

# THE MONTHLY JAG

On The Prowl ..... for the news!

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### Inside this issue:

Ask John	2
Showin' Some Love	2
Sick Days	2
Teacher 411	3
St. Patrick's Past	3
Dance Review	4
Behind the Scenes	4
Book Review	4
CD Review	5
TV Review	5
DVD Review	5
Snakes in Class!	6
Horoscope	6

## Where in the World is Mr. V. going???

by Christy Mancuso, Christina Morris, and Chelsy Bryant

Yes, believe it or not, Mr. Vicari is moving. Not to a different house, but to a different school.

Next year he is going to be the principal of Argonaut High School.

We wondered why he was moving to a new school, and how he feels about his new job.

Mr. V. explained that he is moving "because I was offered the job and I think that this will be a challenging and rewarding experience."

He told us he is moving by choice. He said, "I am choosing [to go]. The opportunity came up, and I am taking it because I may not get another chance."

One question that is on everyone's mind is, "Is Mr. Vicari following Chloe?" Of course, his answer was yes.

Mr. Vicari has worked here for about four years. Mr Vicari says



The Journalism Class waves fond goodbye to a tearful Mr. Vicari.

that there are a lot of things he will miss about JJHS, such as "working with great adults and kids. [I will miss] the whole experience of JJHS. I will miss everyone and everything here."

He is right, but we do have our faults. What did he like least about JJHS? "That we do not have a cafeteria."

We all are very thankful for Mr. Vicari being here and being a great principal.

The new principal is going to be Janet Pabst, the current principal of Sutter Creek Elementary."

Mr. Vicari will have his work cut out for him at Argonaut High School. He says that he will have to "learn the job of high school principal and do the best work I can do."

He is very excited about going to Argonaut High School. "Argonaut is a great school, and I am excited for the whole experience and being a principal there."

We will all miss you Mr. Vicari and have fun in high school! We eighth graders will see you there.

Beware! :)

## WOMAN ON THE STREET by Shey Walker

This month, we asked six students the following question:

**"Do you feel safe walking around downtown alone?"**

6th grader Morgan Zaffarano said, "Yes. [I like to go downtown] because it's fun."

6th grader Nick Woods said, "Yes, because there is a cop down there."

7th grader Bree Tucker said, "Yeah, because I'm not scared."

7th grader Sam Parker said, "Yes, because



hopefully Jessica Simpson will be there."

8th grader Jacob Lilly said, "Yes because it's safe."

8th grader Megan Galino said, "Yeah, because it's safe."

Special thanks to the Amador Ledger-Dispatch for providing support to the JJHS Journalism class.

## ASK JOHN by John Rogers, JJHS Counselor

*What is the appropriate level of affection that junior high students should show each other?*

The show of affection at school involves the intersection of three givens. First: Schools are mini cultures, with a modified set of rules and expectations. The reason for these rules is, first and foremost, student and staff safety. The adults around you are legally responsible for your well-being

while you are here.

Second: students in the age range of middle school are, or soon will be, dealing with emotional rampage, a.k.a. hormone explosion.

Third: the reason you are at school is to become more knowledgeable about academics, your role in the larger groups, and your own life.

When you put all of these things together you have what amounts

to occasional confusion. You may feel drawn to another person, or even obsessed with another person. That is entirely normal. You are learning about your role in a group and in your life. You are also dealing with the normal explosion.

However, there are those pesky mini culture rules to deal with: no PDA! All this is just a way of saying that your feelings are normal but the rules say no, no, no!

## SHOWING SOME LOVE by Ashley Gregorius and Amanda Pillsberry

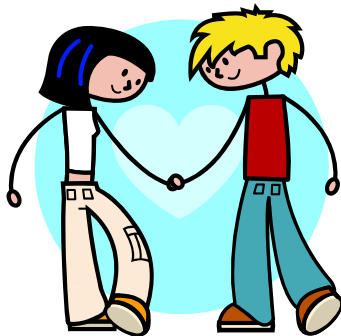
Lots of people have different opinions for the affection level we should be allowed to show. Students generally think that it should be okay to kiss, hug, hold hands, etc.

