**Pickands Captures Founders Day**

*Karim Azem, Class of 2004*

On Friday September 20, students and faculty from the lower school and upper school convened to celebrate the founding of U.S. The goal of this event is to promote healthy competition among the houses. At US, there are ten houses, each of which consists of about 40 members from each grade, as well as faculty members. Founders day gives students an opportunity to get to know the other members of their house.

On the humid morning of September 20th, buses transported students from the lower school to the upper school. Every student then packed into the gymnasium, where Dr. Hawley gave a presentation on the history of US pointing out key figures and events.

After the presentation, everyone headed out to the athletic fields where each house congregated to determine the order of their events. Every house split into 2 groups: an A-team and a B-team. Each team then competed against teams from other houses in the various games, and occasionally teams of different houses joined together to battle against other combined teams.

**Homecoming: The Day of Festivities**

*Ben Coquilette, Class of 2004*

This year, the party starts on Saturday, September 28, at 1:30 pm. Down at the athletic fields of our own Hunting Valley campus, the US varsity soccer team will take it to Hawken. Just half an hour later, the varsity football team will bash heads with VASJ. These will, of course, be excellent showpieces of high-school athletics, so every student at US will be expected to attend, bringing lots of their friends and family with them.

Homecoming day is that magical day every fall in which students, family, and friends all set aside time to take a break from working, relax at the athletic fields, watch U.S. teams compete against tough opponents, and have fun at a big dance that night to celebrate.

This year’s games were the infamous four-way soccer, tug-of-war, battleball, capture the flag, and the earthball relay, where students rolled and bobbled a large inflated ball through an obstacle course.

The events began at 10:30 and the humidity soon took effect as the water stations set at every station were quickly depleted. As some source of water and relief, the students ate the ice in the water jugs.

The vigorous contests brought about opportunities for the upper and lower students to display their leadership skills in the events that required everyone’s participation. The students walked off the fields sweaty and tired at the conclusion of the games, and they all looked forward to a refreshing lunch.

Each house convened at assigned spots on the fields for lunch, such as the bleachers or the pavilion, and talked about how well they did over the course of the day. The half hour lunch break provided another occasion for the students to get to know the others in their house. Following the lunch break, the students walked back to gymnasium where Mr. Lagard announced the anticipated results of the day. The top five houses were Sanders, Cruikshank, McCarrather, Anderson, and the first place winner Pickands. The day concluded with the awards assembly.

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Every August each of us exchanges the unbridled freedom of summer for the manacles of academia. A quick walk through the halls, and I can hear complaints of the horrific amount of work that one teacher assigned, or the pop quiz of another. It seems like the weight of the world has come crashing down upon our collective shoulders. So I have a small piece of advice for you: Don’t worry about it. I know how simplistic that sounds, but that statement can save you more worry and stress than you could possibly imagine. It seems like everyone has high expectations of us, expectations that no sane person could ever live up to. Aside from our parents and teachers getting on our backs over grades and our effort to keep them up, we all have that specter of college looming on the horizon. For the upperclassmen, it’s not as far away as we would like to think. That means, at least for many of us, anxiety over SAT scores and the like. It’s a lot to keep track of. Quite possibly, you’re asking yourself “Why exactly should I worry about this?” Essentially, it’s because we need to care more about living our lives in the present. Every day, stop for a moment, and just take in the world around you. Don’t trouble your mind with anything else, just completely immerse yourself in the here and now. Though it may not seem like it, in a decade or so, we’re going to look back and say that these were the best times of our lives. No one wants to remember high school with regret, wishing they had experienced more of it.

Don’t misinterpret this as my suggesting that you simply quit paying attention to school. There’s certainly a time and a place to work, and to think about what you’re going to do with your life. But there’s no reason for that to be all of the time.

As we make our way through this year, don’t let the spirit of summer fade away into a distant memory of the past. Keep it with you, and make sure you don’t let yourself get dragged down too much by the burden which you have to carry. Welcome back.

