

# Globe

## OBAMA'S STIMULUS PLAN:

The recovery package, signed into law this month, has provoked controversy amongst politicians and economists on both sides of the aisle.

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MCT Campus

## Biomedical class combines biology with medical experience

Nina Oberman  
Editor

CHS students wishing to explore the medical field no longer need to wait until college. Beginning in fall 2009, the science department will offer a new biomedical class that covers biological concepts in relation to the human body.

"If Forensic Science is 'CSI', then this class is 'House'," science teacher Heather Jacus said. She will be teaching the year-long class next year, which starts off with an autopsy of a fictional character.

"As we find out more about her, the units are formed," Jacus said. The dis-

covery that she is diabetic leads to a unit on metabolism and cellular respiration. Sickle cell anemia guides the class to an exploration of genetics. And the detection of infectious diseases takes the class into a study of bacteria and identification through gram staining.

"Some of the assessments will be traditional," Jacus said. "But some of them will be project based. Part of the final will be writing a grant proposal and giving a presentation."

There is no prerequisite for the biomedical class, which will be offered as an elective credit. An incoming freshman could enroll without any background in

biology. However, students cannot treat it as their main science course. They must still take the traditional physics, chemistry and biology to complete science requirements.

"It wouldn't replace a course science, but it certainly would augment the science experience," chemistry teacher Mike Howe said. Freshman Erin Butler, who will be taking the class next year, feels prepared for the extra workload.

"I know that it will be a lot of work because I am also going to be in honors chemistry," Butler said. "I think it's worth it because I will get a lot out of it, and learn a lot more than I would learn

in any other science class."

After the biomedical class, the science department plans to add three more courses to complete the new sequence. The second class will be human body systems, the third medical interventions, and the fourth research, in which students will have a chance to be paired with professional researchers.

"When students think of medicine, they usually only think of a doctor or a nurse," Howe said. "But the idea of looking at career options in biomedical areas is really important, and I think it will open doors that kids didn't know existed."

Some 400,000 scientists will be retiring in the next ten years, Howe said. This provides a plethora of job opportunities to students in the biomedical field. For high schoolers, this class is unique, and could help to unveil jobs they never knew they could have.

"It's cool because you don't really get to explore medical topics until you're considering pre-med in college," said incoming freshman Noam Kantor, who was considering taking the class next year. Current freshman Charlie Harned is also looking for a jump-start.

Biomedical class, 8



Photos by Izzy Pratt

When the Facilities Master Plan was passed, discussion began about a possible land swap between the School District of Clayton and Wash U., moving Wydown Middle School (right) to the former CBC High School campus (left).

## Wydown, not included in Proposition S, in need of renovations

Noah Eby  
Reporter

On Jan. 21, the Clayton Board of Education (BOE) voted five to two in favor of placing a bond issue on the April ballot that has serious implications for Wydown Middle School.

The \$51 million bond issue, Proposition S, will entail a 29 cent per dollar tax increase, which would amount to an extra \$275 of taxes on a home valued at \$500,000. The rate increase will fund renovations and additions included in the Facilities Master Plan at Clayton High School, Meramec, Glenridge and Captain Elementary Schools and the Family Center.

However, Wydown Middle School is not included in Prop. S. This is because of the possibility of a land swap with Washington University that would involve the university gaining the Clayton School District's Bracken building, Maryland School, and Wydown Middle School. In exchange, Clayton would receive the former CBC High School campus and "substantial financial contribution," according to the District's FAQ on the possible deal.

Don Senti, Clayton School District Superintendent, said that the possibility of a land swap came up in January at an

inconvenient time.

"Over the winter break the discussion became serious, but Dec. 21 is when the Board passed the Master Plan," Senti said. "So, the timing was very bad, very bad."

And there is no doubt that Wydown is in need of renovations. Not only is the building old and decrepit, there is a serious lack of space. Michael Fournier, a technology instructor at Wydown, said that many teachers don't even have a classroom to teach in.

"Google any teacher in the district and then Google Jerry Estes and see if you get as many hits for them as you get for [him]," Fournier said. "He writes a lot of music, he's internationally known, the whole bit - he teaches in the hallway."

Wydown Principal Maryann Goldberg also said that space is the biggest issue that Wydown is facing. However, she said there isn't much she can do right now to try to address the problems facing her school.

"I can't put expanders and spread

the walls out and I can't do anything about it," Goldberg said. "So it is what it is, the staff knows it is what it is, and so we've just made it work, for the kids especially."

Fournier echoed Goldberg, saying that the staff is "hodge-podging" and "doing the best [they] can." The lack of space has been an ongoing problem at Wydown; in 2001 it was determined that the middle school had insufficient space for the number of students it served. Fournier said that this, and the many proposals that the District has offered and retracted, has left the staff feeling let down.

"I think the staff is disappointed," Fournier said. "They talked about at one point that they were going to build a new building, [but] that was too expensive, then they said they were going to do an addition, [and] now they're pulling all the stuff off the table."

