

Pedro Pan

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writing about and in turn he says the project has opened his mind in ways other classes have not.

Jered's powerpoint presentation, "Save the Children: Operation Pedro Pan," is about the Catholic Welfare Bureau's airlift of children from Cuba to Miami in the early 1960s. Over a two-year period, 14,000 children were sent to the U.S. by their parents to escape the repercussions of Fidel Castro's rule. Jered's project documents the history of the airlift and the effect on the parents and children. The children were given the name Pedro Pans, which is Spanish for Peter Pan.

"Pedro Pan is derived from Peter Pan, how the kids were flown to the U.S. and didn't want to come home, similar to Never Never Land," said Jered.

Through the process of doing online research, Jered found a website that the now adult Pedro Pans created and use to keep in touch. Through the site, he began e-mail correspondence with Pedro Pan Oscar Pichardo, who now lives in Wisconsin. "For about a month and a half we e-mailed, just hard facts, to help me get the whole story," said Jered.

Pichardo also connected Jered with other Pedro Pans who gave him access to journal entries and personal stories Jered was given permission to use in his project.

"Oscar said he had never been asked about this topic before, that I was the first person to present it ever," said Jered.

Since then, Pichardo and Jered have continued to correspond over e-mail. Jered wrote Pichardo to tell him about winning regionals. Pichardo wrote him to tell him he wanted to put his presentation on their website.



A photo depicting Pedro Pan children arriving in Miami from Cuba, given to Jered by now-adult Pedro Pans for use in his History Day project.

"I definitely knew I was going to gain a lot of knowledge other than the plain old stuff."

Jered Weinstock
Dallas sophomore

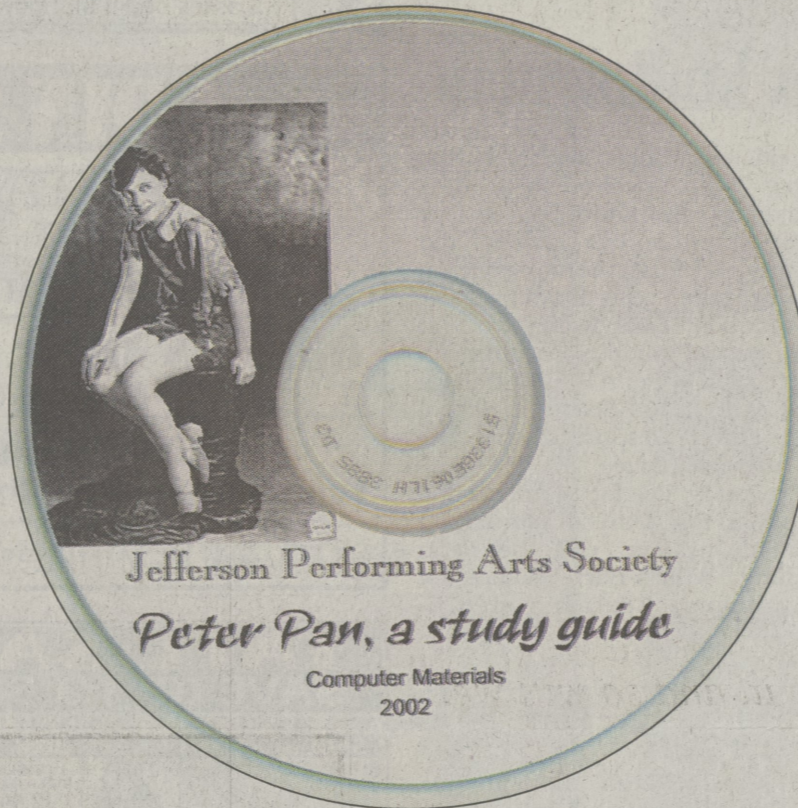
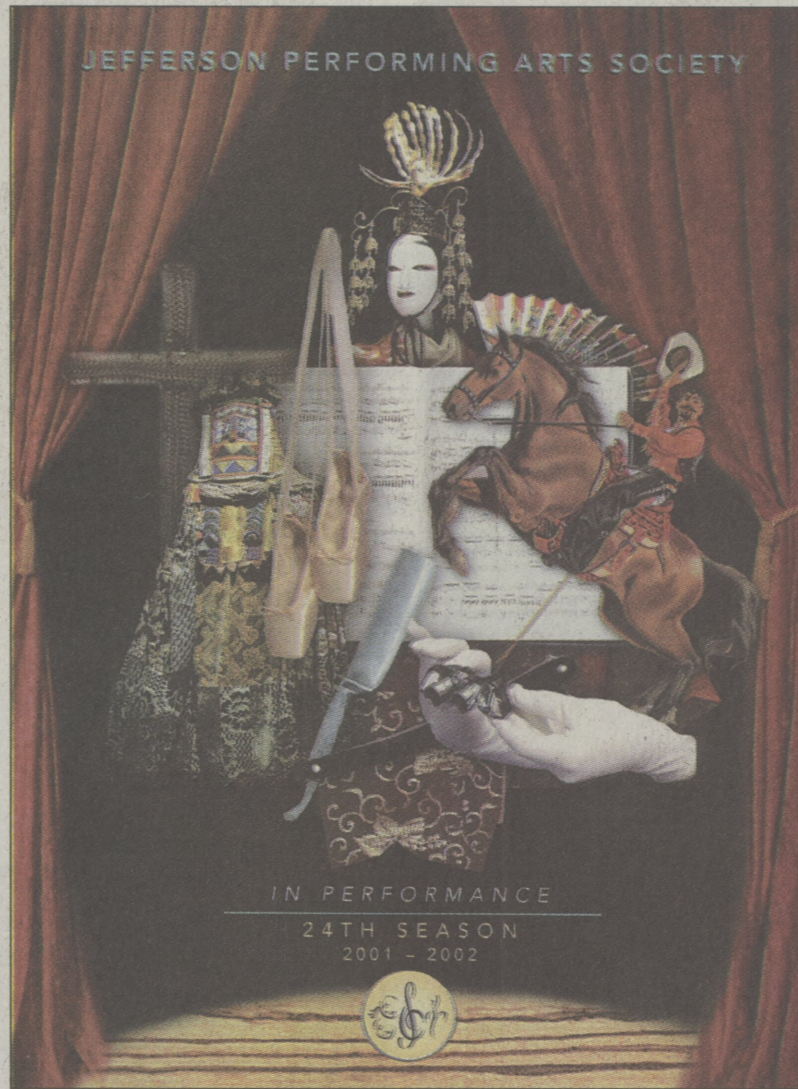
The most recent development came in September. Jered received an e-mail from William Prante, the Educational Director of the Jefferson Performing Arts Society in Metairie, Louisiana outside of New Orleans, asking for his permission to distribute his Powerpoint presentation to children in the greater New Orleans area.

