

The Picador

A publication by and for the students of Holderness School

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The Press Coming to SpringFest

While graduation looms large in the minds of seniors, another event is front and center in any live music lover's mind: SpringFest. This annual event, held the Friday evening before Commencement, is much anticipated and much enjoyed by the whole community. A huge tent is set up in the South Side Quad, serving as a stage for a live band, while couches are carried onto the grass and cotton candy is eagerly eaten.

The band Dispatch played one of the first SpringFests several years ago, and was a huge success. Over the past three years, we have seen the likes of Entrain, Pete Francis, and Casual Fiasco. Each has been a rocking



The Press is coming for SpringFest (photo courtesy of www.thepresshiphop.com)

success, and this year we will be treated to a new genre. The Press is coming to Holderness, and with them they bring a funky blend of hip-hop, jazz, and reggae. Discovered by the

musical lover extraordinaire Nate Bloomfield, this red-hot band out of Portsmouth, New Hampshire is ready to break into the big time, and what better place to start

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *SpringFest Preview*
- *News Summaries—What's happening around the world?*
- *A Senior Project in Space*
- *Cigars at Commencement Dinner*
- *A Review of a New Formal Tradition*
- *Buildings Walls: Perspectives on the Proxy Server*
- *Pictures from the Senior Trip*
- *The Picador's Editorial Baton is Passed*

Outside the Holderness Bubble

Some news stories of interest over the past week:

- General Michael Hayden is currently involved in Senate confirmation hearings, as he hopes to become the next Director of the CIA.
- An important debate about immigration continues in Congress, as hard-liners fight for increased border security and enforcement, others argue for a clear path to citizenship for

America's nearly 12 million undocumented workers, and others search for compromise.

- USA Today recently reported that the government had asked for and received millions of phone records from major phone companies, renewing debate on privacy issues in the face of continued terrorist threats.
- An anonymous tip sparked federal agents in Milford Township,

Michigan, to dig up a horse farm searching for any sign of the remains of former union leader Jimmy Hoffa.

- Sayed Rahmatullah Hashemi, the former mouthpiece for top-level Taliban, is now a student at Yale University.

(Editor)

AIDS Epidemic: Get Smart and Do Your Part

Imagine a million innocent lives lost without firing a single weapon, without losing a drop of blood. Imagine an attack so deadly that not even the strongest army can defeat it. You don't have to imagine - it's already quietly and effectively taken the lives of over 25 million people. With no known cure, the AIDS virus has established itself as one of the most deadly diseases in the modern world. It is a current global crisis that impacts the lives of its victims daily. Treatment for the disease takes a strong medical infrastructure, not something found in Third World countries where this epidemic is having its greatest and cruelest effect. As a result, the lives of many men, women, and children are affected by the disease daily.

HIV/AIDS is a global issue and is most prevalent in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean. According to avert.org, an international AIDS charity, at the end of

2005, "an estimated 300,000 people were living with HIV and AIDS in the Caribbean." In the same year, nearly 24,000 people died as a result of AIDS.

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It is evident that HIV and AIDS is a serious worldwide problem that needs to be addressed. The disease is transmitted through sexual activities, but it can

also be transmitted through the use of drugs, particularly when needles are shared. In Haiti, many cultural activities such as early initiation of sexual acts make their citizens prone to AIDS.

HIV/AIDS is a global issue that needs our attention and our support. Recently Bill Gates donated \$100 million towards AIDS research to help find a cure for the deadly virus. Other opportunities for giving include offsetting the high cost of medicine in developing countries. What are your options? To do your part to help address the current HIV/AIDS crisis, you can sponsor a child, educate others about safe sex and condom use, or make a donation.

(Mike Aron '08 and Kelly Hood '08)

The Press Coming to SpringFest (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

than South Side?

The band consists of four musicians: Roland Nicol on bass, Jay Triakakis on drums, Jim Dozet on guitar, and Dan Shure on keys. The remaining three members — Brian "Cap" Capobianchi, Patrick "The Face of Fate" Joyce, and Alex "The Journalist" Beguin — take care of the vocals. This interesting combination of three emcees to only four players lends itself to a strong vocal sound, with plenty of jazz-like beats thrown into the mix. Only officially together since early



SpringFest: A Time for Music and Cotton Candy

2005, they are already making huge steps, recently opening for The Roots. They play mostly original songs, but occasionally jump to covers of artists such as Common and The Roots. "Live

shows are filled with an intense and enthralling force that compels entire audiences out of their seats and onto the dance floor," says the band bio, found on www.thepresshiphop.com.

