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THE GILA MONSTER

Volume 5, Issue 3

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The Gila Monster staff would like to thank the support it gets from the school and community.

Laughter and games at pep rally

By the GILA journalism class

GCS freshmen Trevor Marshall and Stacey Captain after freshamn initiation at the pep rally.

Julissa Kauffman and Brandon Walker share a close moment with a lifesaver.

More pep rally photos are on page 7.

What do you get when you have toothpicks, water spray bottles, spoons and a whole lot of laughter? A great pep rally!

The night started off with the coaches of cross country running, volleyball, wrestling and junior high basketball talking about the students in these sports and how the season is going.

Then came the fun and games.

The first game of this great pep rally was a crowd favorite, the freshman initiation.

The freshman had to talk for two minutes about unicorns. If for any reason they paused, the seniors sprayed them with water. Sounds easy enough, but it's not.

Most freshmen had a nice little shower before going home for the night.

The second game was the weave game. Ten students from each grade, five females and five males, got in a line up. They took some string that had a spoon attached to one end and had to get it to the last person in line by getting the string through their clothes and handing it to the next person. Junior high won this exciting game.

After a night of not-so-good showing, the seniors took the relay race by storm. They spun ten times on a bats, hopped around the cones with a ball between their knees, and scooted down half court on their butts faster than any other class.

Last but not least, there is the age old chant. "We've got spirit, yes we do! We've got spirit, how bout you!"

The loudest class won, which was the seniors with elementary students helping.

Overall, this has been one of the best pep rallies these schools have seen in a while.

Student opinion

Walking is a privilege at GILA

By Daniella Vasquez
Staff writer

Sometimes, don't you just want to get away? Perhaps walk somewhere without the dorms in your face?

Well, too bad. If you're not on Level 3, you don't deserve the freedom of getting away.

Why can't we mosey on over to the store, what's so bad about that?

Well, the dorms need to know where you are at all times, just in case you decide to run away or something along those lines. I know, isn't that what signing out is for? Well, not everyone signs out.

So I asked Ben Blasco if everyone could walk off base if we all signed out, "Not unless you want person searches when you come back. Walking off base is a Level 3 privilege."

Technically, Mr. Blasco is your daddy and there is nothing you can do about it. If you decide that indeed he is not your daddy and you walk to the store and back, with NO detours, (You know what I mean, "bad stuff"), then you will have a minimum of 1 day room and 2 days floor restriction.

But, if you are one of the few, the proud, the Level 3, (I too was once a Level 3, but my room was declared a disaster area), then you can walk off base with no worries. But you must be in pairs.

Apparently it is the same rule in Mt. Edgecombe, without all the Level 3 business, and in Nenana, all you need is written permission from your dorm parent.

So, my question is, if we're such great golden students of Alaska, then why are we treated like cows and kept inside a fence?

Why not let us roam in the pasture until we give you a reason to put us in the barn?

Why not give us your trust until we do something to lose it?

First comes love, then comes IDA

By Andi Grundberg
Staff writer

Dean of students Ben Blasco said he's thinking of adding more rules and restrictions to the list of offenses for inappropriate display of affection (IDA) here at GILA.

Blasco said any changes wouldn't take place until next year.

He said he's caught students violating rules for inappropriate display of affection here at the school – even some serious offenses.

Matthew Abel said he's also caught some students violating IDA. His worst violator involved a couple kissing. "I've never walked in on anyone making out, then I'd be shocked," he said.

The penalty for IDA starts with a warning.

Caught? Your Consequences

These are the rules for inappropriate display of affection (IDA).

Minor Offenses

Hugging (at school only), kissing, hanging on one another, body parts draped on one another, laying on one another, sitting on laps or between legs (forwards or backwards), hands on butts

Major Offenses

Being caught in the act of making out or giving hickies, groping one another, hands under clothing, hands on breasts or on genitalia, clothing articles removed, or sexual acts.

Things we are allowed to do

Hold hands, sit next to each other, hug for three seconds

The editor-in-chief of *The Gila Monster* is Tiffany Woods; managing editor, Sarah Reagin; staff writers are Andi Grundberg, Daniella Vasquez, Kelly Kehlenbach, Pina Sheldon, and Melinia McCarty.

