



Progress Report: FAHS Holocaust Documentary

Academics

When last The Tiger Times heard from Gaston and his production staff, they had interviewed and filmed Mr. Frank Grunwald over a 3-day weekend in Indianapolis, and his TV media students had just begun the process of transcription. Together, they copied every spoken word from the interview into a word processor document that was 116 pages long.

Since that time, there has been an incredible amount of progress on the film. To find out exactly how much progress has been made, Mr. Gaston, the brains behind the operation, shared the current state of the documentary.

"We are about halfway through the script-writing process. We are pulling out the specific words that Frank is going to say," said Gaston. "After that is done, we will then begin to actually hunt for visuals. We will be getting stock photos and footage

from the holocaust museum in Washington D.C., and once we get the visuals, we will begin to match them up with the audio and begin the editing process."

"The students have done well at their jobs on the film," Gaston continued. "They did the transcription much faster than I thought they were going to, and I would say they had a break during the script-writing, but, once that's done, they'll definitely be involved in the editing."

Gaston also announced the title of the film, which will be "Misa's Fugue." Misa is Frank's middle name, which is Michael in Czech, and that is what he was called by his family and friends as a little boy. A "fugue" is a term that Mr. Gaston believes fits perfectly with the themes of the story, both in a musical and psychological sense.

By: Derek Petersen

In Defense of Winky Faces

Science and Technology

Technology is a dominant force in the world today. In almost every aspect of life, technology has affected how we approach, accomplish, and achieve endeavors. The most common piece of technology is a cell phone—in fact, almost everyone has one. Since tools such as these are so accessible, texting the written word has become much more efficient than the use of mail or e-mail.

Now that this technology is so commonplace, forms of shortcuts and slang have presented themselves. Perhaps you are familiar with the smiley face, or =). These "emoticons" have taken different forms and possess many different meanings.

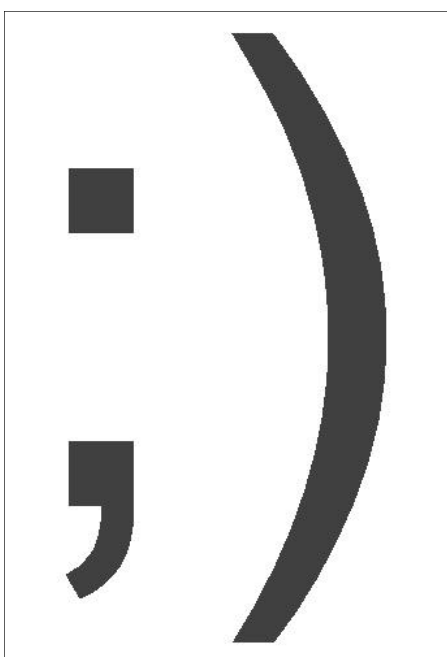
Recently, it has come to my attention that not everyone understands the world of smiley faces—and "winky faces" in particular. This emoticon, most commonly seen as ;) , is used in a variety of ways.

Just as homophones use the same pronunciation of a word for different meanings, the same applies for "winky faces." Most commonly, a ;) is used as a sign of playfulness within a joke. Placed most often at the end of a word or phrase, it is used as the topper or punch line to really make the text come to life.

However, "winky faces" can also take meanings that some would find undesirable. These meanings can be identified by using context clues to provide more insight into what the sender of the message is really, perhaps cruelly, implying.

Overall, faces within text messages are used to bring more feeling and tone to a message that is often lost within the written word. Emoticons can be viewed as tools that are opening the gateway to a better world of texting.

By Cale Ahearn



FBLA Helps During the Holiday Season

School

Ever wonder what those boxes covered with construction paper and pictures of turkeys are doing in your first period class?

They are more than just boxes—they're boxes that will make a difference! FBLA is teaming up with Friend Inc. to acquire food donations for Thanksgiving. Friend Inc. is a non-profit organization in Kutztown that helps those in need.

The holiday boxes in your first period should be filled with the following items: 2 cans of sweet potatoes, 2 cans of cranberry sauce, 2 cans of vegetables, 1 large can of fruit juice, 1 box or bag of stuffing mix, 1 bag of apples, 1 bag of potatoes, 1 can of cocoa or coffee, and holiday napkins.

