

THE PAGE

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL

WAITING FOR SUPERMAN

WILL ENSOR '12

Think back to when you were six years old. What were you doing? Whatever it was, it probably didn't involve running a triathlon. Consider Hunter Lussi ('12) the exception to the rule. When he was six years old Lussi competed in his first triathlon. It consisted of a 500 yard swim, a 10 mile bike, and a two and a half mile run. Lussi started running triathlons in 2000 with his father and he has never looked back. "I ran my first one and decided this was something I wanted to do," he explains.

Lussi became the youngest ironman competitor at ten. The Ironman requires completing an Olympic tri-

athlon which includes about a one mile swim, a 25 mile bike, and a 6 2/10 of a mile run. At 12 he was not quite ready for another Ironman, but he nonetheless competed in a half-ironman competition. In the competition he swam over a mile, biked 56 miles, and ran over 13 miles.

Not surprisingly, the training schedule is arduous. Lussi trains approximately three hours a day, seven days a week to prepare for his triathlons. His greatest accomplishment so far was realized when Sports Illustrated for Kids named him one of the top twenty athletes under twenty years old in May 2009.



FROM SPORTS ILLUSTRATED FOR KIDS MAY, 2009

"It was cool to be on the cover with so many other great athletes," he says, noting that sharing the cover with USC quarterback Matt Barkley, who was the first freshman quarterback to start at USC, was particularly satisfying. Lussi also hopes that his training will position him to compete for the United States Olympic triathlon team in the 2016 Olympics.

In the meantime, Lussi wants to spread the good word on campus. He hopes to have families from both the boy's and girl's schools compete during the third week of May. He also wants to challenge everyone to get more physical activity and exercise even

if it does not include triathlons. Ideally, Lussi says students should challenge themselves to get 20 hours of activity a week--parents can be included. Nationally, he would like to see Americans of all stripes catch the exercise craze. Lussi has written letters to former President George W. Bush, President Barack Obama, and former Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel to lobby for a "President's Triathlon for a Healthy America."

With federal money, Lussi says "he would like to see Triathlons happen every Labor Day." He points to the amount of money spent on healthcare and how this spending could be reduced with a healthier America, a point he makes in his letters. Lussi even has a website, <http://www.americastriforhealth.com>.

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POINT COUNTERPOINT: AFGHANISTAN WAR

BEN BRECKLER '11

This October 7th marked the nine-year anniversary of the United States war in Afghanistan. President George W. Bush originally sent troops to Afghanistan to ensure the safety of the American people and avenge the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Since then, the U.S. has spent \$2.4 trillion and expanded its agenda to other issues, such as eliminating the growth and export of opium, improving the education of Afghan children, and developing women's rights. At home, the war sparks debate over whether the money and lives we are devoting to Afghanistan are moving us any closer to the original goals of eliminating the Taliban and ensuring the safety of the American people. The U.S. uses a counterinsurgency tactic to fight the Taliban, but, as we learned in Vietnam, the U.S. army has not perfected this strategy and it is much harder to be successful with it than with conventional warfare. What adds to the skepticism at home is that counterinsurgency is not as simple as conquering a city. Its success is difficult to measure.

Nevertheless, there ought to be SOME tangible progress after nine years. How much longer are we willing to stay in Afghanistan? 10 years? 15 years? even 20 years?! Are we willing to pay another \$2.4 trillion while our own economy is trying to recover from a recession? Our country cannot afford this war which is doing little to achieve our initial goals. My counterpart argues that we must flood Afghanistan with more troops and watch more money quickly go down the drain. Neither pulling out of Afghanistan nor flooding it with more troops is an ideal choice. At this point we must choose the lesser of two evils. After studying the failed use of American counterinsurgency in Vietnam, and the Soviet Union's failed ten-year war in Afghanistan (sometimes called its own Vietnam War), it is obvious to me it is time to leave.

