes behind, but I feel bad for the others that have to sit in it"

Many students ask both monitors who sit at the table the bell before them so that they can tell the students to clean up after themselves. The simple task of cleaning up your mess has seemed to be



a hard one to accomplish for some.



Scenes like these have become an all too common sight for students using the GRB cafeteria, causing RND reporter Nate Dean to ask the simple question, "why can't people pick up after themselves?" (Nate Dean photos)

## Quote of the day:

"Your mind is like an Airplane. It's meant to soar to the sky. Why keep it on the ground?"

by Mark T., Age 16 – California

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# Classified: Terminally Ill is a tale of triumph

(from page one)

tors did not believe C.V. had SMA Type 1, as they said he was too old and healthy and that they had never seen anyone his age living with SMA Type 1 without the use of a ventilator. C.V. himself finds it hard to believe that he could be the oldest living person with SMA Type 1. When questioned why, he responded with, “sounds pretty cool, it just doesn’t seem like ‘hey, Fulton New York, really?’”

But after this trip to Ohio, an eight-hour car ride each way that he and his family made in a single day, C.V. said he started to write. He started with a two page outline on a yellow legal pad and then took each part of the outline and elaborated to make them into a 16 page draft. After that he turned each section into chapters. With this part completed, C.V. contacted Joe Abbate, whom he knew through church and other things, and they started to write the draft that G. Ray Bodley High School English teacher Mr. Senecal edited.

It took C.V. and Joe Abbate five intense months of meeting once or twice a week to write the book, which C.V. says is the size of the first *Harry Potter* novel. C.V. and Mr. Abbate went through one editor before getting to Mr. Senecal, who said that he was at his family cottage on the St. Lawrence River when he got the email containing C.V.’s first chapter, and he couldn’t stop reading. “The first chapter really gets your attention and I wanted to know what happens next, so Joe e-mailed me all the chapters. I really edited it in a couple of days,” Mr. Senecal said, noting that it was a captivating story to him and that he would do anything to help his former student. C.V. even shared a fact that Mr. Senecal did not know; when Mr. Senecal called C.V. to let him know he was done editing the book, it was C.V.’s birthday!

As part of the writing process he had looked for biographies about people with SMA and there weren’t any. That is what makes C.V.’s autobiography different, along with the fact that he is still alive to tell the story. According to Joe that is the message they want to give out, “this is not a terminally ill story. This is going to be advice for other people to use not just for illnesses, but in their everyday lives.”

The first chapter of the book begins with a horrific story that took place when C.V. was 18 and so sick that he had to go by ambulance to the hospital. En route in the ambulance his machines could not work, and C.V. essentially “died.” He woke up almost 13 hours later in the I.C.U., and stayed there for a little over a week. The chapter ends with C.V. coming home, leaving the readers wondering what happened to cause him to be in that position, as well as what would happen next. The rest of the book is in chronological order. Mr. Abbate went on to say that a majority of the book is told through the eyes of family as C.V. was too young to remember. C.V. interjected that the doctor who diagnosed him told his mother that they had never seen this disease, they had only read about it in a medical book!

The title of the book, *Classified: Terminally Ill* is in a way ironic because when asked about the origin of the title, C.V. said, “I don’t like being called terminally ill, but as Joe (Abbate) puts it, ‘terminal survivor.’” Ms. Parkhurst added that, “everyone is terminal,” so in a way the title of the book may be that yes, C.V. has a terminal disease that he is LIVING with, but it also can be seen that we are all terminal and we can all relate to C.V.

Along with overcoming his medical obstacles he has shown determination in everything he does, music being just one of them. C.V. has excelled at music throughout his life. At a young he age sang solos at his church, Fulton First United Methodist Church, and Joe said it brought tears to the eyes of everyone there. C.V. went on to sing the national anthem at two Syracuse Chiefs games, the first when he was 10 years old. The most astounding is that he taught himself how to play guitar at 14 years old, after only one lesson. The reasoning behind that was that C.V. had the best kind of motivation anyone can have, he was told by his teacher he could not play the guitar. Three years later he was teaching next to him at his studio.

Music is also what brought Joe and C.V. together, “I’ve known him all his life. I saw him when he used to sing at church and I clearly remember when I saw him that I felt a connection.” Joe said he didn’t know if he was “looking at an angel. I felt like he was meant to do something.” After that, Joe and C.V. came into contact many times over the years as Joe has a daughter born just a week before C.V., 2007 GRB Valedictorian Magie Abbate, and she actually gave C.V. his diploma at his high school graduation in 2007. Mr. Abbate says, “I think we work really well together.” There is no surprise there, as they are both survivors as Joe battled cancer and was told he was terminal, having only two years to live. That was 25 years ago and he is still going strong!

C.V. is a strong young man who has overcome many things in his life. To learn more about C.V., check out his website, [www.cvabbott.com](http://www.cvabbott.com), friend him on Facebook (Craig Abbott Book Page), and follow him on twitter (Craig V Abbott II). If things go according to plans, people will be able to buy his book, and who knows what will happen after that? One day people may just turn on the T.V. and see C.V. and Joe Abbate dancing their way onto *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, or perhaps look up from your food at the Lock and see him sitting there, Fulton’s incredible kid who continues to defy the odds.

## Meet the Reporters

### Mariah Munger, Junior

Mariah joined the staff of RaiderNet to write articles about things that she is interested in and that others should also know about.

Her outside interests and hobbies include

reading, drawing and painting. Something people may not know about Mariah is that when she isn’t spending her time in school on her core classes, she is putting all of her time into doing art-related things.



**School of Thought** compiled by Nick Abelgore and Tony Torrese

# What is your favorite Halloween candy?



"Snickers."  
Greg Jodway



"Reese's Peanut Butter Cups."  
Mr. Blackburn



"Three Musketeers."  
Mark Hyde



"Jellybeans"  
Anna Mortimer

# Meteorology and you

By Carson Metcalf



**Today:**



Mostly cloudy.

**55°**

Average: 57°  
Record: 81° (1963)

**Tonight:**



Cloudy. Chance shower.

**41°**

Average: 38°  
Record: 24° (1982)

**Tomorrow:**



Cloudy with rain showers.

**54°**

Average: 56°  
Record: 78° (1963)

*GRB senior Carson Metcalf is an aspiring Meteorologist and the creator of the Central New York Weather Center @ [www.centralnewyorkweather.com](http://www.centralnewyorkweather.com)  
Look for his daily weather forecasts for Fulton on RaiderNet Daily.*