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# The COMMONS

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

VOLUME IV NO. 14

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

You'll get what's coming to you...unless it's mailed.  
— Anonymous



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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.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
Matt Faeth

MANAGING EDITOR  
Carl Bery

NEWS EDITOR  
Sam Laney

SPORTS EDITOR  
Ben Rao

A&E EDITOR  
Meghan Kelkar

OPINION EDITOR  
Bryce Rossler

FEATURES EDITOR  
Malachi Keeter

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
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DESIGN EDITORS  
Ryan Peake, captain  
Chris Dickey  
Kenzie Zwyer  
Claire White

NEWSPAPER ADVISERS  
Mr. Daniel Hodges  
Mrs. Patricia Dickey

weekend weather

SAT 70

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INFORMATION FROM WEATHER.COM, 4/30/10, 10 A.M.

## 'Savage'-ly funny...



Cast members Kevin Daroga, Omar Rana, Caitlin Pond (under chair), Meghan Kelkar, Shelby Massey, and Lauriana Williams react to Mrs. Long's hilarious phone conversation during rehearsal.

PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

THE CURIOUS SAVAGE  
JOHN PATRICK

RCDS Upper School  
Drama Production

May 6 & 7  
7 p.m.  
Webster High School

\$5 Adults  
\$3 Students

By Meghan Kelkar  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

This year's Upper School play, directed by Mrs. Long, stars multiple students from her Drama classes.

The students performing in this production are Torey Byrne, Kevin Daroga, Matt Faeth, Meghan Kelkar, Kenneth Kite, Shelby Massey, Steve Pittman, Caitlin Pond, Omar Rana, Hannah Skoog, and Lauriana Williams.

Opening night is this Thursday, May 6. A second performance will be

held the following night, Friday, May 7, which just so happens to be Mrs. Long's birthday! Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the curtain goes up at 7 both evenings at Webster High School.

The play was originally written by John Patrick. "The Curious Savage" is known as a comedy that is mixed with drama. It has multiple characters that everyone ends up falling in love with.

"The Curious Savage" is the story of five people (Jeff, Florence, Fairy May, Mrs. Paddy, and Hannibal) who live in a sanatorium called The Cloisters. A new woman by the name of Mrs. Savage is admitted, and she

claims she is not crazy. She says her three stepchildren (Titus, Lilly Belle, and Samuel) put her in The Cloisters because they are after the memorial fund she is leaving for her husband. It all leads to confusion with everyone wondering who is actually crazy.

According to Mrs. Long, the play "leaves the audience with the feeling that the neglected virtues of kindness and affection have not been entirely lost in a world that seems motivated at times only by greed and dishonesty."

How will this story end? Will Mrs. Savage turn out to be crazy or not? Come see the play and find out!

## Meningitis outbreak

By Ramsey Talladivedula  
STAFF WRITER

Meningitis has laid its claim around the Tulsa County area, and people need to be aware. Oologah was hit hard last month when meningitis caused the deaths of two schoolchildren and several others contracted this serious illness.

But what is meningitis? What makes it so dangerous?

Meningitis is an infection of certain membranes and tissues that cover the brain and spinal cord and protect the central nervous system. The infection is caused by microorganisms such as viruses, bacteria, fungi, or parasites. Meningitis has proved to be a life-threatening condition that affects all age groups. It also spreads very easily, which is why it's important for people to stay home if they think there is a possibility they might have this disease.

The following are signs of meningitis: high fever, chills, severe headache, nausea, vomiting, sensitivity to light, drowsiness, confusion, twitching, sleepiness, sore throat, and a few other rare symptoms. Symptoms appear two to ten days after exposure, and it often comes on very suddenly. Early diagnosis and treatment are essential to prevent permanent damage, so if you have been exposed to meningitis and experience any of these symptoms, see a doctor right away. The disease may require hospitalization.

Meningitis can be prevented by washing your hands, keeping hands and objects out of your mouth, disinfecting items used by other people, not eating or drinking after other people, and not sharing common items such as spoons, forks, straws, chapstick, and lipstick.

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# 2 Sports

RIVERFIELD ATHLETES were honored recently at the Sports Banquet. The coaches and players would like to thank everyone for supporting Raven athletics this year!

