

Another blogger joins Reporter team



Sabrina Muerle

By Reporter Staff

Another young writer has joined The Reporter's team of bloggers. Sabrina Muerle, a senior at Will C. Wood, volunteered to begin writing a weekly Web log, or blog, after reading about the opportunity on The Word page two weeks ago. Sabrina plans to use her blog, called "My Soul's Symphony," to share her passions and beliefs. Her first entry, "Looking for that perfect start" can be found online at <http://blogcentral.thereporter.com/soul/>.

Sabrina has a heavy class load this year, with many AP and honors classes. Math, she says, is her strength. She is the leader of the saxophone section at Wood High, and has been playing tenor sax for nine years. She swims backstroke and freestyle on the varsity swim team. She hopes to attend either UC Berkeley or UC Davis next year, majoring in mathematics. "My friends are my life, and I'm always cracking a joke or laughing," she explained.

"I'm passionate about what I do; I live my life to the fullest." Her blog intends to reflect just that.

Interested in joining the blog team, or know someone who is? BlogCentral, found under the "News" label on the left-hand side of the home page at www.TheReporter.com includes a team of seven college bloggers writing under "Reporter U," and a middle school blog, "Cat on the Prowl," and more. Call Editor Diane Barney at 453-8149 or e-mail dbarney@thereporter.com for more information.

Drivers need to practice caution

The life they save may be their own

By Jessica Lynn Barbour
Opinion Writing
Division: 5-6 Grade

Most people think that the freeway is a good thing and hardly care that it is home to thousands of accidents. But would you still feel that way if you saw one, or worse, had been in one of those accidents?

Joseph Barbour has been commuting for nearly all of his working life. So I thought he would know about accidents.

Joseph thinks that most people on the road drive responsibly, but there are a few crazy drivers out there.

Why are there crazy drivers? What is their thinking?

Joseph says that from 5 to 10 a.m., people are usually in a rush to get to work. So most people are driving crazy, so as to not be late for work or appointments.

Others are on their cellular phones, which in my opinion is the cause of most accidents.

You see people talking on the phone all day as you drive (being just a passenger in the cars I go in, I have to have something to look at). Women also put their makeup on in the car, looking in their mirror without a care for the road. If those people never get into any accidents, it would be sheer luck.

Joseph says most people drive about 70 to 75 mph and do signal, but some don't, I'm sure. Those people are just thinking either, "I'm the most important person on the freeway and the rest of you will just have to wait," or "I'm just one person, what harm can I do?"

Then again, some people just don't care. In my opinion, there should be tougher enforcement of how fast drivers go on freeways. People shouldn't use their cell phones while driving, and should just learn how to drive more responsibly.

So the rest is really up to you. Do you choose to drive safe? Do you choose to talk on your cellular phone? Do you choose to groom yourself while driving? And do you choose to be the next person in a hospital because of just not caring?

Choose wisely; it's your life.

The author was a sixth-grader at Tolenas Elementary School in Fairfield when this entry was submitted.



Ryan Chalk/Reporter Staff

Holy Spirit student Ciara Hanna, 12, helps illustrate an article she wrote as a seventh-grader. It earned her third-place in the Campus Star contest.

Are good grades good for your health?

When it comes to homework ...

Enough is Enough

By Ciara Hanna
Third Place (tie),
Opinion Writing
Division: 7-8 grade

Are kids getting too much homework? In my opinion, the answer is YES!

Some kids are piled and piled with big books every night. Should kids stay up working, when their parents are asleep?

My opinion, as a seventh-grade student at Holy Spirit School, is that sometimes it's just too much. I love my school and my teacher, Mrs. Dietrich, but sometimes I want a break. Kids should be allowed to be more flexible with the homework they get.

My family is very busy. My mom and dad both work long

hours every day. I have two older brothers and a younger brother. My older brothers go to Justin Siena High School in Napa and my younger brother goes to Holy Spirit with me. I have witnessed my brothers coming home with a lot of homework and I wonder why they have so much to do.

I talked to my older brothers, Sean and Ryan and they said their teachers are really nice. However, sometimes they stay up until midnight reading and studying and then they can't stay awake in class the next day.

Conor, my younger brother, loves school and says he doesn't like homework but he thinks it's worth it. I sometimes don't even eat dinner with my family because I have to study. Kids

are pressured because they get demerits and detentions if they don't have their homework.

They get up at 6 a.m. to go to school. Then their parents are calling them to quickly get in the car and they leave their homework at home.

Then they get a demerit and in trouble again with their parents.

It is too much pressure for kids who also are expected to be involved in extra-curricular activities. I know homework is supposed to be extra help in getting good grades, but is it good for your health?

The author was a seventh-grader at Holy Spirit School in Fairfield when this entry was submitted in February.

Meet the Students of Reporter U

Blogs written by local students @ college campuses around the country

MEET OUR COLLEGE BLOGGERS:



Michael Sean Carpenter, aka Sean Flood, is a 2004 Vacaville High School graduate who is attending San Francisco State University this fall.



Jami Crabtree is a Fairfield High School graduate who is majoring in literary journalism at UC Irvine.



Aaron Crawford, a student at Hendrix College in Conway, Ark., is a graduate of Will C. Wood High School.



Chad Golden, a 2005 Vacaville High graduate, is junior at California State University, Chico double majoring in construction management and concrete industry management.



Jonathan Lord, a Buckingham Charter Magnet High graduate, is majoring in music at Azusa Pacific University in Southern California.



Noren Shoyeb is a 2007 graduate from Will C. Wood high who is majoring in psychology with an emphasis in mathematics at UC Davis.



Courtney Innes is a sophomore at Brigham Young University and a Will C. Wood graduate.

Find it @ <http://blogcentral.thereporter.com/reporteru>