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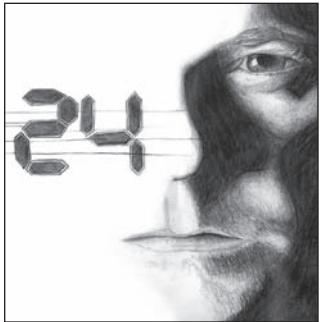
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April 14, 2010

Prop W passes despite debate

by Dawn Androphy
Editor

The divisive election of April 6 has passed, but the controversy surrounding it certainly hasn't subsided.

Brad Bernstein and Susan Buse were elected as members of the Clayton School District School Board, with 36.54% and 36.06% Bernstein returning after a three-year break from service and with Buse maintaining her position.

Bernstein is excited to be rejoining the Board and to be given the opportunity to work with the new superintendent. He plans to improve the District, while also maintaining lines of communication between the District and Clayton residents. Bernstein said that nutrition, budgetary responsibility, and meeting the educational needs of "kids in the middle" with regard to academics are priorities for him.

"I'm very honored to be elected and that they [the voters] wanted my voice and my participation in the Board of Education," Bernstein said.

Buse also expressed elation regarding her successful election to the School Board.

"I was obviously pleased to be able to serve on the Board again and was very happy with the passage of Propo-

sition W and our community coming together on that," Buse said.

Buse's main goal as a Board member will be to continue academic excellence and manage the substantial Clayton education budget.

"The most important thing is to continue to offer a wonderful education for our community, for our students, for our families," Buse said. "We're very much looking forward to our new superintendent coming in and we always have the ongoing challenge of using our budget efficiently and maximizing our resources."

In what was undoubtedly the most controversial outcome of the election, Proposition W, the \$39.4 million bond issue to improve the Wydown Middle School facilities, passed with 62.85% of the vote. A four-sevenths majority of 57.15% was needed for the bond issue to pass.

Bernstein, although happy that the community came together to vote on this issue, did cite communication as an issue during the process.

"It think it showed that the Board and the District have not maintained enough communication with the public," Bernstein said. "I think there was a faction of well-intentioned citizens who felt that they were not able to provide the input they would like in this

process. The District has a great opportunity to improve on that. But, in conclusion, it's time to move ahead with Wydown."

Wydown principal Mary Ann Goldberg was with members of her staff when she first heard news of Prop W's passage.

"[We felt] joy, jubilation, excitement. Just all over the place," Goldberg said.

Without any hesitancy, Goldberg declared that she was most looking forward to the increased and improved spaces for choir, language, and other classes.

"It will be wonderful... to have appropriate learning spaces that work for kids and teachers," Goldberg said.

Buse is also supportive of the passage of Prop W, despite some of the potential difficulties in the new building's construction.

"Proposition W was such a result of a lot of community involvement. There was so much community-wide input from a lot of different people with a lot of different ideas that came up with a very promising result for the middle school. One of my least favorite aspects is that we have to wait for it to actually happen... We have a difficult site on which to work, it's a small site, but the plan itself shows a lot of promise



Wydown choir students will no longer have class in the hall after the new construction is finished, thanks to the passage of Prop W.

to be able to support our educational missions."

Clayton resident and architect Michael Roth, however, believes the passage will adversely affect the District and its taxpayers.

"The idea of tearing down a relatively new school, because of a short period of design studies that didn't yield a timely design acceptable to 16 public spirited citizens is shortsighted and wasteful in the extreme to the cost

of more than \$20 million," said Roth in an open letter. "The renovation/addition concept more than fulfills the District's physical/spatial requirements and provides a better product in virtually all comparable categories for half the cost."

All opposing opinions aside, construction at Wydown will break ground in February 2011, hopefully to be completed in time for the 2013-2014 school year. ☺

School budgets hit hard

by Jackie Leong
Editor

Though taxes are classically the bane of a citizen's existence, Clayton residents will be thankful enough for them in the coming few years for one important reason: they make up the majority of Clayton schools' budget. In the face of shrinking state educational funds, this could be a good thing.

"It's going to be scary," Mark Stockwell, Chief Financial Officer for Clayton Schools, said. "The governor said that they're cutting \$43 million out of the education budget this year... and it's going to get a lot worse."

For many Missouri schools that rely more heavily on state funding, this is particularly bad news. Fortunately, Stockwell said, only about 2.2 percent—\$1.4 million last year—of Clayton's education revenue comes from the state. The slimmed-down state income thus deals a relatively light blow to the district's overall budget.

Even so, Stockwell said that last year, the district cut the travel budget—which funds conferences and staff development—by 10 percent and the non-salary budget by 5 percent.

"The first target most everyone goes after first is travel," Stockwell said. "The bad part it's that it's not a large part of the budget, so when you cut it, it doesn't make a big difference."

However, other schools, including the Lindbergh and Ladue school districts, are in a worse state, which Stockwell chalks up partially to the way property taxes were handled.

When property values rise, districts are required to lower their property tax rates to keep the influx of money relatively steady. However, Lindbergh's rates, he said, are already at the state minimum. According to the Lindbergh school district website, Lindbergh and Ladue have the lowest operating rate per hundred dollars of assessed evaluation in St. Louis County—\$2.75.

"When property values went up in 2007, their tax rate didn't change and they got a big influx of revenue," Stockwell said. "In 2009, when this economy hit, all the values went down, so their rates stayed the same, and they lost a bunch of money. In our case, we lowered our rates in '07, and raised them a little in '09, so our revenues stayed steady. Ladue and Lindbergh were in different positions, and they got a lot more money in '07, but they lost a lot in '09. We didn't lose anything, we just stayed even."

This, combined with a greater dependency on state funds, is the recipe for financial distress. Both Ladue and Lindbergh are in roughly the same position.

Lindbergh, according to its website, is cutting 60 positions in the teaching, administration, and staffing areas. Of the total cancelled positions, 29 positions "will remain unfilled next year through attrition, and 31 through release of current employees."

According to Ed Donnelly, a communication arts teacher

"It hasn't really hit us yet... [Others] are hurting, really struggling, especially poorer districts. It's lean times.

Mark Stockwell
Chief Financial Officer,
Clayton School District

Donnelly refers to this as a "kneejerk drastic panic-button reaction." Such overcompensation, he said, could be something the district regrets in the future.

Interestingly, Lindbergh is in the process of ending its participation in the Voluntary Student Transfer program (VST), which further decreases its funds because of diminishing compensation and reimbursement that the program would have yielded.

For Clayton schools, though, the program is a significant source of income, Stockwell said.

In addition, according to stltoday.com, Lindbergh's employees were given the choice to forgo a pay raise, or face cuts in staffing, a tough choice in Stockwell's book.

"I've had people say they'd rather have fewer people who are happy and motivated than a lot of people who are angry that their salaries have been cut," he said. "I've seen it done both ways. It depends on the situation and the organization, but I wouldn't say there's a right way."

Stockwell, for the moment, is simply happy to be in a better position than other schools—he estimates that Clayton will fare the storm better than others, though he is on guard for the worst. He attributes a "proactive School Board"—which foresaw the coming shortfalls and made early cuts accordingly—to the district's current fairly unaffected state.

"I'm glad it's not us," he said. "It hasn't really hit us yet... [Others] are hurting, really struggling, especially poorer districts. It's lean times." ☺



Lee speaking and interacting with CHS students in the library during his visit on March 17.

Famed poet visits CHS

by Ken Zheng
Co-Editor in Chief

"To pull the metal splinter from my palm/my father recited a story in a low voice./I watched his lovely face and not the blade./Before the story ended, he'd removed/the iron sliver I thought I'd die from."

The excerpt from "The Gift" by poet Li-Young Lee represents the humble appreciation that he has for his father. Lee visited CHS on March 17 after Wydown English teacher Kathryn Pierce made arrangements for him to visit both the high school and middle school. He was in town to speak at the convention of Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society.

English teacher John Ryan took Lee for a tour of St. Louis after picking the poet up at the downtown Hyatt.

"I planned a route to Clayton High that took us past City Garden and Union Station," Ryan said. "We talked and laughed the whole way. I remember him saying 'wow' a lot as I pointed out landmarks like the Dred Scott decision and Forest Park. We talked like old friends catching up after years. He was disarming, philosophical and humble. It was a really quite transcendental experience."

Lee came to the United States when he was about seven years old. His father was exiled and spent a year in an Indonesian prison camp. In 1959 the Lee family fled the country to escape anti-Chinese sentiment and after a five-year trek through Hong Kong, Macau, and Japan, they settled in the United States in 1964.

In his writing, Lee is very interested in the interplay of western religion and eastern thought as separate

"dimensions."
"Homelessness is a bit of an issue for me," Lee said. "I've been told that by my readers."

At CHS, Lee met with two groups of teachers and students during second and third hour. Senior Grace Davis attended the second hour session in the library.

"I thought Lee was very polite, and I liked how he was interested in who we were," Davis said. "I was expecting him to walk in, open up a book and start reading some poetry. I definitely wasn't expecting him to come in and say 'I don't really have anything planned, what do you guys want to talk about?' I really appreciated that because it was interactive and he was interested in what we thought too. He seemed like a person who always wanted to learn, discuss and expand his way of thinking."

Davis felt that though the topic matter felt philosophical, Lee always managed to relate it back to poetry.

"He told us about his way of deciphering the world and portraying it in the most honest and sincere way," Davis said. "We talked about how poetry is a two-dimensional creation from a multi-dimensional world. He saw that as one of the hardest things to overcome as a poet. He believes that the job of the poet is to transcend the personal perception and actually try to portray reality."

Davis and her friend Chelsea Embree went to the session together and left with long-term impacts.

"We are both interested in creative writing," Davis said. "I left, and the first thing I said was 'I think I'm going



Lindbergh High School, of the Lindbergh School District, is just one of many schools resorting to significant academic changes in order to accommodate state education budget cuts.

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New law aims to relieve burden of student loans

by Noah Eby
Editor

Tucked inside of the controversial healthcare overhaul signed into law last month was an act that will drastically change the way in which college loans are structured. The Obama administration hopes that the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, or SAFRA, will save the government money and make paying for college easier for students.

"Today, the House delivered a historic set of reforms to the financial aid system that will offer relief to students and families," President Obama said in a statement.

Prior to SAFRA, the Federal Family Education Loan program governed student loans. Under that system, which the new law abolishes, the government provided private lenders with subsidies to lend money that was then guaranteed by the government. Now the government will lend directly to students. President Obama said that by cutting out the "unnecessary middlemen," the government will eliminate the "sweetheart deal" that has provided banks with billions of dollars in interest payments.

The new system will be employed almost immediately. According to the House Committee on Education and Labor's website, "Beginning July 1, 2010, all new federal student loans will be originated through the Direct Loan program, instead of through the federally-guaranteed student loan program. The Direct Loan program is a more reliable lender for students and more cost-effective for taxpayers."

CHS college counselor Chat Leonard said that the new program will make it easier for students to get loans, especially those in the middle class. She also said that interest rates on loans will likely be lower. Private lender interest rates were as high as 8.5 percent, while Direct Loan rates are capped at 7.9 percent, according to the Washington Times. The Congressional Budget Office reported that making the switch to government-issued loans will save the federal government \$61 billion dollars over the next 10 years.

"[SAFRA] will result in landmark investments in higher education, making higher education more accessible and more affordable, and will do so without adding to the deficit," said John Spratt, South Carolina Democrat and Chairman of the House Budget Committee.

According to the Labor and Education Committee's website, SAFRA will invest \$36 billion to increase the maximum Pell Grant scholarship from \$5,550 to \$5,975 by 2017, \$750 million to "bolster college access and completion support," \$1.5 billion to lower the cap on loan payments from 15 to 10 percent of discretionary income beginning in 2014, and \$2.55 billion in historically black colleges and other minority-serving institutions. These huge sums of money, among other things, have caused alarm among many conservatives.

"Today's vote was about expanding the size and scope of the federal government through tens of billions of dollars in new entitlement spending and the elimination of choice, competition, and the innovation of the private sector," said



Don Coker/Columbus Ledger-Enquirer/MCT

Rep. John Kline (R-MN), the senior Republican on the Labor and Education Committee. "This job-killing legislation is rife with hidden costs that will be passed on to future generations."

Though the changes have received public support — a CNN/Opinion Research Corp. poll reported that 67 percent of those surveyed approved of the new system — the private lending industry has cried foul. Lenders have labeled SAFRA a government takeover of their business.

"We were very disappointed," Elena Lubimtsev, government-relations officer for Tennessee-based Edamerica, told the Washington Times. "... We lost our business. Congress

took it from us."

Lubimtsev estimated that the new law could strip the industry of 30,000 jobs, and student lender Sallie Mae said SAFRA will lead to layoffs of at least a quarter of its 8,600 employees.

America's Student Loan Providers (ASLP), a group that represents providers of higher education loans, issued a statement before the Senate vote on the healthcare legislation urging Senators to pass healthcare "without eliminating thousands of jobs and critical student services." However, proponents of the law argue that it will preserve jobs, since all of the direct loans must be serviced by U.S. workers. ASLP

also criticized the allocation of \$9 billion in savings to help pay for the healthcare overhaul.

"Should students be paying for their neighbor's medical costs?" an ASLP statement said. "Separate consideration of student loan reform is imperative to ensure that legislation that minimizes job losses and reinvests savings in higher education can be considered."

Despite the controversy, SAFRA was slipped practically unnoticed into the healthcare overhaul. That means that beginning this summer, students will receive loans through a different and hopefully cheaper system run by the federal government. ☺



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SAVVI PROM

U.S. Postal Service considers revision of delivery schedule

by Meredith McMahon
Reporter

The next time Valentine's Day falls on a Saturday you may very well be unable to send those chocolates for timely delivery to your special someone through the U.S. Postal system.

The Postal Regulatory Commission is currently reviewing a five-day delivery proposal by the U.S. Postal Service. The proposal states that there will be no street delivery or blue box collections on Saturdays, according to a news release from Mar. 30 on the U.S. Postal Service website.

In addition, post offices will continue to stay open on Saturdays, and Express Mail service will continue seven days a week. Also, P.O. Box accessibility will continue and bulk mail and drop shipments will continue to be accepted at facilities that are currently open.

Postal Service Vice President Sam Pulcrano told the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors that the estimated annual savings would be \$3.1 billion. In 2009, there was a 13 percent drop in the total volume of mail from 2008, resulting in a \$7 billion drop in revenue for 2009.

The projected \$238 billion shortfall during the next decade has prompted the U.S. Postal Service to start a project called "Delivering the Future", intended to help the U.S. Postal Service recover from its losses in volume and revenue. The new delivery schedule is a key part of the project, along with a different retirement benefits system. Other elements include expanding access, establishing a more flexible workforce, basing prices on demand for each product and more evaluation to suit customer needs.

"Most customers surveyed said that they would not miss it [mail delivery on Saturday]," Valerie Hughes, U.S. Postal Service spokesperson said.

However, according to a news release on Mar. 18 from the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), the main reason for the U.S. Postal System's debt is because of the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) that requires the agency to pre-fund retiree healthcare costs.

To correct the PAEA requires action by Congress to change retirement benefits to a 'pay as you go' system, rather than the current pre-funding. Paying workers periodic benefits after they retire reduces the postal system's an-

nual cash obligations; however, all the retirement benefits aren't safely in the coffers, as they would be with pre-funding. The 'pay as you go' system is commonly used by the rest of the government and the private sector.

According to the news release from APWU, the U.S. Postal Service could have made \$3.7 billion without the pre-funding burden over the last three fiscal years instead of sinking into debt, despite declining mail problems, the bad economy and heavier reliance on email. APWU's president William Burris said in his testimony submitted to the Senate Subcommittee on Financial Services that five-day delivery "would be the beginning of the demise of the Postal Service".

In Clayton, opinions are mixed. A law firm in Clayton, Avellino, Lach and Boggs, LLC has some concern that without Saturday delivery they would have a larger body of mail to handle on Monday. Now they receive their mail on Saturday and are able to process it that day. Saturday delivery allows them to handle incoming mail over a period of six days.

"It spreads out the workflow," partner Vic Avellino said.

Senior Hannah Klein thinks this change in schedule is disruptive and would affect her negatively. "My mom likes to shop online and it would affect the flow of packages to our house," Klein said.

However, Clayton resident Lee Ann Biegacki does not think the schedule is too disruptive.

"Truly, it would not affect us at all. If it's a day later, I really wouldn't care," Biegacki said.

The new proposal is brought about by the significant reduction of mail needed to sustain six days of delivery. This reduction is very much attributed to the popularity of email, which has been acknowledged by the Postal Service hierarchy and the Postal Service Union. The Clayton residents interviewed also agree that emailing is much more popular than mailing.

Avellino said that his email has increased significantly over the years, although faxing has stayed relatively constant.

"I haven't mailed in years," Klein said.

Biegacki and Klein both email much more than they use "snail mail".

"I think this is just a different time and generation," Klein said. ☺

Clayton strives for eco-friendly improvements

by Laura Bleeker
Editor

Cities all around the country are going "green". And Clayton is right along side. Over the past few years Clayton has been taking steps to make new construction more environmentally friendly.

Clayton began its focus on the environmental movement 15 years ago when it started the residential recycling program.

Then, in 1997 Clayton citizens started the Ecology and Environmental Awareness Committee (EEAC) an organization that supports and advises ecologically sound programs in Clayton.

The committee is still very active today and puts most of their focus on recycling in the city. This includes having helped obtain the green residential recycling containers.

"The committee did not stop with household recycling, but was behind the effort by the city to purchase items made from recycled materials" Chairman of the EEAC Diane Meyer said. "We've worked hard to find a way to encourage the city's restaurants to recycle and eliminate styrofoam, but we aren't there yet."

Clayton was the first of two Missouri cities to implement the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification program that was created by the U.S. Green Building Council.

"In 2006, the City of Clayton passed an ordinance requiring all new constructions and major renovation projects that are 5,000 square feet of floor area or larger to be owned, occupied or funded by the City of Clayton be certified at the LEED Silver level," Planning Intern for the City of Clayton Planning and Development Services Department Elizabeth Simons said.

Clayton is one of the most environmentally active cities in the St. Louis area.

"All city buildings must use green cleaning products, use paper goods made from recycled materials," Meyer said. "Any construction or remodeling must be sustainable from the materials used to the way old material is disposed."

The initial cost of environmentally friendly construction is two to five percent higher than the initial cost of regular construction.

"The additional cost of green construction is mostly from the additional time it takes for architects and engineers to incorporate green systems," Simons said. "Another added cost is the testing of green systems to make sure that they have been designed and installed in order to be capable of being operated and maintained in a sustainable way."



The City of Clayton received is working to make residential and corporal buildings more environmentally friendly. The city received a grant from which they were able to purchase the 30 gallon green residential recycling containers.

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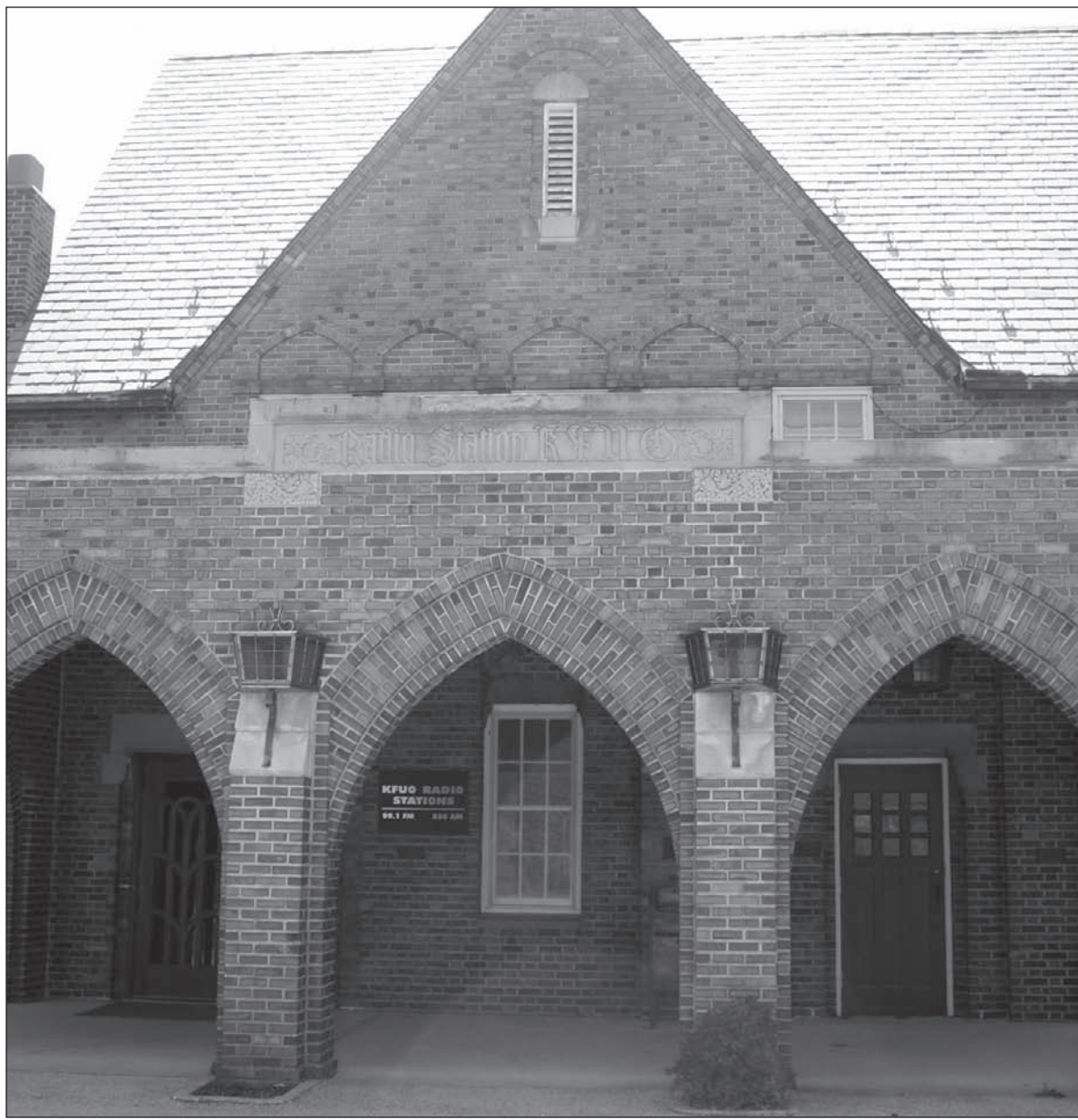
- 36% of total energy consumed
- 30% of greenhouse gas emissions
- 30% of raw materials use
- 30% of waste output/136 million tons annually
- 12% of potable water
- 65% of electricity consumption

Environmental benefits of Green Buildings:

- Enhance and protect ecosystems and biodiversity
- Improve air and water quality
- Reduce solid waste
- Conserve natural resources

Economic benefits of Green Buildings:

- Reduce operating costs
- Enhance asset value and profits
- Improve employee productivity and satisfaction
- Optimize life-cycle economic performance



KFUO Classic 99 is the only classical station in St. Louis. The station is owned by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and they are switching the music genre from classical to Christian contemporary music.

Classical radio station to be sold

by Sarah Blackwell
Reporter

St. Louis' KFUO-FM, Classic 99, is the oldest surviving FM station in St. Louis. Its 62nd year is ending on a sour note.

Classic 99 is currently St. Louis' only classical music station. It has been sold, and in a matter of months, will stop broadcasting classical music. The station, owned by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS), will begin playing contemporary Christian music.

According to a press release from LCMS, "KFUO-FM will continue to play classical music until the final closing, which we expect will occur with FCC approval. Joy FM currently broadcasts Christian contemporary music and is expected to continue that format on 99.1."

Some listeners still hope that the station will continue playing classical music. "If we did close, my personal opinion is that there are too many people who love classical music in St. Louis, and there would probably be a new station started at some point," Assistant Program Director John Clayton said.

According to Clayton, two groups have filed petitions to preserve the radio station. "They'll decide if what is said in these petitions affects the ability of these other folks to obtain the license," Clayton said. "If they decide they cannot, then we'd probably stay where we are."

Many people enjoy listening to classical music, and are opposed to the other rap, pop, and news stations in St. Louis.

"I've been listening to it for about 10 years," Department

Assistant for Music, Visual Arts and Drama Stephanie Manny said. "I like to listen to the classical station because it's soothing and calming in comparison to other stations on the radio."

Manny is unhappy about the station closing. "I like all types of music, all genres of music, but it's just something different to listen to and to find out that it's not going to be around anymore makes me sad because it's one of my favorite stations," Manny said.

Clayton residents will also miss the station. "I love classical music and I think the entire Clayton community will miss it as well" freshman Meredith McMahon said.

If the station does move from its current location, it may reopen later on.

"The LCMS also is investigating a way to provide classical music at another location on the FM dial," LCMS said.

It is understandable to sell a station in this economy, but LCMS said that the station was not sold because of financial difficulties.

"This sale is intended to enable the LCMS to pursue new and exciting opportunities in the area of digital communications that can be used to accomplish our mission," LCMS said in a statement. "Discussions about the possible sale of the station began before the economic downturn occurred."

But people at the station naturally don't want it to close. "There is profound sadness at the station, and for me personally," Classic 99's General Manager Dennis Stortz said.

Although it is not definite, it looks like Classic 99 will be closing. But listeners haven't given up hope quite yet.

CHS Film Festival inspires creativity in filmmaking

by Sneha Viswanathan
Senior World Editor

The second annual CHS Film Festival has a new deadline for submitting entries: April 15.

Veteran directors Ryan Shields and Nate Townsend pioneered the film festival at the school last year with the support of staff educational technologist David Hoffman.

"For the first year, I was really pleased with the number of entries and the variety and quality of the entries," Hoffman said. "I wish more people had turned out for the event."

Though the number of people who participated in the festival was relatively small this year, Hoffman said that last year's festival reflected students' and sponsors' interest in making films.

He said that in particular, the Film in American Society class offered at CHS has sparked student interest in the film festival.

Students who participated in the festival created a variety of films that revealed a genuine passion for the art of filmmaking.

Senior Jake Leech, who participated in the festival last year, plans to submit an entry for this year's festival as well.

"I had a really good time last year and Mr. Hoffman was really encouraging, so I thought I would try it again this year," Leech said. "My film last year was a music video with a song I'd written myself. It was kind of ambiguous; I messed around with a bunch of different clips that I'd collected over the winter."

Leech appreciates film for its ability to bring themes to life. One of his main sources of inspiration is Michel Gondry, who directed music videos for Bjork, Flight of the Conchords, and several other artists.

"I like film a lot because it's art that can grab your attention; it's not just a picture on the wall but it's something that you can interpret in different ways," Leech said. Music videos are like poetry with sound behind them. Film is like a story with more emphasis on motion."

Festival director Ryan Shields said he enjoyed the variety of films produced by students but wishes more people would participate in the festival this year.

"We got to see a lot of different people and their films, so it wasn't like everything was action or everything was drama," Shields said. "The main negative thing was that even though it was our first year, I would have liked to see more people come out with a few more films."

Shields also wants students to focus on lengthening their movies.

"I like to see longer films because they are really good to watch and you really get into them," Shields said. "A lot of the films came from the Film in American Society class, so they

Although "green" construction can initially be more expensive it can save money later on things like heating and cooling bills.

"The City is also seeing construction projects using ground source heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems which transfer warmer air during the winter and cooler air in the summer by taking advantage of the earth's underground stable temperatures," Simons said.

Eco-friendly construction is much more than just keeping up with the latest trends. It has great health, economic and environmental benefits as well.

