

# Globe

## SUMMER TRAVELS

From Israel to Arkansas to Nicaragua, CHS students spent their break travelling the world, and making a difference.

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## Clayton students succeed on final MAP examinations

Fontasha Powell  
Senior Managing Editor

This past spring, the Clayton School District exceeded expectations by scoring extremely high on the MAP tests. The district ranked first out of all St. Louis County school districts in third grade, seventh grade and eleventh grade communication arts, sixth grade, seventh grade and tenth grade mathematics.

Across the state, the district scored first in tenth grade mathematics for African American students, second in state in tenth grade mathematics for all students, third in the state for eleventh grade communication arts for African American students and third in the state for eleventh grade communication arts for all students.

Principal Dr. Louise Losos credits not only the extensive Clayton curriculum but also the hardworking teachers and students.

"Our high scores show the caliber of curriculum at Clayton, especially since we don't teach courses tailored to the MAP test," Losos said. "We ensure that our curriculum covers all the core material of the subject matter. Not only in MAP, but our ACT scores have improved as well.

I credit the amazing teachers in the classroom that maintain high expectations. The Clayton district hires amazing teachers that work collaboratively in their departments. I also applaud Clayton students for taking these tests seriously and putting forth their best effort."

Losos said that to achieve these high scores, the high school did not alter or change its curriculum one bit. She recognizes the high quality curriculum of which the district teaches.

"We didn't change the curriculum at all to help prepare for the map testing," Losos said. "However, what we did do differently in the English department was integrate a few strategies to help students on the MAP tests. We did this so that the students became familiar with the format so that the MAP was not the first time students saw those particular types of questions. The math department has consistently focused on teaching a well-rounded curriculum, that also happens to prepare kids well for the test."

Social Studies teacher Donna Rogers-Bear believes that the Clayton district is unique, not only in its curriculum, but other aspects as well.

"I think that Clayton is unique in that we spend so much money per student," Rogers-Bear said. "This

results in plenty of resources. What also is unique is that we are not administration-heavy. Rather than paying a lot of administrators, we spend our money on teachers that work with and have a more direct impact on the students."

However, all still is not well. Losos said that at Wydown and the elementary schools, many African American students and students with IEPs did not score high enough.

"Still, we didn't make AYB in certain areas," Losos said. "AYB serves as a benchmark of improvements that we have to meet not only within the entire school, but with subgroups as well. These subgroups account for white, African American, and students with IEPs. In the past we've struggled with students with IEPs and African American students meeting the benchmark."

This year, however, proved to be an exception. African American students at the high school scored best in the state in some subject areas.

"I am extremely proud of our African American student scores," Losos said. "We raised our scores by impressive percentage points."

Rogers-Bear said that she would like to see certain aspects of the curriculum changes. It is in the belief that these changes might not only help boost test scores, but also help cultivate a student.

"I would like to see more personalized programs for certain students at the elementary level," Rogers-Bear said. "Any student who hasn't reached grade level expectation in math, science, or reading should be put in a program to find out what's in the way of the student progressing. No student should reach high school, or even middle school below the expected level unless we have figured out the physical reason of why it's happening."

Rogers-Bear has been teaching in the Clayton School District for 18 years and says that many aspects have changed. While the great teachers have been a constant component, having less money in the district has also changed, for the worst.

MAP Test, 2



Assistant principal Marci Pieper talks to associate principal Dan Gutchewsky in his office. Gutchewsky will act as Pieper's faculty mentor as she adjusts to being back at Clayton as an administrator.

## Pieper takes over as assistant principal

Former CHS teacher Marci Pieper returns to the district after a 3 year hiatus at St. Charles West

Jeremy Bleeke  
Editor-in-Chief

Although assistant principal Marci Pieper is new to her position at CHS, she is certainly not new to Clayton. After three years as assistant principal in St. Charles West, Pieper is returning to the school which, for her, has always been special.

"I am so excited to be back here," Pieper said. "This is an awesome place, and even during the three years I was gone Clayton was always right in my heart."

Pieper first came to CHS in 1995, after working first for the Francis Howell district and then for Jostens Printing and Publishing.

"I was tired of travelling," Pieper said. "I missed the one on one that you get with students."

She is a woman of many talents. During her ten years at Clayton, Pieper worked as the advisor to the newspaper, the yearbook, and the literary magazine. She taught English and graphic art classes, and during her last three years she served as director of technology. She also worked with student government and sponsored CHS club.

During this time Pieper also received her administration certificate, and in 2005 she left Clayton to take the assistant principal job at St. Charles West. Now, with the departure of Don Rugraff, she's back.

"She clearly was the best candidate," said Principal Louise Losos. "She was the right person for the job, and we're very excited to have her on our team...Having been here before she knows the system, knows a lot of the people here, but she also comes to us with experience from another district."

As assistant principal, Pieper works directly with Losos in

administrative capacities. She is in charge of discipline, budget, facilities and maintenance, summer programs, and responding to the needs of the teachers and the students.

Over the next months, Pieper will be focusing on reconnecting with the people in the building.

"I'm going to be out and about," Pieper said. "I'm going to be in the Commons, I'm going to be in the library, I'm going to be in the events, I'll be at all the athletic events—especially the home ones. Homecoming's a great one to get to know kids because you do so many informal kinds of things. I would like to sit in on student government meetings for awhile...I'd love to be able to just see what kids are saying."

This desire to establish relationships with the student body and faculty is one reason Losos was excited about hiring Pieper.

"I like her thoughtfulness, her passion for helping teachers grow, her philosophy of working with kids, and her presence," Losos said. "She seemed to fit very well with the culture and philosophy of the school."

For her part, Pieper was drawn back to Clayton because she believes the atmosphere here is unique. Along with the solid academics and strong relationships between students and staff, Pieper is impressed when people aren't afraid to try something new. It's a behavior she tries to encourage.

"I want kids to know my door's open," Pieper said. "I want the students to know that I'm here for them, so hopefully we can get to know each other and they'll be more comfortable coming in and telling me what they think, how they feel, and what they want."

"I like her thoughtfulness, her passion for helping teachers grow, her philosophy of working with kids, and her presence."

Louise Losos  
Principal

## Students weigh in as party conventions draw near

Ugochi Onyema  
Senior Managing Editor

In a mere three months, the United States of America will choose a new leader. Voters will have option between two presumptive candidates: Senator Barack Obama of Illinois and Senator John McCain of Arizona. But before Nov. 4 comes around, the presumptive nominees must be officially nominated at their respective national conventions. These conventions, separated by party lines, occur within five days of each other, take several months to coordinate, and will culminate with the moment of truth: the nominations.

The Democratic National Committee began planning the National Convention, which takes place from Aug. 25 to Aug. 28 in Denver, Colorado, in December 2005, at which time The Commission on Presidential Nomination Timing and Scheduling submitted recommendation for the scheduling of the primaries for the nomination process. In January 2007, Denver was announced as the host city of the con-

vention, and the headquarters were set up in July of that year. In April 2008, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi announced the Green Delegate Challenge, in which rewards will be offered to delegations that display commitment to the reduction of the carbon footprint created during the trek to the convention. These steps are just a few of the many that the DNC took to plan their convention. The Republican National Committee took slightly different steps in planning its convention.

While the Democratic National Convention is taking place at the end of August in Denver, The Republican National Convention will take place in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota from Sep. 1 to Sep. 4.

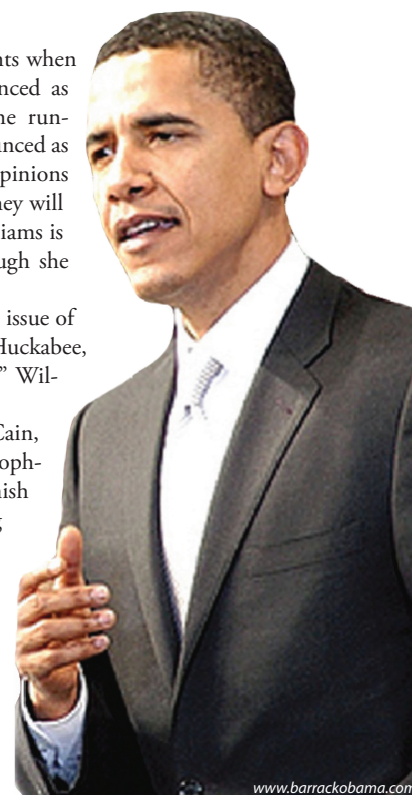
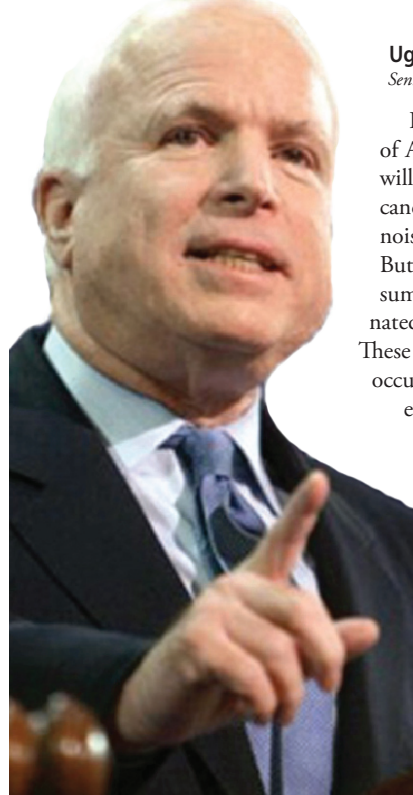
In preparation of its convention, the RNC began planning in a similar manner to the DNC, including the institution of programs to make this year's convention the most environmentally friendly convention yet. All of the planning that both committees have per-

formed will come down to the moments when the presumptive nominees are announced as official presidential candidates and the running mates of said candidates are announced as well. Students at CHS have varying opinions of the nominees and the success that they will have as head of state. Senior Abby Williams is supporting McCain this election, though she didn't initially intend on doing so.

