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# *The Campus Observer*

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ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY  
DEPARTMENT OF SECURITY

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## IMSA



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## Summer is FINALLY here...ENJOY!

### *From the Chief*

by Chief James M. Bondi

For all the Faculty/Staff members, and students of the Academy, and especially our graduating class, this is a special time of the year. We will be sending out yet another graduating class into that big bad world to be IMSA alumni.

We hope that we have been able to prepare you academically, emotionally, and socially to handle this step. My piece of this preparedness-pie is obviously making you as safety and security oriented as possible. Soon you Seniors will be leaving the controlled environment of IMSA and entering a much different academic setting. No longer will the majority of you have dorm checks, dorms that are secure, dorms that are very close to the academic building or anyone to watch over you and guide you. You will need to be independent

adults and make many decisions on your own. We have tried to teach you skills that are not strictly related to life at IMSA, but skills and tips that you can incorporate into your life wherever you are and no matter what the situation. We have tried to teach you skills that may, if incorporated properly into your routine and consciousness, prevent a major trauma in your life.

We do not want you to go through life constantly afraid of everyone and everything. We want you to be aware, be prepared, and take realistic precautions that fit your situation.

For the departing Seniors, the vast majority of you have been super. We greatly appreciate your cooperation and understanding. There will always be a special place in my heart for each and every one of you. Good luck in your future and do not ever hesitate to contact us if there is anything that we can help you with.

To those unfortunate Juniors and Sophomores, who will be subject to our tyrannical, overly oppressive control for one or two more years, we will most definitely have more information and tips to come in future issues. Have a safe and fun summer.

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### *Summer Is Here!*

by Officer James L. Read

With summer vacation rapidly approaching, many student's minds are already focusing on next fall ("the college experience"-meeting new people, adjusting to new environments, etc.). Others, primarily underclassmen, are probably just welcoming a break from the academic and athletic pressures which they have experienced over the past 8-10 months. Regardless of what you may have planned for this summer, it is important to always

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keep your personal safety, as well as the safety of others, in mind.

Good decision making is a key factor in staying safe and enjoying your summer vacation responsibly. Many students will be invited, or have the opportunity to attend graduation parties, as well as other celebrations, throughout the summer. Alcohol may be available for consumption at many of these events. It is up to you, as an individual, to exercise good judgement through refusing to drink. We are all aware of the dangers of drinking and driving, but it is also important to realize that underage drinking is illegal under any/all circumstances. Not only is it illegal for minors to consume alcoholic beverages, it is also illegal for adults to knowingly provide alcohol to them.

Law enforcement officials are becoming increasingly strict with underage drinking offenders. An example of this can be found in The Secretary of State's "Zero Tolerance Rule". The rule states: If you are under the age of 21 and are arrested for any traffic violation and found to have a trace of alcohol in your system, while operating a motor vehicle, your driving privileges will be suspended for at least three months. If you refuse to submit to testing, your driving privileges will be suspended for at least six months. If you are under the age of 21 and convicted of DUI, the Secretary of State's office will revoke your driving privileges for a minimum of two years. In addition, you may be fined up to \$1,000 and given a jail sentence of up to one year.

In closing, I hope that each and every one of you has a truly wonderful summer. I also hope that if you find yourself with an opportunity to consume alcohol, that you will consider the risks involved. I am confident that all of you are capable of making good decisions; especially when it comes down to choices which

could potentially affect the rest of your life. Be safe and have a fun summer.

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## **Computing**

by Steve Terrell

Over the past several years, computers have become an integral part of our daily lives. They provide quick, easy access to information that we depend on to keep us moving ahead in our efforts to become an exemplary institution. Like any useful tool however, our computers come with a responsibility for proper use and maintenance. This article addresses a few of those issues.