## Spring sports ending, but spring football season starts

By Ryan Peake  
STAFF WRITER

Riverfield's spring sports are slowly coming to an end. Soccer, Tennis, and Golf are all finishing their last games.

Soccer finished last week. Riverfield's boys and girls both played against homeschooled NOAH at the West Bank Soccer Complex.

The girl's team played first and lost 4-1. Coach Watts said, "They easily could have won 7 or 8 to 4." The girls just missed a lot of shots. This was Abby Saizow's last high school soccer game, but she plans to play college soccer at Austin College.

The boys played right after

the girls and fell behind 2-0. With around 15 minutes left, they scored to make the game 2-1. For most of the second half, the boys played in almost complete darkness, and you could barely see the ball. The boys just couldn't find a way to overcome the NOAH lead. That was Ryan Tracy's and Ed Schotter's last soccer game in their high school career.

Tennis is also coming to an end. Riverfield played early last week against Holland Hall and then last Thursday against Nathan Hale. Riverfield boys beat Holland Hall 5-1, and the girls lost 8-2. Against Nathan Hale, both the boys and girls won their matches 3-1.

The teams' final matches were Wednesday and Thursday against Union and Bishop Kelley's junior varsity.

Golf will play one last tournament at Owasso Golf & Athletic Club. It was supposed to be last Monday, but due to the course conditions it was rescheduled for this coming Monday. The team hosting the tournament is Rejoice Christian. This will be Riverfield's last golf tournament this year. Hopefully they can bring back some hardware.

With spring sports ending, school will be ending, and you know what that means. Spring/Summer football will soon begin!



At left, Tristan Hightower goes for a serve. At right, Matt Faeth sets up for a tee shot.



PHOTOS BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

## Thunder booms

By Matt Faeth  
STAFF WRITER

Oklahoma has yearned for its own major sports team for decades. Now that the Oklahoma City Thunder has graced us with that answered dream, the fans have instantly become devout.

The Thunder's first year in Oklahoma was bleak to say the least. But this year has been every bit a fan's dream. The Thunder improved over last year's record by an astounding 27 wins, largely due to the skill of Kevin Durant (this year's scoring leader at 30.1 ppg) and the tactics of Scott Brooks (NBA Coach of the Year). The Thunder used their 50-win season to propel themselves into this year's playoffs.

The team has potential without limit. Young guns like Russell Westbrook (UCLA), Jeff Green (Georgetown), Thabo Sefolosha (Switzerland), James Harden (Arizona State), Serge Ibaka (Congo), and of course Kevin Durant (Texas) are names that will soon be known in every household in America. They have created a chemistry among the players that is evident on the court.

The best environment is a college atmosphere, and all of the Thunder games have a college feel to them. The fans absolutely love this collegiate feeling. They can be crazy, and act like the ludicrous kids they once were or aspire to be.

Oklahoma loves and appreciates Thunder basketball and will continue to for future generations of avid Thunder fans.



Oklahoma City's new basketball team, The Thunder.

PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

## Major League Baseball season underway

### 2010 PREDICTIONS

By Bryce Rossler  
STAFF WRITER

#### Major League Awards

MLB MVP:

Albert Pujols, 1B (STL)

MLB Rookie of the Year:

Bryan Matusz, SP (BAL)

MLB Cy Young:

Roy Halladay, SP (PHI)

MLB Manager of the Year:

Don Wakamatsu  
(Seattle Mariners)

#### National League Awards

NL MVP:

Albert Pujols, 1B (STL)

NL Rookie of the Year:

Alcides Escobar, SS (MIL)

NL Cy Young:

Roy Halladay, SP (PHI)

NL Manager of the Year:

Charlie Manuel  
(Philadelphia Phillies)

#### American League Awards

AL MVP:

Carl Crawford, OF (TB)

AL Rookie of the Year:

Brian Matusz, SP (BAL)

AL Cy Young:

Justin Verlander, SP (DET)

AL Manager of the Year:

Don Wakamatsu  
(Seattle Mariners)

### Two Matts will be season's standout players

By Carl Berry  
STAFF WRITER

Every year there is at least one player in baseball who far exceeds their expected performance.

This year, two players in particular come to mind: Matt Cain and Matt Wieters.