Students enjoy AFN conference

By Pina Sheldon
Staff writer

Most of the GILA students we talked with attending the Alaska Federation of Natives annual convention had a good time learning about Native culture and watching the dances.

The AFN convention was Oct. 17 to 22 in Fairbanks. About one dozen students from GILA attended the convention, as well as the social studies teacher Carlee Malemute.

Amanda Hetherington, a senior, said she enjoyed learning about her Native culture. She said that the most positive thing about attending the convention was seeing how people in other cultures danced and listening to Native songs.

Jake Yoder, a sophomore, said "When I went to the convention, I was paying attention. Watching the native dances was the best thing I did when I was there. "

Samantha Sooalo, a junior, said "I seen all the dances". I've seen a lot of people and some friends and family. When I wasn't at AFN, I was riding around and having fun.

Cheryl Neglaska, a junior, said that AFN was a great place to meet with family and friends.

Brandon J. Walker, a junior, said when I went to the convention I listened to the speeches and watched the native dances. When I wasn't there I would go to the movies and hang out.

Galena city school junior Christie Carlo is on the gurney as members of the Aniak Dragonslayers show off their EMT skills at the AFN gathering.

Photo courtesy Carlee Malemute

Teacher wants students to take AFN ideas home

This is an interview with Carlee Malemute about her trip to AFN, the Alaska Federation of Natives by news editor Sarah Reagin.

Saran Reagin: Have you ever been to AFN before?

Carlee Malemute: Once when I was 13, but I don't remember much.

SR: What did you hope to get out of your trip to AFN?

CM: I was hoping to hear about issues and that the students would hear the issues. I also wanted them to meet other student leaders across Alaska.

SR: How does the trip to AFN benefit your students?

CM: It will allow them to see the issues across Alaska and the ideas that they can take back to their village.

SR: Describe what happened at the youth and elders conference.

CM: They had a lot of presentations and break outs. The break outs were where people would have smaller presentations about various topics. One of them was Mt Edgecumbe. They talked a lot about boarding schools.

SR: Who did you meet while you were at AFN?

CM: Mostly the people I went to high school with.

Feeling Fruity?

Dear Editor,

I believe instead of junk food for a snack our bodies need healthy foods. Surely we all like candy, but we need something new and healthy. In candy there is a lot sugar. For instance my favorite fruit to devour is cherries which are fruit. Devouring fruits and vegetables make your bones grow stronger and your teeth stay clean. It is a crime to your body when you feed it to much sugar. When you have a healthy body it means you focus. Also it means you will be less likely to be sick. Hopefully our youth of today will listen to me. Nuts, apples, dried fruits, water, fruit juices, and milk are good. You will probably live longer because you are getting the right kind of sugars. I love healthy foods.

Sincerely,
Emily Berry

Dear Editor,

I think healthy foods are better for kids my age instead of eating junk food. If you want to be healthy eat healthy food because you will survive. It will help your bones and you could have a better snowball fight. You could have better teeth. Likely you will be sick because you don't have good food in your body. When you eat good food you will feel better because you will have healthy food in you. Your brain won't hurt if you have an apple. But don't have to much good food. I love healthy food.

Sincerely,
Parker Pitka

Kate Thurmond's fifth grade class wrote letters to the editor to express thier feelings about eating healthy food. We really appreciate the time and effort that these students made writing these letters. If you would like to write a letter to the editor, please send them to Tiffany Woods, editor in chief, The Gila Monster, P.O. Box 359, Galena, AK 99741 or by e-mail to woods_tiffany2004 @yahoo.com. All letter writers are contacted

Dear Editor,

I think healthy foods are good for your body and healthy for your brain. You should not eat candy that much because it will rot your teeth. Fruits are probably a main food that is good for your body. My favorite fruit is bananas. I mostly eat bananas. You will have stronger teeth if you eat healthy foods. You should eat vegetables and fruits every single day. I love healthy foods.

Sincerely,
Carmen Williams

Dear Editor,

I think healthy foods are better for kids my age than junk food. If they don't eat healthy things their teeth will rot. People that eat healthy foods have good teeth. Some healthy foods are carrots, apples, grapes, and bananas. Mostly you need healthy things for healthy bodies. You can freely bring healthy foods for a snack. If they have healthy foods they will focus on their work better. If we have healthy foods we will do better on our work.

