

“Failures are finger posts on the road to achievement.” - C.S. Lewis

Teenworks 205 W. Scott Street Grand Ledge, Michigan (517) 627-9099 www.teenworks.net



Sam Batdorff as Rabbi Yossifel in “Tales from the Shtetl”



Don't Miss Sr. Teenworks Drama This Week!

By Callie Opper

Senior Teenworks will be performing a set of plays this week. “Tales from the Shtetl,” is a story of skits set in Russia in the late 1800s. “Twain’s Tales” will be several short stories written by Mark Twain. Many 9th-12th Teenworks students will be involved in these two plays. The dates you can attend are January 25th, 26th, or 27th at 7pm. Tickets can be ordered online at www.teenworks.net or purchased at the Teenworks office. I had the chance to talk to one of the students, Michael Perry, who is involved with the play.

Callie Opper: “What do you enjoy most about being in drama?”

Michael Perry: “I enjoy being able to express myself from another person’s perspective.”

These plays will be fantastic, and I encourage all Teenworks students to support your classmates by attending the play!

How to Handle the Hype:

Shedding Light on End Times in 2012 through Biblical Objectivity

By Christine Snavelly

Recently the media has focused attention on the Mayan Calendar’s ancient doomsday prediction of December 21, 2012. Perhaps you have seen a few newspaper and magazine headlines that read something along the lines of: *Mayan Calendar Predicts the World Ending in 2012*. With this date rapidly approaching, what does all this hype mean to us as Christians?

When surveyed, twenty-one out of twenty-five Teenworks’ students said that they would live differently, if they knew only had a few days left to live. Sharing the gospel more freely was the most common response. While spending time with family and friends, not worrying about school, and skydiving were among other popular answers, twenty-one students, 9th grade – 12th grade, felt an urgency to live more intentionally for the Lord.

Living in a corrupt world, we know that the “end” is inevitable. As Christians, we believe that God created the world and everything in it. In accordance with His Will, then, we live and die so that He might bring His purpose into completion through us.

(See Hype page 6)

2011

By Michael Duffy

2011 gave us many interesting news stories. Here are a few standouts:

Trevor Bayne becomes the youngest Daytona 500 winner in NASCAR history at just twenty years old.

Osama bin Laden is killed. President Obama states during the speech announcing bin Laden’s death that, “justice has been done.” Details regarding how bin Laden’s death came about are unclear.

“Occupy” protests take place all across America. They start in New York City and San Francisco and spread to hundreds of communities across the U.S. Those involved protest “economic and social inequality.” Republican debates begin for the 2012 republican primaries. Among those running are Michelle Bachman, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Ron Paul, Rick Perry, and Mitt Romney.

Steve Jobs, co-founder and CEO of Apple Inc., passes away after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. Here is Apple’s official statement regarding the loss: Steve’s brilliance, passion and energy were the source of countless innovations that enrich and improve all of our lives. The world is immeasurably better because of Steve. His greatest love was for his wife, Laurene, and his family. Our hearts go out to them and to all who were touched by his extraordinary gifts.

Albert Pujols, Arizona Cardinals first baseman, has a record setting night in the third game of the World Series. He has six RBIs, four runs, and three homeruns. The Cardinals go on to win the World Series.

An earthquake and tsunami strike Japan

(See 2011 page 6)

Inside TNT

Kidworks & Midworks News	2
Features.....	3-6
Columns.....	7-8
Teenworks Bloopers.....	8
TNT Comic.....	9
Calendar.....	9
Poetry Corner.....	9

Kidwork's Happenings for 1st Semester

By Molly Anderson

History Day

For this year's Kidwork's History Day, the focus was on the Boston Tea Party. A brisk autumn day began with a book about the protest. Next, the information learned in the book was brought to life when the children watched the first episode of "Liberty Kids," which centers on the colonist's raid of the tea ships. Following the episode, the children all hurried down to the cafeteria to enjoy their own tea party. Trying their best to be dainty, the students sampled several different versions of Liberty Tea. Once the tea party was over, it was time to master the music, as the children learned a song focusing on the Boston Tea Party. Additionally, they practiced a pantomime play that would showcase to the parents at the end of the day the young scholars' knowledge about the event. Lunch consisted of tea sandwiches, cheese cubes, grapes, apples, and apple cider. When recess time finally came, the children tested their strength playing tug of war, practiced their balance with hula-hoops, and enjoyed many different Colonial-themed games. Once recess was over, it was back to work making Indian headbands and tomahawks and decorating "tea boxes" for the play. The day was brought to a close with a perfect presentation of the pantomime play.

Christmas Program/Party

To kick off the celebration of the holiday season, Kidworks hosted a Christmas party for their students. The festivities commenced with a program performed by the children for friends and family. Trying to capture the essence of the season, the play focused on how important time with Christ is. After the performance, the attendees traveled downstairs to a winter wonderland. Through the help of mothers, the cafeteria had been transformed into a beautifully decorated room. Each table was adorned with a festive tablecloth and the smell of pine wafted up from miniature Christmas trees centered on each of the tables. Tantalizing Christmas treats, relishes, delicious dips, grapes, cheese, and crackers were all available to be enjoyed by the guests. Children had the opportunity to create their own angels using paper bags, pipe cleaners, paper plates, and stickers. Finally, since the holiday season is about giving, the party concluded as each student was given a goodie bag and candy.