Another upcoming fundraiser will be a game called Penny Wars. FBLA will be collecting pennies at lunch to help raise money for Friend Inc. The class that gets the most pennies will win money for its class funds,

which means that paying a penny now could improve the quality of one's prom later.

This holiday season, consider donating your time or money to a good cause. If you have any questions about this fundraising project, ask Ms. Nagle or someone involved in FBLA.

By: Chad Dymeck



Salve Magistra!

Profile

Miss Pearson, Fleetwood's newest Latin teacher, was recently hired after the former Latin teacher left for a full-time job at Reading High School. Miss Pearson came across this job when applying for the same job as Mrs. Cambria, Fleetwood's Latin teacher for the last several years.

"Fleetwood actually called me when my name was given to them by Reading, and I actually met Mrs. Cambria during an interview," says Pearson.

Pearson enjoys Fleetwood because it's quiet, just like her hometown. If Pearson or any other Latin teacher had not been hired, the Latin program would have been dropped at Fleetwood in light of the ongoing budget crisis plaguing schools during the recent economic recession. Fortunately for Latin students, Pearson was hired right before the school year started.

Pearson went to college at West Chester University, where she majored in Latin Education. She also has a minor in biology. She has taught for two years. The first school

at which she taught was the very same high school that she attended, Council Rock High School.

"It was odd going back and teaching with all my old teachers," said Pearson.

Her current commute to Fleetwood is an hour and a half—the farthest she has ever driven for work. Even in college, she was still in walking distance of her jobs.

Pearson is the second of three children. She has an older sister named Sarah, and her younger sister's name is Bernadette.

Pearson wanted to be a doctor for a brief time in her youth when she experienced a sledding accident and hit a tree; as a result, she ruptured an organ and had to endure surgery. Her interests include photography and reading science fiction or historical fiction books. She can't choose her favorite book because

she prefers to read trilogies.

At the age of 7, Pearson began to dream of becoming a teacher. FAHS has been one step in the realization of this dream.

By Desirae Lesher



Weezy Freed!

Entertainment/Arts

On October 22nd 2009, the man whom some call the best rapper in the world went to jail. Lil' Wayne's (birth name Dwayne Carter) sentence was related to a 2007 gun charge for having a loaded .40-caliber semiautomatic gun on his tour bus.

Lil' Wayne, also known as Weezy, was sentenced to a year in city jail. He had the possibility of getting out in eight months for good behavior, but no such release occurred. What is most amazing about his story is that, for the entertainment world, it is as if Weezy was not gone for a year at all.

While he was in jail, he accomplished a lot. He made two singles and released a new album entitled "I Am Not A Human Being." Weezy's label moved to New York to be near his place of incarceration so that production of the album would be more convenient.

Lil' Wayne grew up in New Orleans, Louisiana. He grew up around fame because his father is also a rapper who is known to the public as Birdman. Lil' Wayne earned his big break when he signed with Cash Money Records at the age of nine. At that time, Lil' Wayne joined a group called Hot Boys, which included several other famous rappers.

Wayne gained most of his success with the group's big selling album "Guerrilla Warfare," which was released in 1999. That year, Wayne also released his platinum debut album "Tha Block Is Hot," selling over one million copies in the U.S. From 2000 to 2003, Weezy had other albums, but none were as popular.

Weezy found more popularity in 2004 with the release of his album entitled "Tha Carter." In 2005, he made a sequel to that album called "Tha Carter II." In 2006 and 2007, Wayne released several mix-tapes, but what really excited people was the release of the album "Tha Carter III" in 2008. The number one single on that album was "Lollipop." That year, Weezy went on to win a Grammy award for best rap album.

In 2010, he released the album "Rebirth," which eventually went gold. Currently, Weezy is with Young Money and Cash Money records living his dream. There's much more to expect from him now that his time in prison is concluded.

By Madison Rice

In Memoriam: Ronnie James Dio

Entertainment

In the world of metal music, many fans were sadly shocked by the recent death of Ronnie James Dio. For those not familiar with his work, he was an Italian-American heavy-metal vocalist and songwriter. Throughout his life, he established a name for himself, but he is most popularly remembered for his signature devil horns and as Ozzy Osbourne's replacement in Black Sabbath.