It could be argued that we should finish the job we started. I would argue that we never should have started this job in the first place. President Bush sent troops into Afghanistan prematurely and we must now deal with the unfortunate situation we are in. We went into Afghanistan without truly studying the past and we went in with a plan and future that were murky at best. Fast forward nine years and \$2.4 trillion later... we are fighting a war that costs \$1 million dollars per soldier per year while using tactics that have previously failed in Vietnam. These tactics endanger Afghan civilians and U.S. soldiers alike. Unless complete success is achieved, counterinsurgent tactics become increasingly dangerous as the war goes on to both civilians and soldiers. Their safety decreases dramatically as the war escalates, unless and until the war is won. What about the good things we are trying to achieve in health, education, and human rights? Military experts say that the U.S. has divided its attention among so many issues, it can not accomplish its main goals.

Even if we spent another decade in Afghanistan and tacked billions, or trillions, of dollars onto our current bill, we might not completely exterminate the Taliban. The Afghan Government still might not be strong enough to stand on its own. We must do what is best for the United States. At this point in time, we must withdraw our troops from Afghanistan.

ROBERT LUCIDO '11

The first thing that Americans must realize is that while withdrawal may be an answer it is most definitely not a strategy. The situation in which we leave the Middle East will dictate our national security. It will dictate the future stability of the region and the region's vulnerability to extremist behavior. We are in no position to retreat. Such a withdrawal would leave behind an Afghan power vacuum that the Taliban and Al-Qaeda are sure to seize once again.

These days, critics of the war often turn to the popular stance of isolationist foreign policy and urge for withdrawal. They argue that we should instead invest directly in our own national defense because spending money on another nation is foolish. The irony is that kind of foreign policy was implemented nine years ago with disastrous results. Remember, The World Trade Center Attacks on September 11 were not the first from Al-Qaeda. From 1993-2001, Al-Qaeda launched several attacks against the United States such as the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies, and the 2000 attack on the U.S.S. Cole in Yemen. In response to all of these attacks, the United States government enacted an isolationist policy in towards Afghanistan. Although Al-Qaeda had its headquarters in Afghanistan since 1996, we did not take up arms against them. We did not invade and instead focused on our own national defense, yet that was not enough to deter the attacks on 9/11. We all know why our isolationist policy came to an end.

Since invading Afghanistan, nine years into the war, there has not been a successful terrorist attack on U.S. soil. Why are people once again urging for a tactic that proved incapable of preventing 9/11? By invading Afghanistan we not only took a stand against terrorism, but we effectively took the fight into the terrorists' backyard. A retreat by our Armed forces would remove this presence that has been responsible for our safety. Leaving might also allow terrorist organizations to move back into Afghanistan, a perfect location for such organizations to rebuild. They would expand throughout the region, solidify their presence in society, and carry out attacks in other nations. Who wants to see that happen?

GETTING TO THE SMELLY TRUTH ABOUT STINK BUGS

NICK DOELLER '11

As the temperatures dipped with day-time highs in the 50s and 60s, the stink bugs seemed to be disappearing, I thought. Last week, when temperatures soared back in the seventies, they returned. Fluctuations in temperature determine when stink bugs invade....more on that later. First, I must tell you how I became obsessed with stink bugs.

This weekend I cleaned my car out. Sure, I had already thrown a few bugs that invaded the confines of my vehicle. But what did I find under my seat? Another stinky surprise. Eight little, brown, very unwelcome stink bugs were crawling inside of a hat. Up to this point I had enjoyed hearing Vincent Carbone rattle off the number of stink bugs he had pried of his car doors, a number that reached as high as 50. While my own automobile experience was nowhere near the tragedy of his war on stink bugs, my skirmish with them has forced me to reevaluate my stance. Now, every time I leave my car windows down, more appear on the inside of my windshield. Whatever happened to the fun insect invasions like cicadas?

