

the round table

volume IV, issue 1

of stuart hall high school

september 2007



STEWARDSHIP
STUART HALL | 2007-2008

the round table

roundtable.sacredsfs.org

a forum for students

editors@shhsroundtable.com

WELCOME BACK



picture of the month | from fleet week 2007

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copy.net Printing *the round table* is made possible by the generous support of Copy.Net, at California and Fillmore.

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STUART HALL

Academics for life, values for living

Submissions All submissions to *the round table* can be made by e-mail to editors@shhsroundtable.com. For more information, please see our submissions policies for Letters to the Editors and political editorials online at roundtable.sacredsfs.org/policies.htm. Other material is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.



Corrections *the round table* goes to great lengths to ensure that all material is accurate, timely, and factual. However, errors sometimes occur. If you notice a factual mistake, please send an e-mail to editors@shhsroundtable.com with "Reader Discovers Error!" in the subject line.

editors' corner

WELCOME BACK



Hey, everyone! To our freshman, transfer students, and new faculty, welcome to Stuart Hall. To everyone else, welcome back. As many of you might know, this is the editors' last year in high school. So, this year we will begin to hand off the newspaper to the new editors who will take over when we leave. We hope to make our last year the newspaper's best yet, and we wish the new editors the best of luck as they continue to build up this publication. Good luck and happy reading, everybody, as we kick off another school year.

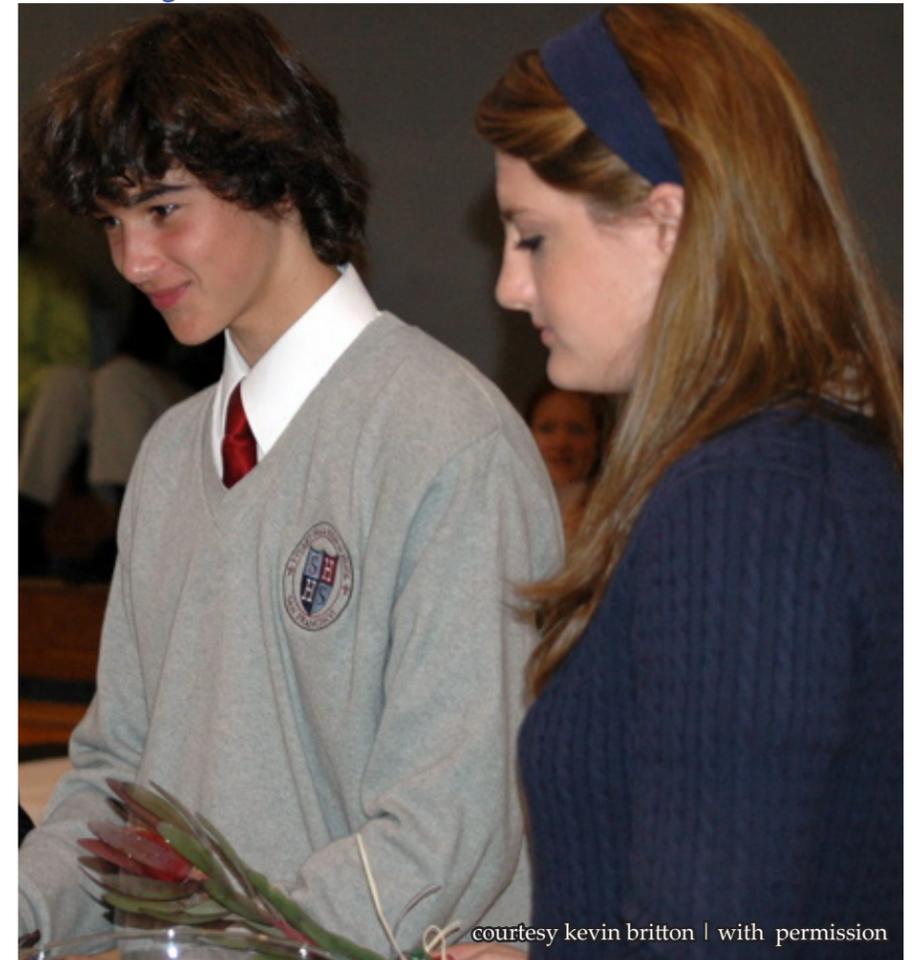
nick's blog: a letter from student council

Student council is off to a great start this year! Already, we've met some of our long-term goals we set last June.

