

Nine Times

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Blonde Jokes Face Extinction

by Fan-Ping Chiang
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A study by German experts suggests people with blonde hair are an endangered species and will become extinct by 2202, due to too few people now carrying the gene for blondes who may not be around beyond the next two centuries.

Researchers predict the last truly natural blonde will be born in Finland, as it is the country with the highest proportion of blondes.



The problem is that blonde hair is caused by a recessive gene. In order for a child to have blonde hair, it must have the gene on both sides of the family in the grandparents' generation.

Esbe van Heerden says "I don't think it would really affect me because it's just a hair colour, and if they were really

that serious about there being no more blondes, just dye their hair. So what if they're not a natural blonde?"

Scientists also believe that it's not the natural blondes that give blondes a bad name; they suggest that dyed-blondes do, as they are more attractive to men who choose them as partners over true blondes.

Sidney Crosby a Rising Star

by Luke Dempsey
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Born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Sidney Crosby has become one of the best junior hockey players in the world. Crosby has played for the Canadian World Hockey team and last year won several awards such as Rookie of the Year, League MVP, and Leading Scorer of the Canadian Hockey League. At 17 years old, Crosby is rated the #1 prospect for the 2005 NHL draft. In the week of February 7 - 14, Crosby scored his 50th goal in his 50th game.

Crosby plays for the Rimouski Oceanic of the QMJHL (Quebec Major Junior Hockey League) in the position of center. If he continues to play like he is, he may become the best hockey player to ever play the game.

Where Does It Hurt?

by Whitney, 11
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Many young athletes are pushing too hard and getting injured. In 2003, about 3.5 million American kids younger than 15 were treated for sports-related injuries. Some of those young athletes suffered typical sports bang-ups. But doctors are treating more kids for overuse injuries, which require lengthy rehabilitation and care. Overuse injuries include cracked kneecaps, sore shoulders, torn tendons, back pain and damaged growth plates, the fast-growing areas in kids' bones. Experts call these ailments overuse injuries because they occur when frequent and repetitive motion places stress on a part of the body. Changes in the way kids participate in sports have added to the rise in these injuries.

Young athletes are at risk for two types of injuries: acute and overuse. Acute injuries are caused by a single event, such as a fall, a twist or a collision. Overuse injuries occur when frequent and repetitive motion places stress on a body part.

Here's a look at some of the overuse injuries and the activities that can cause them.

Shoulders: Swimming, pitching and tennis can injure the rotator cuff, a group of muscles that help move the shoulder in an arc.

Elbow: Repetitive throwing can put too much pressure on the muscles, tendons and cartilage near the elbow. A painful condition known as Little League elbow afflicts kids in many sports, not just baseball.

Back: Excessive flexing and stretching in such sports as ice-skating and gymnastics can affect the spine, causing back pain.

Legs and feet: Running and dancing can cause a stress fracture, a hairline break in a bone. Most stress fractures occur in the foot or the bones of the lower leg.

Knees and heels: Too much jumping and running in such sports as track, basketball and soccer can cause torn tendons in the legs. Tendons connect muscles to bones.

A campaign to teach young athletes, parents and coaches how to prevent overuse injuries is being launched. Some of the experts' tips: Warm up, cool down and stretch, and take the time to rest. Kids should engage in activities that develop the whole body, including recreational play -- goofing around and having fun.



Nine Times is an in-school paper which consists of articles written by Grade 9 students here at Armbrae, as well as students from around the world. Through an online project, entitled *Newsday*, students from all parts of the globe get to write, edit and upload stories they find interesting. Then other students in other parts of the world can download their stories and put them in their own newspapers -- which is what our Grade 9 class has done. Enjoy the read!

Some Surprises in Oscar Results

by Patrick Hughes
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Many people were labeling this year's Academy Awards as one of the most uninteresting in years. They predicted a great drop in ratings from years past, perhaps even the beginning of the end for the greatest award show on earth. It was, thankfully, none of these things. Ratings remained as high as ever and the award themselves were much closer than was thought. Here are some of the highlights of the greatest night in film:

Best Actor - Jamie Foxx ("Ray") No big surprise here. It was pretty much a guarantee.

Best Actress - Hilary Swank ("Million Dollar Baby") She was deserving of the honour; however many people thought Annette Benning ("Being Julia") would win, to even out the 2000 Oscar upset when Swank beat out Benning for the first time.

Best Supporting Actor - Morgan Freeman ("Million Dollar Baby") Many people feel that Morgan Freeman slipped in under the radar. Half the critics felt that Jamie Foxx would both acting awards while the other half felt that the comedic performance of Thomas Hayden Church would garner him a rare award for a comedy. But in the end, the Oscar veteran came out with the award.

Best Supporting Actress - Cate Blanchette ("The Aviator") Her stellar performance playing Oscar-winner Katherine Hepburn was widely expected by the vast majority of critics.

Best Director - Clint Eastwood ("Million Dollar Baby") While it was widely accepted that Clint's last-minute 37-days-to-produce film was the best directed, Martin Scorsese was the predicted winner. He has made such films as "Raging Bull" and "Taxi Driver", and he has been nominated four times, always losing. It was assumed that he would finally walk away with the statue this year, but it was not to be. He now joins Alfred Hitchcock as a 0 for 5 director.

Best Picture - "Million Dollar Baby" All year long, "The Aviator", an epic film about one of Hollywood's greatest movie moguls, had been the expected winner. That is, until "Million Dollar Baby" came out a week before the nomination deadline to give "The Aviator" its only real competition. Even so, "The Aviator" had been the main contender; everyone knows that Hollywood loves epics. In the greatest surprise of the night, "Million Dollar Baby" came away with the coveted prize.

Up a Tree

by Victoria, 10
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Peter Jenkins said that he wanted to climb trees with out hurting them. In 1983, he started a climbing school. Tree Climbers International or TCI, is located in Atlanta, Georgia. Jenkins is an arborist, or tree surgeon.

Now Jenkins and a team of TCI instructors are teaching safe climbing techniques to kids and adults. Jenkins teaches young and old to climb trees using ropes, harness, helmets, footwear, and other gear with out harming the trees.



Tree Climbers now get together and travel around the world to climb challenging or especially beautiful trees. Climbers have birthday parties in the tree tops. Some people even stay the night swaying from a high branch, safely in a hammock!

EDITORIAL

Advertising – How It Hurts and Helps You

by Brandon, 11, Neil, 11, and Patrick, 11
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How often do you flip on the television, trying to watch a show, and an annoying commercial pops up? Or perhaps you're listening to some music and you hear endless advertisements. What effect do these commercials have on you? After all, they can even change the way you think by persuading you to buy unneeded products. If you find this interesting, read on.

There are several ways people advertise. The most common is the bandwagon technique. This is when the advertisers say that everybody is using this product and that you should to. Another way is to have a celebrity endorse the product. The final way we will mention is when advertisers manipulate your emotions so that you buy the product.

Advertising can also be hurtful. It can persuade you to buy unneeded products. It can also make you unhappy with yourself. Advertising creates an image in your mind of what you have to own, look



The Heat is On

by Tai, 10
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Washington, Georgia

Recent studies show that the world's temperature is heating up faster than previously. During the 1900s, the pollution raised the amount of carbon dioxide and other gases in our atmosphere, and the earth's temperature increased by about 1 degree.

The International Climate Change Taskforce (ICCT) is a group that studies global warming. According to an (ICCT) report, the world's temperature is becoming more sensitive to pollution. Scientists worry the average global temperature could rise as much as 4.5 degrees by 2055 and 10 degrees by 2100.

Council Out to Get Cats?

by Colin Ferguson
Grade 9, Armbræ Academy

Halifax city council has passed a motion calling for a bylaw that would put restrictions on local cats. Under the proposed bylaw, free-roaming cats would have to stay on their owners' property unless neighbors give permission. The bylaw would also state that cat owners can have no more than 4 cats, to prevent injuries inflicted by cats on humans. The vote in favor of such a bylaw was 12-10 but cat owners are saying that the bylaw should be at the bottom of the priority list. There have however been complaints about free-roaming cats attacking humans and wandering onto property that they should not be on.

like, and be. This could create low self-esteem and make you feel bad about yourself. After all, behind all of this façade is just an object that people want to make money on.

Of course, advertising can help you as well. It will give you information on things you want to buy, and tell you about new products. Also, it could give clips of a movie to make you decide whether you want to see the movie. During political campaigns, advertisements can tell you about candidates. Finally, advertisements can tell you about issues such as wearing a helmet while bike riding.

You should always be on the lookout for these practices as remembering them can stop you from being cheated out of your money.

Napoleon Dynamite: A Flippen Funny Movie

by Kyle, 14 and Harry, 14
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Napoleon Dynamite is a sort of geeky outcast in a tiny rural farming community who has no friends. The story is basically about his awkward adventures in his typically abusive home and high school environment.

This is not an easy movie to judge. The characters and humor are so bizarre, at times you don't even know what to think. Overall it was pretty funny, and unusual enough to be interesting, so it gets a good recommendation.

I haven't seen anyone else star in a movie like Jon Heder has done, so it's hard to judge performance. Its either inspired genius, or pure character acting, depending on whether or not he is as nerdy as Napoleon. The character is one we probably all know, not geeky in the math whiz or computer programmer vein, but geeky in both talent, common sense, and of social awareness. Someone so puzzling in their defectiveness, we honestly don't know what to think.

Everyone wants to compare this movie to something like *Revenge of the Nerds*, but the movie I kept thinking of was *Clueless*. Although not nearly as slick and lacking the obvious social commentary, the characters are quite similar. The tone is also clearly very different, while the vacant valley girls were fairly blissful in their ignorance, *Napoleon Dynamite's* misfits are sad and pitiable.

Humour in Mistakes

by Angus McKnight
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Many people find humor in the way some people can make hilarious mistakes, on tests, while making laws, and never notice.

Political humor has been a great source of laughter. Famous people all over the world have come up with strange lines in speeches, like U.S. President George Bush stating that he found it unfortunate that the French don't have a word for "entrepreneur". And former Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien's speech on proofing the proof.

Sometimes students make mistakes on quizzes or tests. One example of this is an answer stating that the inhabitants of Egypt were called mummies. They lived in the Sarah Desert and traveled by Camelot. And government officials sometimes making mistakes in making laws, like a law in the United States stating "It is against the law for more than 12 rabbits to reside on one block." There is still some humor in the world, if we can only see it.