

Class of 2014 creates public relations officer

The G. Ray Bodley High School Senior Class of 2014 has appointed a new officer. Paige Havner is the class public relations officer. A lot of people are asking what she is doing, but in the words of Senior Class Advisor Ms. Link, "Paige's position is 'the go to girl.'"

If anyone has a question and cannot get in touch with any of the other current class

officers, (Tevin Simard, Hannah Jones, Ashley McCann and Alissa Robinson) they should talk to Paige. Some of the officers aren't always available at times of the class meetings because of BOCES or another conflict, and Paige can help to cover that position at the moment.

Advisors Mrs. Marshall and Ms. Link thought another person in office could be

extremely helpful for plans the class makes for events like dinner dance, the senior trip, and senior day. Because there are not many students from the senior class who want to get involved, the fourth position will make the school year much more enjoyable. Everyone should support Paige and her interest in involvement for the 2013-2014 school year.
By Erin Hayden



G. Ray Bodley High School, Fulton, NY

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Some question value, purpose of SLO tests

By Dawson Samson

For the past two years, students have been asked to participate in an assessment mandated by the Board of Regents of New York State. These assessments are the Student Learning Objectives, or SLOs, and they are meant to help the state assess whether teachers are doing their jobs properly and teaching students the fundamental skills they will need from their specific subject.

The idea is that the students take a "pre-test" at the beginning of the year to gauge where they are before they begin to learn in the classroom. Then, by the end of the year, students are assessed again to see if they have improved in any way. The scores that the students receive have no effect on grades, however, but depending on how their students do, the teachers ability to teach can be affected in their annual evaluation.

In writing, this sounds like a simple and victimless process, but many students and teachers alike are unsure whether these tests are actually necessary, and some are just completely against them altogether. "It makes no sense," junior Cheyenne Laun commented. "We take tests in our core classes all the time, why can't they just look at our tests and quizzes? It makes sense for gym because we never have to take any (tests), but it makes no sense for our other classes."

The conflicted opinions on the SLOs are understandable. Some classes, such as art classes, require more than one day to take the test fully. This cuts into class time that

could be spent working on art projects that may be due very soon. With the SLO time required in class, it puts stress on teachers to alter their lesson plans to fit the test into an already hectic schedule. "It's stupid," said Senior Erin Hayden. "It takes away from our class time and has nothing to do with our grades. We don't need them." BOCES students get off a bit easier than the rest, "I don't really have to worry about them," noted senior Troy Richardson, "This year was the first time I even took one." As one teacher commented, "it's just one more test in a long line of tests. I just wonder how hard the stu-

dents are really going to try when they are tested on such a regular basis, especially when some of the tests don't count for a grade,"

Currently no one can really say for sure whether the SLOs will help the state decide how well students are doing, or how well teachers are doing their jobs. Regardless of their necessity or the inconvenience they place on students and teachers, everyone has to grin and bear it, as people will always have mixed opinions about their purpose and their use.

What's happening at G. Ray Bodley High School?

Representatives from **Colgate University** (8 am) and **Univ. of Buffalo** (11:30 am) will be in the guidance office today, Sept. 27, to meet with interested students.

Driver Education information for the fall session is now available in the guidance office.

HOPE Club meets every Monday in room 119.

Future Business Leaders of America meets every Monday in room 116.

Fultonian Yearbook meets every Tuesday in room 102.

Student Senate Sign-ups for volunteers for Spirit Week activities are posted on Mrs. Ferlito's door, room 115.

GRB Journalism Club meets Wednesdays in room 102.

National Honor Society meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 1 in room 217.

Looking to **travel to Europe next summer**? See Mrs. Hallatt in room 117 for information about a trip to Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris and London.

The trip is open to anyone from the community as well as surrounding school districts.

Don't forget, Spirit Week begins on Monday with "Neon Day"

Please note, the Powder-puff football game scheduled for Monday evening will take place during Friday's pep rally

Raider Sports

Course record effort leads Raiders to split

Led by a course record setting effort from junior Bailey Lutz, the Raider boys cross-country team ran to a split on Wednesday when they traveled to Chittenango to face Chittenango and Cortland in a tri-dual meet. The Raiders earned a split, losing to Chittenango 25-34 and winning against Cortland 24-31. The record for this 5000 meter course was 17:53, but that was broken on Wednesday when Bailey Lutz led the way and set the record with a 17:17. He brought Jimmy Martin with him for a sec-

ond place finish in 17:39. Jacob Bailey also showed great improvement in this race running an 18:35.