"I like that McCain is strong on the issue of defense, but I was rooting for Mike Huckabee, because he has the same values as me," Williams said.

Although she is supporting McCain, Williams does not agree with his philosophical views, a conflict senior Jenna Wonish has dealt with as well while deciding which candidate she would be supporting this November.

"Normally, I'd be democratic, but I don't like Obama, so I'm voting for McCain," Wonish said. "I don't like Obama because he is too vague and his campaign has become too



Party Conventions, 2

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# Russia-Georgia conflict draws world attention

Preeti Viswanathan  
Editor

Homes raided, children massacred, innocent civilians shot and killed by bombs—these are some of the horrors which occurred in the provinces of South Ossetia and Abkhazia in the nation of Georgia over the course of the past few weeks.

Earlier this month on Aug. 7th, Russian troops invaded South Ossetia and Abkhazia, two regions of the country which want autonomy.

The Russian troops were initially stationed in South Ossetia to ensure that war did not occur between Georgia and South Ossetia.

When the Georgian government did not uphold a ceasefire treaty with South Ossetia, more Russian troops entered and fought in Abkhazia as well. The recent tensions on the Russian-Georgian front are still not fully resolved, despite attempts at peacekeeping negotiations.

Russian president Dmitry Medvedev agreed to sign a ceasefire plan on Aug. 12, and the next day Russia agreed to withdraw its troops from Abkhazia because of the ongoing pressure from Western nations, particularly the United States. Before the conflict erupted, there had been only a limited number of Russian troops in Georgia to maintain peace.

However, Russia has not kept its promise; many more troops still remain in these regions and violence on both sides of the border has failed to cease. The civilian casualties rose to over 2000

within a few days of the conflict, as troops used a variety of weapons including bombs and short-range ballistic missiles. The South Ossetian government had been funded by the Russian government, which was why Russia came to South Ossetia's defense when conflict broke out with Georgia.

The roots of the encounter between Georgia, its pro-self-government regions, and Russia can be traced back to the Cold War, when Georgia broke away from the Soviet Union. Abkhazia and South Ossetia wanted their respective independence from Georgia. However, many Georgian leaders including the current president Mikheil Shaakashvili would not willingly allow it.

As a result of Russia supporting the regions, the disputes between the Russian and Georgian government have also intensified in recent years.

There has been debate concerning Russia's true purpose in occupying Georgia.

Whether or not South Ossetia actually becomes independent, speculations exist as to whether the occupation was simply an attempt by the Russians to regain control of territory which was once theirs and showcase its authority.

At the same time, those who argue for Russia's side might say that the clash was a result of a nationalistic Shaakashvili's irresponsibility. In an op-ed piece in the New York Times, former Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev thinks Russia did not intend to fight in Georgia.

"The Russian leadership is in a strong enough position domestically; it did not need a little victorious war," Gorbachev wrote. He also added that military assistance from the West contributed to the tensions.

"What is clear is that Western assistance in training Georgian troops and shipping large supplies of arms had been pushing the region towards war rather than peace," he said.

Mikheil Saakashvili demonstrated an opposite viewpoint about the situation. He wrote in the Washington Post and claims that Russia wants to show its military strength and benefit economically by invading Georgia.

"Moscow aims to satisfy its imperialist ambitions; to erase one of the few, democratic, law-governed states in its vicinity...Russia is showing that it can do as it pleases," he said.

Both sides blame the other for provoking the conflict—Mikheil Saakashvili claims the Russians are the aggressors, while the Russians portray Georgia as oppressive of South Ossetians.

While it is difficult to assess which country really started it, Western media has clearly attempted to establish the Russians as the guiltier party, and this has affected international views on Russia. Russia was not invited to join NATO and is viewed as a significant threat to surrounding countries.

Rumors of a large-scale war are less relevant, but an end to the conflict is yet to be seen. ☺



A Russian flag flies atop a tank at a Russian military checkpoint being established at Chkhorotsk in western Georgia on Aug. 22.

## New faces in the classroom

NAME AND CLASSES	WHY I CAME TO CLAYTON	EXTRACURRICULARS INVOLVED IN
 Pinpin Yu Chinese	I came to Clayton because of its high reputation. I am honored to teach here.	Maybe I will do Chinese Club or something similar.
 Kurtis Werner Social Studies	I had always heard that Clayton was the mecca for educators.	Assistant cross country coach and track and field if all goes according to plan.
 Tobie Smith Counselor	I was seeking an educational institution that put the needs and academics of students first.	At this point, I am still getting my feet wet and trying to understand the lay of the land.
 Ali Nagel Math	The phenomenal reputation and when I was interviewed the department was a lot of fun.	None this year, but eventually I might do something.
 Heather Mullins Spanish	This my fifth year of teaching in the Clayton District, including Wydown, Captain and CHS in 2006.	I will be the Junior Class Sponsor as well as working with Fellowship of Christian Athletes.
 Jane Glenn Math	The opportunity to teach at Clayton is like making it to the Olympics!	I will be a frequent observer. My record as a coach is not impressive.
 John Crane Math	The reputation of the district and the opportunity to work with bright, motivated students.	I coached water polo at Mehlville, but we'll see what comes around this year.
 Darlene Castelli Reading	I was impressed with the collaboration and the focus on improving education for success.	I plan to be involved, but at this point, I'm not sure in what.
 Angie Caracciolo Math	I wanted to work with groups who value a challenging and creative math curriculum.	I'm going to wait and learn more about the clubs before I commit to just one.
 Daniel Glossenger Truman Intern	Students have a reputation throughout the state for being some of the best and brightest.	I'm not sure that coaching is in the cards for me, but I may get involved with something else.

## Conventions to set tone for upcoming campaigns

### Party Conventions, 1

senationalized. He talks about his plans, but he doesn't say what his plans are. Also, I think he's too inexperienced."

Wonish also believes that the notorious advertisement in which McCain compared Obama to the likes of celebrities Paris Hilton and Britney Spears proved the opinion that Obama is receiving too much time in the limelight.

"I think that [McCain is] the only hope," Wonish said. "In a way, McCain had a point, but it isn't really flattering for him to make fun of his opponent, but I guess that's what politicians do."

Unlike Wonish and Williams, senior Katie Poplawski is supporting Obama, primarily because of his interest in ending the wars overseas, as well as the war with the worsening economy on homeland.

"I like that he's for finally ending the war, and is focused improving the economy," Poplawski said. "And I like that his foreign policy includes talking to other nations instead of being as aggressive as the Bush Administration."

However, Poplawski also believes that his indecisiveness with his political positions could hinder his bid for the presidency.

"Obama is pretty inexperienced, I don't like that he changes his positions, which is pretty frustrating," Poplawski said.

Overall, Poplawski sees Obama as the better candidate because he has different views than McCain, who Poplawski sees as a continuation of the Bush administration.

"I'm afraid of McCain because he seems like another George Bush, and that's the last thing that we need," Poplawski said.

Some students are ambivalent toward both nominees, for justified reasons. Senior Victoria Floerke is one of these students.

"Honestly, I don't care for either of the candidates, because I think that they change their positions too frequently, and neither of them has enough experience in their field," Floerke said.

Even though Floerke is not a supporter of either nominee, she does believe that they possess redeemable qualities.

"I guess Obama has this message of bringing about change, which in theory is good but I don't know how much stock he has behind that message," Floerke said. "And I admire McCain's military contributions over the years, and the time he spent in the military."

No matter the political stance that students possess, all can agree that by Nov. 4, a drastic change in American politics will occur, and the Republican and Democratic conventions will be a major turning point in this year's presidential race. ☺

## Final round of MAP tests shows district strengths

### MAP Testing, 1

"What's been constant about the curriculum at Clayton in all my 18 years has been the dedicated teachers," Rogers-Bear said. "I think what's changed most is the amount of money of money available to the district for services, enrichment, and activities for teachers. This has changed in a bad way. We don't have the same amount of money and education is costing more money and taxpayers are somewhat reluctant to raise taxes. We are reliant on property taxes but Clayton has lost lots of big companies that pay large amounts of taxes."

