



The OJCL Torch

editor jane klaus

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Writers or Thieves?

A good writer is a better thief.

Chaos is the purported progenitor of everything. As Chaos apparently fathers the stars, planets, and us, Menander is the father of comedy. Menander is a boss. Without Menander, we wouldn't have the worlds of Plautus' plays, nor the microcosms of Terence's words, nor the universes of Shakespeare's tragedies. And there would be no controversial jokes from Chris Rock, nor bathroom quips from Dane Cook.

But why?

The authors that Cicero deemed the best comic playwrights ever blatantly plagiarized the plays of Menander (the Chaos of comedy). Plautus stole whole lines, Terence ran off with whole sections, and Caecilius Statius grabbed whole plots. And by the way, four out of Terence's six plays were named the same way Menander's were. When you steal, at least be subtle.

The Broadway musical *The Boys from Syracuse*, written by Richard Rodgers, had the same plot as Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*. But as we all know, Shakespeare happened to be a writer especially guilty of stealing ideas from other authors. In this case, he based his comedy on Plautus' *The Brothers Menæchmi*, the idea of which Plautus stole from *The Double Deception*, a comedy written by another author named... Menander. Richard Rodgers stole from Shakespeare who stole from Plautus who stole from Menander... Plagiarism makes you famous!

But that's just one example of the piracy frenzy that consumed the world of ancient literature. The Trojan War, as described in Homer's *Iliad*, was like a

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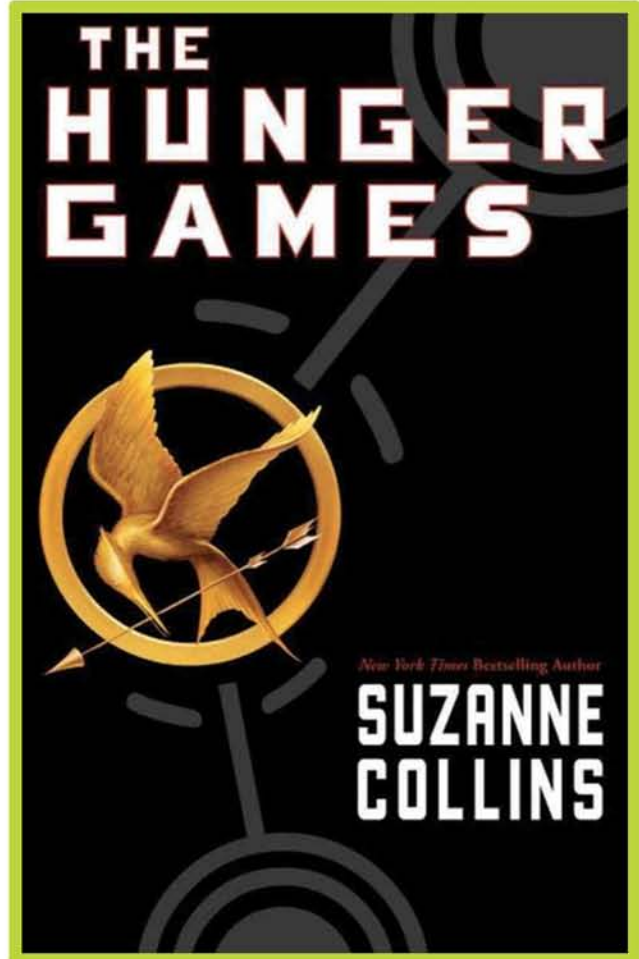
recycled movie. Vergil's Aeneid, the plot of which had already been well known in Rome, was a sequel to the Illiad, as was the Odyssey. And Livius Andronicus wrote the Trojan Horse as a side story to the Trojan War, while Gnaeus Naevius replicated the same, exact story with the same, exact title.

Hollywood would be proud.

Of course, idea-heists have yet to exit the literary world. As the people of the Internet claim, Suzanne Collins probably stole her idea for The Hunger Games from Battle Royale, which is a story about children. Fighting to the death. In a remote, exotic area. As a means of showing the control that a higher authority held over its people. All within the context of a love stroy.

