Upcoming in the art department

Stephanie Norman
Co-Editor

This summer, the art department has been asked to do by the Rails of Trails Committee and will be done by the end of summer,” Art Instructor Susan Moore said.

They have an area of approximately 30 feet high and 40 feet wide to work with and Sherwin Williams has agreed to donate paint and supplies to the art department, Moore said.

The theme of the acrylic painting will be “based on all the things we are going to seek people doing on the Trail De Paris,” Moore said.

Final exam schedule

Final exams will be conducted according to the schedule below

Monday, May 4, 2009
Exams are to be given for all Mon. - Wed. classes regularly meeting at these periods:
8:25 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.
11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
6 - 9 p.m. (All Monday evening classes)

Tuesday, May 5, 2009
Exams are to be given for Tues. - Thurs. classes regularly meeting at these periods:
8:25 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.
11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
6 - 9 p.m. (All Tuesday evening classes)

Wednesday, May 6, 2009
Exams are to be given for all Mon. - Wed. classes regularly meeting at these periods:
9:50 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.
1 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.
6 - 9 p.m. (All Wednesday evening classes)

Thursday, May 7, 2009
Exams are to be given for all Tues. - Thurs. classes regularly meeting at these periods:
9:50 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.
1 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.
6 - 9 p.m. (All Thursday evening classes)

Friday, May 8, 2009
Exams are to be given for all Friday classes during regular meeting times.

Library hours during finals

The library on the PJC campus will have its doors open for students until midnight to study for final exams on Sunday May 3, until Wednesday May 6. Refreshments will be available.
Opinion

Size doesn’t matter

RANDI JOHNSON and STEPHANIE NORMAN
Staff Writers

A rush of nerves and excitement built at the Texas intercollegiate Press Association convention a fortnight ago in Dallas as two amateurs embarked on a competition where the odds of taking any prize are slim. We are those two amateurs. Call it beginner’s luck if you will, but we were stunned when our names were called at the awards ceremony.

We are members of The Bat, the Paris Junior College newspaper, as well as writers for The Paris News.

Walking into a room filled with 50 other new faces and observing our opponents, an overwhelming feeling of being out of place over took us. We were a team that was rarely travel outside Paris. As we walked so far, that at one point we thought we were lost somewhere on the streets of Dallas. We couldn’t even see the huge hotel that we were staying in, nor did we have any transportation besides our feet.

Soon enough, we found our way back and jotted down some words explaining our photographs in depth with many details. We were sure that this competition was a waste of our time because we thought there was no possible way two beginners could wipe out four-year university students with tons of experience.

Saturday morning rolled around, and we sat patiently at the awards ceremony. As they introduced the winners of our section, photo essay, we just shook our heads as they first announced the runners up with honorable mentions. We tuned the presenters out because we were convinced we were doomed.

“First place winners are —” the announcers said. “Randi Johnson and Stephanie Norman of Paris Junior College.”

We stared at each other; flabbergasted. No words made it out of our open mouths as we about fell out of our chairs with our instructor, Sharon Dennehy, cheering with excitement.

We did it! Two amateur photographers won first place at the annual TIPA convention. We, as a team, proved that “size doesn’t matter.”

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Proposed gun bills cause campus worries

MARTA GOERTE, Co-Editor

St. George Tucker, a lawyer, scholar, judge and politician

in the mid 1700s and early 1800s once said, “In America we may reasonably hope that the people will never cease to regard the right of keeping and bearing arms as the surest pledge of their liberty.”

It seems as if the second amendment to the U.S. Constitution, “The right to bear arms,” is being questioned by many. Is banning guns really the answer to preventing violence in today’s society? As far as I’m concerned, banning guns only disarms the innocent.

Do people really think a sign saying “no guns beyond this point” is going to stop a criminal from carrying one? I don’t think so. It only assures the criminal that he will more than likely be the only one with a gun. No state license is required to possess a rifle, shotgun or handgun, but there are many people who would rather have a gun on a college campuses.

As of right now, Texas campuses are gun-free zones, but House Bill 1893 and Senate Bill 1164 have been introduced in the Texas legislature and if the legislation passes, it would allow a student over the age of 21, who has a concealed handgun license, to carry a gun on a college campuses.

