



The Ratchet



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www.altongodfreyrotary.org

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Local Rotarian Visits Marquette *From The Telegraph*



Attorney John Hopkins talks to Marquette Catholic High School students about constitutional law Thursday. Hopkins and fellow attorney Mary Albert-Fritz have moderated a version of a class about the U.S. Constitution that they teach for adults to complement the curriculum of Marquette's Advanced Placement Government class. It's called "Articles and Amendments of the Constitution."

Don't Forget

Rotary District Conference 2011
Illinois College, Jacksonville
 October 15-16

Rotary Programs



Oct 3 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Chris Hesper, a representative of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, will discuss the state shooting complex at Sparta, Illinois, that was built within the past 10 years and is currently managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources as a world-class operation. Mr. Hesper began working at the complex from its inception and will discuss the impact this project has had both in the shooting world and to the communities around Sparta.

Oct 10 Alton Sports Tap

Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 PM. Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Students of the Month for October will be honored.

Oct 15-16 Illinois College Jacksonville, Illinois

District 6460 Conference presented by the Rotary Club of Jacksonville Sunrise.

Oct 17 Rolling Hills

Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 PM. A golf outing may precede the meeting. Contact Richard Johnson for details.

Student Essays

In this month's issue of The Ratchet, we are again focusing on original compositions by our students of the month.

Motivation

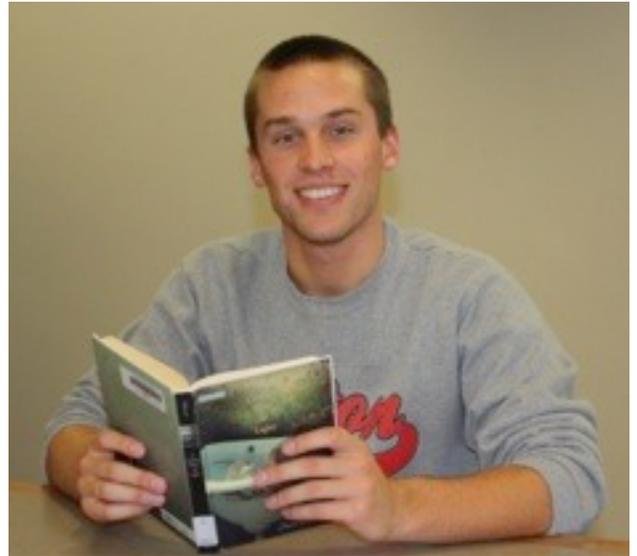
by Eric el Johnson



It was dark outside as the car pulled into the driveway. After killing the engine, my mom tired from a twelve-hour shift, climbed out of the car. Seeing her pull up, my little sisters and I ran to help her bring in her stuff. We had already set our homework out for her to check, so we waited for her to say something. "You guys should be in bed by now," she said, while giving us kisses. We smiled and apologized although we did not mean it, because we wanted to see her. Only on weekends, did we truly spend time with her; however, that was not enough time. As my little sisters went back to bed, I followed my mom upstairs to her room. I lay down with her and told her about my fifth grade teacher and improper fractions. After I told her about my day, she told me about her day at work and her aches and pains. Whenever she was not at work, we would see her rubbing her wrist or constantly sitting down because of her bad knees. Wondering why she continued to work there, I asked her if she liked her job. She told me no, but it paid the bills, so she was going to keep it. Remembering what she told me about college, I asked why she did not go. Laughing, she said I was full of questions and told me having a baby at eighteen was not helpful when trying to go to college. She went on to tell

Never Say Never

by Connor Henderson



Life is full of never-ers and always-ers, but it's never easy to find it's possible-ers. I agree with never give up-ers, but shake my head at never going to happen-ers. I want to surround myself with achievers, adventurers, and amplifiers. Never did my mother forget to tell me this: never ever say never.

I was never meant to be a musician. Or a singer. Or a performer. My future was destined for me. My father was a varsity athlete when he was in school; he was a natural at baseball and basketball especially. So, from the beginning of my childhood, he put me on baseball teams, soccer teams, basketball teams, track teams, Frisbee teams, badminton teams, synchronized swimming teams... (ok, maybe not all of those). The point is: I was terrible at all of them. No matter how hard I tried, it was nearly impossible that I was ever going to make a three-pointer from half court. Sorry, dad.

