



83rd Arbor Day Students, staff spend school

day on spring cleaning

Emmanuel Cole, CLASS OF 2006

As springtime came, so did the warm weather and here at Seminary that meant our annual Arbor Day was right around the corner. For those of you who may not know, Arbor Day was originally set aside by Canada and the United States for planting new trees.

Here at Sem, the student body and faculty celebrate the day by having a spring cleaning. It's fun for everyone in the school because all classes are canceled and it's almost an extra free day to relax. Students in every class were assigned different tasks to complete before they could enjoy their day off. Over the years of being a student here at MLS, one hopes for Arbor Day to fall upon a day with many classes.

There were many things that needed to be done around the school; from cleaning the pianos to washing the bricks down in the commons, everything was accomplished exceptionally well. The students actually save the school money by helping out with cleaning. It also helps out the maintenance staff a great deal. Everyone wins on Arbor Day.

After the students are done with their tasks, they enjoy going out to eat with friends or going over to friends' houses for the rest of the day. One curious transformation occurs apart from cleanliness; the school becomes a ghost town in the afternoon after the morning of bustling activity. However, all things come and go, and even another Arbor Day came to an end, students were preparing for the next day of classes that cannot be delayed by that wonderful morning announcement of "Arbor Day!" So until next year's Arbor Day, the Seminary family will be waiting for another surprise. ❖



Photo: Emmanuel Cole
Sophomores Jimmy Trommer and Aaron Voss push a clean sweep over Hardin Street in front of the dormitory.



Photo: Tutor Boehringer
Cody Harlacher, Phil Kasischke, Aaron Ewald, Ryan Friske, Tim Hill, Brent Hannewald, Jace Fritzler, and Paul Krueger clean the game room.

Summa cum laude

Freshman scores perfect 40

Michelle Schaffer, CLASS OF 2006

Most people would say that Latin is hard, confusing, challenging, and even unnecessary. But if one were to ask freshman Brandon Reif, he would say, "I think it's fun!"

That's right, fun!

Reif had an amazing perfect score of 40 on the National Latin Exam and it only took him 20 minutes. As far as Professors Kock and Seafert, Seminary's Latin instructors, can remember, this has not happened in ten years. But how does a freshman know so much Latin? He said, "I know so much Latin because I just do, I guess. I study a *little*." Reif claimed that he didn't even have to study *at all* for the test. Latin is his best class, and definitely plans on taking it next year and in the future to help in his plans of becoming a doctor. His Latin ability would also aid him in the pastor track at MLC, another path Reif is considering.

Prof. Seafert was pleasantly surprised with Reif's results. He commented, "I was expecting him to do well, but I was not expecting him to do that well." Seafert also says that his performance in his class is excellent, and would like to say congratulations. Reif has accomplished a great feat and should be proud of what he has done.

In recognition of his flawless result Reif received a gold medal and a certificate for his achievement. ❖

Sem track teams off and running to 2-0 start

Freeland, Bullock Creek up next

Paul Taylor, CLASS OF 2007

The Seminary Track and Field teams competed against the Vassar Vulcans on last Wednesday. The guys' team finished first in 13 of the 16 events, and the girls finished 12 of 16 events in first place. Both teams won, the guys running all over the Vulcans 113-39 and the girls pulled away from Vassar to win 81-57.

"We have a good core of people leading us in the right direction. It was a good day."

—Coach Schroer

The wins were highlighted by several good efforts on both teams.

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Senior Spotlight

Laura Backus: The feet inside the spikes

Denise Elowsky, CLASS OF 2006

When people hear about the 800-meter run, they often think of Laura Backus whose best time is 2:23. Backus comes from Hemlock, Michigan. She always runs the meets in her size eight Adidas spikes. She runs the 800-meter, the final leg of the 3200-meter relay, and her favorite, the final leg of the 1600-meter relay. "That was really hard choice," Backus says with a laugh. She is a strong senior leader, an encouragement to all, and a constant supply of laughter for the team.

The reason she like running so much is, "It feels so good when you're done. I don't actually like running; I like being done. It's also fun to beat people." She competed at state last year and her remarks on that were, "I got 6th in the 800. Then I barfed for the first time ever. While I was running the 800 at state, I got hit by a pole vault [pole]. Now I have a pole vault phobia."

Here are some fun facts about Laura Backus. If you're riding in a bus with her and her squirt gun, you're bound to get wet even if you're Professor Malchow. If Backus has her water gun when Tutor Gurgel leaves his car windows down he's bound to get water in his car. And not just Tutor Gurgel! Backus will continue to squirt even when we get off the bus at everyone except Mrs. Kock.