Otho Bowmer, PJC Chief of Security says, “It’s a bad situation and we’re better off without it, but whatever the law says, we’ll follow it.” He also says that the killer before he had a chance to kill anyone. This also raises concern that there could be shots coming from every direction, causing even more harm, not to mention it could leave the defenders liable for civil action in some states.

Would students being able to carry a gun on campus discourage someone from going on a killing spree? There’s obviously no way of physically stopping someone from carrying a gun on campus. However, legally allowing it may be a recipe for disaster.

LETTERS POLICY

The Bat welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed, double-spaced, signed, and include a telephone number. Mail letters to The Bat, 2400 Clarksville St., Paris, TX 75460. Letters will be edited for spelling, grammar, and libelous statements.

To reach staffers: 903-782-0321
sdennehy@parisjc.edu
Features

Photos take TIPA first place

The Bat staff attended the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association (TIPA), April 9-11, in Dallas. They competed against junior colleges and universities from across the state, in multiple categories. These five photos were taken by Randi Johnson and Stephanie Norman, of The Bat, in the Two-Person Photo Essay contest. The theme of the competition was “The Big City,” and they won first place.

Great experience but not competition worthy

Quentin Carpenter
Staff Writer

Who wouldn’t be excited to be on a bus heading to a $1.2 billion wonder of the NFL? Or how about having the chance to see the one-of-a-kind “I” shaped, center-hung scoreboard, which totals over 25,000 square feet of display area? What about seeing the largest retractable end zone doors in the world?

If that doesn’t excite you, surely just knowing you are heading to Arlington to visit the new home of the five-time Super Bowl winning Dallas Cowboys has to do it. But is having a sports writing and photography competition, centered on the construction of a stadium, really the best topic for sports writers?

I will cover players and coaches now and then, but covering the construction was not a very good topic for sports writing. At the same time, they believed that covering the construction was quite an honor. At the same time I felt some of the bickering was ridiculous. How many people get the chance to see a $1.2 billion stadium from the inside while it is still being built?

Most people have to go to the Cowboys website and look at pictures, but we were privileged enough to see it in person. I came into the competition with nearly zero experience in news writing in general and I had no real chance of winning. I got to see the stadium and I will probably brag about it to my friends for a long time.

One photographer said, “How are we supposed to take SPORTS photos in a place that has no SPORTS happening. Nothing in there is sports related: no coaches, no players, not even an equipment manager.” Several other photographers felt that it was a waste of what could have been a good competition.

I got the chance to see some of the photos that were taken, and it was pretty obvious that all the photographers had trouble finding shots they were comfortable with. The person sitting next to me had taken a picture of stadium seats, and another person just took a bunch of pictures of the big video board in the center of the stadium.

Now I can see the reasoning behind the negative responses to covering the stadium. Some of the contestants wanted awards and felt robbed of their chance to show their skills. Some people like to show awards off to family, and others just like having a memento showing they did a good job.

At the same time I felt some of the bickering was ridiculous. How many people get the chance to see a $1.2 billion stadium from the inside while it is still being built? Most people have to go to the Cowboys website and look at pictures, but we were privileged enough to see it in person.

I entered the competition with nearly zero experience in news writing in general and I had no real chance of winning so I was just happy to get a chance to see the stadium. I did my best to take the trip as a learning experience and try to pick up a few things from the more experienced writers.

After I got past the complaints, I ended up having some good conversations with the other people on the bus. Most of them in the end, agreed they were thankful they had the chance to come and see the new stadium. I am very happy to get to see the stadium and I will probably brag about it to my friends for a long time.

All that said, I really hope next year the people from TIPA do a better job of choosing a topic that will better suit sports writers and photographers. It is a shame the photographers never got to use their expensive cameras to catch real live sports action.

Photos take TIPA first place

Above, below and right: All three of these photos were taken by freshman Stephanie Norman. She is a Co-Editor of The Bat and also won second place in the Magazine Layout competition.

Above and below: Both of these photos were taken by sophomore Randi Johnson. She plans on continuing with journalism next year at Texas A&M University-Commerce.
Sara, Class of 2010

As a stay-at-home mom of two little girls, I needed a school that was accepting of second-time students. I found that at A&M-Commerce.