Furthermore, more money in the district is not the only change that Rogers-Bear wants to see put into place. She also hopes for more changes that will affect the students more directly. "In addition to a greater expansion of reading level and study skill programs, in the future, I'd like to see the instructor to student ratio lowered," Rogers-Bear said.

Regardless of changes that may one day put in place, Losos is pleased to be a part of the Clayton school district and to represent a high school that did so well on the MAP tests.

"I am proud of Clayton for going out on such a high note with MAP," Losos said. "Next year, instead of MAP, we will be taking end of the course exams, which we experimented with last spring, and are tailored to specific courses." ☺

# Absence of two-a-day practices affects football Greyhounds

Due to recent changes in MSHSAA regulations, the CHS varsity football Hounds were forced to eliminate two-a-day practices during the week prior to school starting.

Evan Green  
Editor

As the fall sports season began this year, there was one glaring difference to the usual traditions of August practices. For the first time in a while, the football program was not conducting its usual two-a-day practices, instead opting for one long practice. This decision by the school left the varsity soccer team as the only fall sport to be conducting two-a-days.

“With the start of school moved up a week and the state moving back the date that we could start practice, we lost a week,” varsity head football coach Sam Horrell said. “The week prior to school, we as teachers have to be in meetings all day, so we were unable to have practice [twice a day].”

MSHSAA (Missouri State High School Activities Association) chose to push back the start date from the first week of August (which would provide teams with two weeks of practice before school started) to the second week of August. For some athletes, this was a much welcomed action, but for coaches, the decision to switch to one practice a day left them feeling a bit behind.

“I would much rather be conducting two-a-days as opposed to one practice because it really does matter,” Horrell added.

The soccer team chose to conduct a mostly running practice from 6:30 to 8 a.m. and a tactical practice from 3:30 to 6 p.m. the week before school started.

“I find [two-a-days] to be much more helpful than one practice a day because

then you’re having a total of three and a half to four hours of practice, but with a six to eight hour break in between for your body to recover,” varsity head soccer coach Matt Balossi said.

For coaches, the pros of two-a-days are plentiful.

“Two-a-days are a time to teach and polish skills and drills, as there is so much that goes into the game of football with offense, special teams, and special teams,” Horrell said. “Also, it helps to get the players who are not fit, into shape.

As well, chemistry and trust are built among teammates during the process.”

While neither Horrell nor Balossi seem to find any problems with the concept of two-a-day workouts, they both believe inner-team connections are constructed in the course of the week.

“I think the intensity really improves team chemistry because the team can prepare together and build mental toughness together,” Balossi added.

Horrell agreed whole-heartedly that the connections are the same no matter the sport.

“Any time a team can work together on or off the field in any activity, team chemistry is improved,” Horrell said.

With the many aspects of two-a-days covered, Clayton students and athletes can only wait and see if there truly is an effect of a team participating in two-a-days and whether it translates onto the field.

The varsity soccer Hounds start their season against new district rival the MICDS Rams at MICDS on Sept. 2 at 4:15, while the varsity football Hounds begin their season at home on Aug. 29 against Lutheran North at 7. ☛

“Two-a-days are a time to teach and polish skills and drills, as there is so much that goes into the game of football...As well, chemistry and trust are built among teammates during the process.”

Sam Horrell  
Varsity football coach



Andrew Dowd

The varsity football hounds, under the coaching of head coach Sam Horrell, practice in the summer heat (above, right). Unlike the varsity soccer team, the football Hounds changed their preseason routine and eliminated two-a-day practices. “I think not having two-a-days was detrimental to the beginning of our season,” said senior defensive end Andrew Dowd. “I feel like we didn’t have enough time to prepare for our first games and because of this, we will have a hard time with the beginning of the season. However, all the other teams are dealing with it too, so I hope we aren’t the only ones struggling.”



Andrew Dowd

## New JV soccer coach brings passion to sport

Ijeoma Onyema  
Editor

This year, the JV boys’ soccer team consists of not only several new players, but a new coach as well.

Doug Bambini, a former Metro Strikers coach, replaced Eric Gruenfelder, the current assistant coach for the varsity boys’ soccer team, as JV coach.

For the past two weeks, Bambini has been drilling the team cooperation and several vital field skills important to the game of soccer. His out-of-the-ordinary coaching methods help make the experience for the team unique.

Junior Eitan Kantor says that the method in which the team practices is different than usual.

“Normally, the outside mids and center mids practice their exercises and skills while everyone else practices something different,” said Kantor. “But here, everyone does the same thing at the same time.”

Junior Si Wen says that Bambini puts a strong emphasis on positions in the field and playing as a team. During practice, Bambini drills the team frequently over both skills.

“[Bambini] makes sure everyone understands what he’s talking about, and how to do it,” said junior Jacob Grady.

In addition, Bambini trains the team on having adroit dexterity with foot coordination.

“Most importantly, he has taught me having good touch and ball skills,” said Kantor. “He also taught me that keeping shape on defense and the significance of con-



Andrew Dowd

Coach Doug Bambini, a recent addition to the JV soccer team, encourages teamwork.

ditioning are very important.”

Junior Sam Meyers says that Bambini teaches all of the boys the basic skills one would need to be a good soccer player. He says his approach to the game and kindness makes soccer easier to learn.

“I like his attitude; it’s very enthusiastic and optimistic,” Meyers said. “It shows that he really wants us to do our best. Plus, he gives us water breaks, and seeing as we don’t get them very often, it helps us stay hydrated.”

Despite struggling through two weeks of practice under the brutal sun, Bambini’s passion for soccer and compassion for the team have gained respect among the players. The team’s opinion about him is unanimous: Bambini is a great coach. ☛



Leah Eby

The JV girls’ tennis team, coached by Katelyn Eustis, practiced last week at the Shaw Park tennis courts. Both Eustis and the team are enthusiastically looking forward to the upcoming season.

## JV tennis prepares for new coach, season

Maddie Harned  
Senior Editor

As yet another season of girls’ tennis commences, there is a notable change in the team; CHS math teacher Katelyn Eustis has become the new JV coach.

“Mr. Harned was stepping down from the position and the tennis team was interested in having a teacher in the position of JV coach,” Eustis said.

While this is her first year coaching the JV girls’ tennis team, Eustis has experience coaching other girls’ sports.

“I have coached girls’ swimming for four years so I am familiar with coaching girls,” Eustis said. “I have never coached tennis before so this is a new and exciting challenge for me. I am learning more

and more about the sport every day.”

Many of this tennis season’s athletes are already enjoying Eustis as a coach.

“Ms. Eustis is new to coaching tennis, but she still is making tennis so much fun and I think we are all learning a lot,” freshman Jocelyn Cooper said. “I knew that tennis had a great reputation at Clayton, and wanted to play something that is fun but still a serious sport.”

Sophomore Alison Goldfarb shares a similar sentiment about the new coaching staff and season.

“I think that Ms. Eustis is a really fun coach and I’m really excited about the season with her,” Goldfarb said. “I think that the JV tennis team is going to be really strong this year because there are a

lot of girls who were also being considered to be on varsity.”

Regardless of the fact that this is her first year as JV coach, Eustis is eager and passionate about tennis.

“Tennis is an interesting and fast-paced sport,” Eustis said. “There are so many different ability levels and it is really fun for me to watch the girls improve and I love being outside. I have really enjoyed working with the tennis players. They are a great group of girls.”

As the first JV tennis matches are inching nearer, Eustis, as well as some of the athletes, are setting goals for themselves and the team.

“My goal is to have everyone improve from where they were at the beginning

of the season,” Eustis said. “I’m really excited to see how the JV team does in our matches.”

Some athletes are pushing for a victorious JV season while others opt to play the sport for personal enjoyment.

“I decided to play tennis because last year I had a lot of fun,” Goldfarb said. “Tennis is a really fun sport because it’s also very social.”

Cooper hopes that the team’s hard work and enthusiasm will pay off. “I just hope that the JV team wins some matches,” Cooper said.

No matter the final match scores, the JV tennis team and new coach Eustis have an enthusiastic attitude about their upcoming tennis season. ☛



Dale Dentono (Seth Rogen, left) and Saul Silver (James Franco, right) attempt to escape from drug lord Ted Jones (Gary Cole) in the summer hit "Pineapple Express." MCT campus

## CINEMA OF THE ABSURD:

Although the premise of "Pineapple Express" may raise some eyebrows, producer-screenwriter Judd Apatow delivers (again) with laugh-out-loud summer fare.

Abby Eisenberg  
Art Editor

Get on board the Pineapple Express, the biggest comedy action film of the summer.