Backus also is an athlete with ritual: she has worn the same socks for every race since freshman year. And for those who wonder if she is using steroids in the era of juicing, her emphatic answer is positively no! She added this qualification, "How could anyone accuse me of that? Unless noodles are steroids because I eat a lot of noodles before I run." If she could do any event other than hers, she would compete in the 200-meter dash.

This senior has eclectic tastes. Her favorite color is cerulean, a shade of blue. If she could be endorsed by any brand, she would be choose Wal-Mart. Her favorite sports drink is water. Her favorite meet is regionals. Backus' off-season training: "Sitting on the couch and also feeling guilty when Tutor Gurgel tells me I should be doing stuff." Backus is always full of surprises.

She commented on her performance and the team's this year, "We've done well so far. I think we can improve a lot by the end of the year. This isn't my best year but I still enjoy it." I couldn't get her personal goals, her only comments was, "It's top secret. It's classified information." I did get her team goals, "I wanna beat Freeland, I want people to make it to state, but most of all I want people to take pride in Seminary track."

She really struggled with trying to think of a favorite memory, "I have so many favorite memories, I just can't pick one."

Backus will be attending Martin Luther College in the fall of 2005. She is unsure if she will be running while she is there, but the Seminary track team will certainly miss her next year. ❖



Photo: Denise Elowsky
Laura Backus has fun on and off the track.

You and your parents are invited to the SENIOR FAREWELL!!

For the food we are asking

Freshmen parents to bring drinks and snacks,
Sophomore parents to bring salads and sides,
and **Junior** parents to bring desserts.

The dinner will take place on May 15 arrive at 4:00 with the food and dinner will be served at 4:30 in the gym. Then stick around for fun and games.

May 15 Sunday

Do you know any interesting facts about any of the members of the **Senior** class? If so, please e-mail Dani McCliggott at 6danemcc@mlsem.org or Kristin Steinbrenner at 6krijste@mlsem.org. Thanks!



Pros, cons of sophomores on Varsity

Dani McCliggott, CLASS OF 2006

To be able to be involved in a high school varsity sport is something a student will be able to cherish forever. The brotherhood, the feeling of being a team, and the fun are all things that an athlete will be able to remember for the rest of their lives.

Playing on a varsity sport for two years is a privilege in itself, but being able to play on varsity for three or even four years is an outstanding opportunity. Scott Cooper and Jimmy Trommer are two sophomores that were given this chance.

Since they are the only two sophomores on the team, the juniors and seniors tend to take advantage of the younger and less experienced comrades.

Upperclassman, such as Charlie Hill and Ben Wilkens, enjoy making Cooper and Trommer carry the equipment. When I asked Cooper how he felt about this, he said, "I don't mind it; I understand that since we are the youngest and newest on the team that we have to earn our rankings somehow. I guess it's kind of a rite of passage." Trommer remarked, "Contrary to popular belief I LOVE carrying the gear."

Of course new guys get to lug around the bags, but playing time is also an aspect of their varsity careers.

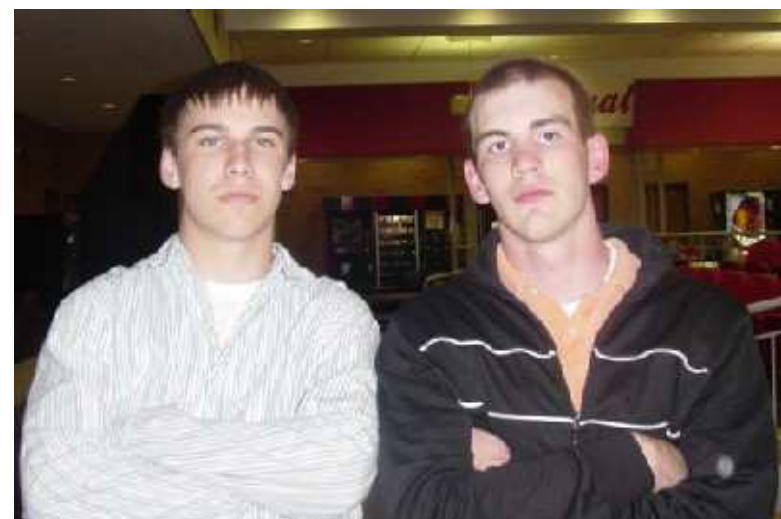


Photo: Dani McCliggott
Jimmy Trommer and Scott Cooper enjoy the challenge of Varsity sports and the opportunities to gain valuable experience.

practice being on varsity. Now of course players will learn more in practice, but may not get as much playing time in the games. The sophomores both feel that they have more to prove to Coach Lecker and their team.