Dio is from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, but he moved to Cortland, New York, early in life. As a child, he played the trumpet and French horn. In high school, he played bass in a band called "The Vegas Kings," but this ensemble later became Ronnie and the Red Caps. Their first single was in 1958 on Reb Records.

Dio attended The University at Buffalo, majoring in pharmacy during 1960-1961. He was offered a scholarship to Julliard School of Music, but he did not pursue it because of his undying love of rock 'n roll.

In 1979, Dio replaced Ozzy Osbourne in Black Sabbath and released the highly successful album "Heaven and Hell" in 1980. In 1982, Black Sabbath drummer Vinny Appice left the band with Dio to form a group named simply Dio.

The band's debut album contained "Holy Diver" and is still one of Ronnie's signature songs. Over the years, band members changed, but Dio remained a regular. Dio also played with Elf, Rainbow, and Heaven and Hell

“Not a Human Being” Heralds Positive Return for Weezy

Review



With yet another mix tape now released by Lil' Wayne, we've come to expect nothing but the best, and this one delivers.

"I Am Not a Human Being" provides listeners with twelve songs, most of which are stunning. With artists who have made as many songs as Wayne, one generally expects to see originality fading, but "I Am Not a Human Being" proves that Wayne does not succumb to this generality.

While "Right Above It" is definitely the most popular song on the album, other tracks such as "Bill Gates," "What's Wrong With Them," and "Popular" provide listeners with some of Wayne's most creative lyrics. While radio stations will be beating their listeners over the head with "Right Above It," it's safe to say that the better tracks won't be anywhere near radio stations. Some of the lyrics in the songs are a little too vulgar, but what else can be expected from Wayne?

One of the biggest draws to this album is the lack of auto-tune. Occasionally, auto-tune makes a song sound better, but most times it just sounds robotic and out-of-place. While Wayne is known for his use of auto-tune in many of his songs, this album moves in a new direction and has definitely given him a larger fan base. The lack of auto-tune makes the great beats sound even better, which, in turn, makes it worthwhile to buy this album alone.

Overall, this album is worth a buy. The twelve incredibly original songs will provide the listener with an almost auto-tuneless Wayne that most fans will enjoy much more.

By Derek Evansky

Swift Is Back In Fine Style with new CD

Review

Berks County native Taylor Swift released her third album on October 25th. The new album is entitled "Speak Now" after the fourth track on the CD. Just like her past two CD's, the songs have been inspired by mean boys and personal love tragedies. However, the lyrics and her voice have matured since her last album, so the songs do not seem to so naively address the topic of love.

Many of the tracks on this CD are inspired by certain male celebrities. On the track named "Dear John," she sings about how the famous rock star John Mayer dumped her after a short fling. Other songs also tell about her troubled love life with Taylor Lautner, Joe Jonas, and a multitude of other heartbreakers not named.

But not all of the tracks tell about broken hearts and goodbyes. Several tracks are about best friends, discovering new love, and the feelings that go along with it. In the track "Never Grow Up," Swift sings about the importance of staying young and embracing

youth. Other songs, including "Mine," "Speak Now," and "Long Live," are about discovering love and living life to the fullest.

One of the more controversial tracks on the album would have to be "Innocent."

The track is clearly about the infamous Kanye West incident at last year's MTV VMAs, where he interrupted her acceptance speech for winning "Best Female Video" and told the audience that she did not deserve the award over Beyonce. Within the lyrics, Swift pokes fun at how West

needs to grow up; however, she does mention that everyone makes mistakes.

Overall, the CD is an improvement after her previous albums because of the maturity and diversity of her new lyrics. "Speak Now" has already sold several million copies, has four singles on the iTunes top 100 songs list, and has two singles on the Billboard top 100.

By Alyssa Delp

Fleetwood Singing Its Way To The Top

School

Congratulations are in order for the students at FAHS who were selected for senior county and district chorus.

Students selected for senior county chorus must perform a song in front of a panel of judges. Eventually, the selection process is narrowed down to the top 200 students.

Fleetwood's very own Emily Metcalf, Dorie Wolford, Marissa Bubbenmoyer, Brittany Sanocki, Beth Rothenberger, Erin Phillips, Carly Hawkins, Jordan Shomper, Aaron Nelson, Zach Mourar, Ryan Schlegal, Josh Reinert, and Isaac Moore are the lucky individuals selected for this amazing opportunity.