The sample CD has been floating around and the anticipation is growing. SpringFest will surely be an exciting night, especially with The Press lighting up our small stage. And don't forget your cotton candy.

(Ben Mitchell-Lewis '06)

Live from Space: Senior Project

I have had an avid interest in aviation since my freshman year. One day while I was surfing the world wide web, I found an article about a "radio balloon." The author included the picture of the earth's horizon taken from the altitude of 100,000 feet. I was moved by this amazing picture, and knew this was going to be my senior project.

As part of my senior project, I launched meteorological equipment into the air using weather balloons. Sensors for measuring temperature, pressure, UV radiation, altitude, and a video camcorder to capture images made up the "payload." I used helium to inflate the weather balloon and provide the necessary lift as suggested by members of the faculty and students who returned my call for help.

Mr. Pettit joked that I would need to bring a small canoe on the recovery trip because my balloon would land on one of the lakes in New Hampshire. Mr. Houseman said something like, "The balloon will be sucked into an airplane's engine." Dorian said my balloon would fall on someone and break his or her head. In all, I heard all kinds of extreme predictions from many different people before the launch. In fact, I was nervous, too, because I had no idea what could happen.

On May 3, I launched my first successful payload, Chollian IX, on the Quad. The goal altitude was 80,000 feet or above, but Chollian IX only reached 26,277 feet, as one of the balloons popped prematurely. Mr. Kendall and I

chased the balloon vehicle, and found it a few hours later near the border of New Hampshire and Vermont. We used a GPS tracking system to establish its general location, and a dog tracker to

These trips into the wilderness reminded me of Out Back. Perhaps they were like post-OB training. By the way, Mr. Kendall is my hero. If he was not there, I would never have retrieved my

balloon. He knew the mountains better than anyone I can imagine. I was amazed at how he could find the landing site without relying on technology. He visited the same site three times for me. I am very thankful for his dedication.

On May 17, I launched my second successful payload, Chollian X, into the atmosphere. I made a deal with Mr. Peck that if he were to purchase the helium gas to fill the balloon, I would provide him aerial photos of campus. Mr. Peck granted my wish and Chollian X was even more successful than its predecessor. This was the greatest experience I have ever had. The results are astonishing. Chollian X reached higher than 100,000 feet and took some breathtaking aerial photographs and video, which I will share at Senior Project time in May.

Through this experience, I have come to believe that you can accomplish anything you want to if you're willing to work hard for it. Everyone around you will support you. Holderness School will support you. Members of the faculty will support you. Future seniors, I hope you get a chance to do a great senior project. Good Luck!

(Seungjoo Lee '06)



Photos from Chollian X, as it passes quickly over campus. Thanks to Seungjoo Lee '06 and his balloon for the pictures.

pinpoint its exact position. Unfortunately, the balloon was caught in some tall trees, forcing us to return the next day with more equipment. On the second day, we battled the trees with a saw and ax, but could not liberate the balloon. On the third day we brought a chain saw and finally defeated the trees.

Cigar Smoking at Commencement Dinner—the End of a Tradition

Since its founding in 1879, traditions have shaped the environment of Holderness School. One of the longest traditions involves seniors smoking cigars at Commencement Dinner. Although the stipulations of this beloved tradition have changed over the years, seniors have always looked forward to puffing on their cigar as a symbol of their impending graduation. Unfortunately, it was recently announced by Mr. Peck to the departing seniors that they would not be allowed to smoke cigars after Commencement Dinner this year. This announcement left many seniors distraught and angry that the ancient tradition of smoking cigars the night before Holderness Commencement had come to a close with their class, spurring many conflicting opinions on this issue.

Until the mid-eighties, cigars were smoked during Commencement Dinner itself, filling Weld with smoke. As concerns about the legality and safety of this process were questioned, the tradition was altered to allow cigars only on the Quad after dinner. The tradition tightened even further during 2000 and

2001 when New Hampshire passed a law prohibiting anyone under eighteen from smoking. Now the tradition is being done away with completely. How and why did this happen?