The point is that writing's hard, man. To start with nothing and wind up with something cool is no easy task. But in the end, while it might not bring you the fame and fortune you hoped for, it's better to say you're a Menander rather than a thief like Shakespeare.

--Tino Delamerced (President, Summit)



Tino Delamerced and Eleni Packis at a recent Executive Board meeting

*(Top) Trojan War Horse
(Bottom) The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins--a product of plagiarism?*

Service Updates

Madeira

It's the most wonderful time of the year! The time when snow glides lightly through the air and leaves crunch on the ground--everyone is filled with holiday cheer and families come together to celebrate Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Saturnalia for us Latin fanatics, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and New Year's. However, not everyone is blessed with having food on the table. This is why Madeira Latin Club donates canned goods to Inter Parish Ministries every year on the last day before Thanksgiving Break.

Competition is rife: each Latin level plots a secret plan to be the class that garners the most cans to win a pizza and movie party. This non-perishable fever leads students to trek the subdivisions of Madeira for hours in the November cold and spend time in the aisles of Kroger, Costco, and Sam's Club--deciding which items to buy to get the best bang for their buck. In the end, Latin IV ended up winning, with 57 points per person. But Latin V right on their tails with 52 points. Yet, the truth is that we all win! This year, the Madeira Latin Club brought in more cans than ever before, and I could not be more thrilled by all of the hard work, commitment to service and compassion for others that was shown.

While having a pizza party was fun and all, nothing compared to the feeling I got when I saw the stock room at Inter Parish Ministries filled with piles of unloaded cans. The sheer number of them all: cans in boxes, cans in bags, cans stacked on top of each other, was rewarding in itself. As they say, "melior est dare quam accipere"--it is better to give than to receive. And I can't wait to help out again next year!

--Lydia Seiter (Madeira)



Madeira donating their time at Inter Parish Ministries

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer:

This event was a walk benefitting the American Cancer Society and their efforts in curing breast cancer. Madeira Latin Club teamed up with both Madeira French and Spanish clubs to join in the fight against breast cancer. The club had 27 members participate in the walk on October 13th, 2013 through downtown Cincinnati. This has turned into an annual event for all the foreign language clubs at Madeira High School and each year there are more walkers, especially from the Latin club.

Toga Trick or Treat:

Toga trick or treat has become a favorite event amongst the Madeira Latin members. This event takes place on October 31st in a Madeira neighborhood each fall. This year 20 members got to enjoy the thrills of dressing up in their togas and running around the street. The only difference between this event and actual Halloween, is members do not ask for candy, but canned food instead. These collected cans were then transported to a gracious Senatus member's basement where they were stored until Thanksgiving time. Then, the cans were driven to the Inter Parish Ministry to be distributed to underprivileged Cincinnati families.

Canned Food Drive:

This event is the biggest annual service event in the Madeira Latin Club. All Latin levels are asked to bring in canned food/hygiene products for needy Cincinnati area families. These items were then combined with the 'toga trick or treat' cans to be brought to the Inter Parish Ministry for distribution. Members love this event because they are aware of their impact on the lives of others, but, also, the level that brings in the most items per capita wins themselves a pizza party and movie day. All these incentives call for harsh competition among the classes, but also show the true spirit of this giving holiday. The cans were dropped off by 14 members on November 26, 2013 and were happily accepted by the Parish staff who realize more cans come in each year.



Some of the canned food collected by Madeira Latin Club

Summit

Summit has been very active with service within the past months. Here are a few of the things we have been involved with!

Matthew: 25 Ministries is an international humanitarian aid and disaster relief organization; through many centers across the nation, volunteers help to do a variety of activities to help those stricken with a natural disaster or have fallen into poverty. Activities include sorting clothes, pairing shoes, and moving large quantities of liquid soap from small plastic containers to large shipment boxes, all to be used by the less fortunate. We were able to attend Matthew 25 five times since last year's state convention. 75 people attended, and 175 service hours were logged total.

