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The COMMONS

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

VOLUME V NO. 2

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*A closed mouth
gathers no foot.*
— Anonymous



Can I have some when they're done? 3



In training for the Tulsa State Fair next week 4

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 mfaeth@riverfield.org. All opinions expressed are those of the individual writers and do not reflect positions of the newspaper staff, advisers, or school administration.

FALL 2010 STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Matt Faeth

NEWS EDITOR
Sam Laney

SPORTS EDITOR
Ryan Peake

A&E EDITORS
Meghan Kelkar
Max Harkness

OPINIONS EDITOR
Bryce Rossler

FEATURES EDITOR
Malachi Keeter

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Ramsey Talladivedula

DESIGN EDITORS
Chris Dickey, captain
Ryan Peake
Claire White

NEWSPAPER ADVISERS
Mr. Daniel Hodges
Mrs. Patricia Dickey

Tennis courts to be built



Jon Kelley, Erin Worley, and Tristan Hightower are anxious to play on the new courts. Land was recently cleared for construction.

PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

By Max Harkness
STAFF WRITER

Riverfield has been upping the ante every year when it comes to development of its sports programs. Within the last year or so, the school has gotten a football field, a volleyball team, and a soccer team.

Athletic facilities are steadily progressing, and now Riverfield is getting tennis courts as well. Land has been cleared for the courts west of the main driveway behind the current barnyard.

When asked how long construction will take, Toby Clark, who is the school's Upper and Middle School Division Head and also its tennis coach, said there is a plan in the works.

"We're currently looking at bids to get the courts cleared and sloped," Mr. Clark

stated. "It'll take about a week's worth of work, and then about another month to dry." He said plans call for six courts to be built, and he expects four of them to be completed this fall.

Not only is Riverfield going to build courts on its own campus, but the school is also going to re-do the courts across 61st Street in the park, making them nicer for students to play on. This will add to the time and funds needed, but it will also increase the number of courts Riverfield will have available. This will open up the possibility for tennis tournaments to be held at Riverfield.

Ultimately, these tennis courts will progress Riverfield athletics even more, and as a result, more students may be attracted to the school. Maybe Upper School enrollment will hit 150 next year!

For more information, see News Briefs, page 2 ...

ARTICLE
REMOVED

New cell phone law passed in San Francisco

By Sam Laney
NEWS EDITOR

San Francisco recently passed a law requiring all those who sell cellular telephones to post warnings about possibly harmful radiation and the associated specific absorption rate of that radiation.

The law is the first of its kind and has been met with harsh criticism from some while others love the idea.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) currently monitors the specific absorption rates of cellular phone radiation. However, it is believed that these readings can be altered by how a person holds the phone.

Beyond this, the SAR rating is currently believed to be completely safe if it is below the

threshold set by the FCC and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The FCC has ruled cell phones safe thus far, and all cell phones sold in the United States conform to the FCC and FDA guidelines for SAR ratings.

But that is simply not good enough for San Francisco. The Cellular Telephone Industries Association (CTIA), also known as The Wireless Association, has filed a lawsuit in federal district court against San Francisco. The CTIA's main claim is that this new law undermines the FCC and FDA guidelines, suggesting that those agencies are not experts in their fields.

While SAR data is available on the internet and in the manuals for every cell phone, some believe having that information at the time of purchase is very

important, while others do not. The future of San Fran-

cisco's new cell phone safety law remains uncertain.



The city of San Francisco wants warnings about cell phone radiation posted wherever the phones are sold.

PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

weekend
weather

SAT 85

SUN 69

INFORMATION FROM WEATHER.COM, 9/24/10, 10:00 A.M.

2 Sports

THE FIRST VARSITY FOOTBALL HOME GAME IS TONIGHT AT 7 P.M. ...
Join the cheerleaders, the Drumline, Big Blue, and all your friends ... GO RAVENS!!!

RCDS football team posts 2 wins

By Ryan Peake
SPORTS EDITOR

The Riverfield Ravens traveled to Claremore on September 3 to play the Claremore Christian Warriors. It was the first time in the Ravens' history to play on a true eight-man football field, which is 80 yards long instead of the more common 100 yards.