Matt Cain is not a player many people hear about, but he is an ace in disguise. The reason you may not have heard of him is because the number one spot in San Francisco's rotation is occupied by two-time Cy Young winner Tim Lincecum. On any other team, Cain would be the best starter.

Cain has been victimized by a pathetic offense thus far in his career. In fact, the Giants only scored a very low 4.06 runs per game (even the Mets weren't that bad). That is why Cain doesn't have the same impressive win totals as other similar pitchers like Dan Haren.

With the Giants' offense much improved over the offseason, Cain should win near 20 games this year.

Matt Wieters entered last year as the most highly touted prospect in the majors. His rookie season was relatively

disappointing as he hit only .288 with nine home runs. This year that number should go up.

If you look at Wieters' Isolated Power (his slugging percentage minus his batting average), you will see that he only hit a low .124 last year. His minor league Isolated Power is .233, which is much more consistent with the natural

power Wieters has displayed.

Now that he has adjusted to major league pitching, he should hit closer to 25 or 30 homers.

Expect both Wieters and Cain to have great years in 2010. Both have the potential to be great players, and I think this will be the year they realize that potential.



It's been a long winter. Carl, Bryce, and Ben are excited that baseball season has finally arrived.

PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

## Proposed 'floating alignment' would create more parity in MLB

By Ben Rao  
SPORTS EDITOR

In the 12 years of Bud Selig's tenure as MLB commissioner, he's had his share of interesting and revolutionary ideas.

The expansion of the post-season, interleague play, and making the All-Star game winner receive home field advantage in the World Series are just a few of the controversial innovations that Selig has

instituted during his tenure.

Yet, the most controversial thing he's done is doing nothing at all when it comes to baseball's payrolls. Despite cries for years, baseball has maintained a no-salary cap system in its collective bargaining agreement. Fans and owners alike have yearned for a system similar to the NFL, where every team is at an even level of competition. Now Selig may have found a solution.

According to Tom Verducci

of *SI.com*, Selig has assigned a 14-member committee to figure out possible baseball alignment changes that can create more parity while maintaining the no-salary cap system.

A proposed idea is referred to as "floating alignment," in which teams could switch divisions each year based on their possibility to compete. For example, The Tampa Bay Rays could switch to the AL West or Central so they could have a shot at the playoffs, rather than

be in the East with the Yankees and Red Sox, where only two of the three could make the postseason.

It has clear merits, but logistical problems would still be in the way. How could the Rays play in the West and make constant cross country trips to California? Ultimately, no solution would bring true competitive balance. As long as teams like the Yankees and Red Sox are around, there will be free spending for all.

## 3 A&amp;E

NEED A BREAK FROM STUDYING FOR FINALS? Germanfest is this weekend (15th & Lewis) ...or if you're in the mood for a movie, 'Iron Man 2' opens next week!

## Music Review: Lil B

By Bryce Rossler  
STAFF WRITER

First and most importantly, Lil B is a dadaist. Lil B magnifies and accelerates the fraudulent, negative stereotypes of rap and expresses his discontent with the genre *through* the genre.

He is quite aware that he is acting idiotic, yet he is purposely portraying himself as a talentless moron to convey his (and many people's) displeasure with the art form.

Lil B's preposterousness not only holds weight through its deep meaning, but it is able to secretly exhibit that mean-

ing through the use of humor.

If you are not able to comprehend Lil B's values (albeit the execution of them), then you should not be able to discuss his music in any way, shape, or form. Lil B does not do it for the money, he does it for the sake of helping rappers, that is, to reflect his peers' problems by holding up a mirror to them. Granted, he is quite underground, but all revolutionary, talented artists are.

Mainstream hip-hop is in a desecrated state, and Lil B is using his status a member of radio rap quartet The Pack (who created the hit single "Vans") as a platform to preach on the

aforementioned state of hip-hop to which only the knowledgeable, avant garde, and philosophically deep could comprehend (no less, hear). Of course, as an active member of the group, Lil B only joins them in their fodder as a double agent (to sabotage them and garner information on them, that is.)

Unlike other rappers, Lil B oversteps the guidelines of what hip-hop should be. He is offensive, as all revolutionaries are. But more importantly, he is thoughtful. The inner workings of his mind are impossible to comprehend, much less to describe.