Marjorie P. Lee Retirement Home is a local Retirement home in Cincinnati. Each year, they have a trick-or-treat event, where the grandchildren of the residents are invited to go trick-or-treating in the home. We assisted in this event by supplying the residents with bags of candy and helping to guide the grandchildren from place to place. 27 people attended, and 81 service hours were logged.

The California Nature Preserve is part of the Cincinnati Parks organization; this is where the yearly Make a Difference Day was hosted. First, the Honey Suckle Death Squad went in and chopped down the invasive honey suckle taking over the land at the nature preserve. We also mulched the trails in the preserve to keep the grounds healthy. 23 people attended and 69 service hours were logged.

--Tullus Dean (Summit Country Day)





SUA Service

Every year the Saint Ursula Academy Latin Club makes headbands for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to benefit the Light the Night Walk. Supporting this walk has always been a priority for SUA because in 2009 we lost Natalie Bradley, a senior, to Leukemia. To make the headbands we bought fabric and puffy paint and cut each one individually. With the words “We love Natalie” written in Latin on every headband keeping her in our thoughts was an easy thing to do. After selling numerous headbands to our entire school several girls participated in the walk at Mason High School.

This year we asked the girls in our OJCL club to contribute to take-away bags for the Ronald McDonald House. Our theme for Convention this year is helping women and children in need, so we decided to reach out to those suffering from hunger very close to our own homes. Almost every girl signed up to bring in either Instant Oatmeal Packets, energy bars, mini water bottles, pretzels, Cheez-Its, peanut butter crackers, and gallon size bags as well. On the assembly date, our club put 118 takeaway bags together for this cause. A very successful venture, we hope to continue helping the Ronald McDonald House give back to a community very much in need.

Every March, Dr. Tricia Croake-Ulemann goes to Honduras for a week for the Doctors Without Borders Campaign. During her time there the Red Cross in Honduras organizes a shoe drive to provide the less fortunate people living in Honduras with a pair of lightly used shoes. This year, the Saint Ursula Academy OJCL Latin Club will be having a shoe drive from February 17th to the 21st to support this cause. We are very excited to participate in this global event to help better the lives of people less fortunate than ourselves.

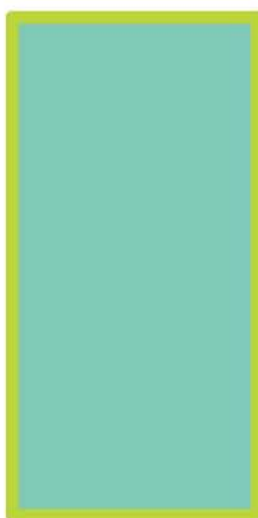
As Convention approaches, our Saint Ursula Academy OJCL Latin Club decided to get into the spirit of Valentine’s Day and make Valentines for the patients of Children’s Hospital. Similar to the takeaway bags, our club came together to assemble valentines for children who might not have gotten the chance to receive them otherwise. Our club met with bags of candy and craft supplies to create little gift bags full of goodies for the less fortunate children in the greater Cincinnati area by providing Cincinnati Children’s Hospital with these bags.

--Maria Weisgerber (St. Ursula Academy)

CAIN

CHURCHES ACTIVE IN NORTHSIDE

"Help for Today — Hope for Tomorrow"



Gallic Wars at McAuley!

Since school resumed in January, Latin students at McAuley have been waging a friendly war with the French students down the hall. The weapons used in this war, however, are cans of beans and other non-perishables. The purpose? To collect canned food for CAIN, which is a food pantry located in Northside, a Cincinnati suburb. CAIN (Churches Active in Northside) provides food and assistance to those in need in the community. All in all, the collection was a great success, with students bringing bags of canned goods to try to make their class's bin the fullest. The Latin and French classes definitely teamed up to turn the Gallic Wars into a successful (and fun) collection for CAIN!