There is much controversy as to what exactly should be done. At the Jan. 21 BOE meeting, several community-members expressed their concerns that

if Wash. U. was to acquire the middle school, they would spread like a virus through the Wydown neighborhood.

Wash. U. did not respond to a request for comment, but BOE-treasurer Jane Klamer said that a provision regarding the university's possible expansion into the Wydown neighborhood would be part of the negotiation process. Still, Fournier said that he has already begun to see disapproval in his neighborhood.

"I live in Old Town - I live by Maryland School - so I'm caught between a rock and a hard spot," Fournier said. "The response that I've gotten from my neighbors is that some of them are very concerned."

There was another major concern raised at the board meeting about the possibility of Wydown being completely left out. Since the April 2009 bond issue will not fund any Wydown renovations, there would have to be a 2010 bond issue as well. Though that would not require an additional tax increase, just a continuation of the one passed in 2009, Wydown would be helpless if it did not pass. Fournier said this makes the staff feel neglected, but Senti was fairly certain that a 2010 bond issue would pass.

"We're always worried, but our preliminary results show that it's likely to pass," Senti said.

Klamer was also confident that a 2010 bond issue would pass, but said that the economy could play a major role in the way the situation plays out.

"I think by 2010 we will have resolved the issues with the community as to what is the best thing to do with the middle school - the rest of it probably depends on the economy," Klamer said.

Community concerns over the CBC issue and the possibility of Wydown being neglected have become so vehement that many people are threatening to oppose Proposition S this April. Though a November 2008 survey showed that between 60 and 70 percent of Clayton citizens would support a tax increase or bond issue to improve the schools, Klamer said she has no idea what those numbers would look like today. She said that passing Proposition S is very important, and that its failure could rob Clayton schools of the necessary improvements.

"I have been telling people that opposition to Proposition S will deprive the high school, the Family Center, and the other buildings of the renovations that they need," Klamer said.

Furthermore, Klamer said that the community expressed a need for the

Wydown, 8

## Washington University introduces plastic water bottle ban with initial success

Ken Zheng  
Editor

Student Activities Director Eric Hamylak believes the only way he'll begin using a reusable water bottle is with a free provided dishwasher. Instead, he uses disposable water bottles on a daily basis.

Although he began using them around the beginning of college, he still does because he dislikes the tap water at his house. Disposable water bottles are just one of the many invented conveniences that provide versatile portability and increase waste.

To curb this, Washington University recently banned the sale of disposable water bottles on campus. The process began during the autumn of 2008. The goal was to have all plastic water bottle sales from vending machines, dining hall services and catering eliminated by the start of the semester in January 2009. This has been successfully accomplished.

"There were overall budget issues," said Matt Malten, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Campus Sustainability. "This project eliminated a fairly significant revenue stream from dining services. We also calculated the cost for the same amount of water provided via municipal drinking water to be roughly half the value of the revenue. However, we believe the externalities of the numerable environmental impacts of bottled water did not justify the revenue."

The Resource Management Department submitted the directive to Washington University's Coca-Cola vendor and they agreed to eliminate bottled water from their facilities.

"The elimination is complete with little to no complaints received according to dining services and resource management," Malten said. Sophomore Simon Warchol completely agrees with what Washington University has accomplished.

"I think that plastic bottles are wasteful for consumers," Warchol said. "I use my Nalgene's at tennis, sailing and hiking. I think the disposables are a waste of resources and also harm the environment. I

don't think we as human beings should over-indulge and harm the planet like this."

While Hamylak realizes the environmental consequences of continuing to use disposables, he believes that a similar ban at CHS would be detrimental.

"I don't think an entire ban of all water bottles at CHS would be appropriate," Hamylak said. "Would soda and juice be banned too? Banning water bottles would be like eliminating all fast food restaurants. We know they're not healthy, but they are convenient. Some people, including athletes, need to purchase bottled water out of convenience. Still, I would encourage everyone to reuse their own Nalgene water bottle as much as possible because it helps our environment and it's usually less expensive in the long run."

Washington University also offers incoming freshmen a free reusable bottle. This also provides them with discounts on coffee and other beverages at campus dining facilities. The ban has gone into full effect with the exception of special events. Students are already looking for alternatives for these events.

Plastic is made from petroleum and certain related transportation costs are associated with its production. AP Environmental Science teacher Chuck Collis believes that though there are recycling bins which lessen the impact of plastic bottle consumption, the bottles generally still end in landfills.

"Plastic is graded, some of them more useful than others," Collis said. "Most water bottles are made of high density polyethylene, and that's one of the more useful forms. It can be

shredded up and melted down and then incorporated into numerous products."

The recycling bins on Washington University campus are being kept for other recyclable materials. In landfills, plastics are treated by an entirely different process: painstakingly slow erosion.

"Erosion time depends on the type of plastic the bottle is fabricated from," Malten said. "If it is made from a bio-based plastic and it is composed under the appropriate conditions, bio-based plastics can degrade within months; non-bio-based plastics take hundreds of years."