The brown marmorated stink bug was first found in the U.S. in Allentown, Pennsylvania in 1998. Since that time they have spread to states all along the East Coast with established populations in 15 states and have been identified in 29 states. This year, their population has increased exponentially. While they seem to be only a harmless nuisance and distraction for most of us, farmers are being affected the worst by the population explosion. This year the stink bugs have devastated crops particularly the apple crop in Maryland. The bugs' straw-like mouth produces a puncture wound in fruit and vegetables leaving them susceptible to rot and diseases. Without intervention their effect will continue to worsen.

The "epidemic" and resulting attack on crops has exploded into such grand proportions that lawmakers are being forced into action. Congressman Roscoe Bartlett (R-Maryland), backed by a bi-partisan group of Representatives from Pennsylvania and other Mid-Atlantic states, is taking action to help farmers. The group has requested \$3 million in funds for research into controlling the bug population. On September 22, these politicians sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa P. Jackson pleading for permission to allow farmers the use of unapproved pesticides on crops; the House members wrote, "both farmers and our local economies face profound harm if we fail to take action; damage from this insect could prove to be a national crisis." The stink bugs certainly do not discriminate by region; they have been found in New Hampshire, California, and Florida. They will eat and damage any type of food crops, even field corn necessary to feed dairy cows, maple trees and other ornamentals.

Congressional meetings with the USDA and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have resulted in the reclassification of the stink bugs as a "regulated pest." Congressman Bartlett's latest press release on the stink bugs also states that, "USDA-APHIS will request EPA approval under

Section 18 of the Federal Fungicide Insecticide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) for permission for farmers to apply pesticides found to be effective at limiting damage to crops attacked by the stink bug during the 2011 growing season." Approval would allow for the unregistered use of pesticides for a limited time in order to combat the invasive pest.

Sure, they cannot bite or sting. It's true: they hardly even smell. Nevertheless, the brown marmorated stink bug has become the most abundant pest in our area in years. It threatens to attack trees, plants, and food crops across America. Resistant to most pesticides, and with no natural predators, stink bugs seem to be here to stay in vast proportions until lawmakers and researchers come up with a solution to the problem.

Winter should, of course, drive them away. But they will be seeking shelter wherever they can: homes, businesses, garages, etc. Dealing with the infestation in homes is limited to sealing up holes, keeping windows and doors shut, and combating them with glue traps and vacuums. We can only hope a solution will be found soon.



STINK BUG SOLUTIONS

MIKE ANDERSON '11

As usual, my Saturday during this fall break started off simple. I practiced martial arts in the morning, picked up groceries for my folks on the ride back (they just love to take advantage of that once you start driving!), and spent a couple of hours trying to make headway through the dense pile of college applications. But the fun had yet to begin.

As a short break, I went into the living room to practice a few new songs that I've been learning on the piano. No sooner had I began warming up, then I felt something sharp slam into the side of my head, making an incessant sound like a mini-chain saw. Looking around wildly, I spot the intruder sprawled out on the floor – a disgusting stinkbug the size of a nickel. After I had taken care of the pest, only a minute seemed to have passed before the same thing happened again: a stink bug hit the back of my neck causing me to jump up and spin around on the spot, trying to kill the sucker as quickly as possible. Now irritated, I look around and discover that they are coming in droves through the living room fireplace. I got to spend the rest of the hour sucking up the critters with a handheld vacuum in one hand while trying to seal off the fireplace. I even tried turning on the gas-powered fire but like a plague out of the Bible, they were not to be deterred.

The fun didn't stop there. I later went outside to help my father check the engine on his Dodge truck, which hadn't been running well at all recently. Turns out, it wasn't the engine's fault. The minute we opened the hood, at least 30 stink bugs swarmed out of the engine like a massive black cloud and flew off into the woods. Needless to say, the supplies of pine tree scented odorizers have done little to eliminate that ugly smell.

So what can be done in order to protect ourselves against this epidemic? Apparently, vacuuming them is the only solution. Stinkbugs are such a resilient annoyance that they are immune to most pesticides on the market, save for soap spray. They are determined to find the place to hide out during the winter and that unfortunately means our homes and offices. Officials recommend proofing your house by having a professional exterminator come through to seal off the openings within the house. As for cars, I have found that mothballs for some reason keep them from hibernating under the hood.