--Mary Dickman (McAuley High School)

Northeast/Northwest MADD Recap

On November 16th, OJCLers from the Northeast and Northwest regions, led by myself and Allison Kao, transformed themselves into ancient Olympians for an "Olympic Day" at Youth Challenge. (And thankfully, the OJCL Olympics went much smoother than the Sochi Olympics.) Youth Challenge is a nonprofit organization that brings together children with physical disabilities and volunteers for adapted sports and recreational activities.

The night began with OJCLers dressed in togas dramatically carrying in a torch for the Opening Ceremony. Yes, it was a real torch, it just happened to resemble a flashlight. From there, the YC participants were split into two rooms, one for fresco painting while watching Hercules and the other for partaking in Olympic events from antiquity. We gave brief historical blurbs before each event. The Olympic events were modified for the YC participants, so for the intense chariot races they used their wheelchairs as chariots and navigated around bright orange cones, for javelin throwing they used pool noodles as javelins, and for discus they used little rubber balls and threw them into hula hoops.

At the end of the night, there was a closing ceremony where all of the exuberant YC participants were crowned with homemade laurel wreaths. Everyone drank wine and ate bread (otherwise known as grape juice and crackers for the less imaginative) to honor the Romans. Thanks to all who came, it was an awesome time for everyone involved!
--Eleni Packis (Gubernator, Westlake)



Some of the participants in the NE/NW MADD



Some central region OJCLers handing out food at Broad Street!

Central Region MADD A Success

Each Thanksgiving, the Broad Street Food Pantry in Downtown Columbus supplies enough food for a complete Thanksgiving feast to 150 needy families in neighborhoods surrounding the Broad Street Presbyterian Church, and for the second year in a row, students from the Central Region helped make the 2013 project a success.

Despite the frigid temperatures, students and their advisors began arriving around 8:30 a.m. the morning of Saturday, November 23, to help Food Pantry staff and other volunteers prepare for the annual Thanksgiving food giveaway. It was the Region's Make a Difference Day and approximately 50 students volunteered their time that morning.

People had begun lining up outside in the cold much earlier, so everyone jumped into action to get the food lines set up. Students immediately began setting up tables in an assembly line, unpacking food items, and making trips to the recycling bin. Once set-up was complete, students split up among different food stations and helped families fill their carts with vegetables, broth, cranberries, and turkeys. One group of students assisted families in transporting the food from the church to their cars in carts.

Afterward, students helped with clean-up, which included pushing brooms and taking more trips to the recycling bins and trash receptacles.

The Food Pantry is one of the largest food donation stations in Columbus, providing a five-day supply of food to 30 families daily. Twice a month from May to October, the pantry provides additional fresh produce to 200 families. Director Kathy Kelly Long appreciated the support provided by the Central Region. "Your group was great to work with," she said.

--Henry Bacha, Gubernator, Wellington

Service Summary

The OJCL Extends its Hand

If there was ever an organization that always gave its heart and care to others it would be this one. In just this year alone the members of the OJCL have totaled over 2000 hours of service, if not more. The extent to which this service has been given is just as astounding as well. In a single year we have cleaned up the parks around our cities, given food to the hungry, brought the classics to those with disabilities and so much more. I am so proud of every OJCLer who has given their time for the benefit of the community. Project Linus will also be returning to convention this year for the third year in a row. I'd love to see everyone show up to help out! All in all, this past year has been an incredible year for the OJCL, and I cannot wait to see what next year brings for us.

--Ryan Thaxton (1st Vice President, Westlake)



SW Gubernator Ra'ad Dawood, who organized this year's regional MADD at California Woods



Allsion Kao organizing a portion of the NE/NW MADD



Participants in the NE/NW MADD showing their OJCL pride!



New By-Law Amendments

In early December the Board passed an amendment to the OJCL By-Laws.

The purpose of the amendment is to update the Executive Board offices based on changing trends in the OJCL. When the amendment goes into effect the 1st Vice President will manage membership and publicity, and the 2nd Vice President will oversee service and the arts.

While this sounds rather mundane, it will have long-term benefits for how the OJCL operates over the course of each term.