The girls saw their unbeaten start come to an abrupt end as they fell to Chittenango 18-43 and to Cortland 17-42. Leading the way for the Lady Raiders in the 5,000 meter run

was Amanda Rice in 24:14. Also having a good race was MARRISA LiVoti, who was only 10 seconds behind Rice.

Both teams travel to the McQuaid Invitational in Rochester on Saturday, which is one of the biggest races in the Northeast.

By Jimmy Martin

This week in Raider Sports

Today: VTennis vs. Chittenango (4 pm); JV Tennis @ Chittenango (4 pm).

Sat. Sept. 28: Varsity Vball @ B'ville Tourney (8:45 am); Girls soccer @ B'ville (11 am); X-Country @ McQuaid Invitational (9 am); V football @ Oswego (2 pm).

Mon. Sept. 30: V tennis @ Homer (4 pm); Vball @ Homer (JV-4:30/V-6 pm).

Tues. Oct. 1: Girls soccer @ ES-M (4:30); Vball vs. Fowler (JV-5/V-6:30); Boys soccer vs. J-D (JV-5/V-7 pm).

Wed. Oct. 2: X-country @ Homer (4:30); JV football @ New Hartford (5 pm); Golf @ Sectional qualifier (TBA).

Thurs. Oct. 3: Girls soccer @ J-D (4:30); Vball vs. Mexico (JV-5/V-6:30); Boys soccer @ Mexico (4:30).



The Raider football team will be looking to spoil the Homecoming party on Saturday when they invade Oswego to take on the rival Buccaneers. The action begins at 2 pm in what looms as a key clash for both sides.

NFL is off to a very strange start

(continued from page 3)

that teams such as the Miami Dolphins and the Kansas City Chiefs are 3-0, as neither the Chiefs or the Dolphins have made it to the playoffs within the last three years.

The Chiefs' success can be contributed to the addition of quarterback Alex Smith from the San Francisco 49ers, as well as the arrival of longtime Philadelphia Coach Andy Reid. Smith has yet to turn the ball over in the first three games of the season, and as every football fan knows at any level of the game, turnovers are a key to success.

The Miami Dolphins 3-0 start has come against tough opponents including the At-

lanta Falcons and the Indianapolis Colts. Miami's defense has been playing the best they have in the last five years, going from the bottom of the pack and working up to the top. The Dolphins second year quarterback Ryan Tannehill has played much better than he did in his rookie season, when the team failed to make the playoffs with a 7-9 record.

The 2013 season has proven to be the season of unexpected heroes and failures, and it is safe to say that these next 14 weeks will bring about a lot excitement and surprises, as no one knows who will rise and who will fall.

**Welcome back
students!
Have a great year**

Reflections

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Opinion

Attack on Syria is wrong on every level

By Alexis Lastra

After watching President Obama's address to the nation on September 10, 2013, you might be inclined to support a military strike on Syria for the use of chemical weapons. After all, chemical weapons were the cause of millions of deaths during World War I and the Holocaust. However, attacking Syria would be a direct violation of international law and would potentially open the doors for an international war.

For two years, Syria has been plagued by a brutal civil war. Atrocities have been committed by both the rebels and the government, and the United States has not become involved. However, last month the Syrian government introduced chemical weapons into the conflict. The United Nations has not punished Bashar el Assad, the president of Syria, for his actions. Now the United States wants to launch a military strike.

There are several reasons not to take this course of action. Bloodshed in Syria is inevitable at this point and even President Obama admits that U.S. military action will not resolve the civil war. Assad has killed 100,000 people since the rebellion began, but a single military strike from the U.S. will not stop the deaths from piling on. On the contrary if the U.S. does attack Syria, more innocent people will die.

Additionally, the United States could be responsible for unforeseen consequences that might affect the entire region. For example, if the missiles hit businesses they may inadvertently weaken the economy. One could argue that striking might send a message to the rest of the world never to use chemical weapons, but making America the police for the world also sends a message that the U.S. does not respect the rights of other countries to enforce their own laws. A single country should not have the power to intervene in another country's internal affairs. Only the United Nations should



have that kind of power.

Also, the United States would be violating International law itself by attacking a country that had not attacked them. An attack on Syria could harm Israel as well. Syrians might retaliate against the United States by attacking Israel, which is closer and weaker than the U.S. Attacking Israel would likely give Syria support in the Arab world. Although Israel has the means to defend itself and strike back, if this situation occurs, Israel will be forced into war.

