

CAMP - 2004



CELEBRATIONS

SATURDAY

SATURDAY SNAPSHOT

Weather: Rain much of the day... clearing after dinner... cool evening.

Dinner: Tacos & Brownies

Evening Activity: Acoustic Campfire with Greg Zopatti & Friends

Chapel & Vespers: Old South

CAMP BEGINS IN THE RAIN



Dave Lewis was the first eager camper to be dropped off at the Braintree High School parking lot to mark the start of our 47th year of camp. Dave was joined by distinguished camp grad, Amanda DiSpirito, who

talked and talked about times gone by.

By 10:30 A.M. the parking lot was filled with eight yellow school buses, 2 huge *Budget* trucks stuffed with trunks and duffel bags, 323 campers, an enthusiastic staff, many even more enthusiastic parents, and lots of puddles. Because of the pouring rain, the buses and trucks were filled with uncharacteristic haste. The heavens really opened with a downpour just as the buses took off for the journey north.

Started in 1958 by several Congregational Churches on the South Shore, the first 25 years of camp were held at The Geneva Point Center - "Camp Winni" - on Lake Winnepesaukee. The next 18 years of camp were held in the Berkshires at Camp Kingsmont. This is our fourth year at the Lake Ossipee Conference Center/Camp Cody (LOCC) in Freedom, NH. From the dining hall, the council ring, and from many of our cabins, we have an awesome view of Ossipee Lake. Sunsets over the lake are particularly beautiful.

From the very beginning, The Rev. Robert J. Ripley, better known as "Rip" to several generations of campers, has been the camp director and the driving force of the camp program. Rip has missed only one of the 47 years when he attended the Boy Scout Jamboree in Idaho (1969.)

The buses arrived at camp shortly after 2:00 P.M. Because of the rain, everyone gathered in the Rec Hall to receive their cabin assignments. Then started the mad dash through the mud to locate the luggage and claim the best bunk in each cabin. The campers were greeted by their team of cabin counselors. Each cabin has at least two counselors.

After everyone was settled in, the guidelines for the week were reviewed.

At 4:45 P.M. the entire camp met in the Rec Hall for an orientation. We were welcomed by Rip and by Don McGibbon, our assistant director, and by Mike Douglass of the LOCC staff. Mike's presentation was **OK... "all right."** He had us all smiling as he delicately went over the correct procedure for problem-free flushing the camp toilets, etc. Campers and counselors were dismissed from the Rec Hall by Morning Groups. Each group met briefly with their two Morning Group leaders to choose their meeting places for the next six mornings.

As we headed into dinner, the rain clouds were blowing away and brighter skies were moving across the lake. A promising week was off to a good start.

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CHAPEL & VESPERS

Each evening at camp a worship service is led by campers and counselors. Our time of worship includes singing, scripture readings, and stories.

Our opening worship service was led by campers from The Old South Union Youth Group ("Gabby" Perfetuo, Cole Burton, Madeline Lena, Annie Northridge and Andy Sheflin.)

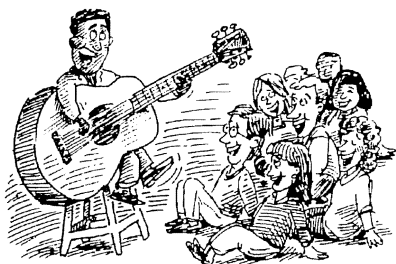
Terry Martinson shared a story to illustrate the point that *GOD BLESSES US SO THAT WE MIGHT BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS.*

Vespers under the stars, with the entire camp gathered around the crackling campfire, is the perfect ending for each day at camp. First night's vespers were led by the Rev. Bill Harding, seminary student Audrey Ferguson, and the Rev. Dick Hotchkin. They read a passage of scripture from I Samuel with a different emphasis on each reading. Vespers ends by the joining of hands and the singing of the Lord's Prayer. This is perhaps the oldest camp tradition.

Worship is a most important part of our week together at camp.



SATURDAY CONTINUED...



ACOUSTIC CAMPFIRE

Greg Zopatti organized our first evening's activity - "The Acoustic Campfire." As we sat in the cool breeze of the early evening, we were treated to a variety of dance and music.

Katie Whyte and Adrienne Perfetuo, both dance majors entering their senior year of college, "kicked off" the program with an outstanding, energetic dance medley featuring ballet, stage dance, and modern dance.

Not to be outdone, the graduating senior girls presented their own dance, but they were quickly interrupted and challenged to a "dance off" by the graduating senior boys. The well-choreographed, well-rehearsed, and well-costumed performance by our seniors drew wild applause and even wilder laughter.

During the rest of the evening we were entertained by vocal and instrumental performances by: John Fiander, Ali Meaney, Matt Fiander, Allison Carroll, Mike DeGagne, Andrea Giachetti, Kevin Worth, Greg Zopatti, Steff Zopatti, Laura Frado, and Jacqueline Graziano. Campers also had the opportunity to lend their voices to a sing-a-long or two.

SUNDAY

SUNDAY SNAPSHOT:

Weather: Bright, sunny, not too hot - a great day!

