

The Brighton Star

Volume 3, Issue 1

September 2010

Welcome Back to Brighton!

Lydia DeWolf

Brighton Academy is now beginning its sixth year, and we're happy to kick off another year of the school newspaper at the same time. Over the summer, many changes and improvements have been made. For example, starting this year, the Brighton website, www.brightonacademy.net, will be playing a large part in the way classes are managed, homework is assigned, and information is delivered to Brighton families. Also for the first time, this year hot lunch programs are have been made available to students by Leeann Hearl. We welcome new students and teachers, as well as returning Brightoneers and our wonderful instructors. Thanks to Mrs. Jarrett, we're looking forward to another great year with Brighton Academy! ▲



Mrs. Jarrett welcomes students to Brighton Orientation

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Announcements:

Congratulations to the following students for being nominated (then selected by a panel of teachers) to serve on the Brighton Student Council for the 2010-2011 school year! Positions within the council were determined by council vote.

*Sarah Kanaga- President
Trevor Gorham- Vice President/ Event Coordinator
Kyle Clark- Liason
Chrissy Alonzo- Secretary
Adam Hoff- Treasurer*

Jacob Wildman- Chairman of Community Services

BRIGHTLY LIT(erature)

Spotlighting Student Writers & Literary Critics

Airman

A Book Review

Timothy Meigs
Columnist

"The Saltee Islands had been ruled by the Trudeau family since 1171 when England's King Henry II had given them to Raymond Trudeau, a powerful and ambitious knight. It was a cruel joke,

as the Saltee Islands were little more than gull-infested rocks. By placing Trudeau in charge of the Saltee Islands, Henry fulfilled his contract of granting his knight an Irish estate, but also made clear what happened to overly ambitious knights. When Raymond Trudeau objected to the king's grant, Henry delivered the often quoted Trudeau Admonishment.

'You disagree with an appointee of God Himself,' Henry is recorded as saying. 'Perhaps Monsieur Trudeau considers himself above his king. Perhaps Monsieur Trudeau considers himself fit for royal office. So be it. You shall take the Saltee Islands with my blessing, but not as baron. You are their king, King Raymond the First. I will demand neither tithe nor tribute from you or your descendants in perpetuity, and as an added reward, you may wear your crown to my court. Whatever you may find on those most bountiful isles is yours to keep.'

Trudeau could do nothing but bow and stammer his thanks, bitter though the words were. This was a terrible insult, as there was nothing to be found on the Saltee Islands but seabirds and their droppings, and little grew there thanks to the showers of sea spray that coated both islands during rough tides, giving nothing to the Saltees but their name. But Raymond Trudeau's fortune was not as bleak as it seemed. Following his effective banishment to the Saltee Islands, a strange glowing cave was discovered by one of his men, who was burning gulls from their perches. The cave was a glacial deposit of diamonds: the largest mine ever discovered, and the only mine in Europe. Henry had crowned Raymond Trudeau king of the most valuable estate in the world. Seven hundred years later, the Trudeau family was still in power in spite of over a dozen invasion attempts from English, Irish, and even pirate armies. The famous Saltee Wall held fast against cannon, shot, and ram, and the celebrated Saltee Sharpshooters were trained to shave the whiskers off a pirate a mile away. There were only two industries on the Saltees: diamonds and defense. The Saltee prison was packed to bursting with the foulest dregs of murdering humanity that Ireland and



Great Britain had to offer. They worked the diamond mine until they had served their time or died. Most died. A sentence on Little Saltee was a death sentence. Nobody really cared. The Saltees had been making many people rich for centuries, and none of those many people wanted the status quo to change. Nevertheless, change was afoot..."

So reads *Airman*, a historical fiction adventure novel by Eoin Colfer. Enter the stunning world of the classic adventure novel from decades past when dashing heroes fought for the good of all, conniving villains sought nothing but their own well-being, and beautiful damsels stood in the crossfire awaiting their fate from a villain of pure evil unless the handsome hero could somehow rescue them. But do not immediately discount this novel as a tiresome tale of times past, from the likes of which we have moved on into a new, more gripping style of literature; for this story is far from tiresome. Incorporating modern-style psychological elements and the enthrallment of discovery during the early 20th century (approximately), along with the classic story elements of good vs. evil, trust, honor, bravery, and romance, Eoin Colfer writes a thrilling narrative combining the Age of Chivalry with modern style that is sure to trap readers of any age until the final word is read. ▲

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It Started Out Like Any Other Day... (A Continuing Story YOU Can Help Write!)

Onnie M. Bigg
Columnist

Jackson said goodbye to his mother, stepped out of the car, and skipped off toward his science class. He tossed his lunch bag under his chair and sat down.

"You're late," said his teacher, Mrs. Crabapple.

"Sorry," Jackson began, "But this morning--"

"I don't care about this morning. I care about right now. And right now you're late," she repeated.

Jackson sank back into his chair.

"Today--" Mrs. Crabapple straightened her ponytail. "Today we are going to learn a little about the science of...the kitchen."

The girls sitting next to Jackson held back squeals of joy and tried not to jump around much in their seats. Jackson didn't understand. The science of the kitchen? What could that mean?

"Mrs. Crabapple? What are we doing?"

The teacher glared at him. "We are going to bake a cake."

Again the girls showed signs of excitement. Jackson groaned. He couldn't stand baking. Especially cakes. And he could never figure out how to crack an egg. He hoped that the teacher didn't make him crack an egg.

One by one Mrs. Crabapple had the students participate in the cake baking. Some sifted flour, others measured out sugar, and one kid listed ingredients.

"Jackson," Mrs. Crabapple called, "You can crack an egg."

