

**Critique on college football playoff**

Senior Karch Calkins evaluates controversial new way of determining the true national champion in college football.

**Tablet games are a thing of the past**

After the initial scare of tablets only being used as gaming devices in school, students see the use of tablets as a necessity in the learning process.

**Inaugural Keusenkothen Awards**

Junior Jack Keusenkothen examines the past year's films and uses his film expertise in assigning the most popular awards.



**COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF**

# the Eagle

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## Athletic track squad begins highly anticipated season

BY MAX MACHIORLETTE  
EAGLE STAFF

As the seasons turn, and the rested legs of the track stars awake from the long winter break, the start of track season has begun.

The team is led by a group of hardworking, talented and experienced seniors. Senior JJ DeForest has been running since his first run June 29, 2000. Looking back on the past four years on the team, DeForest has seen nothing but improvement.

"The track team has significantly improved in multiple events as well as their chemistry," DeForest said.

Their tight relationship is bonded by their obvious captain, senior Aaron Hernandez. The "win state" mentality is evident in senior Matthew Wood. When asked about his hopes for the season were for nothing less than winning a state championship.

Although the seniors put the team on their back, underclassman are eager to prove their worth. The track team runs in eight meets and the seniors know they cannot do it alone, especially the relay team.

"The relay team has improved the most," junior William Heck said. "Aaron Hernandez, JJ DeForest, David Jones and I have been putting in work on the track ever since our last meet and we know it's time to get some jewelry."

Coming off a good freshman season, sophomore Krzysztof Kwiatkowski is eager to make fast contributions.

The entire team is led by an elite coaching staff, headed by former UH track prodigy, Nathan Labus. Labus trains the squad all year round in rain, shine, or sleet, with about three or four weeks off.

Junior Ted Birkofer credits the team's success to the team's changes, implemented by Labus.

"Coach Labus has organized this season down to every single practice, with the mileage and times we're supposed to be hitting," Birkofer said. "If we can hit these benchmarks, there's no reason why we can't be the best team in Texas."

The vigorous, detailed, but beneficial, practices are led by coaches who all have experienced great success on the track.

The Eagles start their season home, hosting the Eagle Relays February 28th. The team hopes to see 2015 hanging in Reckling Gymnasium along side other state champions.



## THE WOLF OF ROUND-UP



(Top) Round-Up Board seniors Ben Neukomm, Payton Pardee, Eli Bacilla, John Maida, and Carson Storie star in the first installment of the Round-Up season. (Bottom Left) Neukomm fires up his the entire student body and his highly trained group of O'Brienites to sell the until the client buys or dies. (Bottom Right) The key to Round-Up, an egg described as a weapon of indescribable power, sits atop a retro megaphone in the archives of the school.

## True meaning of Round-Up beneath surface of selling tickets

BY JAMES GRANT  
EAGLE STAFF

Round-Up 2015 has finally begun and in a big way.

This means that students will be selling tons of raffle tickets over the next few weeks to help this great annual cause, as well as other students who need financial aid.

Oh and there is one more thing that drives and motivates these students to sell as many raffle tickets as possible: to break a new record for number of tickets sold and get some Fridays off in the spring.

For students who are new to this tradition, such as freshmen, there are plenty of great places where you can set up shop and sell tons of raffle tickets.

Local parish churches draw many visitors during mass especially on Sundays. You can sell large amounts of raffle tickets just by setting up a table outside of their parish church and selling lots of tickets to church attendees and alumni alike.

There are other productive ways of selling raffle tickets though, one of

which is over the phone.

The Phone-a-thon is an effective way of selling raffle tickets to alumni by calling them and asking if they would like to generously donate to the annual cause.

The Phone-a-thon takes place after school normally for about an hour or two during the weeks leading up to the final Round-Up assembly.

Some students who have participated in Phone-a-thon in the past have racked up more than a thousand dollars in just one sitting at the Phone-a-thon. Therefore, this is by far one of the best ways to sell raffle tickets to generous graduates.

All you need to do to sign up is go talk to Director of Student Activities Joe O'Brien in the Activities Office.

There is still one other effective way though to sell a good amount of raffle tickets, and that is by sending letters to past alumni sincerely asking them to buy some tickets.

Senior Jack Schrimsher is no stranger to this method, and as a four-year veteran in ticket selling he shares his secret to success.

"I usually ask a parent first to buy raffle tickets and then I go to see Mr. O'Brien in the Activities Office and sign up for some letters to mail off to St. Thomas grads, asking them how many tickets they would like to buy," Schrimsher said.

For Schrimsher and other students who have sent letters to alumni, this is a great way to generate money by selling raffle tickets to support the financial aid efforts for one-third of the entire student body.

Round-Up is not all about how many raffle tickets sold.

More importantly, it helps students who need financial aid.

As St. Thomas continues to grow in size, financial aid is going to become an important piece in the puzzle for getting more prospective students who rely on it to come to St. Thomas.

This will allow them to receive the education that they deserve, and student's efforts during the annual Round-Up season will cover any gaps in the financial aid process for future years.

Above all, if you want to support Round-Up and get some Fridays off, then get out and start selling that quota.



## The Bump: three inches of terror

BY CAMERON CASH  
EAGLE STAFF

On any given morning, countless students embark on the journey from home to school.

After arriving from various locations, many sophomores and juniors have to face one last daunting task. When entering from Shepherd, students driving to the parking garage have to go over the most dreaded obstacle on campus: the speed bump by the parking garage.

Standing a whopping three inches tall, this mountain of fury has caused more than one car trouble. A common sound that could be heard all last year was that of senior Jack Brady's Camaro RS hitting the bump every time he had to attempt to cross over it. "I don't have that car anymore so it the bump okay, but it still stunk," Brady said.

Although many people have yearned for the speed bump to go away, there have not been many penetrations on that front. The closest that anyone has come to seeing it go away was during Fish Week.

The administration promised the Class of 2015 that if they behaved well and did not treat the freshman unfairly, then they would consider lowering the speed bump.

The seniors behaved excellently during Fish Week, but there is one last obstacle standing in the way between the bump and some jackhammers. The final speed bump in the way is the driving tendencies of students on campus. "Student body driving speeds and responsible driving practices do not warrant removal of the bump which is right before a blind crosswalk," Principal Rev. Patrick Fulton, CSB, said. "The prospect of the loss of a life far exceeds the inconveniences."

The speed bump by the parking garage is more like a speed curb. This road hazard has altered the way that students enter campus, as well as damaging the automobiles of students.

Although there have been fleeting moments when students have thought it would go, as of now it seems like it is here to stay, much to the dismay of many.

If students want to get rid of the bump, they need to drive safer while on campus. By following traffic rules, students may convince administration to lower the height of the speed bump.

If the bump was lowered, it would make everyone happy and improve the campus, but it all rides on the driving of students.

### How much money do you make?

Esteemed alumni and parents of current Eagles join students to discuss what they do for a living on Thursday, Feb. 5 for Sophomore Career Day. Attention all sophomores: do not ask how much money each individual makes.

### Everybody love everybody

Freshman Retreat is a chance for each and every freshman to learn more about their new brothers they have come to know over these first six months at St. Thomas. The retreat will take place Friday, Feb. 13.

### Sell, sell, sell....

With Round-Up starting off and the busiest weeks of the year just around the corner, students need to get out and sell those tickets.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Opinion	3
Student Life	4
Entertainment	6
Sports	8