

11.23.09

SPORTS ..... 2  
A&E ..... 3  
OPINION ..... 4



# The COMMONS

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

VOLUME IV NO. 6

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Don't question authority.  
They don't know either...



Big Sleep awakens  
with a new face on  
keyboards . . . . . 3

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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## weekday weather

MON		69
TUE		57
WED		61
THU		52
FRI		58

INFORMATION FROM WEATHER.COM, 11/23, 9:30 A.M.

*"Everyone should care. If we all cared about our world, the world would care about us." — Caitlin Pond*

REDUCE  
REUSE  
RECYCLE... **RETHINK!**



PHOTO BY KAITLYN RICHARDSON

By Ramsey Talladivedula  
FEATURES EDITOR

**R**educe, Reuse, Recycle—it's one of our school community goals, but should we be doing more here and at home? "Is it in the budget?" is the real question.

The school and students can all do something to be green. We can change to compact fluorescent bulbs. They consume 75% less electricity and last ten times longer.

Grocery stores like Wal-Mart, Target, and Food Pyramid get their goods from trucks that travel about 1,500 miles. All of this traveling burns fossil fuels which results in pollution. Sup-

porting local farmers means you can get fresh food while supporting the conservation of energy. And don't wash just a few clothes or dishes at a time. About 85% of the energy used in washers is needed for heating the water. Combine half-loads, run shorter cycles, and use cold or warm water to conserve energy and save money.

Some designers have been going green by using bamboo, soya, sasawashi, and other ecofabrics for their clothing. There is even a vest made out of recycled soda bottles!

When you have a party, don't use disposable dinnerware that will clog landfills. There is a brand called "EarthShell" that makes plates and bowls out of corn, potatoes, and limestone. Buy a starter kit on their website and try it out. It's only \$8 for 30 plates, 25 bowls, and 20 bigger plates.

**P a n g e a** Organic Soaps come in a carton that starts biodegrading within 48 hours after you plant it in your garden. You can buy this soap at Whole Foods. And lastly, when you go home, don't use your desktop computer because it uses more power than our laptops.

So after knowing all this, how can we afford NOT to be green?



## RIVERFIELD STUDENTS PLANT 66 TREES

Earlier this month, Riverfield Upper School students planted a total of 66 young trees around the campus. Oaks, bald cypress saplings, and redbuds were among the trees placed around the school.

In order for the trees to remain healthy through the years, the students had to make sure that they were planted correctly. Each tree was put in a hole roughly six inches deep and covered with a circle of mulch. Stakes were placed at their sides and tied to the trunk to assure that the trees would grow straight and tall.

Trees eliminate large amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. Each tree can store about 13 pounds of carbon per year, so planting them around RCDS has made us a greener and more environmentally friendly school.



## KKK still active in Tulsa

By Matt Faeth  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Every civilization has obvious dark spots in its history. The United States has its own fair share, and if we go even more in depth and look into our own fine state of Oklahoma, we have areas that we neglect to address. Specifically, I am pointing to racism here in Oklahoma.

Racism has been a part of the history of Oklahoma, but the thing that bothers me most is that this snarling beast of bigotry and bias is still very visible and present here in Tulsa.

In 2001, there were two KKK chapters in Oklahoma. Today that number has almost quadrupled to seven Klan chapters. On November 9, the local Fox News station interviewed members of the Tulsa chapter. A female reporter, surrounded by Klan members dressed in their sadly familiar bedsheets-looking robes and hats, asked questions about the new KKK Tulsa chapter.

The member said, "We are your doctors, lawyers, and teachers. People think we are all about hate, but that's not what we are about. We do not plan to be like past Klans of the '60s. We are just proud of our white heritage." Later in the interview, the reporter asked about a picture of a burning cross on the wall in the building. The man replied again, "We are very proud of our heritage."

The KKK may not be lynching people any more like the Klan of old, but despite what the local KKK chapter may say, they are still about hatred and inequality simply because of the color of people's skin.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. embodied my thoughts in this famous quote: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

I'd like to believe that in Tulsa, despite the continued presence of the KKK, Dr. King's dream has become a reality for most citizens.

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# 2 Sports

COMING UP IN OUR NEXT ISSUE: Fantasy Sports, Upper School expansion plans, Grades vs. Learning (which is more important?), the Yearbook elective, and more . . .