Midworks News

By Shaylee Ferguson

Students in Midworks continue to diligently study in their classes. They have been busy working on exciting projects and learning interesting topics from their teachers such as examining feathers, creating book covers, and researching the ancient Olympic Games. TNT asked several Midworks Tutors to describe what the Midworks students have studied so far this year.

Mrs. Martin: 5/6 science- We have been studying vertebrates with the students presenting a report on a mammal of their choice. We investigated feathers and dissected a fish. Most recently we have been studying and experimenting about light, and now we are into studying the sea. In a recent experiment we saw how water and soil heat up and cool off by "cooking" soil and water separately and then recording their temperature. The building did not appreciate the smell of cooking soil!

4th grade Science- Again it is a variety of subjects beginning with insects, deciduous trees and conifer trees, and plants. We made a leaf collection by making rubbings and dissected a seed. Then we found out how to recognize different birds and God's special design for them. We have changed gears and bit and moved into the study of matter- the three states- and experimenting with water and air to learn about their characteristics.

Miss Schmidt: Midworks Computers is a single semester introductory course with an emphasis on becoming a fluent typist. In addition to typing skills, students learn the basics of the Microsoft Office Suite, including One-note, Word, Excel, Publisher, and PowerPoint during three week units where they employ their creative skills to complete a project. For example, we are currently completing our Publisher unit where students are doing tasks such as making travel brochures, designing new covers for their favorite books, and making digital Christmas cards.

Mrs. Wilson: Ancient History: We are currently studying events that happened between 800B.C. – 700B.C. This includes Ancient India, the origin of the Olympic Games, Ancient Rome, and some of the prophets of Israel and Judah. I am very excited that we were able to learn about Isaiah and his prophecies concerning the coming Messiah right before Christmas!

United States Geography: We are currently learning about the Rocky Mountain States Region of the United States. This means that we get to talk about such things as cowboys, rodeos, mountains, and some of our most amazing national parks. Since Idaho is one of the Rocky Mountain States, it also means that we get to sample my award-winning Potato Chip Cookies!

Mrs. Darling: The emphasis in this year's Midworks Art class is a hands on approach to artists in history. Every one to two weeks we look at an historical artist and have a lesson and project based on their style. One of my goals is to use a variety of mediums. Our most recent study was of Michelangelo and the painting of the Sistine Chapel. In honor of him we painted laying with our backs on the floor with the paper taped under the table. It was great!



But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
- 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Tijuana, Mexico 2011

By Jake Hudson

God blessed me with the opportunity to go on my church's mission trip to Tijuana, Mexico in November of 2011. I loved the trip so much last year that I wanted to go again. The thing I am most thankful for about this trip is that I did not experience just a repeat of last year's trip. I learned new things, saw new things, and even ate new things. Even though last year's trip was wonderful, this year trumped it all. Twenty one of us showed up to build houses for families in need for one full week. Mission trips are important because of the great commission. Matthew 28:18-20 says, "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'" It is our duty as children of God to reach the unreached any way we can. Have you considered going on a missions trip this summer? It is time to sign up in many churches and maybe it is your summer to go. Here is more about my missions trip to Tijuana, Mexico.

Throughout the week in Tijuana, our team built seven 12'x12' houses and poured one cement slab. The houses were more like shacks, and they were probably smaller than your bedroom. But compared to what the families in Tijuana had, this was a huge blessing to them. Every family we built for had been living with their family or friends. We started out the day by unloading wood, tools, and nails from the truck and bringing them onto the work site. On more than one occasion, we had to haul all of our supplies up a hill to where the family wanted us to build. It was difficult, but it was a good workout for all of us. Our team builds all four walls first. We built one on top of another until all four were done. Then we set them and nailed them together. After all four walls were up and sturdy, we built the roof on the ground and handed it up to the top of the houses. This is the hardest part of the build but not the most time consuming. The most time consuming part of the build was painting, which would normally take all of us about an hour and a half. After everything was done, the family served us lunch to thank us for the house. Almost every day the team that I was on was served a nice meal of chicken, rice, beans, and tortillas. After a long, hard day of work, this is the perfect lunch.

I also had lots of other delicious food in Mexico. My favorite dish by far was the tamales. They are made with masa, a starchy dough. The masa is typically filled with beef, cheese, peppers, veggies, chicken, or even pineapple. All of this is wrapped in a corn husk and then steamed or boiled. You do not eat the corn husk; you unwrap it and eat the masa with the filling of your choice. I ate at least three of them, and I got sick from overeating. We also had tacos from a taco stand down in Mexico. These are not your typical Taco Bell tacos. They are all made with real food! The tortillas taste doughier and the meat is fresh. To my surprise,

even the coca cola down in Mexico is better than American coca cola. It's made with real cane sugar so it is sweeter and not as thick. Once you have had real Mexican food, you will never eat at Taco Bell again.