Saddam confers with his generals.

School Life, Stress-Free

Dan MacCombie, Class of 2004

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Send In The Troops

George Hunter, Class of 2004

In January of 2001, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice received a plan of action set up by the Clinton administration in its waning days. It was an assessment that proposed a strike upon the al-Qaeda terror network, which was neglected entirely until September 4, 2001. While it would be wholly unpatriotic and unconservative of one to say that the hesitant attitude of the administration allowed his people to starve. He has, in many ways, allowed his people to starve. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical.

Allow me to explain the situation in Iraq: It is absolutely certain that Iraq has chemical and biological weapons. We have seen the latter used, and if the former didn’t exist, United Nations inspectors would not have been turned away at gunpoint numerous times. We also have credible evidence that Iraq is trying quite earnestly to procure nuclear weapons. Apparently, there are even some former Soviet scientists on the pay-roll. Let me remind you who Saddam Hussein is: he is ruthless. He offers pensions to the families of suicide bombers. He has gassed Kurdish children. He has, in many ways, allowed his people to starve. He has defined 16 United Nations resolutions. He is a ticking time bomb. Credible evidence would have us believe that Saddam has recently stepped up efforts to continue the building of his nuclear program by attempting to import even more uranium processing equipment. He is brutally self-interested, ambivalent, and radical. He has transformed his whole country into a maniacal cult and radical. And, finally, can the US Congress make President Bush or any intelligence agency have that Iraq is linked to al-Qaeda? Apparently, pictures of alleged al-Qaeda operatives meeting with some Iraqi leaders do exist. The CIA, however, says that these allegations are unproven. If there is real proof of collaboration between the Iraqi government and al-Qaeda, such evidence could prove that Iraq was instrumental in attacking American citizens on American soil, and could provide justification for an attack. But the elected representatives of Congress, not just President Bush and his hand-picked cabinet need to be convinced that military means, not diplomatic efforts is the only way to protecting the security of Americans. The United States needs to fight against terrorism in the world, but in an orderly way. All of these questions should be answered satisfactorily before we send our citizens into harm’s way. Once we have these answers, then it may be the time for the U.S. to go into Iraq.

President Bush should not start a war with Iraq answering some very important questions. One such question, recently raised by Republican Congressman Dick Armey, was, “[Do] we as a nation have a right to go in preemptively to topple another government?” Another question is the question of whether the United States is spreading itself too thin militarily. And, finally, can the US Congress be convinced that there is enough evidence to link the al-Qaeda movement with the Iraqi government?

The representatives in Congress need to examine each of these questions objectively as possible. First, attacking Iraq preemptively could be seen as a violation of international law, causing the U.S. to lose credibility with the rest of the world. The leaders of the U.S. must also consider what will happen to the other countries in the world. Will even more chaos break out in the Middle East? And what type of government will follow Saddam Hussein?

Secondly, the U.S. government must consider whether our military forces are being spread too thin. Some terrorism experts believe that al-Qaeda still has significant numbers; our fight against them is far from over, and putting our military efforts into Iraq could compromise that fight. Dan Russert, on Meet The Press, asked Vice President Dick Cheney how many lives would be taken in a war with Iraq, how much money would be spent, and how long such a war would last? The Vice President’s answer, “We will do what it takes” was too vague. He added that the administration wants to take Saddam Hussein’s regime out and set up a new one, but are there moderate Iraqis who are ready, willing, and able to help to overthrow Saddam Hussein? Can they work with the
Running Down The Aisle

