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# The COMMONS

Published biweekly by and for the Upper School students of Riverfield Country Day School in Tulsa, OK

VOLUME VI NO. 4

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Three o'clock is always too late or too early for anything you want to do. —Sartre



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The COMMONS is published biweekly during the school year by the Upper School Newspaper class at Riverfield Country Day School, 2433 W. 61st Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74132. No issues are published the weeks of Fall Campout, Winter Break and Spring Break.

The COMMONS reserves the right to edit any article or letter submitted for publication. Send all submissions to the Editor-in-Chief at [mafaeth@riverfield.org](mailto:mafaeth@riverfield.org). All opinions expressed are those of the individual writers and do not reflect positions of the newspaper staff, advisers, or school administration.

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"The evolution of the newspaper has been interesting." — Matt Faeth

## Our 5th Anniversary

By Bryce Rossler  
STAFF WRITER

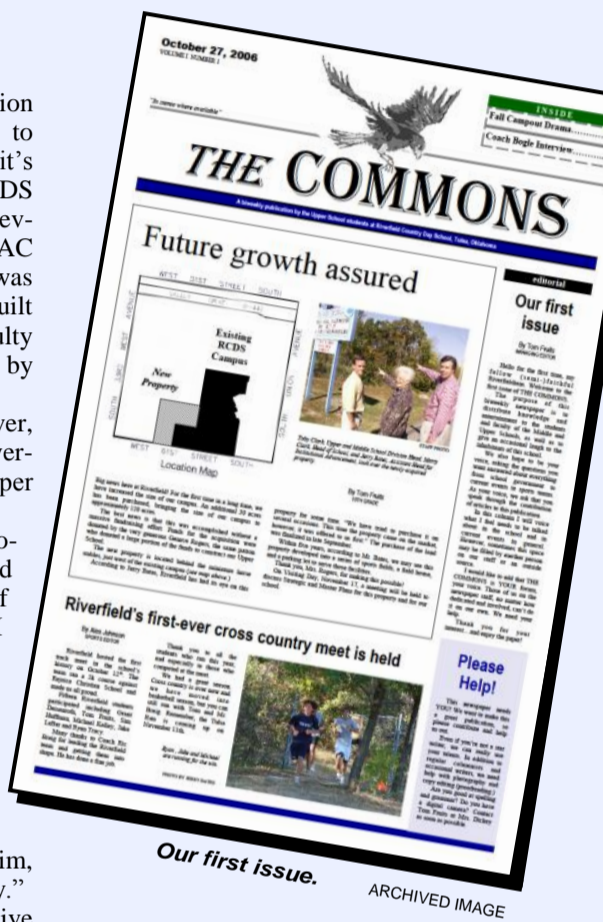
Reflecting on the multimillion dollar building project set to commence next summer, it's amazing to think how far RCDS has progressed in the past several years. The LAC and TAC were erected, Martha S. Clark Field was christened in 2009, tennis courts were built just last year, and a surplus of new faculty and students has been readily absorbed by the Riverfield community.

Older than all of these things, however, is TheCOMMONS. As of today, Riverfield's biweekly Upper School newspaper is five years old.

It all started in 2006 when sophomores Tom Fruits, Sim Huffman and Alex Johnson came up with the idea of starting a student-led publication. I caught up with Tom Fruits, the newspaper's first editor-in-chief and now a student at the University of Oklahoma. "I originally had the idea to start the paper when I realized there were no electives I was interested in," he said. "The early days of the paper were a fairly rocky time, when it was just Sim, Alex and me with the aid of Mrs. Dickey."

Mrs. Dickey, who has an extensive background in print communications, was originally brought on as a parent-adviser to help get the paper off the ground. Once the publication was launched, Mr. Clark wanted her to continue working on it, so she became part of the faculty. "I was surprised that I enjoyed it so much," she said.