## OU football struggles

By Tristan Hightower  
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Oklahoma has been a powerhouse through the years in just about all sports, but especially in football. Last year they had one of the top ten teams in the country, with Heisman-winning quarterback Sam Bradford leading the charge, along with experienced receivers Manuel Johnson and Juquin Iglesias, DeMarco Murray, and many others.

This football season has been a disappointment for the Sooners, with a record just above .500 at 6-4. Bradford is officially out for the year with an injury to his shoulder and has decided to have surgery. Johnson and Iglesias graduated, and one of the best tight ends in the

country, Jermaine Gresham, hasn't gotten the chance to play a single game his senior year because of a leg injury. On top of all those injuries which have put OU into the hole where they currently sit, star defensive end Austin English has an injured knee which might keep him out for the entire season. Even if he does try to play, it will not be at 100 percent.

The only force left on the OU offense is their running back DeMarco Murray, who is having a lot of trouble attempting to carry the whole team on his back.

The defense is sure to remain strong even without their top guy (English) out on the field, but without an offense to put points on the board, OU is pretty much out of luck.

## BASKETBALL GAMES COMING UP

11/24	Summit Christian	HOME	VB 6:00 VB 7:15
11/30	Prue	Away	VB 6:00 VB 7:15
11/30	Town and Country	HOME	JVB 6:00
12/1	Dove Academy	HOME	VB 6:00 VB 7:15
12/8	Regent Preparatory	Away	VB 6:00 VB 7:15
12/10-12	Summit Christian Tournament	Away	VB TBA VB TBA
12/15	Evangelistic Temple	HOME	VB 5:30 VB 7:00

## NFL playoff picks

By Ben Rao  
10TH GRADE

As a middle-aged man, my father can barely get out of his office chair. As a middle-aged man, Brett Favre, quarterback of the Minnesota Vikings, has a 106 passer rating and has led the Vikings to a 7-1 record at the season halfway point.

I'm not going to try and explain why or how, but somehow Brett Favre is ageless, one of the immortals of pro football. George Blanda, a Hall of Famer, played pro football for 26 seasons, the most ever. The way things are going, Favre may end up playing for 30 years.

But before I get too swept up in Favre mania, consider this. Last season Favre had the Jets at 8-3 and a Super Bowl contender, but finished at 9-7 and out of the playoffs. There is still half of the season to go with lots of football to be played. Here is how I think the season will shape out:

**AFC:** (1) Indianapolis, (2) Pittsburgh, (3) New England, (4) San Diego, (5) Cincinnati, (6) Denver; **AFC Champion—Pittsburg.**  
**NFC:** (1) New Orleans, (2)

Minnesota, (3) Arizona, (4) Philadelphia, (5) Dallas, (6) New York; **NFC Champion—Minnesota.**

**Super Bowl XLIV:** Steelers 23, Vikings 16; **Super Bowl MVP:** Troy Polamalu. In the end, the Steelers defense will get to Favre too many times, force a couple of turnovers, and the Steelers offense and Big Ben Roethlisberger will do just enough to escape with a victory and the franchise's seventh Super Bowl Championship.

**Awards:** **MVP—Peyton Manning.** Manning could break Dan Marino's single season passing yardage record. **Defensive Player of the Year—Darren Sharper.** He has seven interceptions for New Orleans, three returned for touchdowns, and is single-handedly responsible for the Saints' turnaround in their pass defense. **Offensive Player of the Year—Chris Johnson.** He could rush for 2,000 yards despite being on a bad team. **Coach of the Year—Josh McDaniels.** After a disastrous offseason made worse by having to trade Jay Cutler, McDaniels will lead Denver to the playoffs.

## Varsity Basketball Scorecard

11/3	Eagle Point Christian	HOME	Varsity Boys 78-28 (W) Varsity Girls 39-2 (W)
11/13	CHEF	Away	Varsity Boys 43-53 (L) Varsity Girls 23-31 (L)
11/17	Rejoice Christian	Away	Varsity Boys 30-45 (L) Varsity Girls 33-20 (W)
11/21	ECHO	HOME	Varsity Boys 70-4 (W) Varsity Girls 46-15 (W)



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOOSTER CLUB

## NBA Highlights: OKC Thunder

By Carl Berry  
12TH GRADE

After a disappointing 23-59 season last year, things for the Oklahoma City Thunder have to be looking up, right? Well, so far things haven't started off so well, with the team posting a 6-5 record as of November 17. However, in the coming years, I think we will definitely see things improve for the Thunder.

