

The Knight Writer



St. Augustine High School
1300 Galveston
Laredo, Texas



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Getting it Right the First Time



Since the start of the 2008-2009 soccer season, Coaches and players alike set a standard that was to be met at all costs. District play began in early December with a showdown between MMA and St. Augustine which ended in a tough loss for St. Augustine. After that game, the season progressed with different challenges among its path. As Border Olympics was approaching, St. Augustine was considered “The Underdog” to win the tournament. They proved to be the underdog by advancing to the playoff rounds in the regional tournament. When district play resumed in late January the Knights were more than prepared. **(Cont on pg. 2)**

Knights Clinch District Title

By Daniel De Leon

The Knights came out “runnin and gunnin” on Friday afternoon, at what would be the game that would decide the eventual basketball district champions, vs. St. Joseph’s Academy from Brownsville.

Both schools were out to prove that they were the team to beat in district play on Friday afternoon at the St. Augustine Wellness Center. Both teams went into the game with identical records — needing one win to clinch the title and be named champions. The first quarter was close as both teams darted out of the locker rooms with an aggressive mind set. It was the Knights’ though will that would come out in the second quarter, hungrier and more motivated. The Knights shot “lights out” and played with exceptional defense from the start of the second quarter until the end of the game. Their efforts went on as they won 65-36 and earned the title of *District Champions*. “It was a total team effort and I am really proud of our guys. They proved that they can play smart basketball and team basketball,” praised Coach Romo.

Patricio Canavati led the Knights with 26 points followed by Robert Rathmell and Alfonso Benavides with 10 points each. Go Knights!
Pictures by: Marett Flores



Sports || Soccer

Getting it Right the First Time

(Cont. from pg. 1)

In the second meeting with MMA, the knights posted an impressive 2-1 victory. This win put them back on track. St. Joseph, the stronger rival in the district was to come to Laredo for an anticipated showdown. The game lived up to its expectations, having St. Joseph jump out with a 2-0 lead in the first half. The knights managed to regroup and mount an incredible comeback scoring 3 goals in 7 minutes and keeping the lead to secure the win. This put St. Augustine in the leading spot in the district with 6 points. St. Joseph and MMA trail rounded out the district with 4 points each. The district championship game was set. Brownsville was the stage for the highly anticipated match. The setting was as expected full of cheering fans and a daunting field of play. All the knights needed was a tie or a win to secure the district title and home advantage thought the playoffs but St. Joseph was determined to nab it away. The Bloodhounds took off with a 2-0 lead in the first half again. The knights were challenged again to comeback and win the game. It was clear that the knights wanted it more, scoring 4 goals in 15 minutes to seal the deal. St. Augustine soccer team keeps writing history, having achieved a district championship title in its first year of official competition. The knights host Holy Cross in the first round of the playoffs in a home game. The knights hope to bring a State Championship back home.



CHAMPIONS

World || Events

Will Our Troops Come Home?

By: Patrick Palacios and Ramon Diez—Barroso

Troops located in Iraq might have to cope with more time in the field. The withdrawal of these troops has been delayed until the Pentagon gives the President more information on this issue. The officials inside the Pentagon are giving the President three options in which to bring the soldiers back: a 16, 19, or 23 month plan. “The President is not fixated on a time frame. He has taken a step back and is reflecting on what’s at stake”, said a White House official. As current statistics show, troop levels in Iraq will drop from 14 brigades to 12 brigades by the end of 2009. As for now, troops will remain in Iraq to protect the U.S and to continue to stabilize the Iraqi government.



Tragedy in the Land Down Under

By: Patrick Palacios and Ramon Diez—Barroso

A series of wildfires have slowly destroyed land in the beautiful country of Australia. These wildfires are moving along through the state of Victoria. Firefighters are showing the severity of these fires by comparing it to a holocaust. Two towns in Victoria have been completely wiped out, along with other cities damaged in the state of Victoria. These fires are being classified as the worst in the nation’s history. The recent count of deaths has topped the 75 toll and around 500,000 acres of land has been destroyed. “Hell and all its fury has visited the good people of Victoria in the last 24 hours”, said the Australian Prime Minister. Firefighters are doing their best to control this catastrophe.



Community || Revolution

The English Language

By: Gerardo de la Garza

We are in the 21st century. Everyday we are faced with new challenges that change the structure of our society indefinitely. The thing is, that these changes not only “upgrade” our lives, they also evolve them. Among the biggest players susceptible to change is the way we dress, the way we act, and of course, the way we speak. Communication is one of the biggest concepts in our lives that is receiving the change. Meanings change, pronunciations change, but does spelling change? Ladies and gentlemen, we are in the midst of an English Language Revolution.