I joined the choir at North Middle School in sixth grade in an attempt to avoid any more art classes, where the theme seemed to be sketching the outline of your hand or, on a lucky day, (surprise!) your friend's hand. I loved it from day one. The songs create a painting



me that my little sisters and I would be different; we would do better than she did. My mom said those words so many times that I began to want to do better for myself and set the bar for my little sisters and others who looked up to me. Throughout my high school career, I challenged myself to do better than the previous day and to keep trying even when things seemed impossibly hard, for example, taking honors and AP classes, while playing soccer and working at the library. Thanks to my mom's faith in my abilities before anyone else knew about them, I

gained my own inspiration and yearning to take my learning to the next level. I would not only do this for myself, but also for everyone expecting something great from me. After my mom told me that, I smiled and waited for her to say something else, but when I turned and looked at her, I saw that she has fallen asleep. So, I kissed her on the cheek and walked back downstairs to my room feeling as though I could conquer the world.



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

Oct 24 Jacoby Arts Gallery

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Program will be a celebration party, spouses invited, to thank those donors and to honor the efforts of our Rotary club

Oct 31 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. State Representative Dan Beiser will address the Club as to recent developments in the state legislature.

Nov 7 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Susie Sweetman, a well-known personal trainer in the Alton area, will present a program on getting physically fit and how having a personal trainer can make the difference in your plans to "get in shape". If you have trouble getting motivated to work out, you need to meet Susie.

Nov 14 Alton Sports Tap

Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 PM. Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Students of the Month for November will be honored.

Nov 21 Rolling Hills

Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 PM. A golf outing may precede the meeting. Contact Richard Johnson for details.

Nov 28 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Second Quarter Club Assembly for the election of new officers and board of director members for 2012-2012. Committees report to the membership.

Bill Hoagland, Program Director

inside your head. Each moment in a song creates a different painting, and, in sequence, tells some enthralling stories.

June, 2009, was a life-changing summer. I went to the Illinois Summer Youth Program at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and was accepted by audition into the Senior Choir as a freshman. I was thrilled to say the least! A week later, after long daily hours of rehearsal, technical training, and private lessons, we finally got to concert day, and within the concert, my favorite song: “Elijah Rock” by Moses Hogan. When I used to play sports my dad always used to talk to me about aggression and adrenaline. I never understood him, until that day. The song is like a battle, and when it began I was sure that my heart was going to beat out of my chest. Goosebumps sprung up along my spine, as the choir screamed and fought and



charged together, and, before I knew it, the piano bellowed its last chord, and my breath shot back into my chest, nearly knocking me down.

Looking back, I can’t remember the climaxes of that song. But it’s not because it was so long ago; I can remember most of that concert. It’s because the adrenaline took over. I was so caught up in the song I blanked out. Adrenaline is not only the athlete’s tool.

So, I learned that, no, I’m not an athlete. I’m a musician. An artist. A storyteller. A slave. A lover. A warrior. An emperor. A god. I am whatever I want to be within a song; it’s all made possible. And – ha! – the son of the varsity athlete turned out to be a musician. A completely passionate and sold out musician. Wow - as much as I hate to admit it, my mom was right. Dang it! - she was right: never ever say never.

Club Officers 2011-12

President.....	Mike Tillman 1902 Paris Dr., Godfrey, 466-1928
Vice-President	Jasper Fisher 3885 Fosterburg Rd., Alton, 259-3177
Secretary	Bob Hamilton 4003 Stoneledge Court, Godfrey, 466-4362
Treasurer.....	John Hopkins 1014 Henry St, Alton, 474-2005
Executive Secretary	Melissa Seymour 3026 Edwards St., Alton, 462-7206

Board of Directors 2011-12

1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year
Andy Bowen	Mike Fitzgerald	Dick Jones
Butch Chapel	Ebony Huddleston	Ron Mayhew
Wayne Sivia	Chuck Norman	Ken Spells
	Jeni Thompson	Sam Stemm
	Pete Zimmer	Gail Weinrich
		PP Roland Hansen