

Quid Novi?

Salvete omnes! Yet another edition of the *Alae Mercurii* is here ready at your fingertips, once again bringing you all the news you need to know plus other random entertaining bits. Since the last issue, we have had one lovely Certamen tournament held at the Marist School. In the meantime, the officers have been busy planning for state convention which is coming up surprisingly quickly. At the same time I

am sure that many of you all have been making your own preparations for that three day vacation at Rock Eagle.

I am also sure you are getting tired of hearing this, but I must ask that you remember to send contributions to the *Alae Mercurii*. News from the chapters, poetry, short stories, anything. Just send them all in to editor@gjcl.org.

Letter from the Editor

So I must warn that this is issue of the newsletter is more a preview of things to come and a guide as to how to make the most of them, rather than the usual recap of events. Blame the calendar. The beginning of the year just isn't all that interesting. Not that you can't make it interesting. Plan some activities within your chapter, or even to

dare to branch out and associate with other chapters. Be bold. I have to especially give kudos to Alpharetta High School for trying to organize a paintball championship between multiple chapters. Nothing like bonding with some of your favorite people while getting a bit messy in the process.

Inside This Issue:

Quid Novi?	1
Letter from the Editor	1
Certamen Update	2
Guide to State Convention	3
Nationals	4
Are You Ready?	4-5

Certamen Update

This year, Valentine's Day was not just about flowers and chocolates. That morning, many dedicated Latin students celebrated their love for the classics by attending the Certamen tournament held at the Marist School.

Results:

Novice:

- 3) Northview High School
- 2) Eastside High School
- 1) North Gwinnett High School

Lower

This was one intense competition, as each team tied with 100 points. A tie breaker had to be used for placing. The final results:

- 3) Northview High School
- 2) Holy Spirit Preparatory School
- 1) North Gwinnett High School

Upper

- 3) Grady High School
- 2) Walton High School
- 1) Eastside High School

Congrats to all who participated!

Coming Tournaments:

- March Certamen: To be announced
 - Rock Eagle: Certamen at State Convention
- Get practicing!

Rules of the game:

- Three levels: novice, lower, and upper
- Played on teams of four, three teams to a round
- 20 toss up questions per round, open to anyone, but if a team member answers wrong, the entire team is banned from the question
- A correct toss up gives the team a chance to answer 2 bonus questions
- Scoring: 10 points per toss up, 5 per bonus

Remember to send in your pictures to Laura and your articles, poems, and short stories to Olga. We need them!

A Guide to State Convention

Every year we come together at State Convention, ready to show our enthusiasm for the classics. Some come for the friendship, others for the contests, and maybe a few are simply bribed with extra credit. Regardless what brings people, all know that Convention is an unforgettable experience.

For those who have never been, State Convention is Fall Forum times ten. Art competitions, workshops, athletic events, academic tests, dances: the list may continue. Literally, every minute is packed and you just can't do it all. To make the most of Convention, plan ahead. Not that you need to write elaborate lists or anything of the sort, but know that certain things may require some preparation.

Remember to pack carefully. One doesn't need much, but things like a bed sheet and safety pins for a toga, a sleeping bag, and random things to sell at the bazaar are good to have. Snacks are useful, but a Frisbee and cards are musts. It is also advised to bring a toothbrush.

Those excelling in art need to come projects in hand. Make sure the rules have been followed and that works get registered almost upon arrival. That's Entertainment, a talent show, also falls in the artistic realm. Auditions usually consist of 30 seconds of the act and everything from dances to skits is acceptable. Please avoid anything that may be deemed "inappropriate." Oratory, both English and Latin, also requires memorization beforehand. Memorizing on the bus ride is generally not recommended, but not unheard of.

For those seeking to rack up the highly prized sweepstakes points and pretty ribbons, there is only one solution: do everything. Art, academics, athletics. The more you enter, the better you do, especially if you tackle some of the obscure competitions. Do note that this will require a carefully highlighted schedule and a bit of running between events, but can still be a ton of fun.

At the same time, and however contradictory it might be to the previous blurb, remember to just relax and socialize. At Convention, you're surrounded by hundreds of awesome interesting people, so it's a great time to not only become closer as a delegation, but also to branch out and meet some new friends.