Breakfast: scrambled eggs & homefries

Lunch: American Chop Suey & Salad Bar

Dinner: BBQ Chicken, mashed potato, & rice krispie treats

Day's Theme: Halloween

Morning Program: *Celebrating Who We Are!*

Afternoon Program: Trick Or Treat (Counselor Hunt)

Worship & Vespers: Union Cong. and First Church - Weymouth

Evening Program: Holiday Dance

MORNING WATCH

Breakfast is followed each morning at camp by "Morning Watch" - a quiet time for reflection and prayer. We spread out across a small area and spend about 10 minutes reading and reflecting upon the scriptures, stories, questions, and prayer seeds found in the daily Morning Watch pages prepared by our staff.

This year our scripture readings are focusing upon the Psalms - "the songbook of the Old Testament."

The first day's Morning Watch included: The 23rd Psalm with a few questions for reflection, a story about Coach Lou Holtz and the Arkansas Razorbacks, and a story about a king who had a highway built for his kingdom. He challenged his subjects to a contest to see who could travel the road the best. The "moral" of the story is: *He who travels the road best is he who makes the road better for those who will follow.*

MORNING GROUP

A most important part of each camp day is the 90 minutes we spend in "Morning Groups." Ten to twelve campers meet daily with a pair of advisors to go over a well thought out program prepared by our staff. The Morning Program includes games, a group challenge, a variety of discussion questions, a "Bible Break" and a "Daily Insight." There is also a suggestion for a journal entry to be written either during or after Morning Group.



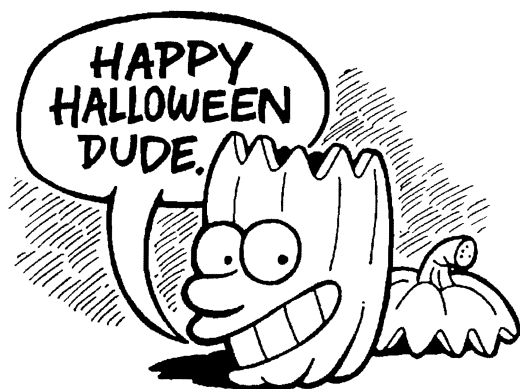
The Morning Group theme for 2004 is **CELEBRATIONS!** We are celebrating who we are and who we may become. In "Group" campers have the opportunity to share quite a bit about themselves, as well as an opportunity to

share their opinions and their feelings.

Two special activities on this first day of Morning Group were to create a cover for the camp notebooks and to draw a personal timeline with both the highs and lows of our lives.

As the week progresses, most campers enjoy their morning groups and form a solid bond with the other campers in their group and the group's leaders.

SUNDAY CONTINUED



TRICK OR TREAT

George Raymond organized the Sunday afternoon program that sent waves of campers racing across campus in their colorful team t-shirts. Each of the eight teams were following clues, completing consequences, and searching for counselors. A team had to find five particular counselors, but before a counselor could be found, there were questions to be answered, items to be secured and challenging clues to be solved.

The afternoon sun beat down upon the campers as they ran from one cabin to another in an attempt to be the first to find their counselors. In the long run, the enthusiasm, energy and teamwork of the purple team led them to victory.

The campers might tell you that this game was only intended to tire them out before tonight's big dance, but the game's real purpose was to familiarize them with the camp, get them to know more about our staff, and to work together as a team.

TRUE COLORS

The entire camp, both campers and counselors, are divided into eight color teams: Red, Blue, Maroon, Purple, Orange, Yellow, Navy and Green. These teams are involved in several competitions during the camp week including the Trick or Treat Game described above, an afternoon of Olympic Competition, and an evening of skits in the rec hall.

Each team member receives two t-shirts with our 2004 camp logo emblazoned on the front.



CHAPEL AND VESPERS

Campers and counselors from The Union Congregational Church and First Church - Weymouth combined their thoughts and talents for today's worship experiences.

At the chapel service, Harry LaCoste encouraged us to sing *Children, Go Where I Send Thee* and later teamed with Tiffany Smith to sing *I Shall Be Released*. Several campers shared in a scripture reading from I Timothy which encourages its readers to not let anyone discount them because of their youth. Carissa Marlowe read a story to illustrate how important it is for us to live in such a way that those who do not know God may come to know God through us. Audrey Fergason spoke briefly about the importance of always sharing a smile and a kind word. ***Always bring good cheer to others in whatever way you can.***

Vespers featured the singing of *Jesus Loves Me* and a story read by Harry LaCoste titled, The Halloween Angel. The story told about the good we can do for one another when our hearts are open and our hands are outstretched.