Those selected for district chorus must face an even more intense audition. Instead of just Berks county students, there will be seven counties in total competing. A song must still be performed in front of the judges,

but, in addition, the students will have to sing a piece of music they have never seen before. This process is called sight singing. In order to succeed, the students must be good singers as well as good musicians.

Dorie Wolford, Beth Rothenberger, Erin Phillips, Aaron Nelson, and Jordan Shomper were selected to compete. Auditions were held in October at Conrad Weiser High School. The day-long Senior County Chorus rehearsal will take place at Conrad Weiser High School on February 2nd, and the concert will be held on Saturday, February 5th. The District Chorus festival will be held at Easton Area High School from the 13th to the 15th of January.

Best of luck to all participants both in senior county and district chorus. Fleetwood is rooting for you!

By Kaitlynn Stott

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PSPA Trip Capstone of Yearbook Experience

School

On November fifth, yearbook, journalism, and TV Media students went to the Pennsylvania Student Press Association Conference at the Harrisburg Holiday Inn East. At the conference, students learned how to make better yearbooks, newspapers, and television news pieces. There are many rules students must follow to succeed at each.

“I gained a lot of knowledge about yearbook,” stated president Dom Scatamacchia, a senior at FAHS.

Whether it was how the club takes group pictures or the manner to use computers to make publications look their best, the PSPA had answers to all of the students’ questions. Schools that attended the Conference were able to talk to other schools and give advice to students about the pros and cons of their publications. Mr. Houpp, the dapper advisor for the school newspaper, also attended the Conference.

The Conference also helped students think about the business component of their school publications.

Said Dom Scatamacchia, “I learned a lot that the president should know about the business end.”

Mrs. Shelton has taken these same students on two other field trips. The students have gone to the Historical Society in the Community Center to research what Fleetwood was like before the population grew to the size it is today. The yearbook students have also gone to Harrisburg Area Community College to learn more about suggestions for how to get one of the best yearbooks in the state.

The students enjoyed visiting the Historical Society because they were able to learn history of Fleetwood that isn’t widely known. Some students didn’t even know that the Historical Society in the Community Center existed! Students can always go there and investigate Fleetwood’s history. It is surprising what people don’t know about their own hometown before modern civilization changed its way of life.

By Brittney Stuffle

A New Face In Guidance

School

There’s a new face in the FAHS guidance office, and her name is Mrs. Kim Randolph. She started working at the Fleetwood Area High School on October 13th and is enjoying the experience so far.

Mrs. Randolph grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and attended Roosevelt High School. She went to the University of Minnesota and earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Mass Communications. Her previous occupations have been varied, but she has been very lucky to act as a stay-at-home mom for most of her life.

Her hobbies include reading, going to the movies, and traveling with her family. A few of the places that she has visited with her family include New York City, San Francisco, Kitty Hawk, The Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls, Disney World, Europe, and the Mall of America. Mrs. Randolph has been married to her husband

for seventeen years, and she has three children: Zach, Max, and Noah.

Mrs. Randolph’s all-time favorite book is “A Prayer for Owen Meany” by John Irving, and her favorite movie is “The Notebook.” Some of the TV shows that she likes to watch are “Modern Family,” “Desperate Housewives,” and “Grey’s Anatomy.”

Mrs. Randolph claims to enjoy “any team that [her] boys are on,” but she also supports her home teams, the Minnesota Twins and Vikings.

Mrs. Randolph likes being a secretary in the guidance office because she likes to help people and keep herself busy. More than likely, you will meet her quite soon, since she is usually the first face you see when you enter the guidance office. Her friendly personality will be a good addition to the

faculty.

The next time you’re in the guidance office, be sure to welcome Mrs. Randolph to FAHS.

By Justin Bruno



‘Catfish’ Will Divide and Captivate

Review

“Catfish” is the kind of movie that requires its reviewer, in full disclosure, to share his views on social networking. So here it goes: I am not, nor have I ever been, an avid Facebook user. And “Catfish” proves that even Facebook’s more rational users can feel like part of the freak show to us uninitiated few.