"Pineapple Express" is a story of subpoena server and avid weed smoker, Dale Denton (Seth Rogen) who comes across a bit of misfortune after buying his latest stash of marijuana from his favorite dealer.

After Denton witnesses a murder, he leaves the remains of his joint of a very rare strain of marijuana, called Pineapple Express on the scene. This gives the cold blooded murderers, the dangerous drug lord Ted Jones (Gary Cole) and the corrupt cop (Rosie Perez) a way to track Dale down through his drug dealer, Saul

(James Franco) with the goal of killing them as quickly as possible, before they are identified as the killers.

Dale and Saul are put through many amusing hardships including an arrest, a night hiding in the woods, and an assault during Dale's dinner with his girlfriend's parents. Through their crazy chase, the kind-hearted Saul teaches Dale to be a good friend. In the end, the two become an inseparable pair, the modern-day Cheech and Chong.

Pineapple Express has been so successful because it is the perfect summer movie: outrageous and light, with jokes that will cause you to shamefully spit out your soda in fits of uncontrollable laughter.

Rogan and Franco are a perfect pair,

hilariously playing off of each other in every scene they have together. Franco, playing the loveable stoned drug dealer Saul, unquestionably steals the show by delivering comedic lines with ease, and inciting constant drug-induced calamities. Stand-out scenes include Dale and Saul spending the night in the woods, hiding from the crew that was after them, and an outlandish fight scene where Dale somehow loses part of his ear.

Even though light jokes got a little old, and were slightly reminiscent of those from Rogan's previous movies, Pineapple Express had the entire theater doubled over with laughter beginning to end.

The creator of the film, writer and producer Judd Apatow, is the man of

today. With a background in stand up comedy (he once roomed with Adam Sandler) and screenwriting, his pair with actor, writer, comedian and producer, Seth Rogan, has proven to be a spectacular thing, for the dynamic duo is responsible for such hits as "Anchorman", "40-year-old Virgin", "Knocked Up" and "Superbad". Pineapple Express has given him much success this summer, with tickets sales coming in second only to the smash-hit "The Dark Knight" on opening weekend.

The jokes of "Pineapple Express" may not be the most intelligent, and the characters might spend the whole movie high. But it is what it was meant to be: feel-good entertainment. So put that in your pipe and smoke it. ☺

## "Thunder" thrills

The star-studded cast of Ben Stiller's latest comedy/satire "Tropic Thunder" succeeds in playfully skewering the theater industry.

Sarah Horn  
Senior Managing Editor

Robert Downey Jr. is black, Jack Black is addicted to heroin, and Tom Cruise is a fat studio owner who downs diet coke and dances to Flo Rida's "Low". With all of that going on how could "Tropic Thunder" not be hysterical and entertaining?

And entertaining is just the right word. For an end-of-the-summer action-comedy flick, "Tropic Thunder" serves its purpose.

Directed and co-written by comedic actor Ben Stiller, the movie combines a star-studded cast with an amusing, albeit flimsy plot line that delivers laughs and witty satire along with over the top action moves.

In the film, a cast of very different actors join together to make a movie based on a Vietnam-era memoir. The main trio of actors consist of the washed-out Tugg Speedman (Stiller), best known for his action film roles, the oscar winning Kirk

Lazarus (Downey Jr), who controversially changes his skin color for the role, and the comedic, out-of-control, heroin addict Jeff Portnoy (Black).

However, when this random league of actors fail to produce one good scene, the irritated director (Steve Coogan) makes a drastic decision to set the actors out in the middle of the jungle, without lattes, cell phones and TiVO, hoping it will force them to produce worthwhile shots.

When the region turns out to be a war-torn zone dominated by a drug lord, however, chaos ensues.

Overall, "Tropic Thunder" is extremely funny. Downey, not surprisingly, completely steals the show. His turn as a white actor, portraying a black man, who convinces himself he is actually black is hysterical. Add in the fact that Downey's black co-star, Alpha Chino (Brandon T. Jackson) repeatedly gets annoyed that Downey believes he is actually black.

The only down-turn is that the movie



Alpha Chino (Brandon T. Jackson, left), Tugg Speedman (Ben Stiller, center), and Kirk Lazarus (Robert Downey Jr., right) pose in comedy "Tropic Thunder," which pokes fun at the movie industry. MCT Campus

starts off with such hilarity that the rest of the movie struggles to match the opening credits.

In the beginning, the viewer is greeted by a series of trailers that introduce the main actors that are going to star in the film. We see Stiller portrayed as an action star in "Scorchers VI: Global Melt-down" holding a child while flames engulf his surroundings, and next Black playing an entire obese family (reminiscent of Eddie Murphy's past roles in flops such as "Norbit") in the flatulent "The Fatties: Part 2". The final trailer

(and by far the funniest) is entitled "Satan's Alley", featuring "five-time oscar winner" Lazarus and Tobey Maguire (as himself) as two male monks having a forbidden love affair.

What's best about the movie is that almost every star in it seems to be mocking themselves (except for Stiller who is typically not an action star). Also, the random cameos add small touches of hilarity.

Altogether it's crass, gross, offensive, rude, but most importantly it is downright hysterical. ☺

## Katy Perry album proves controversial, truthful

Fontasha Powell  
Senior Managing Editor

Never has there been a more blatant expression of Girl Power! Since the Spice Girls' "If You Wanna Be My Lover" than Katy Perry's reckless new album. Ironically titled "One of the Boys," Perry audaciously asserts the eminence today's woman and explores gender roles through tales of daring sexual escapades, insults and partying.

Compared to other mainstream "chick" artists such as Kelly Clarkson, Alicia Keys and Liz Phair, Perry's album is so innovative in that it bashes relationships and laments about breakups in a funny way, not in the typical melancholy, depressing manner. Perhaps what makes her so appealing to teenagers is the fact that she's one of the first female singers

to rant about these themes in such an enchantingly tawdry, blunt manner.

Even though the topics may be somewhat controversial, the album is exactly what the teenage lifestyle is—reckless and fun. The opening lyrics in "I Kissed A Girl" demonstrate just that: "This was never the way I planned/Not my intention/I got so brave, drink in hand/Lost my discretion."

Albeit, the majority of her songs deal with real life situations that are generally the result of overindulgence and experimentation, Perry is able to deliver each polar lyric with a strong, unique voice, heavy dance beats and fun guitar riffs.

Another controversial hit, "Ur So Gay" is just simply hilarious. Throughout the song, Perry is insulting a boy who is not actually a homosexual, but acts "gay". Although many frown upon

Katy using the term gay as a synonym for "douche bag," the songs lyrics are undeniably comical "I hope you hang yourself with your H&M scarf/While jacking off listening to Mozart/You walk around like you're oh so debonair/You pull 'em down and there's really nothing there."

My personal favorite, "Hot 'N Cold" is a saga of the typical teenage relationship. As Perry yells at a boy for being a series of paradoxes including hot/cold, yes/no, in/out, she still manages to insult his manhood using profanity: "You change your mind/Like A Girl changes clothes/Yeah You, PMS/Like a bitch, I would know."

However, many continue to frown down upon Perry. Some deem her hypocritical because she is the daughter of a conservative preacher and she released a Christian album in 2001 at the age of 16

under the name Katy Hudson.

Others believe that she is objectifying her not only men but also women through her sexual references and tasteless insults.

Honestly, these people need to stop taking everything so seriously and get lives. Perry's album epitomizes the existence of a teenage girl, or boy for that matter—quintessentially meaningless, daring, rude and at some points even lazy. And this is why the album has won four awards and sold millions.

Still, if you're searching for an entertaining album that amuses you to know end—choose Perry's "One of the Boys." A necessity during the long gone endless summer vacation nights of exuberance and merriment, her album can still serve as a source for dance beats and delight as we transition into fall. ☺

## Big Sister/Little Sister supports freshmen

Sneha Viswanathan  
Editor

The beginning of high school can be daunting to many newcomers. They are faced with new classes, new subjects, as well as a new social atmosphere and more peer pressure.

The girls in this year's freshman class have been aided by a group known as Big Sister/Little Sister, which is designed to ease the transition into Clayton High School.

Every junior or senior girl who is part of the club is given an incoming freshman girl to mentor. Incoming freshman can choose whether or not to participate in the program. The Big Sister/Little Sister orientation began with a meeting of the entire group and was followed by tours of the school and a lunch in which freshman girls could socialize with their junior and senior mentors.

This year's incoming class seemed most concerned with academic issues.

"My 'little sister' was worried about what most new high school students are worried about, like her teachers, getting to class on time, and the time in between classes," junior Laura Klamer said.

Other girls found that some of their main anxieties were relieved through their "big sister's" advice.

"Before this orientation I had a fear of mean teachers, whether they were uptight or strict, but my 'big sister' told me that all teachers are okay; they're just a little tough on you sometimes, and now I've lost that fear completely," freshman Emily Erblich said.