Malten also believes it doesn't make sense for the citizens of St. Louis to use disposable water bottles.

"We believe St. Louis municipal water is some of the best in the country, and that we have convenient, more environmentally responsible means to enjoy it as opposed to using plastic bottles," Malten said. "We believe our materials management protocols start with reducing our consumption of disposable materials, prior to reusing and recycling them. Therefore, we believe the distribution, use, and collection and recycling of plastic bottled water can be avoided by using other convenient, reusable containers."

Convenience was the key term when it came to using plastic water bottles according to Malten. "Convenience is why we needed to educate our community on how easy it is to use their own reusable containers to access the convenient water we already have on campus, Malten said. "In addition, our campus-wide sustainability initiatives provide motivation and incentive for our community to adopt these behaviors."

Collis strongly agrees with Malten's assessment.

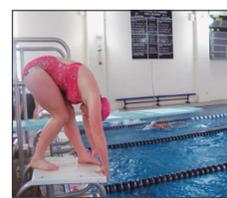
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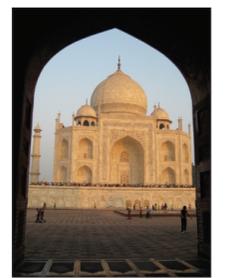
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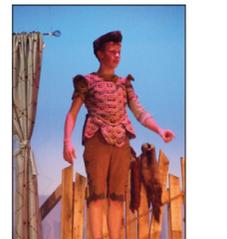
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# Iceland in midst of economic turmoil

After its precipitous fall due to the global economic crisis, Iceland now begins to revive its economy under new leadership.

Jocelyn Lee  
Reporter

After an economic crash this past fall, Iceland has begun to regain its footing by swearing in its first female prime minister, Johanna Sigurdardottir. Sworn in on Feb. 1, Sigurdardottir is serving as prime minister for three months until a new election, which is expected to take place on April 25.

The country hardest hit by the global financial crisis, Iceland has become the first nation to change its government as a direct result of the economic downturn. The economic problems have caused numerous angry demonstrations against the Icelandic government.

In late January, Iceland's coalition government collapsed with the resignation of Prime Minister Geir Haarde and Commerce Minister Bjorgvin Sigurdsson.

In recent years, Iceland had experienced one of the world's fastest economic booms, making unemployment in the country less than one percent, according to The New York Times. Their currency, the krona, was high in value, allowing Iceland's three banks to do a great deal of foreign business — attracting foreign customers, foreign depositors, taking out foreign loans, and buying properties abroad.

"Although small, [Iceland] has been held up as a model for many years: it is affluent, egalitarian, and socially progressive," Washington University Economics Professor John Nachbar said. "The United Nations Development Program listed Iceland first in its table of the top countries in terms of wealth, health, and education."

History teacher Debra Weins said that in past years, Iceland worked to

function on a more international basis. "There's been a push to teach multiple languages to prepare [young people] for international communication," Weins said.

However, the crisis hit when Iceland's nationalized banks collapsed in September and October because of large foreign debt. With the krona's value plunging, inflation was around 16 percent in early November. Inflation was higher due in large part to the promotion of loans in foreign currencies by Iceland's banks.

"For most of this decade, Iceland has been on a borrowing binge," Nachbar said, "one facet of which was that Iceland's three major banks expanded enormously, morphed into international banks, and began to take deposits from overseas, including from many local governments in the U.K."