The film itself is depicted as an accident. Yaniv Schulman is a New York City photographer whose poetic images of ballerinas inspire eight-year-old Abby of Michigan to duplicate his visions in her paintings. They connect on Facebook, and as Abby’s art grows in popularity so too does this unlikely friendship. Soon Yaniv is a long-distance family member; he speaks regularly with Abby’s mother on the phone and, over the course of eight months, begins to develop a strong attraction for Abby’s older sister—even though they have never met.

Tri Valley Y Prepares Parade

Community

Have any plans for Saturday, December 11th, at 9:00 a.m.? If not, you may want to come out and support the Fleetwood Santa Parade.

The parade will start at the high school parking lot and travel up Richmond Street and continue to Main Street. Then it will continue down Laurel Street and then Arch Street.

At that point in the parade, Santa will return to the Community Center for a follow-up pancake breakfast. The parade will feature classic cars, local mascots, the High School’s Marching Unit, the Fleetwood Bank, and more! The parade is estimated to last for 45-55 minutes.

The breakfast will start at 9:00 a.m., and children’s activities will start at 9:30 a.m. The breakfast and Santa Party will go until 11 a.m. Admission for breakfast is \$6 per adult and \$10 for a child’s bracelet pass, which includes a picture with Santa, a gift from Santa, access to the inflatable obstacle course, cookie decorating, and other craft activities. The breakfast will include scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, milk, and coffee.

Tri Valley YMCA executive director Brett Mayer commented, “As always, I think this event gets better and better each year. The committee of volunteers really does a fantastic job with the events and focuses on eliminating any problems from the previous years. The party is run extremely well, which allows the committee to focus on growing the parade and also marketing the morning’s festivities.”

This event promises to be one of excitement and winter fun. All who participate are wished the very best of luck as they perform in the events. Everyone is encouraged to come support his or her friends, family, and community.

By Melanie Lehman

Because of its genesis, “Catfish” feels like an uncomfortable, extended sequence from America’s Funniest Videos, and that’s a compliment. This film is a study of human nature, and it has the benefit of relaying a sequence of events that probably won’t happen to any of us but could happen to all who dabble in social networking. Yaniv eventually takes cameras and microphones to Michigan, and what he finds there is not for me to tell.

People who share my opinions on Facebook will view the events that transpire as a cautionary tale against relying too substantially on technology as a social intermediary. Facebook-philes will find “Catfish” to merely be an extreme circumstance, and they will approach it with the same gossipy fascination that inspires people to dawdle at the water-cooler. What this segment of viewers will ignore is that Yaniv was a normal, nice, attractive young man, and yet the events of the film *still* happened to him.

Because of the nature of the movie, you may notice that characters sometimes seem unrealized, relationships undeveloped, and pacing halted because so many scenes show Facebook chats or one side of a stilted phone conversation. But this is easily overlooked because of the nature of this film’s existence: *Could it be any better than it is when production began with no foresight of how bizarrely it would end?* When the film succeeds, it does so because Yaniv is so loveable; when it fails, it does so because it could not have existed in any other fashion.

What becomes the film’s ultimate attraction is the tantalizing way that we could all easily fall into the trap that Yaniv does or the routine that Abby’s mother does.

By Zachary Houpp

Carter Cake Shakes Up the Holidays

How-To

The holidays are a nice time to share memories, love, and, of course, food. If you’re looking to impress your family, here is the recipe for you!

Carter Cake has three layers. The first layer includes one stick of butter, 2/3 cup chopped peanuts, and 1 cup flour. Combine these ingredients and press into a Pyrex dish. The first layer is considered to be the bottom crust of the cake. Bake this portion of the cake alone for 20 minutes at 350 degrees before cooling.

The Second layer of the cake includes 2/3 cup chopped peanuts, 1 cup butter, 8 oz. cream cheese, and one cup sugar. Beat the ingredients together until well blended. Add 9 oz. cool whip and spread this second layer over the crust.

The third layer includes 3 ½ oz. of instant vanilla pudding powder and 3 ½ oz. of instant chocolate pudding powder. Beat these ingredients together with 2 ¾ cups milk. Let stand for 5 minutes before spreading over the second layer. Then top the third layer with 9 oz. of cool whip, and enjoy.

