



Volume 70, No. 2 — January 2011

TORCH

The official publication of the Texas State Junior Classical League

www.tsjcl.org

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Also, see the map of Atascosita on the back of this edition to familiarize yourself with the campus before State!





Letter from the Editor

Here we go again! Welcome back, TSJCLers! The competition season begins again, and we hope you are ready. Area is approaching, and State is just around the corner. State this year will be held at Atascosita High School in Humble, TX, just outside the Houston area. As we begin our preparations for State, I encourage all members to review the rules for contests. They can be found online at www.tsjcl.org! Another thing to view on our website are the rules for the election. If you are thinking about running for office, please do! It is a lot of fun, you make a lot of friends, and it is a great way to celebrate the Latin language. Email Parliamentarian Aaron Schulze at parliamentarian@tsjcl.org for more information.

We have a jam packed schedule prepared for state this year. This includes many speakers, bazaars and even a carnival! The carnival will have free manicures and pedicures from the cosmetology class, soft pretzels, hot dogs, games, and a giant inflatable obstacle course! The obstacle course will cost a dollar per turn or ten dollars for unlimited turns on both inflatables, so be sure to bring some money. You don't want to miss out on this.

Since we never want our fun at State to end, the convention runs a little late this year. I suggest staying another night at the hotel and seeing some of the great opportunities Houston has to offer in the morning. You could go to a hockey game, a baseball game, the Rienzi Fine Arts Museum, the Museum of Natural Science, Moody Gardens, Schlitterbahn Galveston, the Galveston Home Tours, the Houston Aquarium, the Kemah Boardwalk, or go ice skating at the Galleria like the officers did! The Fine Arts Museum of Houston is hosting an exhibit on the Impressionists to the Post-Impressionists, and the Museum of Natural Arts is currently showing an exhibit on pirates.

Enjoy your stay in Houston!

Sincerely,

Ali Campion



The Rienzi is the center for European decorative arts at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston - View from the ballroom.



THE PRESIDENTS' PAGES

Salvete TSJCLers!

As the second semester is kicking it up into full gear, I hope you are all staying true to your New Year's resolutions. Whether your resolution was to finally learn the difference between a gerund and a gerundive or to perfect that beaded mosaic peacock that you've been working on for months, I hope that great progress is being made! As 2011 marks a lot of big changes in my life: turning 18, graduating high school, and going off to college, it also brings with it much anticipated events that I am very familiar with, Area and State Conventions!

The Area Conventions are fast approaching, giving us all something to prepare for! So make sure you've dusted off those flashcards, started your pieces of artwork, and gotten the old Certamen team together for a couple practice rounds! The Area Convention is a great opportunity to try something that you may not have thought about doing otherwise. Check out the Academic and Classical Civilization Contest rules on www.tsjcl.org and find something that might interest you. Never tried memorizing Latin, but you have a love for acting? Dramatic Interpretation may be your calling! Whatever it may be, I urge each and every one of you to step outside of your comfort zone and try a new contest.

But all of the excitement of Area Convention is just a small preview of what is being prepared for the State Convention on March 25th and 26th at Atascocita High School in Humble, Texas. The entire TSJCL Executive Board has been working very hard to put the State Convention together, and we have really incredible things planned! The weekend will be filled with tons of activities, great food, and even better company!

Be sure to mark those dates on your calendar, and sign up as soon as you can so that you don't miss out on all the fun! It will certainly be a weekend to remember! I look forward to seeing you all there!



Pax,

Kate Freeman

TSJCL President

An SCL Update

By: Reuben Perez, TXSCL President

Salvete!

This is Reuben Perez, TXSCL President, with your The Hills (of Rome) review.

Previously on The Hills (of Rome), we introduced you to the SCL. This time, we'll be telling you what you missed in the two months that you haven't been tuning in. Amid bloody battles between TXSCL officers and crazy scheduling conflicts, the TXSCL has successfully continued to unravel the mysterious bylaws of the TXSCL and has begun the long process of amending our constitution.

We've also upheld a time-honored tradition of the Romans—conspiring against those in power. It is, if I do say so myself, a most nefarious conspiracy and we are inviting you, TSJCLers, to join us as we plan on taking down the TSJCL officer one pie at a time. Oh, I should probably mention that all TSJCLers interested in joining this conspiracy should bring money to state so they can purchase a place in our glorious revolution as there are only so many officers to pie.

If you are interested in fighting on behalf of the TSJCL officers and being pied, please let me know so that I can bring more pies.

If you would like to pie your Latin teacher, please inform your teacher and then inform me so that I can bring more pies.