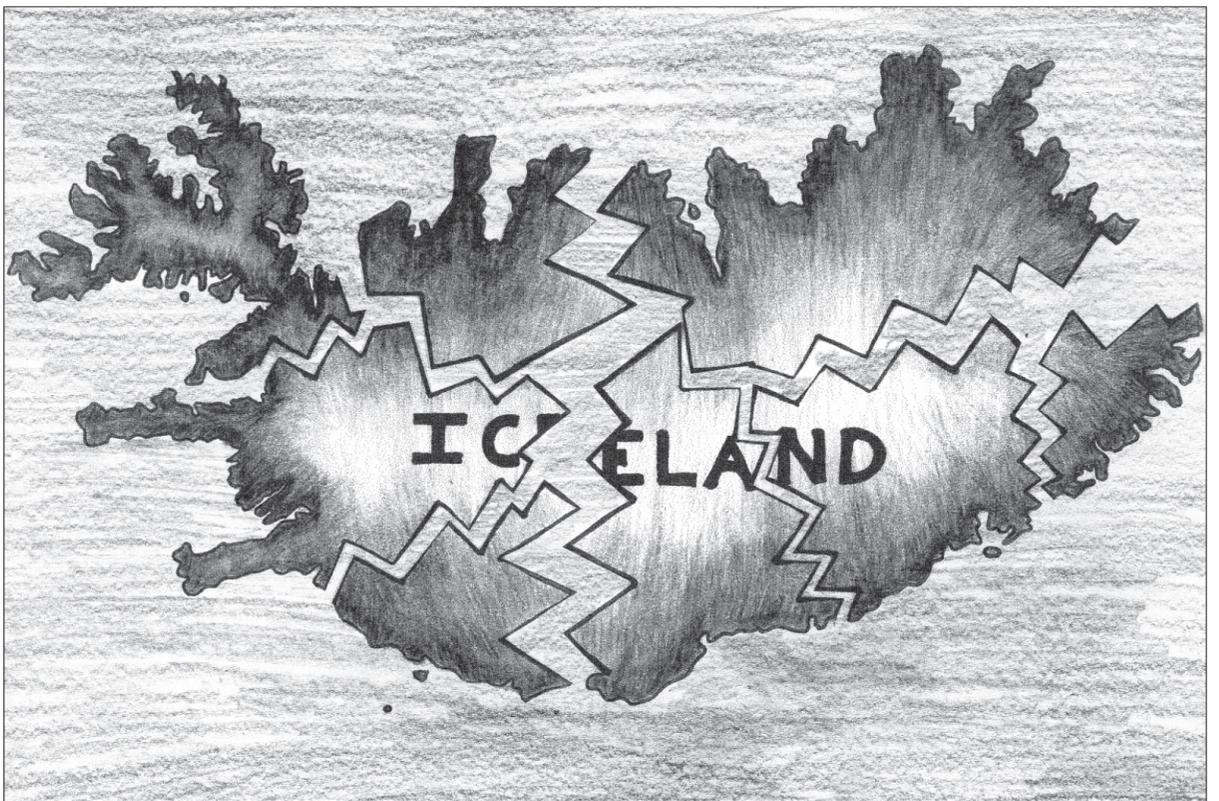
Economics teacher Mark Bayles said the Icelandic banks' lending strategies could be profitable, but also risky.

"The banks effectively became bigger than the country," Bayles said. "So when things went bad, there was nothing the government could do to back [the banks] up."

Practically overnight, Iceland went from having the fourth highest gross domestic product per person in the world to being on the brink of bankruptcy, according to The New York Times. Now, the unemployment rate is expected to reach at least 10 percent this spring.

According to The Economist, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) calls the collapse of Iceland's banks "the biggest banking failure in history relative to the size of the economy."

Following the crash, Iceland's government negotiated \$10 billion in loans from the IMF and other countries,



Helen Wiley

equivalent to over \$30,000 for each of Iceland's 320,000 inhabitants.

According to Nachbar, the U.S. finds itself in a situation somewhat similar to Iceland's.

"Debt levels in the U.S. are high and the U.S. financial system also has some serious problems," Nachbar said. "But the problems in Iceland are much, much worse. The basic difficulty is that, relative to the Icelandic economy, Iceland's banks are vastly larger than any U.S. bank is relative to ours. The Icelandic economy is not large enough to restore solvency to what are, in effect, mostly international banks that, while of mostly moderate size relative to the global economy, are huge relative to the Icelandic economy. Iceland has been bankrupted by its banks."

Now, Iceland is finding it hard to do business abroad because the krona is high and some nations are angry.

Demonstrations and protests regarding the financial situation, which used to be uncommon in Iceland, are also signs of the anger that has resulted from the economic crisis. Since the collapse of the banks, protestors have gathered outside the Parliament building, sometimes displaying violence and causing police to become involved.

However, many now have their eyes turned toward Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir, as well as the new election this spring, with the hope that the country will begin to rebuild and redeem itself.

According to The New York Times, Sigurdardottir spoke of her plans for the

coming months at a news conference earlier this year, stressing jobs and housing.

"All the ministers in my cabinet must work fast, take firm action and accept responsibility for their actions," Sigurdardottir told The New York Times. "The people of this country must see that there is a new government in place which will defend their homes and rebuild the job market."

Sigurdardottir has received unusual amounts of attention recently, as she is the first female prime minister of Iceland, in addition to the modern world's first openly gay head of government. An experienced politician, she has served as social affairs minister in several governments and is recognized for strengthening Iceland's social welfare system and

advocating for greater housing opportunities for the poor.

However, many are unsure of Iceland's future.

"As of right now, it's very hard to see any light at the end of the tunnel," Nachbar said. "No one, as far as I can tell, has much hope that the new government will be more effective than the previous one. The Icelandic economy needs to be rebooted and I do not know how one goes about doing that. There are no modern parallels."

As it stands, Iceland is now an example, a warning in the eyes of the rest of the world.

"Iceland is an object lesson of what can happen when banks are too optimistic and when governments allow unregulated banking," said Bayles.

# Islamic students sometimes targets of cultural stereotypes

Ijeoma Onyema  
Editor

Earlier this month, a mosque in south St. Louis received threats from an anti-Muslim website. Like many other mosques and Islamic settings, this St. Louisian place of Islamic worship was a victim of Islamophobia, a term for the discrimination against Islam and its followers.

This term has existed since the 1980s, but the idea is as old as the hate crimes experienced by African Americans before the 1960s.

After Sept. 11, the American public's views on Muslims and the Islamic world went downhill as the country recovered from the attack and declared the War on Terrorism against the Middle East.