Until the first frost comes, we're just gonna have to sit back with a vacuum cleaner in one hand, soap spray in the other, and pray to God they don't make your Xbox their home.

FLAKY FOR FLACCO? MAYBE

TOM CHEEK '11

Joe Flacco has taken the Baltimore Ravens to the playoffs his first two years as an NFL quarterback. But he has yet to take them to a Super Bowl. The question fans might be asking themselves is: What makes this year any different?

As he enters his third NFL season, Flacco not only has more experience. He has also worked hard over the summer and made some tweaks to his game. One of the major changes was the addition of new quarterback coach Jim Zorn, the former coach of the Washington Redskins. Going from a head coach to a QB coach in one year is a huge difference and a big gain for Flacco.

A few weeks ago Flacco easily lit up the Cleveland Browns. He already established a good connection between he and new receiver Anquan Boldin, throwing three touchdowns all to him. It is clear that he has weapons around him, as this is the best offense he has ever looked coming into the 14th year of the franchise.

Flacco has to be the ring leader this year. The thing that makes the difference between last year and this year is small: the pump fake. The big win against AFC North rival Pittsburgh is clear evidence towards how Flacco is maturing as a QB. With the touchdown in the final minute of the game to give the Ravens a 17-14 win at Hienz field, which was the biggest game so far. Everyone was probably wondering how T.J. Houshmanzada got that wide



PICTURE BY TJ ROOT

open, and if you saw it from a different view you would know. Houshmanzada was running an out route, covered by a defender, but Flacco utilized his pump fake, gets that corner to bite who jumps in front of Houshmanzada. He then runs straight to the back of the end zone. Flacco places it nicely over the top. Touchdown. Ravens Win.

The one thing that makes Flacco an elite quarterback is his size. I went to the Denver Broncos game on October 10th, and even though there were no passing touchdowns there were some things that stuck out. His 58 yard pass to rookie Tight End Ed Dickson was something that the fans in Baltimore have not seen. A quarterback with an arm, who can throw accurately! (Even though Kyle Boller had an arm he couldn't throw accurately). Another play that really stuck out was when Flacco drops back to pass for about a second and a half, tucks the ball and takes off up the middle. The first down was a solid 8 or 9 yards away and he lowers his shoulder into a Broncos linebacker and makes the first down.

To summarize: He is fearless, not afraid to take a hit, and throws to at least six or seven different receivers every game. The offensive linemen are blocking and are the best we have seen in a while. We have a running back that can open up the play action pass. This year may not be a breakout year on paper for Flacco, but this will be the best year he is going to have, expect a Super Bowl.

BRIDGES KICKBALL FUNDRAISER GROSSES \$7,667

TYLER SPARKS '11

On October 2nd, 150 players, consisting of fourteen teams, gathered on Tullai Field for the Second Annual Bridges Kickball Classic. The day began with a duet of the National Anthem sung by Bridges graduates Dakari Dawkins and Aaron Bell. Following an explanation of the rules, participants, including students and faculty from St. Paul's, students and graduates from the Bridges program, and other members of the local community, rushed to the playing fields, ready for some playground-style kickball.

The action on the playing fields intensified during the semi-finals when an SP senior-filled team, the Grasskickers, faced the personal fitness trainers of Team Nudell. In walk-off fashion, the Grasskickers advanced to the finals; Austin Sauter stated, "I was happy we won. Playing Team Nudell was more intense than the championship game." On the other side of the field, Team Fresh-Soph Soccer 2009, a formidable force, ousted the SPSG Varsity Girls Soccer team in the semis. The underdog Team, Fresh-Soph Soccer 2009, triumphed over the number one seeded Grasskickers in the championship game 11-10. "I'm disappointed we didn't win," said Brock Reich, the lead-off kicker on the Grasskickers, "but the point of the tourney is to raise money, and that is what we did."