Steve Mels, Class of 2004

The evening of July 27, 2002, was a typical Cleveland summer evening: full of bugs, and so un forgivingly humid that I almost needed a snorkel to walk around outside. This only made my varsity-cross-country-in-training mind even more eager to run some great distance. Five miles? Nah, too easy. Ten miles? Getting there, but that’s still within the realm of reason. I decided to go for the gusto, aiming to run farther than I ever had before, by plotting a monstrous 20 mile run. Now my only problem was where to put in so many miles without ending up hopelessly and irresistibly lost. Suddenly, a stroke of genius (later to be dismissed as a delusion of grandeur) – I could run from my house, which sits in Cleveland Heights right off of Mayfield, straight out to University School’s Upper Campus and back! Ambitious, but too tempting to avoid. I laced up my favorite pair of maroon and black gems, stepped out of my driveway, and so unforgivingly humid that I needed that water, though, if I was going to make it back. I crossed Richmond Road, my fingers and ran in the darkness toward the fields.

As I approached the fields, I heard something completely unexpected: the sound of laughter, glasses clinking, and human murmur. My inner voice was shouting, Run for your life, Steve, it’s a seniors-only party! You’ve already been talked about, remember? I needed that water, though, and my curiosity was piqued. The parking lot was nearly full of cars, and a quick survey of the Pavilion, which was hopping with people, showed that it was decked out with a nautical theme, right down to hanging fishnets and impossibly large plastic lobsters. Humming with the thought that this was the theme song to myself, I edged around the side of the Pavilion toward the water fountain, trying to see who might be inhabiting this gala.

To my surprise it was not a bunch of rambunctious grads, but rather, many US teachers, as well as a few people I didn’t know. My punishment faded to despair as I realized that the water fountain was not turned on. Heart sinking, I began to trudge up the hill for what was sure to be an extraordinarily unpleasant journey home. Little did I know that I had nothing to fear. While making my way through the parking lot, two familiar-looking figures waved at me with body language that said, “What in tarnation are you doing here?”

These two people turned out to be none other than my track coach and ex-sponsor, Mr. Frey, and amiable Mr. Barton! Cut turns out I had stumbled upon Mr. Frey’s wedding party! I approached them warily and explained to them my dehydration situation. Mr. Frey, seeing that I was in no condition to run 10 miles home, especially with no reflective gear, practically thrust a cell phone (with a ze bra-skin faceplate that he insisted was not his) into my hands and insisted that I call my parents and have them pick me up. Very grateful, I called and arranged for my parents to bail me out of this foolish run. Mr. Frey, continuing his streak of benevolence, then took time out of his own party to find me some H2O. Partied guests had already imbibed all of the designer water, so we improvised by mixing hot water (intended for coffee) with ice. The huge warm brew beat DaSan and Aquafina hands down. I shook Mr. Frey’s hand with the overenthusiastic swag of a just-released cast member of a favorite TV show.

The festivities began at 11:00, with a family carnival and picnic for the younger kids. There will be a rock-climbing wall, two slides, a human foosball game, and a 2-lane bungee run. Beginning at noon, everyone is invited to a picnic in the Pavilion.

There will be hot dogs, the famous Prepper Chili, and dessert with musical entertainment by the US Jazz Band. The sports competitions begin at 1:30 with the J.V. and Varsity soccer teams facing off against Hawken. At 2:00 Varsity football kicks off against Villa Angela St. Joseph’s in what is sure to be an exciting contest.

Finally, at 8:30 the Homecoming Dance will begin. Tickets will cost $15 per couple at the door. The money raised will go towards purchasing items for the Thanksgiving Day food drive.

Ms. Emerson says that the dance “is always well attended; usually about half of the student body goes to it. There were 221 couples last year.” If that doesn’t get you excited, she adds, “As always, there will be plenty of fac ul ty chaperones to hang out with!”

First Day of School Handshaking: A Lasting Legacy

Kyle Swenson, Class of 2003

Many students here at US wonder as to why on the first day of school we take the time to shake the hands of all the new freshmen and teachers in what’s commonly become known as, “The Courtyard Thing.” Why do we take the time to do this long and tedious (and possibly unhygienic) act of welcome with West Nile carrying mosquitoes running rampant in the area? In one word: tradition. The school started this ritual a number of years ago when Mr. Kerry P. Brennan was still the Director of the Upper School.