By Maria Johnson

Students Enact Six-Party Talks Simulation

School

The Six-Party Talks refers to a conversation with North and South Korea, Japan, The United States of America, Russia, and China about the nuclear power that North Korea seems to possess. These countries have been trying since 2003 to come to an agreement on four major problems: plutonium, human society, a peace treaty, and money.

Communication between all six parties has been the most difficult aspect of the negotiations. Since each nation is suspicious of one another, no agreement has yet been reached. The biggest issue is that North Korea is still a threat as a nuclear power. The United Nations has been particularly displeased by North Korea’s possession of plutonium.

On September 30th, the FAHS ETC program offered students the option of participating in a simulation of the Six-Party Talks.

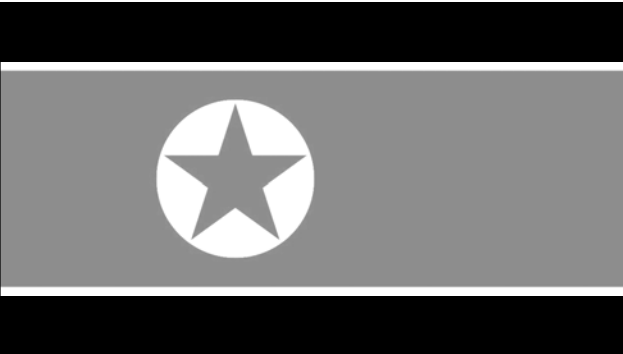
Seven students were involved: Isaac Moore, Noah Moore, Shianna Bender, Peter Sitarik, Megan Fella, Meghana Patil, and Steven Toney. The event started at 12:30 p.m. and con-

tinued through 4:30 p.m. at the Berks County Intermediate Unit. Each student played the role of ambassador for a different nation. Two weeks were given for preparation. In total, approximately 150 students from across the county were in attendance.

“The food was an amazing,” recalls Moore. Food

was free, so that made him even happier. Moore represented North Korea, and he tried to manipulate the negotiations to favor the country he represented. The simulation had a score system and was undertaken as a game. Japan was the least influential country in attendance, but it was able to offer the most money. Moore’s goal was to avoid disarmament, establish a peace treaty prior to negotiations, delay any permanent agreements, and receive the most points by game’s end. “This was our first time. I feel that we did a good job,” said Mrs. Lennet.

By Carol Zheng



Corny Jokes Column

WARNING! Reading this may make you temporarily confused, angry, or very happy. No responsibility can be taken by the newspaper. It is not our fault that the jokes are so bad.

Q: Why did Dracula become a vegetarian?
A: His doctor told him stakes were bad for his heart.

Q: What do patriotic apes wave on Flag Day?
A: Star-spangled bananas.

A snail was slithering along one day in the desert when two turtles came along and stole the snail's shell. Later on when the bunny rabbit police came along and asked the snail what happened, the snail replied, "I don't know, it all happened so fast!"

Two muffins were sitting in an oven; one muffin says "Whoa! It's hot in here!"
In reply the other muffin says, "Whoa!!! A talking muffin!!!"

Q: What happened when 500 hares got loose in the center of town?
A: The police had to comb the area.

A small boy asks his father one day "Daddy, how can Santa be at all the malls at once?" The father, trying to think up an excuse improvised and said, "Well son, Santa is really fast for a fat guy!"

Knock...Knock...!

-Knock- knock?
-Who's there
-T-Rex
-T-Rex who?
-There is a T-Rex at your door and you want to know it's name?!?

-Knock- knock
-Who's there?
-Waddle,
-Waddle who?
-Waddle I do if you don't open the door?

-Knock- knock,
-Who's there?
-Dinosaur.
-Dinosaur who?
-Dinosaur because he fell down the stairs.



By Erica Ebner

Kindle Thrives On Simplicity

Science and Technology

I finally broke down and bought a Kindle. After all, when you read as much as an English teacher—and I do—it had to pay off sooner or later.

Until the Apple iPad finally reached the light of day last spring, Amazon seemed to have the market cornered on e-readers. Having spent a few weeks with my Kindle, I think the Internet giant can continue to breathe easily.

