Markville’s Student Council has been very busy planning exciting events for the upcoming weeks ahead! A fresh semester brings more opportunities for the rest of the grades to catch up in the school’s Rep Your Grade competition. The next big Rep Your Grade event will be held to raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. On March 12, 2009 there will be a buy in during 5th period for students to go skating and participate in fun activities, as stated before all proceeds will be going to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. This is a great opportunity to get active, make a difference and boost your grade’s points!

Markville’s very own Semi Formal is fast approaching. This year the semi formal will be held at Grand Baccus Banquet Hall on Thursday the 26th of March. This year’s exciting theme is Alice and Wonderland, the name of the formal is:

A Mad Hatter’s Ball “Paint the Roses Red”

Just a reminder, this is only the theme, you do NOT need to dress accordingly to the theme of the dance, but it is always fun to. The theme is mainly for decorations. The tickets will be selling in the student store for $40 during the first week of sales and $45 during the second week. So get your tickets at the early bird price before they sell out!

Student Council is open to your feedback. Now at the student store, there will be a poll available so that we can get the student body’s opinion. As you guys heard on the announcements, we have already had a poll for morning music, but there will be many more things to vote on so stay tuned and visit the student store!
Sophisms: The Paradox of Logic

By: Bryan Barker

Humans are truly one of the most unique species on the face of the earth. Beyond our physical structure, like our opposable thumbs, we are the only organisms that understand the complexity of our brains. Although we share the knowledge of survival (instincts) with many other species, we are the only living things that can calculate, predict, and interpret our surroundings – both in mathematical abstractions and in physical exploration.

Indeed, our logic is the forefront of our evolution. However, logic is only as valid as it is perceived, and thus, can be manipulated under wrong communications. The means by which someone manipulates facts or information through language conventions is commonly known as sophistry, in a classical sense.

Sophistry is relevant everywhere you go. Some forms of common media use sophistry as a tactic to create attention and often attempt to denature facts when they communicate it. Even more so, mathematical and statistical data can be expressed in such a fashion that the truth of a survey or the data has been portrayed to conform to an idea and to mask its true meaning.

On the other hand, sophistry can be used to create some of the most interesting brainteasers. These types of brainteasers express numbers and language in such a way that the reader becomes confused.

Here is one puzzling example made through sophistry. Can you answer the question?

“A customer in a bookstore wants to buy a book that is worth $3. When paying, he gives the bookstore clerk a $10 bill. The bookstore clerk has no change, and, in order to get change, runs across the street to the record-store where the record-store clerk gives the bookstore clerk ten $1 bills in exchange for the $10 bill. The bookstore clerk returns and gives the customer the $3 book and seven $1 bills in change. Later that day, the record-store clerk brings back the $10 bill, claiming it to be a counterfeit. To make up for this, the bookstore clerk gives the record-store clerk ten $1 bills and takes back the counterfeit $10 bill. How much did the bookstore lose?”

**Keep reading for the answer!**

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Teens and the Recession

By: Humera Rehman

November, 2008-
Canada sees over 71, 000 jobs disappear. Two months later, the total stands at 145, 000. The same month, our economy shrinks by 0.7%. Canada’s last recession ended in 2001, and statistics indicate that we are again facing hard times, economically speaking. For teens, this recession is both a boon and a burden.

Most teens receive the majority of their spending money from allowances and part time jobs. These resources can be expected to shrink. With parents facing possible unemployment and
declining values of investments, allowances are sure to shrink. The job market offers no respite either. Teens are considered marginal employees. As a group we are dependent at least partially on other income earning individuals (parents or guardians). In comparison with the rest of the labor force, we are unskilled and inexperienced, which is why those teens who work hold entry level positions. In 2007, nearly 22% of those who earned minimum wage were teens. With a shrinking economy, it will become harder for teens to find and maintain jobs. Faced with this dilemma, it only makes sense to pursue some other source of income. Present times allow for this. As people look for ways to save money, they are more likely to hire students to perform tasks that they would have otherwise paid adults more to do. Yard work and tutoring are examples. University students benefit more, as student run clinics, restaurants, and stores offer a steep bargain.

This recession offers teens a chance to learn valuable lessons now. Paul Golden, spokesman for the National Endowment for Financial Education, urges teens to be prepared by creating a "rainy day" fund. Stashing a little money away for when you really need it is always a good philosophy, but holds especially true in these uncertain times. Golden also calls students to learn to prioritize needs versus wants, a concept that will serve them later on as well. Jack Kosakowski, president of Junior Achievement USA, said that the economic situation shows how many adults lack enough information to fully understand finances. Teens should wizen up now and learn from their parent’s mistakes.

