

# Happy Holidays!

## THE JAMES LOGAN COURIER HIGH SCHOOL

JLHS-NEWSPAPER.DHS.ORG

1800 H STREET, UNION CITY, CA. 94587

### Hope Connections brings community together

**By Yasin Shah**  
News Editor

When most of us wake up in the morning, we never notice the simple things that make our lives our lives. We get up, go through our morning routine and never bother to think of the people in our community that do not get a bowl of cereal, do not get a shower or simply do not get love.

That's where Hope Connections comes in. Hope Connections is an organization that helps the poor and needy in our community. As most of you have noticed, a canned food drive and a money collection have been going on for the past two

weeks or so. All of these items plus gifts of clothing or toys will be given to the needy of Union City.

Hope Connections was formed four years ago by Ms. Linda Rodriguez because of "seeing some of my students struggling with their math



*"We give because Hope connections is giving without expecting something in return, bringing love to those without hope, bringing encouragement to those who are discouraged and just being people that walk a life of action of helping oneself and that spans through every culture and every religion"*

*~Ms. Linda Rodriguez*

because of poverty". Since then Hope Connections has grown from one family to the current total of 79. These

families will each receive 3-5 boxes of canned food ( depending on the size of the family), some gifts and a \$100 food certificate to purchase fresh items such as milk, fruits and vegetables.

"The more people that get involved. The more people we can help. I don't see a limit, the only thing that could stop us is not getting the monetary support or the donations coming in." said Rodriguez. "I would not be surprised in spring if we hit a hundred"

Last November Hope Connections gave out hygiene baskets consisting of soap, s h a m p o o , toothpaste and toothbrushes to Harrison's , Dellum's and Oak's homeless shelters in Oakland.

A Hope Connections club was formed last it currently has 47 members. The next meeting is on January 9<sup>th</sup> in room 527 at three o'clock.

# OPINIONS

## Storms wreak havoc

By **Natalie Pullen**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

I don't think I've swum to school like this since El Niño season in 1997. And being the winter child that I am, I never thought I'd hear myself say I hate rain. But the effects of the last two storms—especially those that I have witnessed at Logan—have forced me to reconsider my position.

Getting to school the last two weeks has been no piece of cake. It has become apparent to me that Californians cannot drive in any form of precipitation, especially if merging with other cars is required.

Note to other drivers: unbelievably, if you are entering my

lane, I have a right to be there, too! Shocking, I know, but that means a signal and a mirror check to make sure you will not ram me off the road. And yes, that sometimes means having to interrupt your phone conversation, make-up application, or breakfast eating; my profound apologies.

But it is only once I arrive to school that my most difficult navigation task begins; there are rivers, puddle-jumpers, wet desks, umbrellas, and hallways to dodge. This month's weather has made me aware of how much I hate coming to school on days when there are currents, yes, *currents*, in the 300s. I saw one carry a student's notebook away...

Of course, I'm still trying to figure out if I'd rather deal with rapids or lagoons: the entire parking lot becomes Lake Logan when it torrentially downpours. I honestly think the people who paved Logan never heard of this concept called "level." I understand the ground needs slopes for draining purposes, but the parking lot is just ridiculous, and don't get me started on the path behind Autoshop.

Once my squishy feet finally step onto campus, I begin cursing the person who decided to put slick floors in the hallways. Rain significantly increases the chance of slipping; I know I've wished for

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# EDITORIAL

## Navigating through pure idiocy

By Sonam Shah  
Copy Editor

This winter season, in the midst of all these storms, has made me think of man's idiocy. Granted, this is something I think about more often than not, it has caused me to think of it far more. It seems to me, that if water falls from the sky, everyone forgets how to drive. Apparently people can no longer

distinguish between their gas and their break pedal. It's as though the knowledge of driving has been washed away entirely in an entire group of people. I know you have seen exactly what I mean. The dark blue mini-van without its lights on at 7:00 in the morning when you can barely see three feet in front of your eyes. I especially love the people without their lights on. Are they trying to be

funny? It's not. Turn on your lights. Trust me his or her brain is dim enough. It has always baffled me furthermore, that if I should happen to rear end one of these mystical cars I can barely see hidden in the night, it's my fault. There is no fine for stupidity. There ought to be. There ought to be an entire ticket entitled: STUPID DRIVER TICKET. You do something stupid and a cop catches you, there really is no point in defending yourself, you've gotten the STUPID DRIVER TICKET.

Another beautiful aspect of mankind is the one individual who seems to think turning on his or her high beams is an effective way of seeing the road while effectively blinding you. The people who seem to forget what stop really means and rather redefine it as a rather long roll. There is always the one individual who is so kind as to sniff the rear end of your car with his own car. It seems as though he can not virtually get any closer. Despite the fact that it's raining he can't seem to realize you actually need more breaking space.

I know I'm not exempt from the stupidity, that in some way my license doubles as a membership into the "Idiocy Club." I too, am bound to do some stupid act.

Regardless, in closing, if you happen to be that person who drive without your lights on, or really likes to tail gate me, I'll be waving to you for sure. Perhaps not with all my fingers.