Some of the upperclassmen also gave their "little sisters" an overview of what they were expecting them to be worried about if the freshman didn't have any specific concerns.

"My 'big sister' didn't really dispel any myths I've heard [about high school], but she talked about teachers she had. She mostly talked about teachers she didn't like. She didn't really talk that much about high school, but she talked about her friends and what sports and activities they did," freshman Gabrielle Lachtrup said.

One of the other topics that the upperclassmen girls wanted to inform the freshman girls about was the social scene at CHS.

"[I heard] stories about what's been going on in high school, like boyfriend and girlfriend stories, but nothing unusual," Erblich said.

Erblich is enthusiastic about Homecoming and the other school dances, which are some of the more traditional social events at CHS. Other underclassmen look forward to pursuing their hobbies at the high school.

"She [my 'little sister'] was really excited about her art classes, and she was prepared with questions for me," Klamer said.

Overall, the juniors and seniors enjoyed getting acquainted with their younger classmates and introducing them to new surroundings, with plans to continue working with

them. "I think there's a lot more enthusiasm this year; people are more dedicated, so I think this was Big Sister/Little Sister's most successful year," senior Maddie Harned said. "I plan on being a good 'big sister' and making sure my 'little sister' is well-adjusted to high school, and if she has any questions I want to be there for her."

"I liked getting to know the freshman; it was fun just seeing the class, because they're going to be a part of the high school," Klamer said. ☺

## Teen documentary realistic

Simone Bernstein  
Editor

Drama, laughs, peer pressure and text messaging pack this high school documentary, "American Teen," directed by Nanette Bernstein, portrays the lives of four ordinary high school seniors in middle-class Warsaw, Indiana. Each senior depicted in the film takes on a different role at school. The movie is comparable to a modern day "Breakfast Club" or a reality teenage television show.

The lives of the four seniors are extremely different and rarely intertwine. Hannah considers herself an artsy misfit who lives with her grandmother. Megan is a wealthy and popular prom queen who has her eyes set on attending Notre Dame. Colin is depicted as a jock due to star status on the basketball team. Jake falls outside the social ring with his acne covered face, no friends, no girlfriend and lacking self-confidence.

This feature follows the character's high and low moments, but tries to stay clear of the routine and uneventful parts of their lives. Each of the characters undergoes a conflict during the movie. Hannah suffers from severe depression, Colin is under stress to receive a college scholarship for basketball, Megan has family pressure to get accepted to Notre Dame and Jake has trouble fitting in with his classmates.

This documentary, a hit at The Sundance Film Festival, holds appeal for both young and older adults. The film will allow parents and grandparents to relive their own experiences and also connect with the thoughts and feelings of a current high school senior. It forces recent graduates to recall betrayal, rejection, and college acceptance letters, and allows current juniors and seniors to experience impending dramas that occurs in other high schools across the country.

Although this film may be controversial due to the underage drinking, hazing and crude language, it serves as a

fairly accurate portrayal of an average American small town high school. Cutting the dreary and foolish fantasy animated and video game scenes out of the film would enhance the feature. These animated scenes are distracting and add an unappealing Disney-like quality to the feature.

The movie ends with follows up two years after its initial filming with the students today.

These current college sophomore students get an opportunity in hindsight express their regrets for their past poor choices or immature behaviors. High school is a time to grow and experience situations on the long and winding road to adulthood. American Teen depicts the many bumps on the way to adulthood. ☺



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# Saint Louis Art Fair to celebrate its 15th year

Ellie Bullard  
Senior Editor

Rorey Lane has been coming to the St. Louis Art Fair since it began 15 years ago. One of the 150,000 people who visit the Art Fair each year, she has returned annually to enjoy the diversity of the artwork, the open-walking venue, the company, the food, the wine...the list goes on.

Lane's enchantment is with the eclectic nature of the festival, ranked 5th on the 2007 Harris List of the Nation's Best Fine Arts and Craft Shows. Not only does the fair boast an assortment of talented artists every year, but has events designed to please every crowd. Director of Operations Laura Miller looks forward to upholding the tradition of a varied festival.

"It's a great community event," Miller said. "We have 22 amazing restaurants from here in St. Louis that are participating, we've got 30 different performances that will take place on three different stages, we've got, for families, our children's area and art projects for kids. There's definitely something for everyone."

Artists in the areas of ceramics, digital art, drawing, pastels, fiber, glass, jewelry, metal, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, 3-D mixed media, 2-D mixed media, and wood attend the fair each year. Additionally, the festival offers a host of options for guests—local restaurants such as Crowne Plaza Grill and Hank's Cheesecakes are offered for guest's tastes, and a multitude of musical artists that will entertain guests.

"[I love] the opportunity for St. Louisans and other visitors to see artists, including musical and otherwise, from all over the country showcased in one venue, that you wouldn't normally get to visit, otherwise, all in one weekend," Lane said.

The diverse tradition of the St. Louis Art Fair started in 1994 once Ben Uchitelle, mayor of Clayton mayor at the time, and his wife, Sarah Uchitelle, decided to imitate other cities and create an Art Fair in Clayton. This year, three grandfather clocks are going to be created to commemorate the fair's 15th anniversary.

"We have commissioned along with Metro Arts and Transit Carol Fleming, a local artist. Carol is going to create a work in honor of our anniversary which will then be permanently installed at the transit center here in Clayton," Miller said.

Only with the ambitious goals of the fair has it successfully occurred for 15 years. The mission of the St. Louis Art Fair is an intricate paragraph, posted on the St. Louis Art Fair website.

"Our mission is to create access to a broad array of visual and performing art experiences, to nurture the development and understanding of diverse art forms and cultures and to encourage the expanding depth and breadth of cultural life in the Saint Louis area," Miller said. "Through exhibition, sale, performance and education, we collaborate with and serve the community."

Although all parts of the mission are important, Miller considers the Art Fair's collaborations with other not-for-profit organizations to be the most enjoyable aspect of the event.

"We pride ourselves in collaborating and I think that we are unique in that because we have so many opportunities for other non-profits arch organizations to participate in the festival," Miller said.

This year, not-for-profits such as Clayton Community Theatre and Cinema St. Louis are going to be given a chance to man a concessions booth at the fair and keep a percentage of what they earn. Other cultural not-for-profits are going to have booths to hand out information about their activities. A total of 17 not-for-profits are collaborating with the St. Louis Art Fair this year, all either manning a concessions or an information booth.



The 2007 Saint Louis Art Fair featured an array of sights for visitors, including a parade with a colorful dragon (photo above) for the kids and demonstrations of artists at work, including a glassblowing demonstration from a student at SIU-Carbondale (far left). The streets of Clayton were filled with visitors browsing, buying and eating (near left).

Friday, September 5 -  
5 pm to 10 pm  
Saturday, September 6 -  
10 am to 10 pm  
Sunday, September 7 -  
11 am to 4 pm

The Art Fair staff also collaborates with Washington University School of Art to offer the Saint Louis Art Fair Student Mentoring Program, designed to help students adjust to and learn about the Art Industry.

"They've got an awesome team of volunteers that give their time and brainpower, and I think that it shows every year," Lane said.

Staff and volunteers are a key part of the fair every year, as are other activities, but the artists are the focal point of the festival. The artists go through a jury process each year, and are required to submit examples of their work along with a statement describing the materials and techniques used in their art. The artist's work and statement are carefully looked over

by judges. Because the jury process is repeated for each artist each year, unless an artist wins a cash prize, the cast of artists varies.

"It's a blind jury process, so they have to go through the same process to get in," Miller said. "I think what's most exciting is some of these young artists that we are seeing this year. We've got a couple here in St. Louis that are new to our festival. They're young; we're seeing this whole new group of artists applying to our festival."

Winner of the 2007 Best of Show award Wendy Hill, who specializes in printmaking, respects the festival's vigilant jury process.

"It's a very professional show, and each artist is carefully

juried so there are more outstanding artists that attend than many shows," Hill said. "It really is a premier event."

For over a decade, The St. Louis Art Fair has been a prominent community event, drawing all types of people with a host of activities. After 15 years of attending the Art Fair, Lane mainly loves the fair because it's fun.

"I would say it's a great place to see beautiful art from all over the country," Lane said. "It's fun to just be in that whole area, it's really kind of electric on Friday nights. It's a lot of fun to be there both at daytime and night. I think that it's excellent every single year, and I think that the caliber of artists that choose to come here—we're thrilled to have them. I don't think there is anything I would change."

## Gelato eatery offers interesting alternative to ice cream

Maddy McMahon  
Editor

Although school is now in session, it's still hot enough for something cool and delicious. As a healthier alternative to ice cream, you should consider a visit to Paciugo, located in the Crescent in downtown Clayton, to have a cup of gelato and reminisce about the quickly fading summer.