Mrs. Jacobs served as an additional faculty adviser for the newspaper's third year of publication, and Mr. Hodges took her place after she moved to Portland, Oregon for a year. He has now begun his third



year as a newspaper adviser.

TheCOMMONS continues to win multiple awards for journalistic excellence in competitions at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah.

Matt Faeth, the second and current editor-in-chief of TheCOMMONS noted that "the evolution of the newspaper has been interesting. Despite losing several key staff members each year, we keep attracting new talent and improving."

The legacy lives on.

## Boeing debuts new 787s

By Sam Laney  
NEWS EDITOR

Boeing recently released the 787 family of jets. These planes are the most efficient in class and travel at on par speeds. The planes use 20% less fuel and have 20% fewer emissions, an improvement for the companies putting the planes into service as well as for the environment.

The new planes use up to 50% composite materials and new engines to achieve the massive efficiency increase. The new design has eliminated 1,500 aluminum sheets and 60 miles of copper wiring. The number of holes drilled in the fuselage of a 747 is around 1 million. In the new 787, that number has been reduced to less than 10,000.

The design required 800,000 hours of supercomputer use to complete. Boeing estimates up to 30% savings for operators when it comes to maintenance as well.

The 787 Dreamliner has many advantages for operators wishing to reduce costs, and it also has reduced environmental impact. The unit cost is around \$200 million for a jet that carries about half what a 747 can for the same cost. Operating costs could reduce this difference, however.

Boeing has already begun delivery of the new jets and the company predicts sales of around 3,300 units over the next 20 years.

## Occupy Wall Street movement is growing

By Matt Faeth  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On September 17, approximately 1,000 people in New York City gathered to protest at the New York Stock Exchange. Police blocked off the stock exchange, so protesters moved a couple of blocks away to the intersection of Liberty and Broadway where many of them spent the night in sleeping bags to make their point. A core group of protesters remains there today.

The demonstrators' chief complaints have been against corporate greed, income inequality, and corporate influence on politics.

A week later on September 24, tensions began to mount between demonstrators in Union Square and the New York Police Department. The number of arrests began to increase. NYPD

claimed the protesters did not have a permit to march. Protesters were forced onto buses, and

in one case a fist fight took place between a protester and a police officer. Videos of the

conflict are all over YouTube, and tweets have been posted at a very high volume, adding fire to this "Occupy Wall Street" movement that is rapidly gaining momentum.

In simultaneous protests on October 15, according to Yahoo! News, "hundreds of thousands of people around the world rallied ... from Pittsburgh to Rome. In New York City alone, more than 70 protesters were arrested ... Meanwhile, nearly 200 protesters were arrested in Chicago after refusing to leave a tent city in Congress Plaza ... Monetary donations are pouring in on the Occupy website, as well as at demonstrations. The once fledgling movement has raised \$300,000 in donations [as of 10-15], according to the Associated Press."



Protesters rally in Downtown Tulsa on October 15 in solidarity with the Occupy movement. PHOTO COURTESY JASON BRIMER

weekend weather

SAT 70

SUN 70

INFORMATION FROM WEATHER.COM, 10/28/11, 9:30 a.m.

# 2 Sports / Opinions

VISITING DAY is Nov. 18  
— only 3 weeks away!

## Riverfield's basketball season begins

By Bryce Rossler  
STAFF WRITER

"I felt a bit cheated," said senior forward Tristan Hightower, referring to last year's basketball season.

After inclement weather in February cancelled the remainder of their basketball season, the Ravens had to settle for sharing the Cherokee Conference title with another team. As first-year conference members, Riverfield was on top of the league standings with just a few games to go

until the record-setting snows caused games across the state to be cancelled.

"It's time to prove that we shouldn't have had to share that title," added Hightower.

After two straight 20-win seasons, the Riverfield Ravens are heading into the 2011-12 season as the defending Cherokee Conference co-champions and new OSSAA members.

Last year, the Ravens sent four players to the conference All-Star game. However going into this season, the Ravens have lost two of those All-Stars.

