



January-February 2010

GZAAAT

GAZETTE

Issue #10: AAT Day Special



Avatar Versus New Moon: Which Would YOU Choose?

It's a club?! It's a plane?! It's SAP!

2010 Olympics: Tragedy, Medals, Snow

Football: Human Mistakes or Intentional Sabotage?

AAT Day: What Truly Happened

The Lives of Manana Mgeladze and Anthony Schierman Revealed!

Fiction: Four Pages of What YOU Have to Say

Editor's Note:

Dear Students,

It has been almost a year now since the seniors have been in charge of the GZAAT Newspaper. I remember our "first steps" in making newspapers last year: arranging journalist meetings, assigning articles, learning how to make the layout, etc. Things were not always working out the way we had wished them to; we faced a bunch of different sorts of problems, starting with simple nuances such as late articles (recognize yourself among the culprits, dear journalists?) and ending with negotiations with the publishing house about printing newspapers (it is not profitable for the publishing house to print only a small number of copies). Sometimes we faced mystical technical problems that corrupted the layout, and no one could really explain why the program was working that way.

Anyways, working on the newspaper is great fun, as long as you are devoted to, and interested in, the GZAAT Gazette. You will enjoy the process because you'll have teammates, other members of the staff, working with you with the same kind of devotion. You will never get bored: there will always be joking and laughter going on. Besides, to keep your minds and stomachs fresh and energized, you can order a pizza or something else and enjoy it right there, while making the layout (just a piece of advice). Summing up all that was said above, after making the newspaper yourself, you will get that special feeling of love and care towards it since you put such effort and zeal in it. ("You will either want to burn or frame your first issue. Or both." - Ket'i Tsereteli)

Now it's time for our juniors to be in charge of the newspaper. On one hand, it is sad for us, but we are a bit tired as well. I would like to thank all the journalists, photographers and everyone else who was involved; I really appreciate that you took the time to contribute. I also would like to say a special thanks to all the members of the newspaper staff who worked very hard during this time, putting great effort and will into the working process. You did a great job! Last, but not the least, here's to the Newspaper Club advisor, Mr. Anthony Schierman, who guided us onto the right path. Thank you! There is nothing else left for me to say except for my best wishes to the junior class. I am absolutely sure that they will handle their job well. So good luck and don't forget your predecessors who will always be around to help you!

Sincerely,
Tamta Gogitidze

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The SAP Club

Most students at GZAAT know that we have an academic status called "SAP," or Supervised Academic Probation. I'd like to explain exactly what it is and why we have it. Many of you may not know that most of the current members of this exclusive club are seniors, and although this isn't usually the case sometimes it does occur, especially when a group such as our current seniors decides that classes are not important beyond the first term. Freshmen boys were the most frequent members of the club until this year, but they have been far outshone by the Class of 2010.

A student qualifies for this club by earning three or more grades under a C- at either mid-term or the end of a term. Club members have the exclusive right to attend a mandatory study hall each day for two hours, starting after classes or after PE for the remainder of the term. The rules are that club members must do homework, revise, or read during this time period: if they are finished with their assignments before the two hours are up, they are required to do something exciting and unusual, such as reading, for the rest of the time.

The idea here is not to punish anyone, but to provide an opportunity that will help the students to organize their time efficiently. Most students who do poorly do so because they are not doing their homework, although heaven knows what else they might want to be doing when school is over... SAP forces them to spend at least two hours every day on their assignments, which theoretically should go a long way towards their completion.



Vato: Wanna Join Us? :)

How do the club members do? Usually some improvement is noted. Students on SAP are encouraged to use the time to confer with teachers and they are allowed to use the library if that is necessary. But what it really comes down to is this: it all depends on the students. While we provide the opportunity, all the opportunities in the world won't do a student any good at all if he or she is not willing to take the responsibility to do his/her own work. Some of our SAP Club members take pride in avoiding these meetings, but the only person that really hurts is the member. They might be clever enough to avoid the club, but their cleverness generally results in continuing membership and eventually inexcusable academic performance.

Why do we care? Why do we have such a club? It is the school's belief that all those we admit to this school should be mature and smart enough to make a C- average in their classes.

Most do far better than that, but we feel that those who don't can use a little institutional support from the school. We want all students to work on their potential, to learn good study (translation: WORK) habits that will stay with them for their entire lives. What we really want, however, is for this club to have NO members at all. So think about us when you are into your second or third hour of computer games – you could be auditioning for the SAP Club!

by Richard Lussen

Looks Nice, Doesn't It?



How well do you know GZAAT Trivia?