In trying to strengthen our partnership with Convent, we've worked much closer with the girls to coordinate joint after-school activities. Together, we successfully kicked off the year with the Boat Dance, which raised close to one thousand dollars. Equally fun was ice skating at Yerba Buena last Saturday. Over one hundred Stuart Hall and Convent students showed.

Later this month, we have more opportunities to continue tightening bonds with Convent. For the first time, we will invite Convent to our student-favorite FIFA video game tournament on October 26th. Just like last year, prizes will go to the top three finishers and food and drink will be provided. In addition, we will celebrate Halloween on the 31st with after-school festivities. We will keep you posted on information regarding this event.

On behalf of the student council, thank you to all those who have participated in recent school events and being stewards of the Sacred Heart Community. Keep up the good work!



courtesy kevin britton | with permission



DEANNA MALVESTI

Subject: English

Where were you born?

I was born and raised in Santa Rosa, CA, just about one hour north of San Francisco on the 101.

Where did you teach/work before joining the Stuart Hall community?

Before joining the Stuart Hall community, I taught English at Salesian High School in Richmond, CA. Prior to starting my teaching career, I was the Associate Director of Operations for the University of California, Berkeley Men's Basketball program.

What is your most memorable teaching experience?

I have had so many memorable teaching experiences that it's difficult to choose one that stands out above all of the rest. Most of my memorable experiences have been the result of engaging with my students in their co-curricular activities outside of the classroom. I really aim to get to who my students are beyond the academic world.

Why did you choose to dedicate yourself to the field of education?

I have always had a passion for literature and been an avid reader and writer. Teaching gives me the opportunity to do what I love every day. When I was in high school, the people who had the most positive effects on me were my English teachers. They ultimately led me to the decision to study English in college and eventually pursue a teaching career.

What is your favorite thing about Stuart Hall so far?

I feel fortunate to have such wonderful students and colleagues at Stuart Hall.

JEANINE BOURCIER

Subject: French

Where were you born?

I was born in Worcester, Mass., but moved to Clarks Summit, PA when I was four.

Where did you teach/work before joining the Stuart Hall community?

Besides a short stint as a volunteer coordinator for the Oregon State Extension 4-H Wildlife Steward program, I have been a volunteer mom, organizer of a middle school PTA program, and a Girl Scout leader. In my life before children, I was a New York business lender.

What was your most memorable teaching experience?

A lesson on reforestation in the village of Missira, Senegal. I had 50 papaya seedlings to plant from the Ministry of Forestry (part of my Peace Corps volunteer program).

Why did you choose to dedicate yourself to the field of education?

Ever since I had children, each volunteer working experience brought me back to the classroom: at an orphanage in Colima, Mexico, teaching English, an elementary school in Portland, Oregon, teaching environmental science, and in France teaching English.

NEW FACES AT THE HALL

interviews by Alex Lee '10 | portraits by Jan Fejt '10

In our first few issues of the year, *the round table* will publish interviews with the new members of Stuart Hall's faculty. Here are the first three.



JUSTIN WALSH

Subject: Freshman World Religions and Junior Ethics and Morality

Where were you born?

I was born at the Mercy Hospital in East Melbourne, Australia. It was 3:25 in the afternoon and the school bells were ringing. My mum tells me she said something like, "He's (after checking of course) going to be a teacher." Really.

Where did you teach/work before joining the Stuart Hall community?