The school policy is that you may not do any of those. If you are caught showing someone that kind of affection, you will get a detention. We interviewed some teachers and students to see what they had to say about this topic, and here are their answers:

Question: "What do you think is the appropriate level of affection that should be shown in junior high, and why? What's the punishment for not going by the rules?"

"I think that junior high students should only be able to wave, walk, and talk. Too many parents don't want their kids showing affection at this young age. If we catch you showing too much affection, the punishment will be detention," said Mr. Molin.

Many kids don't agree. "I think we should be allowed to hold hands, hug, and kiss, because we are old



*So, can we hold hands or not?*

enough to," said Student Aniko Dunne.

"I say that you should be allowed to say that you are going out, call each other on the phone with parents' permission, but no physical contact at all, except at dances where you may hold each other during a dance, as long as you have daylight between you. This goes with the 'hands off' policy, because this is not a dating game. You're on school time and students are too young for any type of holding hands, hugging, etc. If you are caught habitually showing affection, one will sit in the office and the other in the lunch area during lunch time. The next day you will switch places. Your punishment will continue

until you are no longer boyfriend and girlfriend," said Mr. White.

Other teachers voiced their opinions. "I think it is appropriate to sit next to each other, quick hugs, hold hands, and dance at dances. This is the beginning of relationships in your life. It should be casual and friendly, with not too much drama. Don't make it so serious. Friendships are more important to work on instead of romantic relationships," said Mrs. Rad. Mrs. Donatelli seems to agree, saying it's okay to "hold hands, if appropriate."

"I think a nice smile will do, because of the 'hands off' policy, so the kids at school are safe. The punishment will depend on the level of affection you show," said Mr. Vicari

Finally, Mr. Grattan offers the following romantic advice: "Smile with your hands behind your back, and smile demurely. It is good to smile at people. The punishment would be a warning, then a detention, and a referral to Mr. Vicari."

## SICK DAYS by Jack Stewart

As you have probably noticed a lot of kids have been sick with colds, and have been out of school for a couple of days or two weeks. So I went around and asked a few of the kids that were sick a few questions. Here are their answers.

Alex Peterson said that his symptoms were stomach cramps, fever, stuffy nose, and other stuff. He stayed home for three days and said it was hard to catch up on the school work and homework that he missed.

Tim Burton said that his symp-



toms were runny nose, coughing, a major migraine, and some other stuff. Even though he

didn't feel well, he still came to school to work, and didn't miss any of his homework.

Tim Wolfbrant said that his symptoms were runny nose, sleepiness, and other stuff. He only missed one day of school and it wasn't hard for him to catch up on

his homework.

I also asked Mr. Spellman if a lot of his students have been out lately. His reply was that a lot of kids have been out.

I asked Kris if the month of February had normal attendance or if a lot of kids had been out. She said, "The month of February had a lot of absences, not due to sickness, but to the weather."

So if you have any of the symptoms above, **Do Not Come To School** and get other people sick!

## TEACHER 411: MRS. HEINRICH interview by Nick Deegan

**Q: What made you want to be a teacher?**

A: "Mr. Heinrich was a teacher and we had kids, so we wanted the same time off. I also wanted to enlighten young minds with the joy of learning."

**Q: What do you like to do when you aren't working?**

A: "I like to read and walk, and I like to contemplate the ways to open the joy of learning in my students."

**Q: What's your favorite sport?**

A: "Any sport that I can watch my students strive to do their best."

**Q: What kind of music do you listen to?**

A: "Jack Johnson and Mason Jennings" (surf music)

**Q: If you couldn't be a Core teacher, what would you be?**

A: "Well, I was elected Mrs. Orange County, and I tried to be Mrs. America, but that didn't



work out. I always thought working at Wal-Mart looked like fun."