As the feelings towards Muslims continued to go sour, so did the morals of some Americans as they discriminated against all Islamic people.

Junior Ali Sehizadeh has been a victim of discrimination for quite some time.

"I was called a terrorist several times, and others would say things like 'don't drop a bomb on me,'" Sehizadeh said. "I usually assume that they're jok-

ing, but some of them aren't kidding. Those who weren't kidding targeted me on social networks such as Facebook."

Unlike Sehizadeh, Senior Farzana Saleem has never experienced a situation where she thought others had discriminated against her.

"Most people don't know that I'm Muslim until I tell them," Saleem said. "Many just assume I'm from India."

Saleem claims she isn't very religious, but she still gets irritated when many Americans assume all Muslims are terrorists.

"I just keep my cool when people say ignorant stuff like that," Saleem said. "Most of them don't really know what they are talking about; it's a big group, so you can't go and say that over a billion of people are terrorists set on destroying democracy."

Sehizadeh agrees with Saleem.

"I don't eat pork and I'm slightly secular. I still believe in God," Sehizadeh said. "Sometimes, I go to mosque and pray with my grandfather, who is very conservative, but he doesn't approve of what al-Qaeda is doing either. My grandparents are much more conservative."

Saleem fasts sometimes and goes to mosque once in a while, but neither she nor Sehizadeh are among those who sympathize with terrorist organizations like al-Qaeda.

"I am strongly against those who sully the Islamic culture with terrorism," Sehizadeh said. "[Islamic fundamentalists] have the impression that the world is theirs to control, but it belongs to others of diverse cultures and different views, so they can't just force the world to assimilate back to when the Islamic world was the dominant power."

In fact, fewer respondents in Muslim countries express confidence in al-Qaeda; however, 50 percent of Americans believe that American Muslims are sympathetic to al-Qaeda while 39 percent believe they aren't loyal to America.

"Those who call Muslims radicals aren't right — yes we can be overly religious but so can any other person," Sehizadeh said. "However, I can understand why Americans are afraid of Muslims. Sept. 11 is an obvious reason, but also Islam is an Arabic-based religion and it is quite foreign compared to Judaism and Christianity. But if they just ignore the assumptions the media forces upon us and actually learn about the Islamic culture, they will realize that there are fewer differences between the cultures than they think."

One prominent influence on public views of Muslims is the media. About one-third of Americans believe in what is said about Muslim in the media.

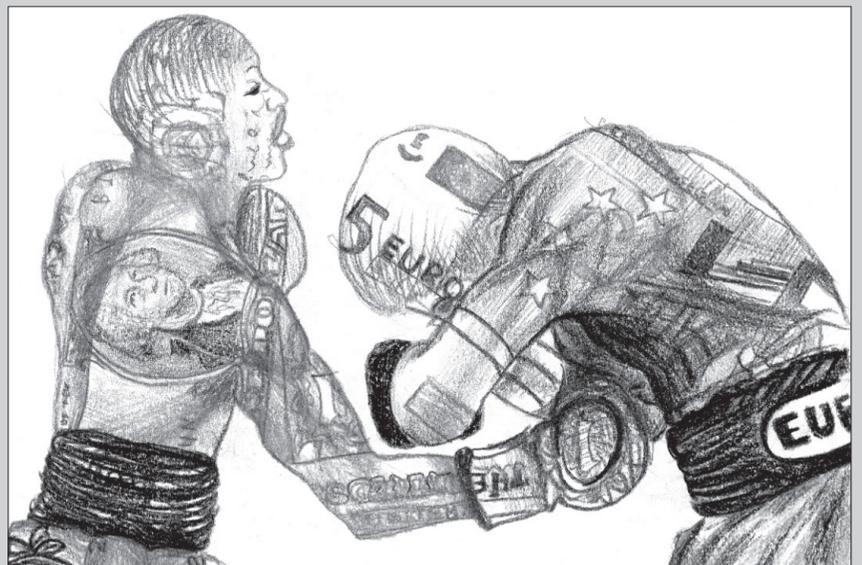
Sehizadeh believes that Americans should learn about the Middle East by themselves instead of following what the media tells them because the media overplays Islam.

"A Muslim is more likely to be broadcast on the news for something bad than if it was a Christian or Jew," Sehizadeh said. "It's sad that a person is wrongly judged just because of his religion."

Though the relations between the Islamic world and America aren't bound to improve any time soon, there is hope.

More than half of the country believe that America can find common ground with the Islamic world. Both Sehizadeh and Saleem believe that peace between the two regions is possible.

"The best way to lower fundamentalism and gain understanding is through education," Sehizadeh said. "It is the responsibility of not only Americans, but also Muslims to educate themselves on each other's sides of life. Only then can there be peaceful relations between Americans and Muslims."



Dee Luo

# Dollar gaining over euro

Laura Bleeke  
Reporter

The U.S. dollar's worth has fluctuated greatly throughout the economic recession. At the moment, we are experiencing the worth of the dollar rising. The dollar is catching up to the euro and the yen.