It was started as a way to show the friendliness of the community here at US. This gracious welcome has continued since then and will likely be a mainstay in US tradition.

As senior PJ Campanella commented, “Handshaking in the courtyard is a great way to show incoming freshmen that US is a friendly environment.”

Homecoming 2002, a Fun day for the Entire Family

David Kasten, Class of 2004

Each year, one of the highlights of the US social calendar is the Homecoming dance. This year marks the 113 US homecoming since the founding of the school. It will be on Saturday, September 28.

The festivities begin at 11:00, with a family carnival and picnic for the younger kids. There will be a rock-climbing wall, two slides, a human foosball game, and a 2-lane bungee run. Beginning at noon, everyone is invited to a picnic in the Pavilion.

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New Technology Improves Productivity

Ilya Byzon, Class of 2005

As you have probably already noticed, our school has bought a series of new computers to be added to its technology inventory. Located in the library and the video editing room, these new machines are up to ten times faster than their previous counterparts. The Compaq Evo comes with 256 MB of RAM and a 40-GB Gigabyte drive. It comes with virtually everything that is needed for the modern high school student.

These computers come with a Microsoft Office 2000 Windows system and run all standard programs such as Microsoft PowerPoint and even Interactive Physics. The machines can also use the new, odd-shaped 250MB Zip Disks, as well as supporting the 100 MB-disks that can be used on the older computers. The best feature of the new Compaq model, however, is a new program called Easy CD Creator. Using this program the students can create their own CDs. This will allow the movies and digital artwork made in our school to be put on CD. “The possibilities with these CD burners are endless, as long as the school AUP is followed”, says Mr. Smith. “These computers will provide students with a sense of grandure for what current technology can do.” So far, US has been up to date with the ever-evolving technology, and we all hope it will supply us with newer and newer technology for years to come.
French is Gyving

Mr. Andrew Gyves, a new teacher at University School, will add his French knowledge and expertise to the language department this year. His enthusiasm and passion for French is infectious. In class, students are allowed to speak only French thereby encouraging students to develop their French speaking and grammatical skills.

Mr. Gyves replaces Ms. Shosh who moved to Connecticut last year. Thus, he will be the teacher of all French 1, 2 and 3 classes.

After graduating from the Hill High School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, he attended a Middlebury language program where he became increasingly interested and involved with French. Mr. Gyves completed his summer language program at Middlebury, and then proceeded to attend Davidson College in North Carolina. He says that he got involved in teaching when he became a language teaching assistant at Davidson.

Last year, after he realized that he enjoyed being a student teacher, he met Mr. Lagarde in Boston, Massachusetts. Mr. Lagarde invited him to come to Hunting Valley for an interview and to look at the school. He liked the atmosphere and the kids at University School during his visit, so he decided that University School was the place for him.

When asked about his teaching experience here at University School so far, he responded, "Great, I’m having a wonderful time here. The kids are great too, and, so far, it has been a lot of fun." In addition to teaching French, he will also be an assistant coach on the Junior Varsity Hockey team. During his free time, he likes to play the guitar, to run, bike, and swim.

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After graduating from the Hill High School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, he attended a Middlebury language program where he became increasingly interested and involved with French. Mr. Gyves completed his summer language program at Middlebury, and then proceeded to attend Davidson College in North Carolina. He says that he got involved in teaching when he became a language teaching assistant at Davidson.

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Miss Scott is a new addition to the language wing. She can be considered a linguist, one of the few who respects, admires, and enjoys the challenges that Latin presents. Originally from Akron, Ohio, she attended Our Lady of the Elms High. Miss Scott furthered her education at Case Western Reserve University.