**Q: How long have you been teaching?**

A: "20 years."

**Q: What's your favorite movie?**

A: "O' Brother Were Art Thou"

**Q: Why did you marry Mr. Heinrich?**

A: "Who wouldn't want him? He was a study life guard at Malibu beach."

**Q: What's your favorite holiday?**

A: "Arbor Day."

**Q: If you could say anything about Mr. Heinrich what would it be?**

A: "I really don't think that it would be appropriate for a junior high newspaper."

**Q: When you were a kid did you want to be a teacher?**

A: "My father was a teacher so that made me want to be one, but I wanted to be a stewardess more."

**Q: What's your favorite book?**

A: "Green Eggs and Ham."

**Q: How long are you planning to keep teaching?**

A: "1 more year."

## ST. PATRICK'S PAST by Tyler Hayward

**Who was St. Patrick?**

Saint Patrick was the patron saint of Ireland; sadly no one knows really much about his life, but here are some things that we do know.

**Saint Patrick was Taken Prisoner by Irish Raiders**

Saint Patrick was born in Britain near the end of the year 460 A.D. At the age of 16, Saint Patrick was taken into captivity by Irish raiders who were attacking the family's estate.

He spent six years in Ireland. It is said that he was taken to either Mount Slemish in Antrim County, or Mayo County near Killala.

During this time of captivity, he worked as a shepherd in the outdoors. He was very sad and lonely, and he turned to religion for comfort.

**Talked to God and an Angel in Dreams**

After more than six years of being a prisoner, he escaped. In dream he heard a voice, which he believed was God's voice, telling him that it was time to leave Ireland.



After his escape, Patrick had to walk nearly two hundred miles from County Mayo to the Irish coast.

Finally, after escaping from Ireland into Britain, he reported that an angel in another dream told him to return to Ireland as a missionary.

Very soon after that, Patrick started his religious training. This study lasted more than fifteen years.

After this time, he became a priest and was sent to Ireland on a dual mission to minister to the Christians already there, and to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity.

**About the Holiday**

In Ireland, Saint Patrick's Day is a national holiday like Christmas or Easter.

The U.S. started to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day in 1737 when English, Dutch, German, and French immigrants brought the tradition here.

**What about the Three and Four Leaf Clovers?**

Clovers grow almost everywhere in Ireland.

Saint Patrick preached that the three leaf clover symbolized the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The four leaf clover is caused by a rare genetic mutation that occurs in about 1 of 10,000 clovers.

On a four leaf clover, the leaves stand for hope, faith, love and luck.

I think the four-leaf clover is valued because it is such a rare sight. Many people search for one but never find one.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

## VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE REPORT by Mallorie Hayes

The theme of the dance on Friday, February 16, was Valentines Day!

The daily announcements said that there would be a king and queen crowned, but after further thought, the student council decided that there should be royalty crowned instead of king and queen (because of the raffle drawing).

Although the DJ wasn't set up in time, he made up for it during the dance. The attendance was low, but it was more than expected.



A few students were asked their opinion about the dance. "It was pretty good for the people that were there," said Mikaela Soracco.

"I didn't like how they played two of the songs twice and

it was pretty boring, but over all it was pretty good," Nick Deegan said.

"There weren't a lot of people there, but it was pretty fun," answered Christina Morris.

Alyssa Cabri said, "It was good but at times it was boring." Megan Galino said, "It was pretty good, but sometimes the music wasn't that great."

I thought the dance was sometimes kind of boring, but, for the most part, I had good time. Even though there weren't many people there, it was pretty good!

Nobody got kicked out or in trouble, but there were about 91 people on the No-Dance list. A lot of people didn't want to go because their friends weren't going. Overall the dance was fun. At least I had a good time.