Over the years, there has been a growing group of parents and teachers offended by the promotion of smoking cigars on the Holderness campus. If this practice is offending even one person, the argument goes, then is it worth it? The second and more important reason for the end of the custom is the fact that the tradition itself is in violation of a major school rule. If a student was

caught smoking a cigar an hour earlier, for instance, they would be subject to a DC and could possibly be removed from the Holderness community.

Viewed this way, the tradition becomes a complete mockery of the values Holderness stands for.

On the other side of the argument, some believe that the smoking of cigars symbolizes the end of one chapter of a person's life and the beginning of another—a rite of passage. Although many seniors understand the reasoning behind Mr. Peck's decision to end this long-standing tradition, they are concerned that this is another change on a growing list, drawing us away from our history and tradition as a School.

Regardless of your position on this issue, there are sure to be new traditions and events that will serve to make up for this loss. It will be interesting to see the differences on campus at Commencement Dinner and into the future.

(Sarah Morrison '07)

Laguna-fying Holderness: A New Formal Tradition

Everyone watches the reality TV shows like Laguna Beach where prom is made into a semi-mythical high school event that everyone looks forward to. Holderness has never exactly lived up to these reality TV standards of prom. There are no limos, no big after-parties, and it's all a lot more casual. That said, Holderness stepped it up a bit this year and can now compete with Laguna in terms of how our students ask each other to the formal. Several weeks before the prom, Mrs. Weymouth challenged the boys to think of the most creative way to ask their date to formal. The prize was a \$50 certificate to Beiderman's, and the winner was Christopher Roche.

The junior and senior boys got geared up for the competition, and deciding a winner was tough. Contenders included Spencer Bresnan, Brian Gamble, Tanner Mathison, Jesse Straus, Ben Trook, Willy Lowry, and finally the winner, Christopher Roche.

Spencer Bresnan was the first guy to step up by making a movie displaying his best qualities before asking his date to the formal. Unfortunately, his movie was cut short and many still do not know who Spencer wanted to ask. It could be the biggest mystery to hit Holderness since the missing bell incident.

Next was Brian Gamble and he took a new approach. Along with Spencer,

Brian's movie also did not get a full showing during assembly. However, I was able to see it in Mac dorm. Brian, dressed in a trench coat, called to Krista outside her window. When Krista looked outside, Brian opened his trench coat and revealed a loin cloth that said "Formal?" on it. It was precious to say the least.

Tanner also made a video which again was not shown to the student body. As Kelsey Smith ran back to make check-in one night, 15 minutes late and out of breath, she came across three people holding a banner that said, "Will you go

(Continued on page 5)

A New Formal Tradition (Continued)

(Continued from page 4)