Paciugo considers its gelato to be a "healthy indulgence" due to its low fat content, and prides itself on adhering to its motto, "ante lucrum nomen" - reputation before profit. Everything about the store is intended to give one the feel of an authentically Italian gelateria, from the special way employees use a spatula-like scoop to get the air bubbles out of the gelato, to the modern Italian décor.

With over 200 flavors and four distinct types of gelato, Paciugo has something for everyone. A gelato's "type" depends on the way in which it is made. The fact that there are dozens of flavors that are either water-based, milk-based, soy-based, or no sugar added ensures that there is something for people who are lactose-intolerant or wary of having too much fat in their diet.

Some of the more unusual flavors include crème brûlée, beer chill, kiwi, mango pomegranate, strawberry balsamic vinegar, and mango cucumber. There are also 3 "flower" flavors: lavender vanilla, violet, and rose. Each flavor is made from the extract of the flower it is named after, and they all taste the way the flower smells.

One of the most popular flavors is Panecotta wedding cake, which tastes like cake batter. For variety of flavor, Paciugo can't be beat.

The store has a great atmosphere, which makes it comfortable to linger after eating a cup of gelato, versus the order-and-go mentality of most ice-cream stores. Paciugo has wireless internet, a mural of Porto Vino, Italy, and plays classical music.

Since the store just opened this summer (the first Paciugo franchise in Missouri, actually), it's too soon to tell whether it will become a studying hotspot, but it is nearby the Kaldi's Coffeehouse inside the Crescent, which means it too benefits from the free parking garage connected to the "Shoppes at the Crescent."

Besides merely offering gelato, Paciugo sells paninis, salads, and coffee. It is the first Paciugo to have "real" food. Of course, it's hard to go there without ordering some of the fantastic gelato the franchise is known for.

Similarly to Starbucks, Paciugo has its own names for sizes. To order gelato at Paciugo, you choose between a piccolo (small), a medio (medium), or a grande (large) cup. A piccolo cup of gelato can hold up to 3 flavors, and each size up holds one additional flavor. Since choosing among the 32 flavors available at one time can be rather difficult, customers can have all the free samples they want.

Paciugo hires a large number of Clayton students, and it's a nice experience to see a classmate behind the made-in-Italy display case. All of the employees at Paciugo are extremely kind and professional, and all of them can rattle off why Paciugo's



The newly opened Paciugo, a gelato shop and caffè, offers over 200 flavors of gelato, a healthier alternative to ice cream. The store is located in the up-and-coming "Shoppes at the Crescent" and also has a great atmosphere, which makes it comfortable to linger after eating a cup of gelato. Paciugo has wireless internet, a mural of Porto Vino, Italy, and plays classical music.

gelato is the best in St. Louis, and how the original Paciugo, in Dallas, Texas, was founded.

The downside to Paciugo, however, is that its gelato is fairly expensive. The smallest cup of gelato available starts at \$3.49, and to have gelato in a waffle cone is 69¢ extra. A Paciugo Panini is \$7.99 and a salad costs \$7.49. However, to be fair, one must take into consideration the store's great location in the Crescent and its pride in its quality ingredients, many of

which are imported from Italy on a regular basis. Furthermore, in comparison to other gelaterias in Clayton, such as Benito's and Stratten's Café, Paciugo's has larger servings of gelato and has more available healthier options, such as dozens of non-fat fruit sorbetos.

For a great change of pace from the great ice cream standbys like Ted Drewes' and Maggie Moo's, I recommend giving Paciugo a visit.

## SpongeBob maintains relevance despite age

Maddie Harned  
Senior Editor

Its sometime past midnight and suddenly a late night boredom attack strikes. Whenever a situation like this arises, I most likely end up entertaining myself in the most mindless and unproductive manner possible. Therefore, I turn on the TV, where a familiar face flashes before my eyes.

He declares his signature (and rather philosophical) phrase, "I'm ready!"

He is the one and only SpongeBob SquarePants. The iconic cartoon character has been a favorite of mine since childhood. Memories of my religious watching of the show from fifth to eighth grade flooded me. I felt the only way to satisfy my nostalgia was to watch the show for the first time in years.

Instantly, I fell right back in love with the goofy plots and witty dialogue. SpongeBob's supremely silly antics were just as entertaining to me as they were when I was 10 years old.

Perhaps that can be checked up to my immaturity. Sigmund Freud might explain my predicament as my inner child trying to come out. However, I believe there is something much more profound about the world's favorite talking sponge. Ultimately, the show retains a sense of relevance no matter the age of the viewer.

First, the show's dialogue has universal appeal. For the younger set, the enthusiastic delivery matched with captivating voice-overs captures one's attention. And for an older audience, hilarious references to pop culture (i.e. SpongeBob being threatened "Godfather"-style) and innuendo-riddled dialogue adds a mature sense of comedy to what is mostly considered a children's show.

Furthering SpongeBob SquarePants' greatness is the fact that the characters are more developed than those found in most other cartoons. From Sandy, the spunky squirrel from Texas, to Patrick, the slacker starfish that acts and sounds like he is constantly stoned; the characters are highly entertaining.

Undeniably, the key to the show's sheer awesomeness is the big man himself, SpongeBob. Just neurotic enough to not be completely frightening, SpongeBob's kooky ways always provide comic relief.

In addition, his ability to balance a lucrative career as the ocean's best fry cook, boat driving lessons and karate practice is enviable. Perhaps we all could learn a little about organization and management from SpongeBob.

Adding to my delight, the show has recently been picked up by MTV and reruns air during the late night hours. Indeed, the future looks bright for SpongeBob, Patrick, Sandy and the gang, which is no surprise to me or any other loyal SpongeBob fan. In the words of Sandy the squirrel, "I like you SpongeBob. We can be tighter than bark on a tree."

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Senior Leah Eby poses with two Haitian school children during her visit this summer. Eby volunteered in a medical clinic, helping locals.

**Trip to Haiti significant, intense**

I used to imagine the small island country of Haiti in simple terms, as a barren, impoverished, forgotten place. The images that my mind conjured up when visualizing the country included scenes of a primitive civilization, frayed infrastructure, and an unhappy, ailing populace.

I had learned of Haiti's misfortune when interviewing Dr. Patricia Wolf, my pediatrician, for an article last spring. She has close ties with a medical team that travels to Haiti five weeks each year to provide necessary and otherwise absent care to Haitians in need.

As we talked, she told me of a country she had seen numerous times with her own eyes, yet I had trouble believing a place like Haiti truly existed outside of my own imagination.

She told me of a Haiti that was forced to endure French colonialism, producing slaves, manpower and raw materials for the imperialistic government.

She told me of a Haiti in which passionate revolutionaries executed the only successful slave revolt in world history.

She told me of a Haiti that has since been reduced to a country of desolation, poverty, and disease - a country with no hope for the future.

Yet what she failed to tell me was how I would react to the Haiti I saw this past summer.

And so, before I embarked on my journey to the destitute country of my imagination, I was left to wonder apprehensively what I would experience. I had no idea how I would respond to the malnourished children with orange hair and bloated bellies, to the small cement boxes topped with tin roofs that served as houses, to the looks of despair revealed in the eyes of the poor.

Would I cry in the face of so much hardship? Would I feel anger and resentment toward those in the rest of the world that are more fortunate than the Haitian people? Would I be able to endure eight full days in the midst of such extreme poverty and suffering? I had no idea what to expect of this fantasy land, and I came to dread the day I would set my eyes upon Haiti.

When the day finally arrived, my mom and I set off on our adventure with brave faces and an electric mosquito swatter to the unfamiliar country of Haiti. Upon our arrival in Cap-Haitien,

a northern, coastal town located near the clinic run by the medical group we traveled with, I caught my first glimpse of the real Haiti, an image generated not by my imagination, but observed first-hand from the window of our truck.

The streets of town were lined with the crumbling remains of French colonial buildings interspersed with skeletons of half-built concrete structures and wooden paneled doors. Mounds of trash smoldered on the edges of the road as goats, pigs, dogs, and people hunted for salvageable remains of food. Haitians tended to piles of flaming charcoal in front of shops and houses, cooking what rations were available for dinner. Young boys ran from beat-up car to beat-up car selling water, a valuable resource in the constant 90 degree heat and unbearable humidity of the Caribbean climate.

Men pushed wheelbarrows full of sugarcane, mattresses, bundles of charcoal, and various other products through the streets while women carried baskets of fruits, vegetables, and clothing atop their heads. As children caught sight of our truck making its way through the busy streets, they shouted "Blan, Blan!" the Creole word for "white person."

From that car ride on, I experienced culture shock.

The next six days were spent between one hour car rides along bumpy roads with abundant potholes and eight hour work days at the local clinic. Upon arriving at the clinic each morning, I was consistently surprised to see the number of people waiting in dire need of medical attention. The policy at the clinic was that no person was to be turned away, creating the daunting task of seeing and attempting to meet the medical needs of up to a few hundred patients a day. Since I have no medical background, I was assigned to do intake, creating charts and taking vital signs for each patient.