### **A word about viruses**

The IMSA computing system is vulnerable to the types of software attacks known as viruses (as are most computer systems). Because of the various types of protection we have in place to detect viruses and clean them from our computers, the impact on our system has been minimal. However, our best defense against computer viruses is for all users to practice "safe computing". Here are a few guidelines:

If you receive email from any source that includes some kind of message to "click here" or includes an attachment of any type \*other\* than plain text, BE SUSPICIOUS, even if it comes from someone you know. We have had cases of viruses being spread through these types of e-mail attachments and we expect to see more in the future.

Be careful about putting software on your computer. Even seemingly innocent programs can contain viruses or "trojan horse" type programs that our virus protection software may not detect. Know your sources. Try to limit downloading of software from the Internet to sites that you are familiar with, and which stand behind their software. If you need to install software on your

computer, notify CNS before doing so.

Use virus detection software on your computer. These programs, when properly kept up to date, are extremely effective in detecting and cleaning viruses. Virus detection software is installed on all Academy owned computers. Please do not try to bypass or disable it. The Academy owned virus software is also available for home use to all current IMSA community members, at no charge. To learn more about Academy provided anti-virus software, go to <http://www.imsa.edu/team/cns/help/virus.html> on the IMSA website.

If you suspect that your machine has a virus, please call CNS. The earlier we can catch viruses, the easier it is contain and clean them.

Until someone comes up with a universal vaccination for computer viruses, we will have to accept them as a fact of our computer lives. Please help us prevent virus problems - the downtime you save may be your own.

### **Abuse of IMSA computing resources**

Within the last 6-8 months, a large number of incidents involving Academy owned computing equipment have occurred, particularly in the computer labs in the main building and the residence halls. The incidents include theft and destruction of computers and peripherals, theft of cables and what appears to be purposeful tampering with operating systems and application software. We have been tracking all occurrences internally and have categorized them under the heading of abuse of computing resources. Although we have had similar problems in the past, this year seems to be particularly bad.

In October of last year, we started to address the problem in a proactive way. The situation has been brought to the attention of CNS leadership, IMSA security,

Student Life, Student Council, Parents Council and members of the IMSA Cabinet. We have installed physical security and protection for operating systems on public and lab machines throughout the campus. We ask that all community members help take care of our computing resources. Please be on the lookout for any activity that seems suspicious and report incidents as soon as possible. This can be done with a phone call to the CNS help desk (x5995), or if you prefer, use the anonymous security form at

<http://www.imsa.edu/team/security/silent.html>.

#### **Software usage issues**

One of the biggest problems in the computer industry is the illegal use of software, also called software piracy. Most software in use at the Academy is licensed to be used on a single computer by one person at a time. In most cases, copying software and installing it on another computer constitutes a license violation. There are exceptions, but to be on the safe side, be sure to contact CNS before installing software on your computer. Fair use and intellectual property rights aside, software piracy is a crime.

#### **Conclusion**

The IMSA community holds itself to a high ethical standard. This philosophy extends to our usage of computing resources as well. We must all be responsible for our computing behavior and usage, and help our fellow community members in this effort. To paraphrase one of our past administrators, Take Care of our Computing System!

Steve Terrell  
Sr. Network Administrator  
CNS

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#### **Working Together**

by Officer James L. Read

The mission of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy Security Department is three-fold: 1) To take whatever steps reasonable to insure the safety and well being of all IMSA students, faculty, staff, and visitors to our campus. 2) To develop and maintain programs and lines of communication, with all members of the IMSA community, which will insure their protection, as well as that of IMSA property and assets. 3) To enforce IMSA rules, regulations, policies and procedures, as well as all local, State, and Federal Laws.

As IMSA Security Officers, it is our duty to honor and uphold the aforementioned Mission Statement. However, I feel that, too often, we are perceived as "rigid disciplinarians" whose only function is to find fault with members of the student body. It is important to understand that we are not only concerned with enforcing the rules and policies, here at the Academy, but also in helping the students, faculty, and staff understand why these rules and policies have been created and why they must be upheld. The IMSA Security Department is always eager to hear the concerns, thoughts, and ideas of community members here at the Academy. Officers are available to students, faculty, and staff on a 24 hour basis, 7 days per week.