"It reduces operating costs of the building, improves the health of the people occupying the building and reduces the negative impact on the environment," Simons said.

Most people associate green house gas pollution with cars, but in reality much of that pollution is coming from buildings.

"Within the City of Clayton," Simons said. "The amount of greenhouse gases coming from energy usage in buildings is more than seven times greater than the amount of greenhouse gases coming from automobile traffic."

Everyone can make a difference in our community's efforts in making the city a more eco-friendly environment.

"Recycle, recycle, recycle," Director of Clayton Public Works Mike Pratt said. "And become involved in our City."

Renovations for Clayton High School are in full swing, and the question of environmentally friendly buildings has been a focus in discussions.

"Energy and environmental professionals were consulted during the development of the plans for the new renovations of the Clayton schools," Simons said. "These consultants work to ensure the green design, construction and operations of Clayton's school buildings."

Clayton High School partnered with Energy Star to create an environmentally friendly plan for the newly constructed high school.

Energy Star is a government-backed program that helps businesses protect the environment through energy efficient plans.

"Clayton School District is an Energy Star Partner and has committed to measure and track building energy performance, develop and implement an energy performance plan and educate staff and the public about the Energy Star partnership and achievements with Energy Star products," Simons said.

According to a 1987 United Nations meeting, sustainable development is the ability to "meet current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs."

were about seven minutes long, but if you really get into it and it's over after seven minutes, you want to see more."

Shields developed his passion for making movies during his childhood, observing that movies are an ideal vehicle for transmitting stories.

"I got started [with film making] when I was really young because I like to tell stories and I like to watch movies, and they [filmmaking and storytelling] go hand in hand," Shields said.

Both Shields and Hoffman acknowledge that amateur filmmakers can face several difficulties through the process. However, the proficiency of participants in last year's festival impressed the judges.

"It's very difficult to use editing to create a flow in your story," Hoffman said. "Most editors use too much roll in a scene; they're reluctant to cut anything they've filmed. Many of our participants last year showed real skill in their ability to edit."

In addition to having technical difficulties, filmmakers also face challenges that might seem minor to students who have never attempted to make movies.

"I think the main [challenge] is getting time of day correct; for this [year's film] I have actual characters running around and doing things," Leech said. "Getting the time of day correct and making it work fluently throughout the rest of the film is the hardest part."

Finding the right people is crucial.

"You have to find the right group of people that can work in the right frame of time," Shields said. "I was supposed to make a movie this year and it didn't work out because of scheduling conflicts. Getting people really committed and figuring out when people can work is the most challenging part."

The films are judged by the Shields, Townsend, and Hoffman, but the festival directors also involve the staff as a whole by encouraging teachers to review the movies. Several criteria are used to evaluate the films.

"[We evaluate] quality of video shoot, quality of video edit, enhancement of video, including titles, graphics, special effects, background music, sound effects, content, creativity and video premise (plot)," Hoffman said.

The directors decide the categories for movies after they view all the submissions.

This allows students to be flexible and experimental with their work, because they are not restricted to a single category as they make their movies.

"I would advice people to be creative, try to be as original as possible, and just have fun with it," Shields said. "You get to show your creative side and it's really cool that you can take your ideas and put them onto paper and then put them into a film, so it [filmmaking] is a great art form."

Acclaimed poet to visit CHS

Poet visits
pg. 1

some reflex kicks in and I become very cool, relaxed, myself in their presence," Ryan said. "I don't control that, and it just happens. I think I could have driven around St. Louis with him for hours, with perhaps a stop at Ted Drewes later in the day."

Ryan's favorite poem is by Lee is "The Gift," a poem about fathers and sons.

"I'm a sucker for it as a son and also as a father, albeit of two daughters," Ryan said. "I use [the poem] in my AP English Lit class. Also, his collection 'Book of My Nights' is terrific, sublime. Although he mentioned that he has revised all the poems in the collection and he no longer feels comfortable reading them publicly. His work possesses that surreal, time-standing-still quality of Zen poets."

major in creative writing.' It's scary, but I think that's what I want to do. She [Embree] responded to me, 'I think I'm majoring in philosophy.' I thought [a career in creative writing] was probable, but still dangerous and unsound. The amount of level of investment he had in this higher level of thinking made an impression on me how it really is and how it can be incorporated in many aspects of life."

Ryan had met famous authors such as Tim O'Brien and T.C. Boyle before, but was still excited to meet Lee.

"I get a charge from celebrity or fame like anyone, but

Students manage semester AP classes with great success

by **Simone Bernstein**
Senior Managing Editor

In one semester, CHS Advanced Placement (AP) Government and Politics teacher Debra Wiens manages to teach and successfully prepare her students for the exam with the material that is normally taught in one full-year course.

The AP Government and Politics course is offered second semester. This year the class is offered two periods each day. While many schools offer the AP Government class as a full-year course, CHS chose to make it one semester. Wiens finds that many students who complete the semester course ultimately do well on the AP exam.

"The Social Studies department offers AP American Government as a semester course so that it allows more students to take it," Wiens said. "It is difficult to fit a full year government course into busy schedules. A one-semester course allows students to take other Social Studies courses as well."

Although the College Board gives recommendations for certain topics that are generally covered in college courses, there is no single approach that an AP Government class must follow. Although the College Board staff is unable to give out their last names to the public, they were able to answer questions about this issue.

"The length of the class is left in the hands of each individual school board," said Jerry M., an AP Client Support Representative. "The district decides the length requirement for each class. There is not a governing College Board body that makes any sort of recommendation for the length of the AP courses. As long as the course meets the curriculum requirements, it is considered an approved AP course. Whether the course is offered in one semester at one school or two years at another, the decision is completely made by the district."

Every year AP course teachers send their course syllabus to the College Board for approval. The College Board does not review the teaching inside the classroom.

"The College Board is in charge of reviewing the full-year course syllabus that is sent in by each AP course teacher," Jerry said. "As long as the syllabus meets the requirements of the College Board, they can teach the class in the school. No auditing takes place inside the classroom. It would take too many resources to go to each school and audit each AP



Junior Scott Jeffrey passes out papers in Mrs. Wiens sixth hour AP Government class, which is being covered in only one semester.

class."

Last year, the AP European History class at CHS was offered as a semester class, but was taught as a full-year course this year to give more time to cover the material and benefit the students. Although the AP Government class is still held in one semester, a majority of the students find that keeping up with the daily reading assignments makes the class manageable.

"We have a lot of material to cover in a short amount of time," senior Kelley Dufour said. "Although we have a lot of homework in the class, we manage to successfully cover the highlights of each branch in our government."

In the state of Missouri, every student must pass at least two tests to graduate. The United States Constitution test and the Missouri Constitution test are required for all students

receiving a diploma. These exams are administered in both the American Government and AP American Government and Politics courses.

Fitting another full-year history class into a student's schedule is difficult due to the large number of class offerings at CHS and the number of required credits and classes for graduation in all subject areas.

"If AP Government was offered as a full-year course it would have been extremely difficult to add in my schedule," Maylack said. "Especially with the new requirement for a semester personal finance class, another semester AP course fit well with my senior schedule."

Senior Izzy Fratt successfully completed the AP Government during her junior year. Although Fratt found the homework time consuming, she managed to feel prepared

for the exam in May.

"Although we had such a short amount of time to prepare for the exam, Mrs. Wiens was really helpful in preparing us," Fratt said. "We took numerous practice tests and had review sessions outside of class. In no way did I feel at a disadvantage for only having a semester of class."

Over the past few years, Wiens thought about making the class a full year and adding a Comparative Government component. The AP Comparative Government course aims to teach students about the politics and outcomes of the politics in a variety of countries throughout the world.

"We would study how the U.S. political system works and compare it with the governments of France, China, Mexico, Russia and Nigeria," Wiens said. "I would be interested to know if more students would take AP American Government if it were a full-year course with two AP exams offered at the conclusion."

If Wiens offered the full-year course at CHS, students like senior Jennifer Maylack may have considered registering to help her with future career interests.

"It's important to learn about other forms of government in the world," Maylack said. "I'm planning on studying International Relations in college, so taking the AP Comparative Government part in a full-year course would have been extremely useful."

Senior Daniel Iken claims that a majority of students know very little about the governments in other countries.

"Comparative government would be a great class to offer at CHS because students know so little about the politics in other countries," Iken said. "It's important to study the organization and political structure of governments around the world. So many people only know about the three-branch structure in the United States."

Although past and present AP Government students believe the semester class is time consuming, numerous students commend Wiens on her ability to keep the course manageable.

"Unfortunately the AP American Government course's exam is always held on the first day of exams," Wiens said. "That gives fewer days for learning and review than other AP courses enjoy. I would love to have a full year course so that we could go deeper into policy issues, but that is a luxury we probably cannot afford at CHS." ☺

Classes requiring End of Course Exams

- Government
- AP Government
- Algebra 1
- Integrated Math 1
- College Prep English 2
- Biology
- Honors Biology
- AP Biology
- AP World History
- AP U.S. History



Students in Mrs. Rogers-Beard's AP World class will take the end of course exams after they have taken their AP tests.

Teachers and students share mixed opinions over End of Course exams

by **Katherine Greenberg**
Editor

State wide end of course exams were implemented for the first time in the 2008-2009 school year.

The exams have been received differently from people around CHS.

History teacher Debra Wiens is in favor of the exams.

"I love the exams," Wiens said. "Our school has a very good track record of doing well and the exams just show how well our students do in comparison with others. It really only helps us."

Students have been less enthusiastic about the required tests. In order to keep students motivated that have already taken their AP test, teachers must make the test a percentage of the student's grade.

Senior Jennifer Golden is not happy about the mandatory test.

"I have been working really hard in preparation only for the AP," Golden said. "Once the AP is over I am going to have no drive and being a second semester senior its going to be hard to stay as focused on it as I should."

Wiens is not worried about the seniors taking the test seriously.

"All of the government students have to take an EOC exam," Wiens said. "I have been very pleased with the results, students have done very well."

Craig Sucher teaches honors biology and also is in favor of the exams.

"Last year we had an idea of how our students would do," Sucher said. "But the students exceeded our expectations. We had some of the best results in the area."

Senior Kerrin Ast took the Biology end of course exam last year and is now going to be taking it again.

"I took it last year," Ast said. "Last year I did not think the test was that difficult and it is just annoying that I am going to have to take it again this year, it seems like if you

have all ready taken it and done well you should be able to test out of it for the next year."

AP Biology teacher Sally Lazaroff is not concerned about the test for her class.

"I am really only thinking of the AP test as I am teaching," Lazaroff said. "I understand why everyone has to take it though. For some people in my class this is their first year of biology so they need to take it and because it affects their grade it would not be fair for only the first year bio students to take it."

Senior Alo Onwumere is taking biology for the first time this year.

"I am not that worried about the exam," Onwumere said. "I know that it affects my grade but I don't think that it will be that hard, at least not as hard as the AP test."

Unlike last year this year's end of course exams will be taken right around the time for finals.

Sucher thinks that the schedule change is good for students.

"This year we were given four more weeks to prepare," Sucher said. "The exam and the final are only days away this year but I think that it is an advantage because it will help students begin to prepare earlier and it is killing two birds with one stone, the preparation for the exam will help with the final."

This year the AP government students will be taking their end of course exam the day after their AP test.

"Students take a lot of pride in taking the test," Wiens said. "The test gives us bragging rights. I work my kids hard and this is just a reward to see how well they do after all of their hard work."

The test's affects on students grades are minimal and nothing to obsess over.

"The exams are not going to make or break anyone's grades," Sucher said. "But at least in my class most people's grades on the exam was better than their course grade and in general it helped most people's grades." ☺



CHS Academic Director Josh Meyers helped to prepare for the visit. He oversaw the distribution of work to faculty and wrote an extensive report.

CHS impresses NCA during visit

by **Preeti Viswanathan**
Senior Community Editor

On March 2 and 3, the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Development (NCA CASI) came to Clayton High School to observe and review the school's processes with regard to NCA standards.

The seven standards outlined by the NCA for school accreditation are vision and purpose, governance and leadership, teaching and learning, documenting and using results, resource and support systems, stakeholder communications and relationships, and commitment to continuous improvement.

During their visit, members of the Quality Assurance Review (QAR) Team, who represented the North Central Association, interviewed 46 administrative faculty, 24 teachers, 26 students, and 13 parents to evaluate CHS. The team wrote a report summarizing its observations after the visit, which generally praised the strengths of the school and suggested a few areas of improvement within each standard.

Clayton High School Academic Director Josh Meyers discussed the planning involved for the NCA visit, which began 15 months prior to the event.

"We started to revisit the mission statement at that point, because we're supposed to do that on a cyclical basis," Meyers said.

In an effort to include the entire CHS faculty in the planning process, Meyers assigned each faculty member to one of the seven standards, and some of the faculty members were co-chairs who led subcommittees pertaining to each standard. The subcommittees then reviewed the school's performance, and Meyers used that information to write an evaluative report.

"There's a massive report called the Standards Assessment Report which is the main tool that the visiting team uses both before the visit and during the visit," Meyers said.

"It's a self-assessment of where we are in relation to teaching and learning and where we are in relation to documenting and using results. So what I did was basically have the entire staff write the report. Each one of the faculty

meetings from August all the way up to the visit was time designated to meeting with these subcommittees giving them specific tasks and rubrics to fill, focus questions to answer, and evidence and artifacts that they could point out to suggest that we are doing well in these seven standards. Then they compiled all of that and gave it to me, and I sat down and wrote the report with that input and that information."

The Quality Assurance Review team compiled its report based on its observations and the Standards Assessment Report.

"After the QAR team came and did the interviews and observations, they used the Standards Assessment Report and what they found once they got in the school, and they meshed that together to create their report," Meyers said.

The report commends the orderly environment of CHS and states that the school "has an open-door policy, welcoming the input and concerns of the stakeholders." It also notes that the teachers collaborate well and have made their curriculums more specific. CHS was assessed as "operational" or at a "highly functional" level for all seven accreditation standards.

The report contains recommendations for improvement within each standard. In the section pertaining to vision and purpose, the report recommends that the school's mission should be continually revised as necessary and that it should continue to apply to student expectations.

For the governance and leadership standard, the report discusses the various programs that are in place to ensure student achievement and performance, and praises the teamwork between the administration and other members of the faculty. It suggests that the data from common assessments could be better organized using a program called Data Warehouse, and that Professional Learning Communities should collaborate more frequently.

The report also mentions the broad-based curriculum as one of the school's strengths, specifically the conferenced English program and the extensive access to technology, which improves student-centered instruction. In rela-

tion to technology access, it states, "the abundance of up-to-date media centers, technological tools and student-teacher blogs are clearly ensuring student learning and preparation."

Meyers said the numerous classes and electives available to students impressed the accreditation team.

"What they told me in conversation was that they were really impressed by the enormous amount of [course] offerings that we have. When you look at our program of studies, the fact that we have 23 different social studies electives in a school the size of ours is something remarkable," he said.

One of main required actions the report recommends is streamlining committees so that responsibilities and goals of different committees aren't overlapping. Another step the report suggests is sorting data to use it more efficiently and communicating the effectiveness of plans for improvement.

The CHS faculty has developed a tentative plan for reorganizing committees based on the recommendations of the NCA team, and the school needs to submit a report to the NCA by May 1 describing plans of improvement.

"One of the things I know we're going to do is do a study of all of the committees in the building - who sits on what committees and what are the purposes of those committees," Meyers said. "We're going to develop a list of every single committee in the entire building - who's on it and what the mission is, and see how they relate to each other and try to develop a kind of hierarchical system regarding the amount of committees and the amount of meetings that we have."

Meyers said the faculty evaluated the school's processes thoroughly and accurately prior to the accreditation team's visit.

"A fundamental point that I think is worth making is that we figured out what we were doing well and what we needed to improve before they walked in the door," he said.

"We were hoping when they came in that their visit would validate our findings, and it did, very much. Overall, we were either operational or highly effective in all of the seven standards, which is fantastic." ☺

Acting, debating, and speaking their minds

by Maria Massad
Reporter

The CHS Speech and Debate team triumphed in the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) tournament at Ladue High School during March 12-13 and the National Forensic League (NFL) Districts competition at Pattonville High School during March 4-6.

Student competitors Will Schedl, Kathleen Naccarato, Brett Virgin-Downey, Becca Steinberg, Emma Riley, and Robert Love qualified for the Nationals competition, as they did very well in their events and debates in the NFL Districts tournament.

Naccarato, Ian Miller, Corrine Yap, Riley, and Love advanced to the State competition after winning a third place or better in the MSHSAA tournament.

The CHS Reader's Theater also advanced to State tournament.

According to Speech and Debate coach Brenda Bollinger, the team did a great job at MSHSAA.

"This has been one of the best MSHSAA tournaments I have been to," Bollinger said. "CHS had a competitor in every event final. All but one placed 4th or better. This tournament was the largest number of students that I've taken to MSHSAA since I've been here."

Schedl, co-president of the Speech and Debate team, agrees with Bollinger.

"We did not drop a single entry going into the finals," Schedl said. "It's pretty cool when Ms. Bollinger and Mr. Jenkins, our coaches, are not allowed to judge an events final round because there is a Clayton kid in every one of them. But CHS only advanced one debate team out of six to quarter-finals."

Freshmen Riley and Love won first place in duet acting, and junior Miller won first place in radio speaking. Sophomore Yap won second place in humorous interpretation. Senior Naccarato received a third place in extemporaneous speaking.

"My partner and I worked very hard the week beforehand, but that was about it," Riley said. "When we got to the tournament, we did much better than we had expected. There weren't that many duo teams that we were competing against, but as we got further we



Members of the Speech and Debate team practice after school. Several members will soon compete at National and State levels after doing well at the District tournament. *Anna Duranowski*

were meeting fewer and fewer freshmen and more and more varsity teams. Getting to the final round felt like a really big accomplishment. At the awards ceremony, when they called second place and it wasn't us, we couldn't believe it. We had gotten first place. Honestly, the tournament was one surprise after the other."

Bollinger thought that Miller's performance was spectacular.

"It was really cool," Bollinger said. "It was the first time that Ian had done radio speaking, and he ended up winning first place."

Miller was surprised yet pleased about his results.

"I competed in dramatic interpretation - usually my best event - and radio speaking for the first time ever," Miller said. "Happily, and surprisingly, I placed first in radio speaking - qualifying to State - and placed only fourth in dramatic interpretation. I now really love radio, and I hope I can become better at interpretation for next year's season."

Yap was extremely pleased that she won second place, even though the main reason she competes is to have fun.

"I had a great experience at both tournaments," Yap said. "I love acting and doing speech, and I'm really glad

that I got second place."

CHS Reader's Theater also advanced to the State competition, making the total number of students going to State 24.

"Everyone performed well above expectations, and expectations were very high," Schedl said. "But since Reader's Theater hasn't done poorly within any current student's memory, it's hard to say if we did better, but the amount of work put into rehearsing and perfecting is certainly very commendable and is the reason why we are always so successful."

At the NFL Districts tournament, Schedl (Congressional debate), Nacca-

rato (US Extemporaneous Speaking), Steinberg (Original Oratory), and Riley and Love (Duo Interpretation) advanced to the National tournament.

"This tournament is one of the most stressful, hectic, exhausting, and insane tournaments of the year by far but also one of the most fun," Schedl said. "At Districts, the stakes are a lot higher, so the whole culture changes. Again, we had less than our hoped-for success in debate. Even though we aren't sending any debaters to Nationals, several of our debate teams performed fantastically and came very close. We had a lot of unexpected success in events, though. We had a freshman novice duo team

win first place and advance to Nationals, which is incredibly exciting."

This is the first time Steinberg is going to the Nationals competition but says that the NFL competition polarizes people greatly.

"The tournament was a lot of fun," Steinberg said. "It is a really great experience because I went with so many friends, not just from Clayton, but from schools all over the area. But about half the kids are really nice while the other half gets really mean because they are so competitive."

Riley also thought that the tensions rose at these tournaments due to the stress of other competitors.

"Even though people are supposed to be competing at tournaments, everyone's really friendly with each other," Riley said. "But at NFL and MSHSAA tournaments, I felt like the competitiveness had gone way up and the attempt to be friendly had gone down a little. These are the tournaments that matter; the other tournaments throughout the year are essentially preparation for these tournaments, where the skills get put to the test. As a freshman, the stakes weren't as high for me."

Yap is not attending Nationals, but she disagreed with Steinberg and Riley's viewpoints of the atmosphere of the competition.

"Surprisingly, this tournament didn't seem any more competitive than the others I've been to," Yap said. "There was a very casual atmosphere, and just seemed like there were greater incentives. I actually thought it less serious than previous tournaments."

Schedl was very pleased with the team's hard work.

"I was incredibly proud to be a Clayton team member," Schedl said. "There wasn't a single Clayton competitor that didn't give it their all, who didn't perform admirably. Also, our team size is at the largest it has ever been and exceeds schools of comparable size. The level of commitment and hard work far exceeds the stereotypical laid-back view of CHS and our success. I am proud to have served as president over such an amazing team."

The State competition will be held in Columbia, MO on April 23-24. The National competition is going to be held June 12-19 in Kansas City. ☺



Elizabeth Sikora

Half of the quad has been walled-off because of construction. The quad will fully reopen in either 2011 or 2012.

Quad's charm, convenience missed

by Eudora Olsen
Reporter

On most sunny days, the CHS quad's tables are full with munching mouths, and Frisbee throwers and nappers occupy its large lawn.

The grassy patch provides a relaxing hangout place and an eating area for CHS students. It is also convenient for getting to various classes across campus. But with the new construction taking up a large chunk of the quad, CHS students and faculty members are starting to feel the effects of not having it.

In many classrooms, the noise and pounding of the construction has proven to be a nuisance. In room 122, Latin teacher Pamela Skinner's classroom, the sound of construction became so unbearable that her class had to relocate to the library for a few days.

With the weather outside warming and students with spring fever, not having a quad has proven to be a bit of a downer for some.

"I hate not seeing people enjoying

themselves outside," freshman Alex Gabliani said.

Not only has the noise become a problem for some classrooms, many students agree that the overall look and feel of the CHS campus has greatly decreased with the loss of the quad.

Even with a portion of grass and a limited amount of outdoor seating still available, freshman Caroline Greenberg doesn't think she will eat outside while the construction continues.

"The quad used to be relatively quiet and fun," Greenberg said. "But now it's so loud that even if there were chairs I wouldn't sit outside."

Many upperclassmen and other students who drive their own cars to and from school have found the limited parking to be stressful. Just getting to the parking lot has become a source of stress for senior Logan Vice.

"I have never spent that much time hanging in the quad," Vice said. "But getting to my car with the construction blocking entrances into the quad is hard."

Although many feel inconvenienced by not having a quad, theater department director Kelly Ryan sees the possible positive side to the situation.

"The quad was a good release for students," Ryan said. "But maybe with less room to play students will be more focused."

Many CHS students have made the choice to study in the library rather than be outside with all of the noise.

Freshman Sarah Lerwick was trying to study for a math test on the benches in the quad, and she could hardly hear herself think.

"The construction was definitely a distraction," Lerwick said. "I used to love studying in the sun, but now I just go to the library."

Lerwick also said that this switch she's had to make is sad, but she has no other choice. For her, the construction is too noisy for study sessions.

It seems that until the construction is over, CHS students will be sitting in air conditioning, missing the quad's convenience. ☺

Italian spring break with a twist

by Bianca Vannucci
Reporter

This year some members of the CHS Latin class vacationed in Italy over spring break.

The group consisted of 11 students and the Latin teachers at CHS, Stephen Meier and Pamela Skinner.

It was expensive trip and required a great amount of preparation and planning. The trip took about a year to plan, and this is the first year that students and teachers were able to actually go.

"I didn't go because it was too expensive and my parents wouldn't let me out of the country by myself," junior Kara Kratcha said. "They said if I went they'd have to go too, I was kind of sad looking through everybody's pictures, it looked really fun."

The plane left St. Louis on Friday, March 19, and the student arrived in Milan about a day later. They then drove through Milan to Venice, where they spent the first night. The trip quickly headed to Verona, Florence, Assisi, Rome, Sorrento, Capri, and then finally back to Rome. From the Italian capital the student returned to St. Louis via New York City.

"If we were to repeat the trip in the future I would do the same itinerary over 14 days instead of 10," Meier said. "The constant traveling was difficult."



Courtesy of Steve Meier

Dr. Pamela Skinner and Latin teacher Steve Meier take their students to visit the amphitheater in Verona during their trip to Italy over spring break.

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Have trends regarding binge drinking changed?

Some teenagers may think that alcohol is a widespread recreational activity among teenagers, or even that the phenomena of binge drinking and underage drinking are new developments. According to Gruzca, high school binge drinking among boys has not increased, but has gone down by 50 percent.

"Even though the [minimum legal drinking age] law changed in the early '80s, a decline in excess drinking has continued into the present day," Gruzca said. "Maybe 10 percent of young people just decide it's not worth the risk, and they're going to follow the law. Well, I would think that would probably influence their friends as well because that's been a small change in the social norm."

Although these trends suggest a general decrease in high school alcohol abuse, different trends have been observed on college campuses.

"There's actually been a paradox," Gruzca said. "College-bound students, in high school, are less likely to binge drink. Then, the college environment seems to foster binge drinking."

In past decades, Gruzca explained, people who did not attend college were more likely to binge drink than people who did attend college. However, that trend has recently been reversed.

"Sometime during the '90s that kind of flipped around," Gruzca said. "Now the campus environment is much more conducive to binge drinking. The campus has become a much more pro-alcohol environment. At the same time, off campuses, we have seen a decrease in binge drinking. 18 to 21-year-olds who are not in college are less likely to binge drink than those who are in college."

College campuses have used a variety of methods to deal with this increase in binge drinking, some with more success than others.

"Every college right now, I think, is really trying to deal with it," Gruzca said. "[It] really has gotten a lot of attention in the past two or three years."

With teenager's increased susceptibility to alcohol abuse, the devel-

opment of habit-forming behaviors, AUDs, or long-term brain damage, prevention has been a focus of many high school health programs throughout the nation. Efforts have been, and are being, made to decrease the pervasiveness of alcohol abuse among teenagers.

"There are things that can be done to reduce problems and minimize harm," Gruzca said. "By its very nature, alcohol is part of our culture and it does tend to be habit-forming and addicting. There will always be problems with alcohol abuse and alcoholism."

According to Gruzca, alcohol is the third most common preventable cause of death in the United States, after smoking and obesity. Gruzca also cited drunk driving and sexual violence as public health problems which are associated with alcohol abuse.

"It's a public health problem that needs to be addressed," Gruzca said. "I think that there are still lots of things that can be done toward prevention. Trying to delay the onset of drinking is an important part of that process. We also need to know more about treatment because it is a treatable disorder."

Jones feels that education at Clayton has been more than sufficient and should not be the school's focus in prevention efforts.

"There is definitely not a lack of education of the effects of alcohol because everyone has been taught this by health teachers since middle school," Jones said.