I taught at Archbishop Mitty High School in San Jose. Before that I was an ESL teacher in the writing assistant program at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley. And before that I was in Prague for two years teaching English.

What was your most memorable teaching experience?

It was in Prague that I taught 263 Czech students. It was amazing teaching students from an entirely different culture, learning about their lives, and their culture. One of the projects we worked on had to do with Soviet Communism, and it involved my students interviewing someone older who had lived through Communism. I was fascinated by how this young generation approached their nation's history, how much more global they were than the previous generations. The family stories that the students shared about the secret police, the underground church, government camps and the 'party' were deeply moving.

Why did you choose to dedicate yourself to the field of education?

There is something of the teacher in all of my family members. When we get together at any time, you can barely get a word in edgeways, we're always trying to teach each other something (that includes you Aunt Joan!). You might say that I am a people person. I love ideas, the arts and humanities, big questions and stories.

What is your favorite thing about Stuart Hall so far?

The school community here is supportive, communicative, healthy, open, honest and humorous. What specifically is my favorite thing? I think two of my freshmen are writing a rap song about World Religions and me their humble teacher (I'm excited by the Grammy-winning possibilities). And another thing that I love is that every time I overhear my juniors talking about something less than legal they always look at me and say, "We're just talking about the ethics of — — —, Mr. Walsh. We should talk about the ethics of — — — in class."

Any additional information you would like to share about yourself?

I love downhill and XC mountain biking, road biking and touring. Join our club!

The Loch-Neff Monster Strikes Again



Mr. Neff addresses the crowd at his book launch party



the Neff clan celebrates together



Grace Bishop '08, Tom Pardini '08, and Eugene Ma '09 ran the busy bookstore, selling hundreds of copies

Our very own Mr. Neff, an Art and U.S. History teacher at Stuart Hall, has added to his many accomplishments by becoming a published author on September 25. His first novel—published by Random House and titled *The Hound of Rowan*—serves as the initial installment of *The Tapestry* series. Distinguished as a character-driven work of fiction, this piece of literature produces a riveting visual experience and includes nearly thirty illustrations by the author himself. In addition, Mr. Neff's novel has been translated into over a dozen languages and distributed in multiple countries.

As the opening book of this trilogy, *The Hound of Rowan* introduces the reader to Max McDaniels, the protagonist of the story, "whose discovery of a mysterious tapestry ensnares him in a secret war that threatens to engulf history itself," Mr. Neff says. The author also points out that his "series offers substantial threads of science fiction, world history, mythology and folklore from many cultures." Mr. Neff describes *The Tapestry* "as the literary equivalent of a fusion restaurant—a pinch of this genre, a dash of that genre—delivered with an undercurrent of unflinching realism."

To commemorate the release of *The Hound of Rowan*, a party was held Friday, October 5, in the Flood Mansion on the Broadway Campus. The party included an interactive games room for younger kids, food and drink, and a bookstore where guests could purchase an autographed copy of *The Hound of Rowan*. Tom Pardini, who was running the bookstore, said, "The vast majority of people bought two or more books. It was kind of funny sometimes because if a family had a few kids, each child would insist on owning his/her own copy." Hundreds of people attended the event, including former Stuart Hall teachers Ms. Slonaker (who flew down all the way from Seattle) and Mrs. Paganelli (formerly Ms. Reardon).

Many of our classmates have already read the book. Corey Linehan, who finished it all in two days, says, "One of the great things about the book is that it has a plot younger kids will enjoy but has elements with more depth older readers will enjoy understanding." If you haven't yet read it, get your hands on a copy today!

- Winslow Hicks '08

WANT A COPY?

the round table found Mr. Neff's book available online at the following merchants:

- amazon.com
- bn.cm
- buy.com
- ebooks.palm.com
- overstock.com
- randomhouse.com

FAST FACTS

Pages
432

Cost
\$16.99

Publisher
Random House

Time to Sell Out First Printing
Less than two weeks

Release Date
September 25

Amazon.com User Rating
5 Stars (unanimous!)