In her first year of teaching as well as at University School, she leads a group of Latin I scholars. “She says she became a Latin teacher because she ‘enjoys Latin.’” Due to the fact that she only teaches one block (I) and juggles several other activities, Miss Scott cannot always be present. Yet, during the earliest stages of the school year, she took on roles such as a physics sub on movie day. Frank about her knowledge of the subject, she said, “if [the question] is about physics, don’t ask me.” Her lack of physics knowledge is counterbalanced not only by her linguistic skills but also by her knowledge of law evident from her work as a volunteer law clerk.

The opportunity to see Miss Scott is rare unless you share her passion for Indian food. The movie the students can learn a great deal.

Mr. Palant Conducts the Glee Club

His name is Mr. Palant. Say it with me now Pal-ant. Not Puh-ant. You think you’ve got it down? Good. Now fade to black, perhaps add a little flashback effect. You get the picture.

Lights up on a Lexington, Mass. born teenager playing percussion with the Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra. This scene lasts for four years! By the end of High School, Mr. Palant had already been to Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Spain, Israel, Greece, and of course our neighbors, Canada and Mexico, and had met such music greats as Bobby McFerrin, Yo-Yo Ma, and John Williams. It’s quite understandable really; if you had spent your yearly 3 month allotment of freedom working and studying at the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, you might have been this fortunate too.

The guy’s history is mind-numbingly amazing. The first thing that stands out to the layperson is his affinity for relocation. He’s lived in Lexington, Mass., Ann Arbor, Michigan, San Diego, California, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. And now he joins us in Cleveland. To disrupt the US Glee Club. Mr. Palant, I ask you this…”What is wrong with you??? In case nobody told you, it’s cold here!!!” Let’s see…what other stories do I have to share…Oh yea, he worked with Barry Williams (Greg Brady, from The Brady Bunch) when his California marching band was asked to play for the national touring company production of The Music Man? Oh, and how about the time he coached a rock band of 5 students who played the cover to Chicago’s “Color My World” in the movie Almost Famous? In his own words, Mr. Palant is a fan of the, “creative, non-standard approach.” Compared to the types of performances he normally does (e.g. getting a color guard from all 4 military branches and setting off indoor fireworks for a Memorial Day concert), the upcoming Glee Club performances are tame to say the least. And did I mention the upcoming Glee Club tour to Sweden and Denmark? I didn’t? Well let me tell you then – we’re going to Sweden and Denmark!

Mr. Kleinheider Finds His Niché

One of this year’s new additions to the History Department is Justin Kleinheider. He teaches one section of Western Civilizations I and three sections of Western Civilizations II. Prior to arriving at University School, Mr. Kleinheider received his Bachelor’s Degree in history from Kenyon College, where he specialized in Medieval Studies. He then went on to teach at the Culver Military Academy in Indiana for a year. In US’s more relaxed environment, he is no longer addressed as “sir.” He finds the change pleasant, fitting his more relaxed teaching style. Mr. Kleinheider, biggest goal is to “help the students go that extra mile.” This compassionate response is why he fits in so well with the community here.

Mr. Kleinheider enjoys not only teaching high school students facts and dates, but also promoting intellectual conversation. In his classes, he delves into the investigative process, decodes historical information, and conceptualizes the events of a time period. One of his main focal points this year will be on showing students that the lessons of time can be applied to any decisions made today. He chooses to convey this lessons through lecturing, group work, and self-teaching projects.

In his free time, Mr. Kleinheider loves watching and collecting movies. His varied taste in films is evidenced by such favorites as “Braveheart,” “Seven,” “Rear Window,” and “Thief.” He likes music and his favorite artists include The Who, Wagner, and Nirvana.

In addition to contributing in the classroom, Mr. Kleinheider will be one of the faculty advisors to the US News. Also because of his love and knowledge of tennis, he will coach JV Tennis. He is a skilled tennis player, having played varsity for his own high school team.
It is exactly 11:30 P.M. on Saturday, September 26, 1998, and the letters ‘NBC’ sit at the corner of the TV screen. “Live from New York... it’s Saturday Night!”

