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thers were severely punished for praying in religious advocates.

## e of Prayer

schools be punished?

from publicly and passionately living for what they believe in. What do Principal Lay and Mr. Freeman face? Losing money (for which a Lay/Freeman Defense Fund has been established to combat), or spending time in jail? In an interview, Principal Lay asked what would happen if someone blessed him after he sneezed. Would he have to report them to the ACLU? No matter what the outcome of this trial, Christians and other religious peoples won't alter their everyday practices. Organizations like the ACLU can remove "under God" from The Pledge of Allegiance. Religious believers will still say it. The ACLU can make Principal Lay remove The Ten Commandments from a hallway of Pace High, but what will that accomplish?

No religious believer enjoys being refused acknowledgement to his God in "one nation under God." Principal Lay's request for a prayer hadn't occurred yet, but the seeds of protest had already been planted: the Senior Class President was

# MUS Latin Students Excel at National Convention

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OWES HOOT CONTRIBUTOR

During the last weeks of summer, sophomore Nicolas Rouse and I traveled to the University of California at Davis just outside of Sacramento to participate in the 56th Annual National Junior Classical League Convention. Led by acting state chair, Mrs. Reinhardt, and accompanied by a few White Station students, we each had high hopes of placing well on academic tests and in *certamen* (Latin Quiz Bowl).

Arriving at the convention, we participated in and watched as much as possible of the convention's jam-packed schedule. In addition to general assemblies and spirit contests, there were many displays and competitions in graphic arts. One could take many academic tests and play *certamen*, or compete against some of the world's greatest, yet nerdiest athletes in Ludi or Olympika. At the convention, no one could be found who knew the winner of Superbowl XXVI, but everyone knew the date on which Cicero delivered his *Ca-tilianian Orations*.

Rouse and I spent the majority of our time on academics. We both played on state *certamen* teams, and both qualified for the semifinals. Rouse captained the Intermediate (Latin II) team, while I was

a member of the Advanced (Latin III-V). Rouse placed in the top 10 for three academic tests (Hellenics, Literature, and Reading Comprehension) for Latin II, and I placed first in the Roman History Test for Latin III. It seemed that we accomplished the goal for which we set out.

But why is Latin important? Why do people go to such conventions for a language which hasn't been spoken for hundreds of years? Of course there are the obvious academic reasons. Latin boosts your scores on the SAT through an enlarged vocabulary, and it "looks good" on a college transcript. Latin also remains a large part of our society through our culture, government, law, architecture, medicine, and language. Whenever one ends a sentence using *et cetera*, provides examples using *e.g.*, or identifies a school as his alma mater, he uses Latin. Even the motto of Memphis University School is in Latin: *Veritas Honorque*, Truth and Honor. Personally, Latin has impacted my life the most through its teaching of dedication. Translating Ovid or deciphering complex grammar structures has trained me in dedication, discipline, and patience. I believe that Mrs. Reinhardt, Rouse, I, and thousands of others attend Nationals and State conventions because Latin is the ultimate teacher, despite its label as being "dead."

## Keep the Date!



Dr. John E. Harkins, MUS Archivist, will be signing a copy of his new book, "Memphis Chronicles: Bits of