After our build was done and we had dinner at our dorms, we participated in a session of praise and listened to a speaker. Every speaker we listened to that week was someone experienced in missions and talked about how important it is to reach unengaged people groups and how we are all called by God to play a part in His mission. One of them presented us with two choices: Go or Send. Going means leaving our comfortable little world and finding unreached people to minister to them. Sending is giving money to missionaries and praying for them. I was really challenged when one of our speakers told us not to just send because going is hard, but to let your heart be open to what

the Lord has for your life. I thought that was very interesting. I can confidently say that I am more open to missions than I was last year.

When I returned home, I went through some serious Mexico withdrawal. For one week, I had the opportunity to leave my cluttered life behind and serve those in need. Even though I am going to miss it, I know I will be able to take all that I learned in Mexico and apply it to my everyday life. I knew already that I am fortunate to live in America but it becomes very real when you see these families with so little be so happy. I also learned that

we as Christians are responsible to help out in any way we can to support missions with our money and our time. We can also pray faithfully for missionaries who are serving in third world countries and we can pray for countries that are still unreached. John Piper once said, "Go, send, or disobey." You can ask your pastor or youth pastor how you can support a missionary, and they can get you the information you need. It is not too early or late to get involved with third world missions.



**“You can never cross the ocean
until you have the courage
to lose sight of the shore.”
- Christopher Columbus**

Unconditional Love – Being Changed in China

By Callie Opper

Imagine hundreds of children embracing you with smiling faces that are bright and beautiful. Picture a classroom full of students that have never even heard of the name Jesus Christ. Now imagine going somewhere to change people's lives, and all of sudden you realize that your life is being changed at the same time. Mission trips are being planned and happening in many churches all over now. This is the story of what I experienced in China.

July 14th, 2011 came faster than expected. Bags were packed, suitcases were loaded, and I said goodbye to my family for a whole month. It seemed very strange to be sixteen and traveling to a foreign country with people I didn't know. But God tugged at my heart. Backing up several months before I left, I remember returning to church after my mom had just died. I heard our pastor announce that a team was going to China to serve there for a month. Our team would come together

with an English school called Global Hope and teach hundreds of Chinese children English, while also teaching them about Jesus in a hidden way since evangelism is not allowed in China. Although it sounded like a cool experience, at first I got more information on it, started praying about it, and asked God to lead me in the direction He wanted. The next thing I knew, I was trying to raise around \$2,500, getting my passport updated, buying things needed, packing, saying goodbye to my family, and getting on a plane. Reality never hit me until the plane landed. I got off, and I didn't breathe fresh air, couldn't understand anything the people around me were



saying, and everything looked different. I honestly didn't know what I was doing in China, but I knew God had led me there for some purpose which I hadn't discovered yet. When I arrived at our hotel in Shenyang, China, I was struck by what poverty really is. Never had I seen it so up close and personal before. Never had I seen children on the streets, begging for food and money, hardly wearing any clothes. There were absolutely no Americans there besides our team of teens and adults. July 17th brought our first day of English Camp. Our team relocated from a hotel to a college campsite that morning. I remember standing at the doorway, my heart beating fast as the Chinese kids started coming towards me. What would they say? Would they understand me? Would I be able to show them Christ's love? Those questions ran through my head as the wonderful days of being in China began.

At 5 am, the loud buzzing sound of the alarm rang and rang as my roommates and I woke up. Our beds were pieces of hard wood. Imagine splintery thin boards, with one sheet to cover us up. My roommates and I constantly woke up with sore backs, so we decided to all relocate to sleeping on the cement floor instead. Each morning brought new bug bites, interesting rashes, dead cockroaches on us, praying mantis crawling up our legs, and 120 degree heat. Three minute showers and washing our faces, and brushing our teeth with bottle water was necessary because of the polluted and parasite filled water. After that came devotions with the team. Before breakfast every day, we all went to the classrooms to have a time of prayer and singing, so we were each equipped for the day. As we walked to breakfast, children ran up to greet us coming out of their dorm rooms, smiling, holding our

hands, and filled with joy. It was hard to choose who to sit with during the meal times in the cafeteria, for we had so many kids fighting over us. From there we went to our classrooms each day. I worked with the younger kids, age three-six. Each morning we taught traditions that go on in America, holidays, seasons, weather, and sports. We played games with the kids, gave out candy, and spent quality time with them as we called the children "our babies." At lunch, I was continually teased by all the Chinese people for not being able to use chopsticks properly. Kids would come over to laugh at me or help me learn to use them until I had achieved utmost perfection in the art of chopsticks. Our afternoon activities included games, music and dance, crafts, and sports. Each evening after dinner we held a night activity such as an American birthday party, sports night, skit night, and many others.