THE HOLIDAY DANCE

Reported by Jean O'Halloran

In keeping with our theme of "Celebrations" campers and counselors were encouraged to come to the dance dressed as a holiday. Many were on hand to celebrate Independence Day, including the **Statue of Liberty** herself. Halloween **pumpkins** rocked out with toga-clad **Olympians**. **Cupids** celebrated the arrival of the world's oldest valentines, **Adam and Eve**. Many lucky leprechauns -- some short, some tall, some inflatable -- and an Irish footballer led St. Patrick's Day festivities. Other holidays seen dancing across the rec hall included Red Sox Opening Day, Cinco de Mayo, Arbor Day, Earth Day, and Chinese New Year. In celebration of Labor Day, senior girls danced for two. **Santa Claus** brought Christmas cheer under the **tree** to kids celebrating **Christmas Morning**. Several **Easter Bunnies** hopped to old and new musical favorites of DJ Tommy Tunes, who gave grateful counselors a little birdhouse in their souls. **Mario and Luigi** said this was the best camp dance yet! As the evening came to a close, the stage featured a giant circle of slow dancing seniors enjoying their own celebration--their last camp dance all together as a class. Happy Holidays, seniors!

MONDAY

MONDAY SNAPSHOT

Weather: Clear and beautiful... downright decent!

Breakfast: French Toast & Bacon

Lunch: Chicken sandwiches, French fries, salad bar

Dinner: Chicken & Vegetable Stir-Fry & Salad Bar

Day's Theme: Christmas

Morning Program: *Celebrating our Gifts*

Afternoon Programs: Ossipee Olympics

Worship & Vespers: Bethany Cong.

Evening Program: Hypnotist



OSSIPEE OLYMPICS

Camp was incredibly colorful and incredibly active on Monday afternoon as our 324 campers and their counselors competed in their eight teams with great enthusiasm and energy in our 2004 "Ossipee Olympics." Organized by Mike Miller, the games were considered a great success by all who were involved. Eight different competitions took place at various venues across camp. The teams battled each other in: dodge ball, basketball, "Name That Tune," floor hockey, wiffle ball, "Trivia", volleyball and soccer. It was a joy to watch both the talent and the sportsmanship displayed by so many campers.



The scores were very carefully tallied and the final results were announced late in the evening after they were carefully validated by an international panel of judges. Here are your winners:

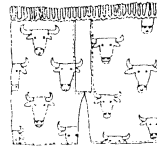
- 8th Place with 6 pts - RED
- 7th Place with 8 pts - PURPLE
- 6th Place with 11 pts - MAROON
- 5th Place with 19 pts - NAVY
- 4th Place with 21 pts - GREEN
- 3rd Place with 26 pts - ORANGE
- 2nd Place with 30 pts - ROYAL
- 1st Place with 31 pts - **YELLOW**

CHAPEL AND VESPERS

The campers and staff from the Bethany Church were our worship leaders on Monday. David Hughes offered the Call to Worship and the Benediction for the chapel service. Danielle Rand, Kim Wadsworth, Barbara Aspell and Lauren Beecher shared two Christmas stories that illustrated how important it is to honor God and to make a difference in the lives of others. First year counselor Heather Vogel read the "Prayer of Jabez" from The Old Testament. The Rev. Bill Harding then shared some thoughts about approaching all things with love and compassion. He reminded us that we are here for one another... to lean on one another for support and to help one another in times of need. The chapel service included three songs: *Kumbaya*, *Lean On Me*, and *Open The Eyes Of My Heart, Lord*.

At Vespers around the campfire, Mike DeGagne and Bill Harding spoke briefly. Mike compared Christmas to camp. Both are something that we look forward to and both seem to bring out the best in each one of us. Bill Harding reminded us of three very important little words: **... and then some!**

HYPNOTIST - JOE DiVITO



The entire camp enjoyed an amazing evening of laughter in the rec hall on Monday evening as hypnotist Joe DiVito entertained for ninety minutes or more.

After a flashy beginning, Joe quieted everyone down so that he could hypnotize about eighteen volunteers to keep us amused for the rest of the program.

Some of the things that amazed us were: Ryan dancing with Donal; Greg dancing with Dave; the arrival of the Tele-Tubbies witnessed by Ashley and friends; the pose down for the camp body builders competition; Jake Bristol flying to the absolute amazement of his brother; Dave wearing his boxers on the outside and Donal with his in hand; Ryan angrily speaking Chinese in spite of many doses of novacaine with Julia very carefully translating; Jillian counting - "1, 2, 3, August, 5" and Dave counting with a stutter; Ali thinking that the hypnotist was the best looking guy she had ever seen; lost belly buttons & extra nipples and whatever it was that Dave lost. There was so much more - much more than can be described in this article.

WOW! What a great, great show!!!

TUESDAY

TUESDAY SNAPSHOT

Weather: Incredible!!!

Breakfast: waffles & sausage

Lunch: grilled cheese, tomato soup, salad bar

Dinner: Pizza & Salad Bar

Day's Theme: Thanksgiving

Morning Program: *Celebrating Our Reasons To Give Thanks!*

Afternoon Program: Skit Rehearsals

Worship & Vespers: The Class of 2004

Evening Program: Skit Night



THE DAILY SCHEDULE AT CAMP

7:00 A.M.	"Good Morning Cabin....!"
7:45/8:25 A.M.	Breakfast
8:55 A.M.	Morning Watch
9:05 A.M.	Cabin Clean-up
9:45 A.M.	Inspection
10:00 - 11:30 A.M.	Morning Group
11:45/12:25	Lunch
1:30 - 3:00 P.M.	Spree Time
3:15 - 5:00 P.M.	Afternoon Program
5:15 P.M.	Chapel
5:45/6:25 P.M.	Dinner
8:00 P.M.	Evening Program
10:00 P.M.	Vespers
10:30/11:00 P.M.	Lights Out



SO WHAT IS SPREE TIME?