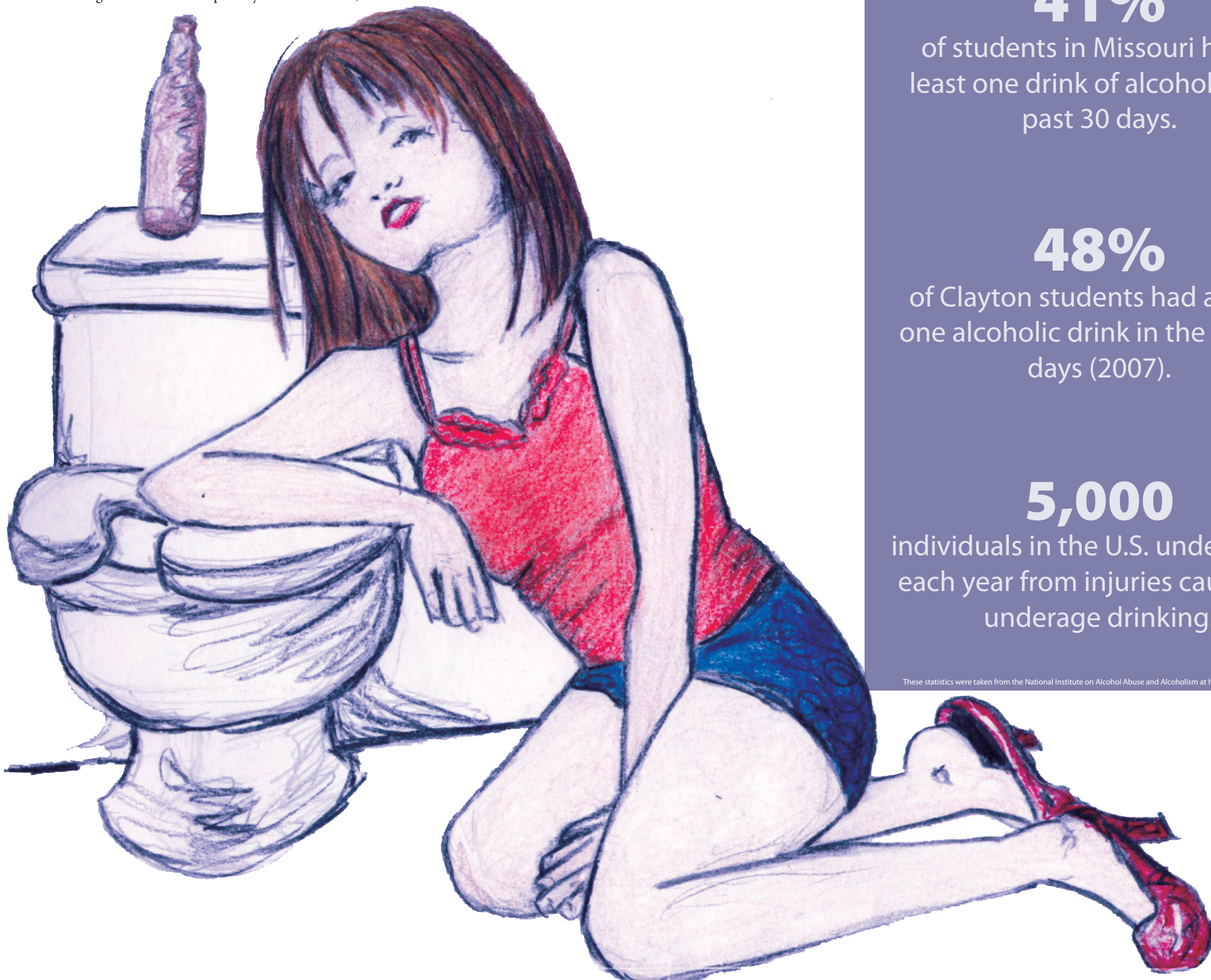
Brown hopes that teenagers will grow out of binge drinking as they move on to college.

"It's been blown out of proportion at Clayton and hopefully when people get to college they will realize that getting drunk in someone's basement wasn't all that exciting," Brown said.

Despite the extensive education, some students continue to harbor misconceptions about the specific effects of alcohol on body systems and the potential for alcohol dependency.

"There are so many complex mechanisms in the brain [and] developing receptors that communicate with each other in the brain," Scalzo said. "People don't realize that they're setting up behavior that may become more addictive later in life."

*Names have been changed for anonymity. 📍



10.8 million

The estimated number of under-
 age drinkers in the US.

26%

of students nationally had five or
 more drinks of alcohol in a row on
 one or more occasions in the past
 30 days.

25%

of students in Missouri had five or
 more drinks of alcohol in a row on
 one or more occasions in the past
 30 days.

35%

of Clayton students had five or
 more drinks of alcohol in a row in
 the past 30 days (2007).

43%

of students nationally had at least
 one drink of alcohol in the past 30
 days.

41%

of students in Missouri had at
 least one drink of alcohol in the
 past 30 days.

48%

of Clayton students had at least
 one alcoholic drink in the past 30
 days (2007).

5,000

individuals in the U.S. under 21 die
 each year from injuries caused by
 underage drinking.

These statistics were taken from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism at <http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/>.

Girls' soccer kicks off season with early success

by Jon Knohl
Reporter

After winning the district title last season, the Clayton girls' varsity soccer team hoped to build off of last year's superb season. After losing the class of 2009, which primarily filled last year's starting lineup, the Hounds entered a search to fill in the gaps. At the beginning of the season the varsity squad added three freshmen to improve its roster and chances of making it to the postseason. The Hounds also had to find an interim goalkeeper to take Bree Northern's spot while she was away playing for her club team.

The Hounds started off the season on a good note by coming out victorious in their first two games. The first game of the season the Hounds took to the field against the visiting Berkeley Bulldogs in a conference matchup. It didn't take much to win that game as the Hounds smashed them 10-0. Leading the team to victory were forward Karley Woods (4 goals) and goalkeeper Amanda Wagner.

The next matchup was against the ABC League powerhouse Principia Panthers. The Hounds defeated their opponents 2-1.

That weekend the Hounds were

forced to play the John Burroughs Bombers. Unfortunately, the Hounds were unable to find the back of the net that game, handing them their first loss of the season. The final score was 1-0.

The next weekend the Hounds were faced with a busy schedule, having to face Parkway North, Normandy, University City and Jennings. The Hounds managed to go 3-1 that week, improving their record to a solid 5-2 and undefeated in conference play.

"I think if we work hard and our work ethic remains the same, we will be one of the better teams in the area."

Amanda Wagner
Sophomore

"The season got off to a great start, outscoring our opponents by 12," sophomore Karley Woods said. "We hit a few minor speed bumps against Burroughs and Parkway North, but I think we'll have a pretty successful year for the most part."

The Hounds are led by scoring threats Karley Woods, Meg Sutter and Allison Baylys.

"We have a lot of good players this season with a lot of talent," sophomore Amanda Wagner said. "I think if we work hard and our work ethic remains the same, we will be one of the better teams in the area."

Unfortunately, the Hounds have not even touched the hardest part of their schedule, when they will have to play Ladue, Webster Groves, Brentwood and Rosati Kain. ☺



Caroline Stamp



ABOVE: Sophomore Karley Woods goes for a header against her Burroughs opponent. LEFT: Freshman Christina DeFelicis dribbles up the field. FAR LEFT: Sophomore Andrea Stiffelman rears back for a throw-in. Though the Hounds lost 1-0, they are undefeated in conference play.

Athlete of the Month

Karley Woods



"Her greatest strengths are work ethic and quickness.... Karley provides positive leadership."
-Paul Hoelscher

SOCCER

MIDFIELD

Woods leads Hounds to promising 5-2 start with talent, hard work

The speedy sophomore is an offensive and defensive threat. With 11 goals in five games, she has cut down the competition while motivating her team.

by Schuyler Longmore
Editor

With speed, agility and hard work, sophomore Karley Woods has had an impressive start to the 2010 soccer season. Woods has already tallied 11 goals and two assists in just five games.

She started playing soccer at the YMCA when she was five. At 11 she began playing select and played varsity as a freshman last year, racking up five goals and assists.

"I didn't have a main role, but I got a lot of playing time," Woods said. "It helped me develop a lot."

Woods has stepped up this season to fill the void left by last year's leading scorer, Olivia Hayes.

"Her greatest strengths are her work ethic and quickness," coach Paul Hoelscher said.

Woods' potent combination of talent and hard work make her one of the team leaders.

"Karley provides positive leadership," Hoelscher said.

Not only is she talented, Woods is versatile and able to play multiple positions.

"She plays the attacking mid in a 4-5-1 system. She plays great defense and provides a target for counter-attacks," Hoelscher said.

Woods' two-way contributions are especially effective in a system with just one forward. She can be played in the defense while acting as a second forward on offense.

"With just a single forward, Karley often becomes an attacker in the offensive end of the field," Hoelscher said.

Aside from her scoring success, Woods is beneficial in motivating the team with her hard work.

"She always works her hardest in practice and games and keeps the rest of us working hard too," senior defender and captain Sonja Petermann said.

Woods said that she loves soccer because she can control the game and there is freedom for the player. However, she is ambivalent about her future in the game.

"I'm not sure if I want to play soccer in college because it's such a big commitment," Woods said.

Hard work and young talent have helped the Hounds to a 5-2 start, with no losses in conference play. Woods will continue to work and contribute for what appears to be the beginning of a successful season. ☺

"She always works her hardest in practice and games and keeps the rest of us working hard too."

Sonja Petermann
Senior

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Gold leads Hounds in box, on mound, behind plate

by **Evan Green**
Senior Sports Editor

Senior catcher and pitcher Graham Gold has gotten off to a torrid start to the baseball season.

Gold has helped the team to a 7-5 start while catching, pitching, and batting in the cleanup spot in the order.

"Coming in to this season, we had a clean-up hitter in Matt Militello who we really wanted to be our number three hitter so the other team had to pitch to him in the first inning," varsity head coach Craig Sucher said. "We tried some different things, and knew we had to find somebody hit behind Matt [Militello] that people would take seriously. In a sense, Graham has become our Matt Holliday but we pay him much less. As Graham has emerged as a legitimate threat, our team got much better, not just from his production but because people are more compelled to pitch to Matt and help his production as well."

At the plate, Gold is hitting a team-high .500 with two home runs and 15 RBIs. One of Gold's two home runs was a grand slam against Affton on March 31. In that game, Gold finished four for four with six RBIs to lead the Hounds to a 14-7 win. Gold's .778 slugging percentage also leads the team. Gold's numbers are a drastic improvement over last season, when he batted in the seventh hole for the most part.

"I really like hitting fourth, right behind Matt, because by the time I come up, someone is on-base almost every time," Gold said.

Even though Gold has a hit in every game but one, there are still things that he needs to work on at the plate.

"At the plate, Graham needs to be more consistent," Sucher said. "He was white-hot one week and while it's not realistic to expect that he can keep up that pace—he gave up too many at-bats the next week with two strikes. Baseball is a game of adjustments and our opponents are mindful of our statistics and are pitching Graham more carefully. He needs to recognize this and be prepared to hit more off-speed pitches early in the count."

While dominant at the plate, Gold's contributions to the team have come in almost every aspect of the game. When

catching, Gold must be able to shut down the running game, adjust to hitters in split-second scenarios, and still be able to nurture the predominantly upper class pitching staff.

"Even though I like pitching the most, because you control the game in a sense, I also like to catch because the catcher is really the guy who is calling the game behind the scenes," Gold said.

Not to mention that the Hounds have a pitching staff that is much stronger than in recent years.

"My favorite pitcher to catch is probably Chase [Haslett] because I have been catching him for a while and he will do whatever I tell him to do," Gold said.

Haslett is a Division I prospect according to several recruiting websites, and Gold has done a great job of guiding Haslett to his 2.93 ERA (second on the team).

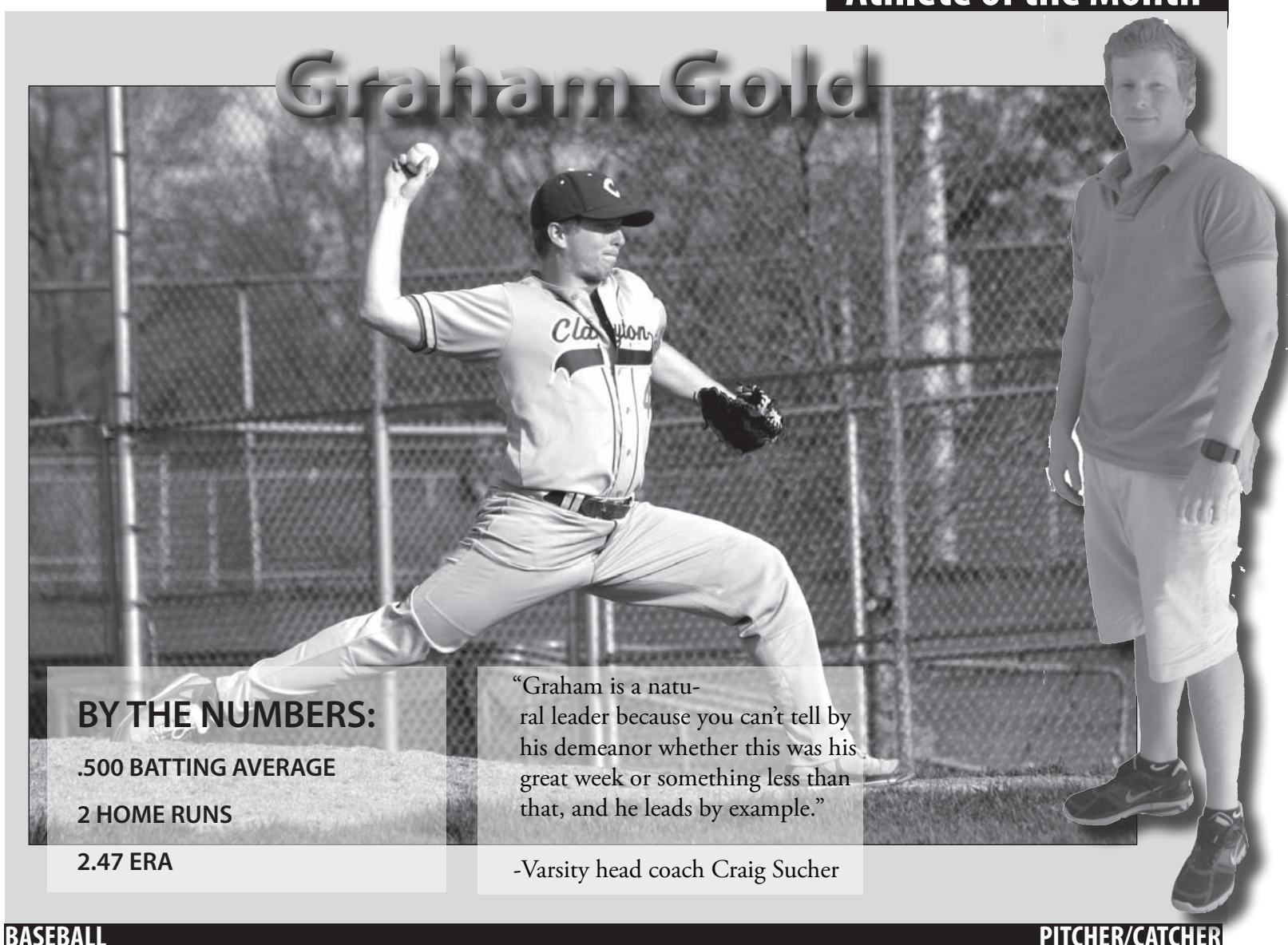
"Graham is a great guy to have catching because when I'm really struggling he always knows what to say or do to calm me down," Haslett said.

On most teams, the catcher is a leader of sorts, and on the Hounds, Gold is a perfect example.

"Graham is a natural leader," Sucher said. We have talked throughout the season about our players having a quiet confidence in their ability so that they never get too high with their successes and too low with their failures. Staying in the middle is critical because in baseball as much or more than any other sport, the successes and failures come so quickly.

A player has to constantly be mentally strong. Graham had a historic week two weeks ago, where it seems like he would never make an out or a mistake on the mound or defensively. This past week has been different, it was a rough start on the mound, sore arm, and less productive at the plate. Graham is a leader though because you can't tell by his demeanor whether it was his great week or something less than that. Graham keeps it in the middle and leads by example. It is a lesson that many of our other players can benefit by learning."

Haslett's 2.93 ERA is second only to the ace of the staff himself, Gold, who has a 2.47 ERA. Gold has relied on a



BY THE NUMBERS:

.500 BATTING AVERAGE

2 HOME RUNS

2.47 ERA

"Graham is a natural leader because you can't tell by his demeanor whether this was his great week or something less than that, and he leads by example."

-Varsity head coach Craig Sucher

BASEBALL

PITCHER/CATCHER

filthy two-seam fastball to keep hitters at bay and produce a meager .150 BAA (Batting Average Against). Although for the most of the season, Gold's pitching has been downright nasty, he still thinks he has room for improvement.

"I still need to be able to consistently throw strikes in order to get ahead in counts and keep my pitch count down," Gold said.

Sucher echoed Gold's opinion.

"On the mound, I think Graham is still not at his best," Sucher said. "When he is, and at times he has been, he has guys swinging early in the count. Graham exemplifies the approach of pitching to contact which keeps pitch counts down and makes it possible to go deep in games. Again, at times, Graham has done this by using two-seamer to get in on right-handed batters and cutter to go away. He still needs to develop better command and more consistently pitch ahead in the count."

Gold will be looking to stay hot as the season rolls on and the Hounds continue to rely on his production.

"I expect Graham to continue to be a great leader, productive in the middle of our order, a competitor on the mound, and a hard-nosed catcher," Sucher said.

That will be key in the Hounds' tough upcoming stretch of games. The Hounds play four games in four days from April 13 to April 16. On April 16, district rival MICDS will be coming to Clayton for a 6:30 Friday night game.

"I can't wait for the MICDS game because we are going to bang for sure,"

Gold said.

Indeed the team looks prepared to do just that, as they are currently averaging close to ten runs per game.

Much of this can be attributed to Gold's newfound power.

"In the off-season I did a lot of cord work and lifted a lot of weights to build up for the season," Gold said. "Because of that, I am definitely hitting much better this year, and my warning

track power like Charles' [Goodman] has become home run power to all fields like Matt's [Militello]."

Sucher also agreed that Gold's newly toned physique was quite noticeable from the start of the season.

"Physically, Graham added noticeable strength," Sucher said. "And offensively, Graham is doing a much better job of staying behind the ball and hitting to the opposite field, something that he can do better now that he is stronger."

If Gold can keep up his hot start to the season, the Hounds have a much greater chance of success.

At the same time, Gold's off the field contributions have also been essential to the winning record the team carries so far.

"Graham is just a great guy to have in the clubhouse because he keeps the mood light," senior outfielder Charles Goodman said.

Gold truly has been a leader in the batter's box, on the mound, behind the plate, and in the clubhouse. ☺

Boys Laxers 4-0, look to make history using juggernaut offensive attack

Team uses high-powered offense averaging 13 goals a game to avenge 2008 state title loss to Fox

by **Evan Green**
Senior Sports Editor

The Clayton boys' lacrosse team has started the season 4-0, with big wins over Webster Groves, Fox, Wentzville, and Republic. In starting off the season with a 9-6 win over a much more populous school in Webster Groves, the Hounds showed that they are here to play with the big boys this year.

In the Webster game, the Hounds pounced on the Statesmen early, and led 6-0 after the first quarter. The Hounds were able to hold on for the 9-6 win thanks to big contributions from senior attack and captain Max Goldfarb who led all scorers with four goals.

On the season Goldfarb has nine goals and three assists, which leaves him fourth on the team in points.

"That Webster game was probably my personal best so far this season," Goldfarb said.

Following the Webster game, the Hounds had a rematch of the 2008 state title game with the Fox Warriors. In that game, Fox scored with six seconds left in the first overtime to take home the state title on Washington University's field. That game has stuck with many of the Hounds, and the team came out fired on April 6 against the Warriors.

"I was really ready for that game, especially because of what happened against them two years ago," Goldfarb said. "It might not have been the state title, but I was still ready to beat them."

And the Hounds did just that. The team rolled to a 13-7 win, as junior Josh Goldstein and senior attack Jordan Stern led the way with five goals apiece. Junior Sam Muslin tacked on two goals and a game-high five assists in the winning cause.

"That was definitely our best team game so far this season because our offense was able to gel against a very strong defensive Fox team," Stern said.

It couldn't have come at a better time in many Hounds' eyes.

The team followed up their victory over Fox with another win over Wentzville to run their record to 3-0. In that game, Goldstein had seven goals and Stern added four of his own to lead the Hounds.

The team followed up their third road win with their first home win on April 10 at Gay Field, beating visiting Republic 14-5. The team led 9-3 at halftime and never looked back. Goldstein and Stern led the team in goals yet again, tallying five and four respectively.

On the season, Goldstein leads the team in points with 26, but Stern is hot on his heels with 22 points. The team is averaging 13 goals a game, one of the highest marks in the state.

"Our offensive chemistry is really good," Stern said.

That much is clear with the team returning all of its offensive starters with the exception of star all-everything Terry "Lethal" Ellis, who will be playing Division I lacrosse in the near future.

Five Hounds are already in double digits for points including Goldstein (26), Stern (22), Muslin (18), Goldfarb (12), and junior attack Gabe Nicolazzi (11). The team has scored 52 goals on the season while allowing just 26 goals against.

At the same time, the team still feels that they have several things left to improve.

"We still need our defense to get a little stronger to help us in the long run," Goldfarb said.

Indeed last season's defensive and goaltending woes seem to have been fixed so far this season, but the team still has many tough challenges left on the schedule, and, surely, the defense will be facing much tougher tasks as the season runs on.

The long run that Goldfarb speaks of likely includes a deep playoff stint for the Division II Hounds. Before they can start to think about the playoffs though, they have a tough schedule the rest of the way.

"We've got tough games against Ladue and Pembroke Hill that will really tell us a lot about ourselves," Goldfarb said.

The team takes on the Kansas City based Pembroke Hill on April 14 in Kansas City. The Ladue game will likely be a matchup of the top two teams in Missouri Division II high school lacrosse and will be the last game of the regular season. The rivalry matchup will be played on Friday, May 14 at 7:30 at Gay Field.

The Hounds have beaten Ladue the last several seasons and will look to continue their winning streak over the team to the west.

"That's the game that I really want to win, definitely the biggest regular season game," Stern said. "Especially because this is senior year and we can't lose the cup now."

Stern is referring to the Challenge Cup that goes to the winner of the annual Clayton-Ladue rivalry game. The class of 2010 Hounds have won the Cup the last two years and will look to keep it in Clayton one last time. Interestingly enough, the teams have a chance to meet again in the playoffs this season, possibly even the finals if the two are set up in the brackets a certain way.

The Hounds have seven home games left on the season, meaning that fans of high school lacrosse have plenty of time left to watch the team that returns several 2009 All-State lacrosse players (Goldstein and Nicolazzi) and a high-powered offensive machine.

"Everyone should come watch our home games because we will be scoring a lot of goals this season and should be fun to watch," Stern said.

If the team's offensive production remains consistent along with newfound decent goaltending by junior Seth Thornton, then the Hounds certainly have a chance to reach their ultimate goal for the season.

"We want to win a state championship, it's as simple as that and anything less will be a disappointment," Goldfarb said. ☺

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Local SLU, Mizzou and Illini fans await future seasons with hope

by Jake Bernstein
Reporter

As national champion, Duke still celebrates, locals have to be wondering if one of our teams could be the last one standing in future years. With Butler making the championship game, it really shows that a small school can beat national superpowers like Syracuse and Michigan State and have the ability to contend for the national title. Missouri and Saint Louis University (SLU) both enjoyed relatively successful seasons, while Illinois was a bit of a disappointment.

Entering the season, SLU, Missouri and Illinois were all coming off different seasons, but headed in the same general direction. Each school had an emphasis on youth this year.

SLU, as the youngest team in the nation, had not one junior or senior this year, so the entire team will be returning for the 2010-11 season and presumably the 2011-2012 season. Because they lost two of the best players in SLU history last year to graduation in Tommy Liddell and Kevin Lisch, many college basketball analysts predicted SLU to have a lackluster season and finish near the bottom of the conference standings. SLU's team impressed sophomore Charlie Harned, an avid college basketball fan and big-time follower of Gonzaga, this year.

"For being so young and for the Atlantic 10 Conference being so tough, the Billikens had a great year," Harned said.

Missouri entered this past season coming off a fantastic National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament where it made a run to the Elite Eight. However, it too lost two great players to graduation in Leo Lyons and DeMarre Carroll.

Therefore, analysts did not predict Missouri finish very high this year, even though it had a great season in 2008-09. Missouri did in fact finish two spots higher in the Big 12 standings and the team was better than expected. Rick Kordenbrock, who got his bachelor's and law degree from the University of Missouri, agreed that the team performed well.

"I thought it was a very good year for what they had," Kordenbrock said. "They were athletic, but they were weak in terms of their inside game, with a lack of scoring and rebounding in the post."

Illinois also lost a couple players last year, though neither as important as Lyons or Carroll to Missouri. And unlike Missouri, Illinois finished last season on a sour note, getting upset by Western Kentucky in the first round of the tournament.

However, because Illinois was not losing a star player, the Illini began the season ranked and was supposed to make an impact in college basketball this year on the national level. A late season collapse ruined Illinois' otherwise decent season.

Though SLU, Missouri, and Illinois all finished their regular seasons' with losses that hurt their resumes, each team had the opportunity to play postseason basketball.

SLU, after being passed over by the NCAA and NIT tournaments, was selected to play in the College Basketball Invitational (CBI). While the team won its first three games to make it to the championship, it lost the final to Virginia Commonwealth. Harned attended the finale against Virginia Commonwealth.

"The atmosphere was great, even though they lost," Harned said. "Chaifetz Arena is built in a unique way so that no matter where you are you can see everything. The SLU students get real into the game and it was loads of fun."

In losing its final regular season game, Missouri hurt its season and its NCAA tournament resume. Even so, Missouri made the tournament and upset seven-seed Clemson in the first round. Following this game, it lost to second seeded and eventual Final Four participant West Virginia.

"The Nebraska loss really highlighted the inconsistency of the team," Kordenbrock said. "I don't think it affected their morale too much though as they came back with the win in the NCAA tournament."

This year, Illinois was one of those famously called bubble teams. Unfortunately their bubble popped on Selection Sunday and it was passed over by the NCAA tournament selection committee. Instead Illinois was selected as a first seed in the National Invitation Tournament (NIT). They won their first two games before losing to eventual champion Dayton in the quarterfinals. Sophomore Freddy Barnes, an Illinois fan, thought that the NCAA snubbed the team, but he still watched it play in the NIT.

"They deserved to be in the NCAA tournament, they beat quality teams that were in the tournament during the season, such as Michigan State, who made the Final Four," Barnes said.

All three could possibly make the NCAA tournament next year, as so few players are being lost to graduation. With SLU losing no players to graduation next year, Illinois only losing one major contributor and with Missouri having the depth to overcome their losses, next year could be a great year for local college basketball fans.

According to Harned, SLU has nowhere to move but up. "I think next year is SLU's year," Harned said. "If they have a real tough non-conference schedule and show they can compete with bigger schools then they will make the NCAA tournament for sure. [SLU coach] Rick Majerus sure knows how to build a program."

Kordenbrock also has been impressed with Missouri's coach Mike Anderson.

"Anderson is an excellent coach, and I love his style of play," Kordenbrock said. "It's fast-paced and exciting, the way the game should be played. He should be able to get to the Final Four, and my hope is that before he leaves Missouri, he will be able to accomplish this."

This year, Illinois, specifically, killed itself with bad losses. Barnes thinks Illinois can't settle for less than great with so many contributing seniors next year.



MCT Campus/Chris Lee

St. Louis University forward Cody Ellis, right, pulls down a critical rebound against Richmond forward Darrius Garrett, left, during the final minutes of play at the Chaifetz Arena in St. Louis, Missouri, Saturday, Jan. 9, 2010. St. Louis defeated Richmond, 63-58.

"This year they lost games they shouldn't have lost to mediocre teams," Barnes said. "Next year they need to stay in the moment and not get ahead of themselves. If Illinois doesn't finish in the top three in the Big Ten, and doesn't reach the sweet sixteen next year, I think the season will be a disappointment. Those should be their goals because they clearly have the talent to accomplish both."