My time in China held many surprises, but the most shocking part for me was to experience spiritual warfare more vividly than ever before in my life. Our team got sick, several security challenges happened, two children got seriously injured, and Satan was alive and well at our camp. To our advantage, God ultimately ruled and we came out stronger than ever. Our team brought several Chinese Bibles and tracts that were given to many children. The greatest joy in life is

handing a Bible to someone. I gave my Bible away to a special girl, and I was able to give several tracts away to some amazing children whose names I cannot mention. One thing that astonished me and forever changed the way I view life was the unconditional love these Chinese people have. From the moment I arrived at camp I felt surrounded by this amazing love. The children embraced us Americans and trusted us as if we were long time friends or family. They listened and valued everything we said, even if they couldn't fully understand

our language, even if they didn't clearly see that there is a God, and even if you were upset or frustrated with them. I fell in love with the Chinese people this past summer. Chinese people know the real meaning of happiness. They realize their blessings, even when they have nothing. I look back now and wonder what kind of an impact I had on them. Did I change any lives? Did God work at the camp? I might not see any of them again, but I might see some in heaven. We never know what seeds we plant. They could be big, they could be small, and they could change lives. I know that I went to China to accomplish God's goal. I know that God took me to China to change my life. I learned the true meaning of unconditional love and joy. I learned the real meaning of the word "blessings." This summer I am returning to China. Although I wish I could go back to the same city, the same camp, and to the same kids, God is taking me to a different part of China to plant seeds with my team to a whole different group of Chinese people. I am so excited to see what He is going to accomplish.

When we left China, tears slowly flowed down my cheeks as the Americans lined up one final time to say goodbye to each Chinese child, assistant, teacher, and translator. The room inside was lined with candles. In the middle of the room was a beautiful grand piano, and one of the teachers was playing Amazing Grace. I will never forget that moment for the rest of my life. I will never forget praying with the Christian Chinese, Korean, and American leaders, all in different languages. I will never forget all the love those children gave me. I will never forget them. If you could have one wish to go anywhere, would it be where you wanted? Or would it be where you thought God wanted you?

Mulan: Girl Warrior

By Shaylee Ferguson

Many people are familiar with the animated movie *Mulan*, a Disney classic. We remember the catchy songs, the funny lines, and the plot. Mulan was a brave girl that went to war in her elderly father's place, she defeated the Huns, and in the end falls in love. Good story, but is that all that happened? Mulan wasn't just an animated character; she was also a brave soldier. Christians can be encouraged to use Mulan's warrior-like attitude as a guide for having a warrior-like attitude for God. Mulan was strong in her faith and in what she believed. As Christians, we need that same faith in our walk with God.

Hua Mulan, as portrayed in history and the "Ballad of Mulan," a famous Chinese poem, is a completely different character than Disney's animated young woman. Mulan lived in the Central Plains of China sometime between the years of 386 and 534. She was graced with feminine talents such as dancing elegantly and scripting charming pieces of writing, but she was also just as armed for battle as any man. Hua Mulan began learning martial arts from her father at a young age.¹

One day government officials knocked on the door of the Hua household and presented Master Hua with an order to report to the military. Master Hua was old, and he knew if he went to war, he would not return home, but he also couldn't ignore the Emperor's orders and dishonor his family. Mulan stepped forward with a brave heart and said she would take her father's place. Mulan's mother told her that she would never be able to pass for a man and worried about her daughter's safety. Mulan rushed to her father's room, tried on his old soldier's garb, and shocked her parents:² "Red tassels streamed from on high, her head was swathed in a double headband, her military gown was the bright scarlet of a newly dyed cloth. A bow on her left, arrows on her right, she carried a *kunwu* saber at her side and wore a belt of braided silken ribbons."³

Tears filled her parents' eyes-before them stood their little girl who was now a warrior. Mulan left her parents at the age of sixteen to go to war. Mulan had only her weapons, a new name, Hua Qing, and most importantly her courage. Mulan was gone roughly ten years fighting around one hundred battles in which she was always at the front. She led her fellow comrades to victory against the enemy, the Tartars. They were ruthless, blood thirsty nomads who were expert horsemen and skilled warriors who lived north of China in what is now Mongolia. Mulan's secret was never discovered: for a decade, she traveled, lived, and fought along hundreds of men who never knew she was a woman.⁴

Mulan, the name that translates to magnolia, has come to mean "heroine" for thousands of admirers. She became one of the fiercest soldiers, she helped defeat the Tartars, and she brought honor to her family's name, all while being fearless. As Christians, God has instilled in us the attitudes and personalities of warriors of Christ. God has commanded us to be brave in our faith and in our everyday situations. Just as Mulan was daring as a warrior, we need to be bold, fearless, and courageous in our walk with God.

1 Kwa, Shiamin; L. Idema, Wilt. *Mulan: Five Version of a Classic Chinese Legend with Related Texts*. Hackett Publishing Company, 2010.

2 Kwa, Shiamin; L. Idema, Wilt. *Mulan: Five Version of a Classic Chinese Legend with Related Texts*. Hackett Publishing Company, 2010.