State
Convention: April
17th -19th at Rock
Eagle

Cost: \$100 per
delegate

Registration will
be open March
15th - April 4th

All wanting to
run for office,
remember to
send in papers of
candidacy

Nationals

I know it feels early to be thinking about the coming summer, but it's time. As always, the National Convention will be held during the summer, and this year it's under the Sun, at the University of California- Davis, in Davis, California. The convention will last from July 27 to August 1, 2009. Now you may notice that we don't exactly live near California, so we will be trading in the traditional bus for some plane tickets. This means that the trip will most likely be a bit more expensive. But don't lose hope! You're welcome to arrange your own transportation, using reward points and the like, as long as you either meet us at the airport or make it to the campus yourself. Also, try applying for the Packet Award. Sponsored by NJCL, this is a good way to cut the cost, and as few apply for it to begin with, the chances of getting it are better than you may expect. Another way to fund the totally awesome trip? Find a job. You know selling fries at McDonald's is definitely worth it.

Interested in the Packet Award?
Check:
<http://njcl.org/pages/njcl-packet-award>

Are You Ready?

All too often people don't learn the topics for the creative contests until it's too late. No more excuses! For your convenience, here they are (or at least some of them):

Costume Contest:

Girls: Ceres

Boys: Pluto

Couples: Antony & Cleopatra

Latin Oratory

Levels ½ and I

Ēnīuit aliquis in bellō, sed obsolēvit in pāce; alium toga sed nōn et arma honestārunt; reverentiam ille terrōre, alius amōrem humilitāte captāvit; ille quaesitam domī glōriam in pūblicō, hic in pūblicō partam domī perdidit.

At prīncipī nostrō quanta concordia quantusque contentus omnium laudum omnisque glōriae contigit! Ut nihil sevērītātī eius hilāritāte, nihil gravitātī simplicitāte, nihil maiestātī hūmānitāte dētrahitur!

Pliny, *Panegyricus* 4.5-6, abridged

Are You Ready?

Dramatic Interpretation- Girls

Levels ½ and I

Fāma Cornēliae, mātrōnae Rōmānae, magna erat. Coniūnx mortuus erat, sed semper in memoriā eum tenēbat, quod bene eum amāverat. Trēs liberōs habēbat -- filiam duōsque filiōs. Bene liberōs cūrābat, quod erant eī cārissimī. Māter bona et benigna erat Cornēlia.

fēmina superba vēnit ad tēctum Cornēliae. Multa nārrābantur, multa rogābantur. Dēnique fēmina superba Cornēliae multa ōrnāmenta mōnstrāvit quae in parvā arcā portābat.

Tum Cornēliae dīxit, "Nōne ōrnāmenta pulchra tū quoque habēs? Mōnstrā mihi tua ōrnāmenta."

Tum Cornēlia discessit. Mox revēnit cum suīs filiīs. "Hī sunt ōrnāmenta mea," dīxit māter.

"Cornelia's Jewels," *Using Latin II* (1950), pp. 11-12 (abridged)

Dramatic Interpretation- Boys

Levels ½ and I

Aeētēs, rēx Colchidis, vellus aureum ā manū Phrixi accēpit.

"Arietem magicum quī hoc vellus gerēbat deīs sacrificāvī," dīxit Phrixius "Tūtus ad hanc urbem ab illō ariete trānsportātus sum. Mea soror Hellē autem territa ā tergō animālis cecidit et in marī āmissa est.

"Fugiēbāmus ā novercā nostrā, quae est fēmina crūdēlis et odiōsa. Illa in animō mē interficere habuit; soror mea quoque illam timēbat.

"Mercurius, perīculum vidēns, auxilium dedit. Ille deus benignus nōbīs arietem mīrum dedit, in cuius tergō celeriter fūgimus. Maximē tamen doleō quod Hellē mortua est."

Hīs audītis, rēx iuvenem benignē accēpit.

"Aeētēs and Phrixius," *Using Latin II* (1950), p. 78 (abridged)

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at State and National Convention this year!

I've only included the level 1 passages, as upper level students may need less of a push to seek out these passages. Please note that the rest of the passages and translations can be found at: <http://www.njcl.org/pages/activities-njcl-convention-2009-creative-arts-passages>