Now that the second VP will be spending most of the year focusing on service, delegates can expect an increase in statewide and regional community outreach opportunities. This office has been designed for a delegate with strong administrative abilities who can manage large projects and is comfortable working in conjunction with the gubernators to expand the role of service in the OJCL.

The possibilities for 1st VP 2.0 are more dynamic. The phrasing of the By-Law is intentionally vague so that the duties of the 1st Vice President can change depending on the year-to-year needs of the Board and the OJCL.

At the core, the role of the new 1st VP will be to focus on communications. He or she will work closely with Board members to advertise the OJCL to the public, such as overseeing newspaper releases for events. The officer will also be planning JCL events in the state of Ohio and events with other states. Additionally, the 1st VP can focus internally by expanding communications within the OJCL so that delegates will be able to more easily interact with the Executive Board and be able to participate in more activities.

It is important to note that these changes will go into effect next year with the election of the 2015-2016 officers, not at the 2014 Convention.

--Will Emery (Parliamentarian, Granville)

How People React to Latin Students (and How You Can Respond!)

There will come a time (actually, several times) in every Latin student's life when someone can't comprehend why you study a language that society has taught them is unimportant. Here are some time-tested responses you can use so that you don't launch into an unintended tirade the next time the words "dead language" rear their ugly heads.

Caveat: most of these will require a bit of advanced sarcastic finesse.

"You take... Latin?! Man, that stuff's all just Greek to me!"

Response: "That's weird. Greek is Greek to me, too."

"Latin? Do you go to like, a boarding school or something?"

Response: "No. Well, actually, there is this thing called Nationals..."

Alternate Response: "Of course I do. You honestly don't think they'll teach Latin to just anyone, do you? BE GONE, PEASANT."

"Latin? Wow. You must be so smart!"

Response: Just start reciting all the forms of *occido*, *occidere* that you know off the top of your head, making sure to translate each one into English for them while sustaining a slightly crazed look. They'll stare in amazement or back away slowly. Maybe even both. This is to be expected.

"You take Latin? Say something in Latin!"

Response: "Ecce! In pictura est puella, nomine Cornelia..."

Alternate Response (should be chanted or sung, in correct meter): "Arma virumque cano Troiae qui primus ab oris..."

"Latin... I can say things in Latin! Veenee Videe Vickee!"

Response: Resist the urge to groan. Out loud, anyway. Say, "OMZ, it's just like you're a native speaker!"

"That's so stupid. I take [random inferior language], and I use it all the time!

Well, like once a month. When are you ever going to use Latin? IT'S DEAD."

Response: "Cade in fossa, stultissima vacca."

Alternate Response: "Actually, my study of Latin has meant I have a much greater understanding of English etymology and vocabulary, and I can make sense of even the most difficult problems after solving the Sudoku puzzle that is a Latin sentence. And I can talk to that one teacher at State Convention! Although, let's be honest – the best part was knowing all the back history of that Doctor Who episode set in Pompeii..."

--Rachel Koize (McAuley High School)

Spotlight Schools

St. Edward's Living History Club

Will Beatrez, Historian – St. Edward High School

St. Edward offers a unique experience in its Latin club. After all, we have the only Latin club (as far as I am aware) that actually has a creative name – the St. Edward “Knights of the Tiber.” The Knights not only provide a decent yearly turnout to the state and national conventions, but also have an intense passion for the Classics.

This passion is definitely shown in one of our new programs at St. Edward's, starting just this school year by our very own Mr. Stemm (a.k.a. “Prime”), a recent addition to the Latin faculty at St. Edward's. St. Edward's “Living History Club” embodies the rich tradition of ancient combat. Students learn to construct equipment, including swords and shields (made from safe materials, of course). They then train using various battle and training techniques.

Mr. Stemm himself is very experienced with similar combat equipment building and fighting, a sport which is holistically known as “Live Action Role-Playing (LARP).” This specific type of LARPing which Living History Club practices deals with traditional hand-to-hand combat. The Living History Club has high hopes of expanding to other local high schools, and maybe even hosting tournaments or invitationals. Since Mr. Stemm is the moderator, I will allow him to further describe the club.