In the end, the basics of good financial planning hold true, and the present climate allows teens to learn lesson they would have otherwise learned much later in life. While a recession is best avoided, teens can use this to their advantage by learning how to best handle their money. Recession or not, these skills will always come in handy.

Valentine`s Day: Necessary or Not?
By: Catherine Ma

During the nineteenth century, Valentine’s Day was initially adopted into popular society. Over time, this holiday has redefined itself to create the formal practice it has become nowadays. The sole purpose intended for Valentine’s Day was to put aside everyday conflicts and celebrate love. However throughout the recent years of mindless consumerism, this once meaningful holiday has evolved into a commerical fraud.

Amid the holiday season, retail companies boost their prices astronomically, preying upon the clueless population. Holiday-themed merchandise, including cards, flowers, chocolates, confectionery and jewelry are sold. For instance, chocolates can cost up to $300; flowers $100 and so forth. Even more remarkable is how quickly these overpriced items are bought. This buying rate promotes further commercial scams, as illustrated with continually increasing prices, expectations and profit. Erased are the borders between love and lust in our media-orientated lives. The media has permentantly etched the belief that love must equal sex. It has also promoted homophobia. As a result of homophobia, numerous people don’t send friends valentines, caused by the fear of being labelled a “lesbian”, “homosexual”, “bi-sexual” or various other degrading terms. Deemed by the narrow-minded, “wrong relationships” are unable to flourish, including friendships with members of either the same or opposing gender.

Although Valentine`s Day’s commercialism is due to a deficit of time, rather than lack of devotion, this holiday has seemingly lost all
With the departure of sentimental moments announces the arrival of hastily wrapped, last-minute gifts. With continually levels of commercialism, homophobia and lack of time, interest in this holiday continues to dwindle. Whether Valentine’s Day has the strength to withstand the mounting pressures in our fast paced lives is unknown.

Maybe. Probably not.

O-BA-MA

By: Savoula Stylianou

We all know his name, we all know his face, his poster is seen every time you turn the corner in the History hallway. His name? Obama. Barack Obama.

Millions upon millions watched as President-Elect Obama became President Obama on Tuesday, January 20th, 2009. If you watched, you had to have become emotional. If you didn’t, you had to be in outer space or in a coma. So what is this reporter here to argue? That Barack Obama is the best thing to happen to American politics since Abe Lincoln.

Harold and Kumar fans will be atrociously disappointed to find out that one of the first actions the President has taken is to abolish Guantanamo Bay. Gone, finito, kaput. In doing this he hopes to re-establish a new court system to replace the unusually cruel punishment previously used during the Bush administration.

Secondly, President Obama has made plans to give 20 million dollars in the world humanitarian endeavour in Gaza. Not only did he go to Kenya during his recent term whilst Bush did not, he is helping to aid the current situation down there. Furthermore, one of Barack Obama’s first accomplishments in the oval office was in the direction of furthering women’s rights. He has made the wise decision to give funding to abortion clinics and birth control so as to provide women with a choice that should never have been taken away from them in the first place.

That is what Obama has already done. And if that wasn’t substantial enough, there are some things that the new President of the United States has in progress. For example, the new 798 billion dollar plan which he plans to use to jumpstart the economy. This crucial and indispensable new bill is necessary in order to ensure kids of the future will not be learning about “The Great Depression of ’09”.

Bipartisanship in this state of times is vital in the times America is facing.

And we are their neighbours. So what happens down there affects us as well. Everyone is familiar with the Canadian economic downfall that Stephen Harper has tried to fix in his own, unaccommodating way. If Mr. Prime Minister would learn to accept the idea of bipartisanship and work with the Liberals and leader Michael Ignatieff, then maybe Canada could become a nation of change too.

Sources:
http://www.opednews.com/articles/President-Obama-and-Women-by-Peggy-Simpson-090130-525.html
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090210/ap_on_go_pr_wh/obama
**BACK TO OUR SOPHISM BRAINTEASER! HERE’S THE ANSWER!**

To answer that question, the bookstore lost $10. Recall that the bookstore clerk received nothing for the $3 book, since the payment was void. This means the bookstore already lost $3. The bookstore clerk then received ten actual dollars from the record store and gave the customer $7, thus, leaving the bookstore with $3 remainder. From the lost book and the amount of money the bookstore kept from the change, they made no money. Then, when the record-store clerk came with the fake $10 bill, the bookstore clerk returned the $3 they kept in change plus an additional $7 for the difference. Hence, the bookstore, with no net profit from the sale, gave $10 to the record-store, therefore leaving the bookstore in deficit of $10.