Although Assad is outwardly anti-Israel, so are the rebels. Some are even linked to Al Qaida. Many of the rebels are religious extremists. Should they come to power there is a strong chance that they will commit genocide against the Alawite Muslim minority in power now. Moreover, even if we strike, there is no guarantee that those other countries will actually be deterred from using chemical weapons in the future. We would be risking the disapproval of the entire world for something that may not even work.

And finally, there are other ways to prevent chemical weapons from being used. The Russian government has proposed that if Syria agrees to destroy its weapons and join the Chemical Weapons Convention, then the United States could avoid striking. This tactic may fail, but even if it does, the U.S. should not strike on its own. If it really is in the world's best interest to punish Syria, then there must be other countries willing to ally themselves with the US to attack Syria together. Bypassing the U.N. makes that organization look weak and powerless. If people do not trust the U.N.'s power to enforce international law and ensure their safety, they will try to increase their security by building more weapons of mass destruction.

In the end, breaking international law in order to enforce international law corrupts the entire system, and it is a system we need, because without international law, we have no claim against atrocities like chemical weapons, particularly when they are not being used against us.

A highly unusual start to the NFL season

By Jason Mattice

The first three weeks of the 2013 NFL season are in the books, and the start of it has been anything but normal. Three teams from the 2012 season who at points were successful, the 10-6 Washington Redskins, the 9-7 New York Giants, and the 8-8 Pittsburgh Steelers, all fell back to a quick 0-3 start in 2013.

The Redskins, a playoff team from the previous year, have looked like anything but a contender for this season with losses to low caliber teams such as the Detroit Lions and the Philadelphia Eagles, neither of whom made the playoffs last year. Washington's quarterback Robert Griffin III has thrown an average of 46 passes per game, compared to 28 passes per game last year, causing a higher probability of interceptions.

This, coupled with a series of very poor starts, are the main causes for the team's 0-3 start. Washington's running back Alfred Morris needs to have more touches for their team to be successful.



The Giants have been a disappointment to the Central New York area due to the high number of fans, and their biggest disappointment by far came with a 38-0 loss to the

Carolina Panthers, a game they could have won easily, and matched up well against. The Giants' -9 turnover ratio has to be to blame for their start to the season.

The third surprising 0-3 team are the Steelers, whose losses were inexcusable against the Bears, Bengals, and Titans. The Steelers' greatest problems have consisted of many turnovers, their inconsistent run game, and the play of quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

All three teams have a chance to make a turnaround for the season in week 4. All three of these teams' losses have come as a result to turnovers, so if they can avoid giving the ball away they all should be able to collect their first wins of the season.

And while the Giants, Redskins, and Steelers are 0-3, it may be just as surprising (continued on page 2)

Metal music for thought: Kamelot

By Neal Burke

A band not well known in this country but known all throughout Europe is the Progressive/Melodic Power Metal group: Kamelot.

Formed in Tampa, Florida by lead-guitarist Thomas Youngblood and former drummer Richard Warner in 1991, the band's original lineup also included Sean Tibbets on bass (who left in 1992 and was replaced by Glenn Barry) and Mark Vanderbilt as their lead singer. In 1993 the band signed a deal with Noise Records and in 1995 released their first album called *Eternity*.

In 1997 they released their second album, *Dominion* and later that year, Vanderbilt and Warner left as they were unable to tour. Casey Grillo was brought in to replace Warner on drums, but finding a new lead singer proved to be quite the challenge. The band eventually stumbled upon Roy Khan, who was formerly the lead singer for Conception, and in order to prove himself he had to skydive with the band.

Khan would become Kamelot's voice for most of their albums, starting with the band's third album, *Siege Perilous* in 1998. That fall the band took their first tour playing all across Europe before returning to Tampa to record a new album, *The Fourth Legacy*. In the summer of 2000 the band undertook the "New Allegiance Tour" during which they played shows in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Greece and Spain and did recordings for their first live album called *The Expedition*. Their next album, entitled *Karma*, was released a few months later.