## BEHIND THE SCENES: Kayla Grady by Trevin Helmig

Kayla is a pretty awesome girl who plays soccer and volleyball. However, she likes volleyball more because it is more active, and she is better at it.

Her favorite color is lime green, and her favorite food is spaghetti. She likes it because it tastes good. Her favorite restaurant is TGI Fridays.

Her favorite class is Science, and she likes it because she has a lot of fun in that class.

A show that she definitely likes to watch is "One Tree Hill." Her favorite movie is *The Notebook*. The kind of movies Kayla likes are sad, romantic, thrilling, and comedic.

Kayla went on a cool trip to



Kayla Grady and friends. With friends like these....

Europe! She went there in the beginning of August last year. She visited Spain, France, Italy and Germany. The coolest thing she saw was an old castle in Portafino.

It's easy for Kayla to keep up on school work and sports. She does

sports after school, and right when she gets home, she does her homework.

Kayla has many friends. Andrew Phillips said, "She is cool, funny and there for you when you need a friend... She is kind of nerdy too. JK!"

"I think Kayla is a really cool, funny friend," said Chloe Vicari.

Hayley Sornberger agrees, "She is very awesome and I love her! (As a friend) HAHA!!!"

Taylor Lewis also thinks Kayla is a good friend, but "Kayla is the biggest nerd in the world. But I love her to death!"

## BOOK REVIEW: TOO YOUNG TO DIE by Samantha Jones

**AR Book Level: 5.2**

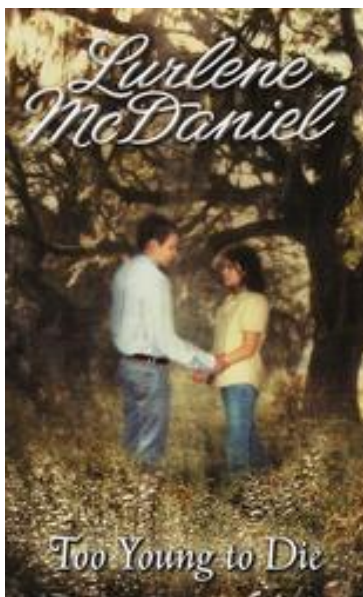
**AR Points: 5**

*Too Young to Die*, written by Lurlene McDaniel, is about a sixteen year old girl named Melissa Austin.

Melissa's main goals in life are to get a National Merit scholarship for college and to make the annual brain bowl team.

But when she learns that she has leukemia, it interferes with all of her plans.

As Melissa and her best friend Jory Delaney tackle the challenge up ahead, awful moments occur, making the pain and depression only worse.



When Melissa goes into chemotherapy, she meets new friends and loses her connection with the

"normal" world.

While Melissa is in chemo, she meets a nineteen-year-old guy named Rictor Davis.

Ric has a bone cancer and had to have his left leg amputated just under the knee.

Melissa also meets a four-year-old girl named Rachel Dove.

This book is very realistic, has a good plot and well thought out characters.

I'd give this book 3 out of 5 stars.

I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys drama and likes to hear about other people's lives.

## CD REVIEW: Until There's Nothing Left of Us by Elizabeth Doyle

Kill Hannah's newest alternative rock CD, "Until There's Nothing Left of Us," was released August 1, 2006.

Except for two songs, all of the songs on "Until There's Nothing Left of Us" were written by Mat Devine.



most famous songs are "Lips like Morphine," "Kennedy," and "Unwanted."

Not many people have heard of Kill Hannah because it isn't the most famous band that's out there, but it should be.

Kill Hannah has put out many great CDs before, like "For Never and Ever," released on October 14, 2003.

Their CDs have a lot of songs that kids can relate to. Some of their

Their songs and lyrics are awesome in various ways. They just get to you. Who knows why they aren't as famous as some other bands?

## TV REVIEW: Avatar by Lena Ong and Lindsey Petty

The first season of *Avatar* is finally out on DVD, available at Wal-Mart.