Zack Allen, last year's All-Conference Offensive Player of the Year, and Kevin Daroga, the All-Conference Defensive Player of the Year, both graduated last May.

The Ravens are looking to build on last year's in-conference success and replicate that success in their first year as an OSSAA team.

Head Coach Jason Bogle is confident about the upcoming season. "There's not a game I'm worried about," he said. "I think we can win all of them if we show up to them prepared."

As the team prepares itself for what they hope will be a championship season, Riverfield students and fans should prepare themselves for quite a show.

The first Varsity scrimmages are scheduled for next Thursday, November 3, at Wright Christian.

**Varsity Girls' captain Abby Gore is also looking forward to a successful season this year. Look for a preview of the Varsity Girls' team in our next issue on November 11.**

PHOTO BY MATTHEW FAETH



## Is cheering a sport?

On November 2, 1898, a Princeton graduate by the name of Johnny Campbell coordinated and led an organized cheer at a University of Minnesota football game. That was the beginning of organized cheerleading. In the early years, men wore suits and houndstooth check hats and coordinated cheers. Now women wear skirts and halters and lead them. Cheerleading has developed significantly since its origins ... but is it a sport?

YES

By Darby Rossler  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When Bryce told me we were going to write "sibling rivalry" articles on whether cheerleading was a sport or not, I asked him if he could come to one of our practices. A lot of people don't know the amount of work it takes to be a good cheerleader.

You have to be flexible to do proper jumps, you have to be strong to be a base, and you have to be brave to be a flyer. I'm not saying that just because you are brave, that makes cheer a sport. But you do have to be brave to trust people to throw you in the air.

Bryce believes that cheer isn't a sport because it's not competitive. I think that is a completely wrong idea.

There is something called competitive cheering, where you go to competitions and compete against other cheer squads. You are judged there, and just like in other sports, you either win or lose.

Cheer takes skill, too. You have to work at tumbling and stunting more than other things in cheer. Some people spend a very long time learning how to tumble.

In my opinion, sports have different levels of difficulty. Cheerleading might not be on the top of the difficulty ladder, but cheer should definitely be considered an official sport.

NO

By Bryce Rossler  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Cheerleading is little more than synchronized claps, dance moves, light lifting, and harmonized chanting. It can be impressive, though. Cheerleaders do get hurt, and it does require a lot of athleticism and skill to do what they do. But these facts do not qualify it as a sport.

A sport is, by definition, an athletic activity of a competitive nature requiring skill or physical prowess. Cheerleading does not fulfill all of these requirements.

"But what about competitive cheerleading?" you may ask. In principle, this is a lot like saying that debate is a sport. In debate, a group performs a rehearsed exhibition, is judged, ranked, and a winner is then determined.)

In competitive cheerleading, a squad does not directly influence others' performance. In football, for example, if Player A does not tackle Player B at the goal line, Player B scores. Player A and Player B *directly influence and affect* one another's performance.

Until cheerleading is able to integrate direct competition into itself, it will not and should not be considered a sport.

Of course, there are exceptions to this rule. Golf, oddly enough, is virtually universally accepted as a sport, although cheerleading requires much more athleticism.



Some think being Bryce's sister might qualify as a sport, too.

PHOTO BY MATTHEW FAETH

## World Series goes to Game 7

By Ryan Peake  
STAFF WRITER

The 2011 World Series matches two of the three most favorite teams in the tri-state area: the St. Louis Cardinals, who are six hours away from Tulsa, and the Texas Rangers, who are just four hours away.

The Cardinals barely made it past the wild card with a win over one of the worst teams, the Astros, and the Braves losing to the Phillies, which was the best team. The Cardinals sneaked into the playoffs by one game, then beat the favorite Phillies in the first round. After beating the Mil-

waukee Brewers in the National League Championship Series, they were propelled into the World Series.

The Rangers, on the other hand, made it into the playoffs quite easily. First, the Rangers played the wild card winner, the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Then they beat the Detroit Tigers in the American League Championship Series.

