



The Ratchet



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St. Baldrick's at AHS

Interact is at it again. They have scheduled another St. Baldrick's Day on November 5 at 11:00 am. They are looking for help from Rotarians. Any Rotarian who is brave enough may raise money by getting his/her head shaved or by donating cash for another poor soul's ordeal. Contact Cami Giertz at the high school for more details.



Above are examples of how you might appear before and after participating in this event. It's difficult to believe, but these are actual photos from Rotary's 2008 event which raised over \$30,000.

Rotary Programs



Oct 4 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Our program will be a presentation by Frank Miles, the Madison County Treasurer, who will discuss recent changes in real estate tax assessment procedures in Madison County and who will answer questions regarding those assessments, including the question of why our assessments continue to rise when the fair market value of our homes is decreasing.

Oct 11 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 18 Holiday Inn

Meet at the Robert Wadlow Statue at 6:00 PM for a presentation by Steve Tassinari. Dinner will follow at the Holiday Inn.

Oct 25 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Our program will be a presentation by Violet Phiri, a representative of African Vision of Hope, who will discuss that organization's ongoing efforts to build schools in Zambia.



Some of This Year's Interact Members

Standing: Clay Chamberlain, President David Lauschke, Tyler Jackson, Treasurer Shawn Cason, Vice President Conrad Sheary, Corbin Newquist, Secretary Courtney Twichell was absent for this picture. Seated: Naundee Johnson, Alex Schenk

Student Essays

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

The Infamous Question

by Naundee Johnson



Beginning in my early childhood years, I had my mind set in stone when it came to who I wanted to be when I grew up. Whenever asked the infamous question, "What do you want to be when you

grow up?" I always had an immediate response, for at that age, I already had my made up. Without hesitation, I would answer, "I want to be a lawyer," because at that time, even being a small child, I knew it was my desire to help others... that, and I figured, because I had won every possible argument with my older sister (which happened quite often), what better way to help people than to do so by pursuing my dream through what I was good at, winning arguments.

Progressing in time, by my eighth grade year, I had revised a back up plan. My answer to the infamous question transformed into, "I want to be a lawyer... or possibly a psychiatrist," due to my new found interest in listening and talking to others about their problems and giving advice. On many occasions, and still to this very day, friends and even strangers confided and still do confide in me, for I am said to be a good listener, non-judgmental, often times can sympathize/empathize, and always seem to have an answer. Although my response had become a bit more complex, one thing remained simple: my childhood desire to help people.

But by the summer of my tenth grade year, my mindset gradually began to change. Never would I have imagined that what I was about to find out, would drastically change my life, but for the better. While taking my sociology 131 course and after watching a documentary "Meet your Meat," my increased awareness of the animal cruelty taking place within slaughter houses

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Learning Leadership the Rotary Way

by Alex Schenk

I could speak volumes of the opportunities I've been granted from being an Alton High School Redbird. When I came to Alton High from a class of just sixteen students, I thought I might get lost in the crowd of more than 2000 students. However, as



I enter my fourth year of school, I strongly believe that the larger school has given me unparalleled opportunities and resources.

Throughout my years at Alton High, I've had the chance to attend several trips and workshops with the goal of promoting leadership. As a class officer, I've travelled to Chicago and Springfield to collaborate with hundreds of other high school student council members from across the state. However one of my most memorable journeys came at the end of my sophomore year, shortly after being elected President of the Interact Club for the upcoming year. Two other students and I had the chance to attend the 3-day Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) at Bradley University in Peoria.

For those who don't know, RYLA is a leadership training program for Interact Club members. I was a bit skeptical at first as to what a weekend of "leadership training" would consist of, and I wondered how a three day retreat with mostly strangers could be educating and engaging at the same time. I was in for a surprise. When I left at the end of the weekend, I hadn't slept much, but wouldn't trade the lessons I learned or memories I made for anything.

I arrived around supper time on Friday, and took part in several ice breakers. It wasn't long before I realized this was a far cry from the ordinary youth retreat. As we walked to dinner the first night I was

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Question

drove me to become a vegetarian, for I did not want to support such a cause. I was also exposed to other documentaries like "Earthlings" concerning everything from strays and homeless animals being mistreated, to videos concerning animals being slaughtered for not only food, but also their fur. With the new found knowledge of what was happening to our animals, I developed a mindset to do whatever I could to help them. I even vowed that if ever given the opportunity, although it is a bit out of my character, I would do PETA's campaign, "I'd Rather Go Naked Than Wear Fur," for I would do anything to support a cause I feel so strongly about. Yet, even with me being a strong animal lover all my life which could be emphasized by the fact that my family owned thirteen cats at once and my attachment to every other animal I've come into contact with, not supporting animal cruelty (not even hitting the little squirrels in the street), and becoming a vegetarian, something in my heart told me that this still was not enough. Then it hit me, metaphorically speaking, while browsing through majors and professional tracks offered at Mizzou University, when I came across pre-veterinary medicine. This might be it.

