

MEI NUCESQUE

A newsletter for Classics at the University of Dallas

26 - YEAR - OLD ELECTED MAYOR OF PITTSBURGH

"mastered the art of being in the right place at the right time," says the New York Times



Luke Ravenstahl, the mayor of Pittsburgh, takes the oath of office.

In Pittsburgh, where people go "Dahntahn" to watch the Picks-burgh Pirates, they get their news delivered wrapped up in gum bands. And the biggest news there lately is the mayor, Luke Ravenstahl. At 26 years old, Mr. Ravenstahl is the youngest mayor of any major metropolitan area in the United States. One could say Mr. Ravenstahl "mastered the art of being in the right place at the right time". Soon after he graduated from Washington and Jefferson College in 2003, Mr. Ravenstahl got elected to the District 1 seat on the City Council of Pittsburgh "cash[ing] in on his family's political name (his grandfather was a state representative and his father is a widely known district judge) and toppled a seasoned incumbent [Barbara Burns]". Then, in November 2005 he was elected president of the Council, though an unlikely candidate, when rival political factions were fighting over who should be elected. When the former mayor of Pittsburgh, Robert O'Connor, died unexpectedly of a brain tumor on the first of September, Mr. Ravenstahl was asked to fill his position, as the next in line to the mayor.

It is uncertain whether Mr. Ravenstahl will remain in office until the end of the term of the former mayor, in November 2009, or if he will have to run for re-election next year. According to the city charter, his term expires in 2009, but the matter will be deliberated by the courts.

If Pittsburgh were Rome...

Luke Ravenstahl would officially be called "suffes", in English, "suffect". If a consul died before completing his office (which sometimes happened quite often, especially of the consul's military associations), a suffect consul was elected to take his place. C. Julius Caesar Octavianus (i.e. Octavian) was a famous suffect consul. In 43 B.C., C. Vibius Pansa Caetronianus, one of the standing consuls, was mortally wounded at the Battle of Forum Gallorum on April 14, 43 B.C. The Senate refused the suffect consulship to Octavian in July of 43. In August Octavian crossed the Rubicon and marched to Rome with 8 legions in order to take the office by force. He was "elected" by a special consular commission on August 19, at the ripe age of 19.

The idea that a person can gain political favor by the reputation of his name is not foreign to us, and it certainly was not foreign to the Romans either. That's one reason why Cicero's election to the consulship, the first from his family to become consul, is so remarkable.

From the *New York Times* Thursday Sept 7, 2006 A1, cont. on A11; a *Little Roman Political Dictionary*; www.wikipedia.com; photographs from the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* website: www.post-gazette.com.



Dear Reader,

Welcome back to a new school year at the University of Dallas. You are holding in your hands the newest issue of the Classics newsletter, started last year as a partly serious/partly humorous periodical for friends of the Classics at the University. Because of the success of last year's experiment, we've decided to keep things running for the new year, and --hopefully--for a long time. As always, I encourage submissions of artistic translations; reviews of current classics articles or events; questions of grammar, history, linguistics, or translation; and drawings. Please email them to mpawlow@udallas.edu, drop them off at the Classics department desk, or put them in UD Box 610, Attn: MN. Pax et bonum,

Mary Pawlowski, Editor

TUTORS

in the Audio Visual Center • 2nd Floor Carpenter Hall • Department of Classics and Modern Languages

SCOTT LAVERICK

Greek

Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, Friday
12:00p.m.-2:00p.m.

Thursday
2:00p.m.-4:00p.m.

ELIZABETH MALONE

Latin

Monday
10:00a.m.-11:00a.m.
12:00p.m.-1:00p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday
2:00p.m.-4:00p.m.

Wednesday, Friday
12:00p.m.-1:00p.m.

From Smyth's Greek Grammar

Greek grammar in small digestible bits

by Scott Laverick

Curious about the use of the infinitive?

It may be helpful to know...

Smyth 1969 : The infinitive was originally a verbal noun in the Dative (or Locative) case.

Hence the 'to' or 'for' meaning seen in
μανθάνειν ἤκομεν : 'we have come to learn (for learning)'

and δύναμαι ἰδεῖν : 'I have power for (with respect to) seeing', thus 'I can see'.



TODAY ONLY!!

7 p . m .

Open

Auditions:

Sophocles'

Antigone

at the Orpheion



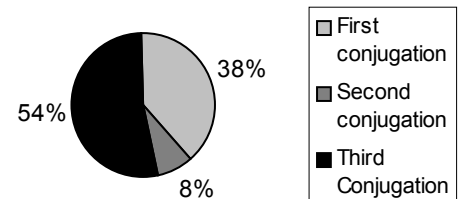
From the Classics Links Page:

Usually you'll find here a link from the Classics Links page (www.udallas.edu/classics/useful.cfm), but here's something unique this week: <http://www.udallas.edu/classics/translations.cfm>, a new addition to the Classics department website. There you will find six original translations of Greek verse by UD students. For an example, here is an excerpt from Abi King's translation of Pindar's *Pythian 8*. She translated it for her senior project.

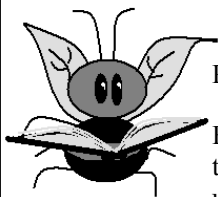
Day-creatures. What is man? What is he not?	
We are a shadow's dream. When radiance comes,	100
Gift of the gods, there lingers brilliant light,	
A lifetime is imbued with gentleness.	
Dear Mother, Aegina, on her path of freedom	
Protect this city; Zeus too, strong Aiakos,	
And Peleus, and good Telamon, and Achilles.	105

Survey of Favorite Latin Verbs

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the informal survey of favorite Latin and Greek verbs. There were a lot more Latin verbs sent in than Greek, and, interestingly, almost all of the Latin verbs were either in the first or third conjugation. One reason, perhaps, is that there are so many 1st and 3rd conjugation Latin verbs; but also it seems that people for the most part stuck with their old friends: 3 votes for "amo", 2 for "facio", the frequentative "iacto" (from iacio), 1 vote each for "ago", "volo", "fefelli" the perfect of "fallo", and, little known, "zinzilulo". The lone 3rd conjugation verb was "taceo", which maybe is what I should do now.



Book Review from the Classics department library



Plutarch's *Lives*. Complete and Unabridged. Dryden, Translator. Revised by Arthur Hugh Clough

Everybody knows Plutarch; not everybody knows he's in the Classics Department Library. Here's Plutarch on the young Alcibiades: "When he began to study, he obeyed all his other masters fairly well, but refused to learn upon the flute, as a sordid thing, not becoming a free citizen; saying that to play on the lute or the harp does not in any way disfigure a man's body or face, but one is hardly to be known by the most intimate friends when playing on the flute. Besides, one who plays on the mouth, intercepts the voice, and prevents all articulation. 'Therefore,' he said he, 'let the Theban youths pipe, who do not know how to speak, but we Athenians, as our ancestors have told us, have Minerva for our patroness, and Apollo for our protector, one of whom threw away the flute, and the other stripped the Flute-player of his skin'".

Anybody can come check out this book, or others, from the Classics department's shelves in the Audio Visual Center in the Department of Classics and Modern Languages. Please sign books out in the yellow folder, so we see who has them!