The Cardinals are looking to add another World Series win to their ten, while the Rangers are looking for their first-ever title in only their second appearance.

After six games, the Rangers and the Cardinals are 3-3.

In Games 4 and 5, Cardinals All-Star Albert Pujols was 0-6, while the Rangers' emerging hero, Mike Napoli, won the two games with dramatic, game-winning hits. In Game 4, Napoli hit a three-run home run and a two-run double in the 8th inning.

At first, I thought the Rangers would blow out the Cardinals. But St. Louis has been full of surprises. Last night the Cardinals won a dramatic Game 6 with a walk-off home run in the 11th inning, forcing the Series into a Game 7 tonight.

I believe the Rangers will take Game 7 and the Series.

### ATTENTION 10TH-11TH-12TH GRADE ATHLETES!

Would you like an official RCDS letter jacket?

If so, e-mail Mrs. Pugh soon ([apugh@riverfield.org](mailto:apugh@riverfield.org)).

Prices for the basic jacket increase after November 1.

Mrs. Pugh has sample sizes in her office that you can try on.

## The U.S. has always been in debt

By Nick Hartman  
FEATURES EDITOR

The U.S. debt may seem like a relatively new concept for most of us born in the late 20th century. What many don't realize is that the United States has had debt ever since its founding.

Debts from the Revolutionary War and the cost of the original government (Articles of Confederation) amounted to a little more than \$75 million (\$1.75 billion in today's dollars) on January 1, 1791.

However, 18 of the next 20 years after 1791 had a surplus, and the U.S. paid back 99.97% of its debt.

Using the website *measuringworth.com*, an accurate calculation of inflation and other variables will allow you to see how much money each debt would be today.

The next major creator of U.S. debt was the Civil War. By the end of the war in 1865, the U.S. was \$2.7 billion in debt

(\$31.86 billion today).

Following the end of World War I in 1918, the United States' debt came to the astounding total of \$25.2 billion (\$254.5 billion today).

At the end of World War II in 1945, the total came to \$33.7 billion (\$337 billion today).

After that war, gross debt went down until the Reagan and Bush administrations (1980-1992) when it quadrupled due to Reaganomics.

It was in 2000 when the debt rose to \$3.4 trillion (\$4.25 tril-

lion today) due to the dot-com bubble. During the presidency of George W. Bush, the national debt rose from \$5.7 to \$10.7 trillion thanks to the "War on Terror" and other causes.

Today our debt rests at \$14.7 trillion. The gross GDP that is now owed is around 87%. Compared to 1945 when it was almost 120%, we are not in the worst state ever.

Our government has always pulled through, and we can only hope that we will be able to pull through again.

### HISTORY OF U.S. GOVERNMENT DEBT

Year	Approx. Total (in 2010 dollars)	Main Cause of Debt	Approx. % of GDP
1791	\$1.75 billion	American Revolution	less than 20%
1865	\$32 billion	Civil War	37%
1918	\$254.5 billion	World War I	27%
1946	\$337 billion	World War II	120%
2000	\$4.25 trillion	Dot-com bubble	60%
2008	\$10.7 trillion	War & other causes	70%
2011	\$14.2 trillion	War & other causes	87%

Information from [usgovernmentspending.com](http://usgovernmentspending.com)

# 3 A&E

**SIGNUP DEADLINE:** Those interested in traveling to England and Scotland next summer must register by Oct. 31 to receive the guaranteed lowest price. See Mr. Hodges a.s.a.p! ...

## Labyrinth built by students, staff

By Meghan Kelkar  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

On October 20, the faculty and staff built a new place for students to go to focus and find themselves. It is called a "labyrinth," which is a pathway built in the shape of an ancient

symbol that relates to wholeness.

Many would relate this to a maze, but a maze is a place people go to lose themselves, while a labyrinth is where people go to find themselves.