First of all, if you look at this season, four of the team's losses have been closer than ten points (one of them was an overtime loss to the NBA

Champion Lakers.) This shows that record doesn't necessarily reflect a team's play.

When you consider the players the Thunder have, you think, "Well, I guess that's an OK team." But when you consider how good the players are going to be in the next three or four years, it is obvious that the team could even contend for a championship. OKC already has a bona fide All-Star in Kevin Durant, an improving point guard in Russell Westbrook, and a solid forward in Jeff Green. Oh yeah, did I mention that they are only 21, 23, and 20 years old

respectively? Add that to a supporting cast of Thabo Sefolosha (25), Nick Collison (29), and rookie James Harden (20), and you have a playoff caliber team.

Consider that they will have two first round draft picks after this season, and in three years, you have a championship caliber squad. All fans have to do is wait.



**DON'T MISS IT THIS WEEK:** "The Twilight Saga: New Moon" is finally here! (PG-13) Are you a member of Team Edward or Team Jacob? . . .

## Speech scores big

By Maxwell Harkness  
10TH GRADE

The Speech program has already been mentioned many times with progressively increasing importance, so to mention what it does again would be unnecessary.

My first moments in Speech class were, as to be expected, filled to the brim with an anxiety and nervousness that could only be described as butterflies in your stomach. That is, until, I got my first chance to speak in class.

The first thing we did was improvisation, making up a story of where our name comes from. Of course, being the man I am, I came up with a silly story of Vikings, and as usual, most of the class got a laugh from it.

But more importantly, something happened that I thought wouldn't happen to me. The experience gave me a certain confidence about public speaking that I never had before.

Since those first moments in Speech, I went into the recent competition at Commerce as a first time "speaker," and came back with the gold in prose. Honestly, it feels great to take First Place in something that is incredibly new. I am amazed and happy to be in the Speech crew today.

Speech is an "B" elective, which means it meets on Tuesdays and Fridays (and every other Monday.) If you were to choose any new elective next semester, Speech should be your top pick.



**Max shows off the trophy the Speech team won at the recent tournament in Durant.**

PHOTO BY KAITLYN RICKARDSON

## Big Sleep performs at the Cain's

By Chris Dickey  
STAFF WRITER

After winning the 2008 Battle of the Bands' online Rockoff, Third Place and the Peoples' Choice award, the band Big Sleep just kind of faded away. Then Riverfield alumnus Steven McCommas along with Malachi Keeter and a friend of Malachi's were writing music last summer when Steve came up with the idea of reuniting Big Sleep.

Steve (vocalist), Malachi (guitarist/pianist), Brady Tackett (drummer), and Morgan Mansur (pianist) all got together over the summer and jammed. Malachi was brought in as a guitarist, but he switched over to keys as Big Sleep took a more keyboard/piano-based musical direction.

Their set list at the Nemesis Presents concert on November 11 included "ATM" (an old, reworked Big Sleep song, but instead of the alt-rock vibe it had, they have

made it just piano and vocals), "Crescendo," "Tom" (a sampler-based number written by Brady along with "Crescendo"), "Love Song" by The Cure, and a cover of "The Way I Feel Inside" by the Zombies, as done by Morgan and Steve.

As it turned out, Morgan was sick on the night of the concert, so Big Sleep made do with

the other three band members (Malachi, Steve, and Brady.) Malachi said, "There weren't even any guitars onstage. We did everything with just keyboards and samplers."

Nothing is official yet, but after the show, a rep from Starship Records approached the band about selling Big Sleep's music at their store.



**Brady Tackett, Steve McCommas and Malachi Keeter perform at the Cain's Ballroom during the November 11 concert.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF KEETER FAMILY

## A few new ideas for Thanksgiving

By Margaret James  
UPPER SCHOOL FACULTY

Thanksgiving is a very American holiday. When we think of Thanksgiving, we think of roast turkey, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, yeast rolls, and pecan and pumpkin pies. However, there are many other options for a fine gourmet Thanksgiving feast.

Recently in *La Cuciana Italiana*, an Italian food and cooking magazine, Chef Marco Canora presented readers with an Italian alternative to the tra-

ditional American holiday feast. Chef Canora utilizes fresh, seasonal ingredients combined with Italian flavors to create an entirely unique and savory meal. His menu is shown at right.