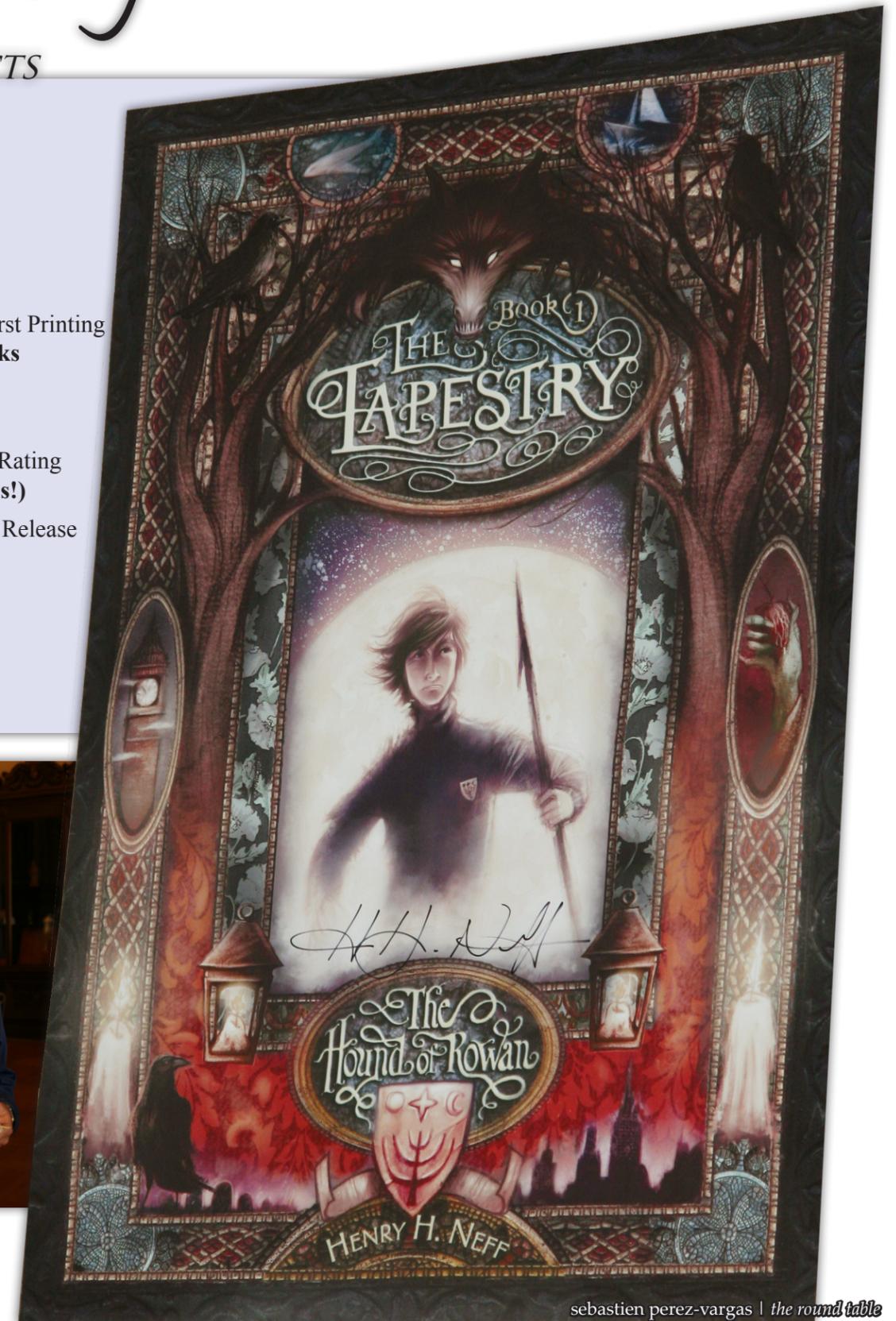
Second Installment Release
September 2008