The words of Darrell Hammond, a gifted Bill Clinton impersonator, usher in yet another episode of Saturday Night Live. SNL is an hour and a half program airing on Saturday nights; many Americans look forward to it after a long week of labor, for relaxation and laughter.

The Court Theater and the famed Second City, notable for having aloud political cartoons for “Weekend Update,” he brings tremendous enthusiasm to each and every skit. Following this much publicized Napster scandal of 2001, SNL produced a skit entitled “The Napster Trials,” in which several artists go to court. One of these artists is “Rico Suave,” played by none other than Sanz. Rico enters the courtroom with flashy glasses and a slightly open leather vest. However, Suave, formerly a stud, seems to have gained, well, a little weight. The faithful Senator Trent Lott demands the next witness, and Rico saunters down the aisle to the front of a court, slowly taking a seat. Sen. Evan Bayh inquires of the overgrown artist, “The what...? Could you state your name, please?”

Struggling to stand, Sanz states his name excitedly, with broad gesticulations: “Rico Suave...ah-nnosthished at the sight, Sen. Bayh says, “Man...you’ve really let yourself go! How did you let that happen to you?” Without the least bit of hesitation or shame, Rico explains with spherical hand motions, “Cho-co-late... donuts! Yea-ah!”

So it must be asked: what will you be doing this coming Saturday night when the clock strikes 11:30? Horatio Sanz will be preparing for his job as professional funnyman, and I strongly suggest that you watch what millions of Americans have already grown to love: what this man does best.

 Minority Report Hollywood.com’s rating: 2 / 5 stars  Jason’s rating: 3 / 5 stars

This Tom Cruise action thriller is set in the year 2054 in Washington D.C. The police department’s pre-crime division uses a trio of psychic “precognitives” to predict murders (before they happen) by connecting an elaborate machine to the precess’ brains. The waves emitted therefrom present their visions like a blurry movie to the precrime cops. The movie offers a predictive challenge, although it certainly requires some thinking, something I tried not to do during the long summer days. You ought to see this sci-fi thriller.

 Austin Powers In Goldmember Hollywood.com’s rating: 2 / 5 stars  Jason’s rating: 3 / 5 stars

Mike Myers is back for the third time in this hilarious new version of the film series. Austin Powers, has become a pop culture icon, and the strong cast returns for this film: Mike Myers (as Austin Powers, Fat Bastard, Dr. Evil, and Goldmember), Seth Green (as Dr. Evil’s son), and Verne Troyer (as Mini-Me). The movie is a singular combination of genius in filmmaking and silly antics. Foxy Cleopatra, played by Destiny’s Child singer Beyoncé Knowles, wears tight, sexy clothes, but she doesn’t say much and isn’t involved in many of the sex-related scenes, a first for an Austin Powers female star. The plot doesn’t influence the film much; the movie is sure to make you laugh from any audience.

 The Bourne Identity Hollywood.com’s rating: 3 / 5 stars  Jason’s Rating: 4 stars

A man is fished out of the Mediterranean; he doesn’t know his name or how he got there. With only a handful of clues, he must work backwards to uncover his past, while escaping the constant threat of death. Utterly amazing to watch, it is unquestionably the movie of the summer.
Cross Country Team Flies Toward Post-Season