From that question, many people realize that it is fairly easy to get tangled in the prose of a scenario, so much so that they miss out on the concrete facts. Most people would actually answer $13 to the question above, which further proves how one can be misled by a specific paragraph. As a result, sophistry can be very manipulative and, in the case of brainteasers, can be rather interesting.

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**Travel Smart, Travel the Shaheer-way!**

By: Shaheer Naeem

Spring Break is fast approaching, so let’s go somewhere! We can escape the cold and go somewhere warm! A lot of people fly south, into the Caribbean, the United States, and sometimes even South America. That’s great! So in this issue, let’s fly south. Here are the top 10 destinations from Captain Shaheer!

10. Sao Paulo
9. Santiago
8. Puerto Vallarta
7. Kingston
6. Nassau
5. Bermuda
4. Mexico City
3. Aruba
2. Montego Bay
1. Havana

That’s right! Havana is destination number one from Shaheer! Havana is such a cultural, yet warm and sunny place! You just can’t miss out Cuba! Havana offers the perfect sandy beach getaway for the tan-seeking individuals while also offering the historical and cultural motifs for the explorers! Give it a try! If you’re thinking of going anywhere this Spring Break, fly south into one of these top 10 destinations! Look out for more destinations for the Summer Holidays! Wishing you a pleasant and safe flight!
Top Five Winter Pastimes

By: Yanan Wang

5. Skiing at Blue Mountain, skating at Rideau Canal, tobogganing at Toogood Pond—you name it! All those hearty, traditional Canadian winter sports are back again for everyone to enjoy. Protect yourself from frostbite by buttoning up those parkas.

4. Shovelling snow. It’s tedious, back-breaking work that leaves you feeling accomplished after finally leaving the chesterfield and getting some exercise. After all, there’s only so much skating, skiing, and tobogganing you can do before giving in to the steaming cup of hot chocolate Grandma made.

3. Fiddle around with the snow in your background or driveway. Invite your friends to build snow people based on celebrities or historical figures! After constructing a snow Obama on your front lawn, you’ll be the envy of all your neighbours.

2. Complain about the weather. Since it’s going to snow and you can’t do anything about it, why not let off some steam by joining in on a heated rant about the cursed Canadian winter that is surely taking place by the lockers? Of course, there is a slice of the population that loves the winter weather, and sits at home near the fireplace listening to “Let it Snow” and “Winter Wonderland”. ♫

1. Reminisce about summer. No one can stay cold while daydreaming about lazy summer days. Not to fear, winter haters: summer is a mere 6 months away!

An Addiction to Obsession

By: Hayley Saramaki

“When I grow up, I’m gonna be a ROCKSTAR!” This is a common statement heard from any child who understands the basic concept of the “air guitar”. The appeal of the rockstar lifestyle has been prominent in North American society for decades. This is no different for Markham native Matthew Bundas, who, at 19 is beginning to get his first tastes of the sweetness of stardom. The band, Mary Rose Obsession, has been receiving nothing less than positive reviews from Toronto’s music scene.

Exuding an alternative rock and roll style repertoire, Matthew Bundas (drums), along with his brother, Christopher Bundas (lead guitar and vocals), and friends Daniel Grandinetti (lead vocals), and David Grandinetti (bass) have created a sound that has been deemed “Dirty Rock N Roll”. “What we’re trying to do is something new and different from everything else. We’re trying to bring back classic rock n roll, but do it in a new and modern enough way that it appeals to newer generations as well as older ones.”

The band often faces the common misconception their name Mary Rose Obsession gives off. “People always ask us, ‘Who’s Mary?’,” laughs Matt. “Basically, it’s a metaphor for a desire to live for something more and pure in an impure world,” he says. “Mary being Mother Mary, roses symbolizing life and beauty, and obsession just referencing obsession.”

Both Matt and Chris Bundas has dreamed of having their own bands since early childhood. “Me and him have wanted a band since we were like 8 years old,” Matt explained. As the brothers progressed
musically, they attempted forming various groups of friends together to play as a band, but they had never achieved the sound of chemistry that they craved. “I tried being with other people and so did he. But we always ended up jamming together. We realized one day that we should just be in a band together.”