Patti Grice and school counselor Kim Harper were inspired

to begin this project after reading the book "A Whole New Mind" by Daniel Pink. "The philosophy behind [the book] is a perfect fit for Riverfield," said Mrs. Grice.

The labyrinth is being built near the pathway by the bridge. Some students have contributed to this project as well. A few of the Service classes have been placing stones to fit the design, and some of the Art students sketched designs on ground cloths to indicate the position of the stones.

Plans are to have the labyrinth completed by November 8, when there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony. The following day, students will be invited to see the labyrinth along with its new outdoor area.

I am very excited to see the new labyrinth, and I believe it will make a great addition to Riverfield!



These students couldn't wait to start exploring the new labyrinth.  
PHOTO BY PATRICIA DICKEY

## Fall fashions full of colorful new options

By Meghan Kelkar  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

It is unfortunate but true that the current weather does not agree with our preference for wearing shorts, flip-flops, and a t-shirt.

The days are becoming colder and shorter. So what can we wear to be cute but protected from the cold?

An initial reaction would be to reach for a jacket. According to *glamour.com*, you should go for blazers and jackets with "whittled-in-at-the-waist" silhouettes. These can be worn with a simple pair of jeans. In addition, wearing a polka dot scarf or blouse can create a fun spin to your outfit.

Some colors that are in this season are jade green and a rust

color that goes with all the other fall colors.

If you're not thrilled with the idea of a pair of jeans or sweatpants, you can always try on a maxi skirt! It will keep you warm, and you can pair it with a cozy sweater.

If you want an outfit that will be great for school and also for going out with your friends, lacy shirts are always acceptable in any season.

Granny plaids are also making a comeback, but before you judge this style entirely, go take a look. Stores are making it a more modern style that will please all shoppers.

As far as accessories go, any earrings or necklaces in fall colors such as orange, brown, or a golden color will pair up nicely with any outfit this fall.

## Netflix cancels 'Qwikster' plans

By Sam Laney  
NEWS EDITOR

Netflix recently released a statement saying that it would split its DVD rental and online streaming services into two separate operations. However, later there was an abrupt change of plan. The company has decided it will not split the services after all.

The plan would have established separate websites for the two operations along with separate accounts.

Reed Hastings, CEO of Netflix, explained the original "split statement." He said that he did not want the company to fall into the same hole as

other companies that have not kept up with the times. Netflix wanted to concentrate on streaming content online while spinning off the older DVD rental business into a separate operation under the name "Qwikster."

However, the public outcry was loud and immediate. People did not like the idea of having to establish and pay for two separate accounts or eliminate one type of service.

The next blog post released by Hastings was shorter and said the change would have been viewed as inconvenient by some. The post took an almost dejected tone as the CEO stated, "This means no change: one

website, one account, one password ... in other words, no Qwikster."

The move to remain a two-in-one operation is no doubt a good one. The idea of making the service more complicated for customers with two websites, two accounts, and two pricing structures was a seriously bad one. Simplification is the trend today, not the opposite.

Hastings' posts indicate the most likely scenario is that DVD services will die out, but doing away with them is much more extreme than slowly phasing them out. The consumer has spoken, and in this case, won.



The movie is now being shown at Riverwalk.

PHOTO BY MATTHEW FAETH

## Sheridan's 'Dream House' is underrated

By Max Harkness  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As an avid movie fan, I've been shocked by the sheer decline in quality in horror movies since the home video travesty of *Blair Witch Project*. Instead of inspiring true horror and scares, directors around the world have found that showing simple gory gruesomeness and using "it's not here, now it is" tactics will make people jump.

Among other reasons, that is why critics have completely and unfairly trounced on *Dream House*. This is the latest film from expert director Jim Sheridan, who is coming off another underrated pic, *Brothers*.

Like any good director, Sheridan has some great visual sense, using tons of over-the-head shots and inspiring Kubrickian wonderment with

the landscapes he's chosen.