Waugh & Waugh, Inc. (Mike and Rob) organized the Spree Time activities for our camp week. Campers may choose from a list of activities to participate in between 1:30 and 3:00 P.M. The activities include: "Middle School Recess Games," Volleyball,

Basketball, Soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, Frisbee Golf, Juggling, Arts & Crafts, Dance, Sand Castle Construction, "Siesta In The Shade," Swimming, Tennis, Four-Square, wiffle ball, and Talent Show Rehearsal.

CHAPEL AND VESPERS

The graduating seniors were responsible for Tuesday's worship - both chapel and vespers.

Angela Castagnozzi, Greg Smith, Marie Chretien, "J.J." Prior and Ashley Vento worked together to create a wonderful chapel service with the theme of growing up and moving on. For a scripture reading they chose Luke 12:22-31. They talked about making plans for the future - will you allow God to lead you or will you go out on your own? If you allow God to lead you, He will open doors for you. Songs at chapel included: *Pass It On* and *Seek Ye First The Kingdom Of The Lord*.

At Vespers, seniors John Oliva, Christine Joy, Colleen Fennessy, and John Fiander took the opportunities to say their good-byes to the camp family. They talked about what they had received from camp in their years here. John Fiander reminded us to be thankful - be thankful for the people in our lives and be thankful for your faith and be thankful for what we have together at camp. Don't ever take anything for granted.

SKIT NIGHT

After an afternoon of plotting and planning, creating and rehearsing, the eight color teams took to the rec hall stage to present their skits to a delighted, SRO audience. Each skit was based on a particular holiday or celebration. Skits were judged on four elements: creativity, participation, a dance routine, and counselor razzing. The carefully selected judges were: Brenda Ripley, Erica Smith, Norma Magrane, and the esteemed Rev. Robert - "On a scale of 1 to 10, I'll give them a 10.8" - Ripley.

There was a tie for third place between Navy (Halloween) and Royal Blue (Graduation.) Second place went to Red (Valentine's Day.)

First place went to Purple (Thanksgiving.) Honorable mention went to: Green (Christmas,) Orange (April Fool's Day,) Yellow (Easter,) and Maroon (Wedding.)

We were impressed by the outstanding participation, the creative dancing, the appropriate humor, and the energy & enthusiasm of the teams.



WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY SNAPSHOT

Weather: Another incredible day... thanks be to God!

Breakfast: Pancakes & sausage

Lunch: mac & cheese, chix nuggets, salad bar

Dinner: Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, salad bar

Day's Theme: Easter

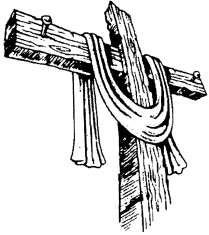
Morning Program: *Celebrating Who We Are In The Eyes Of God*

Afternoon Program: Fire And Ice

Worship & Vespers: First year staff...

Evening Program: Talent Show

EASTER MORNING GROUP



In our Morning Groups on Wednesday we talked about God's great love for each one of us. We also talked about our sins <our thoughts and actions that separate us from God> and God's willingness to forgive our sins if we ask to be forgiven. Each camper was given an index card and was requested to write a personal sin upon it. The index cards were collected and nailed to a cross. At vespers all the sins were taken from the cross and burned in the fire, symbolizing that Christ indeed has died for our sins and set us free from our past.

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FIRE AND ICE - THE GAME



The creative genius of "Miller," Matt Fiander, and Rob Waugh was on display again on Wednesday afternoon as the campers gathered on the field for more than a game - a battle - involving maps, clues, hidden objects and 1,000 orange and blue paintballs. Two teams: FIRE <orange, red, yellow, and maroon> and ICE <blue, navy, green, purple> searched enemy territory for the clues needed to assemble a map that would lead them to their hidden objective. In the process, of course, there was lots of running around, lots of paint spread around, and lots of fun for everyone to enjoy.

After working through the clues, assembling the map and finding the treasure, the winning team was FIRE <orange, red, yellow, and maroon.> The only thing left to do was to wash away all the paint.

CHAPEL & VESPERS FOR WEDNESDAY

Tonight, the first year counselors took their turn at leading both chapel and vespers.

Chapel began with a call to worship by Dre Travers. Sean McCabe then led us all in *Lord of the Dance* - a crowd favorite - with the help of John McCabe and Greg Zopatti on guitars. Heather Vogel shared the scripture reading, followed by Kerianne Gorham and Rob Giachetti who read "*All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*". Kevin Worth and Harry LaCoste entertained us by singing "*Two at a Time*" by Guster. After that, Tom Curran reflected on the reading. He asked us to think about "What do we need?" instead of "What do we want"? Carissa Marlowe closed the service with a prayer.