With such young players and highly thought of coaches, what could stop the teams from improving in the future?

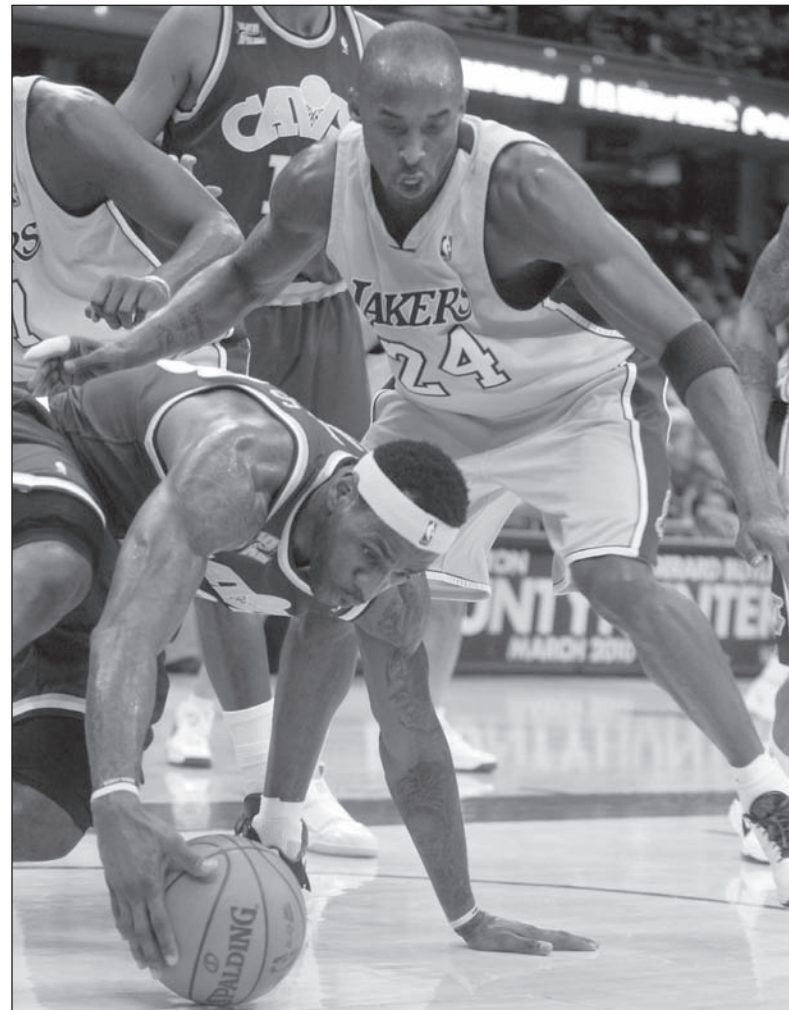
"The only problem I could see in the future for SLU would be not giving Christian Thomas a scholarship," Harned said. "Missouri has broken my heart so many times in March," Kordenbrock said. "Even with legendary [Missouri] coach

Norm Stewart, the team couldn't get past the Elite Eight."

In collapsing at the end of the past two seasons, as Barnes mentioned, Illinois has not met their expectations in succeeding in March.

SLU faces a possible lack of recruiting in the future, Missouri faces the pressure of being the first Missouri team ever to make the Final Four and Illinois faces the prospect of another late season collapse. All will have to overcome their problems in order to find the success each team is looking for.

With so much promise and youth in the SLU, Missouri and Illinois basketball programs, next year and years to come should be very exciting for local fans. ☺



MCT Campus/Phil Musturzo

The Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James, left, scoops up a loose ball in front of Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant during the second quarter at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, Ohio, Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010.

Controversy over NBA MVP rages on

Both Kobe Bryant and LeBron James are amazing basketball players and have their own fans, which fuels the debate over who is the real king of the court.

by Alex Kasnetz
Reporter

There are certain debates that permeate throughout our culture. They arouse charged emotion and vigor. These arguments almost never end with any sort of conclusive answer.

One can hear these debates in living rooms in front of the television, at the dinner table, barbershop, the local community center, and the school commons. There have been different debates of this nature for generations.

There is Biggie or Tupac? The Beatles or the Rolling Stones? Jack Nicklaus or Arnold Palmer? Larry Bird or Magic Johnson?

Today, across gyms, commons, restaurants, couches, and courts, one debate rages on: LeBron James or Kobe Bryant?

Writers, pundits, newscasters, and, to be honest, most of us, love to spend time and energy debating the title of best basketball player in the world. And the debate comes down to these two titans of sports.

Bryant, the Los Angeles Lakers su-

perstar shooting guard, is 31 and has been in the National Basketball Association 13 years.

After winning four NBA championships, one of which this past season, he is still going strong, averaging 27 points per game this season. They call him the "Black Mamba."

James, the Cleveland Cavaliers 250-pound forward and native son, is six years Bryant's junior but has already reached the individual pinnacle of his sport.

He has no championships and one finals appearance to his name, and is tearing up the stat sheet with points, rebounds, assists, steals, and blocks. LeBron is also known as "King James" or "The Chosen One."

Fans hold strong opinions and stand by their favorite.

"Kobe is better. No doubt. He's way more clutch than LeBron," said senior Devonte Bell, star Greyhound basketball player and esteemed basketball expert.

Others don't share the same opinion as Bell.

"LeBron is better for sure," said se-

nior Jeff Bader. "He's got the all around game and helps his teammates more. Kobe is straight overrated."

Team achievements are often used as a measuring stick for individual greatness. Many fans cite team championships as evidence for who's the better player.

"Kobe is the best. He's got them rings," said senior Alozie Onwumere. "Four of 'em."

The different points of basketball ability can be endlessly debated. Kobe has the championships. LeBron has the assists and rebounds over Kobe.

Some say Kobe is a better closer and a better shooter. Others may say LeBron is more valuable to his team than Kobe to his.

That's why some fans use reasoning that's not entirely basketball related.

"Kobe has always been my favorite player," said senior Greyhound basketball player Maggie Lanter. "When it comes down to it, Kobe always hits the game winning shot. And he's really really cute!"

Whatever reasons different fans may have for their pick, the competi-

tion for the title of best current NBA player almost always comes down to Kobe or LeBron.

However, some more daring fans step outside the box and choose another NBA player.

"The best player in the league is clearly Stephen Curry. He's only a rookie and he's tiny but he still does all work," senior Augustus Heil said.

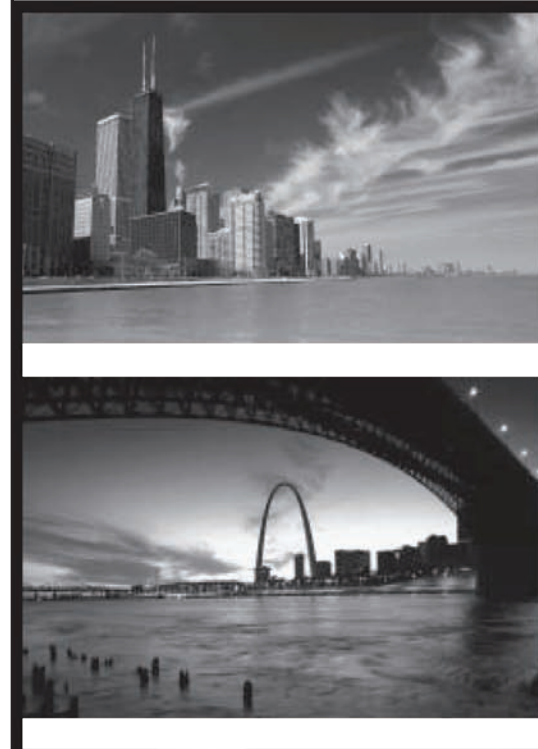
Senior Charles Goodma thinks both Kobe and LeBron are strong players, but not the strongest.

"However, J. R. Smith is the best player in the league and is the only player who could win the slam dunk and three-point shooting contests," Goodman said.

Despite these aberrations, most everyone agrees that LeBron James and Kobe Bryant are the two players at the top of the list, but there is much disagreement on who is number one.

And when both of their careers are over, even then there will likely be no definitive answer.

The debate will rage on and on, perhaps for generations to come. And that's the way it ought to be. ☺



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Three-season athletes balance commitment and athleticism

by Sarah Tait
Reporter

Playing a sport in high school is a commitment that requires constant effort, time, and dedication. There are some at Clayton who are not willing or able to make this commitment, and then there are the students who make this commitment three times over.

Playing three sports at Clayton is not an easy feat. Sports teams practice everyday after school and often at least one day on the weekend for more or less two hours at a time.

With this schedule, a student who plays sports all three seasons dedicates about 2,688 hours a year to sports.

"Playing three sports is a tremendous commitment," athletic director Bob Bone said. "Especially with the academic expectations of Clayton, an athlete who plays three sports must be self-disciplined and be able to manage their time."

Despite the hard work it requires, some students are up for the challenge. Junior Jaclyn Poe has played basketball, lacrosse, and field hockey since freshman year.

"I choose to play three sports because I'm pretty good at sports and I have a lot of fun," Poe said.

Sophomore Justin Campbell, who plays football, wrestles, and runs track, agrees that it's worth the time and work dedication.

"I really like sports, and playing three sports keeps me in shape all year," Campbell said.

Such focus does come at a price, however. Giving up so much time makes it difficult to get homework done and balance other aspects of student life.

Playing sports at a high level, especially playing throughout the entire year, requires such total dedication that often other commitments suffer.

"I feel like I miss out on a lot of social events because of sports," Poe said. "I wish I had a break in between my seasons."

Junior Erin Bax has played volleyball, basketball, and lacrosse since freshman year and agrees there are some challenges that come with the commitment.

"It's really hard to get your homework done when you're playing sports all year," Bax said. "You have to learn good time management."

Students that are playing sports year-round also struggle with feeling the wear of their hard work by the end of the year.

"When it comes to track season, I don't want to do it because I'm burned out," Campbell said.

Even though there are some negative consequences that come with playing a sport all three seasons, most students find that the positives far outweigh the negatives.

For those athletes who truly enjoy playing whatever sport they can, being able to play all year is something they look forward to.

"Playing three sports is a lot of fun and I get to meet a lot of new people," freshman Tyler Walker said, who plays football, basketball, and runs track.

"It's not that hard for me because I really enjoy it."

Bax agrees that playing three sports brings with it opportunities that wouldn't have been available otherwise.

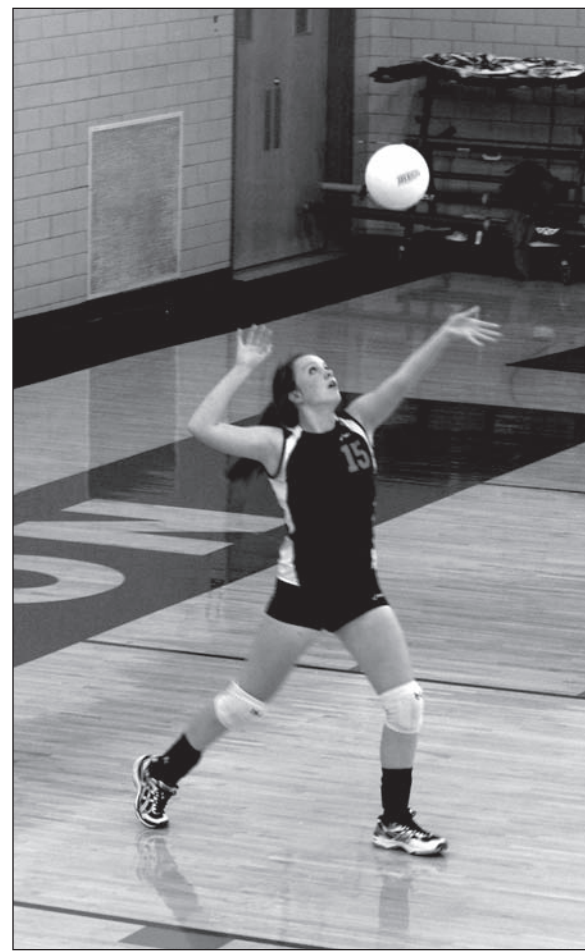
"I love being able to meet and get close with girls from all different sports," Bax said.

Though it would seem that playing three sports would make it more difficult to excel in one specific sport, year-round athletes find that they benefit from their constant work.

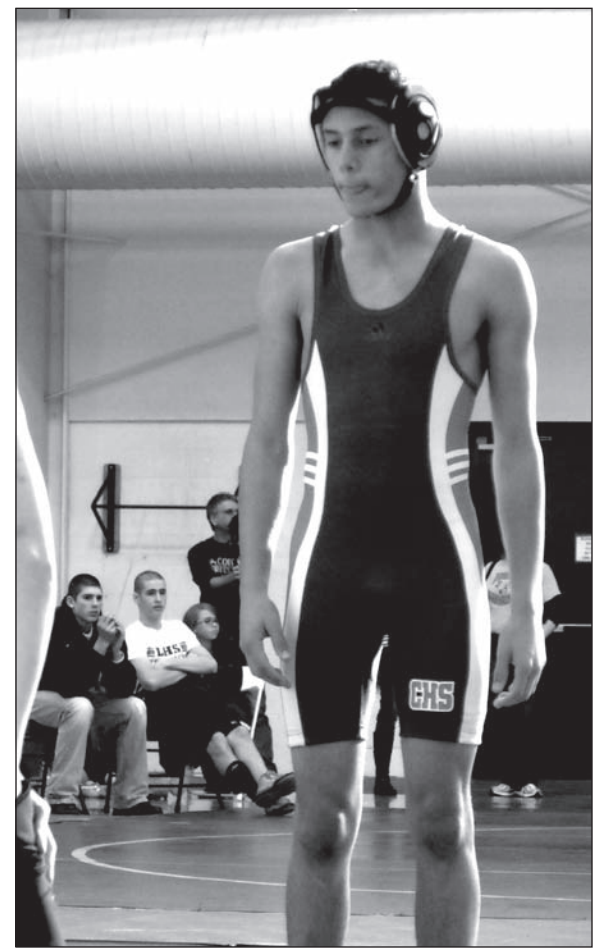
"All sports keep you in shape and there's always time to go to the gym and play other sports if you want to," Walker said.

Though playing three seasons presents a challenge that many could not handle, the students that do reap the rewards of their persistence and effort. These students demonstrate what can be achieved through hard work on a daily basis.

"Athletics help make you successful in the real world," Bone said. "You learn life lessons through athletics that you can't learn anywhere else."



Jenna Carlie



Thalia Sass

LEFT: Junior Erin Bax serves in a game of volleyball. Bax commits a lot of her time to play three sports a year: volleyball, basketball and lacrosse. RIGHT: Sophomore Justin Campbell prepares himself for wrestling match. Campbell also plays three sports a year.



Jen Maylack

Soccer managers Peri Harlan and Chelsea Hesterberg wait during half time. Managers, although not always present at games, do a lot to help the team including making food, keeping the score book, and keeping team morale positive by keeping a positive attitude on the bench

Sports managers find an alternative way to be involved without competing

by Nick Van Almsick
Reporter

Everybody at Clayton High School is familiar with the variety of sports being played in the fall, winter, and spring seasons. What people might not be so familiar with is the behind the scenes participant; the team manager.

During each season for the different number of sports offered at Clayton, coaches and players alike look for people who aren't playing a sport, but would still want to help out in some way.

This was exactly the case for sophomore Jocelyn Cooper. This spring, Jocelyn decided to be the team manager for the boy's baseball team.

"I wanted to do an activity involved with the school during the spring season," Cooper said. "But since there are not any spring sports I play, I decided to manage instead."

Cooper chose baseball because it is

her favorite sport to watch and she is friends with a lot of the players.

"It's fun for me to help out the team and be able to see my friends play," Cooper said.

Junior Melissa Milbrandt agrees that it's fun to watch and support the team, so she decided to manage the boy's lacrosse team.

"I like lacrosse because it's fast paced and I know a lot of the players," Milbrandt said. "Also, a lot of the guys that play are really cute."

But don't think all the managers do is just watch and cheer on the team, there are a lot of other responsibilities the managers have that people might not know about.

"I go to all of the games and take stats during them," Cooper said. "I also bring different snacks to the games, and sometimes bake brownies or cookies."

Before the season started, Cooper had to learn the semi-complicated way to keep stats for baseball. Senior Matt

Militello helped teach Cooper how the scorebook worked before the season began.

"Matt helped out a lot teaching me how to score everything correctly," Cooper said. "It was kind of difficult at first, but once I got the hang of it, it became a breeze."

There are also many benefits to being a team manager. Milbrandt is planning on putting it on her resume for college when she starts filling out applications next year.

"I think it would look good to put this kind of commitment on a college application," Milbrandt said. "It's always good to put stuff down that shows you are involved in school activities."

Many sports at Clayton have team managers, and the coaches and players would both agree that they are a huge help. If you are interested in being a manager in the future, talk to the coach of the particular sport you would be interested in.

Autistic teen chooses perfectly into the Sweet 16 of men's tournament

by Jon Knohl
Reporter

The number is 65. The number of teams that make it into the NCAA Tournament but the only one remaining is crowned the National Champion of College Basketball. This year's tournament has been filled with many upsets, blowouts, and a few Cinderella stories to say the least. This year is also a rare one since there is only one #1 seed remaining going into the Final Four (Duke). Going into the tournament the four, #1 seeds were Kansas, Syracuse, Kentucky, and Duke. How is only one, #1 team standing? It's easy, Cinderella stories and upsets. This year's two Cinderella stories were the Cornell Big Red and the Northern Iowa Panthers. Who would have thought that an Ivy League school would have made it to the Sweet 16 along with a team from the Missouri Valley Conference? Well, apparently only one person in the world. Yes, only one person in the world had a 100%

tournament bracket prediction going into the Sweet 16. His name is Alex Hermann, a 17 year old autistic kid from Glenbrook South High School in Glenview, Illinois.

"I checked his bracket and it was off the chart," Andrew Herman said. "I thought it was a big deal" Reported by NBC Chicago

The odds of anyone picking a 100% bracket going into the Sweet 16 are one in 13,460,000 says Bookofodds.com. They also claim that you have a better chance of winning the lottery twice than picking a 100% bracket.

"This kid is unreal! This is truly a great story," sophomore Sam Fox said. "I couldn't believe it when I heard about it."

But with all this hype about an autistic 17 year old, who had a 100% bracket going into Sweet 16 leads to some speculation about him lying. CBSports.com cannot confirm Alex's entry due to the fact that they do not track entries to their Bracket Manager Appli-

cation, unlike the CBSports' Bracket Challenge which does lock each user's entries once the tournament begins. Although, the Hermanns do claim that they filled out their brackets together as a family before the tournament began, and haven't touched their picks since.

However, Alex's 100% bracket stopped in the Sweet 16. He had Tennessee, Kansas State, Kentucky, and Purdue going to the Final Four and Purdue winning the whole thing. He did not get any of the Final Four teams correct but it was still a run for its money.

"I was pulling for Alex when I heard about him on the radio over spring break," sophomore Marc Ritter said. "I was upset when his bracket came to an end. There's always next year."

If Hermann was to enter his bracket into another CBSports.com's Bracket application he could've made \$10,000 or \$5,000 per round. It's unfortunate that good things have to come to an end somehow or other.



MCT Campus/ Chuck Liddy

The Duke basketball team poses after capturing the NCAA Division I men's title. An autistic kid from Glenview, IL predicted 100 percent of



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SPRING



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Globe photographer Caroline Stamp captures the season's first blooms at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

SPRUNG



NEWS BRIEFS

Election News

Clayton voters approved Proposition W to rebuild Wydown Middle School. On April 6, Clayton voters approved to build a \$39.4 million zero-tax-rate increase bond issue. Susan Buse and Brad Bernstein were re-elected to the Clayton Board of Education. Bernstein served on the Board from 1997-2007. Buse will begin her second term on the Board.

Celebrate Poetry Month

April is poetry month. Come to the CHS Poetry Slam in the Black Box Theater on April 28 at 7 p.m. to perform an original poem. Check out David Clewell on April 14, Shane Seely on April 19, or a Hungry Young Poet on April 21.

Clayton Inaugural Alumni Hall of Fame

Eleven people were inducted into the Clayton Inaugural Hall of Fame. In the celebration of the 100th graduating class from CHS, the Alumni Association announced the inductees. The list of inductees is located on the School District of Clayton site.

Clayton Summer Academy

The Clayton Summer Academy Brochure is now available. This experience provides students a variety of academic courses for high school credit.

Film Festival

The revised submission deadline for this year's film festival is April 15. Pick up entry forms in the library or see Nate Townsend for more information. The festival is on May 2.

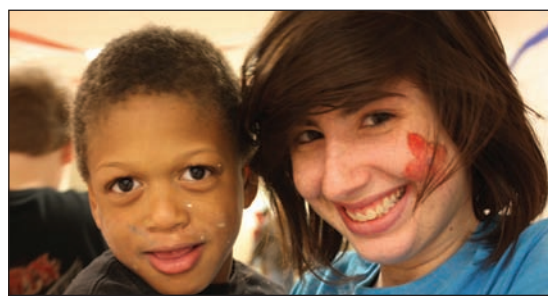
Student Run Musical

Buy tickets for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, the Student Run Musical. The performances will be April 15-18 and tickets will be on sale in the lunchroom.

PAGE DESIGNED BY MEREDITH REDICK

CHS LIFE

www.chsglobe.com



ARTS FAIR, pg. 24

“Although CHS students are not required to participate in the Arts Fair, over 80 percent are involved. The event has grown to become one of the most anticipated days of the school year.”

Simone Bernstein
CHS Senior

April 14, 2010

Retiring teacher starts out on new path

Over the years, English teacher Dave Jenkins has served as an advisor, coach and friend to Clayton students and faculty. Now, as he leaves, he prepares to take on new challenges.

by Ben Colagiovanni
Reporter

At the end of his freshman year in college, Dave Jenkins was afraid.

While nearly all of his friends had declared majors, Dave had yet to discover what he wanted to contribute and how he was going to contribute to the society around him. Dave could have gone back home to think things through. He could have dropped out and tried to think of how he was going to pull his life together while working the lunchtime shift at a fast food joint. He could have joined the military and gotten as far away from life as he knew it.

However, Dave did something much simpler. He prayed.

For the last 31 years, Dave Jenkins has been teaching students how to write, how to think on their feet, how to become better consumers, how to be better citizens, how to be independent, and he hasn't stopped singing hallelujah choruses ever since.

“I feel really suited to my job,” Jenkins said. “I feel like it's almost a calling. I feel like I do it well, and I really enjoy it. I can't think of anything else I'd like to do or that I think I'd be good at besides teaching.”

However, Jenkins' journey to the learned land didn't have an ideal beginning.

“When I graduated from college in 1979, there weren't many teaching jobs,” Jenkins said. “I finally found a place in Northwest Missouri in a little town called Carrollton. It was a fine place to teach, but it was a terrible place to live if you were single because there was nothing to do.”

Fortunately for Jenkins, Lafayette High School came calling, and in 1980, the young English teacher made the jump to bigger (Lafayette High's student population is half that of the entire city of Carrollton) and, as it turned out, better things.

During Jenkins' teaching career, he's reached a plethora of students through numerous avenues all while striving towards the simple goal of



English teacher Dave Jenkins enjoys class with sophomore students. Jenkins, who coaches speech and debate and sponsors a Scholar Quiz team in addition to teaching English, will be permanently leaving the Clayton school district after this year.

Elizabeth Sikora

enlightenment.

“I've taught any and everything that you can have in an English curriculum,” Jenkins said. “I've taught all grade levels and all levels in terms of regular, honors, and A.P. I've taught numerous speech and debate electives as well. But what I really want to do in every class that I teach is to model what an educated adult is like. I think one of the main purposes of school in general is to become a self-feeder, so that you learn

how to acquire knowledge and integrate it into your life. I want to teach my students how to do this, but I want them to see it when they look at me in the classroom.”

“I've always embraced change, and one of my personal philosophies is ‘try something new’.”

Dave Jenkins
English teacher

Jenkins' job reaches beyond the classroom and beyond the routine hours of a school day.

“One of the conditions of me being hired here at Clayton back in 2006 was that I start a Scholar Quiz

team,” Jenkins said. “It was something I'd done at Lafayette as well, so I did it. I got the material that was needed in terms of the buzzer sets and the question sets, advertised to find kids who might be interested in competing academically and started a team.”

Some team it is.

In just its third year of existence, the scholar quiz team has already placed in the state competition and will be heading to a national competition in Chicago during Memorial Day week-end.

Unlike Dave from 1979, Mr. Jenkins has a clearly defined vision of who he is.

“I'm a teacher, that's kind of my label, but I'm also a coach,” Jenkins said.



A row of photos shows art teacher Cate Dolan throughout her time at Clayton. Dolan prepares to retire this year after 22 years of teaching in the Clayton school district; she plans to continue fostering her love of art.

Courtesy of Cate Dolan

Art teacher will leave inspiring legacy at Clayton

by Jocelyn Lee
Reporter

When Cate Dolan was younger, she swore she would never be a teacher like her mother. Her mind remained unchanged as she studied art in college, despite taking a course on education. It wasn't until the year after graduating from college, while working with youth on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, that she began to consider teaching.

Dolan soon made her way to St. Louis where she began working as an art teacher, first in a small private school and later in the St. Louis public schools. She also worked at Denison University in Ohio for a few years. While teaching in an elementary school with no art classroom on the north side of St. Louis, Dolan heard about a job opportunity in the Clayton School District. Due to the difficult teaching circumstances at her job, she decided to transfer to the Clayton schools.

After teaching at Captain Elementary School for 11 years, Dolan took up a teaching position at CHS. Her retirement after the 2009-2010 school year marks her eleventh year at CHS.

“It's been an excellent place to work,” Dolan said. “I've had wonderful colleagues both at Captain and at CHS. It was a particular treat to me to know students for their whole elementary career and to know them again in high school. I got a big kick out of that.”

Head of the CHS art department Christine Vodicka said Dolan has been a leader during her time at CHS,

especially because Dolan has served as the school district's art coordinator for many years.

“She's a really excellent artist, she has really good experience, and she understands the whole concept of the studio model and modeling that for students,” Vodicka said.

Although she has taught in a number of different environments, Dolan still finds that her role in the classroom is generally the same no matter her location.

“You're always trying to get someone to learn something new and that's always a little bit of a challenge,” Dolan said. “It's always the teacher's job to do some salesmanship around whatever those issues are and to try to nurture people so that they're willing to take a chance, to try something new. That doesn't change much really whether the person is in third grade or whether they're in twelfth grade.”

Dolan said she enjoys the fact that teaching art is often more direct than teaching other subjects.

“You are right there working on a thing and you have failures, and you have successes, and you very directly

work with both of those things,” Dolan said. “We learn as much, if not more, from the mistakes we make, than from what looks, at first, to be a success.”

Because Dolan creates art in her time away from her teaching job, teaching is an enjoyable way for her to share her experience.

“I want to have time to work on my own artwork, while I'm still young enough to do that, and there's a lot of traveling that I want to do.”

Cate Dolan
Art Teacher

a process that she often incorporates in her classes at CHS. She primarily makes collograph prints, although in the past couple of years she has been doing more work that involves both the use of computer programs like Photoshop and printing by hand. Texture is a significant aspect of her work, and she will sometimes scan different textures onto the computer, so she can manipulate them there.

Dolan said she learns from her students and their work. These experi-

ences, she said, sometimes feed into her own work.