Prante said he came across Jered's project on the Pedro Pan website, www.streamnologies.com/cuba.htm, and wanted to use it in an educational study guide sent to school children to prepare them to see the musical Peter Pan. The non-profit corporation promotes arts education and cultural enrichment for the New Orleans region.

"Arts today are seen as a frill; in the study guide we take it from the English and historical standpoint," said Prante in a phone interview. "It's the humanities emphasis, that's why Pedro Pan excites us and it inspires kids because Jered's a ninth grader."

When you ask Jered what he has taken away from the experience, he does not tell you that it was "cool" to go to the state competition, or to have his project be published as part of a study guide. Instead he says, "it has made me more open-minded to different topics."

"His is a success beyond the contest," said Storz.



Top center: Jered Weinstock's History Day project was distributed as part of study guide to school children in the greater New Orleans area by the Jefferson Performing Arts Society. Above: A copy of the CD ROM, with Jered's powerpoint presentation on it.

Dallas project

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"It (withholding payment) gets their attention but it doesn't necessarily mean action. It is a symbolic action," Griffiths said.

In case of later possible legal action against Reynolds and Foreman, the district's solicitor, Benjamin R. Jones III, also recommended taking more formal action. He suggested putting notes on monthly payments as they go out.

"It puts them on notice there will be a punch at some point," said Jones.

In addition to making notes on monthly payments, Jones suggested the Superintendent send a formal letter to Foreman documenting their dissatisfaction.

The board also voted to bid the high school renovation project separately. The action rescinds its appointment of Foreman as the architects and engineers for that project.

In other news, the board voted 5-2 to pay newly re-hired high school Assistant Principal James McGovern an annual salary of \$60,000. Maureen Matiska and Tom Russ voted against the motion. According to Matiska, the amount is up from the salary he had at Dallas during the 2000-2001 school year.

"McGovern is the best person for the position, but if he had stayed with us, he'd be making less. For the people who stayed, it doesn't seem fair to them," said Matiska.

In other business, the board adopted a resolution to donate

"It's for their non-performance in scheduling, completion dates, the natatorium."

Gil Griffiths
Dallas Superintendent

\$10,000 to the Kunkle Fire Department for its help in completing the middle school pool. The department donated all the labor and water to fill the pool. It took 110 trips over seven days to complete the filling. The money will go toward the purchase of heat seeking thermal imaging technology.

The following coaches were appointed at the senior high school: Matt Stretanski, head boys/girls swim coach; Jill McGinley, asst. boys/girls coach; Joseph Noon, head girls basketball coach; Mary Jo Hromchak, asst. girls basketball coach; Pat McCue, head boys basketball coach; Greg Solfanelli, asst. boys basketball coach.

Middle school coaches appointed were: Mark Lacey, assistant in charge of girls basketball; Barb Wesneski, asst. girls basketball coach; John McNeil, asst. in charge of boys basketball; Dan Natitus, asst. in charge of wrestling; Jerry Ogurkis, asst. wrestling coach. Natitus is the son of school director Frank Natitus.

Lehman lights

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letic director, who was head coach of the football team in 1992 when the Black Knights hosted GAR for a Friday night game. At that time the booster club arranged for portable lights to be installed for the game in an effort to provide a different experience for the players. It's fitting, then, that GAR will be the opponent Saturday.

Gorgone said he expects all football games next season to be at night, either Friday or Saturday. Friday has become the traditional high school football night in recent years, but he said a shortage of officials could push some games to Sat-

urdays. The lights will add usefulness to the field, as teams will be able to practice in shifts and two games or meets can be conducted on the same day, one after school and another at night. Both the soccer and track teams have expressed interest in hosting night events.

The field itself, a modern synthetic turf, has met all expectations, Gorgone said. Among other attributes, it drains water exceptionally well. "Last Saturday, you couldn't even tell it rained," he said.

This week's game starts at 7 p.m.

History

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In addition, anyone with historical photographs of the Back Mountain area is encouraged to bring them in. Volunteers will make digital copies and return the originals. The photos will be

used to help create a soon-to-be produced Back Mountain map.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. Those bringing photos are asked to arrive at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Q: Where do you find the most Back Mountain news each week?

A: Only in The Dallas Post

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