Raven players celebrated after their impressive win against Claremore Christian.
PHOTO COURTESY BOOSTER CLUB

The Ravens were looking to avenge last year's loss to the Warriors, and that is just what they did. From right out of the gate to the final whistle, the Ravens never let up. The final score was Riverfield 64-Claremore Christian 22. After all the team-to-team postgame handshakes, the Raven players decided to give their coaches a traditional celebratory shower.

The next week, the Ravens traveled all the way to Gracemont, Oklahoma, west of Oklahoma City. For the first time in Riverfield athletics history, a charter bus was rented for the team, coaches, cheerleaders, and a few fans.

This is the first year in their 100 year history that Gracemont Public School has played football, and Riverfield served as the opponent for their very first home football game on September 10.

The entire town of Gracemont was there in support of the hometown team. Some

reports indicated the attendance was more than the population of the town.

The baseball field at Gracemont had been transformed into a football field, which meant the game took place in the outfield. In attendance was Channel 9 News of Oklahoma City and OKBlitz sports news.

For all the flair and atmosphere, the Ravens walked out with a win of 48-0 as the game ended three minutes into the third quarter on account of mercy.

Even though the home team lost, they graciously hosted the Ravens for dinner, which included hotdogs, chili, pizza, drinks, and dessert.

Next up for Riverfield is the first home game of the season, which takes place tonight. The Ravens' opponent is Life Christian Academy, and game time is set for 7 p.m. as the Ravens look to continue their winning streak.

LADY RAVENS VOLLEYBALL



Riverfield's Varsity team, coached by Ms. Christi Martin, has played three of their five scheduled games so far this fall. In the photo above, the team played NOAH in a home game on September 14. Coach Martin said, "This was by far the best we've played all year. I was very proud of our entire team that night." Their final home game will be against ETS on October 4. Come out and support the team!
PHOTO BY PATRICIA DICKEY

Big changes this summer in NBA

By Matt Faeth
STAFF WRITER

If you look at the stars of last year's NBA season and their locations today, the changes are drastic.

Over the summer, additions to teams like Chicago (which added Carlos Boozer and Kyle Korver), Miami (LeBron James, Chris Bosh, and Zydrunas Ilgauskas), Boston (Jermaine O'Neal and Shaquille O'Neal), New York (Amare Stodumire), and Golden State (David Lee) will improve the teams and help guide them into the playoffs ... perhaps into finals contention.

Other teams are left in the midst of a very poor postseason.

The first team that comes to mind is the Cleveland Cavaliers, which lost the heart and soul of its team, LeBron James, in free agency to the Miami Heat. Cleveland lost big men Zydrunas Ilgauskas and Shaquille O'Neal, both probable Hall-of-Famers whose careers are in their twilight. It looks as if Cleveland sports as a whole will continue in their proud history of failure.

Other teams have improved not through free agency, but through this year's NBA draft. The most highly praised prospect,

John Wall from Kentucky, was drafted by the Washington Wizards. Wall's potential is almost limitless, and he will be entertaining to watch in the NBA. In summer league action, Wall averaged the most points and rebounds among rookies.

However, the summer leagues' best player award did not go to John Wall, but to Demarcus Cousins, whose talent has been added to the Sacramento Kings. Cousins is expected to be a very above-average player in the NBA.

It will be exciting to watch the NBA this year with all the changes to these teams.

Cross Country runners compete

By Sam Laney
STAFF WRITER

Many Riverfield sports have grown in popularity in the past few years while Cross Country has attracted a smaller number of dedicated runners. What started as a recreational club has grown into a team of swift competitors that has hosted an invitational race at Riverfield for the past three years.

When asked about his coaching philosophy, Coach Ric Breig stated, "Riverfield Cross Country is not a sport for faint or weak individuals. It takes tremendous preparation and discipline. As a teacher, it is the best sport to coach because it promotes life-long perseverance, confidence, and healthy habits." The coach uses quotes from

successful runners to motivate the team.

This summer marked a new chapter in the history of Riverfield Cross Country. The team began pre-season training in early June to get a jump on conditioning. The intensity of the training increased over the summer, and practices are now in full swing, occurring every weekday.

The team took the top trophy at the 3rd annual Riverfield Cross Country Challenge on August 28, competing against runners from at least four other schools. On September 4, the Varsity Boys, Varsity Girls, and Jr. Varsity Boys competed in the Sapulpa Chieftain Invitational meet. They ran again in the Adidas Bishop Kelley meet on September 18.