## Summer movies coming soon

By Meghan Kelkar  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Summer is just around the corner! After the stress of school is over comes time for relaxing, and what is a more perfect way to relax than watching the latest films that involve action, drama, and comedy.

These movies are projected to be big hits this summer:

May 7—*Iron Man 2* (Action): Superhero movie kicks off Summer 2010.

May 14 (the day after school lets out)—*Robin Hood* (Action) and *Letters to Juliet* (Comedy)

May 21—*Shrek Forever After* (Family Comedy): Continuing the Shrek trilogy for all the little ones.

June 18—*Toy Story 3* (Animation): Said to be a big hit this year following *Toy Story* and *Toy Story 2*.

July 16—*The Sorcerer's*

*Apprentice* (Adventure): Coming from the people who brought you *Harry Potter*.

August 6—*Step Up 3D* (Drama): For all you dancers, this is following *Step Up* and *Step Up 2: The Streets*.

Although there is sometimes

a short supply of good movies, these movies are going to be of good quality to satisfy our long summer. So keep up with the grades, study hard for finals, and do well in your sports and activities because summer is on its way!



Just a few of the films scheduled for release this summer...  
PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

## Angela Gossow is totally metal

By Malachi Keeter  
STAFF WRITER

Metal is more than a genre, it is a lifestyle. And for the most part, it is a lifestyle without any girls.

As Sam Dunn hypothesized in his documentary *Metal: A Headbanger's Journey*, the overbearing masculinity of the genre is to blame, alienating women and, upon their rare entrance into the scene, objectifying them.

There are some exceptions, though. Arch Enemy, one of

the most successful up-and-coming extreme metal bands, has a girl at its helm.

Her name is Angela Gossow, and she can beat most guy metalheads at their own game. Arch Enemy originally had a male singer, and Gossow met them after interviewing them for a German publication. After the singer left the band, they called Gossow to audition, and they were blown away.

On stage, Arch Enemy cuts a strange figure. The tall, long-haired, Viking-like appearance of the guitarists and drummer

casts the customary shadow. Then, at their middle emerges a tiny blonde, a smaller figure looking slightly out of place next to the others. But when she opens her mouth, any doubt of her ability is vanquished.

Metal is a scene nearly devoid of females, but every now and then we get someone like Angela Gossow, a girl making headway for the acceptance of girls in metal, and with enough talent to blow away many of her male counterparts.

## Restaurant Review: Dena's Lebanese

By Chris Dickey  
STAFF WRITER

Dena's Lebanese Cuisine is a tiny "hole-in-the-wall" restaurant located in a strip center on 11th Street near T.U. Formerly known as Halim and Mimi's, the restaurant only seats 32, but it is very popular with T.U. students and faculty. One taste of their food, and you will see why.

The décor is plain, but the food more than makes up for it. *TulsaPeople* magazine rated Dena's hummus as their number one staff favorite in their "Food-e Friday" online newsletter. The dip is smooth and garlicky.

Dena's offers a wide variety of Middle Eastern dishes such as the tawook, my personal favorite. It consists of two grilled, marinated chicken breasts topped with a smooth garlic sauce that is addictive. Other popular menu items include falafel, cabbage rolls, tabouli (made with a lot of parsley and fresh lemon juice), and kafta (charcoal seasoned ground beef with sesame sauce.)

The restaurant is owned by Ghalib Naaman, who came to the U.S. from Lebanon in 1992. He and his wife prepare all of the food themselves, including the baklava.

Dinner platters average \$7 which includes a dill pickle spear, hummus, pita bread and rice pilaf. Dena's serves lunch 11 to 3 Monday through Saturday, and dinner 5 to 8 Monday through Friday.

I asked Sam Laney what he thought about Lebanese food. He responded by saying, "Food is the nectar that fuels the butterfly that is Carl," (referring to Malachi's "Turtleneck Club" comment below.)



The tawook platter is the most popular choice on the menu.  
PHOTO BY PATRICIA DICKEY

## Get Shastafied with 'The Turtleneck Club'

By Sam Laney  
STAFF WRITER

The turtleneck sweater may have gone out of style, but the legacy of *The Turtleneck Club* will live on forever. The 2007 film, starring our own Mr. Breig, is about several guys that have made their own club in which they wear turtleneck sweaters and gather to eat and party. The film explores the universal need to unwind and feel wanted.