Countries
>12

Languages
>12



Ross Clerk '08 was one of many students who helped at the book launch



KICKING OFF THE SEASON

by Corey Linehan '08

CROSS COUNTRY

The phrase "I've gotta run" usually has nothing to do with running, but it has meant exactly that for Stuart Hall's Cross Country team since summer practice sessions began in mid-June. After three months of pre-season training (and Ultimate Frisbee) and a month of the season under its belt, this year's squad is well positioned to be one of the school's strongest yet.

The team's biggest challenge will be to overcome the loss of its strongest runner, Griff Cannon '07. His legacy on the team includes being the first runner in either Cross Country or Track to reach the state competitions and the first runner to win a medal in varsity competition at Mt. SAC, the world's largest Cross Country race – as well as holding the team's record time at the BCL's 5K Lindley Meadows course in Golden Gate Park.

The team, however, is up to the challenge; for the first time last year, all of the scoring varsity members of the squad completed the Lindley Meadows course in less than twenty minutes, positioning the team to race more competitively than it has in the past. Led by a strong group of returning seniors, junior Mike Kociolek, sophomore Tristan Vranizan, and freshman Ben Liu, the team is confident about the upcoming season. Senior Nick Dietz explains, "Even though Griff's going to be gone, we're still set for a strong season."

With the extra preparation from this year's summer training program, the team may well be the best yet.

LEAGUE RECORD: 3-0
as the round table goes to print



ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Athlete of the Month is a new feature that will accompany coverage of Stuart Hall's athletic teams every month. The athlete is chosen by Mr. Bertken with input from the teams' coaches. The first Athlete of the Month is Cross Country's Ben Liu '11.



corey linehan | the round table

Freshman Ben Liu has set the pace early and helped the Knights Cross Country team jump out to the best start in the history of the program. For a runner who had only once ever competed in a race, Ben has been outstanding setting freshman records at every course he's run so far. Not only is he making his mark on a freshman level, but Ben has finished either 2nd or 3rd on the varsity squad in each race this season. Coach Buckley has this to say about his freshman, "Ben is reliable, durable, and hard-working. Coach Wong and I are very excited to see him grow as a runner in the future." And so is the rest of the Stuart Hall community!



SOCCER

With David Beckham coming over the pond, this is a big year for American soccer. With Stuart Hall's huge contingent of new players, it will be for the Knights' soccer teams as well.

The team, split into varsity and JV teams of about fifteen players each, will focus its efforts this year on honing its skills and getting lots of playing time. In the short season, which ends at the end of October, the team will play at least 20 games – averaging almost three a week.

This year's intensive schedule can be explained by the team's age; the Knights are fielding only two seniors this year – Antoine Wright and Brendan Sullivan. Upperclassman leadership and expertise is rounded out by juniors Phil Privitelli, Sam Bishop, and Connor and Graham Grealish. As a consequence, the bulk of the team is made up of freshmen playing in high school for the first time. Mr. Woodard, the team's head coach, explains, "This team is so raw and green that it's really good for it to get a lot of playing time." As he explained the team's strategy, though, Mr. Woodard expressed confidence in the skills of the team's newest members, highlighting performances in early practices by freshmen Grey Beaudin, Connor Bottom, and Carlos Guardia.

In the end, this year's soccer season will be about building a base for the future. While Marin Academy and University are the schools to beat in the league, Mr. Woodard cites the games against Drew, Urban, and Crystal Springs as the most important this season. To win those games, he says, will "really be a collective effort." Using the skills they develop this season as a building block, the Hall's soccer squad will be well positioned for a great next couple of years.



photos courtesy kevin britton | with permission

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EVER
WONDER...

why your Muni line doesn't have the NextBus feature yet?