It isn't that the Kindle is superior to the iPad. In fact, the Kindle is quite obviously the David to Apple's Goliath. With its myriad apps, dynamic touch screen, and as-yet-untapped versatility, the iPad is in a league all of its own. It is, in essence, an extraordinary—albeit reductionist—version of a laptop.

The Kindle sports none of the iPad's bells and whistles. The screen is not a touch screen, nor does it feature color or even a rapid refresh rate. Other than putting the right words on the screen at the right time, the Kindle's most impressive embellishments are its ability to manipulate the size of the font and the presence of a text-to-speech feature (which is significantly more human than my TomTom but eerie in the way that Hal 9000 is during a repeat viewing of

2001).

Yet this is the Kindle's strength. It is an e-reader, plain and simple. The iPad might be able to do my taxes for me, but at four times the cost of a Kindle, that's the least it should do! Apple has created a machine for

venient than I can afford. And I have already justified the expense of my e-reader with all of the free classics I have downloaded.

But the iPad isn't Kindle's only competition. A host of flashier, more colorful e-readers from third-party manufacturers have sprung up, all of which feature an assortment of apps not available on the barebones Kindle. But the Kindle has two advantages. First, Amazon is still the world's largest bookstore with a selection of e-books to match. Second, Kindle's more ambitious competitors merely replicate the screen of your cell phone, which means that they lack the e-ink that simulates the appearance of real paper on the Kindle's screen. It is e-ink that saves your eyes from the stress that comes by staring at a computer monitor for long periods of time.

Would I like my Kindle to have the simple, cell-phone features of a calculator or a clock or an MP3 player? Certainly. But David made do with only a pebble.



computer nerds who like to read; Amazon is more interested in the bibliophiles with a taste for technology. The Kindle's interface is simple, straightforward, and uncluttered. Downloading new books is more con-

No Bail for Jailed Baby Killer

Cops and Courts



Since July 29, 2010, police and mental health experts have been baffled by the bizarre case of 44-year-old Michele G. M. Kalina. The Reading resident, who has worked for 14 years as a home care aid, was recently charged with criminal homicide, abuse of a corpse, concealing the death of a child, and other related charges in the deaths of her five babies.

On July 29, Kalina's daughter Elizabeth found a cooler containing human remains hidden in her mother's closet. After contacting police along with her father, Jeffrey Kalina, they discovered two more sets of infant remains inside plastic containers, one of which was filled with cement. On August fifth, a fourth set was found in a plastic bag, and the next day a fifth infant's remains were discovered in a Conestoga landfill. Autopsies revealed that the infants were between 32 and 43 weeks old when killed by asphyxiation, poisoning, or neglect. Three of the infants were male, two were female, and one's gender could not be identified.

DNA testing on the infant remains showed that Kalina was the mother of at least four of the children and the father was her boyfriend, a man with whom she had been having an affair for fourteen years. The mother and father of one of the babies could not be identified.

Michele Kalina admitted that she also had a sixth child. She gave birth to a baby girl on October 22nd, 2003, in St. Joseph's Hospital. In a letter to her boyfriend (whose name has not been released) Kalina said she gave the child up for adoption. Records also revealed to police that in 2000 Kalina's son Andrew died at age thirteen of positional asphyxiation. Andrew had cerebral palsy and was bedbound; his death was ruled accidental.

Authorities say that Michele Kalina hid the pregnancies of the five babies by saying that she had cysts on her fallopian tubes. She claimed that these cysts had caused her stomach to become enlarged. In this unique case, there are still many unknowns, such as where Kalina delivered the children, how nobody noticed the pregnancies six times, and what caused this mother to commit such an act.

Mental health experts have composed several theories on the case, ranging from Kalina having a mental illness, such as postpartum depression, to her being a serial killer. Kalina may claim she is not guilty by reason of insanity. Currently, she is denying killing any of her children and has told her husband she is being framed.

There are many comparable cases to Kalina's, including the infamous case of Andrea Yates. Yates was a 46-year-old nurse's aid from Houston who drowned five of her children in a bathtub in 2001. In the majority of cases that resemble Kalina's, the women suffered from depression, multiple personality disorder, and disorders characterized by killing for attention. Most of these women claimed insanity and were found not guilty.

As of right now, Michele G.M. Kalina is not helping the investigation in any way. She is currently being held in the county jail without bail.

By Elizabeth Bergman