“I think it's really important that art teachers are also artists, because when you're making your own artwork, all of the struggles and the joys of that process are right there in front of you,” Dolan said. “I think that helps you pass along the value of that art experience to your students and it also helps you appreciate the struggles they go through in trying to make their own work.”

Since she began working in the Clayton School District, Dolan has seen a number of changes take place, the biggest one being the addition of technology. CHS has switched from a film photography class to a digital photography one, an art computer lab was added, and a digital graphics class was introduced.

However, in recent years, the number of art faculty and students has been low. Dolan said she hopes the art program will continue to grow.

She also said that some students who want to take art classes feel unable to, due to the pressure of core classes.

“I hope that the pressure in the world at large to have so much testing and so much in the way of pressure on students to do more years of math and more years of science will even out a little bit,” Dolan said. “It's very worrisome to me that students who are interested in taking art are so pressured to get all of those extra courses in science and math, particularly.”

In terms of her retirement plans, Dolan plans to stay in St. Louis, at least

for the near future, because art and the outdoors, two things she is fond of, are easily accessible.

“I want to have time to work on my own artwork, while I'm still young enough to do that, and there's a lot of traveling that I want to do,” Dolan said. “Certainly I'd like to exhibit my art and one thing that is difficult about teaching is having enough time to make a large enough body of work to exhibit it.”

Over her teaching career, Dolan said she has learned how much people are alike, how much fun it is to be involved with another person who is in the process of learning, and how that keeps a person young.

“It's the best kind of pressure, where you're pressured to do the right thing and to do more of a good thing because you kind of fall in love with the people that you're working with,” Dolan said. “That's a beautiful part of teaching that enriches everybody, I think – it enriches the teacher and the student.”

Vodicka has been a colleague of Dolan's for a number of years, and she said she greatly enjoys working with Dolan.

“Because of who she is, because of her personality, and because of her knowledge and talent – all of that combines to be a really great part of the day for me, personally,” Vodicka said.

After she retires, Dolan said she will miss the close contact with a wide variety of young people. “I'll miss the energy and delight that comes from that,” Dolan said. “It's a great gift to be a part of that process.”

A Student's Perspective

Roller coaster enthusiast recommends Six Flags

by Jacob Bernstein
Reporter

I have always found architecture and specifically tall things, very impressive. I suspect this has led to my passion for roller coasters, and made riding roller coasters almost a sacred experience for me.

In the past few years, my family has agreed to incorporate certain theme parks into trips. Though my park experience is still limited, I have visited 18 parks and written critiques on the majority of them.

I visited Six Flags Saint Louis early this month on opening weekend. Not much has changed since last year, but the park was very neat and the management seems focused on getting the park up to standards with the other top parks in the Midwest.

Unfortunately, this year there were no major changes to the park, just a few subtle additions. The biggest change this year was a refurbishment near the Funnel Cake Area, nothing most visitors would notice, but it provides much more seating. I am sure a lot of families have not experienced last year's Glow in the Park Parade, a great new attraction added last year. Rumor has it that the Six Flags chain is planning for a big 2011 with the 40th anniversary of the chain.

If you are not going for the water park, Six Flags still has not branched out enough for those who don't enjoy coasters to really enjoy the park itself. However for those who even mildly enjoy the coasters; Six Flags has a wide variety of them with an outstanding collection of wooden coasters, a few very good metal coasters and some fun family coasters as well.

Ranking number 16 in the world in the highly acclaimed "Mitch Hawker's Wooden Coaster Poll," Evel Knievel leads the way for Six Flags St. Louis in the minds of most coaster enthusiasts. The Boss and Screamin' Eagle were both voted in the top 75 wooden coasters in the world, according to Hawker's poll.

I follow many others' beliefs in saying that Knievel is my favorite ride at Six Flags due to that fact it's fast and filled with airtime (term for when you feel like your bottom

is floating out of the seat). I have to say that the Boss and Screamin' Eagle are both on the rough side, and neither is my type of ride. However, both provide a great ride-if you are not susceptible to back pain and headaches. The Boss did seem to be running a little smoother this year, so it definitely warrants one ride, but it takes a real daredevil to go back for more.

On the steel side, Mr. Freeze dominates the skyline and Batman is the favorite of many who love a smooth ride. Unfortunately, the park does not have much depth here as Ninja is the third big steel coaster, and offers a very disappointing ride.

For the visitor who likes a good, disorienting coaster, Batman would be the one. In completing five inversions, it can make the rider dizzy, but because it runs so smoothly, I would highly recommend the ride. However, Mr. Freeze is the most intimidating ride in the park for bystanders, and wins in the excitement by a long shot for riders. Not only is "Freeze" the tallest ride in the park, but because it is a launched coaster, the acceleration and G-forces you experience on the coaster are nothing like anything else in the park.

To the people who stand the Mr. Freeze entrance making that critical decision to step inside the gate, remember: Part of the fun is that you are overcoming your fear, and once you overcome it, you can brag for a lifetime. That being said, I am

“For those who try Six Flags this year and feel a little disappointed, I don't blame you. There are definitely better parks within driving distance if you have a day or two this summer. I would highly recommend driving down to Holiday World in Southern Indiana. It is my favorite theme park and that of many enthusiasts.”

Jake Bernstein
CHS Sophomore

much more terrified of Ninja than Mr. Freeze. Ninja classifies as a good ride for the first time rider looking to get a taste at inversions (also known as loops).

However, the fact that your head bangs at the restraint for the entire course and that it's notorious for giving headaches is enough to keep me far away from the ride entrance except to glance at the new paint job.

Just because a ride is classified as a family ride does not mean it's too mild.

Whenever I make the trip to Eureka, I make a great effort to ride River King Mine Train and Tony Hawk's Big Spin, both considered family coasters.

The Mine Train, a small coaster built into the terrain, is suited for all ages and is filled with plenty of surprises. Tony Hawk's Big Spin is unique in that each ride is different, as the weight distribution of your car determines how much you spin. Other fun non-coaster rides that fall under the "family" category are the log flume, tidal way, river rapid ride and bumper cars.

To sum it up, Six Flags St. Louis has some great rides in Evel Knievel, Mr. Freeze and Batman. More good rides in The Boss and the "family" rides. And a few very mediocre couple rides in Screamin' Eagle and Ninja.

For those who try Six Flags this year and feel a little disappointed, I don't blame you. There are definitely better parks within driving distance if you have a day or two this summer.

I would highly recommend driving down to Holiday World in Southern Indiana. Although not talked about regularly even by many Indiana residents, it is my favorite theme park and that of many enthusiasts.

However, with a few more additions which would appeal more to the family and one more quality steel coaster, Six Flags St. Louis could be considered one of the best parks in the Midwest.



Courtesy of Jake Bernstein

CHS sophomore Jake Bernstein stands in front of a sign at the Worlds of Fun amusement park in Kansas City, MO. This is just one of the popular parks within driving distance of St. Louis, MO.



Madeleine Fleming

Demun Park is one of the many popular attractions among children in St. Louis, along with the City Museum and Forest Park. Several Clayton High School students who have grown up in the St. Louis area fondly remember going to these places regularly.

St. Louis attractions inspire memories

by Chelsea Cousins
Editor

Growing up in St. Louis definitely has its perks. Whether you're here visiting the St. Louis Arch or exploring exhibits at the Science Center, there's always something to do. Especially when you're a kid! Places such as the Zoo, Science Center, and Magic House have been around for years capturing the attention of kids in the area. Despite these attractions, however, Clayton High School students have spent their childhood in a variety of ways.

"As a kid, I spent a lot of time at home and at church," junior Aigner Watkins said, "It still never failed that I'd find myself outside as well."

Other students share their childhood experience.

"I've always been an active person, so I was into playing outside and running around with friends and family," senior Devonte Bell said.

However, although staying at home and playing outside are everyday activities, these students reveal another side to their childhood.

"When I was little, I loved to go to the science center," Watkins said, "As I got older, though, my parents started taking me to places like the loop and the river front for concerts."

Although CHS students' experiences may have been special at that specific time, others saw a common factor that would later relate to them in the future.

"I was the kind of kid who stayed outside, whether it was at Forest Park, the Zoo, or even the City Museum," Bell said.

Bell, being one of these very cases, continues in his pursuit to the active lifestyle.

"One of my fondest memories, as a kid, was playing basketball from early in the morning to late at night," he adds.

One of St. Louis's greatest attractions, as mentioned earlier, is the St. Louis Zoo – a place where kids can explore different animals and activities from infancy to adulthood.

"A lot of the time, a kid's first reaction depends on their age," Bridget Ebert, Naturalist Instructor at the St. Louis Zoo, said. "We have tiny ones who get really involved, and then there are older kids who tend to have fun no matter what."

Many of the kids who first step into the Zoo are amazed at the spark, as well as the overall build, of the many exhibits. Offering hundreds of programs and activities to kids and their families, the Zoo is constantly being overcrowded with kids.

"Kids have the opportunity to sign up for classes based on their personal interests," Education Programs Supervisor Jaclyn Johnson said. "Occasionally we have parents who just sign up their kids themselves though."

Another place St. Louis residents may recommend for kids is the Science Center, standing tall off Highway 64. A place where kids can learn, explore, and discover, the Science Center never fails to dazzle all ages with its irresistible attractions showcasing weekly.

"I enjoy seeing their eyes light up and watching them run to something they think is their favorite, such as the water table or the train," Gallery Assistant at the Science Center Nicholas Koltz said.

Wherever the location, there's no doubt of the joy that comes with the kids of St. Louis.

"To me, the best part about working with the kids is to see their expression or change in them when they get to see or touch an animal they've never seen before," Naturalist Instructor Michael Dawson said.

Dawson, along with Ebert, teaches classes daily to various young age

groups. Classes that specialize in wild-life and rainforest animals are family favorites.

"I think it's important to make a change in their lives," Ebert said. "I can't change the world alone, but it's nice when I have a swarm of kids following me."

While the Zoo may be a place of significant change in kids in the St. Louis area, the Science Center has stories its own.

"We offer all kinds of activities to kids, including our discovery room, birthday parties, camp-ins, programs as well as presentations," Koltz said.

Koltz describes his favorite part of working with the kids in the discovery room.

"I definitely enjoy having the opportunity to listen to what kids have to say," he said. "They always have something funny or interesting to say and get a kick out of participating in the activities. We had this one girl, for example, who came in knowing all about bacteria."

We were all small kids at one point, and childhood memories live in everyone. Employees around the St. Louis area speak on how they spent their childhood as well.

"I live in South County, and I can remember coming to the Zoo a lot for holidays and birthdays. I started working here when I was 16 so I'm pretty used to the setting," Ebert said.

While some workers grew to be very fond of their work places, holding some of their greatest memories, other employees in the area shed light to other attractions as well – admitting to spending hours at a time at museums, the Arch, and the magic house.

"I'm not originally from St. Louis, but I definitely would have gone to the City Museum or the Science Center if I had been given the chance to as a kid," Koltz said.

Herbal marijuana K2 becoming common among area students

by Nate Townsend
Reporter

It is no secret that marijuana is the most widely used illicit drug among teenagers. As its use has become more widespread, marijuana has dominated the worries of many parents, teachers, coaches, and counselors.

As a result, drug testing has become more common among parents and school officials. Some high schools have even started randomly drug testing all of their students.

Police enforcement has also tightened up on suburban high school students. Recently, however, there has been a way out of all of this for pot-smokers: The growing production of K2, one brand of many legal substances that mimic the effects of marijuana.

K2, like the others, brands itself as a herbal incense. The words "Not for human consumption" are clearly written on the back of each bag.

Despite what it claims, K2 is manufactured for the purpose of smoking and getting high.

"K2 is just a brand of a number of products in the category of herbal marijuana substitutes," said Dr. Anthony Scalzo, Professor of Toxicology at SLU and medical director of the State Poison Center.

"They contain synthetic compounds that are psychoactive. Some people are using these chemicals for purposes that they were not designed for and making a lot of money off of it."

“Many kids who are drug-tested turn to K2, especially when there are certain things to risk if they fail their drug tests, such as withdraw from school or losing a job.”

Anonymous
CBC Student

Dr. Scalzo has been following cases of K2 use ever since last January when it became mainstream. The substance became especially popular at the Christian Brothers College Preparatory School (CBC) in St. Louis when the school started drug testing their students in 2007.

"Many kids who are drug-tested turn to K2, especially when there are certain things to risk if they fail their drug tests, such as having to withdraw from school or losing a job," K2 user Kevin said. Kevin, a student at CBC, started smoking K2 in 2008.

"Many kids who went or go to CBC smoke K2 because they don't want to run the risk of having to withdraw from school," he said.

The legality of K2 does not make it any safer than marijuana. In fact, the harmful effects reported by K2 users have proven to be more damaging than any side effect of smoking marijuana.

"After smoking K2 I definitely feel a 'high' similar to how I feel after smoking marijuana," Kevin said. "But you have to be very careful with the amount you smoke. I have had one too many bad experiences smoking K2."

Many of these bad experiences include paranoia and extreme agitation. As the medical director of the State Poison Center, Dr. Scalzo has seen numerous accounts of K2 users needing medical assistance.

"The patient heart rates have been high (tachycardia or racing heart beat) even as elevated as 171 to 180 beats per minute," Scalzo said.

"This could be quite harmful in the susceptible person. If someone has a weakened blood vessel or aneurysm this could result in the blood vessel rupturing. Blood pressure can rise even up to 160/110, compared to a normal blood pressure of 110-120/70-80. The patients are paranoid, agitated, and highly anxious. One 15-year-old was hallucinating so badly that he almost jumped out of a five story building, but his friends stopped him."

With K2 legalized, people wonder if drug-testing kids will only lead to more dangerous activity.

"Judging by all of these medical cases, I would rather my son smokes Pot behind my back than something that will send him to the hospital," Steven, a father of two CBC students said.

"Drug testing is putting kids in a more dangerous situation," Kevin said. "I would never smoke K2 if I had the opportunity to smoke marijuana."

On March 9, 2010, St. Charles County put an emergency ordinance in place banning the distribution of K2 and all related substances. As K2 use continues to spread throughout the St. Louis area, it will be interesting to see how city, state, and national law will affect its future.

*Last names are not used to protect anonymity



K2 is a brand of products that is categorized as an herbal marijuana substitute. Although K2 is a legal substance, the harmful effects of K2 have proven to be more damaging than the side effects of smoking marijuana. Some common side effects of smoking K2 consist of abnormal heart rates, paranoia and extreme agitation. K2 substances continue to spread throughout stores in St. Louis.

Medical trip to Ethiopia opens eyes, heart

by Dylan Schultz
Reporter

It's not often that people take a trip out of the state or even out of the country. However, sophomore Jake Lee arrived in Ethiopia on March 20 for his spring break vacation.

This was no ordinary vacation. Lee did not travel with his parents, nor did he go for community service. He spent his time as a medical student, watching surgeries and attending medical clinics to learn about different diseases and health complications.

The trip was supposed to be from Friday, March 19 to Thursday, March 25. Unfortunately due to a 14 hour flight delay, Lee arrived one day late.

He met up with his father's friend who is a neurosurgeon. The hospital in Ethiopia in which Lee worked was founded by a Korean church.

Lee really enjoyed his trip. He aspires to become a doctor for a future career and has gotten an early start.

"I thought it was a great experience," Lee said. "I definitely did things that most kids did not do on spring break and I was really fortunate to be able to witness a lot of things."

Lee saw severe health problems than one would normally see in the United States. He was also able to gain knowledge outside of the the medical field. He learned a little about the country of Ethiopia and the language of the people.

"Apparently Ethiopia and Korea are really good friends as nations," Lee said. "There were some Ethiopians who could speak Korean better than me."

Lee also learned that instead of having a word for "Okay" or an affirmative response, they gasp.

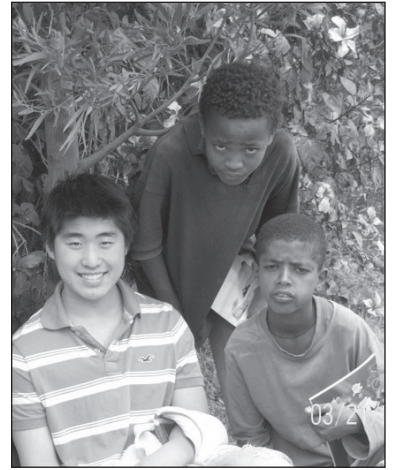
As for future plans for studying the medical field, Lee does have some more extraordinary vacations on the horizon. He is traveling to the Dominican Republic for another experience similar to the one he had in Ethiopia.

In addition to that, he is going to be headed for Belize on a mission trip. Both excursions are this coming summer.

Lee's trip to Ethiopia was a unique and exceptional experience that he would strongly recommend to persons interested in the medical field.

He also would like to acknowledge the goriness of the job. He does not recommend this trip for the faint of heart.

"If you are sure you want to go to the medical field and witness some gory things then yes it would be a great experience," Lee said. "However, if you prefer other subjects of interest, you would be pretty bored." ☹



LEFT: Sophomore Jake Lee observes an operation in an Ethiopian hospital. During his visit, Lee witnessed conditions that doctors would rarely see in developed countries. ABOVE, BOTTOM LEFT: Lee spent time with children in Addis Ababa and was shocked by the importance they placed on things he took for granted—such as food, books, and a camera. BOTTOM RIGHT: The streets of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, struck Lee as dramatically different from those of St. Louis.

Photos courtesy of Jake Lee



A Student's Perspective

Journey affirms medical career aspirations, shifts point of view

by Jake Lee
Reporter

Maybe I'll see a wild elephant. Maybe I'll live in a hut. I didn't really know what to think when my father suggested that I could go to Ethiopia and shadow a doctor who was my dad's friend.

The night before I left, I was able to charge my iPod and laptop and neatly pack my suitcase. Yet I failed to find out more about what Ethiopia was like. Clearly I was unprepared.

I didn't even exactly know where Ethiopia was. I didn't know what Ethiopia had. I didn't even know what I would be doing in Ethiopia.

All I knew was that I would be observing some medical procedures, simply getting one step closer to a future as a doctor.

At that time I did not understand why I wanted to be a doctor. Perhaps it was because I liked to help people. Maybe it was for the attention I would get if I were successful in a surgical procedure.

Salary might have been another temptation. Whatever the reason, my future career was all I revolved around. Ethiopia was planned to be just another automatic revolution.

I was quite surprised when I arrived in Addis Ababa. There were no lions, giraffes, or rhinos that flooded around my plane. Not a single animal or a wild jungle was in sight. In fact, I was in civilization.

I wasn't sure what I'd see in Africa.

With only background knowledge of Tarzan and habitats of wild animals I had seen in the zoo, what else could I expect? However, there were still obvious things missing from this civilization.

There were no asphalt roads or the newest models of cars. I could not locate a McDonalds or Qdoba. Many things were missing that were part of my comfortable lifestyle.

I didn't whine or complain. I just accepted it and thought that people would not be too different without the tangible things I had at home.

How different could a society be without the extra things we indulge ourselves in? Completely.

I first noticed this when my father's friend told me that I would be associated with the kids for the first day. The kids could run, jump, smile, and have fun.

They weren't aliens and it was something that I recognized as "normal". However, when they were called

to lunch, things were definitely not "normal".

Smiles started to grow bigger and all the kids paused. All of the sudden, there was a stampede and all the kids that were saying hi to me left.

The kids were pushing, shoving, screaming all for a meal. All for injera, a daily food in Ethiopia, and a bread roll.

When I was younger, kids always had a packed lunch or were able to get their food from the cafeteria without much of a commotion. Food was accessible. No one had to think about food.

The images of the Ethiopian children became more sculpted and clear to me as I saw them fight to be in the front of the lunch line. There was an expression of excitement in all of the kids' faces.

Some had anger and impatience from not being strong enough to push to the front. Waiting was a problem, or rather, hunger was a problem.

It was a problem that was easily

resolved with a couple bites. It was a problem that could vanish everywhere with some attention to it.

The kids never stopped surprising me. I had brought a camera to show my friends back at home what I had seen.

As soon as I took out the camera to take some pictures, there was a whole crowd of children on top of me.

While trying to prevent myself from becoming a jungle gym, one girl snatched the camera from my hands and took a picture of some kids and me.

I was fascinated by the kids' interest in something so simple. They knew what the camera was, but they were still able to have so much fun posing for pictures and taking them.

It was as if their world changed to something incredibly new.

Yet the girl was the one who introduced me to all the people around us. I thought their world was different with an addition of a camera, but I never thought about how different my world was after experiencing a whole new society.

I didn't do many other things on my trip after hanging out with the kids. However, my biggest experience was yet to come.

I was looking forward to attending the medical clinics and standing side by side a patient in surgery.

I knew that the diseases and problems would be devastating and nothing like the problems in America. It was the one thing I knew to expect, but it was

still the thing that affected me the most on the whole trip.

When I first walked into the clinic, I didn't think there would be things that were too out of the ordinary. In fact, it looked a doctor's office back at home. It was simple with plain walls and a couple chairs and sanitary products.

I was focused and did not let the simple presence of the room shift my feelings that the patients would also have ordinary problems.

I held my breath when the first patient walked in the room with a baby who was wrapped in a blanket. At first I was disappointed, even though I knew it was wrong to not be happy that the patient looked fine.

I was confused when the doctor asked the woman to remove the shawl covering the baby. Silently, she unwrapped the baby to show its back. I let out a gasp, which I tried to cover up.

There was a ball the size of the baby's head on the baby's back. It was a ball of flesh with excess tissue inside. Never had I seen or heard of a problem like this.

The doctor explained to me it was problem caused from the malnutrition of the mother when she had the child, a common problem.

I also noticed that the child had a big head. The doctor called it hydrocephalus, which was caused when the fluid that went to the head could not get out of the head, creating a build up of fluid.

I was speechless. A newborn was ex-

periencing problems that adults would never face later in their lives.

I was more shocked from the doctor's reactions. Expressionlessly, the doctor observed the baby. How could someone not be sad after seeing something so devastating?

Even if one got used to witnessing disturbing problems, surely they would still at least be moved. Yet, the doctor remained expressionless. I looked down in disdain.

Don't get me wrong. I am overjoyed that someone was willing to use his life to help others in third world countries.

It was not necessarily his fault for simply accepting that there were problems. Rather, it is human nature's fault that we are able to become accustomed so easily to everything.

What I saw in the doctor was something I see now in people, blankness and ignorance to the problems surrounding us.

Though these problems may not be literally next to us, they do exist and yet people live their lives as if nothing happens.

I saw this in myself as well. Going to Ethiopia so that colleges would accept me? What a joke.

I realize now why I want to become a doctor. It's so I can give others hope for a cure and to live their lives with one less problem.

Life is short, so why not leave with a good impression? I thought that I'd maybe see an elephant. But I found something more. ☹

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'How to Train Your Dragon' appeals to all ages

by Sam Jacus
Editor

Anyone who likes films done by DreamWorks will marvel at their latest production of "How to Train Your Dragon".

This film combines everything you love about DreamWorks films. The plot is childish but with enough adult oriented content that all ages can and will enjoy the film.

The plot of "How to Train Your Dragon" follows the life of a young Viking, Hiccup, who is seen as an outcast even though his father is the leader of the village.

The village is located on an island and has been for generations.

The surprising part about the island is that it is regularly attacked and terrorized by a herd of dragons.

This herd of dragons destroys the housing and steals livestock as well as tries to kill anyone who stands in their way.

All of this changes however when Hiccup shoots down the nightfury, a black dragon that has killed anyone it has faced in battle.

After finding the nightfury in the forest, he is unable to kill the dragon and forms a friendship with it, which leads to his discovery that dragons are merely misunderstood creatures and



Using the tried-and-true family-friendly plot, 'How to Train Your Dragon' focuses on a young Viking who befriends one of the dragons that have been terrorizing his village.

that fighting them is not needed.

The plot is the childish part of the film, for themes of loyalty, right and wrong and parenting are present

throughout. The themes of the novel play into the adult humor.

For those who doubt the adulthood of the film: don't anymore; the cast is

star-studded with actors ranging from Gerard Butler to Jonah Hill with tons in between.

Although neither Butler nor Hill

is the star of the movie, their roles are prominent as the father and friend of Hiccup, voiced by Jay Baruchel.

If you don't pay attention to the

names of actors or actresses in the movies you watch, the majority of the cast is from "Knocked Up" and a variety of other comedies.

The main actor in the movie is Baruchel and America Ferrera plays his character's love interest.

Although the plot and humor can appeal to all ages, "How to Train Your Dragon" marvelously encompasses what most movies are lacking, 3-D. The effects used in the movie are actually benefitted by 3-D rather than most movies that use the effects in hopes of making more money.

At moments in the film, the effects give viewers the feeling that they really are walking into smoke or ash or that something is about to hit them. For the first time I actually feel that the effects were helpful to the movie.

"How to Train Your Dragon" might not be a movie for a guy's night out, but if you are looking for a movie for a date or girl's night out look no further.

The movie is cute and has a few romantic parts that, although they might not bring tears to your eyes, definitely cause the viewer to feel something inside.

When the next rainy day comes, "How to Train Your Dragon" should definitely be on the top on your list of movies to see, regardless of your age or gender. ♡

A classic film gets modern treatment in 'The Wolfman'

by Marc Ritter
Reporter

Directed by Joe Johnston, "The Wolfman" brings the classic horror film experience back to the cinemas. The film is a remake of the 1941 hit of the same name about a man who turns into a werewolf.

The film starts off with a man returning to England upon learning that his brother has gone missing, via a letter sent by his brother's wife.

After arriving in his hometown of Blackmoor, Lawrence Talbot (Benicio Del Toro) is reunited with his estranged father, Sir John Talbot (Anthony Hopkins).

Lawrence soon learns of his brother's brutal death through the discovery of his mutilated body near town.

Immediately, a funeral is held, where Lawrence meets his brother's wife, Gwen (Emily Blunt). Lawrence vows that he will find her husband's killer and not leave town until he completes his objective.

At first, Lawrence believes the suspect to be an insane serial killer. But after examining his brother's body, he realizes no man could cause such damage on another human being. The gypsies in town claim that a creature that comes from the woods may have been the culprit.

Desperate for answers, Lawrence visits the Gypsies and is directed to an elderly woman. Inside her wagon, Lawrence asks what had happened to his brother.

Immediately after he asks, screams and shouts are heard outside the wagon.

Lawrence goes outside to see what's happening and realizes the gypsy village is being attacked by the mysterious werewolf creature.

Lawrence then runs around helping the gypsies escape and then sees a boy run away into the wilderness. Lawrence runs after him to try and save him from the beast; however, he only gets so far when he encounters the monster himself.

He is then attacked and bitten on the neck and is lucky to survive such a horrific ordeal.

The people in town then begin to shun Lawrence, believing that "those bitten by the beast are cursed."

He experiences visions and nausea, and discovers that his wounds from the previous night have miraculously

disappeared.

Stunned by the speed of his recovery, Lawrence understands now that he has become a werewolf. He goes and tells Ben's wife to leave town for her own safety, and then transforms and goes on a rampage of killings.