## Weathering the storm

*-continued from page 2*

sandpaper, or some other source of friction, more than once.

Then there's always the lovely walk to sixth period when three students next to my friends and I jump in every puddle they see, completely soaking our clothes. Perhaps they didn't see the three entities next to them but I am quite certain we do in fact take up some space; we do have mass.

Speaking of taking up space: umbrellas are quite possibly the vilest contraptions on the face of this planet. They make getting around campus so much harder because they prevent us from cutting corners and squeezing into holes in the crowd. I thank my lucky stars if I manage to get through each day with only one bad experience with them.

To those of you who own umbrellas: you do **not** have the right to twirl them, swing them around, or

use them as battering rams. People's eyes—including my own—are rather close to the metal ends of your umbrella and I'm pretty sure I speak for most when I say I'd like to keep my vision.

Oh yes, one more thing umbrella owners: do not store them, while wet, on the empty desk next to you. I know I don't like sitting down in that desk next period only to have to dry my seat and writing surface before getting to work.

The weather has seriously dampened my spirits (sorry, couldn't resist), and I'm sure I'm not the only one whose patience is being tried by Mother Nature. So people, I beg you: be aware of your surroundings. Be considerate and conscious of those around you. Just a little more respect for others will make these already gloomy days a little more bearable, not to mention a whole lot drier.

# FEATURES

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THE COURIER

## CHRISTMAS NO NO'S

**By: Valerie Zerbini**  
*Features Editor*

### Top 5 Things NOT To Get Your Girlfriend for Christmas.... Uh oh!!!!

- #5.) A damn fruitcake! We do not like them, do not want them, and so DO NOT GIVE THEM TO US! Plus it doesn't really show the love you claim to have for us.
- #4.) A Boston Market gift certificate! One word is all I have for this one, well more like two: Ghetto and CHEAPO!
- #3.) A framed picture of YOURSELF! Come on I know



that she loves you, but don't you think she deserves something uh nicer? I mean she puts up with you enough already, so give her something that will remind her of you, not something of you. Geez!

#2.) TROJAN MAN! Please, please, please and PLEASE! Do not get your girlfriend a box of condoms. Trust me, it is not the right "signal" to tell her that "Baby I'm ready!" She will dump you quicker than you could say, "I was kidding, I support abstinence 100%!"

#1.) A SCALE! Boys you should know better than to get a woman a scale! But just in case you thought, "Hey maybe she will like this hi-tech one," WRONG! Woman will be blinded to the newest technology of scales, and will only see that it is a devils product that constantly reminds them of how much they weigh!

### Top 5 Things NOT To Get Your Boyfriend for Christmas... I would hate to him if you gave him this!

- #5.) Unless your boy is big on the boy bands, you should pass on the idea of getting him an N\*Sync CD, or a free manicure and eyebrow waxing from Nail Genie, I am almost positive that he would rather you push him off a bridge!
- #4.) Do not name a star after him. It's way too masculine and he will kick himself in the butt for not thinking about it himself. So leave the mushy macho stuff to them.

#3.) A stuffed animal; I know that it is a cute thing to give your boyfriend, but it is Christmas give him something that he can use and



can brag to his friends about, no something he has to hide from them (can't ruin that macho image you know).

#2.) The same cologne you gave your ex-boyfriend last year. I know that woman can get attached to a certain male scent, but lets use our brains here, don't get him something you gave your ex-boy, it's not right and it's not fair.

#1.) A THONG! Ok, it is not sexy, and never will be. So save him the set of red cheeks (wink, wink) and just get him a regular set of boxers. He will be thankful that he doesn't have to model the thing in front of you!

# FEATURES

## UNITED WE STAND

**By: Marion Johnson**  
*Staff Writer*

In the every day mixing and mingling of cultures, ideas, and styles at James Logan, it is safe to say one thing still stands strong and bold, religion. James Logan's Youth Alive club makes sure that the students' religious needs are always taken care of and that there is always a place for students to turn to in time of need.

The club inspires students, mainly of the Christian population, to keep in contact with their religion. Ms. Cheryl Perez started it after her fourteenth year of teaching at Logan.

"Every year I see students who are going through difficult times or who have no hope. All I could do was pray, but now, with the club there, is a place they can go to seek help and find hope from other students," said Perez.

The club holds meetings every Tuesday after school where different students lead the prayers

with guitars and keyboards. The meetings consist of games, prayers, and most importantly support from peers with a



common interest. There are usually 22 to 35 students who attend: among the club officers Melanie Gallegos, Kindsey Perez, and Jason Wang. Club members also hold meetings at both

lunches for any students who wish to attend.

On the second Wednesday of every September, a nationally recognized religious day of appreciation, Youth Alive holds, "See You at the Pole Day." On these days, the club and any member, of any religion, can meet at the school's flagpole at 7:30 in the morning to pray for anything that they feel the need to pray for.

"We pray for God's protection over this school, for wisdom for the administrators and teachers, and of course for the students," said Perez.

At the meetings around the flagpole, any religion is invited to come and pray with the club and there have not been any conflict between the naturally caring Christians and any other religions that choose to spend time praying with them.