Though my job may have seemed like a menial task, it proved to be extremely fulfilling and exposed me to an element of this world that I had no previous experience with: suffering. As each patient entered the doorway of the clinic, I was handed their chart, greeted them with a cheerful "Bon jou," and motioned to them to "Chitala," meaning "Sit here" in Creole, the native language. I then proceeded to take their weight, temperature, blood pressure, and heart rate.

There's probably a hard drive hidden somewhere in all that racket, but I wouldn't be able to find it to save my life. Real pencils, on the other hand, are solid. They're genuine. You know what they are and where they're coming from. They've got graphite, wood, and paint. No frills, no fuss. What could be more American? It's a bummer to think that there are kids who have never had the pleasure of sharpening a dulled pencil. Of feeding a blunted stub into that magical box, listening to it whirl and rumble, and then extracting the transformed instrument, with its vicious point and threatening glint. It's a metamorphosis to rival Kafka.

Don't get me wrong. I'm all for progress, but only when the "progress" outperforms the predecessor. Unfortunately, there are some things that will never be outdone: a Stradivarius violin, Michael Phelps, "The Dark Knight" (seriously Chris, stop while you're ahead).

When it comes to pencils, both regular and mechanical, the simple truth is that nothing will ever outperform the Sanford Mirado Black Warrior. It is the ultimate. The Holy Grail. The pencil is literally perfect. Smooth, easy to write with, easy to erase, sleek.

The mechanical pencil virus will not go away by itself. It's up to everyone who cares about the future of handwriting to take action now. Go forth! As Gandhi said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

There are cases here, shells there, points, extenders, contain-

I also have problems with things I don't fully understand. This is no different with mechanical pencils. What is all that junk hanging onto it?

There are cases here, shells there, points, extenders, contain-



Leah Eby

**Summer abroad reunites family**

Nothing is more important than family. People that love each other, support each other and laugh together. You eat dinner with your family and share countless memories.

Yet, for me, my family has always been small: just my mom, dad, brother, sister and pets. It wasn't until last year that my grandparents moved to St. Louis. And, it wasn't until this summer that I truly got to know my aunt, uncle and only two first cousins, halfway across the globe.

You could call it a trip of a lifetime.

With 30 other teenagers, some staff and myself, I had an absolutely incredible summer in Spain and Israel.

I visited all of the great cities: Cordoba, Granada, Toledo, Sevilla and Madrid, each amazing in its own way. In Spain we were even lucky enough to watch Spain win the Euro cup (which hasn't happened for almost 20 years).

After a week in Spain, I spent five weeks traveling throughout all of Israel.

From day one in Tel-Aviv, to the last waking minute in Ben-Gurion Airport, I didn't stop having fun.

Because Israel is only about the size of New Jersey, with five weeks at hand, we were able to cover almost every corner Israel could offer us.

Starting in Jerusalem, we drove down to the south for a week, then back to Jerusalem, then up to the north for a week, and then back to Jerusalem to finish off the trip.

By this point, the 30 teenagers and I had become our own family. Our staff became like mothers and fathers. I mean, after so many bus rides, you kind of have to be close to one another. Our base in Jerusalem, on Agron Street, became a home for all of us. After spending a week in the south or north, going back to Agron was like going home for all of us. We knew which rooms were best, which balconies to hang-out on, and what was good to eat at breakfast.

We saw a tremendous amount of history everyday. Whether it is on a tour, watching a movie, a scavenger hunt or simply a walk, we were constantly seeing and learning about ancient history.

One day I will never forget involved absentmindedly finding the Western wall. Just walking with a friend, eating

our ice cream, we both realized that from the balcony we were standing on the Western wall and Dome of the Rock were directly in front of us. We both just stopped and stood in silence. It is true when people say you can almost feel the history in Jerusalem.

There is not the slightest bit of doubt that those five weeks in Israel were the highlight of not only this summer, but of all my summer vacations.

Yet, the most memorable part of my Israel experience this summer was the moment my aunt and uncle picked me up from the bus stop to spend the weekend with them and my only two first-cousins.

The entire weekend was unforgettable, simply because I had the opportunity to get to know the rest of my true family.

Whether it was walking through the street markets of Tel-Aviv or just walking through the neighborhood playground, being able to spend some quality time with family I had only met once before was very special.

Even though my 7 year old cousin, Nir, only speaks Hebrew, we were still able to find ways to hang-out and play together. We watched cartoon Batman and Robin-Hood, played board games and card games, but best of all, we swam and body-surfed together in the Mediterranean Sea. And, as the sun set over the sea, we played in the sand.

Even better, my baby cousin, Tali, turned 2 years old that Sunday. We celebrated her birthday with other distant relatives and practically the rest of the neighborhood. I even played a little on the violin. Even though Tali probably won't remember my presence on her second birthday, I for sure won't forget playing "Happy Birthday" for her, and watching her smear chocolate cake all over her face.

I realize now that my trip to Israel not only introduced me to new friends and religious sites, but this summer united me with an entirely new side of my family.

Because of this summer, I not only have my real family at home, but I also have a family of 30 teenagers and a real family in Israel.

To me, this is more than I could've asked for, from any summer. ☺



Aaron Praiss

**Olympics loses focus**

The goal of the Olympic movement is undeniably noble. The Olympic Charter states that the games seek to promote "a philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced whole the qualities of body, will and mind."

Over the course of the 20th century, however, the feverish clamor of nationalism and political exhibition derailed the competition from this original guiding purpose.

The 1936 games in Berlin conjure images of spectators by the thousands Heil-ing in the Olympic stadium, while the 1972 games in Munich will be forever associated with the image of a masked gunman peering out of team Israel's headquarters.

Both the 1980 games in Moscow, and the 1984 games in Los Angeles were marred by respective U.S. and Soviet boycotts. Consequently, the focus was

athletes in a huge variety of events. But perhaps more astonishing than China's dominance in the medal race was the way the country went about manufacturing its athletes.

Gymnastics provides a good case study. At about the age of three, Chinese children who show that they have an aptitude for the sport—whether it be flexibility, strength, or simply the ability to do a somersault—are whisked out of schools, away from home,

and into a government-sponsored athletics machine. It has been estimated that about 200,000 young Chinese are training in these facilities around the country. When the Olympics roll around the top competitors—with apparent disregard to age—are selected to compete.

The Wall Street Journal has noted that China is not the only country with a state-funded training program. Australia, Japan, and Germany have them as well.

But how in-keeping with the Olympic ideal is this approach? Does someone molded by the government into a great swimmer have the same drive, commitment, and passion as someone who made that decision and then pursued that dream privately?

Government investment in athletes does demonstrate one thing—that for China and others, winning gold at the Olympics is still a matter of national purpose, pride, and duty. The athlete's accomplishment is secondary to what the medal means for the country.

And while representing one's country should be an integral part of the Olympic spirit, using the games to further nationalist pride should not be. As previously discussed, that test has been run.

Obviously 2008 Beijing cannot be compared with 1936 Berlin, but history teaches us that politics and Olympics do not mix. ☹

**Staff Editorial**

Agree **100%**  
Disagree **0%**

**Student mourns death of pencil era**

I'm not someone who has a lot of "causes". The things I care enough to campaign about are relatively few and far between: the preservation of Forest Park, stricter boundary patrol in African nature preserves, the reintroduction of croquet as an Olympic sport.

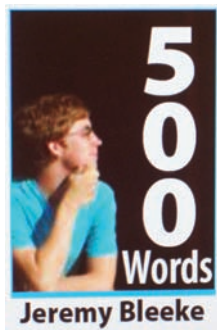
But I do have one cause that I will never let die. It's an issue that affects not only every member of CHS, but the majority of the literate world as well. It's an epidemic which has descended like the plague throughout school rooms and office buildings the world over, and it's time someone took a stand. I am referring, of course, to the inexplicable popularity of the mechanical pencil.

I believe that the small things are what make a person truly happy. I personally would not be able to find inner solace without my bare essentials: Simon and Garfunkle, ice cubes, and a good supply of non-toxically stained, Californian incense cedar, exclusive graphite core, number 2 Ticonderoga pencils.

The simple truth is that using a mechanical pencil is nothing like using, for example, a Ticonderoga Tri-Write Woodgrain. Especially in the classroom. I would gladly trade the clicking, the snapping of lead, the scratching of untempered graphite on paper, and the obnoxious whispers of "Do you have any .7?" for a chorus of pencil sharpeners, grinding out their sawdust symphony.

I also have problems with things I don't fully understand. This is no different with mechanical pencils. What is all that junk hanging onto it?

There are cases here, shells there, points, extenders, contain-



Jeremy Blecke

The Globe is a public forum. As such, we welcome the voices of all. We accept letters to the editor provided they are signed; under very few circumstances will we publish an anonymous letter. Due to space constraints, we reserve the right to edit submitted material.