There are multiple factors that lead to what is known to economics as the Foreign Exchange Market. All exchange rates are relative to each other. Each country has rises and falls with different currencies. At the moment we are experiencing a rise in worth relative to the euro.

"You could be gaining, or appreciating, with respect to one [currency] and losing, or depreciating, with respect to another. What makes this happen are changes in supply in demand of currencies."

One of the biggest reasons for this is simply supply in demand. The most important thing to understand is that the buyer must pay in the seller's own currency.

"The basic notion is that if you want to buy something from another country whether it's Japanese cars or Chinese toys," Bayles said, "or something that is intangible, a financial asset, or treasury bills sold by the U.S. government, you have to pay for it in the currency of the nation that produces it or issues it."

When a country experiences a large number of imports, there is more of their currency in the Foreign Exchange Market. Because there is then a greater amount of the currency, it then pushes down the demand for it, causing its worth to decrease.

Another reason for the change in worth is sudden rises in relative growth rates of two countries, or relative wealth. If one country is richer and can buy more exports from

another country than that country can buy from them, it will drive down their currency worth. Inflation rates play a role in the Foreign Exchange Market.

"If inflation is high in one country it means prices are rising," Bayles said. "If inflation is low in another country, their prices are stable. So their goods are getting relatively cheaper because their prices are inflating. That then makes me want to buy more goods because their goods are cheaper, which then makes my currency drop."

Through these factors, the Foreign Exchange Market is able to run. The new plan for a stimulus package has also affected the dollar's worth.

"Economic turmoil in recent months strengthened the dollar as investors flocked to buy it, seeing it as a safer investment in uncertain times," stated an article in the Channel Asia site on Feb. 12.

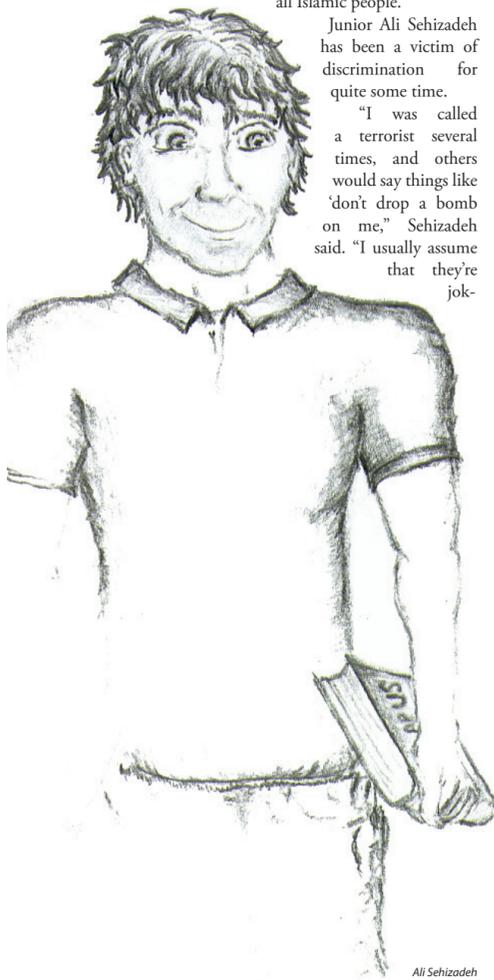
"Since nothing definitive is expected until Friday afternoon, currencies and equities may have a tough time holding onto their gains," said Kathy Lien at Global Forex Trading.

Currently the exchange rate from the U.S. dollar to the euro is 0.7896 for every one dollar according to CNNMoney, and the exchange rate from the dollar to the yen is 92.3600 for every one dollar.

The worth of the dollar relative to euro may drop just as soon as it had risen. The Foreign Exchange Market can fluctuate dramatically and change often because it's all relative.

Many people are liquidating their money held in euro and yen assets, and moving it to American because they will make a higher rate of return.

"They're cashing in yen and euro bonds, supplying that, and demanding American dollars," Bayles said. "As a result, the yen and euro are dropping, and the dollar is rising."



Ali Sehizadeh

# Circuit City pulls plug as economy fails

Nick Andriole  
Editor

Retail shoppers for electronic items will soon have one less choice of retailers. After serving customers for nearly 60 years, on Jan. 16, Richmond, Va. Based Circuit City announced its liquidation and intent to cease operations as soon as possible.

Circuit City joins other major retailers such as Bombay, KB Toys and Linens N' Things who have recently liquidated and ceased operations due to the challenging economic environment.

The retail giant has previously announced filed for bankruptcy and significant restructuring plans in November that closed 155 under-performing stores including its location in Ferguson. However, a grim economy, disappointing holiday sales and the lack of an interested party to purchase the retailer led to its final collapse.