If there were conflicts, Perez is sure they would handle it with, "love, and understanding."

# FEATURES

## New games leave players satisfied

By Van Johnson  
Staff Writer

### Metroid Prime:

Metroid is more about retro running-&-gunning, with stunning visuals, an atmospheric soundtrack, and the standard action-game sound effects. The consistent “on-the-go” shoot`em up gameplay keeps gamers hooked and eager to advance to see what’s ahead.

The fun factor is very obvious in this one: it keeps you wanting to continue playing. The scanning does get tedious at times and you do tire of being forced to watch the same cutscene



continuously before restarting once you die. But the graphics and sound, complimented by a constant go-



go-go action gameplay, make this is a must-have first-person view game!

### Starfox Adventures:

Rare definitely used the summer they had to fix Starfox Adventures. The thing they definitely needed to *carina of Time*. Another similar aspect to *Zelda* games is the gameplay. It was obviously based off of *Zelda* like almost every other Adventure game to date.

If you like *Zelda* at all, you will love this game too. A good aspect of *Starfox's* gameplay was Tricky, Fox's annoying dog-like dinosaur who helps solve the puzzles with

his commands. Although he does get annoying, he does definitely contribute to the puzzles.

It could also be classified as a puzzle game, with little actual fighting (like in *Zelda*, also) and more mysteries. Aside from the boss fights, not much skill is required

to play except the ability to solve puzzles. If you like puzzle games, buy it!



Art work courtesy of Nintendo's website; games provided by Nintendo for purpose of review

# FEATURES

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## LOUDERMILK COMES TO LOGAN

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# SPORTS

## Kings vs. Lakers; the game to watch

By **Vikram Dhesi**  
*Staff Writer*

The best gift for any NBA fan this holiday will be the Kings/Lakers game on December. 25 at 5:30 p.m. on ABC.

Last year both teams faced-off in a seven game series. The Lakers won, but not in a convincing fashion. The Lakers won the last game in overtime on June 2 sending the Lakers to its third championship. Even though the Kings had home court advantage the Lakers still found ways to win. In game four in Lakers'. Robert Horry hit a clutch three-pointer at the buzzer to win. This time,

the Kings are looking to make some clutch shots of their own.

The Sacramento Kings need their forward Chris Webber to continue to play strong until the end of the game. The former Michigan Wolverine did not come through in last years playoffs. Also the Kings do not know if Mike Bibby will be playing in this game because he has been injured since pre-season; Bibby has carried his team in last year's playoffs because the Lakers did not have an answer to his consistent scoring. Just like last season the big question is "can Vlade Divas, the starting center of the Sacramento King stop Shaquille O'Neal". If so, the Kings should win with out any major problems.

The Lakers need Shaq and Kobe to come through again and again. Both were outstanding last year, with Shaq wining his 3rd Finals MVP and Kobe winning the 2002 All-Star game MVP. Even if Kobe and Shaq are playing well, they still need help.

The help will have to come from Rick Fox. Fox does not need to put up many points, but he needs to hit them in the clutch when the game is on the line. This is a big game for the three-time defending world champions because they know if they are going to win four straight titles, the Lakers will have to beat the fast-paced Kings.

## Secret to the Superbowl: the draft

By **Vikram Dhesi**  
*Staff*

*Writer*  
Don't

believe the hype on Draft Day. Many general managers make the mistake of doing so, spending millions of dollars on college players who can't play at the speed NFL level. Now when it comes to the NFL Draft teams

are scared of over rating player and giving them a big pay day poor performance on and off the field. More focus is put into draft selection processes then on most daily practices because teams now feel the best way to win is by choosing carefully at the draft. Another reason teams view the draft as important is the salary cap,

which makes it hard to sign free agents and keep players. With so many soon-to-be NFL player over-rated this means there are many players under-rated as well. Look at today's NFL Players to put draft selection in perspective.  
pick

| Team          | Player                | Year | Rating      |
|---------------|-----------------------|------|-------------|
| Cincinnati    | Warrick, Peter WR     | 2000 | over rated  |
| NY Giants     | Dayne, Ron RB         | 2000 | over rated  |
| Cincinnati    | Smith, Akili QB       | 1999 | over rated  |
| Chicago       | NcNown, Cade QB       | 1999 | over rated  |
| San Diego     | Leaf, Ryan QB         | 1998 | over rated  |
| Chicago       | Enis, Curtis RB       | 1998 | over rated  |
| Oakland       | Russell Darrell DT    | 1997 | over rated  |
| St. Louis     | Phillips, Lawrence RB | 1996 | over rated  |
| Oakland       | Dudley, Rickey TE     | 1996 | over rated  |
| San Francisco | Stokes, J.J. WR       | 1995 | over rated  |
| Denver        | Davis, Terrall        | 1995 | under rated |
| New England   | Brown, Troy WR        | 1993 | under rated |
| San Diego     | Green, Trent QB       | 1993 | under rated |
| San Francisco | Beasley, Fred FB      | 2000 | under rated |
| UNDRAFTED     | Garcia, Jeff QB       | 1999 | under rated |