Vespers included the burning of our sins in the campfire. Katy Shea shared a poem about The Color Of God and Amanda Kendall spoke briefly about the need we all have to forgive and to be forgiven. The entire camp sang, *I Could Sing Of Your Love Forever* and *The Lord's Prayer*.

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THE CELEBRATION SHOW

We always enjoy a great show on Wednesday night at camp when our campers and our counselors share their talents. Tonight was no exception.

Stef Zopatti and Adrienne Perfetuo (and "friends") hosted an incredible *Celebration Show* For a very receptive and appreciative audience. The show featured 27 acts. The awesome talent is listed below:

#1 - Christine Sunnerburg	<i>Warning</i>
#2 - Cassandra Vincent	<i>Follow Me</i>
#3 - Rachel McCabe, Corinna Graham	<i>Time After Time</i>
#4 - Kim Wadsworth	<i>Wild Night</i>
#5 - Tiffany Smith	<i>You Set Me Free</i>
#6 - Meghan O'Dea	<i>Break Away</i>
#7 - Mandy Roach	<i>Times Like These</i>
#8 - Ashley Hazelton, Alison Meaney	<i>Landslide</i>
#9 - Ashley McNeil	<i>Better Off</i>
#10 - Kaitlyn Mazzilli	<i>Pour Some Sugar On Me</i>
#11 - Ossipee Dance Team	
#12 - Pawnee Dance Team	<i>Fantasy</i>
#13 - The Amazing Harry LaCoste	
#14 - Danielle Walsh, Steve Levin	<i>Wonderwall</i>

Continued On The ODDS & ENDS Page

THURSDAY



THURSDAY SNAPSHOT

Weather: Another GREAT day!

Breakfast: English muffins, scrambled eggs

Lunch: Hamburgers and French Fries, Salad Bar

Dinner: Pork Roast, Salad Bar

Day's Theme: Valentine's Day

Morning Program: *Celebrating Who We Are To One Another*

Afternoon Program: Chill Out

Worship & Vespers: First Cong. - Braintree

Evening Program: New Year's Eve Dance

CHILLIN'

Thursday afternoon is set aside for just chillin'. A variety of activities are available for those looking for something to do, but it's also a great afternoon for a nap under the trees, a dip in the lake, or sitting in the sun with journal in hand.

One feature of our "Chillin' Afternoon" that was not too peaceful or calm was the GLADIATOR GAME on the fenced in soccer area. Only the brave tested the arms of the gladiators who fired tennis balls at their human targets as they tried to make their way through the gauntlet. One "hit" and your turn was terminated.



Several counselors pulled out their guitars and played favorite tunes as small groups of campers listened. Another group of counselors involved campers in a very competitive basketball

game. Four Square also attracted a group, as did crafts and tennis.

"Many friends will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart."

<Eleanor Roosevelt>

CHAPEL AND VESPERS

At chapel on Thursday evening The Rev. Dick Hotchkin talked about finding miracles in the ordinary. He mentioned the sunsets at camp - God did that! He mentioned the American Bald Eagle fishing in the lake - God created that eagle. He pointed out the tall pine trees and another tree with the leaves just beginning to turn - God did that too! We need to look for God's miracles in our lives - the extraordinary in the ordinary.

Jeff Kobel led vespers following the dance. Jeff talked about how important our perspective is. We all see things differently. Perhaps we need to learn to see with the eyes of God.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

The girls looked beautiful and the guys looked handsome as they headed into the rec hall for the second dance of the week.

With Tom Remsen playing requests, the campers enjoyed a wonderful evening before heading out to the campfire for vespers.



**A HUG IS A PERFECT GIFT -
ONE SIZE FITS ALL AND
NO ONE MINDS IF YOU EXCHANGE IT!**

**"BE YOURSELF -
WHO ELSE IS BETTER QUALIFIED?"**
(Frank Giblin, Jr.)



**"If you can walk, you can dance.
If you can talk, you can sing."**
(A Saying From Zimbabwe)

**CELEBRATIONS - 2004
IT WAS AWESOME!!!**

IMPROVISATION by Courtney Smith

Driving up to camp on Saturday in the pouring rain, with Mike Miller sitting shotgun and my sister, Kate, in the back seat, we naturally began to discuss the weather and what it could mean for the week ahead. I say "naturally" because the rain was so fierce at times that it would be unnatural not to comment upon it. Some drivers on the highway even had to pull over to the side of the road to let the storm pass. And I feared, in my small Corolla, I'd have to do the same.

"I remember one year", Mike began, "when it rained for seven days straight. We were still at Kingsmont and I think it might have stopped raining for, like, an hour. That's it." Immediately I thought back to my years at Kingsmont- the rolling hills, the dirt roads, the old cabins- and replied, 'that's awful.'

"It was," Mike said, "at first. All the programs had to be held inside, but it really didn't matter because you simply could not stay dry. It got to the point that by the end of the week, everything got so wet and slippery that people were just grabbing trashbags and sliding down the hills." He smiled, and we all were silent for a moment, looking out the windshield at the rain coming at us.