My inspiration for writing this article is largely based on Mr. Alex Troy Duarte’s annoyance of the spelling of typical words like “Wednesday.” Even though it may seem funny to the casual reader, it is true that there are many words in the English language whose spelling often seem incomprehensible—Wednesday, February, debt, only to name a few. When asked about whether the Revolution is legit, Mr. Karl Peña, Junior English Teacher, said that there should be a change because otherwise, we would be stuck in a rut. He also said that if we change the spelling of certain words, it will allow us to become better acquainted with the language and evolve in the way we think. On the other hand, when Mrs. Melba “The Terminator” Gonzales was asked, she said, “No way! Change is good, but when it comes to grammar, change would ultimately be confusing, to everyone.” Although both opinions are opposing, they both have some sense in them.

The ELR is a valiant effort to do what one thinks is right. Those who believe that the spelling of some words should be changed should know that they are enticing an entire revolution for the language. During one of my conversations with Duarte, he said, “Guys, just like every revolution the ELR will have opposition, but what revolution doesn’t?” When asked where he got the inspiration to say that immortal line he probably got from a Che Guevara movie.



Perhaps, the ELR may be short lived, but something that we do know is that English is not just spoken in the US or in Great Britain, it is a global language. English is everywhere, like it or not. It also has changed and small variations have been made depending on where it is being spoken. Therefore, I believe, sooner or later, change will be unprecedented and inevitable.

Example: These three words only have one difference, the first letter but yet are all pronounced differently!

COMB

TOMB

BOMB

What's New || Technology

Want to know where your friends are? Google it...

By: Molly Vela

Google has launched a new tool that allows mobile phone users to track friends and contacts on its Google Maps software. The new feature, called Latitude, will allow users to share their location with other mobile phone users and find contacts who are located nearby.. As part of the Google Maps 3.0 software, Latitude will initially only be available on Blackberry mobile phones. Senior executives at Google said that Latitude was designed to answer the question that almost all mobile phone users ask first when making a call: "Where are you?" The new software will answer that question on-screen by leaning on local wi-fi services to calculate a fellow user's approximate position. Not so useful when one needs to make excuses for being late.



How accurate is Wikipedia?

After Bruce Springsteen's Wikipedia biography was defaced by hoaxers during his Superbowl performance last Month, people begin to wonder whether the online encyclopedia can overcome its current problems. It is one of the 10 most-visited sites on the web. When you want to find out the latest facts on a developing news story, Wikipedians are updating the site in time for you. It is an encyclopedia for the people, by the people. But eight years on, Wikipedia is plagued by endless hoaxes, riven by boardroom rebellion and lurches from one cash crisis to another. Vandalism and error are have driven users to the conclusion that the only way to increase accuracy is to reduce its access to the public.



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A History of Romance

By: Lizette Villarreal



Valentine's Day is a day of love and celebration for couples, it is also a day of giving and receiving amongst friends, family, and loved ones— but just where did this tradition originate? The history of Valentine's Day is surrounded by mystery. "St. Valentine's Day," as it is formally known, merges both Christian and ancient Roman traditions. Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

One legend depicts Valentine as a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine did not agree with this declaration and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine was discovered, Claudius ordered his death. Other tales suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where they were often beaten and tortured.

Another legend describes Valentine as actually sending the first "valentine" himself. The story continues that while in prison, Valentine fell in love with a girl, who was believed to be the jailors daughter, who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still used today.

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial, others claim that the Christian church may have decided to celebrate Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to 'Christianize' celebrations of the pagan Lupercalia festival.

Today, Valentine's Day has kept its initial significance of remembering and celebrating one's love for another, with the exchange of tokens of love and appreciation.

Fashion || Spring

'09 Trends

By: Carla Vidal and Mary Martinez

Now that winter is coming to an end, the spring trends are starting to bloom. They can already be seen in all type of fashion shows and stores all over the world. Whether it is hair, make-up, or clothes, these trends are going to blow you away. If you thought some winter fashions were crazy, they are getting even crazier. Sheer/see-through fabrics and fringed dresses or shirts are making a huge impact in spring fashion. Silk pants and the famous mini-skirt also play a big part in the spring. Pegged and baggy jeans are making a comeback from the 90's and becoming part of today's fashion. Another comeback is a common spring fashion, floral prints. The print can be seen all over dresses, shirts, handbags, and just about anywhere else. Asymmetrical dresses and shirts are also making their way to spring fashion from winter. Ruffles, which were big part of winter fashion as well, will also be seen in spring. When talking about spring make-up trends, thick and dark eyeliner is essential. Peach blush will be replacing pink blush and bronzer for an in-between look. Spring hairstyles don't make a huge change from winter fashion. Pulled-back ponytails with a bun have been extremely popular in runway shows since last season. Long, mermaid-like hair is also "in" during this season, just like the past one. As the season goes by, more trends will start to bloom, so keep your eyes open for more new, fascinating trends.





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