If you're one of the deprived few who don't know of the show, it's about a boy named Aang, more commonly known as the Avatar.

The story begins when Aang is freed from an iceberg by a water bender named Katara and her brother Sakka.



Avatar is a "high being" with control of all four elements (instead of the usual one), whose job is to keep the four nations at peace.

One hundred years ago, the Fire Nation attacked the Air Nation

wiping the race out.

Aang and his two companions started their journey to the North Pole, in hopes of learning water bending.

The emotionally-challenged

juvenile delinquent, Prince Zuko of the Fire Nation, is chasing Avatar Aang, hoping to catch him, and restore his honor by regaining his throne.

With the help of his crazy tea loving Uncle Moosho, Avatar Aang and his two companions Katara and her brother Sakka face many obstacles as they head to the North Pole.

*Avatar* is an animated TV show on Nickelodeon. This show has been on the air for two seasons so far.

All ages are able to watch this TV show. Everything about this show is pretty cool. It's funny, and a must see.

## DVD REVIEW: The Guardian by Jessica Ladd

The movie *The Guardian* is about a group of people training to become rescue swimmers.

As the Master Chief says, "Cause when God rips houses off the ground he created ... and when the Navy wimps out," it's the rescue swimmer's job to clean up the mess left over!

Over the six-week training program, the future rescue swimmers face some very interesting challenges.

Jake Fisher (played by Ashton Kutcher!), the most talented diver, faces off against Ben Randal, better known as Senior Chief, (played by Kevin Costner!) right from the beginning.

As the weeks go by, Jake and Senior Chief face off many times. Their most heated fight is after Jake and his friend end up in jail



after a bar fight with the Navy.

After they are escorted home by their superiors, Jake takes the heat from Senior Chief, so his friend won't get kicked out of training.

During their confrontation, as a surprise to Jake, Senior Chief pulls out a scrap book: Jake's

scrap book. Senior Chief explains to him that he has spoken with Jake's swim coach, and has learned of the tragedy that led Jake to be a rescue swimmer.

By the end of the night, the pair come to an understanding.

Eventually, Jake succeeds and gets a job as a rescue swimmer. But wait until you see what happens next!

I highly recommend this movie. Throughout the movie, there is a lot of comedy, although the end is kind of a tear jerker. I give this movie five out of five stars!

The film is rated PG-13 for intense sequences of action/peril, brief strong language and some sensuality

# SNAKES IN THE CLASSROOM! by Samantha Jones and Mrs. Flint

On Monday, March 12, 2007, Mrs. Port's class had an unusual visitor, Mrs. Smith's gopher snake!

The previous Friday, Mrs. Smith accidentally left the snake's cage door open. When she got to school on Monday morning, she realized that the snake was missing.

Everyone in her first period class searched the classroom high and low for the snake. While they were looking, students from Mrs. Port's class next door came in and asked Mrs. Smith if she was miss-

ing a snake.

It turns out the snake was hanging from Mrs. Port's ceiling. Eyewitnesses say it hung down about six inches, and was just looking around.

Luckily, most everyone remained calm, and af-



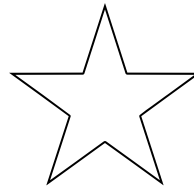
ter a little bit of effort, the snake was safely returned to Mrs. Smith's class.

This is actually the second time Mrs. Smith's snake has escaped. Both times the snake ended up in Mrs. Port's room.

"The snake must really like Mrs. Port," said Mrs. Smith. "Luckily, it didn't head somewhere else, like the boys locker room."

Mr. Heinrich's classroom is right next door to Mrs. Smith's. When asked what he thought about the situation, Mr. Heinrich guessed that "the snake was probably just trying to find Eve."