The outcome of the event was an overwhelming success. Sponsors such as the Baltimore Ravens, the Baltimore Orioles, Meadow Mill Athletic Club, and many more donated a variety of great raffle prizes, including a T.J. Houshmanzadeh signed football. Great music provided by DJ Owen Millard boomed across the fields as an abundance of PB&J sandwiches were consumed at lunch. Most importantly, an astounding \$7,667 was raised for the Bridges program. Nate Shade commented, "It was the perfect day for a hard fought tournament aimed towards a good cause."

FROM THE MOUTH OF DODSON

JUSTIN DODSON '11

Don't you love it when teachers just go through their routines and assign an unthinkable amount of homework? I really LOVE when that happens.

This past week, for instance, we had a 6-page history paper due. OK. Under ordinary circumstances I can handle that; However, when Mr. Stine drops three insane webassigns on us, Ms. Bean slams us with an Othello commentary and Mr. Anderson throws an essay at us (which I had no idea how to write) and Mr. Thorpe decides to have a graded homework that took a good three hours is what we need.....

You get the picture. Now all of a sudden I am stuck with homework in every class and an important Ravens game to watch on Sunday. Since we all procrastinate, I had little time to accomplish it all. Why does this happen? We had a multitasking homeroom this morning and it proved that we are incapable of multitasking. Unfortunately, when we are forced to accomplish so many things in a given period of time, we have no choice but to scramble in order to finish. The teachers need to ease up on this academic senior smacking. They should at least give us a little more notice as to when these huge assignments will be due.

Another thing that has been really ticking me off lately is the freshman in the lower hallway of the Upper School. I mean, they come in and sit down in the hall, and then proceed to extend their legs as far across the hallway as they can.... When you combine this with the legs of the other kid directly across from him it makes it darn near impossible to navigate through the basement hallway before school starts! Can't you find an open room to sit and talk or something? Must you freshmen

continue to block the entire hall ?!

On a similar note, the crowds between classes and chapel in the Upper School are starting to get a little out of hand. People with their enormous backpacks are going to bunch up with their friends and, again, block the entire hallway. Is it necessary to literally form a wall across the hallway or can you take it somewhere else? Just curious.

Most of this column has been negative because I have been in a pretty ticked off mood lately and little things like blocking the hallways are starting to get to me. However, there are some good things that have happened over the past few weeks. The Ravens are winning, the Bengals and the Browns are losing, and Brett Favre advanced his season to 2-3. Oh, and the Varsity Volleyball team romped Boys' Latin at home in four sets. But besides these things, I can't really think of many more positives. SO, can the freshman, or sophomores, or whomever is doing it stop blatantly forming a barrier in the hallways???

THE SOCIAL NETWORK SATISFIES A GENERATION

BRAD MUTCHNIK '12

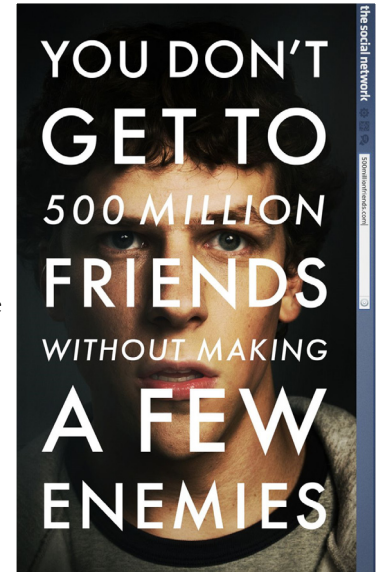
The Facebook phenomenon has taken our generation by storm. It is our main form of communication. It lets people know what we are up to, and it even lets us know who is single or who is dating. So why not make a movie about the guys who created Facebook?