3 H. Mair, Victor; Bender, Mark. *Chinese Folk & Popular Literature*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2011.

4 "The Real Story of Mulan." The Scribe. June 17, 2011. <<http://ancientstandard.com/2011/06/17/the-real-story-of-mulan/>>.

Gift Recycling

By Molly Anderson

An aroma of roasted coffee grounds permeates the air bringing the nutty flavor down the hall where anxious little children wriggle and squirm trying to peak around the corner. In neat little piles scattered around the living room, presents sit wrapped. An inky blackness hangs around the house in the early hours, and there is an eerie silence everywhere interrupted only by giggles from the hallway. Then, with a simple gesture from mom, squeals erupt and a stampede of children descends upon the gifts. A whirlwind of activity ensues as bright flashes from the camera explode, children tear at presents anxious and excited to uncover their little treasures, and crackly wrapping paper slowly swallows up the floor. In the midst of the flurry of joy, the horror of all horrors happens: grandma's package is opened and it contains a mustard yellow woolen hand-knit sweater. What to do? Grandma's eyes are boring a hole in your head as she awaits your response. Time stands still and your heart is pounding as you frantically try to come up with something nice to say about the awful present.

Okay, so maybe we have not experienced this exact situation or received a mustard yellow hand-knit woolen sweater, but most of us have probably received unwanted gifts from family for Christmas. These gifts make us cringe and put us in the awkward position of trying to be grateful without lying. Christmas brought with it a time of joy and a time to receive gifts, which can sometimes be awful things you never wanted or asked for. With the holiday season now over, we are all probably in possession of one or more of these unwanted gifts. When such a gift is received, it is important to be grateful to the giver, and instead of just tossing out or donating the gifts here are a couple of alternative options to make use of the presents.

1. Target practice: Unwanted CD/DVDs you received make a great target for a BB gun.
2. Paperweight: [Tree House Building for Dummies](#) is heavy, flat, and firm and will be a stellar paperweight for any object.
3. Fly swatter: The heavy-duty nature of books makes them a lethal murder weapon for all kinds of insects.
4. Cure for Insomnia: On nights when you cannot sleep pull out the book on rocks grandpa gave you and you will be amazed at how quickly sleep comes.
5. Weight Training: Books are heavy and perfect for getting in shape for summer.
6. Mop: Ugly sweaters are excellent for cleaning up messes on the floor.
7. Tacks: The sharp ends of earring studs are ideal and pretty tacks for corkboards.
8. Grooming a mustache or eyebrows: A little Chapstick will easily keep the ends of a mustache together or bushy eyebrows in place.
9. Envelope Sealing: The ugly colored nail polish you received is perfect for sealing envelopes. No more licking and getting the nasty taste in your mouth!
10. Washing a lion's mane: The awful smelling body wash you got is perfect for when you need to wash a lion's mane.

As you can see, there are endless possibilities to reuse unwanted gifts. God gave us brains and creativity for a reason. Instead of throwing out all the unwanted presents received this holiday season,

(See Gifts page 6)

True Blue Days

By Jake Hudson

True Blue Days are always highly anticipated by all of the Teenworks students and staff, as a special day set aside from other school days where we can discard our conservative uniform and dress up in festive or silly outfits. At the beginning of our True Blue days, we go around and compare outfits and talk about what special activities we will be doing in class. We sometimes have special True Blue Day related activities in class, and we have a special True Blue Day activity and treat at lunch time. It's always a fun filled day.

We recently had our Christmas themed True Blue Days. We were allowed to wear green and red clothing and for the first time in Teenworks True Blue Day history, we were allowed to wear jeans! Students were able to pay a dollar to wear jeans as a part of the Nation Honor Society "Britches for a Buck" fundraiser. Most Teenworks students were more than willing to pay that one dollar for the freedom to wear our comfortable jeans. All of us came into school and compared Christmas outfits, and most of us sported Christmas sweaters or green and red shirts. Tim Dean stole the show by wearing his 'Elf' costume. Most classes had planned a small Christmas party for their students. By the time lunch came around, we were all stuffed from Christmas cookies and other sweets. Mrs. Annis planned a fun game for us to play while we ate our lunch. She gave each of us a candy cane; we had to pass the candy cane around the table when she gave us a direction to pass it. These directions were buried in a Christmas story she wrote herself. Sometimes she read off the directions very fast so we would have to scramble to pass the candy cane in the right direction. As stressful as it was, we all got a tasty candy cane at the end.

True Blue days are always fun. They are a time where we can take a small step back from the seriousness of our classes and have some fun with friends and teachers. You can look forward to more True Blue Days in 2012 such as Valentine's Day TB Day, St. Partrick's TB Day, and "Crazy Day."

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
- John 14:13

(2011 from page 1)

killing nearly 15,000 people. The storms struck the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant causing damage to their reactors. Fears about the safety of nuclear energy result.