Both of these athletes said they have been playing organized baseball for 11 years, a long time and a lot of experience coming into the Cardinal Varsity program. However, having to compete with such veteran players like Zach Lecker, Andy Baumgartner, Brandon Schwartz, and Clifton Bumhoffer can be difficult. Nevertheless, I think these sophomore superstars can handle it. ❖

I asked the sophomores if they preferred wooden or metal benches. The bench of choice was wooden. Jimmy said, "Metal is just never right... it's either hot, or it's cold. It's just never right."

Intramural volleyball serves up fun, fellowship

Lauren Moore, CLASS OF 2005

Senior Erica Natsis has a busy schedule. A diligent student, she participates in many extracurricular activities, including Concert Choir and Court Street Players. A good way to get some exercise is through intramural volleyball, which she and Tutor Boehringer manage. This enjoyable program occurs during the spring sports season for people who participate in track or baseball may join but it's not recommended, but want to get out of the dorms and have a pleasant time. Making some lasting memories and new friends along the way, they are part of a wonderful experience and encourage fellow students to play.



There are no set teams for intramural volleyball because many of those who sign up never even attend the scheduled meetings. However, this does not stop the weekly participants, 20 on average, from playing. When asked why people sign up, but don't show up Natsis said, "It is springtime, and they want to be outside doing other stuff." Tyrone Gadson feels that people get lazy and should get off the couch.

Although there are no specific teams, those who do come every week have organized into some groups with a wide assortment of unusual names, such as the "Portuguese Geese." Natsis' all-star team is known as the "Scottish Lizards," which is also comprised of David Chernyavsky, Tyrone Gadson, Brad Snyder, and Mark Tafel. Rachel Frey is the brains behind the team names. The faculty is said to have stacked their teams. That is not a problem for the students, who do not want to play with them, anyway, but rather compete against them. "We just want to beat them," was Natsis' quick reply.

Natsis and 2004 graduate Jamie Bergmeier began intramural volleyball last year for their love of the game. Natsis explained how volleyball is "so much fun" and is "beneficial exercise." ❖

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For the guys Justin VanWagner had a discus throw of 114'1", which was good for first. The 1600-meter relay team of Steve Weindorf, Aaron Ewald, Eric Melso, and Nolan Valus finished in 3:58, beating the second place finisher by 20 seconds. Andy Sting had an excellent shot that went 50'6 1/2", also good for first. Loren Milbrath won the 1600 and 3200-meter runs with times of 4:53 and 10:10, respectively. The 3200-meter relay team of Kyle Seim, Aaron Voss, Loren Milbrath, and Joe Fetcenko finished a whole 50 seconds ahead of the Vassar four-some. Tyrone Gadson had a good day, finishing first in the 100 and 200-meter dashes, running the 100 in 11.86 and the 200 in 23.38, and finishing first in the 110-meter hurdles.

The girls also had several excellent efforts. Jen Sprunger's 71'4" discus throw was good for first, as well as Veronica Casey's high jump of 4'8". Katie Hauch had an excellent day's work. She finished third in the shot put with a throw of 28' 1/2", first in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 18.64 seconds and first in the 300-meter low hurdles with a time of 55.18 seconds. Emily Thiel finished in first in the 3200-meter run, completing it in 13:37. The 400-meter relay team of Beth Schmutge, Kendra Williams, Kristin Steinbrenner, and Bonnie Whittaker finished in first with a time of 55.31. Laura Backus finished first in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:41. Kendra Williams had the longest jump at 14'4".

The track teams are improving. They take on Freeland and Bullock Creek on Wednesday at Cardinal Field, and, as always, would like to see as many people out there cheering them on as possible. Coach Schroer commented, "We have a good core of people leading us in the right direction. It was a good day." ❖



Photo: Tutor Boehringer
Brent Hannewald and Tim Hill attack the window panes with tactical precision. One tutor noted, "They are the A-Team of glass cleaners."



Photo: Emmanuel Cole
Junior Amy Arnhold wipes down the hallway outside the Administration Office.



Photo: Emmanuel Cole
Senior Mark Tafel spent his Arbor Day beautifying the landscape in front of the Seminary on Hardin St.