

## Guest Editorials

I have many ideas concerning the changes that should taken into mind when looking into the future of our school. The expansion of Senior Privileges to first semester as well as to juniors, the establishment of assembly schedule as regular schedule, and an increase in student-administration trust, since it is rather dwindling at this point. While these are all valid changes that should be considered, what I wish to advocate most is the scheduling of the first-semester exams.

When I was in ninth grade these exams were held before the winter break, and we all left for the vacation without an academic worry on our mind. The three years that followed, unfortunately, featured exams around mid-late January, about two weeks after the end of the break. While my personal vacation was not once hampered by this fact, I'm sure many others stressed over the upcoming exams while they should have been relaxing and enjoying their break. Even I had the bug in the back of my head (every student knows this feeling) that while I'm relaxing, I could be doing some studying, so time is somehow wasted.

Since I will be graduating soon, I won't get to benefit from this change, I hope that future high school students will get to go on break with a clean slate and the comforting thought that for about three weeks they get to worry about nothing but fun and relaxation.

-Daniel Prag

ASIJ is an awesome school, to say the least. The campus is beautiful, the students are friendly, the teachers are supportive, and there is so much opportunity to learn and grow. But one thing it is lacking is SPIRIT. At most of the sports events you can count the number of fans on one hand. And you can hear the custodians vacuuming over the noise in the pep rallies. Okay, not quite. But still, something needs to be done to liven up the student body.

One way this could happen is having more assemblies so that the students can get more comfortable being together, and therefore not be so shy when it's their turn to "make some noise." Also, there should be more pep rallies, such as each class performing a dance, not just cheerleaders. These pep rallies would hopefully get the staff and students more excited for the sporting events, thus providing more support. And the band should definitely be present at sports games, or at least at football games. Football games can be, and should be, one of the best memories of high school. So, let's make these four important years of our lives even better by pumping up the spirit.

-Jaclyn Sawada

We all know of the embedded reporters in Iraq sending us live information on the war as events unfold. Isn't it great there are reporters, some with almost no military background, living with the troops, reporting objectively from troop vehicles. As always, controversy arises. Should news agencies allow their reporters to go into war zones, and if so should the reporters be embedded with the soldiers or left to their own devices.

On the topic of embeds, Mr. Charles Eldredge in the opinion piece he wrote for the *Harvey Herald Press* writes, "Since truth is the legendary first victim of war, it will be very good to have those reporters at or near the scene when the legitimacy of this war is validated." He continues to say that the problem with this coverage is the narrow perspective and overload of information.

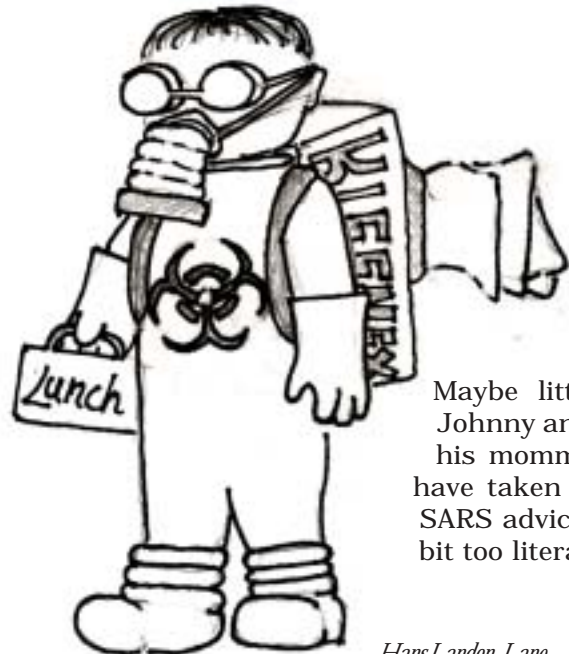
Unilaterals or reporters not accompanied with a military force are a possible solution to the narrow perspective related with embedded reporters. "Embeds, who are always moving with the troops, work in a sort of military bubble. Unilaterals, on the other hand, would be able to see the war from a nonmilitary perspective, to move among Iraqi civilians and hear their point of view, to assess the damage and casualties on the Iraqi side, to gauge how well humanitarian aid is moving." ("Unilateral Coverage", Donovan, John, ABCNEWS.com, March 25, 2003) The drawback to these freelance reporters is the safety factor. There have been several accounts of reporters being killed and injured, most of them unilaterals.

## Embeds or Unilaterals

## Voices in the crowd...

The school year is almost over but here is a look at what some students think could improve the next school year:

"I think students should get unlimited access to the athletic facilities.".... "Why not make the lunch schedule the same for everyone?... "I would like to see the fences and guards taken away. Senior privileges should be expanded and I think every senior should get them."... "The high school should decide on a set schedule to work under throughout the year."... "Something that needs to change and will be changed when the cafeteria is finished (funds depending) is the theater."... "The campus is beautiful, the students are friendly, and the teachers are supportive, and there is so much opportunity to learn and grow. But one thing it is lacking is spirit."



Maybe little Johnny and his mommy have taken the SARS advice a bit too literally

Hans Landon-Lane

Journalists understand there are risks involved in getting the top stories, it isn't as if they are walking into something they are unaware of, but safety is still a major factor. Because of this many news agencies pulled their reporters out of Iraq before issues got too out of hand. The risk that journalists face out in the field doesn't just come from

friendly fire and offensive coalition, it also comes from the civilians of the country. A country in political chaos usually doesn't follow international laws or any laws for that matter; who would enforce those laws? The embeds are protected by the troops they travel with; unilaterals, on the other hand, have virtually no protection. According to a letter written by Johan P. Fritz (International Press Institute Director) and Richard Tait (Board member of International News Safety Institute) the unilaterals should be just as well protected as the embeds. "Under international obligations the forces in Iraq must do everything possible to ensure journalists' safety whether 'embedded' or 'unilateral.'"

To answer the original question, embedded reporters are more protected than unilateral, but for the safety of reporters we give up the guarantee of objectivity. For an objective report we put journalists at a higher risk of death than driving on an Montana highway. News agencies feed the people; the people tell them what to cook. There are two ways to cook, which do you prefer?

by Jenna Witt