He also has a great handle with actors, using Daniel Craig, who is also the latest and second greatest James Bond. Craig has a distinctive look while he's acting that makes it seem like he's thinking, showing a bit of a Robert De Niro influence.

But unlike most directors of today's horror films, Sheridan doesn't bait and switch. Instead, he builds the suspense at a steady pace. Sure, he takes the Michael Bay route of picking a lowly, confusing script, but the visual splendor and actorly hands he shows gives the film a clean look and builds it in a spectacular way.

It's a pleasant surprise this year before everything gets destroyed in the formula-weariness flick, *Paranormal Activity 3*. This Halloween, go see a decent horror film instead.

## Movie Night at RCDS on Nov. 11

By Meghan Kelkar  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Due to complications, our Student Council was unable to host the annual Halloween Dance this year. Instead, the Council and Social Committee have joined forces to create a brand new event for Riverfield!

On Friday, November 11, they will host a Movie Night at RCDS. The event will start at 7 p.m., and \$4 admission will be charged at the door. A different room in the LAC will be set up for each film genre. For instance, in one room there will be a scary movie, and in another a romantic comedy.

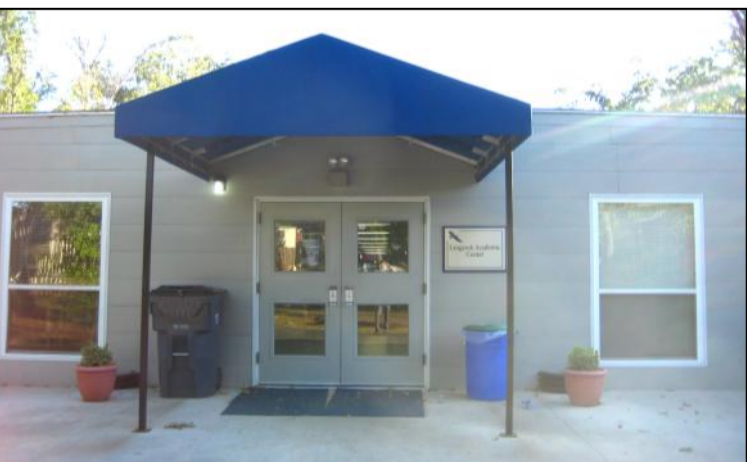
The Council will decorate the rooms with beanbag chairs and blankets, but the students are allowed to bring whatever they like to Movie Night. Concessions such as popcorn, candy, drinks, etc. will be for sale.

Student Council President Matt Faeth said, "It's always exciting to try out new social activities and possibly establish events that will continue in coming years."

I also talked to Alex Tiu, a new student at Riverfield this year. She says she is very excited about Movie Night and can't wait to attend the first social event of the year.

It is very important that people attend because all the money raised at Movie Night will go toward our school's Prom in April.

So, we invite all the Upper School students to try out this new social event and enjoy themselves!



Two weeks from tonight, the LAC will be turned into a full-on movie theater. Come check it out!

PHOTO BY MATTHEW FAETH

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the Upper School's brand new Academic Bowl team. On Monday, October 24, they won their very first meet — a district competition. Way to go, team!

# 4 Features

COMING UP IN OUR NEXT ISSUE: Muskogee's Castle, a preview of "Skyrim," doomsday theories, a monstrous bee swarm, and more ...

## Amazon's Kindle Fire is out

By Sam Laney  
NEWS EDITOR

There is a new contender in the tablet world called the Kindle Fire. This new 7" tablet boasts a low price of \$199. It has all the standard features: web browsing, apps, games, e-books and document viewing.

The Fire will run on a modified Android and has a slower processor than Apple's iPad. But what does this mean?

The Fire does not compete with the on-paper specs of the iPad, but at \$400 less than the basic iPad, that is no surprise. The Fire does not have an option for 3g. The internal storage is only 8GB, and there is no support for expanding that. The device does have free cloud storage, but that ties the device to a hotspot.