Their next competition will be on Saturday, October 2, at

the Holland Hall meet.

Riverfield runners are preparing to take more trophies as they continue their daily practice runs. The statement, "pain is weakness leaving the body," can be heard across the Riverfield campus and hopefully across the finish lines of many races to come.



The Varsity boys compete at the Sapulpa meet.
PHOTO BY PATRICIA DICKEY

NEWS BRIEFS

International

LONDON — On September 8, BP released a 200-page informal report of the cause of the recent oil spill earlier this year in the Gulf of Mexico. According to the report, the situation was caused by engineers' improper testing and BP subcontractors that did not supply sufficient products. NPR questions the study, asking why nobody took the time to fix any one of the failure points that led to the explosion of the oil rig. (npr.org)

LONDON — The remarkably dry early summer months in Britain have revealed the ghostly outlines of numerous formerly unknown ancient sites hidden in fields across the countryside. Known as "crop marks," the faded outlines of unseen buried structures have appeared because the unusual length of the dry spell. The outlines show up when crops grow at different rates over buried structures. From Roman forts to Neolithic settlements, archaeologists have been photographing the discoveries from the air. They say at least 200 new historic sites have been discovered, along with details on many known structures revealed for the first time. (Reuters)

project manager. The motor, deemed DM-2, is capable of producing 22 million horsepower and could be used to launch future space missions. (space.com)

WASHINGTON — The Purple Heart is an award given by the United States military to its soldiers who have been wounded or killed in combat, a powerful symbol designed to recognize their sacrifice and service. Purple Hearts are now being awarded to soldiers who have suffered concussions or other head trauma. Because of these injuries, some cannot answer simple questions or perform simple tasks. (npr.org)

State & Local

TULSA — Ready to rock? There are tons of bands coming to Tulsa next month. If you're ready for indie, Band of Horses will play the Cain's Ballroom on October 12. Speaking of Cain's, for the wild rap fans out there, Tech N9ne is making his way there on October 15. Finally, for all the girls out there, Maroon 5 will play the BOK Center on October 19. Get your tickets now! (bokcenter.com, cainsballroom.com)

National

WASHINGTON — The war that has simultaneously been one of the longest and most morally ambiguous conflicts in American history is drawing to a close. The United States' combat mission in Iraq has ended. After almost ten years of fighting, the majority of American troops are coming home with a select few staying behind to help coordinate Iraqi police and military. President Obama made a speech on the subject during prime time on September 2. As former president George W. Bush said, albeit prematurely, "Mission Accomplished." (CNN.org)

PROMONTORY, Utah — Fire shot over the Utah desert on August 31 as NASA test-fired a new solid rocket booster. The new engine is one section longer than those used to lift the space shuttle. Initially designed to launch the planned Ares I rocket, the new motor was fired to test its performance in cold weather conditions. The engine was laid down horizontally during the cold desert morning hours and proceeded to belch hot exhaust into the hillside. The data obtained from the test "look absolutely excellent," according to the

Riverfield

FOOTBALL — Homecoming week is rapidly approaching! It is scheduled for October 4 to 8. Riverfield's Varsity football team will play Boulevard Christian at RCDS on Friday, October 8. The team won last year's Homecoming game against Eagle Point Christian 44-3. Riverfield's football team is improving every year and gaining new players, so it is better than ever! To celebrate, it will be Spirit Week from October 4 to 8, so get ready to dress up every day to show your support for the team. One day students will wear outfits that represent what they want to be when they grow up, another day will feature outfits that represent a favorite decade, and more.

TENNIS — Last spring at the Riverfield tennis party hosted by team player Ryan Cortez's family, Mr. Clark announced that tennis courts at Riverfield are becoming a reality. The goal is to have courts built in time for the 2011 tennis season. Crews will work through the winter to make sure this is possible. If you or anyone you know is interested in helping out the tennis team financially, contact Jerry Bates or Toby Clark.

3 A&E

COMING UP IN OUR NEXT ISSUE: How much money does it take to buy happiness? ... Fall Campout recap ... Drive-ins vs. Theaters ... Homecoming plans ... *Look for it on Oct. 8!*

Riverwalk or Downtown Tulsa?