For some reason I thought of that story Saturday night at the campfire.

Aside from showcasing the talent of campers and staff here at Ossipee, and celebrating different types of music throughout the campfire, we celebrated something else in the council ring. We celebrated the single most important factor in what we call the 'camp spirit': improvisation.

Improvisation, as I've come to understand it, is sort of a survival strategy. It's the ability to roll with the punches and deal with whatever curveballs life throws at you. It's the ability to create something new, something better, and something positive from what it is you've been dealt.

As Greg pointed out Saturday night, jazz musicians mastered this technique. But, I think so have all of here at camp. We, as a family, have always had the ability to improvise- be it a week of bad weather, as Mike experienced years ago, or awful news from home, as most of us experienced just last year. No matter what the situation, however mundane or critical it might be, our ability to improvise through friendship and faith is what makes camp something truly worth celebrating.

BEST PART & WORST PART by Jean & Kelly

Many people have asked us what it's been like to return to camp after taking 4 years off. The **best part** is that everyone was so open to joining us in reviving this decade-old "best part of the day / worst part of the day" tradition we began in our rookie year. We thank and love you all so much for that. The **worst part** was making the adjustment from "2 cookies" to no cookies at all.

NO WORRIES, WE'VE GOT MIRACLES!

By Stephen Flaherty

Overall I'm a very relaxed and happy person. I truly think that this is due to the influence of camp and those who have shown me love. They have made me who I am, and have made me a firm believer in two ideas which have shaped how I live my life: First, there are countless miracles that we are surrounded by each and every day. Second, there really is NOTHING to worry about.

If you remember what Tom Curran said at chapel a few nights back, "My life was a lot less complicated when I was younger." He said that there was a lot less to worry about back then. It's true, we have a lot to worry about in our ever day life, but it's also true that a lot of what we worry about, we make up. It's a matter of perspective. There really are very few, or no worries in our lives. There's no stress in our day, just so long as we look at it that way. The answers to our problems are usually simple ones, and the small things that make us upset tend to go away. Living life always worried is no way to live, living life honestly and happily, we can really forget those small things that truly aren't worth sweating over.

I believe that finding the miracles in everyday events is what really helps us to remain stress free and happy. How great is the sun set each day? And how beautiful was the bald eagle flying around camp this week? How often do we stop to see the smallest details on a blade of grass, or look at the individual flowers in a bouquet instead of the whole thing? There are miracles in each and every one of these things and in so much more every day. The tiniest details of a dew drop, or the great happy coincidence of making a green light when you're in a rush. Miracles and your awareness of those miracles around you shouldn't just be limited to the time we are here at camp, so many beautiful and unique life experiences are happening to everyone everyday!

So remember that there are always going to be things that cause us to worry. It's good to think about how a date, or grades, or a single event will be so important to our lives. Yet, life is a long journey and we weren't meant to worry the whole time through. We are meant to enjoy, because life is what's happening to you while you are too busy worrying. So don't spend all your time concerned and upset, instead spend your time being inspired and happy, enjoying those miracles that surround us every minute of every day. And remember the simplest and most beautiful miracle you are surrounded with every day: Love.

"Life is what happens to you when you're busy making other plans."- John Lennon

EDITOR'S NOTE: This page was written in advance to meet our publishing deadline. If all goes as planned, this page is accurate.

FRIDAY

FRIDAY SNAPSHOT

Weather: The totally awesome weather continues
Breakfast: Eggs & Home Fries
Lunch: Hot Dogs & French Fries
Dinner: Penne Alfredo & Texas Toast
Day's Theme: The New Year
Morning Group: *Celebrating Who We Yet May Be...*
Afternoon Program - "Hug Line" and Graduation
Worship: Staff
Evening Program: Consecration Services



THE HUG LINE

Friday afternoon at camp includes one of our fondest camp traditions - The "Hug Line." Led by the graduating seniors, the entire camp forms a long, long line. As we pass by one another we have the opportunity to share a hug or a handshake, a kind word and a farewell. It takes almost 90 minutes to move all the campers and counselors through the hug line. This is one tradition that we are sure will never pass away.

GRADUATION

The second part of our Friday afternoon program is "Graduation." Several things happen at graduation - We introduce all the seniors and present each one with a senior photo taken at the beginning of the week (by Allison Carroll.) We recognize the cabins that have been the cleanest all week. We distribute the 2004 "Ollie Awards" <formerly known as "Golden Apples"> to the individuals who have gone above and beyond what was expected of them at camp. The Graduation program ends with the introduction of the entire staff by Rip and a big "thank you" to all who have made the camp week such an overwhelming success.

CONSECRATION SERVICES

On Friday evening we separate the Junior High (grades 7 & 8) and the Senior High (grades 9 - 12) for our Consecration Services. The Junior High campers meet in Pahaska Lodge. The Senior High camp meets in the Rec Hall. The Consecration Services are a time of worship with music and sharing by campers, staff, and pastors. Though the two services are very different, both include the distribution of the camp momento and the lighting of candles as we go forward into the night.