It wasn’t too long after this realization before opportunity presented itself to the Bundas brothers. As fate would have it, they ended up befriending another pair of rockesque brothers. “My brother ran into an old girl friend from high school around last Christmas. They were catching up, and she asked what he was up to.” Chris had told her that he was trying to get a band together, but was having trouble finding a lead singer. Upon hearing this, she suggested that she could introduce Chris to her boyfriend (Daniel), because he sang and played guitar. “So the two met and wrote some tunes together,” Matt remembers. “Then Chris said to me, ‘Yo Matt, next time we get together come along and play drums.’ So I did. Then the same thing happened with Daniel; he told his brother to come along and play bass. And then we decided to make ourselves a band.” It only took the group five months of writing and practicing to become performance-ready; likely because the group members had been writing and practising independently since they were so young.

As for how the band operates as a unit, Matt says, “Chris writes the full song 80% of the time. For certain songs, I or one of the other guys will write along with Chris. But it is way easier to have one person write, rather than four people butting heads and wanting things their way. Chris writes the song on his guitar, then I’ll put my own drums… and Dave will put his own bass in.” He has faith in how the group works; each giving in their own opinions, while Chris provides the essentials of composing. “Chris doesn’t create all the instrument parts, just the spine of the song.”

The Bundas brothers immersed themselves in music at a young age; Matt began drumming when he was six, and Chris has been playing guitar since he was eight. They have been playing closely together ever since. Their primary mentor and inspiration came from their uncle, who was a skilled guitarist. “After I got comfortable enough on the drums, I decided I wanted to learn something else. So, I taught myself how to play guitar,” Matt says of his early musicianship. “Chris plays a bit of drums, but not so well after his accident.”

It was in April 2006 that Chris was involved in a life-threatening car accident. The collision completely demolished his Honda Prelude, broke both his legs and severely injured his hands. Matt and the rest of the Bundas family were extremely worried about his condition and the impacts it would have overall on his life. “We were afraid that he wasn’t going to be able to do anything, never mind music. But he healed. His guitar playing isn’t affected now. But now he can’t play drums at all.” Though at first they doubted that Chris would be able to play, it wasn’t long before he picked up his guitar, with scarred hands. “He could play guitar again after about two or three months,” Matt remembers of his brother’s struggle.

With plans to begin professional studio recording in 2009, and record companies already calling dibs on signing the band, Matt feels blessed to be driving through the Toronto music scene at warp speed. “Honestly,” says Matt, “I don’t wanna get too excited before anything really happens. But it’s really cool that in less than a year we’ve done so much.” Their upcoming album, *Chains to Nowhere*, has created buzz on the internet and through the Toronto music scene. When asked about the significance of the album title, Matt said, “Chains hold people down. They’re a symbol for being a prisoner. So, chains to nowhere means… you’re not held down. You’re not a prisoner. You’re free. It’s like our song *Nothing Stops Us*. It’s saying that nothing is going to hold us down.”

That seems to be the truth for Matthew Bundas, Christopher Bundas, Daniel Grandinetti, and David Grandinetti. After surviving a fatal car crash, overcoming personal struggles and finally uniting together, *Mary Rose Obsession* is becoming a musical addiction that won’t be stopped.
Review: The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

By: Fred Wu

“Life Can Only Be Understood Backward. It Must Be Lived Forward.” These are the words shown in the movie’s trailer, which give a preview of its captivating plot and moving themes. The movie starts off at the end of WWI, when an unusual baby is born. His name is Benjamin Button and his life begins in his 80s. The movie follows Button (played by Brad Pitt) through the extraordinary, exciting, and sometimes comical events of his life and watches him as he grows younger through time.

The movie’s plot is extremely satisfying. It’s a bizarre tale, filled with the action of war, the romance of unexpected lovers, and the comedy of a man struck by lightning 7 times (you’ll understand when you watch it). Definitely, there is something in it for everyone to enjoy.

The stars of the movie are Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett (as Daisy, Button’s childhood friend and eventual lover), who do an exceptional job. Pitt certainly makes you believe that he is a person born into an unusual life, always staying in role as he matures from a child to an adolescent, an adult, and a senior. Blanchett effortlessly creates the chemistry in Daisy’s love for Button, and sets up the movie’s romantic theme.

Just as impressive is the seamless computer technology used to place Pitt’s and Blanchett’s edited faces on the bodies of a child, teenager, or adult. There is no doubt that you’ll believe that Button grows from an 80 year-old baby to a 5 year-old senior.

All in all, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button is a movie that must be watched. You’re going to be gripping the edge of your seat, shedding a few tears, and throwing out a couple laughs, and before you know it, 2 hours and 47 minutes of an epic tale will have flashed before your eyes. Enjoy!

How Do I Change This Tragedy?

