

THE 109 TIMES

APRIL 2005

RUSH CROWNED NEW PI KING

by Arthur Dodger

On March 14, a new king of Pi was crowned, and his name is Sam Rush.

Displaying impressive mental storage space, Rush, a 7th grader, dethroned 8th grader Ben Smith as Pi King of Longfellow by memorizing 305 digits of pi, destroying Smith's mark of 191. In fact, one could say that he won without a fight since Smith failed to show up on the day of competition, citing illness.

On the day of competition, sources close to Smith hinted that he was at home trying to memorize 30-40 more digits to ensure his victory. The skeptics said he didn't show because he knew he couldn't win. Whatever the true reason for Smith's absence, it is hard to believe that anyone could have defeated Rush on this day.

In the weeks leading up to the competition, there was talk of a 7th grader

who had the goods to become champion, but in the world of memorization, anything can happen on game day when the pressure is on. Rush actually planned on setting a mark of 450, but he skipped a few digits between #305 and #310.

Seventh grader Shiyang Yang came in 2nd with 205 digits, and 8th grader Dylan White came in 3rd with 200.

ROOM 109 HIT, CULPRITS UNKNOWN

by Nathaniel Bumpo

On the evening of April 15, a projectile crashed through a Room 109 window, scattering glass on the window ledge and floor.

The damage was first noticed by the janitorial staff the next morning. Mr. Huang inspected the damage on the night of April 16 just before the presentation of the musical Peter Pan.

"We're not sure who did it, so I don't even want to speculate," he said.

Mr. Huang, citing disappointment in the

Chinese mafia, has hinted at starting his own "family", but sources deny that the mafia would commit this act to keep Huang in the fold. Another possibility could be a rift between Huang and the parties involved in his mysterious trip to Lebanon and Syria this spring. He has continually stated that he "delivered a package for a friend" in Syria, but details of the package or the recipient have been sketchy at best.

LONGFELLOW MATHCOUNTS TEAM TAKES 2ND AT STATE

by Lewis Clark

"You can't win them all" might be the mantra in which Longfellow seeks solace after losing to a surprising team from Rachel Carson Middle School at Mathcounts Virginia state competition this year.

Led by young phenom Daniel Li, Carson stunned Longfellow who has won the Virginia

Mathcounts title almost every year since the competition's inception.

However, Longfellow will still be represented on the Virginia team at nationals. By placing 3rd in the state, Eric Bomgardner made the 4-person team, and by placing 5th, Will Minshew is first alternate.

GENIUS OF 4TH PERIOD IN DOUBT

by Barbara Silvernail

Could it be that 4th period isn't so smart after all? Is the earth actually flat? Is there actually chicken in Chicken of the Sea? The overall evidence assures us that we need not worry, but let's look at some recent evidence.

On February 3, a 4th period student raised his hand and asked:

"Are we going to finish this book? We're not even done with half of this book yet." At the time, 4th period was on page 545 of the 929-page textbook. The student was immediately whisked away to a testing facility to verify his correct course placement.

Furthermore, during 3rd quarter, another student twice asked

during tests if Mr. Huang only wanted answers that were complex numbers.

Since *all* numbers are complex, he could only answer with a puzzled, "Well...yeah."

FACULTY DEFEATS STUDENTS IN BASKETBALL

by World B. Free

In this year's annual faculty-student basketball game, the faculty used high percentage shooting and superior rebounding to defeat the students 52-24.

"We haven't had a blowout like this in a long time," said Mr. Alexander after the game. The 8th graders' shooting came up cold when it counted, and their full-court press, which some said would give the faculty fits, strangely never materialized.

"I was expecting it, but you can only press after you make shots. If you're not making them, you won't even have the opportunity to press," said Mr. Huang, who scored 13 points on 5-8 shooting from the field and 3-6 from the line.

"The student team will

always have a tough time. They must depend on 3's, fast breaks, and steals. It's tough to win like that. That's why the faculty has only lost twice." Mr. Huang knows how hard it is for the students to win. In 1984, he played in the same game as a student.

"It was a blowout like this year," he said. "I don't even think we scored 20 on the faculty that year. I bricked my only shot and I got the ball stolen right out of my hands by one of the science teachers. I know how frustrated the 8th graders feel."

On a sad note, Mr. Pometto, the only teacher to start in every faculty-student basketball game, was unable to play this year.

NEWS NOTES

- Painting has restarted on the north and east walls
- 4th period has formally challenged a 100-year-old proof concerning harmonic sequences
- Han Kim scored 7 more perfect SDs during 3rd quarter, giving him 14 for the year, 4 more than 2nd place Mina Oh
- According to a worldwide survey, "x" is still the most popular variable