Sincerely,
Devan Thurmond

Dear Editor,

Humans should eat more healthy foods instead of junk food. People should eat the main kind of foods like fruits, vegetables, and meats. People shouldn't eat junk foods so they can survive longer. Healthy foods help your brain think and mostly junk food rots your teeth. My favorite healthy food is ribs. I know that good food helps you focus more on what you are doing. Kids shouldn't eat junk food because they will get overweight. When you eat foods like fruit, these will give energy so you can move around more. Eating junk foods will make you get sick more often. I love healthy foods, and they are good for all.

Sincerely,
Vance Gregory

Dear Editor,

I think that people should eat fruits and vegetables so they won't have bad teeth. Frankly kids should be brushing their teeth after every meal. Pop and candy is bad but if we made kids eat healthy foods it will help. Kids get bad habits from teenagers because they see teenagers drinking pop and munching candy. Pop and candy rot our teeth and brain. I think that if we ate vegetables we would be healthier.

Sincerely,
Damon Huntington

Dear Editor,

I think that munching healthy foods are better for kids my age than junk food. Surely it would make us less tired because we're getting the right kinds of sugar. When we eat candy our teeth get rotten. Good foods will greatly make our bones stronger and will make us think better. We will not be sick. Great foods will make us live longer.

Sincerely,
Kevin Evans

Dear Editor,

Humans should eat more healthy foods instead of junk food. People should eat the main kind of foods like fruits, vegetables, and meats. People shouldn't eat junk foods so they can survive longer. Healthy foods help your brain think and mostly junk food rots your teeth. My favorite healthy food is ribs. I know that good food helps you focus more on what you are doing. Kids shouldn't eat junk food because they will get overweight. When you eat foods like fruit, these will give energy so you can move around more. Eating junk foods will make you get sick more often. I love healthy foods, and they are good for all.

Sincerely,
Vance Gregory

Dear Editor,

I think you should eat vegetables to stay healthy. The kids back at GILA should eat candy rarely. It will make them focus on school work. All through the year they should eat healthy foods. If they are sick they should eat vegetables. They will probably live longer because they are surviving on healthy foods. They can make a choice if they want a healthy body. Their teeth will be brighter. Stronger teeth are better than having bad teeth. I think that healthy foods are fantastic.

Sincerely,
Morgan Turner

Dear Editor,

I think youth should eat healthy foods. When my family eats we try to guess if they food is healthy or not healthy. These kinds of foods, carrots and milk, will make your bones stronger. The right kind of foods will make you less tired because you are getting the right kinds of sugar. Your teeth will rot when you don't eat good foods. The best food will make you think better. My favorite food is pears. Fruits, veggies, and meats are amazing foods.

Sincerely,
Kyle Nickoli

Dear Editor,

You might have noticed that a lot of kids who eat too much candy become overly exhausted during class. If they are tired in class, they can't focus, and get bad grades, and this affects them in a bad way. In and school sport, such as basketball, volleyball, or some other games, students need to have healthy foods to energize them. Quickly, these foods make you fit and strong. When you eat candy, you obtain bad sugars that make you slow and sluggish, but when you eat an apple, you receive natural sugars that most likely will greatly improve your immune system and make you awake and healthy. When you eat unhealthy foods, you could get a gaseous stomachache. Kids also need to eat good foods because they are setting an example for younger children. It is infrequent that kids bring a healthy snack to school. I suggest that you encourage GILA students to bring apples, oranges, nuts, and water for a snack instead of the usual pop, juice, and candy. If kids do not eat better now, they are more susceptible to heart attacks. If kids eat healthy now, they will have a better future. I am optimistic that kids will start to eat healthier foods. Kids need to eat healthy.

Sincerely,
Dylan Korta

First Person Story

She's moving out

GILA student moves out of dorm and into town with relative

Melinia McCarty
Staff writer

Living at my auntie's house and living at the dorms are two totally different subjects. Yeah, I moved out of the dorms last Friday, October 14, 2005.