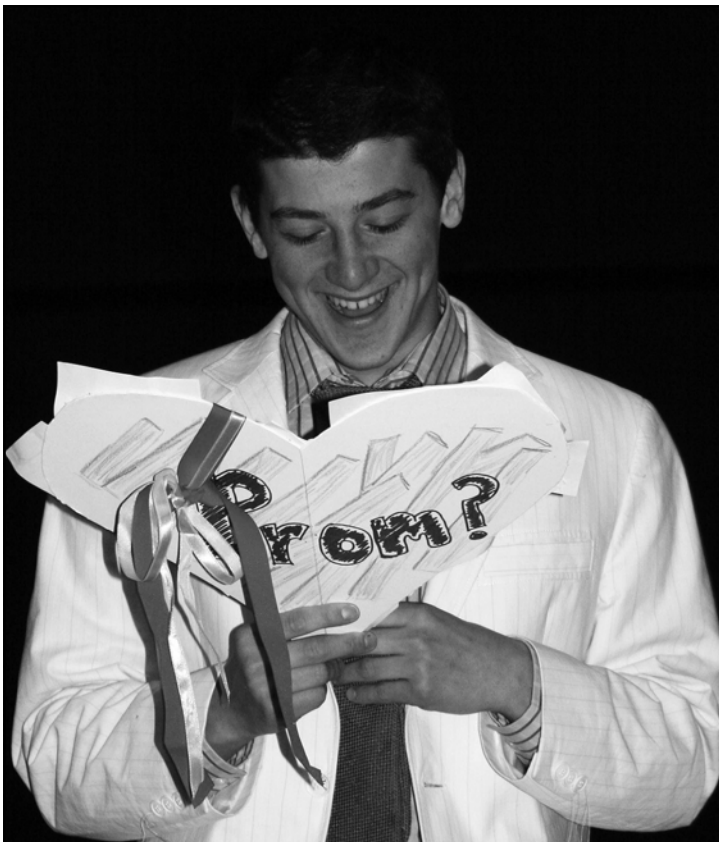
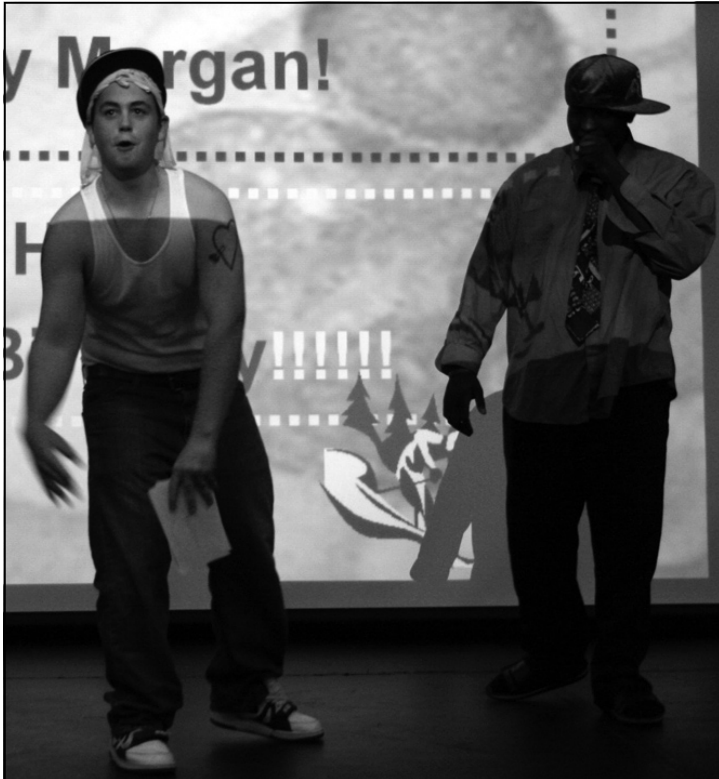
to formal with me?" Kelsey waited there for five minutes (now 20 minutes late for check-in) before Tanner finally ran through the banner. She screamed, cried with joy, and quickly agreed. Kelsey is now on 9:00 PM check-in and Tanner did not win, but at least they had fun.

Then there was Jesse Straus. He was the first to ask at dinner. As announcements were made, Jesse's name was called out. No one knew whether someone was pulling a prank on Jesse or if this was the real deal. Jesse stood on his chair and asked Tai to formal. She agreed.

The next guy to take the dinner approach was Trook. As Anne was bringing up her tray, Ben came out of nowhere and knocked it down. A lot of people thought Anne had just made an 'uh-oh.' But then Ben got down on one knee and asked Anne. She said yes.

Willy Lowry was the first to ask in assembly. Dressed all in white, Willy made his way down the stairs with a big heart sign. From there he read a poem that he had written. He went on to ask Carlie to formal. What some do not know is that Willy and Carlie went out their freshmen year. They were now to be reunited at the dance. Willy may not have won the prize, but he did make picture of the day.

Finally, there was Roche.



Roche included everything in his act, from singing to song-writing. As Jesse Geddes was called on in assembly, Roche stood up wearing baggy pants, a beater, a do-rag, and a tattoo. Roche strutted down the aisle along with Jesse. Once he got on stage he broke out in rap and ended by asking Alyssa to formal.

Roche received his award at the formal. I was lucky enough to be sitting next to him and saw his ever-happy face when he received his \$50 dollar gift certificate to Biederman's. I was also able to talk to Roche at snack bar and ask him what made him think of the idea and whether he was excited about winning. His answer? "I am a 'G'."

The competition was exciting and funny. It added excitement to the formal. Hopefully this tradition will last for years to come and our school will become more 'Laguna'-like.

But the ending wasn't happy for everyone. Trook, still bitter, was quoted saying, "Roche is a sniveling weasel who stole my prize." Willy is also upset: "I'm wicked mad that I lost. Roche does not deserve it. I was up all night writing that poem and creating the card to impress Carlie. I poured my heart and soul into it. And I didn't get any lovin' from the judges."

We will see if Roche can live up to his performance next year.