1) The director of the GZAAT Summer School is:

a) Richard E. Lussen b) Troy Fillman c) Donald Thomas d) Austin Miles Cowley

2) Simon Janashia was teaching:

a) Math b) English c) History d) Georgian

3) Tamuna Mikaberidze is:

a) Secretary b) Dean of Students c) Financial Manager d) Administrative Assistant

4) Which year did Mr. Guivy Zaldastanishvili pass away?

a) 2005 b) 2008 c) 2007 d) 2004

5) What is Chuki's real name?

a) Irakli b) Sandro c) Giorgi d) Ilia

6) What is guard Vakho's surname?

a) Dvaladze b) Gigishvili c) Shinjikashvili d) Mnatobishvili

7) Who is the GZAAT library named after?

a) Richard E. Lussen b) Donald Thomas c) Guivy Zaldastanishvili d) George Bush

8) What is the name of the GZAAT psychologist?

a) Nana Chanidze b) Nana Mikhelidze c) Ket'i Mosashvili d) Irinka Mutskhveladze

9) Anthony Schierman has been an English teacher since:

a) 2003 b) 2004 c) 2008 d) 2007

10) Of those listed below, who is not a librarian?

a) Manana Pkhakadze b) Nato Dvaladze c) Tamuna Gvaramadze d) Irina Tsintsadze
(see answers on page 7) by Ani Lortkipanidze

“For never was a story of more woe than this of Juliet and her Romeo”

It is not easy to resist the power of the eternal play “Romeo and Juliet” by William Shakespeare. So this year, while the freshman class of Mr. Anthony Schierman was reading the play, a

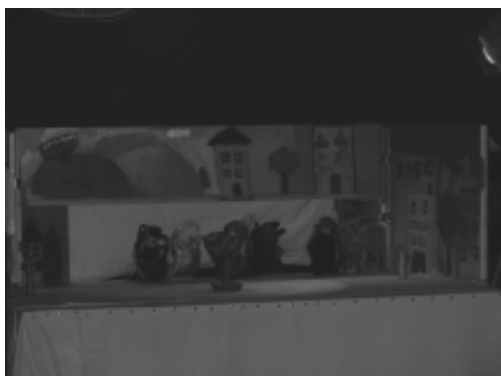
marvelous idea struck their minds: a performance should be carried out! I had noticed freshmen coloring some decorations in the auditorium in



December, but I couldn't have imagined what it would all lead to. Finally amazing posters bloomed here and there on the walls, announcing the forthcoming play; they attracted and were very well-done. Finally, on Friday, after a long and tiresome week, GZAAT students and faculty had the chance to see the play.

The attitude of the actors is worth noting: the way they furnished the auditorium and even printed out the program of the play gave the feel of an actual theater. I thought that the play would be shortened, but surprisingly, the freshman included

all of the main scenes. The structure of the play was exceptional: it was a mixture of puppet and live performance.



All the puppets and decorations were hand-made by the Tea Kandiashvili and Neli Tsereteli. It was amazing how the students manipulated the puppets as if true professionals (I bet Georgian Puppet Theatre would love to have such actors). The audience perfectly caught the mood. The live performance of the actors was totally absorbing (remember the amazing fighting scene?)

The audience didn't lose right up to the last word of the performance, and applause reigned down upon the actors for quite some time. It looks like we have artistically talented freshmen this year! The spectators were unanimously fascinated by their performance. So we have to wish them good luck and hope that they will surprise us more in their future performances.

By Tamta Gogitidze

A Glance At the World of the Past Two Months

Vacations, Vacations

Like almost every year, the most popular places to go this winter vacation were Bakuriani and Gudauri (Turkey and Austria as well). Instead of recounting official information about hotels or ski prices, I would prefer to inform you about your schoolmates and their vacations. *Bakuriani 2010: Snow and Skiing*

Ani Lortkipanidze (Junior):

We, nine junior girls from our school, went to Bakuriani before New Year's. Usually there is snow in Bakuriani; but that time we had no luck, and there was so little snow that the ski tracks had to be shut down. So our first few days we spent in our hotel, annoying other residents with our noise. We were also playing with explosives and going to the cinema. The last two days, good fortune finally reached us: a little bit of snow came, so that we could ski in grass-mud-snow at least. Generally, we had a great time there.

Kote Cheishvili (Junior):

Annually, since my childhood, I have spent my winter holidays in Gudauri, one of the best ski resorts in Europe. Almost every year, Gudauri offers skiers some novelties regarding entertainment, chair-lifts, skiing traces, and so on. But this year stands out more than any other in my mind.

“We saw many students from GZAAT spending their holidays in Gudauri.”