The 2004 camp momento is a polished stone with a cross engraved upon it. Each stone is unique, just like every person at camp is unique. When a stone is tossed into a pond or lake - no matter how small the stone or how large the lake - it makes an impact and the lake is never the same again. The tiny ripples created by the stone move to the furthest edges of the lake. What impact do you have on the people around you? Does your love move to the outer most edges of your group of friends? Does your faith, your attitude, your spirit touch the lives of everyone you meet.

You are a special person. There is no one quite like you. What you do and what you say makes a difference to every life you touch. May the influence of your words and actions always be a positive influence. And may God always bless you!

The Senior High Camp gathers one final time around the campfire following the Consecration Service. At this closing campfire the graduating seniors are given the opportunity to share their final thoughts with the camp. Most talk about the great influence that camp and the people at camp have made in their lives.



SATURDAY

Saturday Snapshot

Weather: We are blessed with another awesome day!
Breakfast: French Toast
Activity: Clean-up the camp... get your "poop in a group"... head for home

There's lots to be done on Saturday morning. Everything must be packed into the trucks, the cabins have to be swept, the campus has to be picked up before breakfast is served.

Following breakfast we all gather for one final time at the Council Ring where "Rip" offers his parting words which bring our 47th year of camp to a close. **Thanks, all, for a great week!**

ODDS AND ENDS

The Celebration Show Continued from Wednesday

#15 - Gabby Perfetuo	<i>When I Look At You</i>
#16 - Jacquelen Graziano, Annie Northridge	<i>The First Cut</i>
#17 - Joanna MacIntyre	<i>Strong Enough To Be My Man</i>
#18 - Alison Meaney, Jacqueline Graziano	<i>Everywhere</i>
#19 - Jacqueline Graziano	<i>'Til The Day I Die</i>
#20 - Frank McPhee	<i>Afternoon Delight</i>
#21 - Libby Prior, John McCabe	
#22 - Kevin Worth	<i>Run Away, Jim</i>
#23 - Andy Sheflin, John McCabe	<i>Two Coins</i>
#24 - Brendan Pires	<i>Fluxy</i>
#25 - Two Mikes And A Sean	<i>Map</i>
#26 - Danielle Walsh	<i>My Immortal</i>



**Reported by
Ashley
Simmons &
Erin Desmond**

CAMPERS' FAVORITE SONGS

#1	Compass	13 votes
#2	Pharaoh, Pharaoh	11 votes
#3	Lean On Me	6 votes
#4	Rise & Shine	5 votes
#5	Friends	4 votes
	Open The Eyes...	4 votes
#6	Allelu... Praise, Ye, The Lord	3 votes
	Lord of The Dance	3 votes
#7	This Love	2 votes
#8	How Shall I Send Thee?	1 vote
	Seek, Ye, First	1 vote

COUNSELORS FAVORITE SONGS

Jean O'Halloran - *Lord Of The Dance*
Trevor Farrell - *Our God Is An Awesome God*
Meg Smith - *Lord Of The Dance*
Matt Fiander - *Seek, Ye, First...*
Christine Fiander - *Pharaoh, Pharaoh*
Erica Smith - *Seek, Ye, First...*
Kathariine Neville - *I Could Sing Of Your Love, Forever*
Stef Zopatti - *Open The Eyes Of My Heart*
Adrienne Perfetuo - *Friends*
Allison Carroll - *Friends*
Kelly Myatt - *Lord Of The Dance*
Erica Goldstein - *Open The Eyes Of My Heart*

NOTE BENE: An American Bald Eagle was spotted on both Tuesday and Wednesday during swim time. On Wednesday he swooped down and caught a fish from the lake less than 50 yards from the dock.

FAVORITE CAMP ACTIVITIES

Reported by Jenny Sheflin, Kate Monohan, Julia Liebert, Julie Corey

Jillian Schneider - MORNING WATCH because it's peaceful and quiet.
"Razzo" - VESPER - being connected to everyone when we hold hands.
Christine Fiander - SPACE BEADS because it's intergalactic for me.
Meg Smith - SKIT DAY because it's never ending fun!
Kristen Joyce - MORNING GROUP - serious conversations about life and God.
Heather Prebble - ARTS AND CRAFTS - it's fun and my counselors lead it...
Matt Fiander - MORNING GROUP - because it's the most intimate learning time between campers and counselors
Erika Goldstein - CREATIVE EVENING PROGRAMS FOLLOWED BY VESPER - it's quite a contrast!
Mike Miller - MORNING GROUP - my kids are Unbelievable and so is Kobel
Chris Rogerson - ULTIMATE FRISBEE - it rules!
Mike Aducci & Cole Burton - MORNING WATCH - it's a time to reflect
Norma Magrane - SKIT NIGHT - it's funny
Tom Curran - MORNING WATCH - it's a chance to be by myself and reflect on the week.
Mackenzie O'Dea - MORNING GROUP - For the last 2 years I've connected with people on a higher level than I ever thought possible...
Lindsay Joy - MORNING WATCH - everyone gets to connect with their inner self.
Matt Meyers - MORNING GROUP - you can say what's on Your mind.
"Kendall" (Amanda) - TIME WITH MY CABIN, especially when they play Ashlee Simpson