In the real world, a tablet device does not replace a regular computer. Tablets have amusing applications and can browse the web, but in the end they are nothing more than an expensive toy. The Kindle Fire can perform the same basic functions as all tablets, albeit with fewer apps than iPad, so the difference in specs doesn't matter much. There is almost no situation when the increased processing speed of the iPad would be needed.

The Fire is a reasonably priced tablet for those that want a toy, not a status symbol. The Fire has functionality comparable to the iPad. There may be fewer apps and fewer features, but Amazon's new tablet is a cheaper version of tablets already in existence.

## Uncovering the true purpose of sleep

By Nick Hartman  
FEATURE EDITOR

So, why do we sleep?

Why do we spend an average of eight hours a night and a third of our lives in bed?

There are many theories, but new research shows the most likely purpose of sleep is to give the brain time to re-view and sort the knowledge it has encountered during the day. Some of it is discarded and some is stored in the correct context. According to this theory, sleep is required for learning and memory.

Writers on *pbs.org* have written about this need for sleep and really drive their point home about how important it is. The following is a passage from their article "The Teenage Brain."

"Many experiments supplied direct evidence that sleep

is crucial for learning. One test used subjects that were trained to identify letters that appeared for a blink of an eye on a computer screen. Then half the subjects were sent home to sleep while the other half were deprived of sleep for the entire night, and only then went home to rest. Two days later when all the subjects were rested and refreshed, the scientists checked their ability to read the flashing letters. None of the participants was tired, yet the people who went to sleep right after the training performed much better than the ones who went to sleep a day later. This suggests that the night sleep immediately after the activity was crucial for gaining the most from the session. Without it, the training was much less effective."

This proves once and for all the importance of getting a good night's sleep.



Do we sleep to "recharge our low batteries," or is there actually another reason?  
ARTWORK BY CLAIRE WHITE

## Neutrinos: have we discovered a particle that can travel faster than the speed of light?

By Nick Hartman  
FEATURES EDITOR

Results from a 1,300 metric-ton particle detector named Oscillation Project with Emulsion-Tracking Apparatus (OPERA) have given the world a new look at Albert Einstein's equations.

Located in Italy's subterranean Gran Sasso National Laboratory, OPERA detects neutrinos fired through the earth from the European particle physics laboratory, CERN, in Switzerland.

As the particles hardly interact at all with other matter, they stream right through the ground, with only a very few striking the material in the detector and making a noticeable shower of particles.

Over three years, OPERA researchers timed the roughly 16,000 neutrinos that started at CERN and registered a hit in the detector. They found that, on average, the neutrinos made the 730-kilometer, 2.43-millisecond trip roughly 60 nanoseconds faster than expected if they were

traveling at light speed.