(Marina Pappas '07 and Ann Muse '06)

"A Modest Proposal for Holderness School"

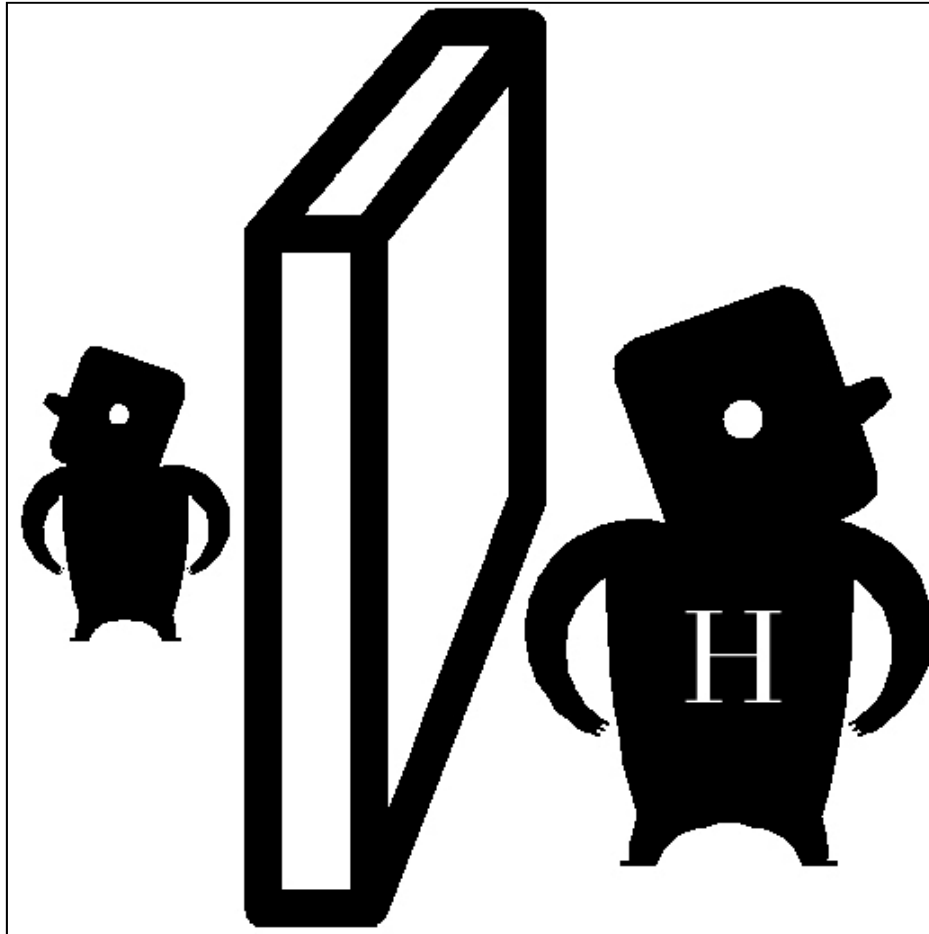
The morals of Holderness School are in a sorry state. Every day countless students engage in activities other than quiet study during study hall. Every night couples leave from Snack Bar and go on "walk-backs," a handful of which lead to morally reprehensible acts more fitting for a plastic-wrapped magazine than this page. Every student on campus has uttered a swear word, and most use them on a very regular basis. Clearly something has to be done.

One attempt to dam this river of immorality was the implementation of a proxy server. This measure promised to place strict limits on access to that cesspool of depravity, the Internet. However, a problem soon presented itself: students are still able to access a vast amount of corrupt material that the proxy server fails to block adequately. Sometimes this material can even include pornography.

I have devised a modest proposal in order to solve the current crisis that immerses students in a culture filled with vice. My proposal, though potentially costly, allows for the full protection of students from harmful influences and thus allows them to conduct their studies and personal evolution in the sterile, controlled environment needed to foster a responsible future citizen.

The first step in my plan is to build a large wall around the school. This wall

really should be a dome; there is a risk, however slight, that some contaminant could ruin the carefully constructed academic environment within. Still, in the interest of minimizing costs, I think a wall between 30 and 50 feet tall should suffice, provided that it allows



no view over it. Steel is the material of choice, for a number of reasons, from strength and durability to difficulty of climbing. There would have to be an opening in this wall, of course, but this could be a carefully concealed gate that includes a security system that thoroughly screens any incoming material. Computers should be banned from campus due to the potential for horizon-expanding Internet access. Naturally all incoming mail would be opened and checked before delivery.