You may be asking yourself, "Why would I want to join the SCL in their conspiracy?!" The answer is simple—the SCL is awesome. "Why?" you might reply.

Well, the SCL is hosting a dance alternative because we all know that sometimes your feet hurt and all you want to do is hang out with your friends. Additionally, the SCL is hosting the Talent Show. Not only are we introducing performers, we'll amuse you in between acts with funny skits.

So, that's what the SCL's been up to. Also, if you are a high school senior and are interested in joining our legion as a semi-humble slasher, please contact me.



SinCereLy,

Reuben Perez
TXSCL President

N.B. - Reuben Perez has stepped down from his position as TXSCL President to pursue a teacher opportunity in Korea. Ian Conn has stepped up from 1st Vice President to fill his role. To become a slasher, email me at editor@tsjcl.org, and I will forward your message to him.

Professor William Nethercut's 50th Year of Teaching

By Jason Nethercut

Patri amanti et amatissimo filius grato animo haec insequentia scripsit

In celebration of Professor William R. Nethercut's service to JCL and to the broader field of Classics on the occasion of his 50th year of teaching.

As both a Classicist and a Nethercut, I am extremely grateful to have been asked to write about Professor Nethercut's career and to highlight the profound impact he has made on so many of us who study the Classical world. Whether one knows him as Professor Nethercut, Bill, Publius, or Dad, he has greatly enriched the lives of all who have had the opportunity to learn from him.

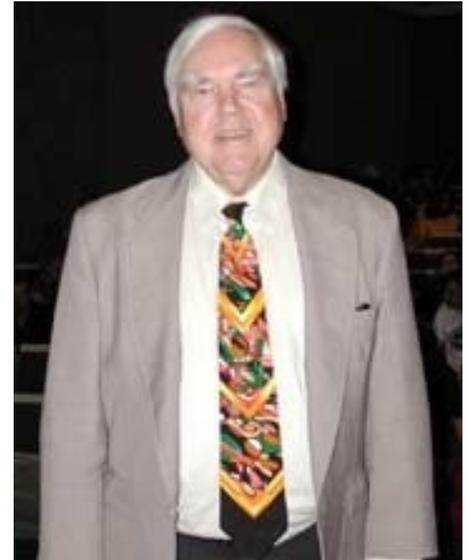
Upon earning a BA in Greek from Harvard University, Professor Nethercut pursued his PhD at Columbia University, writing his MA thesis on the Tiberian Books of Tacitus' *Annales* and his dissertation on Propertius and Augustus, all under the guidance of Gilbert Highet. After teaching at both Columbia University and the University of Georgia, Professor Nethercut moved to the University of Texas at Austin, where he has been a member of the Classics faculty for almost 40 years.

Widely regarded as one of the most important American scholars of Propertius from the 20th century, Professor Nethercut's vast work on this difficult author is unified by a desire to tease out the implications of the many obscurities one encounters when reading the *Elegies*. In addition to his focus Propertius, Professor Nethercut has also written many articles on Vergil, elucidating the powerful—and perplexing—imagery that runs throughout the *Aeneid*. His additional publications focus on a dizzying array of other Classical authors—both Greek and Roman—including

Homer, Sappho, Herodotus, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes, Theocritus, Catullus, Lucretius, Horace, Livy, Ovid, Tacitus, and Apuleius.

Perhaps his most long-lasting and important contribution to the field of Classics, however, is the work he does every year to train future middle- and high-school Latin teachers. Many of these students took advantage of Professor Nethercut's Latin Prose Composition course—a rite of passage for anyone who wants to teach Latin in the state of Texas. In this way, nearly 300 Latin teachers have embarked on their careers as a direct result of their study with Professor Nethercut. Anyone who has had the privilege to work with him cannot help but be infected by his passion and enthusiasm for Latin. It is this enthusiasm that his students have passed on to their students, ensuring that participation in JCL will continue to thrive for years to come.

Throughout his career, Professor Nethercut has fostered the study of Latin through his service to JCL, reading rounds of certamen, judging, and giving seminars at local, state, and national conventions. It was at the State Convention of the Georgia JCL that Professor Nethercut first met his wife, Jane Swann Nethercut, who herself spent many years on the executive committee of NJCL. Together, Professor and Mrs. Nethercut have had a profound effect on the study of Latin in the state of Texas for almost 35 years.



In fact, it would be difficult to find a single Latin teacher in Texas who has not worked with either Professor or Mrs. Nethercut in some capacity.