By Ramsey Talladivedula
STAFF WRITER

One of the biggest clichés used by Tulsa teenagers is “Let’s go to the Riverwalk.”

Many Riverfield students live in South Tulsa, and Riverwalk often seems like their only option for entertainment.

But Downtown Tulsa is a great place to be. It has a completely different atmosphere, and it is not full of the typical franchise businesses.

I asked a few people around Riverfield what they think of Downtown and Riverwalk.

Erin Worley, James Colpitts, and Garrett Johnson agree they like Downtown the best.

Erin said, “The Riverwalk is filled with big headed, loud, annoying teenagers.”

James said, “In Downtown, people are friendly and laid back. Riverwalk is too crowded and too small.”

“Downtown has better music and better food, but I can never find good parking,” said Garrett Johnson.



Jenks' Riverwalk (right) and the Downtown Tulsa skyline ...

The Riverwalk has good food, but it can be expensive, and it only takes five minutes to walk around the place.

Zack Allen said, “You can get mauled Downtown.”

It is true, Downtown can be dangerous at night. It is better to go there with a big group of friends.



PHOTOS BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

Riverwalk may be the better choice if you live in South Tulsa and are trying to save on gas, but occasionally you should go the extra miles and try something different.

Music that promotes learning

By Meghan Kelkar
STAFF WRITER

Some students need silence when they are studying, but others find music to be helpful and relaxing to their minds. According to some scientists, music engages areas of the brain that involve paying attention, making predictions, and updating the event in memory.

The right type of music for studying should be on the mellow side. In addition, it should also be background music, because if the music is blasting

throughout the house while you’re attempting to study, it will distract you. That will make you anything but productive.

Another thing to keep in mind is to have a playlist of songs ready before you begin. That way, you won’t have to stop what you are doing to pick another good song for studying.

I interviewed a few of the students at Riverfield to see what type of music helps them study best.

“I prefer to listen to Tegan and Sara or Montreal, because they are mellow enough to help

me study but they don’t put me to sleep. They also get me in the mood for fall and back into the swing of things,” said junior Caitlin Pond.

Some people prefer rap over alternative though, like senior Kevin Daroga. “I like studying to rap music because it helps me get motivated about doing my schoolwork,” Daroga said.

Other people prefer both, like senior J. P. Lamb. “I like to listen to chill music like John Mayer, and then get pumped up with some Gucci Mane,” said Lamb.

Adv. Home Ec makes crab cakes

By Meghan Kelkar
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

On August 31, Ms. James and her Advanced Home Ec class created Louisiana Deviled Crab Cakes.

The ingredients needed for this recipe are: ¼ c. each of finely chopped onion and green bell pepper, 3 T. each of

finely chopped celery and unsalted butter, one T. of sour cream, 2 T. of scallions, one large egg, ½ t. each of dry mustard and Worcestershire sauce, ¾ t. each of cayenne pepper and salt, 16 saltine crackers, and ½ lb. jumbo crab meat.

First put the onion, bell pepper, and celery in a bowl. The recipe on *epicurious.com* says

you should cook these in a skillet first, but the class put them in raw.

“The crab cakes turned out great, so for students cooking this at home, I would recommend not cooking the vegetables first,” said Ms. James.

Then, in another large bowl, whisk together the egg, sour cream, mustard, Worcestershire, cayenne, and salt. Next, add the vegetables. Finally, stir in the crab meat. Form the mixture into four cakes, and dredge them in the saltine crumbs.

Melt the butter in a skillet over moderate heat, and cook the crab cakes, flipping them until both sides are golden brown. This should take about 3 to 5 minutes.

After the crab cakes are done, top them with your choice of homemade chipotle sauce or tartar sauce. You can find either of these at Bodean Seafood Market near 51st and Harvard. Enjoy!



Knowing you’re going to eat what you cook makes you measure things more carefully.

PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

Music to the Max

Eminem’s ‘Recovery’

By Max Harkness
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

If one thing were to be admitted about “Recovery,” it’s that it has been a massive success. As I write this, the album has been pulling in at least \$100,000 a week. Impressive, and the album has pulled out two number one singles, both worldwide hits.

However, what’s the cost of it? Only Eminem’s soul and his good music.