Unfortunately, just recently, my career plans which I figured were set in stone became questionable. I began to also consider majoring in pre-veterinary medicine, rather than in law or psychology. Of course I still want to help others (which I found to be my niche), but do I still necessarily want to become a lawyer which has always been my childhood dream? As of today, I am still seeking the answer to this question. Sometimes dreams change as time progresses in life and we get older, but the one thing that has not changed, whether I follow my childhood dream of becoming a lawyer or a psychiatrist, or take a bit of a different path and become a veterinarian... all paths somewhat different from one another, yet the same in terms of fulfilling my ambition, is my childhood desire to help someone... or something. Back then, I could give a very thorough answer to the infamous question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Yet, today, I will say, "I have my heart set on being somebody who makes a difference in the world, somebody that has an impact on the lives of others... I want to be somebody that helps those in need." Of course, this is a more broad answer, but I am still finding my way and feel that Mizzou is the perfect place for me to do just so.

**Oct 29-30 Hilton Hotel, Springfield**

District 6460 Conference presented by the Rotary Club of Springfield.

Nov 1 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Our program will feature Sandy Ramage, the new District Executive for the Lewis and Clark Council for the Boy Scouts of America. (Boy Scouts in the Alton-Godfrey area now fall under the jurisdiction of the Lewis and Clark Council.) She will discuss future plans of the organization.

Nov 8 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 15 Rolling Hills

Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 PM. PDG Ron Riggins, District Rotary Foundation Chair, will be giving a briefing to the club on the Rotary Foundation. A golf outing will precede the meeting. Contact Richard Johnson for details.

Nov 22 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Second Quarter Club Assembly for the election of new officers and board of director members for 2011-2012. Committees report to the membership.

Nov 29 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Membership Committee will present a program relative to our effort to recruit new members.

Bill Hoagland, Program Director

ATTENTION
ALL ALTON-GODFREY
ROTARIANS

Alton-Godfrey Rotary Club
Meeting October 18, 2010

SPECIAL REGULAR MEETING - Commemoration of 25th Anniversary of Robert Wadlow Statue as suggested and orchestrated by Steve Tassanari

Where and What Time: Robert Wadlow Statue at 5:30 pm and then to Holiday Inn for Meeting/Program at 6:30pm

Cost: Dinner is \$15 ea and 50/50 tickets will be sold for \$1 ea (pay at the Holiday Inn on October 18)

Head count for dinner: first estimate on October 11, final headcount by October 15

- Steve Tassanari will be gathering and providing head count for dinner of non-Rotarians to Roland Hansen
- Roland Hansen will be gathering head count for dinner of Rotarians and their spouses/guests
- Roland Hansen will inform John Rain of total head count for dinner and Rain will coordinate with Holiday Inn (John Rain has made arrangements with Holiday Inn for Dinner and Meeting)

Learning



shocked when I heard two girls my age speaking a foreign language. I soon realized that there were Rotary Youth Exchange students from across the globe. I can think of no better learning

experience than being in a room with kids my own age from over ten different countries.

Our days started early and ended late. Activities ranged from leadership seminars to a campus-wide scavenger hunt, all the while giving us opportunities to meet and interact with everyone. Even after such a busy day there was still free time to enjoy the facilities at the newly built recreation center on Bradley's campus. I was able to scale the rock climbing wall, swim with my new friends, and even play indoor soccer and basketball late into the night. I still keep in touch with some of the friends I made that weekend, and implement the leadership skills I learned every day.

It was the Alton-Godfrey Rotary Club that provided the funds that enabled us to attend. It is my sincere hope that in the years to come Interact Club students at Alton High will continue to seize this excellent opportunity to grow and learn as leaders, as well as make new friends from all over the world.

Club Officers 2010-2011

President.....Roland Hansen
 820 Creekwood Lane, Godfrey, 466-1970
 Vice-President..... Mike Tillman
 1902 Paris Dr., Godfrey, 466-1928
 SecretaryJasper Fisher
 3885 Fosterburg Rd., Alton, 259-3177
 Treasurer Bob Hamilton
 4003 Stoneledge Court, Godfrey, 466-4362
 Executive SecretaryMelissa Seymour
 3026 Edwards St., Alton, 462-7206

Board of Directors 2010-2011

Mike Fitzgerald-1st yr	Sam Stemm-2nd yr
Ebony Huddleston-1st yr	Gail Weinrich-2nd yr
Chuck Norman-1st yr	Brock Hendricks-3rd yr
Jeni Thompson-1st yr	Mike Osborne-3rd yr
Pete Zimmer-1st yr	John Rain-3rd yr
Dick Jones-2nd yr	Larry Spain-3rd yr
Ron Mayhew-2nd yr	Jess Woodman-3rd yr
Ken Spells-2nd yr	Ford Phillips-PP