After 50 years of teaching, Professor Nethercut is still going strong. Let's hope—for the future of Latin studies—that he continues to teach for years to come. For those of us who have had the honor of knowing and working with Professor Nethercut, this year offers the opportunity to thank him for all he has done for the field of Classics and for the study of Latin in Texas. I am sure there are many of us who would not be where we are today without his altruism and encouragement. For my part, I strive every day to emulate my father's love for Latin and life, knowing that his guidance has made me a better teacher ... and a better person.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

By: Aaron Schulze, Parliamentarian

Hello Fellow TSJCLers!

Elections for the 2011-2012 year are rapidly approaching. If you are interested in running for an office, follow the guidelines below.

Check the TSJCL website for each officer's duties and make a decision about the position for which you would like to run (www.tsjcl.org).

Consult the by-laws to ensure that you meet the requirements for the office you plan to run for.

Talk to your sponsor so that he/she can give you all of the proper paper work.

Fill out the application correctly with neat handwriting.

Copies of the application will be available in the state registration packet sent to your school and on line.

Complete and mail your application.

As a candidate you will be responsible for:

Attending the Nominations Committee on Friday, March 25, 2011.

You will need to give a two minute speech in order to introduce yourself to the representatives from each school and to formally announce your candidacy. This should be the first time you announce to anyone that you are running for a TSJCL office and you may put up campaign materials only after Nominations Committee.

In accordance with NJCL policy, you must limit your campaign expenditures to \$40.00 (please provide all receipts at the Nominations Committee). Failure to adhere to these guidelines could result in your disqualification from running.

In addition to your speech at the Nominations Committee, all candidates will be required to make a speech at the Elections Assembly on Saturday, March 26, 2011. Your individual speech will be prefaced by an opening statement made by a fellow student who can introduce you to the assembly.

Immediately following the Elections Assembly, the Candidates' Open Forum will take place. This is an opportunity for student representatives from each participating school to ask candidates questions and it is a great opportunity to voice your ideas for change and make personal connections with other members of the TSJCL. Make sure that you dress appropriately for the Elections Assembly.

If you are considering running for TSJCL President, National Convention experience is strongly encouraged. Please note that the offices of Parliamentarian, Webmaster, and Editor will not be filled until after the State Convention. However, you are welcome to submit your application for these positions if they should interest you. Remember, all applications for elections should be postmarked no later than March 1st, 2011 and sent to the address on the application. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at parliamentarian@tsjcl.org.

Sincerely,
Aaron J. Schulze,
2010-2011 TSJCL Parliamentarian

Dear Candidates,

As you prepare to run for office, please send me the answers to the questions below and a photo of yourself for the Candidate issue of the Torch.

What level of Latin are you in?

How many years have you studied the Latin language?

Who/what is your favorite mythological character and why?

What is your platform for candidacy?

What would you do to improve TSJCL?

How would you make State more fun and interactive?

What is your favorite thing about State?

Have you ever been to Nationals before?

What is your favorite thing about Nationals?

How are you preparing for your officer position?

Please send your answers and photo to me at editor@tsjcl.org by March 1st, 2011. Feel free to email me with any questions you may have. I wish you all the best of luck in your endeavors!

Sincerely,
Ali Champion,
Torch Editor 2010-2011

JCL,

The one announcement you have been waiting for this academic year is finally here: the National Community Service Contest and National Community Service Project! You may visit www.njcl.org/student-officers/pages/2ndVP/communityservice to find NJCL-sponsored literature concerning these topics. Trust me, there is some very exciting, new information in there as well as a lot of helpful guides to help you with your chapter's community service outreach.

Without excluding pre-established community service programs, we encourage you to explore projects according to this year's service theme, "To Literacy and Beyond". I have chosen this theme to mirror the convention theme, *bene legere saecula vincere*, but also to highlight the importance of a sound education and the less fortunate for whom that is inaccessible. We, as an organization, can do so much to help our fellow Americans and others improve their quality of education and open new avenues of opportunity within their future. Community service is about building mighty communities like a mighty empire; nothing impacts our communities, or our hearts, in such a positive manner as community activism does.

If I may briefly share a few words of my experience with community service, I'd say that it is both fun and fulfilling. With just a little creative thinking and an appreciation for its nature, you can find it fun too.

Tip #1, don't do it alone!

Encourage your friends to join you while completing a service project, and then do something together after it's finished.

Tip #2, engage yourself with something you're interested in.

If you love reading books, find ways your love for reading can help others such as tutoring or reading story books to elementary children.

Tip #3, learn something from it.