In 2003, Kamelot released *Epica*, the first part of a two album story. Two years later they released the second half, *The Black Halo*. The albums are a loose retelling of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's version of the legend of Faust, a man who sells his soul to the devil. *The Black Halo* included many guest musicians such as Shagrath from Dimmu Borgir to play the part of Mephisto, Simone Simons from Epica, the band being named after Kamelot's album, to play a woman named Marguerite, and Oliver Palotai, who played keyboards and additional guitars (Palotai would later become the fifth official member of the band in October of that year).

Also in 2005, the band made its first mu-

sic videos. The songs they did were "March of Mephisto" and "The Haunting (Somewhere in Time)."

In the fall of 2006, Kamelot returned to Gate Studios in Wolfsburg, Germany to record the album *Ghost Opera*. This album was released on June 1, 2007 in Germany,



June 4 in the rest of Europe, and June 5 in the US. This album had music videos for the songs "Rule the World," "Ghost Opera," "The Human Stain," and "Love You to Death."

The band later did a re-issue of the album entitled *Ghost Opera: The Second Coming*. This re-issue featured a new album cover design, the original *Ghost Opera* album plus a second disc featuring ten live songs from a concert in Belgrade, Serbia along with the bonus tracks: "Season's End," "The Pendulous Fall," "Epilogue," and "Rule the World (Remixed)."

In January 2009 they went to a cabin in Norway to record a new album called *Poetry for the Poisoned*. For this album the band was "experimenting with new sounds," and the topics would be diverse. In December of that year Thomas Youngblood re-



vealed that Glenn Barry had left due to personal and family commitments and had been replaced by former Kamelot member Sean Tibbets. In early 2010 titles of three songs from the album were leaked on the band's website: "The Great Pandemonium," "Hunter's Season" and "Thespian Drama."

Kamelot soon began their "Pandemonium Over Europe" tour. It was after this tour that the album's title was revealed to the public and it was released in Europe on September 10, 2010 and four days later in the US. A music video for "The Great Pandemonium" was released on September 1.

But within days Khan fell seriously ill dur-

ing rehearsals for the upcoming North American tour. While the band had initially stated that they would continue the tour with Norwegian vocalist Michael Eriksen of Circus Maximus, they later decided to postpone the tour with Khan, though one show was performed with Eriksen at the ProgPower USA XI festival in Atlanta, Georgia. But when Khan failed to recover, the band announced that Fabio Lione of Rhapsody of Fire would take his place for the remainder of the rescheduled tour dates on the Pandemonium Over Latin America, Europe and North America tours in 2011, and later the 70,000 Tons of Metal Cruise in 2012.

In April of 2011 Kamelot released *Poetry For The Poisoned & Live From Wacken* Limited Tour Edition which also included the last recorded performance of Khan with the band.

Following a period of uncertainty, both Khan and the band released separate statements announcing Khan's departure from Kamelot on April 21 and 22 respectively. A number of reasons played into his departure. One was the fact that he had been sick. He also suffered a "burnout" and had already decided to leave the band anyway, to prioritize his health and family, but the band kept this secret in case he recovered and changed his mind.

It was later revealed by Youngblood, then confirmed in Khan's personal blog, that a religious aspect also played a role in his departure. Youngblood did keep in contact with Khan after his departure and said that he is doing well and is happy, living with his family in Norway.

On June 22, 2012, Youngblood announced that Tommy Karevik had replaced Khan as the lead vocalist. "I am so honored to now be a part of this family and I can't wait to move into the new era of the band together with the guys," he noted. "I fully understand that this comes with great responsibility and that it will be a big challenge for me as a singer as well as a person, but you can rest assured I will give it my all. From this day, a new journey has begun and I am really eager to meet you all along the way to share my passion for this music!"

Youngblood did state that Karevik has exceeded expectations as lead singer, so it is safe to assume that the band will still have great success.

What do you like most about the fall?



"I like fall because of the color change in the leaves."

Mrs. Hawley



"I like fall because of the desserts and the decorations."

Mrs. House



"I like fall because it's soccer season and I like stomping on opponents faces."

Mr. Murray



"I like fall because the NFL football season starts."

Robby Pollock

Meteorology and you

By *Carson Metcalf*



Today:



Mostly sunny. High 70. Record 80 (1973). Avg. 68.

Tonight:



Clear with areas of patchy fog. Low 48. Record low: 30 (1965). Avg. low: 47.

Tomorrow:

Sunny. High near 75. Record high/low: 83/25 (1929/1947). Avg. high: 67/47.

Sunday:

Mostly sunny. High near 75. Low near 50. Record high/low: 90/30 (1959/2000). Avg: 67/46.

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