Secondly, class curriculums must be adjusted so that they in no way suggest or even imply any kind of behavior or

modes of thought not strictly orthodox. History, for example, must contain no references to potentially offensive material such as racism, sexuality, killing, religion, or nationality. Biology and anatomy classes should skirt any regions of the body not visible in full

dress code. Language classes must screen their material more carefully to ensure that there are no references to sex, violence, racism, killing, religion, free-thinking, current events, drugs, alcohol, or staying up past 11:00 PM. Ideally, classes would be segregated by gender so that material could be chosen to avoid mention of the opposite gender, except perhaps a once-weekly "interstudy" period during which a class could view material containing mention of the opposite gender.

If these steps are followed carefully, a Holderness student

could truly concentrate on what was left of his/her academic studies. These Holderness students would be safe from the dangers of access to the outside world, and, with a bit of luck, would be able to avoid developing any tendencies towards non-institutionalized thought. So let us band together as a community everyone! Burn your copy of *1984*, start tinkering away at a more effective proxy server, and start raising funds for that black steel wall.

(Ben Peters '06)

Photos from the Senior Trip



On Thursday, May 11, the senior class (accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Weymouth, Mark Traina, Allie Skelley, and Michele Barmash) pulled out in buses from in front of Weld and headed down to Boston for a day of fun and bonding. Students finished the trip south on boats, pulling into Boston Harbor and walking in from there. After spending the day walking around Boston, the group came together again to make the long trip back to campus.

Check out some pictures from the day, provided by Jesse Straus '06 and Carlie Bristow '06.

Holderness School

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Got a story or a burning issue? Write it up and get it to Cambria Hempton so we can include it in the next issue of *The Picador*!

The Picador is...

Editorial Staff:

Ben Mawhinney, Editor-in-Chief
Cambria Hempton, Editor

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Mike Aron
Kelly Hood
Seungjoo Lee
Sarah Morrison
Marina Pappas
Ann Muse
Ben Peters
Jesse Straus
Carlie Bristow
Cambria Hempton

Faculty Advisor:

Steve Solberg

Editor's Remarks: Thanks

If all that people read is the first paragraph of my remarks, I want my appreciation for Mr. Solberg to be what is taken away. I don't get the sense that the student body understands to what extent Mr. Solberg is essential in the running of our school. For my small part, I'd like to say thank you to Mr. Solberg for all of the work he has put into making *The Picador* happen. As Cambria will find out, and as I hope every else will as well, Mr. Solberg contributes a huge quantity of time and effort to the newspaper

and to Holderness. So, Mr. Solberg, thanks so much for advising me through this process and for all you do at Holderness School.

Speaking of Cambria, I am proud to announce that we have a new editor-in-chief of *The Picador*! I was really excited when Cam approached me for the position before I had even started looking towards next year, which speaks highly of her enthusiasm and motivation. Cambria is a great writer, but beyond that I think she will add a new personality to

the paper, which will hopefully broaden *The Picador's* circulation through some fresh ideas. Congratulations, Cambria; you can take it from here.

And with that, I am bowing out. Thanks to everyone who contributed with writing, photographs, advice, and support. It's been a wonderful and education experience, one that will I will value for a long time.

(Ben Mawhinney '06)

A Word from the New Editor

With the graduation of our first-ever editor of the *Picador*, Ben Mawhinney, I would like to take a moment to thank him for all his efforts this year. Without him, the school newspaper would never have been started and would have remained dormant in the Alford basement. Ben has asked me to take on the role of editor next year,

and I am excited to improve the newspaper and build on the enthusiasm of the School's writers. Ben has taught me the ropes and I'm sure that next year's paper will be as good, or even better, than the current *Picador*. For now, I am looking forward to the last ten days of school and I hope it will be awesome with the up-

coming SpringFest and Graduation. Thank you, Ben Mawhinney, and good luck to the senior class!

(Cambria Hempton '07)

Spring 2006 Exam Schedule

Sunday, May 21

Reading Day

Monday, May 22

AM Science

PM English

Tuesday, May 23

AM Theology/Fine Arts

PM Math

Wednesday, May 24

AM History

PM No exam in the afternoon
(Exeter games)

Thursday, May 25

AM Study Time

PM Foreign Languages

