

Gosselin family continues to draw publicity

by Rachel Holly

Unless someone has been living under a rock recently, everybody has at least heard about the train wreck of a family that is the Gosselins.

Jon Gosselin and Kate Gosselin are the parents of eight children: one set of twin girls, age 10 (Mady and Cara) and a set of sextuplets, age 5 (Joel, Aaden, Hannah, Leah, Collin and Alexis.) Their lives have been chronicled on the TLC reality series, *Jon and Kate Plus 8*, for three and a half years, since the sextuplets were two. Prior to the show, the family starred in various two hour specials airing on the Discovery Health network, a sister channel of TLC. The original intent of the network show, marketed as "for families, by families," was to show the daily lives of the Gosselin family and their obstacles that arise due to their unusually large size.

Some would say the disastrous relations between Jon and Kate began slowly, but the deterioration of their marriage became clearer to viewers all across the nation as the episodes continued. America began tuning into the show less for the cute factor of the children, but rather to see the union between Mom and Dad crumble to pieces before their very eyes.

Originally, Kate was viewed as the "enemy," constantly nagging and creating seemingly petty confrontations with Jon for such things as wearing a custom T-shirt for Valentines Day or buying the wrong kind of shower head for their new home.

The conflicts began escalating

in February of 2009 when Jon was confronted with accusations of cheating on Kate with various women from bars and college parties, most notably Deanna Hummel, a schoolteacher to whom

marriage of Jon and Kate Gosselin, as was announced on their television show prior to taking a large hiatus in order to "sort out family matters."

From this point, the drama escalated.

her break who did a stint as the Gosselin family's nanny and baby-sitter.

Kate and Jon both hit various media outlets to discuss the legal proceedings and how to handle the behavior of one another. In the wake of the divorce, the public opinion of Kate and Jon switched drastically, a swing in which Kate Gosselin is taking to her advantage. She has recently guest-hosted on *The View*, made various appearances with television cook Paula Deen and is in the process of getting the popular show, *Jon and Kate Plus 8*, re-branded to bear *Kate Plus 8*, focusing on her struggles as a single mother trying to raise eight children.

The Gosselins are a hot topic in and around Parkland, and many students have strong opinions about the goings-on of America's most public family.

"To be honest, I think that [Jon and Kate] both have issues that they need to figure out first since they are going to affect their kids," said sophomore Kira Hubler.

Many share sentiments of concern for the children. "I cannot wait to see the tell-all books that those poor children will write in a couple of years," said sophomore Karli Miller.

"It started out so innocently, but it turned out robbing the innocence from all of the children involved," said sophomore Kaela Bitting.

This is only the latest in the seemingly never-ending saga of Jon and Kate Plus Hate. Stay tuned to find out more as the divorce proceedings forge ahead, but one must stop to wonder how the children truly feel.