This year, my family and I will prepare this scrumptious meal for Thanksgiving. If you are interested in preparing all or parts of this amazing feast, you may still be able to purchase that issue of *La Cuciana Italiana* at your local grocery or book store. Or if you ask me, I will copy the recipes for you.

Bon appetit and Happy Thanksgiving!

### MENU

- Roasted fennel soup with cranberries and hazelnuts
- Garlic, sage and orange roast turkey with gravy
- Caramelized leek and sage stuffing
- Butternut squash risotto with mostarda di Cremona, amaretti cookies and fried sage leaves
- Cauliflower sformato
- Broccoli rabe with chili and garlic
- Mushrooms in parchment paper
- Pine nut pie



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## Memories of the HALLOWEEN DANCE



**On Friday night, October 30, the Upper School was invaded by a host of ghoulish characters including Michael Jackson, the Blues Brothers, King Tut, Darth Maul, Minnie Mouse, Dracula, Robin Hood, Alice in Wonderland, and many, many others. What a crowd!**

PHOTOS BY BROOKE KNIGHT

A HUGE THANKS to these Contributing Writers who helped on this issue: Carl Berry, Maxwell Harkness, Margaret James, Will Lugar, and Ben Rao . . .



Meghan Kelkar with her very own iPhone...lucky girl!  
PHOTO BY KAITLYN RICHARDSON

## The first iPhone virus finally hits the networks

By Malachi Keeter  
OPINION EDITOR

Mac vs. PC debates have dominated chat rooms and commercial airtimes for several years now.

This is not a Mac vs. PC article, but it is important to note that one of Mac's chief arguments is that (and I quote), "Macs don't get viruses." Many Mac followers will defend that claim to the death. Honestly, it's

a big exaggeration, because a Mac virus has finally hit the networks.

In Australia, reports have been coming in of a worm-style virus that affects Apple's iPhones. The virus hits an affected device and changes the background to a picture of '80s pop musician Rick Astley.

This particular virus is honestly harmless. Even better, it only affects devices that have not changed the default SSH password. It gives off the vibe that the

only reason this virus has been successful was because, you know, why would a Mac password ever need to be changed? They don't get viruses, right?

Adding insult to injury, the author of the virus has published the source code, meaning that more dangerous variations of the virus are going to be making the rounds soon.

Already, a Dutch hacker has begun hacking affected devices leaving messages demanding

money for instructions on making the device secure.

All in all, this just means that Mac users need to quit following bandwagon advertisements and actually learn about their machines.

**Has your iPhone or Mac been hit by a virus yet? Let us know if it does. We'll publish the first occurrence to warn our iPhone and Mac users.**

## Interpreting dreams

By Marisa Morgan  
STAFF WRITER

Everybody has nonsensical dreams, but what do they mean? I don't know about you, but some of my dreams are really out there. I have fallen into a shoe, fallen from my house, and even met various celebrities.

Some people devote their lives to decoding dreams and nightmares, and there are several ways to figure out what parts of your dreams mean.

The first thing you should do after having an odd dream is write it down when you wake up, hopefully the sooner the better. After a while, you tend to forget details, so as

soon as you wake up, write down as many details as you can remember. After that, go and talk to friends to see if they had similar dreams.

Sometimes dreams are triggered by events in your life so friends that you spend time with may have similar dreams.

One night I had a dream where I was running down the street trying to escape a fire truck that was chasing me. When I told one of my best friends, Lynley Fox, about my dream, she told me that she had a dream that same night about being chased by a lion. Those dreams were clearly related. It must mean that I have been spending too much time with Lynley.

## Privacy rights violated by the FBI

By Malachi Keeter  
OPINION EDITOR

On September 24, there were protesters surrounding the G20 Summit meeting in Pittsburgh.

Since many world leaders were there, heavily armed police were dispatched to apprehend the protesters. The protesters got away however, thanks to a man in a motel room with a police scanner. He would listen to the police radio and use Twitter to tell the protesters where the police were going so they could escape. This man was arrested, and the FBI raided his house for evidence that he had broken laws concerning rioting.

This is a difficult case. He was helping people escape from

the police, which is definitely illegal. However, he was doing it in a manner that the U.S. had praised when it was used by protesters in the uprisings during the Iran election.