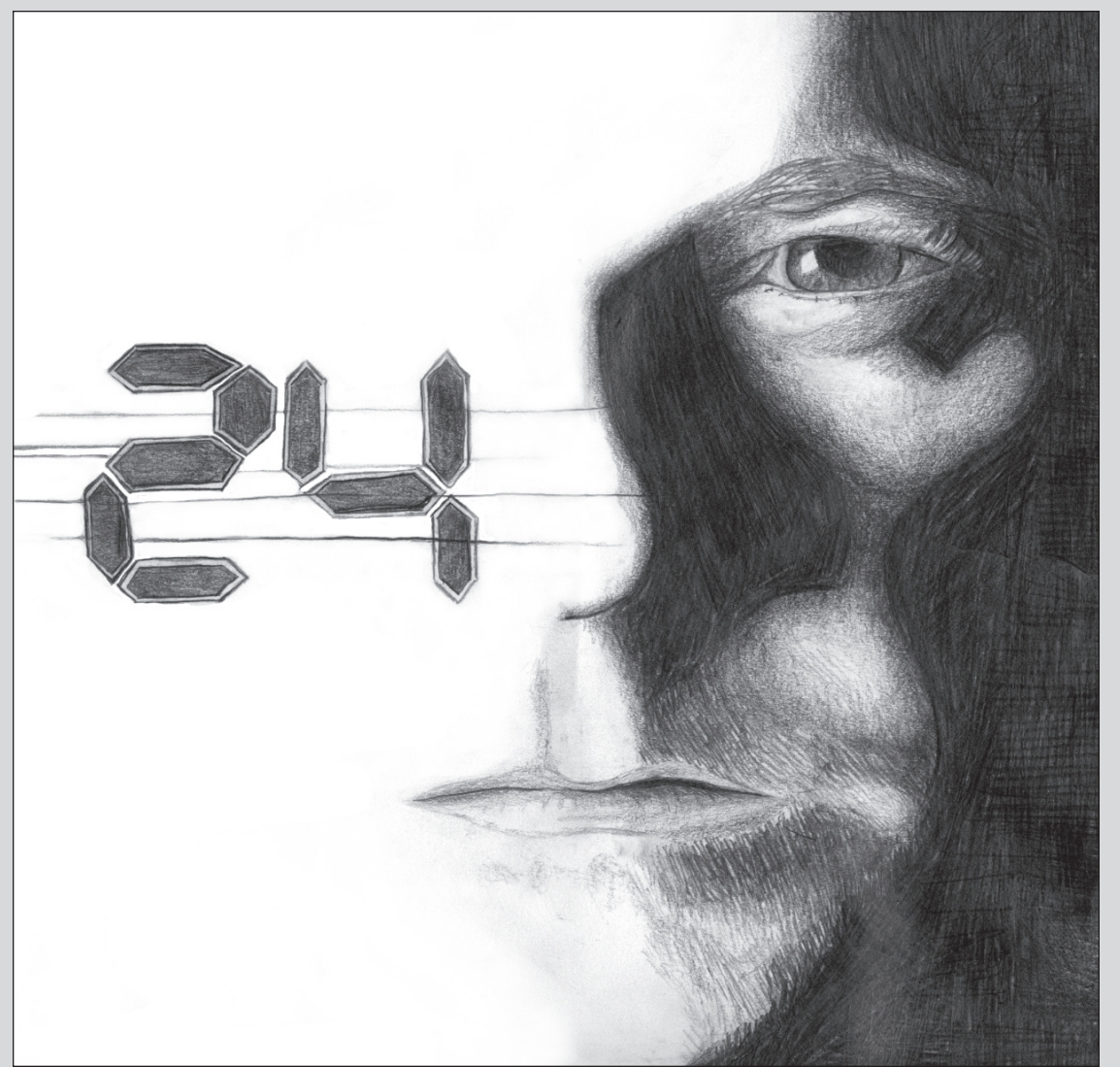
The film is a much gorier version of the classic, incorporating blood, decapitation, and guts in almost every minute. For those who are squeamish, I highly recommend that you do not see this film.

However, if you are the type that loves horror and enjoys watching blood and gore being splattered all over the screen, I say go ahead and see this movie.

The one thing that intrigued me about this film was the soundtrack. When you watch "The Wolfman", you truly feel like you are watching an old horror film because of the eerie music that transports the audience back to eras past.

Overall, the film receives a three out of five for me because it wasn't anything special, but still managed to deliver what it promised. ♡

“When you watch ‘The Wolfman’, you truly feel like you are watching an old horror film because of the eerie music.”



After finishing its eighth season, '24' will come to a close as a TV show, due to lower ratings and high costs, and move directly to the cinemas. The real-time spin that defined '24' as a show will be abandoned for the film in favor of 24 hours in the 2-hour film space.

A student's perspective

Popular show '24' will jump to the silver screen

by Alex Grayson
Reporter

After eight long seasons, the latest of which is coming to a close, the clock will stop for "24". When the show first aired back in 2001, it brought a whole new take on espionage genres. It presented the story in real-time, with a clock frequently popping up on screen showing the time during the events.

It was certainly something completely new and would probably stick around for several seasons until the formula began to wear off.

Now, eight years later, the formula is apparently doing so, mainly due to high production costs and lower ratings than usual. The word of the show canceling came from executive producer and star, Kiefer Sutherland.

"We've done eight years we're very proud of," said Sutherland in an interview on Entertainment Weekly. "It's very sad, and the only thing tempering this from being all-out heartbreak is the fact that we have this sense of accomplishment, and that's the only thing holding people up."

That's a real shame, considering that Sutherland was one of the people who helped create the television show that made him a star. This also leaves most "24" fans disappointed, considering it was one of the hottest shows on television.

"I am very upset because the show is thrilling and exciting," said senior Hiro Horikoshi. "There were so many

great plot twists and memorable characters."

Senior Peter Brody is also disappointed.

"I never really was a fan of the show," Brody said. "But seeing how so many people watched it and now seeing it leave is a real shame."

But since the budget cost nearly tripled from the first season (season one cost \$30 million, do the math), the show has to find a way to break even. And what better way to break even than to make a feature film?

Instead of another season, Jack Bauer and company—depending on who survives this season—will move on directly to the silver screen. The strange thing about this is that it won't be "24" anymore, it will be... "2".

"Watching it on television is one thing," Horikoshi said. "But now seeing it on the big screen is something bigger."

Sutherland is also very excited about bringing it to the silver screen, but I sure hope he knows what he's going into...

"The hour-by-hour, episode-by-episode dynamic that made for such a thrill ride on television tied us down creatively," said Sutherland. "In real-time, our characters can't move around, but in a two-hour representation of a twenty-four hour day, all of a sudden, Jack can get in a plane and fly from South America to Russia to England, and still have time to save Washington."

Right...if you were flying on Superman. The film will likely begin shooting during the summer and prepare for a 2011 release. So fans, keep your eyes on the clock. ♡

Movie picks

- ★ Outstanding
- Worthy effort
- ▼ So-so
- A bomb

New review

		Local critic	Chicago Tribune	Los Angeles Times	Miami Herald	Philadelphia Inquirer	Minneapolis Star Tribune	Seattle Times
Chloe	R	-	●	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
Clash of the Titans	PG 13	-	●	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
Diary of a Wimpy Kid	PG	-	●	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
Green Zone	R	-	▼	■	▼	▼	▼	▼
Hot Tub Time Machine	R	-	■	■	▼	▼	▼	●
How to Train Your Dragon	PG	-	★	■	■	★	■	■
The Last Song	PG	-	▼	●	■	▼	▼	▼
The Runaways	R	-	★	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼

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Myles Aronowitz/Courtesy 20th Century Fox/MCT

In the midst of the date night from hell, Claire (Tina Fey) and Phil (Steve Carell) make a frantic call for help in "Date Night," released last Friday.

Corny plot and good acting provide laughs, memorable lines

by Justin Elliot
Editor

Pretending to be someone else in order to steal a dinner reservation is normally considered a social taboo but never a dangerous choice.

However, "Date Night," directed by Shawn Levy, opening this past Friday follows the boring marriage of a typical suburban couple from New Jersey that simply picks the wrong reservation to steal.

Phil Foster, a tax lawyer played by Steve Carell, in attempt to put some spark into the couple's weekly date night, takes his wife, Claire Foster, a real estate agent played by Tina Fey, for a night in New York City.

The night takes a stark turn when Phil Foster's attempt to get his wife into a hopping new restaurant in the city jeopardizes both of their lives. Phil Foster unknowingly takes the reservation if a couple of connen wanted by the mob, getting the couple into some unwarranted trouble.

A night that is supposed to be filled

with expensive food and romantic conversation is now filled with cross fire, government corruption, sports cars, and pole dances.

As it can already be seen through this short summary the plot is nothing short of corny. However, for a comedy that portrays itself as a pseudo action flick, the corny lines and awkward scenes effectively leave the audience rolling on the floor but surely not on the edge of their chair.

The comedic chemistry between Carell and Fey is more than evident by just watching the bloopers at the end of the films. Their funny voices, impersonations, and lack of social boundaries left me wanting NBC's "The Office" and "30 Rock" to merge into one show so I could see this duo together every week.

For those viewers that have not been enthralled with either of these two actors in the past, you are sure to laugh at them in this new comedy. Not to mention appearances from SNL star Kristen Wiig and celebrities James Franko, Mark Walberg, and Will.i.am

(or sam.i.am as Phil Foster call him) give the movie a comedic dynamic that is sure to make anyone laugh.

An important side note for anyone who is not married and wants to see this movie, there is a lot of emotional commentary on the societal construct of marriage.

Through numerous marital fights and Claire Foster's infatuation with a topless former client, played by Walberg, there is constant tension between the couple. However, the night reminds them that they can't live without each other.

A gooey message, but the laughs are worth sitting through it. But for the adults who are married, I recommend you make this movie your date night for the week.

My advice for this movie – see it. However, don't expect much more than a good laugh and a few memorable lines, don't eat the popcorn too fast to avoid the possibility from choking on kernels while laughing and be sure to stay until the end of the credits to see the bloopers. ☺



Sam Emerson/Courtesy Touchstone Pictures/MCT

Miley Cyrus, with co-star Liam Hemsworth, breaks out of her singing roles in the melodramatic chick flick "The Last Song," released last month.

Acting fails to deliver, yet story line provokes emotion in 'The Last Song'

by Taylor Stone
Senior Arts Editor

Star-Crossed Lovers. A terminal illness. A life-changing summer. Unopened letters. Each of these items is an essential ingredient in the melodramatic soup that is the Nicholas Sparks novel. We've seen it in his popular novels and the resulting film adaptations of "A Walk to Remember," "The Notebook," and the recent film "Dear John." Sparks' latest endeavor, "The Last Song" contains each of these seemingly ho-hum ingredients, but the target audience can still find the ending product digestible.

The story is familiar enough. Rebellious and distant Ronnie (Miley Cyrus) and her younger brother Jonah (Bobby Coleman) are sent to spend the summer at their estranged father's (Greg Kinnear) beach house. He had divorced their mother (Kelly Preston) years ago, sparking Ronnie's mopey behavior.

Ronnie, as the typical troubled teen, has had problems with the law and has abandoned her passion for the piano out of anger for her father's departure. Enter local boy Will (Liam Hemsworth) and some struggling sea turtle eggs to "change" Ronnie and motivate her to turn her life around.

I'm not going to give away the entire plot, but the rest of the movie involves Will's disapproving, wealthy parents (think "The Notebook"), a wayward friend and her emotionally abusive boyfriend, a mysteriously burnt church, and a terminal illness. Oh, and more sea turtles.

Cyrus's transition from cutest "Hannah Montana" to a dramatic "actress" is rocky to say the least. She simply is not convincing as Ronnie, who continually pouts her lips, slouches, and reads Tolstoy's "Anna Karenina." It's difficult

to picture a sparkly Disney starlet as a shoplifting, cursing high-school graduate. As A.O. Scott wrote in his "New York Times" review, Hemsworth is a "star graduate of the Taylor Lautner Academy of Shirtless Emoting." Hemsworth simply adds nothing to the supposedly profound struggles his character experienced. Kinnear's sensitivity as Ronnie's father is far more poignant and convincing, but even his acting chops could not counter the film's melodramatic, bloated tone.

I have to admit, my assessment thus far is harsh. However, I only came to these conclusions after I viewed the film. While watching, my opinion was completely different. I bought it all. I was completely and utterly involved with the story. When Ronnie suffered, I suffered. When Ronnie cried, I (embarrassingly) cried. In fact, I sobbed. Maybe it was the scenic sunsets or those cute sea turtles struggling for survival.

Sparks (and Cyrus) knew completely what type of audience they were attempting to reach: the female youth. Cyrus's fans tend to carry over from her "Hannah Montana" fame and Sparks' work usually gains the attention from female audience attracted to the love stories. The fact is, women relate to Ronnie's struggles to find herself (as cheesy as that sounds). Women recognize the strong bonds within Ronnie's family and her profound relationship with her father. The poor acting, unrealistic plot, and cheesy ending no longer matter. It's the relatable themes that win this audience over.

I stand on the bridge between both worlds. Some may call me a hypocrite for criticizing the movie I was so thoroughly engaged in during the viewing process. However, I choose to believe that I'm able to recognize the film's many faults while still being a major part of the intended audience. "The Last Song" has a pitch-perfect tone in that regard. ☺



Taylor Gold

'Remember Me' relates to viewers, surprise ending leaves impact

by Caroline Greenberg
Reporter

"Remember Me" is an unforgettable story about the power of love, the strength of family, and the importance of living passionately and treasuring every day of one's life.

Tyler (Robert Pattinson), a rebellious New Yorker crying for his father's affection after a family tragedy, is drawn to Ally (Emilie de Ravin), who is rebelling from her father as well. This unlikely pair face their family troubles together although the way they meet threatens to tear them apart as Tyler has kept a few secrets up his sleeve. The pair learns to thrive, and they teach each other new lessons about life.

The trailer may look predictable, but instead both the plot and the direction set it apart from the traditional chick flick. Instead of following the usual glossy New York magazine and fashion route, Tyler and Ally are misguided college kids with very few plans for the future. Having these situations is a change from the predictable stories of young people living in New York.

Tyler, although he is rich, still lives in a crummy apartment on his own trying to show how different he is from his own father. Ally embraces his eccentric ideas and learns to transfer them into stronger ideas.

The chemistry between the two lovers is strong. It is as though they have known each other for much longer than they actually have. The energy bounces between Pattinson and Ravin, creating a believable spark of love.

Although Pattinson is known for being a vampire in the

"Twilight series," this movie proves to his fans and other critics that he can be a real actor and not just a one-act show. He portrays his scruffy, rebellious character in the movie flawlessly.

Tyler's over the top roommate Aidan (Tate Ellington) is one of the most gratingly obnoxious roommates ever invented. Ellington, who adamantly delivers most of his inane remarks at the top of his voice, as if that's the only way, doesn't help matters between the two lovers.

The movie was interesting throughout, but some of the scenes that the directors must have thought were important made the movie begin to lag in the middle. When the end did come, most of the audience seemed to be expecting the regular ending in which they live happily ever after, but instead the ending comes like a jolt.

The astonishing ending helped pull back viewers into the movie, which was beginning to be a bit lackluster. If the surprise ending had not occurred, this movie would not have the same impact.

The ending provides a new understanding to the underlying story. Fate tracks down the pair but never seems to embrace the two, never giving them a chance to really be happy.

This is a dark movie and not always an easy movie to watch. Every time the couple seems on the brink of happiness something extremely sad happens in the next act. It may seem too depressing at first but pulled apart and contemplated afterwards, it shows a deeper meaning about finding one's true self and treasuring every day of one's life. ☺

Top Grossing Weekend Movies

#1 "Date Night" \$27.1 M

#2 "Clash of the Titans" \$26.9 M

#3 "How to Train Your Dragon" \$25.4 M

#4 "Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married Too" \$11 M

#5 "Last Song" \$10 M

#6 "Hot Tub Time Machine" \$5.4M

#7 "Bounty Hunter" \$4.3 M

Students, adults embrace artistic career paths

by **Nina Oberman**
Co-Editor in Chief

While most seniors were busy this year writing college essays and finalizing transcripts to send to four-year academic institutions, a select few were feverishly painting, drawing and finalizing their portfolios to submit to art schools.

The choice to become an artist is not an easy one to make in today's world; it is driven by a deep passion and innate need to express oneself—even if that means sacrificing material comforts.

"I might not make that much money off of my work, but it's something I'm really good at," said senior Saylor Surkamp, who will be attending Webster University's School of Art next year. "I can't just let that opportunity go."

Surkamp considered going to a traditional college, but decided the experience wasn't for her.

"Art is the best way for me to understand myself better, so if I go to art school they will essentially be guiding me through discovering myself," Surkamp said.

Senior Sonja Petermann is still debating whether or not art school will be the right place for her.

"I don't revolve only around art, which is what I think of when I think of art school," Petermann said. "I'm interested in so many other things. But I love art. I love being in that art zone."

Petermann says that the desire to create has been innate in her since a young age.

"My mom was telling me that when I was little, I would wake up, and the first thing I would want to do is draw," Petermann said.

For local artist Terri Shay, art has always been inherent.

"I can't remember a time when I didn't paint," Shay said. "I'm not painting because it equals money; I'm painting because it's what I do. It's like how some people have a certain sitcom they watch every day. For me, it's painting."

Shay has learned to embrace the challenges that come with her career, but thinks that high school students should be aware of these challenges.

"High schoolers should not be afraid to pursue art, but they should be informed," Shay said. "They should be prepared to have a minor or a side note of something that would be a little more stable."

Shay is not only a studio artist. She also has skills in graphic design and is an adjunct Art professor at Saint Louis University, where she teaches color theory. She is currently looking into web design as she learns more about recent software, and is even obtaining her Yoga certification. And on top of all of this, she is a single mother.

"It is a challenge to juggle a family and an intense career path," Shay said. "You have to be able to multi task and you have to have an entrepreneurial spirit. But it doesn't make me unhappy. Sometimes I get frustrated, but it's not a big frustration."

As far as vacations go, Shay said she could afford to take as many as she wanted to—by herself. She often chooses locations where she and her two children could stay with a friend or family member.

"I think I've learned to live with less as far as material things go," Shay said. "But I would rather be doing this than be bored or not stimulated. Art is very enjoyable. And I'm not exactly rich at this point, so that's what keeps me afloat."

Shay especially appreciates the universal manner in which art impacts humans.

"When I see people look at art or get excited about art, I see that they are learning something, and that is so fulfilling," Shay said. "The world would be so boring without art. It brings people together. It's about more than just the artist."

CHS art teacher Christine Vodicka also values the communal aspects of art.

"I get to come to work every day and do what I love to do," Vodicka said. "I get to share things with the students that I know a lot about, and I get to see students get interested and excited about things that they wouldn't be exposed to otherwise."

Vodicka opted for a more stable career as a full-time art teacher, but had to make certain compromises along the way. For example, she cannot commit to gallery representation because she does not always have the time to complete work in her studio after the school day. She still enters into juried competitions, however, and still shows at invitations.

For both Shay and Vodicka, art has changed the way they view the world.

"I look at the street or the sidewalk or whatever is around me, and certain colors and textures begin to pop out," said Vodicka, whose main artistic interest is the assemblage of objects. "I'm just interested in how all of the stuff around us can be interrelated and how it can be completely different when you put it next to another thing."

Shay said her work tends to represent different periods of her life: right now, she is learning to greatly appreciate the nature of food as she works toward her Yoga certification. Food, therefore, is inspiring many of her paintings.

In general, Shay says that she is drawn to organic things, and that her sense of humor leads her to focus on the "simplistic, innocent and goofy" aspects of life. Despite the difficulties in the field of art, Shay said she would not switch her career for a more luxurious lifestyle.

"You can't really fight who you are," Shay said. ☺



Local artist Terri Shay's paintings demonstrate her whimsical personality. Shay has learned to embrace the versatility that a career in art demands. Courtesy of Terri Shay

Student explores obsession with many television miniseries



Amazon.com

Top Miniseries
Compiled By **lmbd.com**

1. "Band of Brothers" (2001)
2. "The Godfather: A Novel for Television" (1975)
3. "I, Claudius" (1976)
4. "Das Boot" (1985)
5. "Pride and Prejudice" (1995)

I have a secret. I am addicted to "Masterpiece Classic" television miniseries and BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) miniseries.

I have spent many hours sorting through the mid-county library catalogue in an attempt to uncover a series from years past. I have been awake during the wee hours of morning trying to finish a six-hour series in order to complete it in one sitting. I have watched them on YouTube, compared different versions of the same tale, and have familiarized myself with the popular actors.

I am not ashamed. To prove my pride in this hobby, I am compiled a list of some of my favorite miniseries. I think I own most of these, so the reader can feel free to inquire about borrowing any of these treasures.

1. Jane Eyre (2006) – This Masterpiece TV adaptation of Charlotte Brontë's "Jane Eyre" is spot on. It's comprised of 4 episodes and runs for about 4 hours. For those who don't know the story, it is about a woman who is cast out by her awful aunt and sent to an orphanage. She eventually travels to Thornfield Hall to become a governess for the ward of the mysterious Mr. Rochester. Jane comes to realize that Mr. Rochester isn't the only element of her new life that is mysterious, as shadows and eerie laughter haunt the halls. Ruth Wilson (Jane) and Mr. Rochester (Toby Stephens) have perfect chemistry in this series. Wilson is wonderful as the plain, yet passionate Jane and Stephens captures Rochester's sorrow. Truly, the best part of the series is the interaction between the two main actors. The plot strictly follows Brontë's original work but the actors add their own passion to the dialogue.

2. North and South (2004) – This miniseries is by BBC and is composed of 4 episodes. It's based on the novel of the same title written by Elizabeth Gaskell. The plot follows Margaret Hale, a middle-class southerner of England who is uprooted

by her father to the northern, industrial town of Milton. She has trouble adjusting to her new, harsh surroundings as she hears tales of union members and mill owners struggling for power. She clashes with Mr. Thornton, a pupil of her father's and a mill owner. It stars Daniela Denby-Ashe and the lovely Richard Armitage (you might know him from Robin Hood). Let me warn you now: this story is extremely depressing until the very end. Look for the wondrous 'train' scene- you'll know what I mean.

3. Pride and Prejudice (1995) – I've already discussed this BBC miniseries in my February column, so I'm not going to elaborate about the perfection of this 6-hour masterpiece. I could ramble on for several paragraphs praising the actors, the devotion to the original text, the costumes, etc. In short, I'll leave the reader with one name – Colin Firth.

4. Emma (2009) – I am IN LOVE with the latest adaptation of Jane Austen's "Emma," and I surely think it is the most successful of the million adaptations already created. Director Jim O'Hanlon showcases a unique take on the classic tale, opening with a sequence that shares the childhoods of the main characters. O'Hanlon, therefore, successfully allows the character's stories to neatly intertwine. The film focuses on both wit and mayhem as well as the class distinctions and social boundaries. Gorgeous costumes, scenery, and cinematography are coupled with a great cast including Romola Garai as Emma, Michael Gambon as the comically protective Mr. Woodhouse, and Johnny Lee Miller as Mr. Knightley.

There are many more films where these came from that I have yet to see. The critically acclaimed HBO series "John Adams" starring Paul Giamatti is certainly on my list (though it's not made by BBC or Masterpiece). As always, I recommend that the reader discover the novels the series are based on before viewing. ☺



Taylor Stone

Hemingway novella is endearing, meaningful

by **Philip Zhang**
Reporter

"For his powerful, style-forming mastery of the art of modern narration, as most recently evinced in "The Old Man and the Sea," declared the Swedish Academy on Oct. 28, 1954 as it presented The Nobel Prize for Literature to the 55-year-old American writer, Ernest Hemingway.

We all, at one point or another, have heard of the classic novel "The Old Man and the Sea." In high school, it is almost impossible not to encounter allusions to this enduring work.

The book is about the journey of an old, Cuban fisherman, Santiago, who goes out in his small boat after 84 days without hooking a fish. He goes far out and hooks a gigantic 18-foot long marlin.

Through his simple and descriptive prose, Hemingway presents a vivid portrayal of the struggle between Santiago and the fish, which significantly changes Santiago's perspective in life.

Sometimes, the story's overwhelming simplicity makes it seem like a completely different world from the one that we live in.

Lying inside of his shack made of

budshields of royal palm, Santiago "no longer dreamed of storms, nor of women, nor of great occurrences, nor of great fish, nor fights, nor contests of strength, nor of his wife."

In addition, Hemingway's own experience of living in Key West, a small seaport similar to the one that Santiago lives in, adds another layer of realism to the lifestyle of the characters in "The Old Man and the Sea."

The book is also full of potential connections to the problems that our society faces today. The interaction between man and nature is so close that their proper boundary seems blurred.

"But he was such a calm, strong fish and he seemed so fearless and so confident," said Santiago, describing the fish with details that also fit his own characteristics.

I couldn't help but to tie the theme of man versus nature in the novel with the environmental challenges that the world faces today. For example, some of us are still hostile toward the claim that human activities are causing one of the most damaging problems – global warming.

The disposition of those who deny the negative consequences of their actions and thereby fight against the Earth is a mirror image of the belligerent attitude of the old fisherman, who at first sees the fish as his biggest enemy.

As the battle on the sea continued, Santiago gradually began to see his own qualities in the fish: perseverance and fearlessness. This common ground not only obliterated all hostility but also created a bond between man and na-

"The disposition of those who deny the negative consequences of their actions and thereby fight against the Earth is a mirror image of the belligerent attitude of the old fisherman, who at first sees the fish as his biggest enemy."

ture. Similarly, the search of such common ground is exactly what we need in solving environmental problems like global warming.

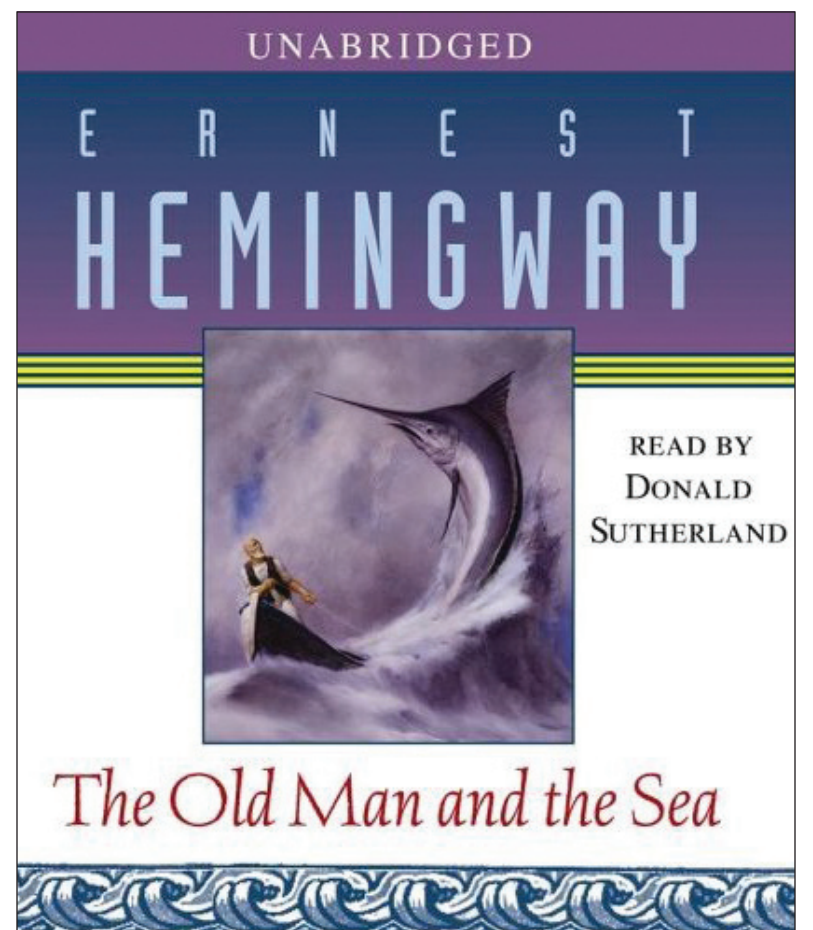
As I read the 120 paged, half an inch-thick book for the first time, I discovered a sense within myself of rereading something that I had read before.