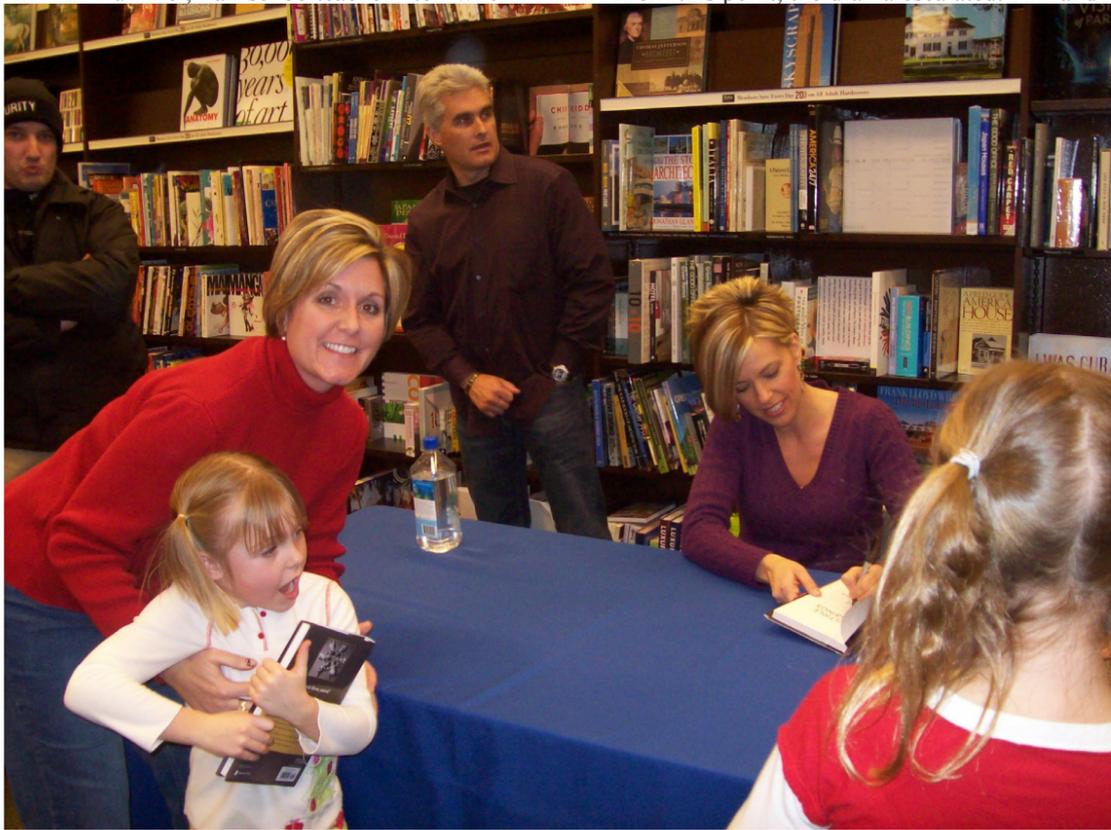


photo courtesy of Shirley Thomas

Trumpet adviser Mrs. Thomas attends a book signing with Kate Gosselin at Barnes and Noble.

Jon was romantically linked. Kate was counter-struck herself later that month with the accusations of her becoming romantically linked to her personal bodyguard, Steven Neild, a rumor that was revealed to be started by Jon Gosselin himself.

On June 22, 2009, legal proceedings were taken to dissolve the ten year

Jon became romantically involved with 22-year-old Hailey Glassman, the daughter of the plastic surgeon who donated his services to perform a tummy-tuck on Kate Gosselin. During this period, Jon was also romantically linked to Kate Major, a former reporter for entertainment tabloid magazine, *Star*, and Stephanie Santoro, a budding actress and model trying to find

Illegal downloading threatens music industry

by Mark Walsh

Since the rise of the Internet, web sites that give out free music downloads have always been under fire. With the shut down of Napster in 2001, copyright and file sharing laws have stepped in to try to limit or even rid the world of free music. Popular web sites and programs such as LimeWire, The Pirate Bay and MegaUpload have remained operational, but undergo routine policing and lawsuits, as well as user tracking.

A large percentage of illegal downloads comes from high school students. Adam Bell, frequent music downloader, says, "I pay for all my music, I support the artists, so they can keep making good music." Others say that music isn't where the artists draw the most money. Cailin Johnson, senior at Parkland, says, "Bands make a lot of money on their concert and clothing sales, the fact that a few people steal their music does not hurt them." The debate between free music is something that will not be solved easily.

The Pirate Bay, a web site that hosts torrents, which are full downloadable albums, movies and TV shows as well

as anything else that can be put on the internet, is the current prominent



photo courtesy of Norway.com
Note the clever take on the Jolly Roger, although a CD might make more sense.

web site for free music. Over the past few years, web sites have gone through drastic measures to remain on the Internet. The Pirate Bay, which is based in Switzerland, evades the file sharing laws in Europe and the United

States. The web site has been taken to court by the likes of Paramount Pictures, Sony Music Entertainment, Twentieth Century Fox, Prince and Van Morrison, although they have never been found guilty.

Most recently, record labels are fighting back by posting free downloads of new songs, in hopes of getting more people to buy the albums. Say Anything and Motion City Soundtrack are two recent bands to release free songs. The idea has been promising, showing that more people are buying albums based on

sites for free album downloads. Strike Gently has been seen as a major threat due to its specialty of posting albums for download days or even weeks before its actual release date. Kathryn Dent, sophomore, does not feel guilty about downloading free music saying, "They make enough money." Unlike other web sites, StrikeGently will remove links if record labels contact the web site asking



photo courtesy of Strike Gently

Strike Gently's current logo, sporting Megan Fox.

Billboard chart positions. Other web sites such as the new Napster.com, let users hear the album a week before it comes out if it is pre-ordered. Another web site causing controversy is the fast growing StrikeGently.com, a music blog which evades copyright laws by posting links to third party

for removal. The blog, which is fascinated with face-painted gang-related activity, is only a threat to hard working artists trying to make a living off of their music.