Some of the things that are different is that I could walk around without someone walking with me. At the dorms you need to be on Level 3 and you have to walk with someone, and you have to sign out on the sign out sheet. I could also drive around with my friends on four-wheeler, truck, and sno-go. I have the chance to travel to Ruby on sno-go practically whenever I want without having my parents sending travel-permission papers and that takes off a lot of stress for them because they tend to get too busy to do that.

The best thing that I like about living at my auntie's house is that I can visit my friends and chill at their places. If I was at the dorms I wouldn't be able to do that. I also can't forget the freedom I got - it feels great! I don't have to do all the stuff the dorms made me do all the time and I don't have people watching every move I make.

The worst thing about living away from the dorms is my friend Tara is back there and we can't chill like we always did. But I see her in some of my class's and she's on Level 3 - one of the privileges is walking off base. So we always meet on the road and walk around. Probably the only things I miss about the dorms is my best friend Tara, my cousins (they know who they are), and just all my friends.

The most fun thing that's happened since I left the dorms would have to be I got to chill at my friends place and watch them play a $20 video-game, it was fun! The weird thing about it was that I kept thinking I had to go the dorms at 11 p.m. and I kept looking at the clock.

The way my family reacted when I asked if I can transfer to the city school was no biggy. They understood why I wanted to leave and didn't try to change my mind into staying there.

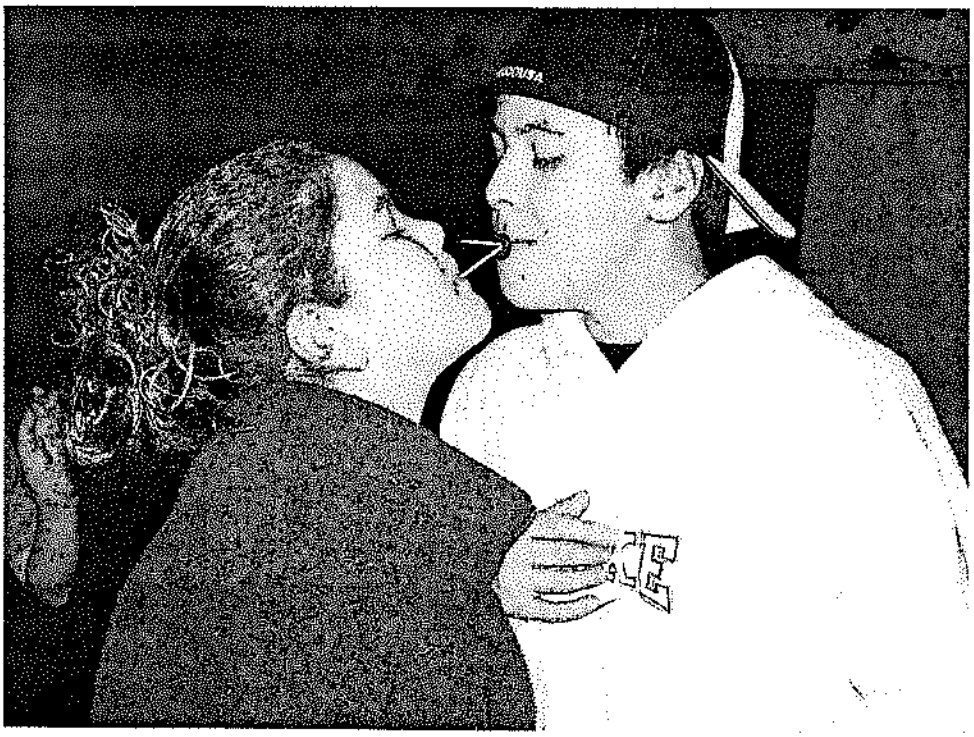
I feel that I've accomplished something since I've attended G.I.L.A for 3 years and half a semester. I didn't want to stay any longer because I wanted more freedom and a lot less stress my senior year.

When I told my friends that I was leaving G.I.L.A, some of them said that I was lucky, some of them said I sucked because I was leaving them, and most of them were excited that I was leaving because I could hangout with them more, because in the past I barely hung out with them at all.

Leaving G.I.L.A. has been a very big step and change for me and my friends to deal with, but sometimes you need to deal with change in your life because if you don't then you wouldn't know how to react to it when it happens just out of the blue, which happens all the time.