I realized that in the past, we have referenced "The Old Man and the Sea" so frequently that common themes like loneliness and perseverance have become naturally associated with the work.

Ultimately, what makes this book's universal resonance possible is its unique ability to make connections with contemporary issues, like the environmental challenges that we currently face.

The synergy of Hemingway's meticulous literary techniques and valuable themes gives "The Old Man and the Sea" an abundance of meanings. One of Italo Calvino's definitions of classic states that "a classic is a book which has never exhausted all it has to say to its readers."

Indeed, no other works better fits this definition than Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea." ☺



Amazon.com

"The Old Man and the Sea" written by Ernest Hemingway was published in 1952. It was the final work published during Hemingway's lifetime and received the Pulitzer Prize. It centers on a Cuban fisherman struggling with a Marlin.

Pro/Con: Liberal arts education

A focused vocational interest is a practical and understandable choice for college students

by **Mary Blackwell**
Senior Features Editor

Grouped with critical and apprehensive parents joined by their high achieving high school aged scholars on a college campus tour, a rumbling went through the crowd as our guide announced her major: Classical Studies with a minor in Jewish History.

"What kind of job do you find with that?" whispered the concerned parent, and only statistics of job retention following graduation could assuage her nervous state.

It was experiences like these, my struggle in finding a summer job, the bombardment of information about the failing economy and threats from my parents concerning my college costs that led me to pursue a practical undergraduate education.

With over 90 percent of Clayton students attending college after graduation, almost all of us face a huge decision senior year. We choose our home for the next four years based not only on size, location, and reputation, but we also consider the types of studies offered.

This is why prospective journalists consider University of Missouri at Columbia and prospective doctors look at Johns Hopkins University. Though we may change our minds, switch majors, and discover new interests, when choosing a school we must consider potential course of study.

For most, education is not solely about the pursuit of academics; the end goal is a career derived from our studies. This is why every year some students choose to attend pharmacy school, schools of education and engineering programs, and other practical, vocational focused courses of study.

Yet others head off to liberal arts schools with hopes to pursue majors in the fields of History or English, with less practical degrees in African American Studies or Fine Arts—and herein lies the contrast, between the abstract and the concrete.

As a nursing student in a university with a liberal arts school, I believe that academic pursuit and exploration doesn't end with the decision to pursue a job-oriented undergraduate education.

I would never sacrifice academic freedom for practical purposes, and I don't have to.

There exists a confident few who are sure of their desired career and enter six year medical or five year education programs, or other such fast paced and focused courses. On such an accelerated track, these student have little to no time for outside, optional classes.

Nonetheless, their choice should not be criticized because their path leads them to their end goal quicker, and for a focused student, this leads to earlier success in their field. They are willing to sacrifice a "normal" college experience in order to reach their academic goals. While more relaxed or directionless students may relish their freedom in exploration, the driven student savors the advantage of achieving before the rest of their peers.

In most schools, with exceptions such as pharmacy school, one can take courses of interest outside of one's required courses. Few schools limit students with a variety of interests. In fact taking a variety of courses, especially outside of the student's area of expertise is often encouraged.

As Mark Twain so eloquently put it, "I have never let my schooling interfere with my education." Academic pursuits take place within specific courses of study as well as outside of the classroom. Some of the most personally meaningful literary works I've encountered were read outside of the classroom. Lectures, clubs, friends, plays—all provide for outside of the classroom academic exploration, and all are available regardless of major.

There's no arguing that the University or College one attends largely affects an individual's academic interests, however one's major defines, but does not limit, one's academic passions.

With few exceptions, higher education has been historically and currently enjoyed by the upper class, those with the financial means. In an affluent school district like Clayton, we take for granted the fact that our education is a privilege, and that few are able to experiment in their undergraduate studies, with no career goals in mind.

Practical undergraduate training is imperative for the financially challenged individual, and outside of Clayton I'm sure there are fewer high school graduates pursuing an Art History or Studio Arts major and more who must be guaranteed job opportunities after college graduation.

In addition to the choice to enter the work force after undergraduate graduation, there are far more scholarships devoted to luring high achieving students into practical undergraduate majors.

One must be at the financial liberty to pursue a more impractical degree and although the two types of education are equally valuable, the surety of a career path is more valuable to the financially unstable.

Choosing a vocational undergrad degree is not the end of the academic pursuit but a practical choice for the decisive and academically focused. ☺

Students should expand their horizons and experience a well-rounded education

by **Schulyer Longmore**
Editor

Life is a timeline with birth and death endpoints and clear stages along the way that represent significant events. Sorry to be cynical, but the events are not distinctly separate bullet points. They're arrows that prepare and point you towards the next challenge in life, and then the next, and the one that follows. Every arrow points towards the inevitable finish. Like the board game Life implies, these events are a sequence where high school prepares you for college, college for your job, your job for a stable family life (i.e. wife, kids, a house, and a mortgage), and onwards to death. If you are content with seeing your life out in pre-existing stages, each created by society to prepare you docilely for the next event, then stop reading.

I am closer to 19 than 18, and only two months shy of the next "stage." I can smell college just over the edge of summer and I'm anxious. Just the other day I began filling out the acceptable use policy, alcohol education requirement, and the ominous housing preference form for my first semester of college. The list of forms goes on, but they all pose the same question: "Are you ready for real life?"

Real life, in my opinion, is defined by the reality of consequences for the first time. American law doesn't force anyone into college, but the law declares secondary education mandatory until a student is 16 years of age. Our government basically says it's up to you after high school. College, as an institution, does not exist to nanny its students, but rather to offer outlets of education and preparation. With this philosophy of further education as optional – but encouraged by society and the government – it is implied that students are to enter college at their own free will and take advantage of all educational opportunities with their own discretion.

College is about learning as much diverse information as you can and encountering life at its real pace. That is why a liberal arts education is the most beneficial to all college bound members of society. Students of liberal arts education programs have the diversity of knowledge that career focused programs don't offer. For example, student A and student B attend college with the intention of becoming doctors. Student A enters a pre-med program that covers the requirements, but doesn't waste time on non-medical related courses. Student B majors in South-American history while taking chemistry, biology, physiology, anatomy, and psychology – requirements that compose the pre-med major.

Student A does well and enters medical school, where his or her pre-med education serves the purpose of earning a medical degree. Student B enters the same medical school, with memories and experiences from what they learned while studying for their "useless" major. They both have long careers in medicine, but student A finds they don't know much outside of blood and guts. Society holds student A up to the white-collar status that they've earned after hundreds of thousands of dollars and ten years of education, but student A knows no more about art, literature, and history than an assembly line worker, who has been earning money instead of spending it on education for 10 years more than the doctor. Student B took advantage of his or her expensive education. They spent time studying in Buenos Aires as part of an abroad program for history majors, they traveled Europe to look at art as an off-shoot interest they developed after seeing European missionary artwork in textbooks and they subscribe to multiple newspapers so they can monitor the world they grew to love after seeing different cultures. They both help society as doctors, but student B's life stretches far past the confines of medicine, where as student A is restricted by his or her limited knowledge of the world around them.

Further education is full to the brim with experiences and knowledge that will not be offered again for the rest of your life. If you enter college with the intention of gaining experience so you can do your job as effectively as possible, you are wasting at least four years. They will show you exactly what you need to do on the first day of work, making the last four years an ample amount of irrelevant but related background information. This is not to say that studying science is not crucial to medicine, studying law is unimportant to a career in government, and studying economics is a waste for business, but without diversity of knowledge every college student is missing out on the purpose of college. Every human, regardless of career, lives a life outside of his or her job. The world is built on multiple kinds of understandings such that knowledge of culture and the world can connect you with people that your career would never bring you into contact with. Diverse educational interests can only make a person more interesting.

Liberal arts colleges and universities are a privilege. The majority of young Americans don't have the financial freedom to study what interests them while training for a career, but those that do are, in a sense, responsible to take advantage of all the learning that surrounds them. They are responsible for enriching their minds and assisting our society with its knowledge threshold. As elitist as that sounds, it is reality. If the opportunity to vary your education presents itself, then take advantage. One should always enjoy what they do for a living, but they should not limit their focus in life so much that they miss the beautiful things. Don't restrict your view of life by focusing your education on serving your career; you never know where you might find a new passion if you don't look. ☺

Life near Mexican border cultivates acceptance

My first home was a two-story white stucco house three blocks from the Pacific Ocean. In my middle-class San Diego subdivision, bougainvillea trellises accented most houses, pine trees obscured the horizon and cool breezes swept over the hot macadam of the streets. My mother invited friends to sit on our porch and drink tea—sometimes the neighbors, who took a break from gardening or grocery shopping to nurse a cup of rooibos, but just as often she invited families of fairly recent Mexican immigrants from a neighborhood about ten miles south of mine.

There was Marta, who made the best flan north of the border; she and her husband, Enrique, struggled to care for their two autistic sons, Brent and Sean. Magda and Raul, another couple, had a young daughter, Aidiana, who spun the heads of my Barbie dolls curiously until they sat crooked on the long plastic necks. We never talked about our friends' legal status, but I knew there was an issue. Enrique had been deported once after a raid at the restaurant where he worked; it took him nearly a month to make his way back.

When my mother wasn't discussing Magda's night classes or tempting Enrique's sons with oatmeal cookies, my family found time to travel in Mexico. My favorite spot was a resort in Puerto Nuevo, about an hour south of the border. As we

drove back one sweltering afternoon, we faced a long line of cars waiting to cross the border into the U.S. Rather than sit in line, we decided to explore the Mexican border city of Tijuana.

Tijuana shocked me. While Puerto Nuevo was peopled with tourists who lazily trailed their fingers through the water of the green-tiled swimming pools, in Tijuana girls no older than six or seven—my age—darted barefoot through the streets, carrying boxes of Chiclets around their necks. A man with stumps where legs should have been crawled next to a dog whose back was littered with oozing sores. A pair of dead baby birds, mouths still open, lay rotting at the bottom of a telephone pole.

I stopped to look at a rack of bracelets labeled "\$15" carried by an elderly woman only a little taller than I. When she looked up, I could see pink gums that stretched across her toothless mouth. Opening my purse to evaluate my remaining birthday money, I decided that \$15 was too much to spend

on a bracelet and turned away politely. To my surprise, the woman grasped my arm and told me, "Diez." I considered the offer but still shook my head. When she uttered "siete," I finally exchanged seven of my crumpled one-dollar bills for the bracelet.

As I fingered my new treasure—silver-colored metal inlaid with a delicate teal design—I asked my mother why the woman had so quickly reduced her price. In my years of buying chocolate at Long's drugstore, no one had ever rushed to discount the price on a candy bar when I appeared hesitant about buying. "She's trying to feed her family," my mother answered, patting my shoulder. "That's all."

Still clutching my bracelet, I pondered another idea. Magda and Raul had emigrated from their home near Mexico City because they could not feed themselves. Aidiana was a U.S. citizen, since she had been born in San Diego, but if she hadn't been, would she be selling Chiclets? I wanted to go back and empty my purse into the woman's chipped money jar, but we had already wandered two blocks down the crowded street. We stopped

in a nearby restaurant to nibble corn tortillas and beans. My brother and I slurped sodas, an unusual privilege granted only because our mother feared unnamed diseases in the water. Later, as we navigated the border crossing, a man in uniform poked around the interior of our car to make sure we weren't hiding anything—or anyone. I thought of Enrique.

After returning home, I better understood why our friends risked so much to come to the United States. I've sat in Magda's lap, attended Aidiana's First Communion, entertained Enrique's sons as he drank tea on our porch, and I know that the U.S. is a richer place because they are here. My first-hand experience has shown me that the biggest difference between "us" and "them" is that we were born on different sides of an arbitrary border.

When people discuss the U.S. stance on immigration, I think of our friends. They came so that Aidiana could go to school and so that Enrique's sons could get the care they needed. Some may not be legal U.S. citizens, but they're as valuable as the 300 million people who live legally in the U.S. People such as Magda and Raul and Marta and Enrique are often alienated in the U.S., and I aspire to share my goals of welcoming diversity and fighting poverty so that, regardless of borders, everyone is given a chance. ☺

UP IN THE AIR



MEREDITH REDICK



Playing the college game

Too students choose colleges because of prestige rather than personal fit.

MIT. Stanford. Princeton. Harvard. Yale. The names of these educational institutions are all too familiar to many Clayton students.

From the very beginning of freshman year, many students work towards lofty college goal and experience the stress of trying to fit the profile of the most prestigious universities' students.

Clayton students seem to want to be admitted to these schools predominately for their names. Prestige, respect garnered by reputation, has an unprecedented allure for the college-minded student.

Ivys and other well-respected universities expect students to spend every waking hour (which is a lot, considering how little work-laden students seem to sleep) doing something academic or extra-curricular. So even without researching or visiting a high-profile school, many students feel inadequate if they don't see themselves as a shoe-in for admittance.

Conversely, a student who aspires to attend a college most of his peers have

never heard of will likely find himself lengthily and unnecessarily justifying his choice.

But perhaps it is this student—the one who has researched, visited, and disregarded the opinions of his peers—who is going about the college admittance process most successfully. After all, the individual student is the one who will spend the next four years living and learning at the college he chooses.

Of course, in order to make such decisions, a student must first be admitted. As the college counselors often say, "When it's all said and done, you want to have choices!" The most frustrating part of finding a college is probably the fact that it is the colleges have the power to strike themselves from a student's list with a single letter. So even if a student has done his research, visited the campus, written the most heart-felt essay ever and absolutely fallen in love with a school regardless of its name, he can't count on going to the college of his dreams.

And that, more than anything else

in the admissions process, is really unfortunate.

But what many students don't seem to consider is that maybe the college knows best. The college application process is a lot like the teacher class recommendation process that Clayton students go through every year to choose their classes.

Every college's admissions office uses the information provided to them by the student and the student's school to determine whether that student would do well at that academic institution.

Of course, as any brave but unlucky teenage boy will tell you, rejection hurts. Rejection is going to hurt no matter how reachy a school was, how little you really wanted to go there, and it's going to hurt the most if you thought it was a perfect fit for you.

Even if you disagree with a college's decision (which is probably inevitable), you have to move past the rejection.

Complaints of "I didn't get in anywhere" are in all likelihood untrue—Clayton students go to college more than 95 percent of the time. If rejected by what you thought was THE college, then you absolutely have to reconsider where you're going to spend the next four years of your life.

If a college didn't want you because you couldn't maintain a schedule almost requiring students to clone themselves to fulfill every obligation, then perhaps you don't want that school anyway.

And even if you did, try to remember that not getting in does not make you inadequate and going somewhere else is not going to decrease the overall quality of the rest of your life substantially.

In order to stay sane while simultaneously thinking about college, do your best, fill out the application slowly, cut your losses as they come, and remember to enjoy your fleeting high school experience.

“From the very beginning of freshman year, many students work towards lofty college goal and experience the stress of trying to fit the profile of the most prestigious universities' students.”



Kara Kratcha

Grandparents enrich family's life in many ways

In the fast pace of our present society, sometimes the relationships that matter the most fade away, having not been fully taken advantage of. Regrettably, this situation oftentimes can describe the relationship between many grandchildren and their grandparents.

I have been fortunate to have known my grandparents to the extent I have. They have become some of my dearest friends, and they have always been there for me to turn to. My Grandpa Shumway lived with my family for six years.

I will always remember this special time that I was able to spend with him—the trips, the ROOK and UNO games, the conversations, his witty humor, and the most importantly, the friendship that developed between us.

Although he is more than 70 years older than I, this has not separated us. He was someone whom I could always talk to, and someone whose company I always enjoyed.

He told me about his life and the decisions he had made. My grandpa taught me how to confront challenges in my life, and the perspective that one should take.

My grandpa has been blind for over 65 years (He was blinded when he was 22, six weeks after landing on D-Day), yet he tells me it was one of his greatest blessings. He tells me that because of his blindness, he has only been able to judge others by their works and actual character, instead of their outward appearance.

This shows me that I can overcome

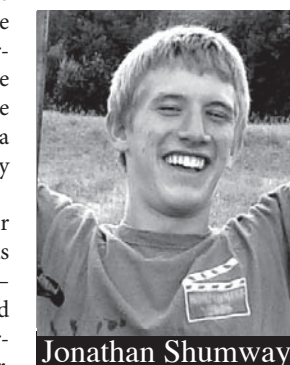
any obstacle when I have the right attitude. He is a true example in my life, one of my heroes, and I hope one day I can be like.

As grandparents can be great friends, they can also be our links to the past and our future. I feel that grandparents have added wisdom, as they have already experienced many decades of life. They lived through the booming years of America, the Depression, and the many phases that America and the world has undergone.

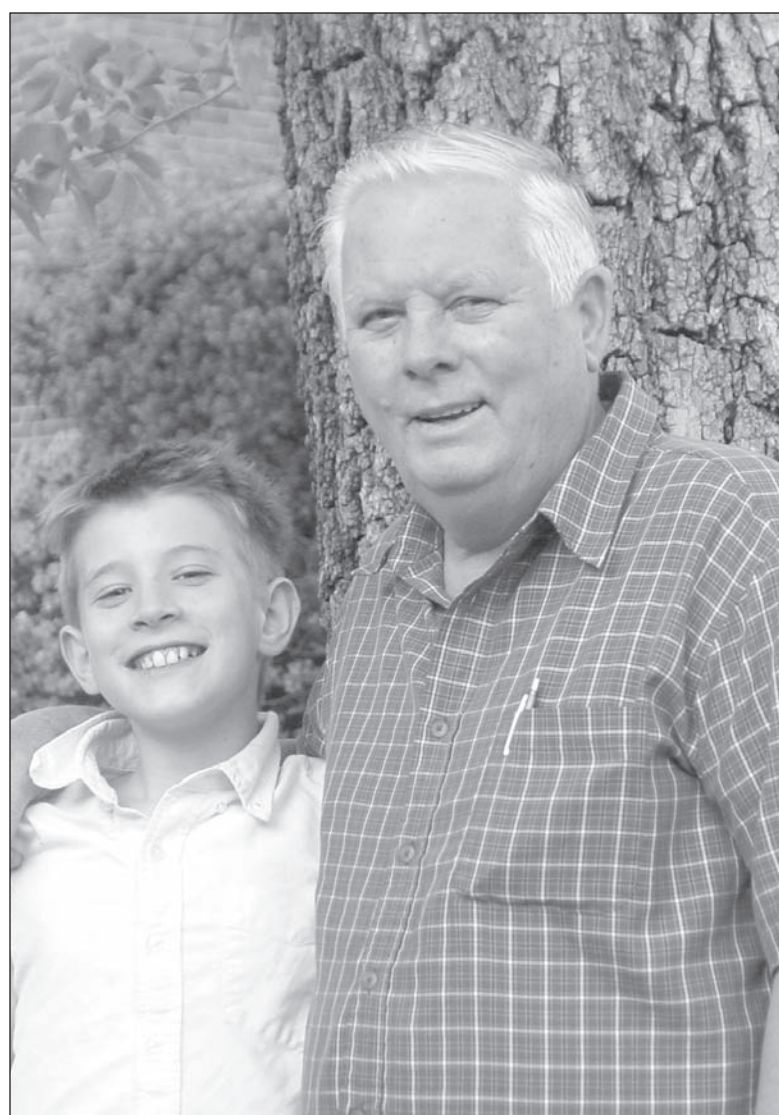
I remember one story that my Grandpa Myres once told me, of how his mother got a pool table cover out of someone's trash, and made a jacket for him out of it. He still has the jacket to this day to remind him of the simple things that his mother did for him out of love.

Although I have often heard about the hard times that America has faced such as the Great Depression, it is hard to completely comprehend these periods without talking to people who actually lived during that time.

My Grandma Myres has often told me of my ancestors and the struggles that they went through as the settled the West and made a new life for themselves. With the stories that she tells me, it allows me to better understand the background of my family, even though many of the individuals that are told of, lived several generations ago. By learning about my family's past and their account of history, I feel that I am



Jonathan Shumway



A young Jonathan Shumway hugs his Grandpa Myres, his maternal grandfather who has had a big impact on his life.

better prepared for future. I can learn from their mistakes, but also their also their successes in life. Understanding my family history can allow me to gain knowledge about myself and the road that I should take in life.

Our grandparents can help us in this way, as they can tell us about our past, and our family's stories.

By coming closer to our grandparents, it brings generations together,

merging them, so memories and ideas can be passed on, not forgotten.

The extent of the importance of grandparents in our lives will perhaps never completely be known, but they can have a profound influence on our lives.

Grandparents truly are a great source for us in our lives, for the examples they lead, and the wisdom they can give to us.

Sugar addict nation?

America's addiction to sweets is taking its toll on citizens' health.

I love sugar. With Easter just passing and holidays happening quite frequently, I never really notice how much sugar I am actually consuming. I eat lots of chocolate for Valentine's Day, Peeps for Easter and every different type of candy for Halloween.

In the U.S. food alone is a problem, but do we ever stop to think about how much sugar is actually in what we are eating?

In 1999, Americans consumed an average of about 158 pounds of sugar per year, which was an all time high. If this number doesn't shock you enough, think about how many years ago that was and how many other forms of sweeteners, such as high fructose corn syrup have been added to our food supply. Each person in the U.S. alone on average consumes two to three pounds of sugar a week. It is in virtually everything that we eat. So is there a way to limit the amount of sugar that we consume?

Always watching what we eat can be very healthy, and doing this could limit the amount of sugar that we consume. However since we are constantly being bombarded with sugar, it's hard to stop eating it. But it's not easy for a sugar addict.

When I went to New York, the number one place to go on my list (besides shopping of course) was the M&M Factory. Walking in there for the first time in my life was overwhelming. This was mainly because there were so many people there, but also the fact that there were M&M's everywhere.

Just seeing tubes of little colored candies made me realize how obsessed

America is with sugar. If there is a place as big as this factory with M&M's, there has to be hundreds of other places creating every other type of candy there is out there.

Not only are there places to be visited that obsess over sugar, but there are T.V. shows as well. Some of these shows take the viewer through the process of how every type of candy is made. Does this not show how much of our lives revolve around consuming sugar?

I will admit I am not the healthiest eater in the world, but I obsess over exercising to make up for that.

One thing that I think should be taken into consideration is the idea that some people probably don't eat healthy because of the way that they are brought up.

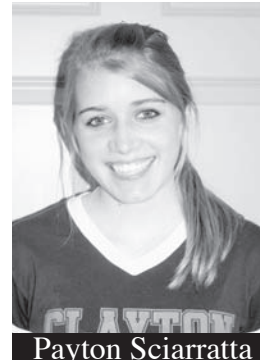
If my parents were to eat all fast food, all the time then I probably would too.

This would cause a chain reaction and everyone in my entire family would probably be overweight. Also, because of the increase in sugar the rate of children becoming obese is doubling.

Though this is not the only cause of the increase in obesity, it still has a major effect on children today.

I think that the sugar consumption is way out of control and should be recognized. At the rate that it is increasing, by 2030 will we all be obese? This may not seem likely, but could it be, by any chance probable?

We should take into consideration what we are consuming, and how should we go about preventing the number of pounds of sugar consumed per year to increase.



Payton Sciaratta

Reinventing Spanish class

A trip out of the country gives insight to foreign language instruction.

The Galápagos Islands are not only home to Giant Tortoises, a native population, and fantastic marine life, but also to the Spanish language. It is here, at dinner in Puerto Ayora, Isla Santa Cruz, that I realized everything wrong with the way foreign language is taught.

I was not only immersed in Spanish, but I was surrounded by a busy environment from which to pull ideas, questions, and answers. A man walked in and his friend greeted him with a few words I could neither hear nor understand.

This made me wonder so I asked my guide, Fabricio, "How do you say, 'what's up man?' in a bunch of ways in Spanish?"

A few minutes later, I had a list of a dozen different ways, typical responses, and cultural notes such as what countries use which greetings.

It then dawned on me that that was an infinitely more effective way to learn Spanish than sitting in a classroom, memorizing a list of vocabulary, and cramming the night before a test to prove what you have managed to retain in the previous 12 hours.

My personal belief, and perhaps proposal, for the method of teaching foreign languages at Clayton High School is that teachers and small classes of students visit local places in downtown Clayton, cycling through many different shops and restaurants.

During the travel unit, for instance, we could visit a hotel and go through a scenario of checking into the rooms, learn vocabulary related to travel, and other words, verbs, or verb tenses that would be needed.

While sitting in a classroom and looking at a textbook with a drawing of a hotel lobby, it's not common to think, "How would I ask the receptionist what floor room 230 is on?" But presented in the real situation, the question will arise in students and they'll be equipped with more useful and complete knowledge.

While in Ecuador and the Galápagos, for example, I realized that I had never been taught essential transition words like "besides," "throughout," "therefore," and so on.

I had been told maybe one or two times, but it had not been integrated into my common speech and thus I was

not able to remember it.

The need to say phrases that contained words like these only came up when I was presented with a real situation, but I couldn't express what I had wanted to say because it hadn't been taught in the classroom - the teachers had focused on broad units, not conversational vocabulary or slang.

While in places like local coffee shops or Jennifer's Pharmacy and Soda Shoppe, students could explore a world of boundless questions. There is enough in Jennifer's to keep a curious student asking how-do-I-say questions all day. They also have fantastic milkshakes.

One could argue that the method of teaching I propose would be too disorganized and there would be students who wouldn't pay attention. However, the option would only be available for those interested in the new intuitive style of class and those who the teacher thinks are along for the joyride could be docked points or kicked out.

Why the need for a new method of teaching? There is, first, the fact that it would be a more natural and complete way to learn. I have also, along with increasingly less and less sleep, found the environment of all my Spanish classes since middle school to be very sleepy.

That is not to say that they have been boring, but the warmth combined

with the feng shui of the rooms makes it difficult to resist sleep and an active class set in the city would be more engaging, exciting, and overall more enjoyable.

As I pointed out, there are many words and phrases that students learn in class, but they are skimmed over and never integrated into their vocabularies.

By going to a shop and talking about what's going on inside, the location-linked vocabulary is cycled into common speech and it is remembered since it is used in everyday context.

I've been a Spanish student since first grade so I naturally reference Spanish a lot when talking about foreign language, but the method I suggest is applicable to all languages. Whether it be Spanish, French, Chinese, German, or Latin, I hope to see a change in the way foreign language is taught soon.



Jack Holds

“By going to a shop and talking about what's going on inside, the location-linked vocabulary is cycled into common speech and it is remembered since it is used in everyday context.”

To fur or not to fur: the controversy over fur presses on

When the word glamour comes to mind, one thinks of pearls, champagne, handsome men in expensive suits, and fur. While no harm was done in the making of a chilled bottle of bubbly or a perfectly tailored Armani suit, something died (and not peacefully) in order to make a fabulous fur coat. To feel like a million dollars in your fabulous fur coat, a small animal somewhere that was either raised in horrible conditions or caught in a hunters trap and suffered for days had to be killed.

For the upcoming Fall/Winter season that designers just showed at Fashion Week, one of the main trends was fur. However, while many brands showed real fur, a few designers went the more friendly faux route. Chanel showed a collection in Paris where each model was almost completely covered in faux fur. Karl Lagerfeld, head designer of Chanel opted for the fake route even though he has been known to be a fan of using animal products. Daughter of Beatles front man and designer Stella McCartney only uses faux fur and fake leather in her clothing. Although everything is almost the same cost as if it were real, it is nearly impossible to see the difference between her pieces and ones that use animal products. However, many designers are still opting for Fox and Mink, instead of the synthetic but realistic choices.



Andrea Glik

Some major brands got their start with animal products. Fendi, a prominent fashion label that began as a small shop that sold high quality fur and leather goods and has developed into a world-renowned figure in the fashion industry. They are still most famous for their excellent furs and constantly have PETA members protesting their stores and events.