## Monthly Horoscope



BY KLUISY AND DITSY STAR, ASTROLOGERS

### March Birthdays!




Jonathan Arreola	3/13/1992
Anna Baxter	3/22/1993
Brooke Berkey	3/27/1993
Jeffrey Bryan	3/28/1994
Alyssa Buck	3/29/1993
Jasmine Carter	3/21/1993
Justin Cornell	3/10/1995
Brandon Craig	3/9/1993
Mariah Cunningham	3/10/1995
Breeana Garcia	3/29/1994
Ashleigh Gruenwald	3/24/1994
Cayla Hand	3/27/1995
Mikayla Hirschel	3/5/1995
Matthew Hlavaty	3/14/1995
Hannah Huerta	3/28/1995
Kimberly Kearns	3/3/1994
Samantha Knuist	3/21/1993
Michael Land	3/7/1995
Emily Lehman	3/6/1994
Anthony Leonetti	3/27/1993
Mackenzie Love	3/2/1994
Erik Lyon	3/22/1994
Richard Marain	3/12/1993
Taylor Morlan	3/16/1994
Cassady O'Keefe	3/12/1993
Cassidy Ornellas	3/22/1994
Miranda Ornouski	3/16/1993
Lindsey Petty	3/23/1993
Devan Pingree	3/31/1994
Noah Pinochi	3/16/1993
Christine Pisecki	3/19/1993
Shannon Smith	3/18/1994
Brandee Smith	3/30/1993
Andrew Soares	3/4/1994
Samantha Taylor	3/7/1994
Sarah Terry	3/26/1993
Alyssa Waldron	3/10/1995

<p><b>Scorpio</b>  <b>Color:</b> Green  <b>School Month:</b>                  Hard work and dedication pay off.  <b>Words of advice:</b>                  Try harder!</p>	<p><b>Sagittarius</b>  <b>Color:</b> Turquoise  <b>School Month:</b>                  Your grades are fine, but your friends might be a little upset with you.  <b>Words of advice:</b>                  Keep your priorities straight!</p>	<p><b>Capricorn</b>  <b>Color:</b> Green  <b>School Month:</b>                  Your grades are slipping but your social life is rising!  <b>Words of advice:</b>                  Take some time to focus.</p>
<p><b>Aquarius</b>  <b>Color:</b> Orange  <b>School Month:</b>                  Your best friend is making life changes. Be there for them every step of the way.  <b>Words of advice:</b>                  Be a good friend.</p>	<p><b>Pisces</b>  <b>Color:</b> Red  <b>School Month:</b>                  You are one successful son of a gun. Grades are good and so are friends.  <b>Words of advice:</b>                  Keep it up!</p>	<p><b>Taurus</b>  <b>Color:</b> Grey  <b>School Month:</b>                  You're getting your grades up, but you're confused on your social life.  <b>Words of advice:</b>                  Think before speak!</p>
<p><b>Gemini</b>  <b>Color:</b> Pink  <b>School Month:</b>                  Your social life is fine, but your grades. YIKES!  <b>Words of advice:</b>                  Keep your guard up.</p>	<p><b>Cancer</b>  <b>Color:</b> Emerald  <b>School Month:</b>                  Woops! Your grades are slipping, might want to take some time to fix that.  <b>Words of advice:</b>                  Respect yourself.</p>	<p><b>Leo</b>  <b>Color:</b> Black  <b>School Month:</b>                  Stop letting people take you for granted. It'll hurt you in the long run.  <b>Words of advice:</b>                  Be careful!</p>
<p><b>Virgo</b>  <b>Color:</b> Purple  <b>School Month:</b>                  Your grades are okay, but you could do better.  <b>Words of advice:</b>                  Pay attention!</p>	<p><b>Libra</b>  <b>Color:</b> Yellow  <b>School Month:</b>                  Lean on your friends through the hard times.  <b>Words of advice:</b>                  Be patient.</p>	<p><b>Aries</b>  <b>Color:</b> Blue  <b>School Month:</b>                  You'll soon see who your true friends are, and your grades might start to fall.  <b>Words of advice:</b>                  Choose your friends carefully.</p>