IndyCar driver, Dan Wheldon loses his life on turn two of Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Just eleven laps into the race, Wheldon got involved in a substantial pile up. IndyCar announced his death two hours later. Wheldon was thirty three years old, a two-time Indianapolis 500 winner, and one of IndyCar's most popular drivers.

An NBA lockout begins July 1. The team owners and the players cannot agree on several issues. The main issues are revenue sharing and the players' salary cap. On November 14, the NBPA (professional basketball player's union) dissolves. A tentative agreement has been reached between the NBA players and owners. The season will be sixty six games long and play was set to begin Christmas day.

The Libyan state Mohammar Gadhafi established is attacked and overthrown by a civil war movement aided by NATO. Gadhafi is later killed, putting an end to his forty one years in power.

NASA ends their shuttle program. After thirty years of NASA, the return of space shuttle Atlantis marks the end of their missions.



(Hype from page 1)

The bottom line is this: There will be a time when God is going to bring an end to the earth. Notwithstanding, Matthew 24:36 pointedly shoots down *End Times* theories, saying "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

So how should we live in response to this? As Christians, we should live our lives informed and without fear by putting our hope and trust in Him alone, not the things of this world. As 2 Peter 3:11 says, "Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming."

Regardless of when the world will end - only God knows - we should make each day count; we should be ready and waiting, making the most of our time here on earth.

If you knew that you only had a few days to live, would you live differently? What would you do?

Teenworks Students Recap 2011

By Michael Duffy

Earlier on, we looked at some of the biggest news stories of 2011. Now take a look at some of the things your fellow Teenworks students enjoyed last year.

Emily: Spending two weeks at Springhill

Ryanne: Trip to Mexico

Caleb: Shooting an M-16 in Georgia

Amy: Trip to England

Nathan: Trip to South Africa

Jake: The release of some great music, and a trip to Chicago

Noah: Seeing a Snuggie infomercial for the first time.

Elizabeth: Brother's wedding

Sara: Foaling newborn horses

Jaden: Trip to the Amazon River

Jon: Youth group missions trip to Chicago

Callie: Missions trip to China

Sarah M: Fed a giraffe

Matt: Trip to Europe

Joel: Hearing about the death of bin Laden

Tim F: Spending more than he earned

Judah: Trip to Peru

Harrison: Charlie Sheen

Scott: Going to Teenworks (with Jon's help)

Michael P.: Team USA winning gold medal in PALMA long range shooting in Australia

Joe: Discovered that Mr. Mailand was one of the ultimate forces of the universe

(Gifts from page 5)

try out some alternate ideas for using them. Remember, the most important thing is to be grateful when you get the gift. The gift giver kindly took time out of their busy life to pick out the present, and they are probably very excited for you to receive it. As Christians it is our job to be the light of the earth, which may include being thankful for ugly sweaters or nail polish or boring books. Just keep in mind there are always uses for items if you are creative enough to think outside the box.



Where Are They Now?

A New Column About Former TW Students

This Issue: Looking into the daily college life of Dominique Kemp
- who is using his intelligence to glorify God.

By Christine Snavely

Born June 22, 1992, Dominique Kemp is a 2010 Teenworks' graduate, and a sophomore at Stanford University in California. Double-majoring in mathematics and physics, Dominique hopes to become a university professor. He plans on graduating from Stanford in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in both math and physics, and obtaining honors in one of those fields. Kemp says, "Afterwards, my goal is to pursue a doctorate degree in mathematical physics at a graduate school somewhere in the eastern United States. One of my chief interests for graduate study is general relativity and the phenomenology of quantum mechanics. In consequence, one of my research goals may be to obtain an understanding of quantum mechanics that corresponds to Scripture and find the hidden correlation between general relativity and quantum mechanics."

Stanford University's campus has a beautiful setting with its lush California climate, azure sky with fluffy white clouds, and glossy foliage. Diversity among students is widespread; all fifty states and nearly sixty nations are represented on campus.¹ The campus is rich in both historical and contemporary architecture, and students live in comfortable apartment-style dorm-rooms. Within these rooms are two living compartments, separated by a door. Neatly kept, with a just few articles of clothing and papers. Dominique's room is orderly and conducive to study. In the adjoining dorm-room, a smiling, Seventh-Day Adventist Christian young man from Kenya has become his good friend. While Dominique spends most of his time studying in his room, he frequently walks the short path leading to the campus library. His favorite class so far has been "real analysis," which is an honors mathematics course. Dominique says, "The class was very challenging for me, yet it inspired me with a deeper appreciation for mathematics and fueled my passion to study it. Also, I believe it expanded my capacity to think more considerably." His favorite professor is around sixty years old, nearly bald, and wears glasses. Originally from Australia, this professor speaks with an accent and teaches real analysis and honors multivariate calculus.