Mr. Greg “Prime” Stemm – St. Edward High School

Living History is in its first year. Its purpose is to safely recreate pre-gunpowder medieval combat. St. Ed's Living History uses the Belegarth combat system, one of many LARPing rules systems. LARP sports began in the '70s, created by Lord of the Rings fans who wished to create an immersive experience that put them into the warfare of Middle Earth.

The club at St. Ed's meets weekly and is open to any who wish to participate with no need for equipment or prior experience. Practices include some combat drills to learn specifics about blade work, strike combinations, and footwork, but mostly consist of a wide variety of games. Team matches, free-for-alls, respawn games, and really anything you would find in a game like Halo are used when we gather. We also meet periodically for build sessions, so students can make their own equipment instead of buying it, and learn the skills necessary to keep making gear on their own.

Future plans include armor workshops, and hopes for a spring invitational to gather students from all local schools in the hope of growing clubs at other schools. The field day would consist of combat events, history seminars, equipment building tutorials, a wide range of battle games, with equipment available for purchase. Costuming would be encouraged, and the day would culminate in a large medieval style feast and perhaps a camp-out on the field.

--Will Beatrez (Historian, St. Edward's) and Mr. Greg “Prime” Stemm (St. Edward's)

Spotlight Schools

Shaker Heights Latin Club

In Shaker Latin Club, the holiday season is packed with festivities. This past December, our local chapter decided to celebrate the holidays Roman-style! Instead of the generic Christmas or Hannukah celebration, we organized our annual Secret Saturnalia. Though similar to the anonymous gift exchange idea of Secret Santa, Secret Saturnalia requires each gift sack to include a sprig of evergreen from your neighborhood pine tree, a candle, and a small mystery gift. Members of our club were surprised with treats like cookies, candy bars, and more! In addition to our club-inclusive celebration, we began a new tradition of community outreach. Several Shaker JCL'ers brought the Roman festivities to one of our district's lower schools, Woodbury Elementary, through games and crafts. Our Latin Club students introduced ancient Roman culture to elementary kids through activities, such as edible mice Oreos, Io Saturnalia greeting cards, and Roman board games. Most of all, we shared the gift of the JCL – and that in itself exemplifies the spirit of the holiday season.

--Allison Kao (Gubernator, Shaker Heights)

**Want to see your
writing in the next
edition of The Torch?
Email a copy of your
article to
editor@ojcl.org!**

The New Year

Hi all! Lauren here, wishing you a happy (belated) New Year! While we may celebrate this January holiday with parties and countdowns, the ancient Romans did things slightly differently. Ianuarius, the first month of the Roman calendar, is actually named after the god Janus. In mythology, Janus represents renewal and new beginnings. Thus, the Romans dedicated January 1 (the kalends of Ianuarius) to Janus, as a way of signifying a fresh start. On this day, people would exchange well-wishes as well as fruit in the hopes that the cheerfulness would last the whole year. The celebration continued on January 9, when a ram was traditionally sacrificed to Janus in order to gain his favor. So, there you have it. The Roman New Year may have been less Times Square-oriented than ours, but the basic purpose was the same: to wish for joy, luck, and happiness in the upcoming months.

--Lauren Reder (Lakota West)

Classics in the Olympics


On Thursday, February 6th, 2014, the 22nd Winter Olympic Games opened in Sochi, Russia. Surrounding the games is excitement, anticipation, fear, and a lot of politics, but hardly anyone remembers to mention the rich mythological and historical origin of the Olympics. As a fervent classical scholar, like all of you of course, I am outraged and want to remedy this lapse in knowledge.

Most Latin students, even the baby Latin 1/2s, would be able to tell you that the Olympics derives its name from the plain Olympia in Greece. They would proceed to describe to you the religious nature of the games, and how they were played out to bring glory to the gods. This is, of course, mythologically and historically correct; however, there is much more to the story of the birth of these famed games.