By: Trisha Parmar

Last night was the night of my life
Who knew it was to be my tragedy
I was talking to the man of my dreams
We sat on the roof of my room
We spoke through that charming melody

He spoke in a million lyrics
I said, he just wrote my song
He sang it like a superstar
It was the night of my life
But then our stars got crossed
It was over and I became my own falling star
Now I’m here on my own
Trying to rewrite his song
I’m just trying to save myself from

But the stars just won’t rearrange themselves,
So how am I supposed to erase a million lyrics now?
How do I stop that played out melody?
How do I change the reality of my tragedy…?
Guilt
By: Andrea Nelson

I have everything I ever wished for,
It would be selfish to ask for more,
When people are dying of starvation,
They ain’t even got an education,
No food to eat, not even a place to sleep,
Stuck in a well that is way too deep,
Struggling so hard just to get out,
But no one answers them when they shout,
Trying to hold on, trying to survive,
Why do we not help them stay alive?
Sitting here in our golden aspirations,
Not even caring bout all other nations,
Starving and helpless, cold and alone,
Too many say, “If only I had known”,
The facts are there, the truth is not unseen,
Not to help them would be so obscene,
No excuses, or justifications,
‘Cause as people, we have obligations,
They are helpless, and they are dying,
So I want to see everyone trying,
To green this world that has become black,
To bring those slowly dying smiles back,
To care for those who are hungry and cold,
‘Cause together we can do something bold!
We can change the world if we become one,
We can undue the damage that’s been done,
We can feed the hungry, and cure the sick,
But we need to act; we need to act quick.

By: Catherine Ma

"Belief.

Thoughts unspoken; buried words.
How to explain, describe, comprehend?
Array of scrambled emotions.
Until you came, found me.
Now suddenly I believe,
In love stories, fairy tales, perfect endings.
Possible happiness. Love.

Because of you."
Top Ten Things Indiana Jones Can Do Better Than You

By: Michelle Chalmers

10. **You** drive to school, sit in class, and then drive home at the end of the day. **Indiana Jones** drives to a mob-run Shanghai before going on a wild bullets-flying car chase and then escaping on a chartered plane.

9. **You** never leave home without your phone and wallet incase you need to make a call or buy a sandwich. **Indiana Jones** never leaves home without his whip incase he needs to battle some Nazis, pull himself from under a tank, or just look awesome.

8. **You** are scared of snakes because you saw Snakes On A Plane. **Indiana Jones** is scared of snakes because he falls into pits of them almost every day.

7. **You** tried being dragged behind a bike on your skateboard, and failed. **Indiana Jones** was dragged behind a car on his stomach, and then bored and crawled under the moving vehicle’s undercarriage.

6. **You** learned about Nazis in Grade 10 History. **Indiana Jones** fought Nazis before, during and after World War II by shooting them, blowing up their vehicles, and throwing them out of zeppelins.

5. **You** wear the hat you won in a raffle when you’re having a bad hair day. **Indiana Jones** wears a hat because it was given to him out of respect by a treasure hunter whom he chased through desert mines and across a moving, snake and lion-infested train… when he was a Boy Scout.

4. **You** bonded with your dad over the Superbowl. **Indiana Jones** bonded with his dad after he rescued him from a Nazi castle, then took him on a motorcycle chase, a bi-plane dogfight and a successful quest for the Holy Grail.

3. **You** run your hardest on the Beep Test. **Indiana Jones** ran his hardest when he needed to evade a tank-sized boulder, a flurry of poison darts and an army of rabid, homicidal tribesmen.

2. **You** survived high school exams. **Indiana Jones** survived almost having his still-beating heart pulled out of his chest by a mega-evil child-killing satanic cult leader – while hanging off a cliff.

1. **You** use a dingy to float around in your pool. **Indiana Jones** uses a dingy to parachute from a crashing plane and then toboggan through the Himalayas before floating down an Indian river and straight into his next adventure, where he rescues an entire region from a fiendish assassin cult.
CRAZY COMICS

BYW: IFLURTZ

ARE YOU SURE IT'S NOT TO JUST LEAVE THE FLURTZ ON THE FLOOR?

LET'S SEE WHICH ONE IS WHAT I FOUND IT...

I JUST CHANGED ALL THE ANSWERS SO THEY MATCH...I CAN'T CHANGE HUMPER'S...

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG. WE'LL BE MATCH UP!

YOU MEAN THAT "PERFECT" DISEASE... IT'S PERFECT!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING....

(© Markville S.S. "The Voice" Comic; BEHIND THE WALL)

AMATOERS: IRONIC SITUATION

By Amy L. and Shirley C.

KOTO, PLEASE DO NOT THROW THINGS...

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