*If God is for us,
who can be against us?
Rom. 8:31*

WORTH THINKING ABOUT

COUNSELORS' AND CAMPERS' FAVORITE QUOTES:

Andrea Giachetti -

"I always knew I'd look back at the bad times and laugh, but never realized I'd look back at the good times and cry." <Anonymous>

Kelly Myatt -

"Watch your thoughts: Your thoughts become your words; Watch your words: Your words become your actions; Watch your actions: Your actions become your behavior; Watch your behavior: Your behavior becomes your character; Watch your character: Your character becomes for destiny." <from the practice of yoga>

Mike DeGagne -

"Don't do what you'll regret, and don't regret what your do."

Steve Flaherty -

"A ship is safe in a harbor, but that's not what ships are built for." <Edith Wharton>

Terry Martinson:

"... and then some."

John Oliva:

"This is it, this is life; the one you get so have a ball. 'Cause the world doesn't march to the beat of just one drum, what may be right for you may not be right for some. You take the good; you take the bad - You have to take them both, and then you have my opening statement. Sit, Ubu, sit. Good dog!" <Peter Griffin>



Kevin Smith:

"It's not the size of the dog in the fight. It's the size of the fight in the dog that really matters." < ??? >

Jeff Kobel:

"You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees or the stars.... You have a right to be here. And, although it may not be clear to you, rest assured, that the universe is unfolding as it should." < ??? >

* * * * *

Worry about nothing... Pray about everything...

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

THE COOL LIST

The most destructive habit..... worry
The greatest joy.....giving
The greatest loss.....loss of self-respect
The most satisfying work.....helping others
The ugliest personality trait..... selfishness
The most endangered species.....dedicated leaders
Our greatest natural resource..... our youth
The greatest "shot in the arm"... ..encouragement
The greatest problem to overcome..... fear
The most effective sleeping pill.....peace of mind
The most crippling failure disease..... excuses
The most powerful force in life..... love
The most dangerous person..... a gossip
The world's most incredible computer..... the brain
The worst thing to be without..... hope
The deadliest weapon..... the tongue
The two most power-filled words..... "I can!"
The greatest asset..... faith
The most worthless emotion.....self-pity
The most beautiful attire..... SMILE!
The most prized possession.....integrity
The most powerful channel of communication... prayer
The most contagious spirit..... enthusiasm
The most important thing in life..... GOD
Everyone needs this list to live by..... Pass it along

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

Hebrews 10:25



WHAT IS CHARACTER ALL ABOUT?

In 1995, the Alabama Legislature passed a law that required schools to discuss 25 traits that it considers makes good character. Here are those traits:

Cheerfulness	Kindness
Citizenship	Loyalty
Cleanliness	Patience
Compassion	Patriotism
Cooperation	Perseverance
Courage	Punctuality
Courtesy	Respect for others
Creativity	School pride
Diligence	Self-control
Environment	Self-respect
Fairness	Sportsmanship
Generosity	Tolerance
Honesty	

CAMP SENIORS 2004

Brian	Birolini	4	Old South	Massasoit
Sandra	Canuto	2	Old South	Brandeis Univ.
Angela	Castagnozzi	4	Old South	U. Of Rhode Island
Lindsay	Cefali	5	Old South	Westfield State
Marie	Chretien	5	Old South	Fairfield Univ. (Conn.)
Mark	DePari	6	Old South	Winchendon Prep.
Colleen	Fennessy	6	Old South	Western New England
John	Fiander	6	Old South	Elon University (NC)
Thomas	Flanagan	6	Old South	Bates College (Maine)
Stephanie	Jensen	6	Old South	Southern N.H. Univ.
Christine	Joy	5	Old South	Roger Williams Univ.
Heather	Machonochie	6	Old South	Framingham State
Caitlin	Myers	6	Old South	Framingham State
Meghan	Noonan	4	Old South	Cosmetology School
John	Oliva	6	Old South	U. Of New Hampshire
Brendon	Pires	5	Old South	U.Mass - Amherst
John ("J.J.")	Prior	5	First Church	Keene State College
Jessica	Rizzo	6	Old South	Curry College
Jill	Schneider	3	Old South	U. Of New Hampshire
Greg	Smith	6	First Cong.	Tufts Univ.
Ashley	Vento	4	Old South	DePaul Univ. (Chicago)
Brad	Whyte	6	Old South	Working

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Because our camp week was a bit later this year than usual, a smaller number of seniors were able to come to camp than usual. We started the week with only twenty-two seniors divided into two Morning Groups led by Terry and Rip. By the end of the week, only fifteen seniors were still at camp for the Consecration Service and the Senior Campfire. What we lacked in quantity in 2004, we made up for in quality. This year's twenty-two seniors were an outstanding, responsible group of young men and women. We wish them the very best as they either move into the working world or continue their education. We thank each one of them for their contributions to both camp and their respective youth groups.