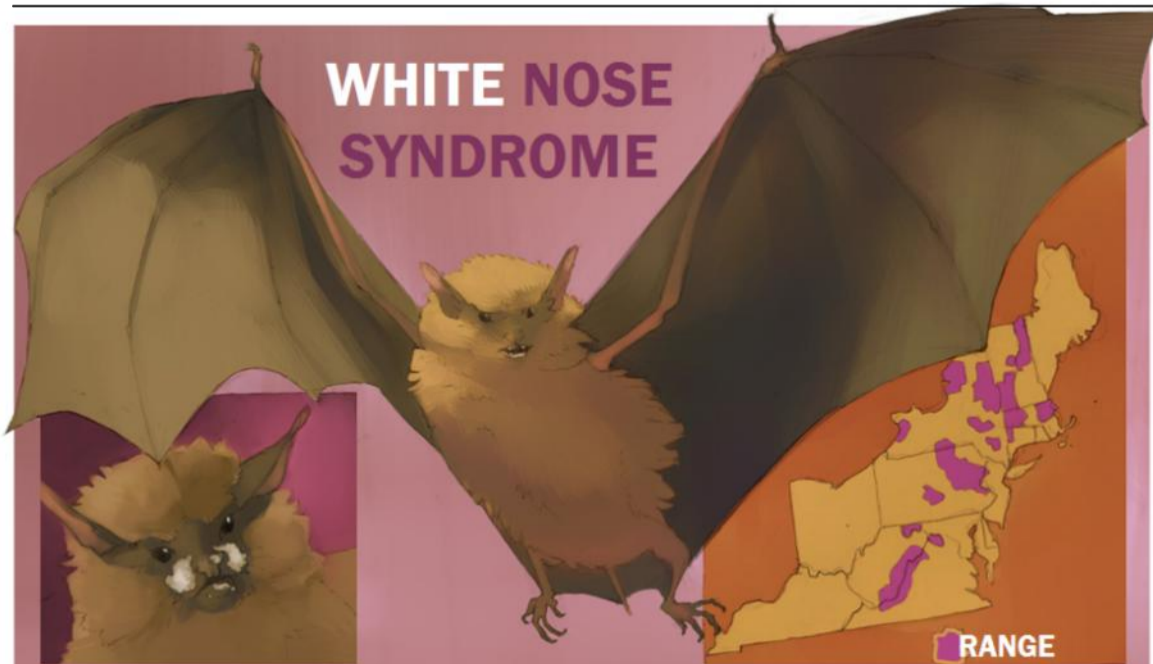
If these observations are true, they would wreck Einstein's theory of special relativity, which demands that nothing can travel faster than light.

However, scientists working with OPERA do not necessarily want to say the Einstein's theory of special relativity is wrong. OPERA researchers are simply presenting a curious result that they cannot explain and asking the scientific community to scrutinize it.

Antonio Ereditato, a physi-

cist at the University of Bern and spokesperson for the 160-member OPERA collaboration, had the following to say, "We are forced to say something. We could not sweep it under the carpet because that would be dishonest."

The most prevalent question in the scientific community is whether the experiment created an unidentified "systematic error" that skewed the results. No one knows if the results were skewed, and we can only hope that we will know in the future.



**T**he White Nose Syndrome is a mysterious fungal disease first discovered in New York in the year 2006. During the critical period of hibernation, a fuzzy white fungus appears on the face and wings of a bat and causes it to rouse prematurely from its deep sleep. The infected bat will then use up precious fat reserves searching for insects, which are scarce in midwinter. The small mammal will usually die from cold or starvation before the winter is over. The disease is prevalent in moist and cold enclosed areas, the ideal roosts for bats. No cure or solution is known for the disease, which has crept steadily westward over the past five years. The map above shows the confirmed locations of diseased bat colonies as of 2010.

INFOGRAPHIC BY KENZIE ZWAYER

## AAV2 virus found to kill cancer cells

By Claire White  
STAFF WRITER

It is difficult to argue about the necessity of a cure for cancer. One of the most frequently occurring types of cancer in the world, breast cancer, is also the second leading cause of death in women in the United States. Thankfully, researchers at the Pennsylvania State College of Medicine may have stumbled upon a breakthrough.

The researchers have found a non-disease-causing virus called AAV2 that is capable of killing breast cancer cells in at least three different stages of development.

One of the researchers, Craig Meyers, said that "Because [breast cancer] has multiple stages, you can't treat all women the same. Currently, treatment of breast cancer is dependent on multiple factors

such as hormone-dependency, invasiveness and metastases, drug resistance, and potential toxicities. Our study shows that AAV2, as a single entity, targets all different grades of breast cancer."

In laboratory cultures, AAV2 was able to kill malignant cancer cells in just six days. Additionally, AAV2 can also target cervical, prostate and squamous cancer cells.

The researchers are currently attempting to determine how AAV2 kills the harmful cells. "We can see the virus is killing the cancer cells, but how is it doing it?" asks research associate Samina Alam.

Currently the virus is not being used in humans because our immune systems could potentially target it. Once we understand how AAV2 works, new and potentially life-saving therapies can be developed.