Because of the unique nature of the IMSA community, it is also very important that students, faculty, and staff all work together to help the Security Department maintain a safe and secure environment. Self awareness and self protection are two key concepts, which the IMSA community needs to embrace. These two concepts, along with increased communication and respect for each other's personal safety and personal belongings, will enhance the quality of every community member's experience here at the Academy. By working together, we can achieve better results throughout upcoming

school years. Information pamphlets relating to: Residential Hall Security, Personal Safety, Campus Watch, and much more, are available to community members and can be obtained in the main Security office.

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#### **Double Life**

by Lieutenant Dale E. Arentsen

You may look at the title of this article and think..."What does he mean by that!?" Well, it's nothing so ominous I can assure you. Simply put, I have another life away from IMSA, both personal and professional. Personally, I love to ride my motorcycle. It's truly a feeling of freedom. There is nothing like getting on my Hawk and heading down the road. It doesn't matter where I'm going, as long as I get there. Some people would say..."Why do you ride that dangerous thing!?" My response to that question would be..."Because it's my choice." Even though there could be a debate on if a motorcycle is dangerous or not, I personally believe that it is not as bad as some would have you believe. A person on a motorcycle is more vulnerable than someone in a car simply because there is no steel around the motorcyclist, just the open air and that feeling of freedom/non-confinement. But, it's like anything else in life; even a car can be dangerous with the wrong person behind the wheel.

We all make choices in our lives. Some choices are good, and others are bad. If you choose to get behind the wheel of a car, or the handlebars of a motorcycle, after drinking an alcoholic beverage or using some type of drug, you run the risk of not only ruining your life, but possibly the lives of others. Not to mention you also run the risk of possibly running into me...while in that other professional life of mine. What's that you ask? Away from

the Academy, I'm a Police Officer for a nearby City. The last thing you would ever want to have happen to you is to be involved in a traffic crash because you choose to drink, then drive. You notice that I did not call it a traffic accident. The State of Illinois now refers to these types of incidents as Motor Vehicle Crashes. The philosophy is that it's NO accident. A driver wasn't paying attention, was driving too fast, didn't stop completely at that stop sign, or

was drinking and driving. Get the idea? The penalties for drinking and driving are bad enough, but if you choose to drink then drive and cause a crash, watch out! Not only will you get to meet me in my other professional life, or one of my compatriots, it's a sure bet you will lose your drivers' license, you may also lose your freedom, or even worse, you may lose your life.

In 1999 there were 637 people killed in alcohol-related crashes on Illinois roadways, which was 44

percent of the 1,456 total crash fatalities. In 1999 there were 48,587 DUI arrests recorded by the Secretary of State's office. Don't become a statistic, or be the cause of one. Live your life to the fullest, and make the right choices.

Have a great and safe summer vacation.

Statistics are from the Illinois Secretary of State web site. Go to: <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/dui/duifactbook.html>

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## **CHOICES**

**You will be faced with many choices this summer, not to mention your whole life.**

**Think straight, think right, and make choices in your life that will let you shine bright.**

**Have a GREAT summer!!  
C ya this fall.**

## **Volunteers needed**

**Join Campus Watch and help your community by reporting what you see. If you like to write, consider writing for the Campus Observer!**

If you would like to help make your campus a safer and secure place for all to live, work, and learn, be sure to join Campus Watch in the fall. If you would like to write for the Campus Observer, contact Lieutenant Dale Arentsen at extension 5087 / e-mail: [arentsen@imsa.edu](mailto:arentsen@imsa.edu) or Officer Jim Read at extension 5002 / e-mail: [read@imsa.edu](mailto:read@imsa.edu).

### **The Campus Observer**

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