He had been caught red-handed in the motel room with the scanner, but the FBI also saw fit to break into his apartment. On October 1, his apartment in Queens was searched for evidence, and several boxes were seized. The evidence deemed important enough to take by the police and FBI included anti-sparking pickaxes (specially built for shutting off water mains in emergencies), files concerning his patients (he is a social worker who works with over 100 mentally ill patients), and some "Buffy the

Vampire Slayer" DVDs.

The real issue of the case is privacy. The man obviously broke the law, and was caught at it. The police and FBI would have had him if they had not gone overboard trying to incriminate him. The government was right to apprehend him in that situation, as it could have become very dangerous for a lot of important people.

However, he is a citizen of the U.S. and has a constitutional right to privacy, and a right to not have his home searched and his possessions seized.

In short, while it is important to keep the peace and keep people safe, everyone also has certain rights that should not be violated just for the purpose of investigation.

## Leggings: Do you think they are pants?

By Marisa Morgan  
STAFF WRITER

With every new season there inevitably comes a time when new trends run wild. This year is no different. Everyone seems to be wearing scarves, boots, or leggings.

Leggings have been a fashion staple for a couple of years now, but this time they have taken on a whole new meaning. Instead of wearing them under a dress or as some sort of workout gear, people now seem to think it is okay to wear leggings just by themselves as pants.

Now I'm not sure who told them it was OK, but it most definitely is not. I just want to know who started this whole thing.

My personal rule is that if it covers your backside, it's acceptable to be worn. But apparently now the "in style" thing to do is just to wear a normal T-shirt with your choice of leggings. This is not OK! I don't care how opaque they are, it is

just plain weird. Pants have zippers. Pants have pockets. Pants have some sort of hardware on them. Leggings do not! I just hope that this fashion fad, like others, will die out soon.



Caitlin Pond styling her boots and leggings.  
PHOTO BY KAITLYN RICHARDSON

## The Flat Earth Society lives!

By Will Lugar  
11TH GRADE

The Earth is round. This is a scientifically accepted fact. Contrary to popular belief, we've known it since long before Columbus.

We think of our era as enlightened, yet even today there are people who believe the Earth is flat. The main community of these people is the Flat Earth Society.

The original Flat Earth Society was founded in the early 1800s by Samuel Rowbotham. Its most recent incarnation was started in 1956 by Samuel Shenton.

Since the death of its last leader in 2001, the society itself has technically been defunct, but its beliefs live on. Today, the society is a vaguely defined community of Flat Earth believers ("FE'ers") who thrive on the Internet.

What exactly do Flat Earthers believe? Basically, they have two theories of the Earth's shape being either a flat disk or an "infinite plane." We will focus on the flat disk theory, because it is more fun.

In most Flat Earth scenarios, Antarctica, the "ice wall," circles the perimeter of the

known world. Presumably, anyone who has traveled "across" Antarctica has merely traveled along the circle near the inner edge, creating the illusion of crossing a continent. If you could scale the wall and continue to travel onwards, you would eventually reach the end of the world and fall off.

**Why would NASA hide the truth from us? Money, of course! ...Faking all that research is relatively cheap, and it keeps curious citizens happy....'**

What about the rest of the universe? Most FE'ers will admit the other planets are round. Earth is not actually a planet to them, but is special and unlike planets, it is flat.

Why is it we've always heard the Earth is round, then?

Shouldn't NASA have discovered the truth by now? Yes, but NASA is behind the conspiracy! Why would they want to hide the truth from us? Money, of course! Constructing machinery to research outer space would be astronomically expensive, but *faking* all that research is relatively cheap, and it keeps curious citizens happy.

In my search to learn why the FE'ers hold their beliefs, I posted a thread to one of their forums. One FE'er cited the Qur'an. Another said that "reading the content on this site with an open mind would convince any sane man the earth is flat." A theorist named John Davis replied that he began questioning the Earth's roundness after a mystical experience.

Someday technological advancements may allow ordinary citizens to vacation in space. In addition to allowing people to experience the joy of zero gravity and see the beauty of our planet from above, it will provide visible proof of our planet's roundness. The Flat Earthers will probably say it's all done with mirrors.

Go to <http://theflatearth-society.org/cms> to learn more.

Letters to the Editor are welcome at any time, but all submissions considered for publication must be signed. E-mail to the Editor-in-Chief at [mfaeth@riverfield.org](mailto:mfaeth@riverfield.org).