One of the arguments that pro-fur people use is America's meat consumption.

They see it as, when one of the "million people served" at McDonalds sinks their teeth into a Big Mac, they are consuming a product just like the people who walk into Saks and buy a fur. To make the burger, a cow was most of the time put in terrible living conditions, and then killed inhumanely to make the burger.

The animal that was killed for the coat was either suffocated or electrocuted but at least the purpose its being killed for is providing something long lasting like an article of clothing, and not temporary like a burger. The big question is, when buying fur, wool or leather, a person is feeding an industry that kills animals, but how is that different from buying a steak dinner? As mentioned above, Karl Lagerfeld, fashion icon and designer is pro-fur, although he does not always use it. "In a meat-eating world, wearing leather

for shoes and clothes and even handbags, the discussion of fur is childish," Lagerfeld commented to the New York Times in defense of fashion's use of fur.

People know that their coats are made from animals, but not many know how the fur went from the back of a living thing to theirs. Animals on fur farms spend their whole lives stuck in to cramped, dirty wire cages. Fur farmers use the cheapest and cruelest killing methods available. These include: suffocation, electrocution, gassing, and poisoning. More than half the fur in the U.S. comes from China, where millions of dogs and cats are bludgeoned, hanged, bled to death, and sometimes even skinned alive for their fur. Chinese fur is often deliberately mislabeled, so if you wear any fur, there's no way of knowing for sure where it came from, or even what animal's fur it may actually be.

But should people have the choice and freedom to buy whatever they want, no matter what it's made of, without getting fake blood thrown at them? As a consumer, people are given the choice every day to pick a more animal-friendly option.

No matter how many coats PETA throws paint at, people are going to keep on wanting products made from animals. One fur-heavy fashion week season won't change the fact that everyday, people walking into department stores and buy fur. However, if there was a more peaceful way of getting the message of where the fur comes from, things could be a little less Fendi and a little more Stella. ☹



MCT Campus

LEFT: Dana Buchman leather capelet with faux snake print (\$995), Red fox fur collar with brooch (shown here as headwrap) (\$495), both from Neiman Marcus. RIGHT: Laundry rabbit fur bomber jacket with hood. From Bloomingdale's, \$495. Fur products are getting more disapproval from the general public, however groups like PETA have yet to present a good example of protesting in a respectable manner. Over 8 million animals are trapped annually for their fur, while more than 30 million are raised for their skin in fur farms. Though illegal in the United States, fur farming is still considered ethical in several countries, including Sweden, Russia, and China.

Film exposes flaws in U.S. obstetrics

When I found out that my co-editor in chief, Ken Zheng, had witnessed a birth, I was shocked and intrigued. The beginning of life is awe-inspiring, and was undoubtedly an impactful experience for him.

I started to become interested in the process of giving life and careers in obstetrics. One evening, I stumbled across a documentary on Netflix called the "Business of Being Born." And since watching documentaries on my computer is a favorite and addictive past-time of mine, I pressed play.

What I learned was stunning, and needs to be shared.

The U.S. infant mortality rate is one of the largest of any developed country—approximately 7 in 1,000 births, which is a 36 percent increase from the number in 1984. We trail behind all of Europe, Canada, and Australia, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Much of this can be attributed to the type of medical care American women are receiving. In the U.S., hospitals are run like businesses. They want to see beds filled and emptied as quickly as possible.

As a result, almost every birth in a hospital today is hormonally induced. The most common synthetic hormone, Pitocin, imitates the natural birth hormone, Oxytocin, and causes contractions to be longer and more intense.

Consequently, the baby is at a higher risk for asphyxia and neonatal hypoxia from too frequent and prolonged uterine contractions, and physical injury and prematurity if the due date is not accurate.

All of these risks have led to a dramatic increase in the number of emergency Caesarian sections performed in operating rooms across the country. In fact, since 1997, the number of C-sections performed every year has risen by 85 percent. The C-section was the most common operating room procedure in 2007.

Mothers are often not informed of just how major this surgery is. Risks include infant breathing problems and injuries, and for the mother, inflammation, infection, blood clotting, the need for additional surgery, and increased risk in future pregnancies.

Yet elective, scheduled C-sections have now become a popular choice among American women.

As one mother said in the documentary, "We put more effort into researching which digital camera we want to buy or which laptop we want than we put into researching what kind of birth we want to have."

The film highlights the new movement towards at-home child-birth and the use of midwives.

One of the major questions posed by the director, Abby Epstein, is whether births should be viewed as a natural life process, or if every delivery should be treated as a potentially catastrophic medical emergency.

In several European countries, as many as one third of all childbirths are planned home births. These countries lose fewer infants and fewer women than the U.S. does.

But the tremendous influence of stereotypes has prevented midwives from gaining ground in the United States. Many states do not even permit midwifery. The practice is often viewed as primitive or unsafe, when in reality midwives are highly trained medical professionals.

The film is graphic, and contains explicit scenes of home birth. However, the process itself is beautiful, and I can understand why Ken was so moved. I would recommend this film for any woman who may possibly give birth in the future. The crisis plaguing obstetrics is important to understand and the information presented is vital to both a mother and infant's well being. ☹

HANGING BY A MOMENT



NINA OBERMAN

In America today, giving birth is a billion dollar business.

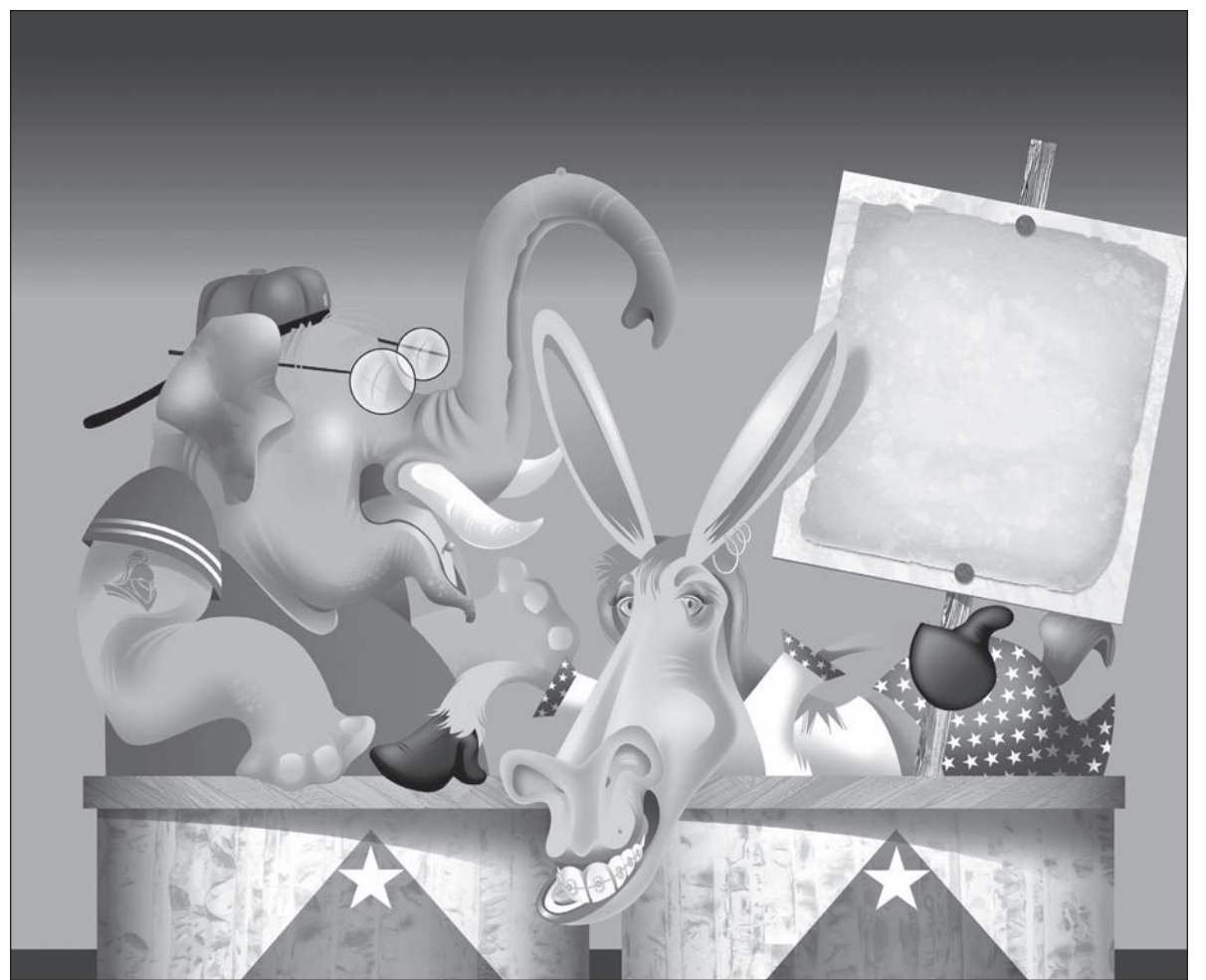
But who is really benefiting?

You will never look at giving birth the same way.

THE BUSINESS OF BEING BORN

FROM PRODUCER RICKI LAKE AND DIRECTOR ABBY EPSTEIN

Courtesy of Boston College



MCT Campus

Pals over politics

Instead of having political disputes create boundaries, Americans should try to building understanding and mutual amity.

Why can't we all be friends?

It's a simple phrase asked by kindergarteners. It's a song sung by musicians.

It's a question that should be asked by politicians and political junkies alike.

From those first few days of kindergarten (right after asking for friends) we were all taught that we are entitled to our opinions, and that is absolutely true. It is clear that the fine people on Capital Hill were in school on the day.

However, it appears that they were sick for that next lesson – How to Compromise 101. So due to some ill-time flu bug, politics have become as polarizing as a Cardinals vs. Cubs game. Middle grounds are now few and far between, and anyone stuck in the middle is seen by an enemy by both sides.

Politics have become the penultimate example of a binary system: a bill is generally either by and for Republicans or by and for Democrats. Of course some counterexamples exist but not for the headlining issues of recent memory.

The Iraq war has become a prime example. Republicans believe we must stay in Iraq while most Democrats believe we should pull the troops from the Middle East quickly and efficiently.

Some argue that it is not the role of the United States to be a de facto "world police." Those people argue that the lives of Americans are being placed in danger for something that should not be our responsibility.

The flip-side of that argument is that Iraq is not strong enough to support itself militarily.

These opinions are at the heart of one of the biggest questions in America today, and the past presidential was centered largely about the war.

However, the presidential election turned into a war of its own. Political cartoons portrayed Obama as a socialist and McCain as a fascist. Suddenly, Obama was a radical Muslim and McCain was a racist.

Was any of this true? Absolutely not. Nonetheless, people came to ostracize and condemn those who didn't agree with their beliefs.

That harsh divide has clearly carried over into Obama's presidency, most notably with the debate over healthcare.

All over the nation, Americans have been protesting, arguing, yelling, and protesting some more. Conservatives think Obama's health care plan will lead the country into socialism while liberals want to protect American citizens from insurance companies.

The funny thing is that both sides agree. Both parties have said healthcare reform is needed, but neither side is willing to acknowledge the other's plan.

After months of debate and battles between Fox News and CNN, the Republicans claimed victory: no healthcare reform would seemingly be passed. Half the nation let out a sigh of relief; the other half was distraught.

Then the coin flipped. Obama called for a reconciliation vote. Democrats claimed victory; healthcare reform would seemingly pass. Republicans cried healthcare was being shoved down the throats of Americans. In the end, almost every Democrat voted in favor of the bill. Not a single Republican did. This debate will rage for years to come.

However, not even congress was civilized. South Carolina Rep. Joe Wilson yelled at Obama during an appearance in congress; Texas Rep. Randy Neugebauer screamed out during the actual vote on the bill.

Thankfully, no congressmen got into actual fights over the issue, aka Rep. Preston Brooks beating Senator Charles Sumner with his cane (think sophomore year history class). Nowadays, these fights are done by filibustering and refusing to acknowledge the other side of the aisle.

If political parties actually cared about what their opponents wanted, "reaching across the aisle" wouldn't exist. The aisle simply wouldn't exist. So please, go out and find a member of the opposite party near you and make a friend. ☹



Tom Evashwick

APs looming in near future incite fear, dread, stress

Oh, APs. Advanced Placement tests are now looming over me like a violent violet thunderstorm cloud, probing in an ominous manner, slowly engulfing me. If you don't know me too well, let me just inform you that me and tests don't get along well. Ever.

Anyway, the optimistic words of my teachers as well as the practice tests are reassuring; however, that little nagging voice in the back of my head—*pas folle*—is always saying, “You obviously can't do this, now let's go home and eat some Wheat Thins.” And there are days when I want to do just that. It's the fourth quarter, it's nice outside, and if you had to choose anyone out of the school body who wants to be here the least, you know it's the seniors, hands down.

Despite all that, some force pushes me to keep going. I can't say I follow this push willingly, though I can't say I don't either. All the same, the APs are that final hurdle before the finish line and I know I want to get first.

Okay, that probably won't happen,

but still I want to get past the finish line.

There are some APs where I've progressed gracefully and there are some where I have completely faceplanted, crashed, and burned. Nevertheless, I have learned a unique lesson from each of them. From the sciences, I have honed optimistic persistence. From literacy, I've learned the beauty of viewing life from a different perspective. From the foreign languages, I've witnessed how words can build understanding and friendship. From the histories, I've learned how to be more sociable and more responsive.

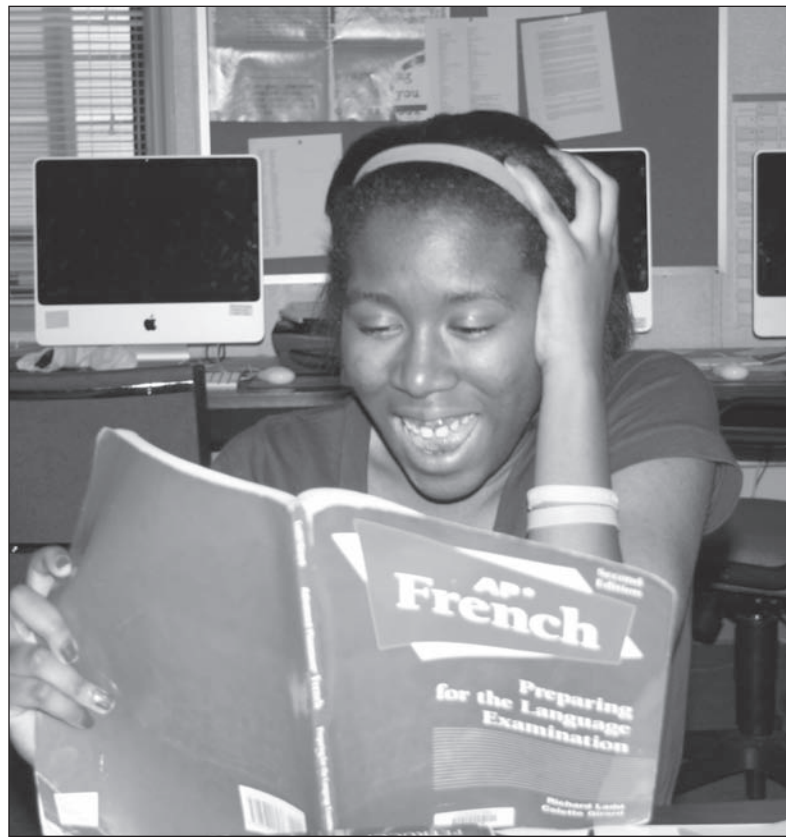
From all of these, I have learned to get outside my comfort zone, take risks, and when necessary, follow my intuition. Even more so, these courses have shown me to never throw in the towel early; the time for that is not now, but in six weeks.

Woe to all you preparing for those God-awful examinations and may your endeavors in your studying be a benefit on your d-days, or should I say AP-days? Let's just stick with “dates of examinations”. Again, study study study, and good luck. ☹

Ijeoma Onyema



Rain or Shine, We'll Be Here!!



Nina Oberman



MCT

Authority should enforce punishment on perpetrators of heinous bullying

To declare that bullying is a dreadful activity that needs to be put to an end in the United States is not to present a controversial idea.

On the other hand, declaring that bullying is a criminal offense that should be punishable by law and possibly treated as a felony will elicit a much more varied response.

With a string of recent cases wherein, after a student commits suicide, their tormenters are severely punished outside of the school system brings this very assertion to question.

On Jan. 14, Massachusetts teen Phoebe Prince, who had recently emigrated from Ireland, committed suicide after months of tormenting from girls and boys at her high school. Prince hanged herself from a stairwell after what was allegedly a particularly strenuous day of verbal harassment and threats of physical violence.

Among other things, she was called an “Irish slut,” had trash thrown at her, and was threatened with physical violence repeatedly. According to the Boston Globe, the bullies congratulated themselves for their handiwork online even after the victim's death.

Subsequently, nine of the bullies have been charged with a variety of charges that include statutory rape, violation of civil rights with bodily injury, harassment, stalking, and disturbing a school assembly. A tenth student faces possible charges. According to the New York Times, some of the accused are being tried in adult court, others in juvenile court.

Although one could argue that these students didn't directly cause Prince's death, it's relatively clear that they wreaked havoc on Prince's life at a time in which she was particularly vulnerable. If a person drives another

to suicide by taking advantage of the victim's mental weaknesses and leading the victim to believe that there is no other way out of pain, the person has essentially committed murder.

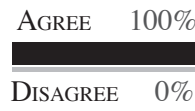
The maliciousness with which these acts were committed is genuinely disturbing in a deeply criminal way. Criminal actions deserve criminal punishments.

What makes the heinous crimes committed against Price particularly

tragic, however, is that other people knew what was going on. Teachers and fellow students were aware that the bullying and harassment was occurring and either didn't act at all or were powerless in stopping the bullies. Clearly, there needs to be a clear plan of action that makes it easier for peers and administrators to step into a potentially dangerous bullying situation and cease it immediately.

State legislatures nationwide seem to agree. So far, 41 states have passed anti-bullying legislation in response to Price's suicide and other recent suicides of young people that were driven by bullying.

People who commit heinous acts of harassment against a person who is driven to suicide should receive legal consequences both in order to punish them for their actions and for the message to be sent to society that bullying is not okay and a person can't simply get away with preying on another in the allegedly safe environment that is school. If we are to foster a safer environment in American schools, it needs to be clear that bullying isn't a minor offense. ☹



STAFF EDITORIAL

National Parks make connections to past, present, and future

Where did you go over spring break? It's the question we all get asked on the first day back to school.

Some people reply Florida, New York, Chicago, or even Europe. However, when I told one of my friends that I went to Yosemite, and he responded, “What's that?” I was shocked.

This response made me realize how fortunate I have been since I have had the opportunity to visit so many of America's National Parks. From Acadia in Maine to Olympic in Washington as far as Volcanoes in Hawaii and Denali in Alaska, I have been lucky to experience the beauty of the National Parks since I was a child.

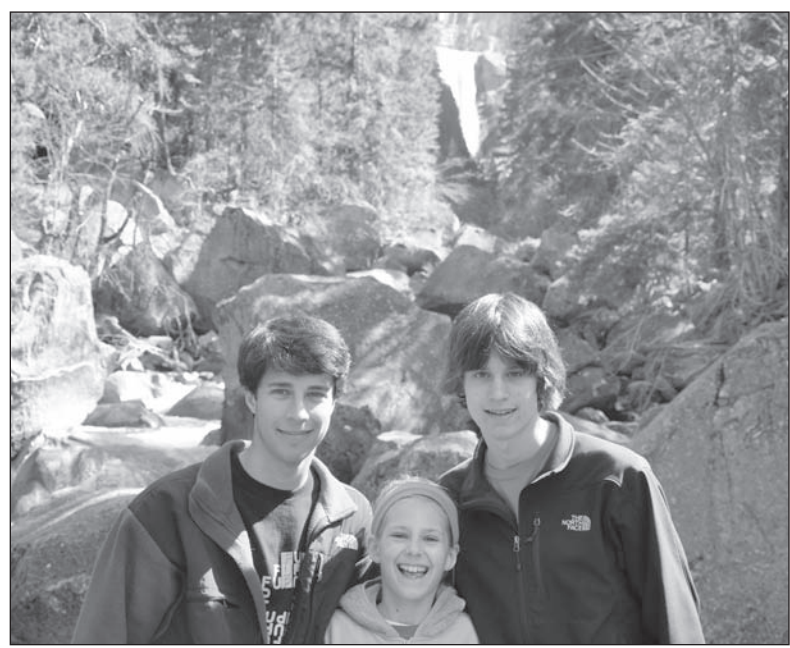
As a young child, I remember being astonished when I saw the sun set over the Grand Canyon and the canyon walls sparkle in an array of colors. I had never seen anything like that sunset. Even a Disney spectacle did not compare.

I returned to the Grand Canyon several years ago to go on the classic and daring trip down into the canyon on a mule. Again, after descending a couple thousand feet, I was astonished at the overwhelming magnitude of the canyon that the Colorado River had carved out over millions of years.

One summer, I had opportunity to go on a school trip to Grand Teton National Park. We hiked through forests of Aspens, conducted aviary studies, and monitored the movement of bison. From these experiences, I further learned to appreciate the National Parks.

This year, over spring break, my family went to San Francisco. On our first day, we crossed the Golden Gate Bridge and visited Muir Woods, named after John Muir, who fought for the creation of Yosemite National Park in 1890.

Then, we spent four days in Yosemite



Praiss (far right) takes time to soak up the beauty at Vernal Falls in Yosemite National Park with his older brother and younger sister.

ite – the crown jewel of America's National Parks.

Driving into Yosemite Valley, our excitement was building when Half-Dome came into view. Then, before we knew it, we were in the valley surrounded by cascading waterfalls and towering cliffs. We were all in awe.

Galen Clark, the first guardian of Yosemite Valley, successfully advocated for the protection of the valley in 1864, was also taken back by the valley's grandeur:

“I have seen persons of emotional temperament stand with tearful eyes, spellbound and dumb with awe, as they got their first view of the Valley from Inspiration Point, overwhelmed in the sudden presence of the unspeakable, stupendous grandeur.”

Similarly, Muir described Yosemite as “by far the grandest of all the special

temples of Nature I was ever permitted to enter.”

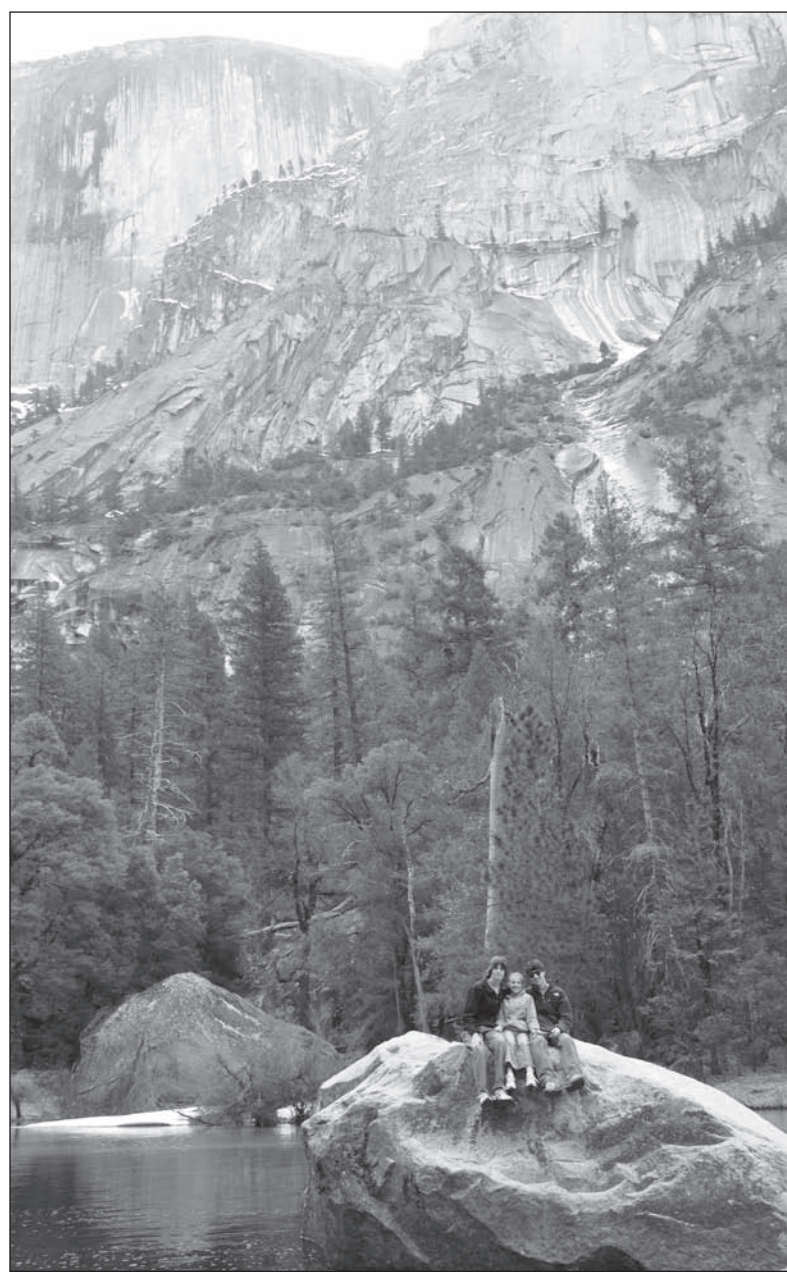
We spent several days exploring the beautiful and diverse environments in Yosemite. From hiking on an overgrown old carriage path through the blossoming meadows around Mirror Lake in the valley to snowshoeing in the snow-covered region near Badger Pass, we saw it all.

Yet, the whole time, we were captives of the surrounding nature, which is the true beauty of a National Park – being alone on a trail.

The creation of Yosemite National Park in 1890, led to the protection of other significant natural landmarks and areas such as the Grand Canyon and the Grand Tetons.

As a result, but for the work of people like Clark and Muir, the precious beauty and wildlife of National Parks such as Yosemite would not have been saved and preserved for future generations.

Yosemite would likely have been heavily settled and Sequoia trees would have been chopped down and turned



Photos courtesy of Zach Praiss

Praiss (left) and his siblings enjoy the view at Mirror Lake in Yosemite National Park during Spring Break.

into furniture.

As a result, I hope everyone has the opportunity to experience the beauty of the National Parks. We should be thankful that these precious jewels of our country are still the same condi-

tion that they were when curious settlers first stumbled upon them.

We must never forget about our National Parks, and we must continue to preserve them and pass them down to future generations. ☹

the GLOBE

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Winner of MIPA All-Missouri, NSPA All-American with four marks of distinction, Quill and Scroll Gallup Award, CSPS Silver Crown (2004), Pace-maker winner (2003), NSPA Hall of Fame Member (2006)

Arts Fair 2010



Caroline Stamp



Caroline Stamp



Caroline Stamp



Jen Maylack



Caroline Stamp



Jen Maylack



Caroline Stamp

1. Sophomore Martha Burke helps her buddy decorate with stamps on a paper bag.
2. A buddy works diligently on a beaded necklace project. 3. DECA ran the spin art room, which was very popular and fit the theme of "Museums" perfectly. 4. Freshman Isabella Gaidis poses with her buddy. 5. A Litzinger buddy strikes a pose in his spider-man face paint. 6. Senior Emily Rosen poses with her buddy. This was Rosen's 4th year participating in the annual CHS Arts Fair. 7. Junior Ian Miller paints the hand of a buddy. The face painting room was popular with all of the Litzinger and Neuwoehner buddies.