Muni and the MTA will finish installing transmitters on all busses by the end of October (trolley busses, the ones on electric cables, were completed over the summer). Though the arrival signs will only be installed in shelters, you can check times on your cell phone at nextmuni.com.

A Historic Summer

by Skyler Hicks '10



courtesy wikipedia | with permission

A sellout crowd of Giants fans, many who had hoped to witness a historic home run, abandoned their seats and raced to the exits to avoid the traffic outside AT&T Park. As people flocked to the exits after Barry Bonds's final at-bat, the ballpark quieted down, and the remaining loyal fans waited for the dismal game to end. It had what the MLB called in a press release a "wake-like quality." Since the ballpark's introduction to the city in 2000, seats have filled to watch winning Giants teams, but this year the seats sold out for different reasons.

A new Home Run King and an All-Star game by the bay created a buzz for all Giants fans this summer. Barry Bonds, of course, is the Giants player who became the Home Run King. The countdown for him to surpass Hank Aaron's career home run record of 755 was almost interminable for baseball fans. As Bonds steadily climbed the ladder to the top, the sports world watched with bated breath, from his strongest supporters to even rival Dodgers fans. Finally, on August 7th, 2007, Bonds blasted his 756th home run to the left-centerfield bleachers at AT&T Park, ending the historic pursuit.

Although the record chase excited fans, the team suffered the consequences. The media circus clogged the radio and TV sets, creating yet another problem (media distraction) for a team that already had quite enough to deal with. The Giants' sub-.350 winning record became an

afterthought as Bonds pursued the record. Recently, the organization has not wanted to risk losing fans (especially those who only come for the home runs) by bringing in inexperienced players with no real shot at the playoffs. Well, they might be risking a fan drop-off, but they certainly would not be risking a drop in the standings, as the Giants finished the season alone in last place in the NL West. What the organization considered a playoff contender in March finished with one of the worst records in the league.

When Barry began to approach retirement, the organization catered to his wish of trying to win a World Series, creating teams designed to succeed in the short run, but with no clear future. The Giants stalled the rebuilding of an old team for far too long, hoping to produce a 'contender.' Instead of flourishing, however, the team has faltered in recent years.

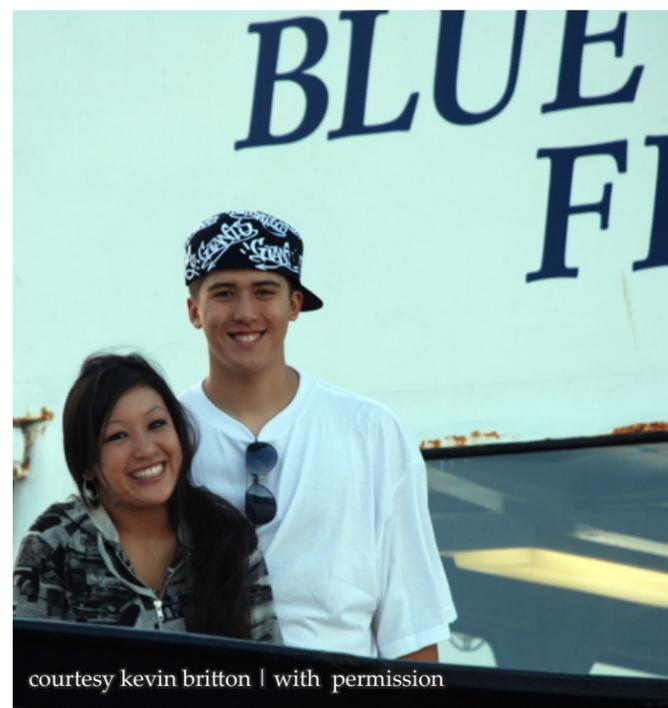
The Giants' management recently announced that they will not want Bonds back for next year, instead using its cap room on younger players with more potential. The Giants, therefore, have just plunged into a long-overdue rebuilding stage. Although the Giants haven't produced in the standings, they have given fans glimmers of hope with their recent acquisitions of several young and dominant starting pitchers. However, it will be several years and several great pick-ups before the team can hope to compete for a playoff spot.