Jackson tried to get out of it, to tell her why that was a bad idea, to not have anything to do with the cake-baking...but he failed.

Mrs. Crabapple handed him a small, almost spherical, white thing. It felt heavy and weighed his hand down. She told him to hit it on the sink and even showed him how to do it.

Jackson looked at the egg, turned his head, and smacked the white ball on the hard edge of the grimy classroom sink.

The girls behind him shrieked and Mrs. Crabapple began screaming "Kill it! Kill it!" Jackson looked back at the sink.

A large, wet rat tried to claw its way up onto the counter... ▲

What happens next? Send your suggestions to:
angelik@mykot.com

Habitat for Humanity

Evan Davis

When most people consider a charitable organization, they normally contrive a thought like, "Oh, how nice." However, words such as "nice" couldn't come close to describing Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity is an organization that reaches out to the poor, hungry and homeless. Founded in 1976, Habitat has built over 300,000 houses, all of which are crucially needed. Affordable housing for the homeless is needed because over 32 per cent of human beings live without homes. Thus, organizations such as Habitat are crucial to our society and mold our society's way of thinking. Habitat is needed because it has helped build homes, improve the economy, and connect families.

As a result of worldwide poverty, homes are needed around the world. According to Habitat.org, "nearly 2 billion people around the world live in slum housing and over 100 million are homeless. Families are trapped in a daily struggle to survive amid substandard and often inhuman living conditions." As a result, caring citizens must take action. People will not automatically be provided with homes, rather the "average" civilian, industrial businessman, or even high school student must assist those who need help.

Since Habitat for Humanity provides homes for people through government funding, corporate support, and private donations, there are many ways people can help others who are homeless. For example, Jerone P. Baggett, author of Habitat for Humanity, states that "evangelical Christians and agnostic seekers, CEO's and college students, rural folk and city dwellers, skilled carpenters and everyone else--all seemed uniformly intent on such basic, but critical, concerns as getting the nails in straight and keeping the vinyl siding from taking flight in an occasional afternoon squall" (Baggett 37). Although many individuals set aside their time or money to assist Habitat, there are also several large companies which help this organization. Corporate supporters include, Citi, Home Depot, Lowes, The Dow Chemical Company, The Bank of America, Nissan North America, Schneider Electric, and others. Thus, all members of the human race find a unified endeavor in which to serve each other.

Due to the current housing issues, Habitat for Humanity is needed for several reasons. A quote taken from the organization's website asserts that, "The future rests in the decisions made today because bad housing has its greatest impact on children. As Lisa Harker, a British housing expert, explains, 'Childhood is a precious time when our experiences shape the adults we become -- but children who grow up in bad housing are robbed of

Continued on page 4...

their future chances....' Those chances are stolen by the detrimental impact poverty housing has on everyday life."

For example, 1.6 billion people live in less than adequate housing and 100 million are homeless. If no significant action is taken, the number of homeless will increase over the next 30 years to nearly 2 billion. As one can see, the growth of any population, such as the homeless population, is exponential. This issue poses a serious problem, because as the years progress, more generations will add on to the last generations, and thus more and more people will be living in slum homes (Habitat.org).

Improving the economy is one of the most important features of the Habitat for Humanity organization. Global Warming Focus, a periodical, says that Habitat for Humanity "...support(s) the creation and strengthening of existing...enterprises" (36) The economy is influenced by Habitat organizations around the world, and thus boosts the economic welfare worldwide. Habitat boosts the economy by patronizing local businesses. To support this statement, an anonymous writer from the Global Warming Focus says that "in Haiti, our Building and Training Center helps families build and repair their homes, while at the same time providing them with valuable construction skills that will help generate income" (36).

In essence, the supporter concludes that, not only does habitat build homes for people, but helps those people help themselves by teaching them construction skills.

However, some disagree. A writer named Cyndy Lutz concocts that "Despite the good prices available, the situation is by no means a 'good thing.' We [shouldn't] approach this market with any glee at all; anything that's bad for the economy is bad for Habitat for Humanity" (Lackey 15E). To be straightforward, Lutz is saying that, just because Habitat gets good liquidation prices on land, lumber, and other construction goods, the economy will become worse due to falling value. Habitat improves the economy and in doing so stimulates international welfare, education, and otherwise creates a better place for humans to live. Throughout the world, Habitat assists homeless persons and assists in keeping the economy balanced by providing a reason for people to want to work. As a result, millions of people worldwide are encouraged to support each other, as well as support the growing economy.

Due to a variety of charitable actions, one of the contributions of Habitat for Humanity is the fact that this worthy organization not only constructs homes, but also unites families. Habitat helps support the connection of families globally. Katherine Lackey, a renowned USA Today writer, affirms that Jessi Graham, a homeless mother from Denver, "had struggled to find affordable housing. Then, in part because of the nation's depressed

housing market and sluggish economy, her dream of owning her own home got a boost from Habitat for Humanity. 'My children will now be able to consistently have their friends, rooms and ...somewhere to come back to call home,' [Jessi] says" (15E).

One may wonder how Habitat connects such relationships. Because families around the world lack a unified home, the activists at Habitat are willing to set aside their time and money in order to help those in need. When families are provided a safe environment in which to gather together, their strength as a cohesive support group increases which, in turn, strengthens each individual within the family.

To this ambitious end, Habitat for Humanity constructs homes, boosts the economy, and helps families thrive. As a result of the beneficial aspects of this organization, many people retain homes. Thus, people around the world witness that there is still hope for the receding economy, and action must be taken. However, forging positive change does not occur from merely sitting and reading about theoretical engagement. Rather, the peoples of the world must rise to action and empower those in need.

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