Historically, the first games were held in 776 BC, roughly twenty years before the birth of Rome. There are multiple, intertwined legends detailing just how these first games came about. The first, of course, revolves around Zeus. It is said that he marked Olympia as his sacred land by hurling a thunderbolt at the spot where his altar now stands. Thus the games were simply another festival to honor Zeus, with ceremonies such as the “hecatombe”, where one hundred oxen were sacrificed to him.

In the next myth, the hero Pelops is renowned as the founder of the games. He falls in love with the beautiful Hippodameia, daughter of King Oinomaos, but in order to win her hand he must beat the king in an impossible chariot race. Hippodameia cleverly persuades her

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father's charioteer to replace his bronze pins with ones made of wax, and therefore ensures Pelops's victory. In the end they are married, and Pelops holds chariot games to give thanks to the gods and cleanse his hands of Oinomaos's death. These games are thought to be the first Olympics.

The final legend stems from the story of Pelops, yet has Hercules as the true founder. The story goes that Hercules organized the games in celebration of his completion of all twelve labors at the site of Pelops's grave. He also planted the sacred olive tree where the victory wreaths came from and measured out the distance of the first race by 600 paces.

Moving from mythology into history, this first race, known as the one-stade race measured out by Hercules, was the only event for 13 years. Afterwards, more events were added to the Olympics including the hoplitodrome, a rather comical event where competitors had to race wearing full suits of armor.

After a hundred years, the games had expanded to include several events and new spaces were built to accommodate the athletes, who naturally were all male Greek citizens. Women were forbidden from even watching the games, on the penalty of death. Eventually the games expanded to include other citizens of the Roman Empire, but after Rome conquered Greece in 100s BC, the Olympics fell sharply into decline. It would take hundreds of years for them to recommence and grow into what they are today.

--Emily Haussler (Secretary, Summit)

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil or My Secret Keys to the Kingdom

As my last convention as a JCLer approaches, I find myself thinking of my first. I could tell you about the family I gained by joining the OJCL, or the unforgettable experiences I treasure, but you have heard that all before. Mostly, I would like to impart to you some wisdom about my favorite part of Convention: the projects.

Being a naturally competitive person, and not the brightest lightning rod in Zeus' quiver, I found graphic and creative arts projects to be a place for me to contribute to my team. In particular, there is one that I hold near and dear to my heart. Couples costume has been a journey of Odyssean proportions that I have embarked on with my best friend, Emily Haussler. We began in 8th grade, and have been gleefully devoting months of work to this one project ever since. We have made some false starts, some embarrassing gaffes, and even

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(dare I say) some grievous errors, yet we still approach this final year's endeavor with strangely enthusiastic attitudes.

Now, my lovelies, I will share with you all that we have discovered.

1. Never, and I mean never, drape fabric on a person and start cutting. You will not achieve a straight line. Yes this sounds obvious but certain 8th graders have been known to attempt it.
2. The less seaming necessary the better – you are not as skilled with a needle as you think you are. Simplicity is your friend when designing your dress. Leave the wow factor to the details.
3. On that note, include details! The more the better! Judges want to see that you know what you are talking about. This goes for all projects in general.
4. Three days before convention is not the time to acquire a new skill. Say, sculpting for example. You will end up with clay that is not dry yet that you are barely holding together with your fingers in front of the judges. Experiment when there is enough time for you to fail and go for Plan B.
5. Accept that something will go wrong at the worst possible time. For instance, a shoe breaking as you are walking into the judging room. Bring all-purpose supplies to make quick-fixes in times of peril.

These few rules can be applied to many graphic and creative arts projects. I hope that you can learn from the painful example of your elders and be better than we ever were. Bonam fortunam, and may the odds be ever in your favor.

--Kelly McBride (2nd Vice President, Summit)



Latin Trivia

Which Roman emperor was considered to be the tallest?
(He is pictured to the left)

Email your response to
editor@ojcl.org to be entered to
win a prize!