A typical day in Dominique Kemp's life is busy. Beginning with devotion and prayer, Dominique starts his day at 6 a.m. Devotions are followed by a few hours of independent study, then classes until 2 p.m., and then another couple hours of homework and study before dinner and time with friends. After dinner, he usually does a little more homework, and then goes to the gym to play basketball and lift weights before going to bed at around 11:30 p.m. Dominique says, "Passion for excellence primarily drives my studies. From an early age, I have possessed a desire to put forth a diligent effort in my studies. However, such diligence comes almost naturally because I love to learn new, complex concepts. God's creation is so marvelously intricate, yet orderly, that its study is absolutely fascinating and continually enralls me. As I do my math and physics homework, I often find myself feeling that I am venturing deep into the fabric of creation."

TNT: What have you learned, since graduating high school? Life lesson?

Dominique: Wow, I don't know where to start! I have learned quite a lot since high school, and it's because the Lord has consistently taught me (Prov. 4:18). Some lessons that I have learned are the importance of being solely motivated to the Lord, committing my cares to Him,

and maintaining proper balance in my life. One life lesson that I have learned is the importance of maintaining meaningful relationships. In hindsight, I have recently noticed that for most of my life, I focused so much on my aspirations that I neglected my friendships and meeting new people. It took a full year of college for me to realize the depth of selfishness that this entails. Even now, I still struggle to relent from working too much, but daily God adds grace to my otherwise futile efforts.

TNT: What is your life vision?

Dominique: Simply put, I hope to glorify Christ in the world of science. I believe that as humanity has made significant advances, a corresponding tendency to worship science, or rather Nature, has developed. This development should not be new to Christians; it is simply a fulfillment of the Scriptural prophecy of glorying in what is made, rather than the Maker (Rom. 1). Thus, if the Lord would have me to study science as my life's work, my overriding desire would be to exalt the Creator by showing how His character is revealed in His works.

TNT: Is there anything else you want to tell the TW students? Advice or encouragement?

Dominique: I would like to encourage you all to work diligently in school and to remain faithful to the Lord day by day. Some advice that I would like to share is to enjoy your time with your families now, while you still live with them. I believe that when I was in high school (and especially during senior year!), I was so preoccupied with a desire to be on my own that this caused me to lose sight of the many blessings I had while living at home. Among other things, these blessings included being able to spend time with my family, watch my sister grow up, and talk personally with my parents.

It was a pleasure to learn the direction this former Teenworks student has decided to take with his life, and how Dominique is using his intelligence to glorify God.

¹ <http://admission.stanford.edu/student/diversity/index.html>

TNT STAFF



Molly Anderson



Michael Duffy



Shaylee Ferguson

Jake Hudson



Callie Opper

Christine Snavely



Mrs. Annis



Wild Animal Facts

By Shaylee Ferguson

1. Pigs say "moo" in Japan.
2. The accent of a cow's mooing depends on the region it belongs to.
3. On average, a hen lays nineteen dozen eggs in a year.
4. Gorillas sleep up to fourteen hours a day.
5. Bats always fly to the left when exiting a cave.
6. A blue whale's tongue weighs more than a full-grown elephant.
7. An elephant can smell water from a distance of three miles.
8. A coin is heavier than a hummingbird.
9. A hedgehog's heart beats three hundred times per minute.
10. A mole can dig a three hundred foot tunnel in one night.¹

¹ "Facts About Animals." [Factsaboutanimals.com](http://www.factsaboutanimals.net/wild-animals-facts.html). 2008. <<http://www.factsaboutanimals.net/wild-animals-facts.html>>.

TW Bloopers

By Shaylee Ferguson

Michael Duffy: "For Pete's sake."

Richard Tran: "What does Pete look like?"

Shaylee Ferguson: "What's a sake?"

Wesley Mandeville: "A sake is a small Russian gerbil..."

Richard Tran hands Mrs. Smith a Bath&Body Works bag.

Richard Tran: "I made you homemade lotion....Merry Christmas!"

Mr. Mailand: "You're like a hero, a heroine....Not the drug, but the person."

Mr. Mailand asking the class: "When you mix things together, it's called....?"

Michael Duffy: "A smoothie?"

John Huff was reading the serpent's part in Genesis.

Michael Duffy: "You're a very convincing serpent."

Mr. Mailand: "And you look like one too."

Mr. Mailand talking about Michael Duffy's haircut.

Mr. Mailand: "Looks like a monk hair cut."

Michael Duffy: "I am a monk, an elvish monk."

Mr. Mailand: "A monkish elf?"

Mrs. Smith: "I have a feeling I'm going to get calls from parents saying 'Why are you teaching my child to huff?'"

Mr. Mailand was upset that the class is unaware of who one of the Senators of Michigan are.

Mr. Mailand: "Well, I hope that you know the name of our other Senator. Who's the other Senator?"

Jon Huff: "What's his first name?"

Mr. Mailand: "Debby! The Senator is a woman! Ughhhhh!"
hits head on white board.

Michael Duffy: "Could you please explain Ron Paul's foreign policy?"

Jon Huff: "Or maybe just all of his policy?"

Mr. Mailand: "Well, good morning ladies."

Jake Hudson: "And gentlemen?"

Mr. Mailand: "I haven't found any yet."