I was in Gudauri with a company of friends. We were in a sport school, called Snow House. Most



Enjoying the Sun

Gudauri. We had a really great time. In the mornings, we were training and then skiing in the mountains. A new chair-lift was open by that time, which raised skiers and snowboarders up to the mountain of “Sadzele”. It is the tallest skiing mountain in Gudauri, with it height 3350 meters from sea level. Signs on the top of the mountain indicated the possibility of an avalanche. After returning home during the nights,

we organized different competitions and dances. We had some humorous nominations of the year. I was voted to be the “person in love more than anybody else.”

These were really entertaining and joyful holidays for me. I had full possibility to rest from school homework and studies. But holidays aren't forever, and school...

Giorgi Turabelidze (Sophomore):



I was in Gudauri with several of my classmates; in fact, almost all of them were there for one week. It was really great. When we arrived, there were too many people, because it was still holiday; but on weekdays it was ok. The weather was astoundingly good: it was sunny all the time except for the very last day when it became little foggy. We skied and slept a lot. That is probably all.

Sophie Gegeshidze

(Junior):

My vacation was: Ski! Ski! Ski! Until you drop. Sarikamish, Turkey, had a lot of snow. My sister and my friend did not know how to ski, so they drove everyone crazy. But snowboard!!! Snow!!! And fantastic weather!!! That was all we needed!

By Ani Lortkipanidze

An Open War with Italian Football or Incompetent Referees?

The final stages of the UEFA Champions League kicked off this month, bringing us scandal and fresh material for debate. The first day of the last 16 round featured two Italian sides: AC Milan and Fiorentina.

The refereeing in the Milan – Manchester tie was comparably better, even though the Italians didn't get a number of free kicks, were given less stoppage time at the

end, and had three valid penalty shots. If the game was in Manchester and if the home side had exactly the same penalty claims, they would have been awarded at least 1 spot-kick. However, refereeing in this match was perfect compared to the one encountered in the Bayern–Fiorentina match. Tom Henning Ovrebo's decisions during the game injured Fiorentina's chances of qualifying and left the Italian



authorities furious. Mayor of the city of Florence, Matteo Renzi, has slammed UEFA for incompetent refereeing: “I have never seen anything like it in the history of professional football; it was a complete embarrassment.



Tonight, UEFA has embarrassed the city of Florence!” The German side won the game 2-1 thanks to the vast amount of refereeing mistakes from the notoriously known Tom Ovrebo. At first, Fiorentina was harshly reduced to 10 men early in the second half, Ovrebo sending Massimo Gobbi off for “elbowing Robben”. At the same time horrible, two-footed challenges of Bayern's Marc Van Bommel and Miroslav Klose were simply ignored. But the heaviest of blows came when Ovrebo and the linesman mysteriously failed to notice a clear offside on Klose's winning goal in the dying minutes of the match, the Klose who should have been sent off several minutes before. The point is that either Ovrebo and the linesmen had their eyes shut, or they weren't looking.

“[T]he linesman failed to notice a clear offside...”

I come to the conclusion that they did it intentionally, because Klose's goal was so far offside that it was literally impossible for the human eye not to notice. Moreover, Klose was in a static position; it's hard to notice offside when a player makes a run, because he might not be in an offside position when the pass was initially made, but Klose was standing there, waiting for the ball at least five meters ahead of the defenders.

You might call it a coincidence, but the number of refereeing decisions gone against Italian teams in the past decade is alarming. In 2002, Bryan Moreno,

a referee, dragged South Korea past Italy making numerous errors, perhaps intentionally. The match is considered the worst display of refereeing and there is a reason: three of the ten worst decisions in football history (!) occurred during that match. One of them is truly unbelievable and even funny. Italian defender Paolo Maldini took the ball from a Korean player

without even touching him, and the frustrated Korean kicked Maldini in the head as though it was a ball. It should have resulted in disqualification from the tournament, but, instead, Maldini was given a yellow card and a penalty kick was given to the Korean side. In 2004, Sergei Ivanov disallowed two perfect goals scored by Milan against Deportivo, which left the Italian

Massimo Gobbi Sent Off the Field In the following year, Real Madrid got an advantage against Roma, while Liverpool got a penalty kick awarded for a non-existent foul against Milan. In 2006, during a semifinal match between Milan and Barcelona, Markus Merk, one of the most famous and advertised referees in the world, did not count Shevchenko's goal against Barcelona for a foul on Puyol. However, the replays show that Puyol fell down on his own accord and Shevchenko was several meters away from him.