'Christmas Story' actors visit

Katie Durbie talks to Zach Ward, who played "Scut Farkus" in *A Christmas Story*. Ward visited Galena with actors Scott Schwartz ("Flick") and R.D. Robb ("Schwartz") on Nov. 12. The Boys and Girls Club sponsored the event.



Danielle Thurmond and Raymond Huntington share a lifesaver (left); elementary kids (top); Phillip Demientieff spins around (above).

Pep rally !

Senior class student representative Lena Hensley emceed the pep rally (left); Andi Grundberg, dressed as the Galena Hawk (below left) wowed the crowds; Senior Daniella Vasquez squirts freshman Charlotte Alexie during the intiation event; and freshman get all strung together (right) during another pep rally event .

Making new friends

By Sarah Reagin
News editor

Students come from all over Alaska to learn aviation, culinary arts, cosmetology, and, automotive. Some students are IDEA students.

What are IDEA students? IDEA students are students that are home schooled through the IDEA program. IDEA stands for Interior Distance Education of Alaska. These students stay for only 4 weeks. They study hard and learn as much as they can before their time is up.

Two of the students that came to join our school for a month were Jeremy Howard and Robert Rothenhoffer. They came to study automotive.

"Wow," was one of the first words that Jeremy thought of when he came. "The school is huge. I thought it was going to be a small school," said Jeremy.

This has been a big step for Robert. He has spent most of his schooling in his home and hasn't been very social. Coming to GILA has showed him more about being social and has made some great friends.

Wanna wrestle?

By Tiffany Woods
Editor-in-chief

Daniella Vasquez, a senior at GILA, took forth place during the Nome wrestling tournament on October 21 – 22.

The wrestlers that didn't make it to the finals wrestled in at least four matches. Daniella Vasquez wrestled seven matches due to the fact she made finals. Craig Aloysius and Harley Keller were only one match away from advancing to the third and fourth place matches during the tournament.

"When I found out I had made it to the finals, I was like yes!" said Daniella.

Coach Bryan Kirby and assistant coach Matthew Able took seven wrestlers on this particular meet. Daniella Vasquez, GILA senior, Bessie Hausmann, GHS sophomore, Wendy Jones, GILA junior, Garret Huntington, GHS sophomore, Tyler Yoder, GILA Sophomore, Craig Aloysius, GILA sophomore and Harley Keller, GHS sophomore.

"All of my wrestlers are outstanding for their actions. Each has a particular talent when wrestling and each displayed growing abilities. It was a great trip," said coach Kirby.

The next tournament is the Homer Round Robin November 4 - 5. There will be also be seven wrestlers going on that trip.

Mystery Person of the Month

Dream ride: *Lamborghini Diablo*
Row, row, row your boat, gently down the? *Hill*
Favorite music? *Rap and rock*
What do you want to be when you grow up? *Pilot*
What kind of shampoo do you use? *Suave*
Boxers or briefs? *Boxers*
If you could be a crayon, which one would you be? *Black, it's cool*
Hair color? *Brown*
Eye color? *Brown*
Favorite movie? *Longest yard*
Favorite food? *Shrimp*
Favorite class? *Art and culture*
Favorite thing to do in spare time? *Sit around*
What do you like most about the opposite sex? *"I don't know..., everything!"*
Most ticklish spot? *Stomach*
If you could get a piercing where would you get it? *"Ear, because it doesn't hurt."*
How many times a day do you look in the mirror? *"Whenever I wash my hands"*
Turnoffs? *Mustache*
X-box or Playstation? *X-box*
Favorite game? *Halo 2*
What should be an Olympic sport? *Football (no, not soccer)*
Favorite brand of clothing/shoes? *Adidas*
Favorite singer/band? *Metallica*
Color of blanket on bed? *Blue*
Favorite R.A.? *Dave*
Favorite place to be? *California*
How much wood would a woodchuck chuck? *"lots"*
Favorite drink? *Pepsi*

Answers are only accepted after the paper has been distributed. Turn in your answer to Mr. Apfelbeck, newspaper advisor, and you could win a six-pack of pop of your choice. Sorry, those ineligible to win prizes are students in the journalism class and the mystery person (duh!). Only one answer per person, please.