The Social Network takes a twist on the “American Dream” having Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg) chase the product rather than the money. He “steals” the idea of Facebook from two Harvard rowers, Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss (Armie Hammer), and creates it with his best friend Eduardo Saverin (Andrew Garfield) and his roommate Dustin Moskovitz (Joseph Mazzello). The website spreads too many schools across the country and gets recognized by the founder of Napster, Sean Parker (Justin Timberlake). As Facebook takes off, money, greed, power, paranoia, and success take over and damage these characters lives.

The Social Network examines the genius behind the website. The screenplay, written by Aaron Sorkin, allows the audience to acknowledge the genius behind Facebook and its creators, but allows you to judge them. Jesse Eisenberg, Andrew Garfield, and Justin Timberlake do a brilliant job of demonstrating their character’s social weaknesses, such as paranoia and greed. David Fincher does, as usual, a great job of keeping the audience guessing each character’s actions throughout the entire

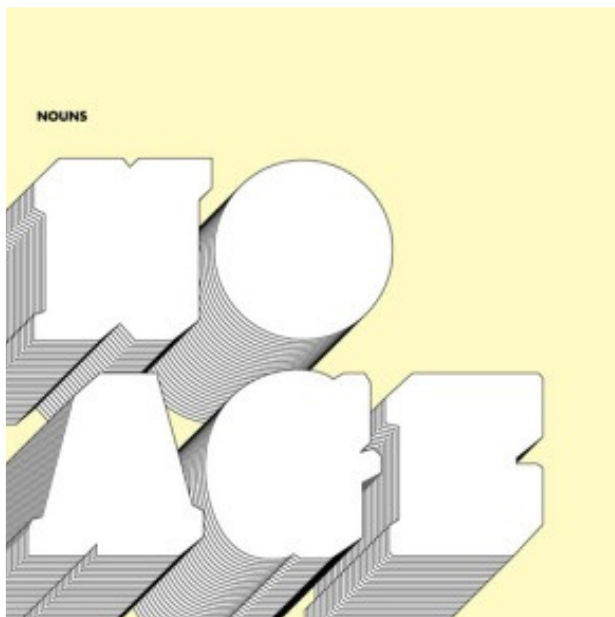
movie. But the movie’s greatest achievement is characterizing Mark Zuckerberg as a socially awkward computer genius who creates a revolution by harassing his ex-girlfriend online. It is hard to believe that the guy who just donated \$100 million to Newark public schools, could be so cruel to people...

The Social Network takes a look at a genius’ creation and obsession with product rather than money. The irony is that the biggest social communicating tool of our generation was created by a socially awkward, computer geek. The Social Network is a fast paced, entertaining, and ,perhaps, one of the more relevant movies of our generation.



NO AGE? NO DOUBT: L.A. INDIE BAND BRINGS THE NOISE

TIPHER FISHER '12



The most recent album by the Los Angeles- based noise rock band, No Age, redefines one of the most ambiguous bands dumped under the broad category of Indie Rock. Their third Studio LP, “Everything In Between” combines a faster punk sound with their classic overdriven simple chord progressions and their melodic, sometimes apathetic, vocals. Much of No Age’s originality, especially in “Everything In Between,” stems

from their ability to compose simple melodies out of musical elements seldom embraced by other artists. The feedback, over the top reverb, and the use of unintelligible samples are just a few examples. The artsy, often experimental duo, has a keen ability to make “full” sounding music through only a drum set, a guitar, and a myriad of effects.

Although their new album occasionally sounds similar to their previous recordings, “Everything In Between’s” second track, “Glitter” is a perfect example of how their music is changing. The song opens with a drum beat fitting for a pop rock song. But as soon as you start to think you played the wrong song, No Age shows their true colors as a shrill, strung-out tune takes over on what sounds like a guitar being played with a violin bow.

Then a crack of sanity and structure makes its way through the chaotic mess as Dean Allen Sprunt, drummer and vocalist of No Age, begins to sing. Sprunt sings with a voice that sounds more like spoken word being recited over a perfectly accompanying riot of noise. This “riot of noise” sounds like an incomprehensible cavalcade of even more baffling noises. Yet, the sounds somehow come together to form a blissful sounding confusion.