Dan Golub, Class of 2004

The University School Cross Country team demonstrated on Saturday, September 7th that it belongs among the top teams in the state, placing third among 41 other Division II teams throughout the state meet last year, Drew Williams, who will run for the remaining season. After a stellar performance in the state meet last year, Drew is hungry and ready for more. His times are already faster than last year’s and he knows what the sport is all about. Another strong runner on the team, whom you may mistake for a pigeon, is Dan Golub. He can flap wings. Compared to many other teams, the US cross-country team has unusual depth. As seniors, along with a plethora of talented underclassmen. It has dominated the team, the most important runner on the team, Martin Crazy Legs Mudry has filled the 5th man spot. Only a sophomore, Martin has established himself as a key varsity runner. His great run at Tiffin proved that he is what this team needs. Steve Melis, James Garrett, Tom Moore, Brian Cost, and Dave Abdollahian have stepped up to the varsity level as well. Steve, who ran as the fifth man at Tiffin, showed how he could pick it up when needed. Newcomer James Garrett is off to a successful season and is looking forward to the challenges ahead. Having learned what true pain and real sports are about, Tom Moore has joined the ranks and worked hard to transform into a solid runner. Brian Cost is another who is shattering many of his previous times. He will be counted on to beat the fifth men of other teams. Brian placed second at the Boardman JV race on Saturday, September 14th in a field of over 400 participants. Abdollahian also had a breakout race there, earning a fourth place finish. Not far behind the varsity runners are underclassmen Mark Seabright and Arkady Polinkovsky, as well as young ones Christopher Adler, Big Dennis Roche, John Kirby, and Tim Markman.

The trip to Columbus, which the entire team is working and hoping for, would not be complete without the expertise of coaching staff. Mr. Frerichs, along with assistants Dr. Gibbs and Mr. Jones, push, help and advise this team the whole way. They have helped the team realize the importance of summer running, extensive stretching, lifting, mile repeats, and submersion into an ice-filled garage can.

When the team is fully peaked and healthy, there is no telling what it will be able to do.

A Promising Beginning for Prepper Soccer

Garrison Mason, Class of 2003

The University School soccer team started off the season with high hopes this year. The team includes a talented group of seniors, along with a plethora of talented underclassmen. It has compiled a record of three wins and two heartbreaking losses so far. The team actually started off well, beating Aurora, a Plain Dealer “Team to Watch,” 2-0. The team won without two of its best players, junior Steven Audrey and sophomore Will Mason, who were playing in North Carolina for a Super Youth League National Championship. Despite these absences, the team looked to be in good form. Junior Ben Wong controlled the defense with the help of senior Ryan Tower and sophomore David McCormick; senior co-captain Jeff Bittenbender also made several key saves to maintain the shutout. Senior co-captain Garrison Mason and senior Ben Stosberg dominated the midfield with the help of freshman Chris Corb, while Jack Dunn and Patrick Bagby patrolled the wings. Seniors Jason Stockfish and Sam Fulton led the attack. Garrison Mason scored both goals in that game, one off of a beautiful pass from Jason Stockfish and the other off of a perfect corner-kick from Pat Bagby.

US’s next game of the season was against perennial rival West Geauga. In a hard-fought game, Steven Audrey and Femi Olatoye each scored early goals, but the US team started to falter. West Geauga eventually prevailed 3-2.

The team’s third game of the season was against a very determined Padua team. Although US controlled the field, it was not able to score. With very little time remaining, Padua got one of its only shots off, scoring a goal for a 1-0 win. Even though some teams would collapse after two heartbreaking losses like these, the US team did not. It became even more determined to win. The team soon went up against Bay Village, one of the best Division Two teams in the state. US once again dominated the game. With 5 minutes remaining, Femi Olatoye put the ball in the net, providing the 1-0 upset.

With another 1-0 win over Beachwood on Monday, September 9th, the US team looks to finally be hitting its stride. It is now ranked third in the city in Division Two, and with increased fan support, this team could go a long way.

Femi Olatoye winds up for a kick in the Padua game.
Football Team Steps up Early in the Season

Geoff Schnitz, Class of 2003

This year’s football squad is extremely underrated and has already proved this to be true. The team is gifted with some of the area’s best talent and dedicated third year coach, Jim Stephens. This summer, Coach Stephens put the team on a rigorous weight training and conditioning program for an extra edge during the season. With their hard work and dedication to this summer’s conditioning, senior tri-captains Jeff Terrell, Jared Taub, and Darren Schmidt are going to be depended on to lead the team to victory this season. Offensively, they have an unstoppable passing game. Even though this year’s linemen aren’t as enormous in size, they do a tremendous job in providing blocking coverage for third year quarterback Jeff Terrell. They allow Jeff to throw the ball downfield to wide receivers Jason Starrett, Derrick Walter, and A.J. Debarr, and to tight ends Justin Eneorji and Matt Keszlichan. Their defense is strong all over the field.