"We are extremely disappointed by this outcome," Vice chairman and acting president and chief executive officer for Circuit City Stores, James A. Marcum said in a company press release "Regrettably for the more than 30,000 employees of Circuit City and our loyal customers, we were unable to reach an agreement with our creditors and lenders to structure a going-concern transaction in the limited timeframe available, and so this is the only possible path for our company,"

Globe staff calls to Circuit City were unsuccessful.

Dallas, TX. based Blockbuster placed a \$1 billion bid for the struggling retailer in April 2008, later withdrawing it in July 2008 citing poor market conditions, which left the company without a buyer. In November 2008, the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy with hopes to effectively restructure and/or find a potential buyer. Unable to find a potential buyer, Circuit City has been forced to cease operations and liquidate under Chapter 7 bankruptcy.

"I was surprised when I discovered Circuit City was going out of business," senior Nathan Crall said. "Best Buy is better because they actually know what they are talking about and have more expertise in technology."

While this may come as surprise to customers, employees have known the troubles facing their company for several years. Globe staff was able to get a hold of a store employee who agreed to talk on the condition he would remain anonymous.

"Having worked for the company for near five years and seen the management, this does not come as a surprise," the employee said "We've known of the challenges facing the company for a while, long before the recent economic slump. CEO Philip Schnoonover is the idiot that drove our company to the ground."

Circuit City has operated out of its Brentwood location since 2001. As recently as 2005, the Brentwood area contained three major electronic stores. Another retailer Ultimate Electronics, which primarily serves the home theater market shuttered its Brentwood location in 2005, only after opening in 2001 as well, but continues to operate its other area locations.

While many online retailers and discount stores will fill the void for electronic shoppers, only one major big-box electronics retailer remains in the United States. Richfield, Minn.-00-based Best Buy will remain the only national big box electronics retailer.

In recent years, the two retail giants have been engaged in a fierce rivalry through aggressive lowest price guarantees, loyalty programs such as Best Buys Reward Zone, online only promotions, and in-home support services from Best Buy's Geek-



Pictures taken by Ming Wang

Circuit City in the St. Louis area are all closing as result of the failing economy. Because the cost of living as raised significantly and inflation has occurred, layoffs have ensued. As a result, consumers have left to invest in the economy. Especially for the luxury items sold at Circuit City.

squad and Circuit City's Firedog services.

While many consumers are price sensitive and strive to find convenience, some shoppers appreciate having a demonstration and the opportunity to ask questions to a sales associate about products they may be interested in purchasing.

Bargains are currently available at Circuit City during the liquidation process, but will be short lived.

"I was able to take advantage of the sales a circuit city and purchased a pair of headphones along with a DVD," senior Josh Oberman said. "I was not surprised that they were closing given the current conditions."

On a recent visit, the retailer had items marked down between 10 and 50 percent, depending on the item. However, many of the more popular items are no longer available. According to an unidentified sales associate, the Brentwood location sold 18 BoseSoundDock iPod docking station stereos, which retail for \$299 at a 40 percent discount in one day.

However, the store has many televisions, home theater systems, music CDs, DVDs, computer monitors, laptop computers, and iPod accessories still available.

According to management on-duty, the store will likely remain open through March, but are unsure about specifics as the company is currently operating under liquidation.

Many analysts believe the companies decision to no longer sell major appliances such as refrigerators, washers, and dryers was the beginning of the end. Major appliances accounted for a significant portion of the retailer's sales; however in 2000 the company decided to shift its focus to smaller, consumer electronics such as televisions and computers.

Analysts from PC World also believe changes in customer service and staffing lead to the firms demise.

Until 2003, Circuit City associates were paid on commission as an incentive to provide better service and increase sales. In 2003, management eliminated commissions in an effort to

cut labor costs.

In March 2007, Circuit City terminated 3400 of its experienced and top performing sales people, many of which had been with the company for seven to 10 years. The employees received ten weeks severance pay and were then given the opportunity to reapply for their position in ten weeks with significantly less pay. This move left the company with a largely junior, less experienced, and less knowledgeable workforce.

At the time, many labor and customer service analysts believed the move would come at a significant loss to the company.

Best Buy has expressed an interest in obtaining retail space that formerly housed Circuit City stores in the future.

It is unclear to many what the impact of eliminating such a large player in the retail electronics market will be. Best Buy, online shops, and other major retailers such as Target will likely fill the void. ↻

## Mock Trial provides intimate experience with law

Ellie Bullard  
Senior Editor

Most avid fans of the entertaining and popular television show "Law and Order" never actually get a glimpse into the inner workings of the law.

However, Mock Trial allows students to get just that—an intimate understanding of how the law works.

Mock Trial is an opportunity through which teens can learn about the law system and put their new knowledge to use. Ultimately, teams from different schools compete against each other in realistic trials during which one team plays the defense and the other plays the prosecution. Each individual team includes members who are lawyers or witnesses.

"Mock trial is where we receive case

materials with witness statements and pieces of evidence that we use to present our side of a case, prosecution or defense, to another team," Senior and four-year participant of Mock Trial Kate Wheelock said. "It is fairly similar to the setup of any real trial in court."

