

# The eco-conscious commuter's compact: Lightning Bug

By Tim Deters  
Student Writer



With the donation of a 1972 VW Beetle, an initiative to go green, and the creative minds of several Lake Land College instructors, the Lightning Bug Project was off!

"It was the vehicle to make our dreams come true," said Technology/Civil Engineering Instructor and Technology Department Chair, Tim VanDyke of the vehicle.

As VanDyke went on to explain, he and his fellow instructors are very mindful of energy usage and they believed this project would be influential in creating awareness of alternative energy usage in transportation.

And so it has. The Beetle, which runs off of 16 six-volt batteries and is completely fossil fuel independent, has created quite a

stir in the local community. This as oil prices rise to record levels one, when the VW was donated, the body was highly corroded



The "Lightning Bug" is being stored in the Vocational Technology building.

and the public seeks ways to combat their reliance upon fossil fuels.

The project has not been without obstacles, however. For

Nonetheless, the Lightning Bug embarked on its maiden voyage in mid-July, with the goal of traversing a 50 mile stretch across three counties in the Lake Land district between Dieterich and Humbolt at highway speeds on a single charge. However, the Lightning Bug fell short of this goal, logging 37 miles at 50 mph for the top speed.

"Although the results did not quite meet our goal we aren't finished testing," said VanDyke.

As for the future of the Lightning Bug, Automotive Science Instructor Kevin Miller had this to say: "This is an ongoing project. We plan on installing a computer to collect and display data and we will still need to install a new interior."

Until that time, VanDyke says, the car will be featured in parades, car shows, classroom demonstrations, and much more.

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# Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

By Jenny Keefe  
Campus & Features Editor

Hispanic Heritage month is Sept. 15 – Oct. 15 and is described by factmonster.com as the anniversary of independence for the five Latin American countries of; Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Mexico and Chile

claimed their independence in the month of September.

Some influential Hispanic Americans you may have heard of include:

**Desi Arnaz**, actor and producer of the, "I love Lucy Show."

**Jennifer Lopez**, actress and singer.

**Jose Conseco**, baseball player.

**Oscar De La Hoya**, boxer.

**Luis Walter Alvarez**, Nobel Prize-winning physicist.

**Franklin Chang-Diaz**, astronaut.

The primary event of the diversity education committee in honor of Hispanic Heritage month will be an invitation to read and discuss the novel, "In the Time of the Butterflies", by Julia Alvarez. This is a story based on the Mirabal sisters during the time of the Dominican Republic Revolution.

Free copies of the book can be obtained by students interested in taking part in the discussions in the Student Life Office.

Lake Land will also be showcasing the contributions of prominent Hispanic Americans such as Cesar Chavez, farm

workers advocate, Bill Richardson, former presidential candidate and actress Selma Hayek.

If faculty and staff are interested in incorporating the book "In the Time of the Butterflies" into their curriculum, contact Lori Morrissette, Director of Student Life at 234-5270.



# Letters from the Editor

## Help the Navigator become the paper you want to read.

By Scott May  
Managing Editor

Congratulations students, faculty, staff and administrators. The Lake Land community has begun another successful school year.

Undoubtedly, this year's progression will be met with clinching moments, disruptions in nature and clashing of fronts that will change the unchangeable.

We will be challenged to take on new ideas, to learn the seemly

incomprehensible and to accept things that are simply different.

Providing insights to all these new events and ideas is what the Navigator hopes to accomplish this year. As a staff we hope to produce important human to human communications with the intent to enlighten as well as to entertain.

It is my honor as Managing Editor to help the staff and student body create a newspaper that will be comparable to the defining moments that it will cover.

This year readers will be able to get news and interact with the Navigator by using several avenues. For the first time, readers will have faster access to more news, more in-depth stories and activities online.

These online sources include the Navigator's web page [www.navigatornews.org](http://www.navigatornews.org), the Navigator Myspace page [www.myspace.com/navigatornews](http://www.myspace.com/navigatornews) and the Navigator on Facebook.

Even with these new additions the success of the Navigator, this

year and all the years ahead, is in the hands of the students, the faculty and entire Lake Land community.

Only with your involvement, even if your involvement is being an active reader, can this paper become a powerful staple of Lake Land and begin to do its job.

So join us this year. Help the Navigator achieve its goal in becoming the paper you want to read.

Contact Scott at [smay@stdnt.lakeland.cc.il.us](mailto:smay@stdnt.lakeland.cc.il.us)

# Hear me roar

## I was no girl! I was a woman very much knowledgeable of the inner workings of cars

By Jennifer Colbert  
Student Writer

So, what I learned at the end of last semester is that I am another fool that the car companies have roped in. At first I marveled at the purring of my car's engine and its working seatbelts. Oh what a fool I was. Not less then a year later a head light went out. After many unsuccessful attempts of removing the bulb by twisting the base and pulling it out, I was inclined to suffer the indignation of taking the vehicle to the dealership. I felt like a girl. How horrible it was for me to accept that I could not change a light bulb. However, my shame turned into horror when I found out it was going to cost me \$40 for the service. Oh, I don't think so!

After hearing the explanation that parts of the front end would have to be removed in able for the bulb to be changed, I said no thank you and headed home. Later, I strutted out of my apartment and headed to my car, popped the hood, popped the trunk and (while the theme song from "Rocky" played in my head) removed my tools. I no girl! I was a woman very much knowledgeable of the inner workings of cars. I can change out just about anything! Hear me roar! So, what I learned during my task is that manufactures purposely make screws out of plastic so that they strip and that I would need \$40.

## Hispanic Heritage Month Book Discussion Dates & Times

Mon. Sept. 15th 12:30 p.m.  
Webb Hall 081

Thurs. Sept. 25th 6:30 p.m.  
Laker Point

Tues. Sept. 30th 12:00 p.m.  
Student Life Office

Mon. Oct. 6th 12:00 p.m. (TBA)

Wed. Oct. 15th 11:30 a.m.  
final discussion and  
viewing of film based on book  
Theater