The plot follows the club members at one of their meetings. As it turns out, a simple traction kit plays an intricate role as the members investigate what it is really for.

The driving force of the movie is the soft drink Shasta. As Malachi Keeter brilliantly stated, "Shasta is the nectar that fuels the butterfly that is 'The

Turtleneck Club.'"

The members support each other and the club's ideals. They endeavor to face life's challenges by taking on each problem "full neck." The subplot is that of discovery while Tim attempts to hide his traction kit.

The dance scenes are amazing. The guys dance to Sadsaxion and groove. Carl Berry said, "It just makes me want to get up and dance. It's that moving." The gyrations last approximately five minutes, a small part of a film that is only thirty-six minutes long.

My advice is to crank up the volume and watch this amazing film for yourself. It will change your life for the better. The psychedelic scenes will "shock you, and then they will rock you." It is truly time to get Shastafied. You can watch the full video at [www.theturtleneckclub.com](http://www.theturtleneckclub.com).



Mr. Breig "gets sick with it" in "The Turtleneck Club."

PHOTO: THETURTNECKCLUB.COM

### TONIGHT!—The 5th Annual RIVERFIELD ROCKS STREET PARTY

Preshow activities begin at 6 p.m., the 4th and 5th grade band plays at 6:45, and the main show begins at 7:00. Grab your lawn chairs, your blankets, your family and friends, and get ready to rock! The evening will include food, a Jupiter Jump, and lots of rock & roll, so come out and meet us on the back field...rain or shine!

Feel free to dress up as your favorite Star Wars character!  
MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU.

# 4 Features/Opinions

## Tastes like hydrogen and oxygen to me

By Ben Rao  
STAFF WRITER

You must be thirsty, aren't you? I am, too. All humans need to drink water, but do we want to? Do you like the taste of water? I wanted to find out.

"It tastes wet," said both Malachi Keeter and Chris Dickey. Well yes, it would, since it happens to be a liquid.

"The best water I've ever had is Fiji Water," said Sam Laney. What is Fiji Water? Apparently the water from Fiji is so good it has to be bottled.

No, really it's just a brand name. It has nothing to do with where it is from.

Water itself has no taste. Any taste of water is due to the minerals added to it, which explains the distinct taste of bottled water. We can't taste oxygen and hydrogen in the air, so therefore we can't taste pure water.

So, if you ever ask that question again, "What is the taste of water," now you know. And if you still think it tastes wet, then you must be a member of the Turtleneck Club.

## The age of the petabyte is here

By Malachi Keeter  
FEATURES EDITOR

Our world has entered the computer age, and it has entered it with guns blazing. There are now 1.5 billion computer users worldwide across all seven continents—and even underwater, if you want to talk about the undersea cables that connect continents by internet.

The amount of computer and internet usage is exploding exponentially, and over a ten year period from 1998 to 2008, the price of one gigabyte of data storage fell from \$228 to only 88 cents.

In 2007, the terabyte hard drive hit the market. A terabyte is 1024 gigabytes, a huge

amount of virtual space. Now, just three years later, Colossal Storage has announced a petabyte hard drive.

Colossal Storage owner Michael Thomas has patented non-contact optical spintronics to create a petabyte hard drive. Spintronics is an emerging science that exploits the natural spin of electrons and the magnetic fields created by them in addition to the already utilized fundamental electronic charge. In other words, he is juicing subatomic particles for more energy than we have ever gotten out of them to make the most efficient data storage possible.

A petabyte is equal to 1024 terabytes, currently the largest available hard drive. That is

1,048,576 gigabytes. Can you comprehend over a million gigabytes? To put it in perspective, that could hold over thirteen years of HD video. One and a half petabytes could hold every single photo on Facebook. Twenty could hold the entire written works of mankind. 5,000 petabytes could hold the entire internet!

The 1.2 petabyte hard drive will be available from Colossal Storage in late 2010 or 2011, and it is projected to cost about \$750. I could never fill it up, and I can not even comprehend what to do with that much space, but when it comes out I guarantee you I will leap upon it like a starving squirrel on the last peanut on earth.