Not only can you help strengthen your community through service, but your character, soul, and mind can grow along with it *if* you choose to think about your service.

Please, look up the information concerning the National Community Service Program this year. Also, feel free to contact me as always via e-mail—2vp@njcl.org—or any way you can.

Keep your Passion!

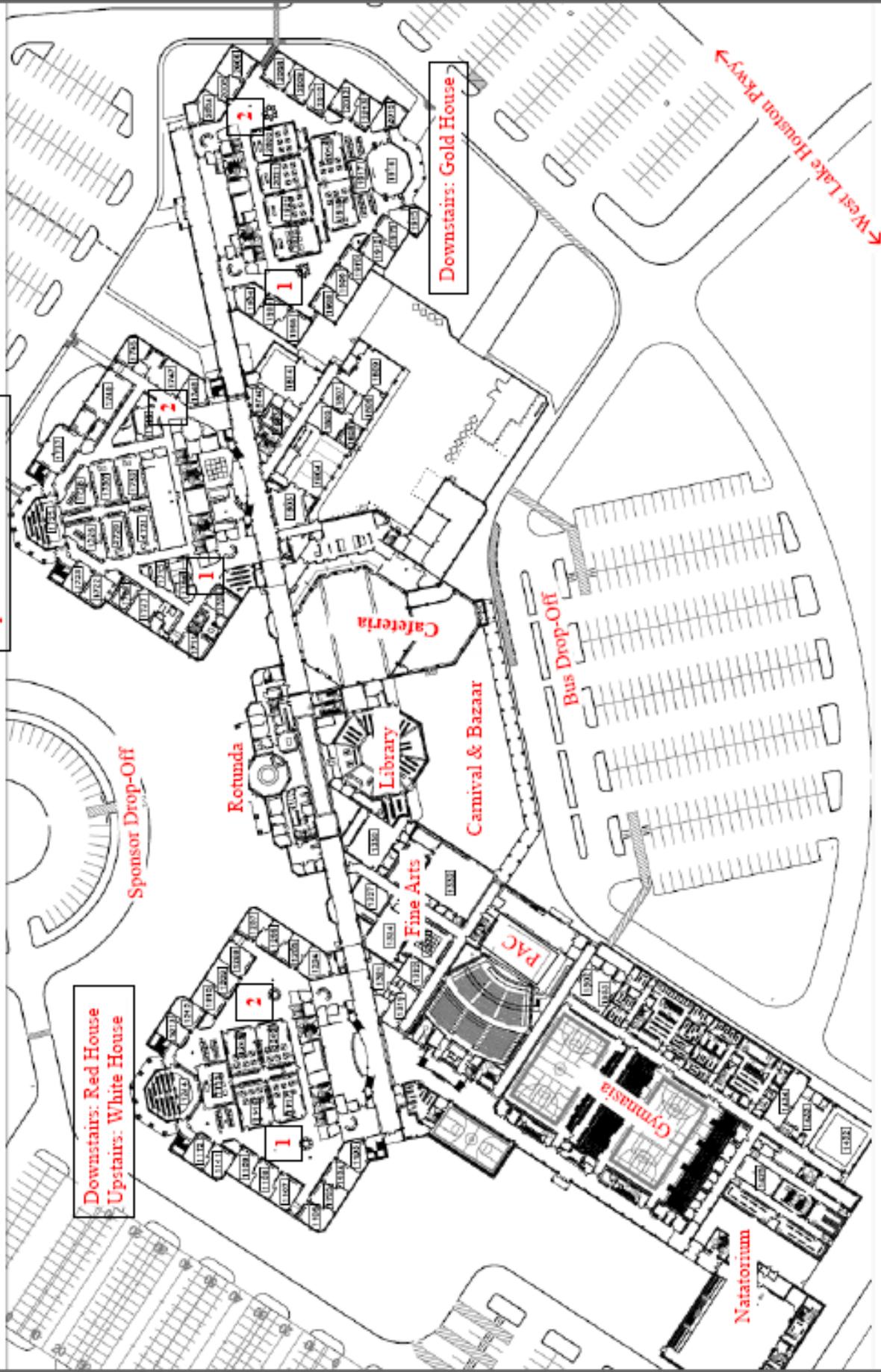
Sincerely,

Zachary Hall

NJCL Vice President

← Will Clayton Pkwy →

Downstairs: Blue Electives
Upstairs: Blue House



Downstairs: Red House
Upstairs: White House

Downstairs: Gold House

← West Lake Houston Pkwy →

Sponsor Drop-Off

Bus Drop-Off