

From The Middle

May 2, 2008

Quote of the Week:

"It's true what they say about small towns- time doesn't move very fast." -Tracy Simon

Announcements:

Monday, May 5th is Chelsea Day's Work Day!!!

Middle school students should come prepared for any weather, and bring a water bottle!

Wednesday, May 7th is the field trip to see *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

All middle school students and some of Ms. Joyce's students will be gone most of the day.

*******Congratulations to our resident champion Cup-Stackers!!!*******

Don't Believe Everything You Read

Sydney Copp

Last week, we published an article about the Orange County Jail. The information presented in this article had a few errors that *From the Middle* would like to amend. After the tour given to the middle school by Tracy Simon, our minds were filled with anecdotes that seemed almost too good to be true. In fact, some of them were. I interviewed Ms. Simon to make sure the truth prevails and we don't start any town myths!

The facts:

1. The jail DID burn down, and the fire WAS started by the inmates, BUT there was no jail break in connection with the fire that was so big it charred the back of the Congregational Church in 1861.
2. There WAS a jail break in the 1960's, but no fire. The prisoners were in the yard for exercise and 5 out of 6 jumped through the hole in the fence to escape. All prisoners were captured within hours.
3. The information about Rebecca Peake was well-researched and is true as far as we know. The one piece that may be myth is the part about the body being chopped up and thrown in the river.

Notes from an interview with Tracy Simon:

While clearing up what's fact and what's fiction about the jail house, I had the opportunity to ask Ms. Simon a few other questions:

Q: Have you ever had an experience with a ghost at the Orange County Sheriff's office/jail?

A: No, but while I was at the Vermont Police Academy, I was awakened by a poltergeist moving around furniture in the room above me. When I went to investigate the noise, my dorm supervisor told me not to go in that room, and the supervisor was too frightened to even enter the hallway. When I put my arm into the hall, it was noticeably much colder than the stairwell where we were standing.

Q: If you weren't a sheriff, what would you be?

A: A chef

Q: If you could have any superpower, what would you choose?

A: You mean I don't already have superpowers? Well, I know I can become invisible, I know I can read people's minds because I am expected to do that all the time... I guess I would choose throwing lightning bolts.

Act Out Loud!

by A.J.

I interviewed Tracy Simon to figure out what this thing I keep seeing fliers for, "Act Out Loud" is, and this is what I discovered.

What is Act Out Loud?

Act Out Loud is a contest that is a part of the SADD program, which is a program for teens to help keep other teens safe, particularly on the roads. The contest is to see which school can get the most votes for their project in nine days. The projects are videos that each school made to teach other students about the dangers of destructive decisions.

Who is doing Act Out Loud?

The Chelsea SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) program was chosen along with 9 other schools to participate in this contest. The people from our school who are participating are: Tracy Simon (The Coordinator), D. Miller (The Adviser), Jeff Kilbourn (The Team Captain), Kat Botelho (Team Member), Dalton Kadar (Team Member), Daniel Pope (Team Member), and John Boardman (Team Member).

Why are we doing Act Out Loud?

We are doing Act Out Loud because we loose about seventeen teenagers every summer nationally to driving accidents. The Chelsea SADD program wants to help stop this.

Where is Act Out Loud taking place?

Act Out Loud is taking place on the Internet at: www.ActOutLoud.org

When is ActOutLoud happening?

Act Out Loud starts on May 1st and ends on May 9th . The grand prize is \$10,000 cash for the school to help pay for traffic safety utensils that will help keep teens safe on the highways. Our high schoolers made a YouTube video (with a spaceship!). To see the video go to the website and vote! Voting has already started.

Go to www.ActOutLoud.org and vote for Chelsea!

WE NEED YOUR VOTE

VOTE FOR CHELSEA TODAY!!!!

What is SafeArt?

I, Caleb Oldham interviewed local Tracy Penfield, the founding director of the non-profit organization SafeArt. She described SafeArt as a way of expressing yourself through dance, song, rap, visual art, or any other kind of art form. The organization itself is one devoted mainly to help prevent domestic violence, substance abuse, and all other kinds of abuse. "I started this because obviously past methods of prevention are not working. Domestic violence is actually rising and I believe it should be stopped," Tracy said.

What does SafeArt do?

SafeArt does a number of things such as coordinating a teen ensemble that travels around to schools around the state, and sometimes elsewhere, to really educate teens and teachers about this stuff that is really happening all over Vermont and other states. Whether it be through skits, songs, or rap. SafeArt also has a women's group for traumatized women who meet monthly. Aside from that, Tracy does private healing sessions, and also teaches dance.

What are the origins of SafeArt?

Well, if you're talking about the name SafeArt draws its name from the hot line SafeLine where anyone can call to talk **anonymously** about something that's happened to them or a friend or family member. SafeArt actually started when in 2000, Tracy was volunteering at SafeLine, and they asked her and some of her performer friends to perform at a an event. The performance went very well, and one of the audience members (a teenager) asked Tracy if

they could perform at her school. SafeArt was born.