During Euro 2008, the same Tom Ovrebo almost cost Italy a place in quarterfinals by disallowing Luca Toni's goal for offside which was clearly not. He also angered Juventus fans this year, as he allowed Bordeaux's late equalizer from a clear offside position, which consequently led to Juve's elimination from Europe.

On the other hand, controversial refereeing decisions have been made against many teams, which are not Italian, even though I think that Italians get a much bigger share of "mistakes". Tom Ovrebo and his fellow Scandinavian referees are especially known for making fatal error: last year's fiasco during the Chelsea – Barcelona battle, Henry's famous handball, Ireland's penalty against Georgia, an unbelievable penalty for Greece against Latvia, and so on. UEFA should do a lot of things they aren't doing. For one, Ovrebo should not be allowed to referee in any international matches. They should respect their *Respect* campaign by choosing officials who deserve it. Tottenham Hotspur manager Harry Redknapp once said that a referee from one of the minor leagues of Europe cannot be expected to be experienced enough to officiate a top Champions League clash. I agree with the fact that the referees are humans, but surely there are better humans for the job than Sergei Ivanov or Tom Ovrebo!

Anyway, whether the decisions are made intentionally against Italian clubs or the referees are just incompetent doesn't really matter; UEFA is the guilty one in any case and has to make radical changes as soon as possible to avoid such kinds of scandals

and controversy in the future, which really is the bad side of football.

By Giorgi Gureshidze

The Latest in Football



headers brilliantly for a 3-1 before the substitute Clarence Seedorf, who replaced David Beckham.

Two Wayne Rooney headers in the second half gave Manchester United a 3-2 win in Milan in a Champions League last-16 first leg. Rooney finished both



Real Madrid vs. Lyon

The first goal was scored by Ronaldinho (3').

Then Scholes scored for red devils, and after this Rooney made 2 brilliant headers in 8 minutes. The score turned 3-1. The final score was set by Clarence Seedorf (85'), who scored the last goal for Milan.

Olympique Lyon 1 – 0 Real Madrid FC

Lyon took a step towards knocking nine-time winner Real Madrid out of the Champions League with a 1-0 win in their last-16 first leg. Jean Makoun scored the decisive goal at the Stade Gerland Stadium. Real's predictably dominated possession with Kaka and Xabi Alonso taking a grip on the midfield and Cristiano Ronaldo flitting in and out of the action with his usual array of showman's tricks. But again fortune turned to Lyon, who defeated the former Champions League winner.

By Sandro Chkheidze

TRAGEDY STRIKES

As you have probably heard, Nodar Kumaritashvili, a Georgian luger, died in Vancouver at the Winter Olympics. The death was caused by a horrific, high-speed crash during a training session just hours before the Olympic Games were officially opened. Nodar lost control of his sled while traveling at 145 km/h and collided into an unprotected steel pole standing right next to the track. He was quickly airlifted to a hospital in Whistler, where he was pronounced dead from sustained injuries. The scene of the tragic incident shocked the people who saw it, and the safety of the Whistler track has been under heated debate ever since. In response, the governing body of the Vancouver Olympics released a statement that said the crash was not caused by an unsafe track, but rather by the inexperience of the young athlete. This statement was made at the wrong time and in the wrong way. First of all, the next day of the tragedy was a time of sorrow, not the discussion of the reasons which caused it. Moreover, it sounded as though they (the organizers) were trying to avoid responsibility related to the safety of the track and blamed it all on the Georgian's lack of experience. However, the Whistler course is indeed the fastest track in the world, and Nodar Kumaritashvili was not the only one who couldn't complete the course due to injuries. More than 20 athletes have crashed during training sessions for the Olympics, and some of the teams have even complained that they had too little time to prepare for this extremely dangerous track. Even before Nodar's death, a representative of USA named the 13th curve as the 50-50 curve because of the high odds of a crash. Nodar Kumaritashvili lost control of his sled exactly after this curve. The track should have been safer. The point is that there should be safety precautions in every sport, especially in luge, which is one of the most dangerous sports on the planet. Blaming the incident on Nodar's lack of experience is simply absurd, because he had qualified for the spot in the Olympics, meaning that he was one of the best 60 lugers in the world. If a luger's skill is not sufficient, then he should not be allowed to tackle the course.

Nodar Kumaritashvili in Olympic Uniform



But the course must be as safe as possible, or should the inexperienced die? What was an unpadded steel pole doing right next to the track? The officials at Vancouver claimed that the courses of all sport events were built so that the minimum amount of forest was cut down. Unfortunately, sometimes they forget that a human life is more valuable than four pine trees. Our prayers and condolences go out to Nodar's family and friends.

By Giorgi Gureshidze