**CAPTAIN JEFF** *By Jeff Goldsmith*



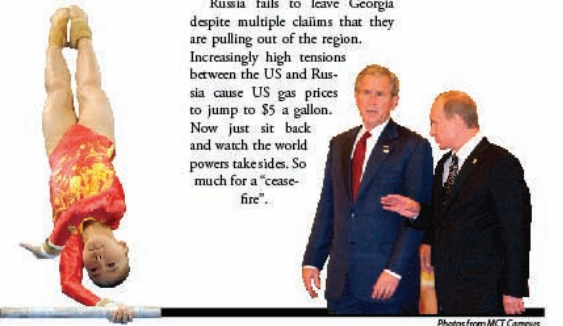
The Interest page is a new venture for the Globe staff this year. It will normally occupy a full page and will focus on funny and interesting bits of pop culture. If you have an item you think is worthy, drop us an email at [globe@clayton.k12.mo.us](mailto:globe@clayton.k12.mo.us) or come see us in the cottage. Photos, funnies, and favorite songs and websites are all welcome.

**John Edwards**  
Admits to affair with a filmmaker from his campaign after repeatedly denying the National Enquirer's claims. So he ruins his political future, tears apart his family and proves that the National Enquirer has actually reported a true story. That's three strikes.

**Warner Brothers**  
The release date for the sixth Harry Potter movie has been moved back seven months to make more money. Now that's magic: watch annoyed fans disappear.

**Russian Aggression**

Russia fails to leave Georgia despite multiple claims that they are pulling out of the region. Increasingly high tensions between the US and Russia cause US gas prices to jump to \$5 a gallon. Now just sit back and watch the world powers take sides. So much for a "cease-fire".



**Underage Gymnasts**

The International Olympic Committee orders an investigation against He Kezhi as all evidence points out she is two years younger than the birthdate posted on her passport. Because the Beijing Olympics really needed more drama.

**Line of Infamy**



French Designer Philippe Stark's new personal wind turbine will hit the market this fall for an estimated cost of \$630. 12 feet wide and 18 feet high, the turbine will be able to power 20-60% of an average home's energy needs.

**Environment Watch**



**StumbleUpon.com**

StumbleUpon allows users to discover random websites, videos or photos tailored to their personal interests. It is a great break from homework, but be careful-- it's addictive!

**Playlist**

- Banger 1** G. Love featuring Blacklicious and Lateef the Truthspeaker
- Artificial Man 2** Artificial Man-The Kinks
- Get Me Away from Here, I'm Dying 3** Belle & Sebastian
- Star Mile 4** Joshua Radin
- Chump Change 5** The New Pornographers
- One Week 6** The Barenaked Ladies
- Ice Cream 7** New Young Pony Club
- American Boy 8** Estelle featuring Kanye West
- Love You Madly 9** Cake
- I Want You to Want Me 10** Letters to Cleo

**August/September**

Late Summer. Early Fall. Classes beginning. Fall sports kicking into gear. Homecoming just around the corner. Greyhound Pride. The first school dance of the year.

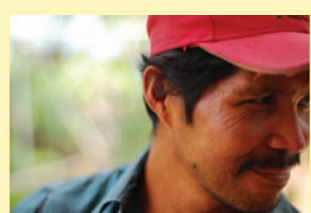
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Labor Day Weekend Enjoy the last vestiges of summer Sesame Street's Herry Monster's Birthday	1 [Image of a sunset over water]	2 National Blueberry Popsicle Day Volleyball v. Riverview, Home	27 1st Globe comes out Have as great read and check out our new design	28 National Bow Tie Day-- Do you dare? Girls' Var. Tennis 4 pm	29 Labor Day Weekend Get out of town if you can and have a great weekend. 1st Home Football Game 7 pm	30 [Image of a city skyline] [Image of a field hockey game] Var. Field Hockey Gateway Classic, 7 am, noon
7 National Feel the Love Day	8 Fight Procrastination Day - Do It Today Day	9 Hot Dog Day (First Sold in 1884) Softball vs Villa, Home	3 Uncle Sam's Birthday Girls' Golf vs Villa	4 Eat an Extra Dessert Day	5 Be Late For Something Day--not an excuse for tardies	6 Iguana Awareness Day [Image of an iguana]
14 National Cream-filled Donut Day Sixth-Grade Camp	15 National Thank-You Day Sixth-Grade Camp	16 International Eat an Apple Day Sixth-Grade Camp	10 Swap Ideas Day	11 Make Your Bed Day-- Make your mom happy	12 National Chocolate Milkshake Day Varsity Football vs LADUE. home 7pm	13 International Chocolate Day ACT Testing Cross Country Vs SLUH
21 Miniature Golf Day SPIRIT WEEK Powder Puff Game, 2 pm	22 SPIRIT WEEK	23 Teacher's Day SPIRIT WEEK Penny War Fr-Jr Commons decorations	17 1st Late Start Day Sleep In to celebrate Sixth-Grade Camp Field Hockey v Ladue, Home	18 International Day of Peace National Play-Doh Day Sixth-Grade Camp Soccer vs Ladue, Away	19 Talk Like a Pirate Day Sixth-Grade Camp	20 National Punch Day
			24 September Globe SPIRIT WEEK Penny War Fr-Jr dress-up to theme Soph-Sen commons decorations	25 National Comic Book Day SPIRIT WEEK Soph-Sen dress-up to theme Homecoming Bonfire Softball vs Ladue, Home	26 National Pancake Day SPIRIT WEEK Orange and Blue dress up day	27 [Image of a football game] 5 Homecoming Parade Game, Dance



These people live very much in the third world, but are in fact, far happier than we with resources. It was an amazing experience helping the community plan various projects such as continuing to grow fair-trade organic coffee, maintain a scholarship program for the youth, and to help with the problem of non-existent potable water. This was my 5th year going to this community, and I have very dear friends there. When I step into this village where people do not speak my language, children wear the same torn clothes every day, and people go without food regularly, I feel at home. I have learned so much from my experiences in Nicaragua, and from the relationships that I've created there.

--Andrew Dowd, senior

Senior Andrew Dowd went to Nicaragua with a group of 14 other people from churches all around the St. Louis area. They stayed in Nicaragua in a small village of about 400 people, and helped out around the community. Dowd (right) poses with a friend from the community he visits each summer.



Photos above and below courtesy of Andrew Dowd

# Summer Journeys

This summer, CHS students covered the globe, making a difference in the world from Israel all the way to Arkansas.



Senior Susie Wirthlin was selected to go to Perryville, Arkansas, the location of the headquarters of Heifer International, a non-profit organization that combats world hunger by donating livestock (such as the goat above) to people in need. She lived for three days in a simulated third-world setting, where they learned first-hand what poverty was like. They then used their experiences for inspiration, translating their experiences into a theatrical production (photos above). During their time at Heifer, students created cardboard masks to sell at their performance to raise money for the Heifer organization (above).

We all bonded so well that when it was finally time to go home, it felt surreal to realize that we might not ever see this family again. However, we realized that it was time to go back home and spread the message of what we learned from Heifer. The experience has truly changed me as a person, opening my eyes to everything around me. I don't feel like I can just go back to that person who constantly consumed without ever thinking about how little others have. One main mantra we learned at Heifer was "Do not let the perfect become the enemy of the good." If we all do a little good, we can make a huge difference in ending world hunger and poverty. Eat less meat, eat locally grown food, and take what you want, but eat what you take.

--Susie Wirthlin, senior



Photo courtesy of Rebecch Singer

Senior Rebecch Singer went to Israel and Poland for 6 weeks with her Jewish camp to experience the culture and learn about her heritage (photos above and left).

Israel is my favorite place in the world. The part of Israel I'm never going to forget is the night we arrived in Israel from Poland. We went to the kotel, or the western or "wailing" wall, and I remember my counselor told us to touch the wall for everyone who couldn't. When I got into the women's section of the wall and finally worked my way to the front and touched the wall, I could feel exactly what she was talking about. Israel made me feel so connected to Judaism in a way I've never experienced before. I felt how lucky I was to be standing there where generations before me had been yearning to stand.

--Rebecch Singer, senior



Photo courtesy of Rebecch Singer



Photo courtesy of Hannah Novack

Senior Hannah Novack went on a 24 day trip around the country with a group called Cultural Leadership, a group of Jewish and African-American students which meets once a month to learn about each other's cultures, religions, and histories. Students had a chance to meet with such influential figures as senator Claire Mc Caskill (above).

A message that was pressed upon us on the trip was that we are standing on the shoulders of those that have come before us. As we literally walked in the footsteps of activists that had come before us when we crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, I developed a greater appreciation for those individuals who possessed the huge amounts of courage, perseverance, and faith to take action to advance civil rights and defeat oppression because, as a result, they bettered society for us today.

--Hannah Novack, senior