Rock the Boat

by James Holt '10

Stuart Hall and Convent's first-ever nautical shindig set sail Friday, August 31, 2007. Music, dancing, great people, and food all combined to make this dance a perfect way to start off the year. Because the entry fee was five dollars and so many people attended, our Student Council raised just under one thousand dollars for conge. The atmosphere was both low-key and lively. While most people danced all night, some took advantage of the ship's upper decks to talk and enjoy good company. In general, the music the DJ played was great, though it could have used a little more variety. The DJ did an exceptionally good job rallying the crowd and getting everyone to dance.

The dance really helped fulfill the main focus of Supper Club – building a strong bond between Stuart Hall and Convent. It was also a great way to meet people from our Schools of the Sacred Heart family. There was nothing but positive feedback and excitement about the boat dance, especially from freshmen. Many people seemed to think it was the best dance yet. Perhaps the only negative comment was that time flew by too quickly. Hopefully this will become another fine tradition of our school. Thanks to Mr. Britton, Ms. Curran, Student Council, and the entire student body for a great social.



courtesy kevin britton | with permission

Great Expectations

by Brendan Laing '08

What will it be like to finally be a senior? To be perfectly honest, I don't know, but I do have some expectations. I expect to struggle through Mr. O'Connor's class just as much as every

other senior will, in the same way that every graduate has. I expect that I will end up cursing my dumb choice of classes as I fight through them. And, finally, I expect that the class of 2008 will leave its mark, hopefully not literally, just like all the other graduating classes have.

It's very satisfying to actually be able to say, "Oh, I'm a senior." Strangers now have some interest in you because they can ask what you plan on doing, what college you are going to, and other little questions like that. Most of us can drive now, and some of us even have a car.

Another thing to look forward to is graduation. No more will we have to hide from Mr. Armstrong while we try to cover up our unshaven faces from teachers. No more will we have to worry about Mr. O'Connor and his service hours or service sites. We also won't have to deal with the after-school study hall anymore (not that we *do* deal with it, but there is always that one time when you leave your essay on the printer...). We get to begin some fun new things, as well as others that I would be very happy to skip altogether, such as college applications.

No one in the class of '08 really knows what is in store for them. Of course, we do know that the basketball players will have some incredible games this year, the cross country runners will run some great times, and the baseball and soccer teams will continue having great seasons. I'm pretty sure that most of us expect our senior year to be the best of our high school lives, and I *know* that all of us hope to get through it with as little pain as possible.



courtesy the legend of stuart hall
through publications photo exchange

the seniors have a long way to go...

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW WEBSITE

roundtable.sacredsrf.org



Beta Testing in Progress
the round table is currently testing this beta version of its new website that should make it fully compatible with Convent & Stuart Hall's new site. Once testing is complete, you will start to see regular articles appear in this space. If you encounter any problems, please let us know by e-mailing us at editors@shsroundtable.com or by using the "Contact Us" button at top right.

Racing Off
 The Knights' XC team has had a spectacular start to the year and is ready for its best season yet. [\(more\)](#)

Browse the Archives
 Read articles and issues from last year, as well as archived editions of other school publications. [\(more\)](#)

Wondering when new issues of *the round table* will be published?
 You don't have long to wait; we're wrapping up the first one and are on track to publish two issues a quarter this year.

Currently in beta (a testing phase), *the round table's* new website was built for you! We've redesigned the site to integrate well with the new Convent & Stuart Hall site, giving you easy access to school news as well as resources like Moodle and the library databases. Check it out and let us know what you think! Feedback can be submitted online or given to Web Editor Peter Shatara '08.