Eminem has always been a rap writer of the highest order. He can tell his life story within a song and sound perfectly comfortable. The problem is, it sounds like a tale that has been told one too many times with only a slightly newer view. He views it, unfortunately, with regret. Regret for “Encore,” regret for “Relapse,” promising his fans he won’t disappoint them again, but he did.

Not only is his view filled with regret, but he also misinterprets why his music was good in the first place.

It wasn’t the big, synthetic

stuffed collaborations between famous pop singers like Rhianna on “Love The Way...” and P!nk on “Won’t Come Down.” Rather, it was the genuine emotion displayed in songs like “Kim” and “Stan.” It wasn’t the by-the-numbers, bang-’em-up instrumentals courtesy of Just Blaze and Boi-1da of Drake fame, it was the pulsating grooves of Dr. Dre, a true master of his genre.

Most of all, Eminem misinterprets why he was brought into the game. It wasn’t the Lil Wayne hacked punchlines (“let’s get out the scissors and cut the crud”) that made audiences wonder, it was the bizarre, estranged personality of Slim Shady, whose connections to the world were through violence and oddity.

“Recovery” is a softened attempt to get fans back after the disaster of “Relapse.” As we see from sales, it’s working, but unfortunately it really doesn’t deserve to. It doesn’t deserve to serve as Eminem’s comeback, and it is his worst album thus far.

Is there a particular movie, game, CD, book, TV show or concert that you would like to see reviewed here in “TheCOMMONS”?

If so, contact one of our A&E Editors, Meghan Kelkar or Max Harkness, and make a suggestion. Article planning is ongoing.

Book Review: ‘Magician’s Nephew’

By Claire White
STAFF WRITER

Most of you have heard of “The Chronicles of Narnia” series by now, with seven books and two movies out. A third movie, “The Voyage of the Dawn Treader,” will be released in both 2D and 3D on December 10. The C. S. Lewis series is very popular.

“The Magician’s Nephew” is a prequel to the rest of the series, detailing how the magic land of Narnia came to be. It is set around 1900, well before the events of the other books.

The book follows Diggory and his friend, Polly, and their adventure into worlds not their own, including the land of Narnia. “The Magician’s Nephew” is notably slower paced than the other books in the series, with less action and a slightly more abstract plot. Narnia itself is not even mentioned until the latter half of the book.

However, this book sets the stage for the following books marvelously, providing a lovely prelude that will make the re-

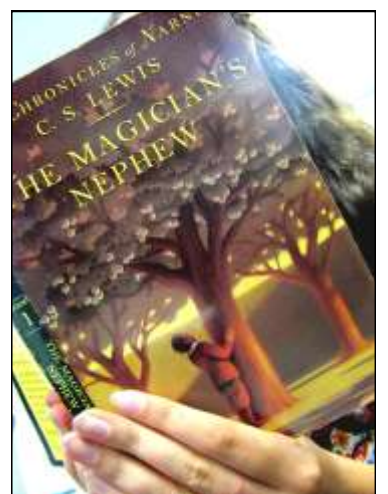


PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

mainder of the series even better. This book contains the answer to many mysteries in Narnia, including questions such as where the White Witch came from, how the Wardrobe came to be magic, and many others.

Overall, I liked this book as a companion to the rest of “The Chronicles of Narnia” series, although I wouldn’t recommend it if you don’t plan to read the other books as well.

Happy Reading!

4 Opinions/Features

REDUCE, REUSE,
RECYCLE!

Lennon's killer denied parole

By Malachi Keeter
FEATURES EDITOR

On December 8, 1980, one of the most iconic musicians in history was shot to death in New York City.

The assailant was one Mark David Chapman, who shot four bullets through John Lennon's back on that crisp New York evening.

When police arrived, they found Mr. Chapman sitting calmly on the curb holding a copy of *The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger. His gun

lay at his feet. They immediately took John Lennon into their squad car. Unfortunately, he was pronounced dead on arrival at Roosevelt Hospital.

Chapman was sentenced to 20 years to life in prison, with the possibility of parole every two years starting in 2000. Each time he has tried for parole, he has been shut down by Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono.

Chapman's disciplinary record is spotless, and he was psychoanalyzed and determined to be medically sane.

This, however, seems mean-

ingless to the court, because John Lennon was ... well, John Lennon.