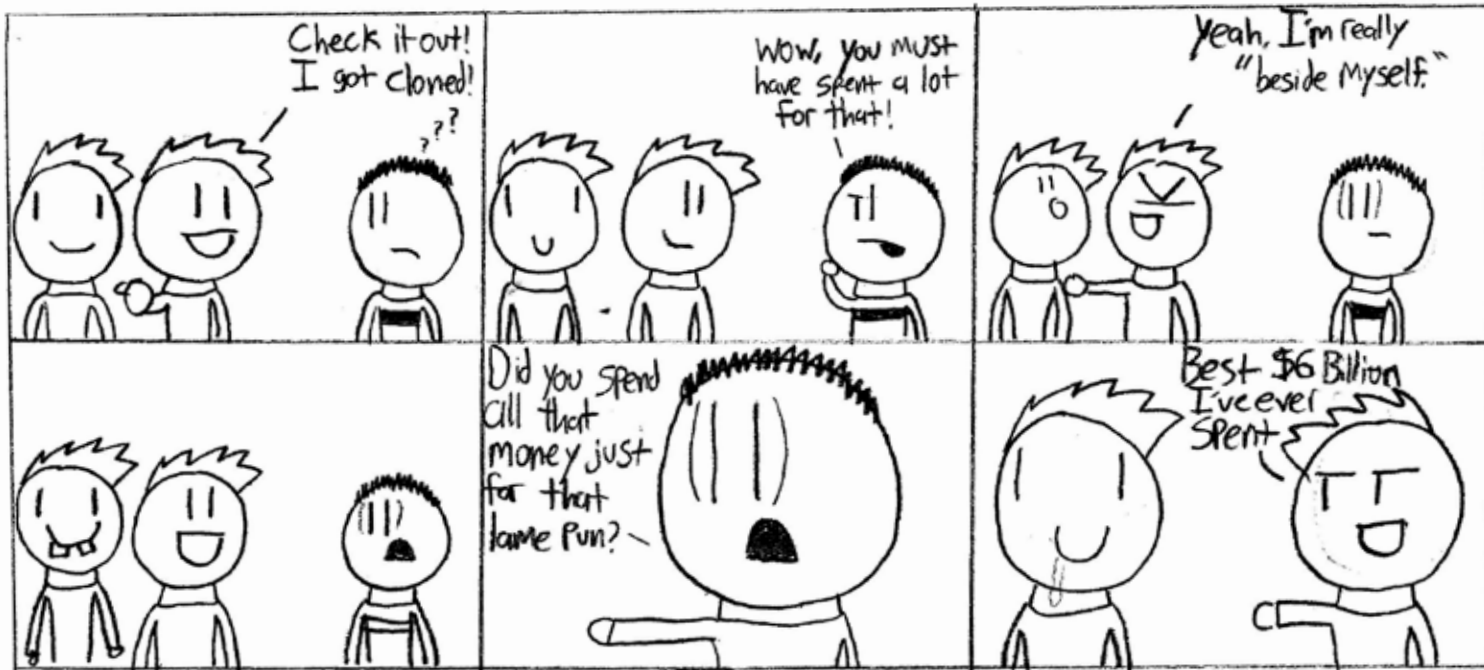
Richard Tran starts to open window.

Mr. Mailand: "What are you doing?"

Richard Tran: "Jumping."

TNT COMIC

By **Jake Hudson**



Winterfest 2012

Come join us for an exciting night of laser tag, pizza, drinks, and desserts at Zap Zone. It's going to be lots of fun. Hope to see you there! Feb 17, 6-8pm - Zap Zone 936 East Mall Drive, Lansing, MI 48917 - Cost per person: \$22 - Event Includes: 2 games of laser tag, pizza, drinks, dessert, Zap Zone coupons, and a t-shirt for the winning player!

Teenworks Calendar January - March

- January 17-19: 2nd Quarter Exams
- January 25-27: TW Drama
- January 26: KW Art Day
- January 31: Begin Yearbook Sales
- February 14: Valentine's Day
- February 14-16: Mock Elections
- February 14-16: True Blue Days
- February 17: ACT Seminar
- February 21 - 23: Mock Elections
- March 1: Yearbook Sales End
- March 6 - 8: MME
- March 13 - 15: True Blue Days -St. Pat's Day

Poetry Corner

"The Prelude"

By Allison Dimick

The surging notes of changing lengths
Are keeping me on my toes.
The volume rises to curious strengths
Then snaps right back to lows.
The violins shiver like a timid child
Awaiting a horrible scare,
And the trumpets reply like beasts gone wild,
Releasing their blasting blare.

Iambic Tetrameter

By Shelby Martin

Beeping, Buzzing, Alarm clocks say
"Get up now, time to start your day!"
Moaning, Groaning, Children awake
Fix some breakfast of eggs and steak.

Frantic, flying, running downstairs,
Try to find socks of matching pairs
Grabbing, packing all books galore
Papers, folders, pencils, and more.

Hustle, Bustle, pack a good lunch
Something to satisfy the munch.
Hurry, Scurry, Do not be late!
The bus is coming through the gate!