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## A 4D puzzle: Meigakure

By Kenzie Zwayer  
STAFF WRITER

Edwin A. Abbott's book, *Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions*, uses the analogy of a two-dimensional world compared to our three-dimensional world to help us understand the fourth dimension.

He uses the term "Flatlander" to describe a being living on a single plane. If a circle is placed around a Flatlander, he is completely closed off. Unless he can step out into the third dimension to walk over the circle, he is trapped. To go from 2D to 3D, another axis must be added—the z axis. Similarly, another axis, unimaginable to us, is added to create the fourth dimension.

A 3D being passing through a 2D plane would appear as a cross section. Imagine passing through a doorway. The rectangular area that you walk through is a flat plane, and as you pass through, only a 2D slice of you appears on the flat plane of the door. You would appear as a longish sequence of blobs



**Meigakure has already won several independent game awards for its originality, and it hasn't even been released yet!**

SCREEN CAPTURE: MARCTENBOSCH.COM/MEIGAKURE

to a Flatlander on the flat plane of the doorway. A 4D being would appear in the same manner in our world.

What better way to help a person understand the fourth dimension than a video game? Meigakure is based on puzzles that require the user to "think" in the fourth dimension in order to solve them. The creator, Marc ten Bosch, hopes that by trial and error in solving the puzzles, gamers will start to grasp the idea of a fourth dimension, since sometimes explanations are not enough.

The press of one button toggles between 3D and 4D mode, which are both represented on a 2D screen. The graphics in the demo are basic and all interactive objects are made of simple

cubes. Tasks such as moving a closed ring into the middle of another closed ring, which may seem impossible to a being of the third dimension, require only a few movements back and forth between the third and fourth dimension, but those few movements can be mind-boggling.

The title "Meigakure" (meaning "hidden from sight") and the Japanese garden theme were an afterthought—the game began primarily as a way to expose people to the idea of a fourth dimension.

A demo of Meigakure should be available to download on Linux, Mac, and PC sometime in the near future. Look for it.

## U.S. internet is slower

By Sam Laney  
STAFF WRITER

The United States is often seen as a land of excess, and in this land, many would bet on the fact that the United States has the fastest average internet speed in the world. Sadly, they would lose that bet.

The world leader in broadband speed is South Korea, and if being faster wasn't enough, it's also cheaper there.

In fact, this is true for many countries. The United States is falling far behind. One reason for this is competition. When anyone signs up for broadband in the United States, they have basically two choices: the phone company and the cable company. In other countries, there are many other choices and that forces the companies to compete in speed and price.

In other countries there is a new concept of creating "open

networks" wherein the cables laid by telecommunication companies are shared so that other companies can use them. Because of this, it is much easier for smaller providers to compete with larger companies.

Another factor that determines internet speed is population density. Fiber optic cables flow through large cities, but the connection must be routed through traditional copper wire into individual homes. This is fine in the short run, but over long distances like those needed to connect a rural home to the main fiber optic line, the connection slows. Because of the number of rural homes in the United States, the cost of infrastructure is high and the connections are slow.

The bottom line is that the United States did not see how important the internet would become and has fallen behind in the technology race.

## Prom dresses—our fashion expert's view from afar



Natalie Reynolds, Mackenzie Crowe, Sarah McGunegill, Ana Tamasese, Darcie Golden, and Hannah Sieler are ready for Prom.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MACKENZIE CROWE

By Bryce Rossler  
OPINION EDITOR

Possibly the most anticipated school event of spring is—you guessed it—Prom. Although an expensive fusion of food, dance, and fun, Prom can be well worth it.

As many people young and old have noted, the excitement of Prom is not necessarily about the actual event. Rather, it is about the times you have lead-

ing up to and following it. Now, whether this is directly before Prom or relatively distanced is another matter.

For many girls, choosing a prom dress is not only important, but fun. Despite what can include ridiculously high costs, many girls find it well worth it to go prom dress shopping. Obviously this results in not only the purchasing of a prom dress, but fun, "pics," and much talk around the water cooler during

the following school days.

I was exceedingly pleased to find pictures on Facebook of Riverfield's recent Prom on April 17 at Harwelden in which many dresses synced up to my spring fashion forecast predictions. While I was not able to attend Prom (much to my chagrin), I was extremely happy when I found many dresses corresponded, and were perhaps influenced by, my spring fashion forecast.