Earlier this month, Chapman was again up for parole. Despite his record, he was once again denied parole largely because of Yoko Ono.

The panel stated that "release remains inappropriate at this time and incompatible with the welfare of the community."

So we can all sleep well, knowing that the billionaire hippie's murderer poses no threat to us.

Tulsa State Fair starts next week

By Bryce Rossler
STAFF WRITER

Just as sure as the leaves will change colors, thousands of people will attend the Tulsa

State Fair. The Fair begins on Thursday, September 30 this year and ends ten days later on Sunday, October 10.

Tulsa provides plenty of popular, yearly fall attractions,

such as GUTS Church's "Nightmare," but the Tulsa State Fair trumps every annual mega-event hosted in Green County. During the day, it is a utopian paradise for families looking to have some fun. At night, it plays host to quite a few teenagers.

With 61 rides (33 for adults, 24 for kiddies, and four "specialty" rides), 25 shows, and countless food vendors, the classic fair fun is pretty much endless.

However, new attractions have been added this year. Comet II, "Tulsa's Extreme Rollercoaster," is a new addition to the festivities, and "Disney on Ice" and the PRCA Rodeo are also rolling into town.

So many attractions and a large venue make for a great overall experience.

The Tulsa State Fair is great for a family get-together or just as a place to hang out with a group of your friends.

"Megaride" passes are now selling for \$60. Assuming you buy one and choose paid parking (\$10), a trip to the Fair should cost roughly \$100.

If you plan to visit at night, carry your phone and wallet in your front pocket as a safety precaution. And most importantly, be sure to have a good time.



Corn dogs, funnel cakes, and corn on the cob, here we come!

PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

America's first Muslim college

By Malachi Keeter
STAFF WRITER

Living in the shadow of Oral Roberts University, a university established by a televangelist, and surrounded by smaller private Christian colleges (Shawnee's Oklahoma Baptist University comes to mind), it is sometimes easy to forget how diverse religion really is in the world.

However, there has never been a single accredited religious university in the United States that was not a Christian

school. But that is changing.

This fall, Zaytuna College is opening its doors in Berkeley, California, to a class of 20 freshmen for its first year.

To quote an announcement in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, "the college will serve the nation's growing Muslim population, blending traditional Islam and American culture."

The college accepts students of any faith, not just Islam, but its courses are centered on Islam and Muslim culture and history. Zaytuna has a liberal arts core curriculum.

Amazingly, considering the

hostility in America toward Muslims as evidenced by the fiasco involving the so-called "ground zero mosque," the university has not drawn any major protest or criticism yet.

In the words of Zaytuna's vice president, Omar Nawaf, "Every new idea receives some level of criticism, and we expect that some people will have a negative reaction to the idea of Zaytuna College."

I hope he is wrong. Zaytuna seems to me to be a valuable addition to American culture, and I am glad to see it.

ARTICLE
REMOVED

Favorite coffee shops

By Bryce Rossler
OPINION EDITOR

In Tulsa, there are lots of coffee shops. You have big chains like Starbucks, and you also have local shops like Shades of Brown and Gypsy Coffeehouse.

Everybody knows you can make coffee at home. So why do people spend time and money to buy coffee from businesses?

I asked a few Riverfield students to find out why and where they buy coffee.

As for myself, I love drinks with 20 syllables that I can't pronounce.

Matt Faeth had a different reason for going to coffee shops. "I love post-post-post-modern art, and that's why I go to Shades of Brown," he said.

While some people go to coffee shops for fun, others go there to study and do work.

Zach Alred said of his habit of frequenting Gypsy Coffeehouse, "It's a cool place to type up my fan fiction novel on a Macintosh while listening to indie pop covers of post rock remixes of psychedelia jam sessions."

Max Harkness said, "When I'm not buying outdated vinyls for hipster cred, I'm working diligently at the Starbucks near my house."

Believe it or not, coffee shops are growing in popularity. They used to be only for adults getting a morning latte, but now kids think that coffee shops are a cool place to hang out. Donut shops like Daylight Donuts and Krispy Kreme also sell coffee, and even fast food restaurants like McDonald's sell coffee too!

Whether you like it or not, hot or iced, coffee is a definite trend to watch out for in the next couple of years.

See you at Starbucks!



Brookside's Shades of Brown is one popular alternative.

PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA