

The

For family, friends, and alumni of Cistercian Preparatory School

CONTINUUM

June 2005

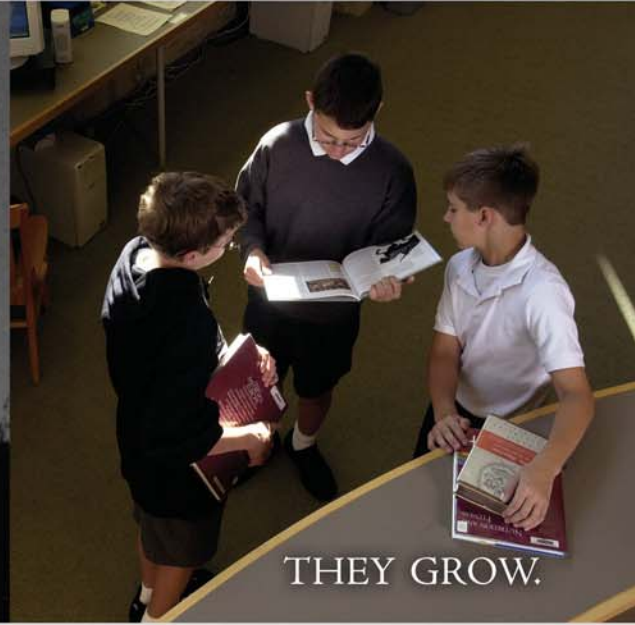
Orpheus elevates the library

*Hassell's painting completes the
library's emergence at Cistercian*

Billy Hassell '74
with his painting,
*Orpheus Taming
the Wild Beasts.*



THE GREATEST LEGACIES DO MORE THAN LAST.



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The Memorare Society was established for members of our community who wish to include Cistercian in their financial plans through bequests, trusts, wills, or other means. It's a wonderful way for people to include the school as part of their long-term financial planning.

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Donors, myths, popes and mentors

Traditions are inextricably woven into our lives at Cistercian

The events in Rome over the last few months have reminded us, and the entire world, how much we long for tradition. People of all faiths followed the elaborate ceremonies surrounding the death of Pope John Paul II and the election of his successor.



Letter from the Headmaster

Fr. Peter Verhalen '73

library experience for generations of Cistercian students. We also offer some insights on the library's new painting, *Orpheus Taming the Wild Beasts*. Artist **Billy Hassell '74** tells of his research into the myth of Orpheus and the impact of the myth on the Christian tradition. Orpheus came to stand for all

that tames and ennobles the human being and symbolizes Christ himself who — as the ultimate pedagogue — leads his disciples into the fullness of their humanity.

We also present two stories that touch on traditions at the heart of the abbey. **David Stewart '74** reveals how Cistercian monks and novices view Pope John Paul's impact on the consecrated life. I think you'll find **Br. Joseph Van House's** comments particularly interesting. And in his column, **Fr. Roch Kereszty** suggests that Pope Benedict XVI may begin to foster in a new way the tradition of Western culture and Benedictine monasticism.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the brief story on the Hillary Award (page 5). Coach Hillary taught so many so much. This award reminds us to continue the tradition of passing on the lessons we learn from our mentors.

As the Cistercian Abbey approaches its 50th anniversary, it is only appropriate that we celebrate some of the many rich traditions that make Cistercian so special.

Please enjoy this edition. I hope it furthers *The Continuum's* tradition of publishing meaningful reflections for the Cistercian Community.

volume 32, number 3

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Cistercian's library started in a make-shift classroom. The addition of Billy Hassell's *Orpheus Taming the Wild Beasts* highlights the library's emergence as a Cistercian showcase.

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Cover photography: Jim Reisch

Old and young alike 14

Members of the abbey reflect on the impact of John Paul II.

Cistercian Preparatory School was founded with the aim of preparing talented boys for the colleges of their choice by challenging their minds with excellent academic programs, molding their character through the values of Catholic education, and offering them guidance with both understanding and discipline. Cistercian Preparatory School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational practices, admissions, scholarship programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

Planned giving

Memorare Society receives strong support, interest

The Memorare Society has jumped off to a great start.

At April's Abbot's Circle Dinner, Abbot Denis Farkasfalvy reported that the planned giving initiative has met with overwhelming support.

"Over 40 families have become founding members of the Memorare Society," he said. "This is well above our expectations."

The initial group of founding members include alumni in their twenties and thirties as well as older alumni, alumni parents, and current parents. Members of the Abbey community also are participating.

There is time for the found-



Photo by Jim Rensch

ing group to grow even larger.

The deadline for becoming a founding member, he pointed out, has been extended to October 31, 2005.

Reflecting on the meaning of remembering the school and the abbey through the Memorare Society, the abbot said, "This is a great way to ensure that Cistercian remains in the future

FOUNDERS Nelson Wood '98 and his father, A.C. (Tracy) Wood, are proud to be founding members of the Memorare Society.

what it has been for the past 42 years."

"I also want to thank **Jim Moroney '74** for his guidance, enthusiasm, and support for this initiative," the abbot added.

Those wishing to participate as founding members of the Memorare Society or those simply seeking additional information should contact Jennifer Rotter at the school (jrotter@cistercian.org).

Scholarships

\$100,000 gift honors Fr. Henry and Fr. Bernard

This year's Book Fair featured lots of the customary book buying, book signing, and book browsing.

But the event also brought a big surprise.

At an impromptu ceremony, **Fr. Peter Verhalen '73**, announced that a \$100,000 scholarship gift had been given anonymously to the school in honor of the Marton brothers, Fr. Henry Marton and Fr. Bernard Marton.

"This is a great undeserved honor for me," Fr. Henry said. "We both appreciate very much the generosity of this fine Cistercian family."

Fr. Henry attended the Book Fair as part of a new program at the annual event designed to spotlight a single form master and attract alumni served by him.

Fr. Henry's presence attracted many from the classes of 1972, 1980, 1988, and 1996, the four classes for which he served as form master.

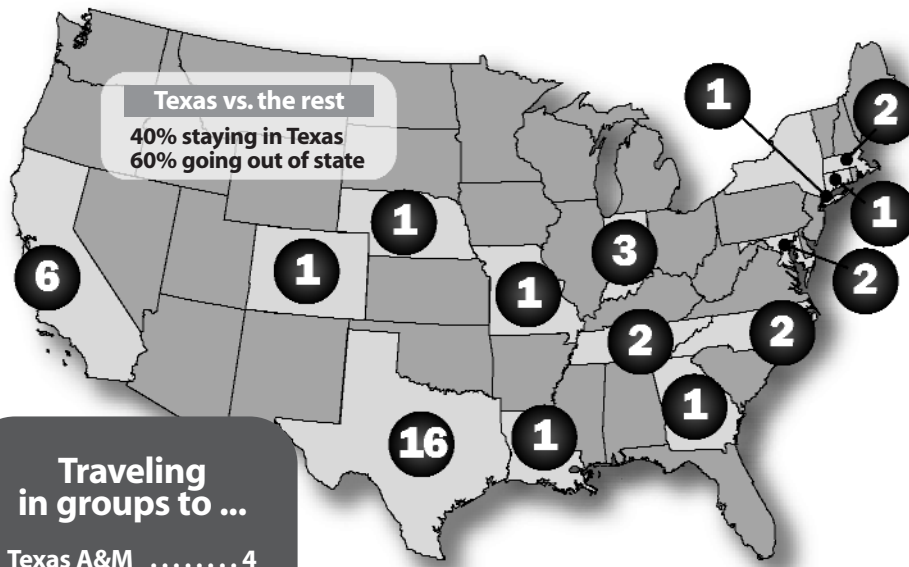
Photo by Fr. Julius Leloczky



BROTHERS MARTON
Fr. Henry (left) and Bernard Marton at the nursing facility where Fr. Henry is convalescing.

Class of 2005 seeks greener pastures out of state

Majority to leave Texas; six to California, three to Notre Dame



Traveling in groups to ...

- Texas A&M 4
- Stanford 3
- Notre Dame 3
- UT Austin 2
- UT Plan II 3
- U. of San Diego 3
- Georgetown 2
- SMU 2
- Vanderbilt 2

Traveling solo to ...

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Austin College | St. Edwards |
| Boston University | St. Louis U. |
| Columbia | Texas Tech |
| Creighton | Trinity University (SA) |
| Duke | Tufts |
| Georgia Tech | US Air Force Academy |
| Loyola (New Orleans) | Wake Forest |
| Rice | Yale |



Photo by Jim Reisch

Presidential Scholars Leatherbury and Hughes up for distinctive honor

It's a very select club.

Josh Hughes '05 and **Colin Leatherbury '05** were recognized as two of the approximately 550 seniors named semi-finalists in the 2005 Presidential Scholars Program.

Only 22 seniors were named semi-finalists in the State of Texas this year.

Only seven of those 22 reside in the Metroplex. Cistercian was the only school in the State of Texas represented by more than one student.

Semi-finalists are chosen for their superior academic achievements, leadership qualities, personal character, and community service.

Hughes will attend the Air Force Academy and Leatherbury will attend Yale University.

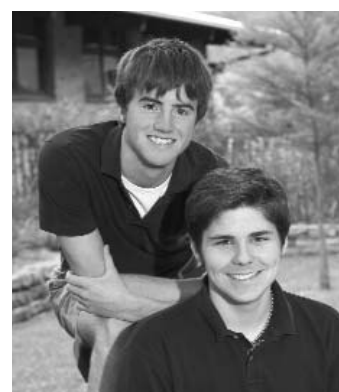


Photo by Jim Reisch

PRESIDENTIAL MATERIAL
Colin Leatherbury '05 (left) and
Josh Hughes '05.

Athletic banquet

Heard wins new, improved Hillary Award

At May's Upper School Athletic Banquet, the climactic moment came when **Fr. Peter Verhalen '73** presented the Hillary Award to **Zach Heard '05**.

Heard lettered in football and started at center on the basketball team, where he was named All-SPC North Zone and won the team's Most Improved Player Award.

But it was in baseball that Heard excelled. A three-year starter, the team captain won MVP and All-SPC this year, helping to lead this year's team to a 16-7 record.

"I was astonished to hear my name," Heard said after the presentation. "It's a great honor."

The Hillary Award represents the highest aspirations of Cistercian athletics and all that the late coach tried to instill in his players.

This year, the award took on added significance.

For the first time, a stipend of \$1,000 was included with the award.

This year also marked the unveiling of the statue commissioned by Dr. and Mrs. Henderson that will henceforth represent the prestigious honor. The 20-inch sculpture was created by famed Utah artist Jeff Wolf in remembrance of their late son, **Seth Henderson '03**, who received the award in 2003.

In the audience were Sheila Hillary (wife of Coach Hillary), the Hendersons, and **Tyler Wolf '01**, the only other student to win the award.

Though the figure of the student bears Henderson's number 7, Fr. Peter pointed out that he represents every student-athlete.

"Mr. Wolf depicts one telling moment of a larger story," Fr.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Henderson (left), who commissioned the new Hillary Award trophy, stand with Zach Heard '05, the 2005 recipient, and Sheila Hillary, wife of the late Tom Hillary.

Peter said in describing his interpretation of the statue.

"A big man, a coach, a mentor, towers over a boy, arm on the player's shoulder, pointing to something in the distance," he suggested. "That [something] is the future."

"In my reading of the sculpture tonight, it suggests two lessons: First, work hard, be intense, focus so that you play your game well. Second, look to the future — both that next play, and the final play of our lives."

noteworthy

- **Scholarship update:** Twenty-one of 40 seniors accepted scholarships worth an average of \$6,443 this year, based on information collected by Fr. Bernard Marton just before press time. That's a total of \$283,513 in scholarship monies accepted by the Class of 2005.
- **Claudius Mayer Scholarships:** Each year, two seniors are awarded Claudius Mayer Scholarships of \$1,000 each. This year's recipients are **Juan Muldoon '05**, for humanities, and **Matthew Brnicky '05**, for math and sciences. Claudius Mayer, an alumnus of the Cistercian school in Budapest, Hungary, came to the United States where he was a medical historian for the Library of Congress. He left his estate to the school to establish these special scholarships.
- **Quiz Bowl:** There's little time for R&R for the varsity Quiz Bowl team, which will participate in the N.A.Q.T. nationals tournament in Chicago, Illinois from June 1 - June 5, 2005. The team includes **Vincent Zimmern '06**, **Erik Tanner '07**, **James Hansell '06**, and (Capt.) **Daniel Mitura '05**.

Mathematics

The stellar math mind of Arthur Yang '05

The recent involvement of **Arthur Yang '05** in the United States of America Math Olympiad (USAMO) attracted attention to one of Cistercian's

finest math students ever. And one of its most humble.

Yang is only the second Cistercian student ever to qualify for this event.

"Arthur belongs to a very select company of top-notch mathematicians who have passed through Cistercian," remarked Dr. Richard Newcomb, head of the math department. "He has set new

standards for strong students rising through the school to set their sights on."

Yang's talents first surfaced in Form IV when he led the MathCounts team to Cistercian's highest team finish at State (7th) and highest individual finish (top 10).

Once in Upper School, Yang finished first or among the first three in the McNabb, the pre-



Photo by Jim Reisch

MATH WHIZ Arthur Yang '05, one of the most talented Cistercian mathematicians in years, will attend Stanford University next fall.

mier math contest in the Metroplex

As a junior at the Rice High School Math Tournament in Houston, Yang finished second in Geometry and fifth in Algebra, an outstanding result at one of the top regional math contests in the US. The same year, he won outright first place individual in the Mandelbrot Western Division (all states west of the Mississippi) by scoring a perfect 56 out of 56 over four rounds

This year, he set school records in the AMC12A and the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME). His score of 143 out of 150 in the AMC12A was the second highest in Texas. His score of 12 out of 15 on the AIME was bettered by only two dozen or so students in the entire country.

It was this exceptional achievement that qualified him as one of only 250 in the US (from a starting population of over 250,000 of the best math students in the country) to qualify for the United States of America Math Olympiad (USAMO).

"Arthur's modesty nearly rivals his mathematical talent," Newcomb said. "If I may risk a prediction, his ability in math and interest in biology may well result in significant scientific progress as mathematics becomes more and more relevant for the life sciences."



Photo by Jim Reisch

SLAP STICK CREW The cast and crew of *On the Razzle* on the set after their final performance.

Mad cap comedy tickles audience

Koutsogeorgas, Arbery, and Radu star in *On the Razzle*

This year's Upper School drama, *On the Razzle*, provided lots of laughs about the farcical exploits of two country clerks who take off for an adventure while their foolish boss embarks on amorous exploits of his own.

The play originally premiered in 1981 for the National Theatre of Great Britain.

Heavy on elaborate sets and costumes, the show started with a Vaudeville-style comedy hour and filled times between set changes. (One such "cover" featured the song *Wipeout* as performed by an air guitarist and an air drummer.)

The crazy, mad cap production featured actors in horse costumes, one in a dress, and a bag piper.

Peter Koutsogeorgas '05 and **Will Arbery '07**

played the two clerks who try to escape from their dead-end jobs while **Peter Radu '05** played their employer, a furious grocer prone to conniption fits. Radu paraded around in spurs, hat with plume, and an absurd uniform that was several sizes too small.

"All these guys did a fabulous job," said David Novinski, director of the play.

The play also featured Theresa Amador of Ursuline Academy who played the grocer's niece, **David Haley '06**, who played her suitor, and **Juan Muldoon '05** as the house servant.

Behind the scenes, Novinski relied on the technical team of **Matthew Brnicky '05** and **Stephen Fox '07**.

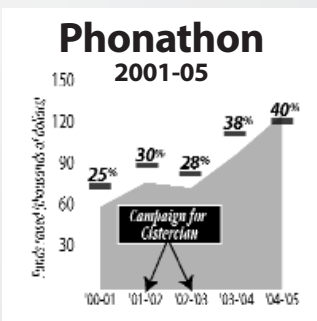
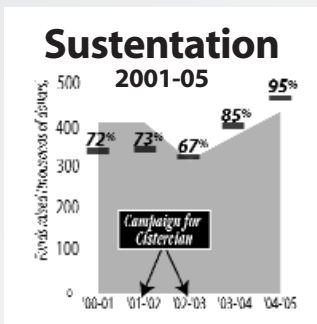
Steven Riela '07 stood out for his stalwart set construction talents.

Update on development

Jennifer Rotter, director of development, reports that the amounts and participation levels of both Sustentation and Phonathon have set new records for funds raised and participation.

“The level of support has been astounding,” she said.

An amazing 95 percent of parents participated in Sustentation and an amazing 40 percent of alumni participated in the Phonathon, which has more than doubled its contributions since 2001.



Salute to service Follow up: Hawks in the military

In the March 2005 edition of *The Continuum*, we published our “Salute to Service.”

We have some news to report and a few additions to our list of “Hawks in the military.”

Blake Holbrook, brother of **Andrew Holbrook '97** and who attended Cistercian through Form IV, has returned from Iraq.

“I have learned and am learning that I will never see the world again as I once saw it,” he said in an email to friends.

He is battling Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome.

Tragically, a wartime buddy was killed in a car accident weeks after their return from Iraq.

“It seems we cannot escape mortality anywhere we go,” he said. “Life is short, so live it well and honestly.”

Donovan Campbell '97, whose heroic tale was captured in our “Salute to Service,” will attend Harvard Business School beginning in the fall.

The following alumni should have been included in the story.

Chris Umphres '04, an Air Force ROTC scholarship student, has committed to serving five years on active duty with the Air Force after graduating from the University of Virginia.

We also missed Lt. **Bert Sissom '81**, a Marine who saw action during the Gulf War. He graduated from Southwestern pre-med. In 1993, he transferred to the US Public Health Service.

We apologize for our failure to include these individuals in our “Hawks in the military” list.

Reflections makes it in the big leagues

Cistercian’s literary magazine, *Reflections*, was one of 31 high school literary magazines recognized by the prestigious Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) in March.

“Receiving a Crown Award represents a great achievement for our boys,” said Jackie Greenfield, faculty sponsor of *Reflections*. “Winning Gold Medals in past years has been nice, but we’re thrilled about moving to a new level of competition.”

Of the 31 magazines in the nation recognized as finalists, nine received Gold Crowns (including the magazines from Hockaday and Greenhill). Twenty-two literary magazines received Silver Crowns,

including those from Cistercian, St. Mark’s, and ESD.

“What sets us apart,” said Greenfield, “is that our boys have never attended workshops at Columbia or elsewhere — they are self-taught.”

The 2004 edition of *Reflections* stepped into the big leagues primarily on the coattails of **Kramer Rice '04**, who spearheaded the effort to add color to the magazine. His passionate appeal to **Fr. Peter Verhalen '73** and other donors garnered the necessary funds. A talented staff — including layout whiz **A.J. Minich '04**, **Sam Bowler '06**, and **Rob Madole '06** — also played a key role.

This year’s staff is aiming high as well.

“We set out to raise the money to print two more signatures in color,” said **Martin Bourqui '05**, editor of this year’s book. “Then we were offered the resources to print the entire book in color.”

“It was a tricky decision because we wanted so badly to make the book as good as it can be,” he said. “But we also realized that the money may not always be there to produce so many pages in color. We didn’t want to set the bar too high.”

The lion’s share of the funds to print *Reflections* comes from Mr. John M. Diebold, who has been the magazine’s primary benefactor for years.

The funds that will go unused for this year’s edition will be contributed to the school’s scholarship fund.

The editors also have decided to modify the size slightly, shaving 1.5” off the width.

“It will have a very different feel from last year,” Bourqui said, “but it will be just as successful, we hope.”

THE STAFF HARD AT WORK The 2005 *Reflections* staff hopes to follow in the successful path of their predecessors. (Clockwise from top left) **Nick Krug '06**, **Sam Bowler '06**, **Rob Madole '06**, **Martin Bourqui '05**, and Mrs. **Jackie Greenfield**, faculty sponsor.



Photo by Jim Reisch



Attaining its rightful station

*Cistercian's library started
in a make-shift classroom.
Today, it's a showplace.*

By Tom Pruitt and David Stewart

A SET OF BOOKS SITS BURIED in the stacks of the Cistercian library; one hundred of them to be exact. By most standards, they aren't particularly special. They're old, but not ancient; valuable, but only to Cistercian.

The library, now over 22,000 books strong, started with these volumes in 1962, at the original campus at Merici Hall adjacent to Ursuline Academy. The books were donated by a group of émigrés living in the United States and Canada who were alumni of Cistercian schools in Hungary. They had heard about the founding of a Cistercian school in America and immediately offered their support.



HEROIC SPACE The library as seen from the entrance with computers to the left below the wall of windows, stacks to the right, check-out counter front right. Hassell's *Orpheus* hangs in the distance against the eastern wall between the two large windows.

September of 1965, the library space grew to include the adjacent room (now Form I/B), which became a check-out area and reading room.

Fortunes for the library changed dramatically when the first gym was constructed in 1972.

In fact, the new gym led to a major reshuffling of spaces all around the Middle School. According to the April 14, 1972 edition of *The Informer*, the lunchroom was moved from its original location (which is also its current location) into part of the area previously occupied by the gym (now the space that includes the teachers' lunchroom, vending machine area, and publication room). The remainder of the old gym space was used as a chapel.

The library moved down into the lunchroom area, while the old library became offices and a workroom for teachers.

Four years later, the library space expanded slightly when, in 1976, the lunchroom was moved out of the Middle School into a newly enclosed space between the Middle and Upper Schools (now the reception and administration area).

The library would remain in the space originally designed as a lunchroom for over 20 years. The step-child library had found a home, perhaps a permanent home if not for a frugal couple from McKinney.

While not first editions, the books are easy to distinguish because each is inscribed, "Cistercian Preparatory [sic] School." Most alumni recognize this spelling error fondly; it's one that most First and Second Formers have made for over 40 years.

The kindness of these "old school" émigrés helped nurture the young library that grew up as a step-child at Cistercian.

When the Middle School was being designed in 1964, no space was specifically set aside to house books. One of the school's benefactors — an executive with a high-tech firm — believed that electronics would make books obsolete in the future; a library, this benefactor believed, would end up as a waste of space.

So, when the school made its move from Walnut Hill Lane to Irving in January 1965, the library took up make-shift quarters in the space now occupied by Form I/A (across from the headmaster's office and parlor). In

CISTERCIAN'S FIRST LIBRARIAN, a fun-loving Hungarian with a penchant for games, had little library experience; he was not the librarian to begin the arduous process of building a collection for the school. But Fr. Matthew Kovacs held down the fort until Fr. Julius Leloczky, freshly emigrated from Hungary, could relieve him in the fall of 1965.

"I was always interested in putting good books on the shelves of the library," recalled Fr. Julius, who had earned a degree in library science in Hungary. "In the early years I knew how varied and how demanding the curriculum was to become, so I wanted to find materials to challenge the boys. This had to be accomplished on a pretty tight budget."

His days as a dedicated librarian, however, were numbered. In 1968, Fr. Julius was given the additional duties of form master and religion teacher. As his young charges

grew in age and in number, his hours in the library decreased.

While continuing to monitor the library's acquisitions, Fr. Julius depended more and more on both his parent volunteers and student library aids to monitor the use of the library's resources and space. The lack of constant and consistent oversight created a haven for behavior unbecoming in a library.

But it was another development, one a founder had believed would make books obsolete, that prompted a major change.

"I knew that as we entered the computer age," Fr. Julius remembered, "it was time to turn the library over to someone trained in the newer technology of library science. Plus, my form (Class of 1986) was entering the last, demanding years of high school, and required a lot of my attention. Fr. Bernard [Marton], who was headmaster then, also wanted me in the classroom full-time. It was time to look for a professional librarian."

The stage was set in 1985 for the entrance of one of the two most important women in the history of Cistercian's library.

"When I first started working here in 1985," Saranne Gans remembered, "the library's collection was solid, but I knew I wanted to establish a different atmosphere.

"I was going to be here in the library eight hours a day, every day, unlike Fr. Julius who was pulled in many different directions as teacher and form master and librarian.

"I had to establish new rules and expectations," she said. "The library had been a waiting place, a gathering place without a full-time keeper."

Equipped with a M.S. degree in Library Science from TWU and four years experience as a librarian at Nimitz High School in Irving (plus eight years as an English teacher), Gans set about implementing progressive library concepts.

The school's study carrels (which isolated students from one another) were replaced with open tables where students could gather to work in groups. Gans also positioned her desk to face the library's entrance, allowing her to greet each student personally as he entered — a small gesture which loomed large in her plan to create a more welcoming, user-friendly atmosphere.

"I believe in meeting each student with a smile every day and accepting him for who he is and for where he is at that moment on the continuum of his educational journey. I want library users to feel comfortable in the library setting. I want students to know that I am here to assist them in using the library's many different resources to find answers to their questions and simply to satisfy their desire to learn something new."

“I WILL DEFINITELY REMEMBER YOU and this school,” Justine Abernathy told Fr. Bernard after an impromptu tour of the school in 1985. The smallish, elderly woman had driven all the way from McKinney to see the school.

Mrs. Abernathy had heard about Cistercian for a number of years from her neighbors, the Jacks family. Geoffrey Jacks and Matthew Jacks attended Cistercian through the 1982-83 school year (when the boys were in Forms V and III, respectively).

A court reporter and devout Catholic, Mrs. Abernathy and her husband Scotty loved children, but had none of their own. Mr. Abernathy, who owned and operated a

title company, regularly attended the Christian Church in McKinney, located just across the athletic field from the Catholic Church his wife attended.

Even though the Jacks left the Dallas area, Mrs. Abernathy never forgot the family’s enthusiasm for Cistercian.

In 1989, Cistercian’s newly elected abbot, Fr. Denis Farkasfalvy, received a phone call from estate attorney and long-time Cistercian School Board Member Jim Hartnett, Sr.

OLD SCHOOL Fr. Julius Leloczky at work in the library’s original location (now Form I/A, across from the parlor) in 1965.



Inside the library’s newest work

Hassell shares the story of how Orpheus came to hang in the library

By Tom Pruitt and David Stewart

“THE EAST WALL OF THE LIBRARY DOES indeed look as if it was designed to have a painting hanging on it,” admitted Billy Hassell ’74, whose 5’ x 5’ work entitled *Orpheus Taming the Wild Beasts* was unveiled in early May. Hassell was reflecting on the seven years that had passed since Fr. Peter Verhalen ’73 initially suggested he create a painting for the library.

That was in September of 1998, not long after the new library had been built. Fourteen one-man shows later, the popular artist finally found time this fall to begin work on the project.

Abbot Denis Farkasfalvy heartily supported Fr. Peter’s idea to commission Hassell and began contributing ideas for the work.

“When Fr. Julius, Fr. Roch, and I were attending the School of Theology at St. Anselmo’s in Rome,” Abbot Denis said, “we walked past an ancient, reconstructed floor mosaic everyday. It depicted in black and white the myth of Orpheus sitting in the middle of the animals. We have seen that mosaic everyday for six years. It stayed in my mind.”

“The myth symbolizes man’s animalistic, untamed nature that needs to be elevated and educated in order to transcend itself,” he explained.

“I also had been fascinated with a work Billy painted after the birth of his son, Noah,” the abbot remembered. “It was called Noah’s Ark and it was filled with animals. I thought that Billy could bring all the animals together and put Orpheus in the middle.”

“Fr. Peter, as a classical scholar, has liked the symbolism very much,” remarked the abbot, who served as Hassell’s form master for nine years (Pre-Form through Form VIII).

“The unique power of Orpheus to charm all manner of man and beast with his gift of music seemed a thinly veiled analogy for the settling down of the sometimes unruly Cistercian boys,” Hassell admitted.

“But the theme resonated with me. I have always painted animals and birds and nature but rarely the human figure so this presented a new challenge, yet did so within familiar territory.”

When his schedule finally permitted him time to pursue the painting last fall, Hassell visited the site (as an artist now, not as a returning alumnus), took measurements, borrowed books on classical mythology from the library, and was given as a gift the copy of Rilke’s *Sonnets to Orpheus*, which had belonged to Fr. Placid Csizmaja.

As he immersed himself in researching the myth, he began to see more and more clearly why the Cistercians had such a significant interest in the Orpheus story. First, there was his iconographical affinity with David in the



Sketch courtesy of Billy Hassell



"I have just spoken with an attorney for a woman named Justine Abernathy," Hartnett said.

"Mrs. Abernathy is rewriting her will and she wants to name Cistercian as a beneficiary," he continued. "She'd like to know what your next building project is going to be."

After the abbot mentioned a church for the abbey, Mr. Hartnett suggested naming a second project in case the church was built prior to her death.

"A library," the abbot responded without having time to give the question much thought.

In 1996, four years after the completion of the Abbey Church, Mr. Hartnett once

again called the abbot regarding Mrs. Abernathy.

"Mrs. Abernathy passed away recently," Hartnett said, "and she has left her entire estate to Cistercian — a total of approximately \$1 million."

The news of this substantial gift — the single largest gift ever directed specifically to the school — was as surprising as it was fortuitous.

Only the year before, the abbey had purchased 25 acres from the University of Dallas (nine acres to the east plus 16 acres between the creek and the railroad tracks). The purchase was intended to provide a barrier to development on the east and to

allow for the expansion of athletic fields to the west.

The significant investment in the school's future had required the abbey to make a large down payment and to take out a note to UD for approximately \$1.8 million.

In consultation with school board members, the abbot decided Mrs. Abernathy's gift presented a great opportunity to conduct a capital campaign, one centered on the library that at the same time could pay off the land debt. The art building also was included in the library campaign.

"It was not a slam dunk," said Peter Smith '74, who chaired the campaign. "Raising money to retire debt is not easy.

Old Testament and his association with Christ, appearing in the catacombs in Rome as the Prince of Peace and the Good Shepherd.

Then there were the recurring images. In almost all the visualizations and depictions of Orpheus performing before the animals, Hassell found a peacock among the birds.

"I found this interesting because when I was working on the Tabernacle door for the abbey chapel, the peacock came up as a prominent symbol in early Christianity. The striking oval patterns repeated in the tail feathers were thought to represent the eyes of the all-knowing, all-seeing God. So I have included a peacock, prominently positioned in the foreground of the painting; it's the one creature (including even the plants) in the painting that is not native to Texas.

After submitting his first study, Fr. Peter and Abbot Denis made several suggestions.

"Fr. Denis requested that the element of

water be included somewhere in the composition and through lighting and color to suggest the time of day as early morning," Hassell said.

"Fr. Peter had suggestions about the figure of Orpheus and asked me to include a Red-Tailed Hawk, the school's mascot," he added.

"Originally, I had Orpheus positioned facing the animals as if he were performing for them. His gaze and the returned gazes of the surrounding animals were all contained within the painting." But Hassell knew something wasn't right; the image had become static. After

KICKING THE TIRES Billy Hassell '74 and Fr. Peter Verhalen '73 discuss details of *Orpheus* prior to its hanging. (Inset) A sketch of the work Hassell submitted to Fr. Peter and Abbot Denis in February.

hours, even days staring at the drawing on the canvas, a moment of revelation occurred.

"If I positioned Orpheus so that he was looking slightly 'out of the canvas,' instead of looking at the animals," he said, "and looked as if he were playing for himself or for a higher calling—as if in meditation or prayer—it could engage the viewer more actively, and the painting could have a more powerful psychological impact."

He knew he had found the key to making it work. "The animals are all still there, engaged, enthralled, but Orpheus is not entertaining them. He is engaged in something more profound and more contemplative, and the animals are there because they are transfixed, captivated."

In discussing the painting with Fr. Peter on the day it was hung in the library, Hassell revealed that he decided just the night before to open the eyes of Orpheus.

It's as if only at this moment, after months in the studio, that Orpheus was prepared to meet the world.

Fr. Peter had hoped that in addition to being a visual enhancement to the library, the painting could also act as an educational tool.

"So, in addition to all the classical symbolism incorporated into the painting I thought it would be engaging and just plain fun to integrate elements of geometry into the composition which led me to a final and crowning moment of inspiration. Although I won't specifically say what that inspiration was (I will let that be discovered), all the pieces of the painting came together for me at that moment. After that, the painting, the physical act of painting, became pure pleasure."

The work marks the first time Hassell has included a fully formed human figure in a painting (animals comprise his primary subject matter). It might also serve as a self portrait since the figure of Orpheus is portrayed with Hassell's thin, but square body and long, dark hair. Both also share an affinity for stringed instruments and animals.

"The more time I took to work on it, the more it continued to evolve," he said. "I wanted to live with the painting as long as possible and let it teach me as much as it could before it left the studio.

"All in all," Hassell said, "it's been a remarkable experience — expanding and informing, surprising, intellectually challenging, and deeply inspiring."

Seven years in the making, but well worth the wait.

"In addition to all the classical symbolism ... I thought it would be engaging and just plain fun to integrate elements of geometry."

— Billy Hassell '74



Photo by Jim Kensch

People like to contribute towards 'bricks and mortar.'"

Nevertheless, Smith's hard work and the allure of building a library and art building for the school helped Cistercian raise \$3.4 million to add to Mrs. Abernathy's gift. The total surpassed the campaign's goal; the excess was added to the school's endowment.

Mrs. Abernathy's gift, which would fund over half of the \$1.8 million needed to construct the library, had ignited a crucial, if not exactly planned, phase of Cistercian's growth.

Cistercian's step-child was about to become an important member of the family.

"Mrs. Abernathy is a testimony to the generosity of American society," said Abbot Denis. "This kind of generosity does not exist in Europe or elsewhere."

"It is a marvelous reflection," he added, "on an individual who has understood that her money can make a difference in educating young people."

ON A SATURDAY MORNING in May 1998, dozens of volunteers helped move the library to its new location. Each book traveled through a chain of people that wound from the old library location, up the stairs, and into the foyer of the Middle School. There the books were loaded on carts and rolled to the new library.

"The plan was masterminded by Mike Holland (father of Jamie Holland '02 and Brian Holland '04)," remembered Gans. "With so many people helping, the whole move went very smoothly. Not one box was used in moving over 20,000 books. The entire library was properly shelved in the new library in a matter of hours — a truly remarkable feat. I was really astounded by the huge outpouring of energy and caring that day."

The new library celebrated the Cistercians' veneration for books and created a wonderful space in which to read, study, and work in groups.

"The shape of the building calls for a tall wall of glass along a northeast orientation," commented architect Gary Cunningham '72, "which brings in a high, soft light and gives the space a heroic sense."

During the day, the deep quiet is occasionally interrupted by a low, mechanical



BOOK LOVER Saranne Gans helped bring the library into the computer age and has created a user-friendly atmosphere that welcomes individual students and study groups.

drone as Gans electronically raises and lowers blinds placed to keep the degree of light at its optimal level.

"The future of the library was in all of our minds," reflected Cunningham. "We all felt that the computer was a central part of that future, but it was not to be the end-all. For us, the book was still the primary element of vocabulary in a place of study, and the concept of a 'reading room' sense of quiet became a primary driver.

"The computers were placed in study alcoves beneath milky glass windows bringing in soft light."

The slope of the roof, the carpeted floor, even the composition of the ceiling from a sound-absorbing material called Tectum (composed of natural plant fiber and cement) create a space of almost palpable silence. Silent, that is, when it isn't bustling with Middle School students browsing during study halls, Upper School students congregating during lunchtime, or an entire class researching an English or history project.

The design complements the broad range of library services that Gans had begun to offer long before the move. Those

services include pulling and reserving books for faculty members, offering instruction in library research to whole classes accompanied by their teachers, beginning the process of regularly culling books which were either outdated or largely unused, and cataloguing all the library's holdings, in particular all the past issues of the many magazines the library subscribed to and a huge record collection.

Prior to moving into the new facility, Gans had orchestrated the process of establishing a computerized check-out system. With the help of parent volunteers, information was keyed in on the more than 20,000 pieces, books were bar-coded, and in 1997 the library went online with a computerized card catalogue.

While establishing a great sense of order, Gans also worked to make the

library a more inviting place. She successfully lobbied to abolish the old practice of sending miscreants to lunchtime Detention Hall in the library. Gans also has encouraged a steady stream of volunteers to shelve and catalogue books.

"Saranne has everything in such good order that anyone can step in," said Kathleen Tinker, who subbed for Gans when she took maternity leave in 1992 and whose four boys (John Tinker '93, James Tinker '94, Jeffrey Tinker '97, and Michael Tinker '03) have benefited from the library. "She has encouraged the boys to behave in the library; they know what is expected and they respect the space as a place to be quiet."

Gans shares something, then, with Orpheus, who now looks down upon the library from Billy Hassell's 5' x 5' canvas on the eastern wall (see page 10-11). Both seek to elevate the minds of sometimes unruly beasts.

The hanging of this important work also suggests that the generosity of those Hungarian émigrés in 1962 was not in vain. The library, an afterthought for many of Cistercian's 42 years, has emerged as one of the school's gems.

Tom Pruit has been teaching at Cistercian 26 years. He can be reached at tpruit@cistercian.org.

Old and young alike

Members of the Cistercian Abbey reflect on Pope John Paul II and his impact on their vocations and their ministries • By David Stewart

"**H**ABEMUS PAPAM!" exclaimed Pericle Cardinal Felici from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica on October 16, 1978. There at the front of the throng assembled to hear the announcement of the new pope that evening in St. Peter's Square stood a Cistercian brother from America named Gregory Schweers. When Cardinal Felici stated the new pope's first name, Charles [Karol], a nun standing nearby grabbed the brother and squealed, "It's Cardinal Confalonieri!"

Seconds later, Cardinal Felici announced the last name that stunned and mystified the world, "Wojtyla."

Br. Gregory inhaled the historic moment, the first of more to come during the 1978-79 school year he spent studying in Rome with Br. Peter Verhalen '73.

"Later that evening," Fr. Gregory remembered recently, "when my mother called Rome and said she saw me on television on the front row before St. Peter's, well, it was a 'total wow moment' in my life."

Almost immediately, the new pope began giving a few hints of the great changes to come. He scheduled his inauguration early to avoid interfering with Italian soccer on TV, brought in Polish nuns to cook for him, and considered a trip to Lebanon to help end the Moslem-Christian war.

But for the young brothers, another decisive move struck closer to home.

The new pope directed all seminary students to begin wearing their clerical clothes to classes and to church ceremonies.

"He encouraged students to make a public witness of their faith and of their order," said Fr. Gregory. "I thought it was a very good thing."

"He created a sense of excitement among students like me," reflected Fr. Peter on his impressions of the pope in 1978, "by calling on us to show our colors, to witness our vocation and to be

proud of it."

"I remember in particular a poster that pictured Pope John Paul II skiing down a mountain," Fr. Peter said. "The poster said, 'Come follow me.'"

"He created a sense of excitement, eschewing his handlers after Mass to go out among the crowds to shake hands with people," Fr. Peter recalled. "He acted like a pastor who enjoyed being active among his congregation. Not stuffy at all."

"Subconsciously, he was affirming the fact that a priest should also naturally be a man," he said. "I saw him as a role model."

"His intensity and focus also had a big impact on me," Fr. Peter remembered. "Whatever he did, he did it with enthusiasm. I thought I would like to imitate that – even though you have a lot to do, you can spend hours in prayer each day. And he didn't look stressed. He seemed to derive a real joy from being a priest and found a real source of strength in prayer."

"I also was impressed by his athleticism and vigor. That first year, he had a pool constructed in the Vatican."

"Oh, here comes a Norbertine priest," said Pope John Paul II to Fr. Julius Leloczky on a beautiful June 1991 evening in Rome. Fr. Julius was spending the year working in Rome and he gave regular radio talks on the Hungarian language program of Vatican Radio. The pontiff had just conducted a prayer service for this gathering of

Vatican Radio employees and their families. He was milling through the crowd when he came upon the monk in black and white robes.

"Un Cisterciense, Santo Padre," Fr. Julius corrected the pope.

NORBERTINE? Pope John Paul II greets Fr. Julius Leloczky in Rome in 1991, thinking at first he is a Norbertine monk.



Photo courtesy of Fr. Julius Leloczky

"E vero, un Cisterciense," acknowledged the pope, smiling as he patted Fr. Julius on the shoulder.

While charmed, Fr. Julius admitted this encounter prompted him to question the pope's infallibility ever so briefly.

"He was different than previous popes because of the personal attraction he exercised on all people," suggested Abbot Denis Farkasfalvy. "He gave himself over to people. He made himself so available. He focused on you and expressed so much happiness in being with you. He made you feel important and affirmed your dignity."

"He had a very pastoral personality, very open and curious about the individual," the abbot said. "He had a huge capacity for extending himself for others."

"You felt like he really was looking at you and interested in you," said Fr. Peter, who along with Fr. Gregory, served Mass for the pope as acolytes on the fourth Sunday of Lent in 1979.

Fr. Gregory remembers with glee the small gathering in the Baroque library of the church of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme after that Mass.

"After his discourse was finished and he was filing out," Fr.

It was not just any book either.

"As a young theology student in Rome," said Fr. Gregory, "I sat in the colonnade of St. Peter's reading the entire encyclical. I was swept away with his tremendous theological grasp."

"Ever since, each definitive statement from John Paul II has drawn my attention," he said. "He was always insightful and thoughtful, especially when it came to reminding us about our Catholic heritage."

"WHEN I THINK OF JOHN PAUL," Br. Joseph said recently, "I inevitably think in terms of his teaching and his example as a condition for my vocation."

"[He taught me] what it means to be a servant of God," he added. "[He helped me] to find true meaning — not so much in giving up money, or family, or freedom for others — in surrendering those things as a way of giving my self to others and to God. It's a hard message, but a beautiful one, and in the face of such a task his example gives me — more than anything else — hope."

"This is a man who knew and proved that there is no grander way to meet the deepest aspirations of the human spirit than through a dedicated life in Christ. Art, prayer, music, sport, friendship, work, family: all converge in their glory as a means of giving ourselves to Him and one another, as opportunities for love."

"He suggests that the priesthood, and in particular monasticism, is a vocation of memory and expectation — groups of people gathering to cultivate an awareness of what God has done, and to turn that into an expectation of an experience of what He has promised."

"The big theme is that the role of the consecrated life in the Church is to bring the resurrection, heaven into the present, incarnate, making visible spiritual realities in what ever way we can."

For Br. Joseph, John Paul's message encourages the clergy to "entrust yourself to others, suffer for others, be a person for others in the mold of Christ. The only true meaning in life is to give yourself away

rather than grasp after whatever vision of fulfillment you have."

Pope John Paul also impacted Br. Joseph and many others through his Wednesday audiences in which he spoke on the theology of the body (also the title of one of his books). He suggested that sexuality is a gift of self, both for a married person and for a celibate (the gift being abstinence).

"I found his reflections to be very helpful as I was thinking through the whole celibacy issue," Br. Joseph said.

"He exuded a positive experience with a celibate life," explained Abbot Denis. "He was not a wallflower. He chose celibate life, and enjoyed it. It has animated his ministry. He was a zestful human being, a great role model."

"And he was not hesitant about celibacy," he added. "He did not renounce marriage to have less, but to have more."

Abbot Denis, who has worked tirelessly to encourage young men to consider vocations, understands the role the pope has played in increasing interest in the priesthood.



APRIL 2004 MEETING In Rome for a plenary meeting of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, Abbot Denis Farkasfalvy meets with Pope John Paul II last April. That's Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI), who chaired the Biblical Commission, introducing the abbot to the pope.

Gregory recalled, "I stepped in front of him with a freshly-minted copy of his first Encyclical, *Redemptor Hominis*, and asked him to autograph it!"

The Pope stared at the brash Cistercian brother for a moment, and responded politely but firmly in English, "No!" The Pope turned to his "handlers" who were flummoxed. So the pontiff turned back to Br. Gregory and said, "Okay."

"He took my pen and signed my copy of his encyclical," remembered Fr. Gregory. "Voila! I have the only signed copy of an encyclical in 'private hands.' What a day! What a keepsake! What an American I am!"

“John Paul means so much when I realize how his single, personal shining example has validated, restored, re-kindled the splendid ideal of consecrated life,” said Abbot Denis in his homily during the First Friday Mass on April 1, 2005, which was dedicated to the pope.

“I see in his legacy a call to young people to become fully given away, fully devoted, dedicated, committed to Christ, leaving behind all preoccupation with the self and opening themselves fully to the call of grace and walking in the footsteps of the master in search of the Truth and in the service of their fellow human beings.”

“A few years ago,” said Michael Patrick ’81, “I was in Rome with my father and others from Texas, in a small gathering to be received briefly by Pope John Paul II in an outer room of his offices. Even with the infirmity that already gripped him, his presence filled the room with joy and peace, which you could see on the faces of all around.”

“I have watched my sister at an Easter Mass in Rome,” remembered Abbot Denis. “She understood very little of the Italian; I had to translate for her. But she was fascinated and transformed. His magic was at work.

“She understood how exceptional he was and was amazed at his ability to connect with the audience, no matter how large.

“You know they called President Reagan, ‘the great communicator,’” said Abbot Denis. “But when someone can connect so many to God (something that is so difficult), these are transcendental communications taking place.”

“He was a fantastic teacher, theologically and spiritually,” Fr. Gregory said. “He was someone who shows you can reach people on a spiritual level no matter who they are.”

As an example, Fr. Gregory recalled taking some Cistercian students to San Antonio to see the pope in 1987. San Antonio was bursting at the seams; no hotel rooms were available for miles. The small Cistercian contingent spent the night on the floor of a day-care facility.

“There were 400,000 people there,” Fr. Gregory said. “There was a lot of down time waiting for him to arrive. But the attitude was incredible — the thoughtfulness, the sharing, informal prayer groups spontaneously popping up, singing hymns. Nothing was planned among these people who for the most part didn’t know each other; it was just the inspiration of the moment. I was amazed that you can bring half a million people together and no one is mugged, no screaming. It’s just one peaceful kingdom.”

“When he did arrive,” he said, “he had a tremendous presence that reached out to 400,000. His message was being taken to heart. It was not just an event, it was a religious moment.”

Br. Joseph, while still in high school, had an opportunity to see the pope in St. Louis in 1999.

“It was a galvanizing experience for me somehow,” he recalled. “At the time, I was just getting over a period of doubt. I was astonished at how moved I was. We had tickets to the main Mass but we weren’t even in the same building as the Mass.”

“I naturally tend to be a more analytical, tentative sort of person,” Br. Joseph explained. “But as he came through and passed by in the ‘Pope Mobile,’ I found myself running up to the rope with all the young kids, waving wildly and shouting ‘We love you!’ even though we knew he couldn’t hear us. It is a very striking memory of mine.

“I was moved by the fact that we were important enough for him

to come. We mattered to this man.”

“At first, I couldn’t understand why so many people were so eager and then joyful to see a man hunched over in his chair,” Br. Abraham Frei remembered thinking during his first Papal Mass in 2000. The attention of the University of Dallas sophomore was transfixed by the pope’s frail outer shell.

“Someone else was doing all the reading in his place while he continued to sit motionless. I began to wonder what his presence was actually accomplishing. Here was a man whose body simply did not allow for any spectacular interaction with the thousands gathered there.”

Things didn’t change when the pope finally spoke.

“His words were so mumbled that I couldn’t even recognize his English.”

Then, somehow, the pope began to work his magic on Frei.

“Everyone was utterly captivated by him,” he recalled. “Some were cheering wildly while others kept a steady and intense gaze upon the man.”

“The reason I was so captivated was that his holiness shone through his ailing body. Anyone in their right mind who was in that condition would not have spent two hours in the August heat of Rome. And yet, his mind was certainly still lucid.”

“He was doing this out of some inner reserve of strength. This selflessness, his living completely for the other, absolutely amazed me. He was so much stronger than any picture in a newspaper would have you believe.”

After hip replacement surgery in 1994, Pope John Paul II determined that the physical infirmities of his once vigorous, athletic body would become part of his ministry.

“I understand that I have to lead Christ’s Church into this third millennium by prayer, by various programs,” the pope said. “But I saw that this is not enough: She must be led

by suffering ... the Pope has to suffer, so that every family may see that here is, I would say, a higher Gospel: the Gospel of suffering by which the future is prepared.”

“We are so inclined to think that weakness and suffering are meaningless, to be fled at all costs,” said Br. Joseph reflecting on the pope’s suffering. “But Pope John Paul had the audacity to proclaim a crucified Savior. He spent himself working to remind us of what we can so easily forget: if the crowning glory of the Son of God was that he walked the way of the cross for us, then that means that our own sufferings are really invitations to trust and love, not incomprehensible intrusions on our individualized quests for self-fulfillment.”

“This was not an intellectual project for him,” Br. Joseph insisted. “This was part of a new evangelization.”

“It’s part of what we’re doing here at the monastery,” he suggested. “We are just a different kind of missionary. We’re not going into foreign lands, but we’re just as necessary. We’re leaving behind the things we know so that we can serve American kids in our particular way, accepting God’s invitation to sow seeds not so much in far-off lands, as for a far-off time — for the future.”

Pope John Paul II must be smiling.

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“When I think of John Paul, I inevitably think in terms of his teaching and his example as a condition for my vocation.”

— Br. Joseph Van House



Photo by Alden Harris '07

A WICKED FOREHAND Cistercian's number one singles player, Will Beuttenmuller '06 (above), lost only two matches all season. The Hawks placed second at the SPC Division II tourney.

Tennis team falls just short at SPC-II

"ESD got payback on us," said Coach Rob Montemayor.

The Hawks had knocked ESD out of the SPC Division I tournament a week before. But in the championship match of the SPC Division II tourney, ESD prevailed.

The young Hawks' team is built around **Will Beuttenmuller '06** who lost only twice all season (both to the same opponent).

Beuttenmuller's season started with a match in which he found himself down 2-9 in a super tiebreaker (first to 10, win by two). He won 12-10. Later in the season, Beuttenmuller throttled a Casady player

who hadn't lost all year.

Winston Rice '07 also stood out. He defeated Greenhill's number two singles player who was 45-0. Rice's victory (3-6, 6-4, 6-4) stung since it was the Hornet's final regular season match as a senior.

Bobby Crews '06 and **Devin Jourde '07** lost only three matches all year as the number one doubles team. Unfortunately, one of those losses came against ESD at SPC.

Warner Sallman '07 also played well for the Hawks.

"We're so young," Montemayor said. "I am really looking forward to next year."

Young track team shows promise

The Hawks track team showed some surprising promise heading into SPC in Houston. Topping the list of surprises this spring were **James Hansell '06** who joined the track team this year and became a fixture in the 800 meter.

Equally as rewarding was the performance of **Colin Leatherbury '05** who earned a third-place finish at SPC in the 110 hurdles, but behind **Gabi Ferenczi '06** who placed second. **Grant Van Kirk '06** placed fifth in the 300 hurdles

Trey Mohr '05 placed second overall in the pole vault with a height of 13' 6" and set the school's pole vault record at a meet at Bishop Lynch (13' 7"). **Greg Wallingford '06**

placed sixth in the long jump.

Sam Bowler '06 placed fourth in the finals of the 400, (Bowler ran his best race in the prelims with a meet best 50.1).

Meanwhile, the Hawks showed their depth of runners by placing fifth in the sprint relay (**David Haley '06**, Wallingford '06, Bowler '06, and **Will Murchison '06**).

In the mile relay, the Hawks team of **Tom Davey '07**, Bowler, Haley, and **Matt Hess '05** placed sixth.

The Hawks' seventh place finish in the meet provides a good deal of hope for 2006.

"The kids ran extremely hard," McCarthy said. "It's a good group that is heavy on juniors. Next year should be fun."

Heard leads baseball team to 5th at SPC-II

Amidst April's stretch run, the Hawks traveled to St. Mark's to play on the Lions' diamond, never an easy task. Especially starting six sophomores. Especially when the Hawks trail 5-0 going into the sixth inning (out of seven).

"The boys wouldn't give up," said Coach Mark Gray. "Despite the young team behind him, **Zach [Heard '05]** wouldn't give up. He just kept pitching great and the kids rallied around him."

A homer by **H.T. Flanagan '05** sparked the Hawks.

"Then, it seemed like everybody hit the ball," Gray said. The Hawks scored seven runs in the final two innings and Heard took a two-run lead into the seventh.

Pitching a complete game, the team captain held off the Lions who scored one run in the bottom of the seventh, but ultimately stranded runners at first and second when Flanagan shut the door with a great play at third base.

In his last regular season game, Heard threw a no-hitter against Fort Worth Country Day, earning the Hawks a spot in the SPC Division II tournament in Houston.

There the Hawks came out flat against Greenhill (a team they had split with during the regular season), beat TMI, and overcame Casady 11-10 to take fifth place. The Hawks finished 16-7 for the season.

Heard, a three-year starter, was named the team's MVP and won All-SPC honors.

"He's been our number one pitcher since he was a sophomore," Gray said. "He's improved every year. He also hits in the number three spot."

"He's been our leader all year. You couldn't ask for a better kid. He's the epitome of sportsmanship, class, and leadership."



Photo by Joe Flanagan

KING OF THE HILL Zach Heard '05, Cistercian's number one pitcher.



RANCHITO CASCABEL WORKSHOP 2004
At the first annual Mexico Art Trip are (bottom row, left to right) Betsy Romeo, John Romeo, Matthew Whitenack '04, Kramer Rice '04, Nancy Whitenack, Sam Maclin '05, Andrew Rielu '04, Tim Sullivan '70; (top row, left to right) Grady McGahan '00, Roberto Munguia, Sam Theis '06, Patrick Romeo '06, Nancy Borris (Tim Sullivan's fiancée).

'70 **35th REUNION** Charles L. Williams cwilliams@blalack.com Roberto Munguia, Cistercian Art teacher, is currently planning the second annual art workshop for Cistercian upperclassmen at **Tim Sullivan's** Ranchito Cascabel in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico this summer. (See the photo above from last year's trip.)

John (Quinn) Rounsaville, M.D. ROUNSAVILLE, M.D., father of Roger Rounsaville '75 passed away on March 26, 2005

'75 **30th REUNION** Mike McGee dmmcgee@sbcglobal.net

'77 Mike Skalak mskalak@flash.net Warren Andres was elected Chairman of the Board of the Quoin Chapter of the Associated General Contractors representing North and East Texas.

'78 Harold Phillips hfphillips@brownfirst.com Tom Stimson has been elected to the Board of Governors for the International Communications Industries Association. ICIA is the founder and manager of the InfoComm trade shows which operate in five countries. Daughter Mary Rachel was just accepted into next fall's freshman class of DISD's Talented and Gifted magnet program.

'80 **25th REUNION** Steve Rasch raschs@tklaw.com David Godat has opened up his medical office in the field of plastic surgery in Dallas at Medical City and in Heath, Texas at Baylor.

'81 Tim O'Connor toconnor@acmewidget.com Lt Bert Sissom, MC, USNR, Southwestern, premed, transferred to USPHS in '93. For photo of action during Gulf War, <http://www.dfc.cc>, click on the memorial icon.

'84 Chris Marcellus chrismarcellus@yahoo.com Chris Marcellus has been named one of the head Pole Vault officials at the NCAA Division II National Championships at Abilene Christian University May 26-28. "I also had the pleasure of coaching the last member of the Abbasi family (Fayad '91's little brother Aziz) in 7th grade football here at Oakridge. It is also a pleasure running into David Stewart '74, Jere Thompson '74, and other alums at the track meets in which Cistercian is competing."

'85 **20th REUNION** Kevin Spencer kevin@hartnettlawfirm.com

'88 Ignacio Barbero pebblebarbero@hotmail.com Joe Capasso reports, "I'm old. And overweight. The former is proven by my son's starting First Form at Cistercian next fall. The latter is exemplified by my ever-enlarging mid section. Fat and Old- that's it. Oh yeah, I bought some new tennis shoes last week." Tim Rogers recently had dinner with Fred Hartnett '87 and said he was impressed by how much less pompous Fred has become since high school. Not long after the dinner, Tim's wife Christine and Fred's wife Nancy went on a "girls' night out" together; Tim added, "Whether the ladies' relationship will blossom remains to be seen."

'90 **15th REUNION** Kenneth Adams D26k25@worldnet.att.net During the Presidential election, Gautam Dutta served as Surrogate Chair of the Democratic National Committee's Asian American Voter Outreach Team. Since then, he has continued as a political consultant, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Asian American Action Fund, a national political action committee (www.aaa-fund.org). He is currently involved with the campaign of Antonio Villaraigosa, who is running for Los Angeles Mayor. Villaraigosa placed first in the primary, and was leading as of presstime. Kenneth Adams writes that his daughter, Isabelle Kei, "is 18 months old and just got back from her third overseas trip. Deborah and I took her to Spain where I had the opportunity to ride with Lance Armstrong's new team the Discovery Channel cycling team in the mountains outside of Gerona, Spain. We got to see the old Cistercian monastery at Poblet which was phenomenal. We spent a total of 16 days in Catalonia which I would highly recommend as a destination spot, though March in Spain is still a little cold." Ken and Deborah just celebrated their seventh wedding anniversary. Ken has two small start-up businesses that are keeping him busy outside of his daily hospital rounds and responsibilities as Chief of Staff. "I still am racing bicycles on the velodrome and I hope to win Texas State Championships this year for a second time," he



Will Dawson '90 celebrates his graduation from the London School of Business with Daughter Sophie.

reports. Will Dawson has graduated from London Business School and has accepted a position at the London-based Venture Capital firm Amadeus Capital Partners.

'93 Mike Wang mikertiger@yahoo.com Vincent Ansiaux has recently changed law firms to the Dallas firm of Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker where he is in the insurance coverage practice group. Sony Kalluvilayil is working for Bank of America as a Personal Banker. Anyone have banking needs, please let him know.

'94 Alex Nettune alex_net tune@hotmail.com Demetri Venis (Venetis) writes, "All in all I can not complain. Life is good. I am engaged to one Kristen McKiernan (Irish and Italian and Catholic of course) and we live in Charlotte, NC. I've been with Maersk Sealand, the container shipper company, for seven years since I graduated school and have held a number of positions in NJ/OH/NC. I know it's a shock—there's a Greek in the shipping biz! Spent the first 5 years in operations, mostly rail and truck related but as my current title, General Manager of General Accounting, suggests, I currently manage a group of accountants. Not the most fun people to hang around but they are a definite necessity. After the wedding and my graduation from Wake's MBA program in August, K and I will look to expat to Europe where I am looking for a Sales/Ops job in which I'd support one or two large customers. She works for the logistics arm of the group on the Walmart account. We met in NJ as she was a newbie in the management training program and I was a second year. Our love of traveling, food, and exercise keeps us busy outside of work. My parents are both doing well and I keep in close touch with Adam [Chandler], Sean [Kamat], Rob [Reeves], and Dorr [Sillaway]. The latter three will each play a role in the wedding."



... Adam Chandler married Neslihan Gul Adam Chandler with bride Neslihan Gul.

alumni class notes

in June 2004, in Pottsboro, TX. He writes, "We had about 250 guests including Cistercian alums **Rob Reeves**, **Dorr Sillaway**, **Sean Kamat** (who were all ushers) and **Pat McNally** and **Demetrius Venetis** and his fiancée Kristen McKiernan were also guests." Adam and Nesli had belly dancers & Turkish food to celebrate Nesli's Turkish heritage, an 11-piece swing band to keep the mood festive and a surprise fireworks show from her parents! They also had a second wedding reception in Istanbul, Turkey on a private yacht on the Bosphorus Strait in Sept 2004 for family and friends that were not able to make it to the June wedding. Adam graduated from the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Houston with his M.D. in 2002 and is currently completing his 3rd year of a radiology residency at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM (only 2 more to go!). Nesli is nearing the end of her studies in a doctoral program in Clinical Psychology and hopes to start an internship with a specialization in Pediatric Health Psychology soon. They hope eventually to move back to Texas to be closer to family and friends. **Scott Schoenvogel** and **Melanie Moulin-Scott** were married April 16th, 2005 in Gulf Shores, Alabama. **Artie Starrs**, **Kyle Sommers** and **Alex Nettune** were all in attendance. Scott and Melanie will reside in Dallas where Scott works as a Vice President at Baylor Health Care System. Artie has recently accepted a new position in Dallas with Rave Motion Pictures. Kyle graduates in May from Columbia Business School and will join Dallas based hedge fund Highside Capital in their New York office.

'95 10th REUNION



Lillian (Lily) Wilder

Andrew E. Stewart
andrewstew@yahoo.com
Leigh Ann and **Steve Wilder** had a healthy baby girl, Lillian Katherine, on Wednesday, March 30. She weighed 7 lbs, 5 oz and she was 19 inches long. "We call her Lily though!" **Jim Flaherty** just started a new data entry job at Mellon Bank in downtown Pittsburgh.

'97

Matthew Nevitt
mfnevitt@yahoo.com
Shawn Cox has recently moved to Baltimore, MD for a job promotion with E & J Gallo Winery. He is a Field Marketing Manager, overseeing all sales and marketing efforts for the state of Maryland. He claims that he is drinking a glass of red wine a day (for health reasons of course) and can't wait for the summer heat to hit the Mid Atlantic. He has recently met up with **Jeff Dawson** and wishes **Bill Pritchett** and **Desmond Jui** were still living in the area.

'98

Nelson Wood
nelsonwood@hotmail.com
On January 15, 2005, **Zafar Shah** married **Zunera Gilani** in Houston, Texas. **Kumaran Mudaliar** addressed the wedding guests with touching words for his friend and former classmate. By all accounts, the wedding weekend was a "blur." Zafar and Zunera rushed to Morocco for the honeymoon and then headed to Pakistan, where Zunera is posted with the World Health



SHAH VOWS Texas. Kumaran Mudaliar (left) with Zafar Shah at Shah's wedding in Houston in January.

of Law as a Public Interest Scholar. **Nick Lau** and **Ben Weston** recently teamed-up for their first foray into international sport law. Led by Ben, set to graduate from UCLA Law School this spring, the two performed Spanish-English translation duties for a Central American soccer club in the International Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland. It should



VATICAN CHRISTMAS Nick Lau (right) with friends at Christmas Mass in Rome.

be noted that their side won! **Pete Belknap** reports that there is "finally some big news from me. I'm getting married!" The wedding will be a small one this summer. Pete's fiancée is Jacquelyn Brown; "we've been dating since I was at CPS and she was at Ursuline," he says, "so quite a long time. The plan is to tie the knot in a small ceremony with our parents, and then head off for a week or two to somewhere sunny and peaceful; then we'll be back to California to live in some overpriced real estate and stare at the ocean for a few years, as I continue my job developing software, and Jacquelyn starts a new career as attorney to the stars."

'99

Mike Dorsey
mikedorseycontact@hotmail.com
Michael Greenfield will marry **Meghan Gowan** in July at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of Notre Dame. They will proceed to Aruba for a week-long honeymoon, during which Meghan will attempt to impart her advanced scuba knowledge to Michael. They will then settle and Michael will continue working for Corporate Executive Board, conducting research in Human Resources, and Meghan will begin her first year at Georgetown Law. **Brian Abernethy** will study in Montreal this summer, earning credit toward the joint J.D./MBA he is pursuing from Texas Tech. **Andrew Kippen** writes, "The seas have been parted and the way has been shown... it leads to . . . France? Yep, I am now fully employed by the French Government to do economic research and help develop business opportunities for French companies in Texas. So far the job has been great and the people I work with are great."

Organization and Zafar is doing legal research at the women's rights group Aurat Foundation. This summer they plan to settle in Washington, D.C., where Zafar will attend American University Washington College

'00 5th REUNION '02

Brent Hogan
brenthogan@aol.com

Barry McCain
bmccain@udallas.edu

Mark Lau is finishing his junior year at SMU still majoring in Marketing and Advertising. This summer he is going to study in Suzhou, China for 3 weeks and then spend the fall semester studying in Copenhagen, Denmark. Never satisfied, **Dan Lines** is hopping from one internship (in banking) to another internship this summer—in banking. It may be boring, but at least it's in Chicago. Speaking of being upwardly mobile, **Tommy Heyne** was recently elected as president of Student Government for UD. His campaign promises included: fostering better communication between students and the administration, strengthening UD's ties with Cistercian, and stressing out more. **Barry McCain** and **Michael West** also continue their studies at UD. Since their arrival, these three have done Cistercian proud both in and out of the classroom. Barry won the college quiz bowl tournament, Michael won the flag football tournament, and Tommy won the race for student body president. Barry and Michael have also been winning the hearts of two young UD ladies, but Tommy has had no such luck. Priesthood, anyone?

'03

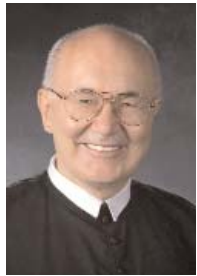
Mukund Ramkumar
mukundr@stanford.edu
Phillip Schuepbach will be working in Germany for RUF Automobile making sure that Porsches get the extra 200 horsepower they deserve. **Michael Giordano** will be attending the engineering study abroad program this summer in London for six weeks. He loves Notre Dame.

'04

A.J. Minich
ajminich@hotmail.com
Giacomo Yaquinto was recently accepted to the Universidad Politecnica de Valencia, a university in Spain south of Barcelona and east of Madrid. He will be studying there for a year starting in September. **Carl Weiland**, having mastered the delicate art of tour-guiding at CPS under the direction of Mr. Haaser, has returned to that old profession at Duke. A few weeks ago, he showed off Duke's beautiful campus to tour groups that included the likes of **Crista Arias** (sister of **Jacob Arias '04**), **David Haley '06**, and **Jere Thompson '06**. Cart comments, "Good times. Love to keep the Duke-CPS chain going." He also mentions that, while life at Duke has been great, he will be going back to Dallas over the summer to "speak some Espanol." **John Pruitt** has recently been accepted to the Summer Undergraduate Research fellowship Program (SURF) at UT Southwestern Medical Center. During the 10 week program, John will be researching cystic fibrosis, a condition which affects three of his siblings. He is also applying for a research grant from the CF Foundation to help fund this research. A little less recently, John participated in the Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge in New Mexico over spring break. His group worked on 4 houses alongside groups from Connecticut, Wisconsin, and Air Force Academy. **Andrew Lawson '02** also participated. "All in all," John reports, "it's just as dandy as can be up here in Sherman."

The Pope Benedict the media doesn't see

The joy of so many young Catholics over the election of Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, who on April 19 became Pope Benedict XVI, sharply contrasts with the caricature that some of the mass media have drawn of him: they characterized him as aloof, cold, closed to modern culture, the ruthless “Panzerkardinal” (“tank cardinal”) of the Vatican who, like a heavy tank, rolled over and crushed more than a hundred theologians.



On Prayer

Fr. Roch Kereszty

I am not qualified to give an adequate description of our new Pope, but I would like to reveal a side to his personality and work that may not receive much coverage in the press.

Cardinal Meisner of Cologne has called Cardinal Ratzinger the “Mozart of theology.” Indeed, long before he became prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, Joseph Ratzinger was one of the greatest if

not the greatest theologian of our times. His *Introduction to Christianity* has become a classic. It was just recently republished with a new introduction summing up clearly and most insightfully the history of theology in the past four decades. That book alone, not to mention his many other writings, shows Ratzinger’s intimate knowledge of modern culture. He laments precisely the crisis, the self-destructive nature of modern culture in order to save the culture and renew its lasting values.

I believe that one of the reasons for the Cardinals’ choice was their conviction that Ratzinger is best equipped to present the Christian message to the educated people of Europe and to the world in a compelling and challenging way. He is most capable of entering into a patient but forthright dialogue with Western culture, a culture that is increasingly dechristianized, dehumanized and decadent. He sees better than most of us the connection between relativism and dictatorship: he sees how oppressive that intellectual climate is which demounces and silences any affirmation of a “clear faith based on the creed.”

He has become well known for his total lack of ambition to be part of the Roman Curia, much less become pope. He asked John Paul repeatedly for the permission to resign as head of the Doctrinal Congregation and to be allowed to continue his work as a theologian. Yet, when elected, he accepted the choice. In his homily to the Cardinals in the Sistine Chapel (April 20), he said: “I seem to feel his strong hand (the hand of John Paul) clasping mine, and I look into his eyes and hear his words: Do not be afraid.”

In the same homily he gives expression to the experience we have all had: “the funeral of John Paul II was a unique experience in which we have perceived the power of God who, through his Church, wants to make all nations into one great family through the unifying power of truth and love.”

In this homily he also presents part of his program: a further implementation of Vatican II in harmony with the work of his predecessors and the two-thousand-year tradition of the Church. He also pledges not to spare any effort in his primary task of restoring the full, visible unity of all the disciples of Christ. He calls for actions not just nice declarations, actions that lead to an interior conversion

which forms the basis for any real progress in ecumenism. He also calls for the Church to present Christ as the light of the world and to seek a sincere and open dialogue with other religions. He pledges the Church’s work in promoting authentic social progress that respects human dignity, and he expresses his desire to continue the dialogue with different cultures. This program is certainly not reactionary; on the contrary it provides solid reassurance for the continued rejuvenation of the Church.

Let me also add that he has not “rolled over or crushed” any theologian. If he became convinced after a long and gentle dialogue with a theologian that this person continues to contradict the teaching of the Church, he simply declared him unfit to teach Catholic theology. Charlie Curran and Hans Küng, for instance, continue even today to speak up and teach, but they can no longer speak in the name of the Church as Catholic theologians.

Two interesting details shed some further light on the man who has become our Pope. One is his Episcopal coat of arms, which includes a bear carrying a heavy pack.

Archbishop Ratzinger himself explained it in the following way: according to the legend of St. Corbinian of Freising, a bear devoured the saint’s horse on his way to Rome. The saint had no choice but to order the bear to carry the load to Rome. “The bear that replaced the horse – or rather the mule – of St. Corbinian was burdened with his load and thus became a beast of burden (against his will). Isn’t this the image of what I have to do and of what I am?” Archbishop Ratzinger asked. He intended to be a theologian, and against his will, he was made an archbishop, a bur-

den he accepted but did not seek.

The second detail is the name he chose. We can only speculate here. On April 1, a day before John Paul died, Cardinal Ratzinger was receiving an award in Subiaco, a Benedictine monastery built close to the mountain slope where Benedict long lived as a hermit and monk.

“We need people like Benedict of Nursia today,” said Cardinal Ratzinger in receiving the award. “[He was] a man who, in an age of debauchery and decadence, plunged himself into the most extreme solitude, and after he underwent all the necessary purifications, emerged to build Monte Cassino, the city on the mountain top, a city that, amid so many ruins, gathered together the energies out of which a new world was formed.”

Briefly, St. Benedict, the father of Western monasticism, evangelized through his monks the barbarian tribes of Europe and contributed to the emergence of a Christian culture.

Cardinal Ratzinger may also have chosen the name because of his immediate namesake. Benedict XV became pope at the beginning of World War I. He is well known for denouncing the ‘senseless massacre’ and ‘hideous butchery’ on both sides. He also called for a halt to the anti-Modernist witch-hunt, which was leading to a campaign to spy even on professors of church history as pious as Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, later to become Blessed Pope John XXIII. Thus, the name of our new pope may be also an indication that, while never compromising on the full truth of the Gospel, he intends to avoid unnecessary confrontations.

Fr. Roch Kereszty can be reached at fr-roch@cistercian.org.

When I die, I want a four-year-old to pack the dirt

Well, it had to happen. We were scattered about house and yard when the wail began.

Mom, Dad, and Big Sister hustled toward the cry that proclaimed, "Something is terribly wrong."



Afterthoughts

Smokey Briggs '84

Parental visions of bloody stumps for arms, blood-spurting lacerations and such disappeared as I rounded the corner.

Before me was our four-year-old, Carson Mae, dragging a dead chicken that was nearly as big as her, by the feet.

Her face was the essence of grief, not to mention her words.

"Black Chicken is dead," she wailed.

Now, you have to understand, Black Chicken was not ordinary chicken.

She was a family pet.

She was one of the original six Aracana chicks that came to our house after the first

original six Aracana chicks were eliminated by our ever-helpful blue heeler Penny Durham in a night of pure doggie indulgence.

Desperate at the time not to have to explain to my two-year-old Ruby Leigh how her puppy had massacred the cute little chicks that followed her around "like I'm their mommy," I raced to the feed store minutes after I discovered dead chicks on a Saturday morning.

I fished the last six Aracanas that resembled Ruby's chicks out of a cage of geeselings, ducklings, and chicks, threw money at the counter, and screeched back home.

One of those chicks grew up to be Black Chicken.

Black Chicken celebrated her fifth birthday this year. She had become part of the family, going to library story hours, school show and tells, Easter celebrations and I forget what else.

She was as tame as an old dog and spent countless hours being petted (tortured) in the arms of Ruby and Carson over the past five years.

So, when Carson found her, it was a part of her family that she found.

After a few minutes spent regaining composure I told the girls to get their shovels to help me dig a grave. (I was not about to suggest any other means of disposal.)

So, with tears flowing the three of us dug a hole while mom found something appropriate for a shroud of sorts.

When the hole was deep enough we put Black Chicken in it and began to fill it up.

All the while the conversation alternated between sobbing and the sometimes-insightful and always delicate conversations parents have with their children regarding death.

When the last shovel full of dirt filled the hole, Carson dropped her shovel, jumped onto the mound of dirt, and began a fast paced, foot stomping jig, whirling round and round as she did it.

Ruby's eyes communicated her distress over the situation. At seven years of age she has already begun to learn the manners of our culture – the dos and don'ts.

Let's face it, dancing on a grave is probably a "don't."

"Carson, what are you doing?" I asked.

"Packing down the dirt," she said, her feet never missing a beat.

All I could do was smile.

She was not being disrespectful. She was doing what needed to be done – but the irrepressible force of life that we are all born with was bubbling out of her – completely untamed at the age of four by the strictures of culture and such.

At four, she unconsciously understands what time seems to dull for most of us: Life is good. Being alive is good. We should be joyful, and act like we are joyful.

After about fifteen minutes of grief that force in Carson could no longer be denied and it bubbled out of her as she packed down the dirt on Black Chicken's grave despite her grief.

"Will we see Black Chicken in Heaven?" she asked when she was finished.

"Yes, I think you will," I answered truthfully. (If seeing her chicken would bring a smile to her perfect face I do not see how God could resist no matter what the rules in Heaven are.)

"Good," Carson answered.

A minute later she was off chasing butterflies, watching ants, playing dolls and mostly just jumping around like a young calf while she continued that day's exploration of her world.

When I croak, I would like that kind of burial. Selfishly, I hope that there are a few folks who care enough to be a little sad, but I want the irrepressible joy of a four-year-old to pack the dirt around me, and to remind folks that life is good and should be lived at full throttle.

Smokey Briggs can be reached at smokey@pecos.net.

calendar

June

- 3-5 Reunions Weekend with Hawks' Hoops, Family Picnic, Mass, and Alumni Brunch

August

- 12 Varsity football scrimmage vs. American Heritage
13 Used book/uniform sale
23 Opening Ceremonies
24 Classes begin

September

- 5 Labor Day holiday
30 Homecoming

October

- 6 MS/US Open House

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