No Age has always been composing music by combining “layers of noise” (to put it simply), which is, afterall, what makes them a noise rock band. But No Age is also spreading its wings, so to say, and using all sorts of different musical styles to soar somewhere new and interesting.

STANLEY PLUMLY: INSIDE THE HEAD OF A POET

RYAN BELTON '12

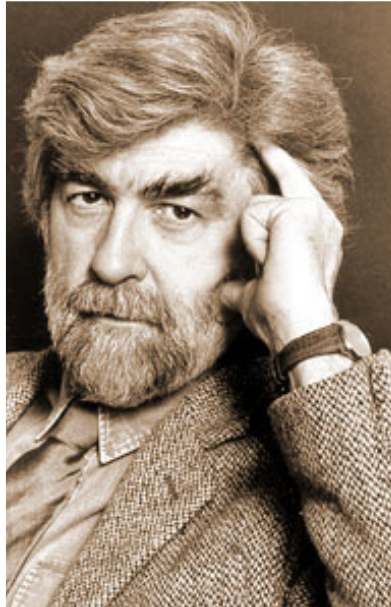
On Thursday October 14, Stanley Plumly, the poet laureate for the state of Maryland and professor at the University of Maryland, visited the Scheffenacker Library to discuss his poems with some of our English students. After his visit, during which he answered questions and read some of his poems, I sat down with Mr. Plumly for a short interview.

The Page: How often do you give these talks, and do you give more at schools or other places?

Plumly: "I give them all the time, and everywhere. I give them to everyone everywhere."

The Page: Do you speak more for your poetry, or as the poet laureate?"

Plumly: "Neither, both. I am a poet, and as the laureate, I am merely representing all poets, in a sense."



The Page: In a way you are Maryland's Poetry ambassador?

Plumly: "Well, yes, I am speaking on behalf of poets."

The Page: When writing your poetry, do you need total control over your environment, or can you write them anywhere?"

Plumly: "I write in quiet. Really, poetry is about tranquility, so for me, having little disturbances is essential."

The Page: Who would you consider to be your greatest inspiration?"

"...My parents, yeah, my parents."

Stanley Plumly is part of the English Department's public speakers series, and hopefully the first of many

FOOTBALL LIGHTS UP FALLFEST

ALEX NICKOL '13

For the first time in the history of St. Paul's School, a home football game took place at night under shimmering lights. The October 15 football game was the beginning of Fall Fest, a time for the community to unite in fun and games. The rides had already been set up, and were glistening in the cool night air. The lights that the school had rented were surrounding the field, illuminating it with their brightness. It was time to put on a show that had never been seen before for the entire St. Paul's Schools.

I thought "Under the Lights" football showcases the game in a very dramatic way. The energy is completely different from that of a day game. The entire bleachers are pulsing with excitement as the lights turn on and a pleasant breeze dances through the air. After the Concert Chorale sang the National Anthem, you could feel the intensity surge through the student body. No game would be complete without the spirit generated by the school mascot, the Crusader, striding into battle in his gleaming armor. Our opponent for the special event was St. Francis Academy, and it soon became apparent that the Crusaders were the dominant team. The evening ended with a 54-0 blowout. Many of us would have enjoyed seeing a more competitive game. I must admit that by the end I was feeling very sympathetic for St. Frances, even though I was glad St. Paul's earned another victory. The Crusaders stayed classy, even during total domination.

There were many opportunities to enjoy the rides and grab a bite to eat around the football game. The field goal kicking competition at halftime also proved to be a fun experience for students to participate in and watch. It was a chance for kids who are not normally part of a football team to test out their field goal kicking skills.

"Friday Night Lights" at St. Paul's is something that all of us would like to see as a new tradition. It's an opportunity for St. Paul's School, St. Paul's School for Girls, family, and friends to gather as a community and cheer our team on to victory.



PICTURE BY TJ ROOT

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