In the season opener, U.S. faced Maple Heights at home. With Maple Heights’ size advantage, U.S. trailed 14-0 just before the first half. With the help of Jeff Terrell throwing for 233 yards, the team took the Maple Heights Mustangs into double overtime. With a Maple Heights touchdown and a blocked extra point, they had to be at least matched. Jason Starrett caught a pass to tie up the game and all that was needed was the extra point to win. Darren Schmidt came clutch and split the uprights to win the game 38-37.

In week two of the season, the team faced their long time rivals – the Hawken Hawks. U.S. was in need of revenge after failing to the Hawks the previous two years. With a rowdy crowd, painted freshmen, and an appearance by Prescott, the field was packed with adrenaline. The game started off with a safety by U.S. Shortly after, Darren Schmidt came through once again with a field goal. In the second quarter, Hawken started to wake up and scored two touchdowns leaving U.S. trailing 13-5 at the half. Only a few minutes into the third quarter, Terrell threw an absolute bomb to tight end Justin Eneorji for a touchdown. On their next possession, Terrell dished a pass to junior A.J. Debarr and made a two-point conversion pass to Derrick Walter. The Hawks responded with another touchdown, but they didn’t walk free. On their next possession, junior Ben Schultz intercepted a Hawken pass and ran it back for a touchdown to score U.S.’s final points of the game. In the last few minutes of the game, Hawken scored a touchdown, but due to several penalties they had to take their point after touchdown from roughly the twelve-yard line. With their poor kickoff game, they had to go for a two-point conversion. After several time-outs, both teams took the field for the last play of the game. The ball was snapped and passed to a Hawken receiver and out of nowhere, Darren Schmidt snagged the ball out of mid-air to hold down the win with a score of U.S. 26, Hawken 25. The team’s next opponent was the Lions of Notre Dame Cathedral Latin. With touchdowns from Jeff Terrell, Darren Schmidt, and Derrick Walter, the team looks to up their talent and ambition even more, they are hoping to finish this half of the season without tarnishing their eighty-three and nine overall record.

Golf Team Takes it One Match at a Time

Andrew Dunn Class of 2005

This year’s golf team, comprised of Juniors Putter Johnson, Jeff Heisler, J.R. Redeker, Brian Bolwell, and Sophomores Mike Ballin and Andrew Dunn promises to be one of the most successful teams in recent University School history. After a somewhat disappointing season last year, this year’s team is set on taking one match at a time. This mental frame of mind seemed to work as the golf team started the season with a bang and produced several top three finishes in the first five invitations. As the season progressed, the team handily defeated West Geauga and Chagrin. Unfortunately, however, a match was dropped to St. Ignatius as they beat the Preppers on a very difficult Sandridge golf course by roughly twenty strokes. The season appeared to be going downhill, as they dropped what should have been another victory to Aurora, at The Country Club, and went two and two for duel matches on the season. At that point with half of the eighteen-match season gone, the tri-captains, Putter Johnson, Jeff Heisler, and J.R. Redeker were determined to get the season back on track in hopes of a winning record. But sure enough it was with a positive stride that the team walked onto the stage for the varsity introductions. In the last two matches the team defeated a highly ranked NDCL by thirteen strokes, and they took first place in the Cardinal Mooney Invitational where the players put together their best eighteen hole scores combined, all season. 

With lots of hard work and dedication, the squad can compete with any team. They have the talent and the coaching; they just need to make the plays that have been making from day one. The entire team has only high goals for this football season.

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