Each team is given the same case and materials to prepare for the trial, including depositions, jury instructions, federal rules of evidence, background of the case, police reports, and resumes. Reading and extracting important information from different texts is vital in allowing a team to build a case.

Clayton's varsity Mock Trial team consists of nine players, ranging from newcomer freshmen to veteran seniors. Four members left the team last year and were replaced by three sophomores and

one freshman, all valuable additions to the team. Coaches Goldstein and Whetmore, both real like attorneys, help the team to understand the case and perfect their techniques as lawyers and witnesses.

Having already won their first trial, the team is off to a promising start.

"I will say that one of our lawyer coaches the other night said that this is one of the strongest first trials that clayton has presented in a long time" Sponsor of the Clayton Mock Trial team Brenda Bollinger said. "It was so one-sided. They're only going to get better. Especially after we get into the other side, once we've played the defense then we'll know some of the nuances of both sides, some little tricks to play here or there, or the right questions to ask, or

the right answers to give to certain questions."

The team is looking forward to more challenging trials than their first.

"Every year there seems to be at least one particular trial that when you come out of there you have no idea which way it went," Bollinger said. "Either way would work for you because it was such a good trial, and those trials are ones that there are objections and the objections are reasonable objections, yet the other side can bring an argument against the objection that makes sense.

Sometimes the judge himself is sitting at the bench trying to figure out if he should say 'overruled' or not. Those are the ones that are really intense."

The central issue of the case the team has been working on, Missouri v. Lee

Rellick, is whether or not the defendant is mentally ill.

"In this case, Lee Rellick, a paranoid schizophrenic, shot and killed Barbara

Johnson, who was being driven to a doctor's appointment by her grandson," Wheelock said. "Lee Rellick repeatedly shot from overpasses around Missouri, and the trial is taking place to determine whether or not he is criminally insane."

The team will continue working on the trial Missouri v. Lee Rellick for the rest of the season unless they succeed in advancing to nationals. The team hopes to do well this season.

"Our goal is to win state, or at least advance further than we did last year," Wheelock said.

Mock Trial is a great way not only to boost knowledge of the law system,

but increase confidence in public speaking. Bollinger believes that the education benefits are tremendous.

"It's good for students just to build self-confidence who want to be challenged in a speaking situation," Bollinger said. "It's also good for students who like to role play because the witnesses are definitely having to take on a character and actually be that character and be able to respond to questions friendly and not so friendly."

Public speaking, knowledge of the law, and interesting cases combine to make

"I like the fact that it mixes law and public speaking, while still being fun and interesting," Wheelock said. "Also, I like the people on the team and our coaches are great." ↻



Aaron Pratts



Aaron Pratts

Above: Senior William Kass and Hiro Horikoshi play cello.  
Below: Jazz band percussionists play in the Jazz Band Room.

## All-State competitive, requires intense practice

Caitlin Kropp  
Reporter

The music swells towards the finale, peaking with a joyous celebration of sound. Surprisingly, the ensemble performing this music is comprised of high school students. But these are no ordinary high school students. This ensemble is composed of the best music students from all over the state. This is All-State.

During the first week of December, thousands of students from all over the state went to Missouri State to audition for the Missouri All-State band, orchestra, jazz band, or choir. Many students from Clayton went to audition, and several made it into the ensembles. Ben Portner, Cooper Minnis, Kaize Zheng, Madeline McMahon, Richard Milletr, Henry Myers, and Meredith McCay were the seven who made it into All-State. These students, along with the rest of the ensembles, performed at the state music convention at Tantara in January.

All of the students who auditioned, including those who made it in, had to work extremely hard in order to get in.

"First off, they have to work very hard to even get into their suburban or district ensembles," band director Charles Blackmore said. "And then it's usually the same audition material that is required for that as is required for All-State."

In addition to the work the students have to do in order to make even local ensembles, there is also the competition posed by the other students. The odds stacked against each student

are quite large.

"The All-State band is usually right around 100 members, but over 1,000 audition," Blackmore said. "So, your best shot is a one-in-ten shot of making it."

In order to do well in the auditions, many students begin to prepare months in advance, such as Abby Williams, a senior who auditioned for All-State.

"I prepared for a couple of months before the All-Suburban auditions, and then started looking at the material again about a month before the All-State auditions," Williams said.

Along with the early start, many All-State hopefuls get help from the teachers at CHS or from private instructors.

"Students at this level have private instruction where they get in depth work on the audition and repertoire for the ensemble they are involved with," orchestra director Julie Hoffman said. "Students are encouraged to practice during class as well as perform a practice audition in front of their peers."

However, once the students are selected, the rewards often outweigh the work required. All-state presents many incredible opportunities for those involved.

"They get a chance to work with peers on their level and play just marvelous literature that they normally wouldn't get a chance to at the regular high school level," Blackmore said. "They get the experience of working with big name artist conductors who are able to bring the experience to a whole new plane as well."

“I also liked auditioning for All-State because it gave me the opportunity to practice performing in front of people.”

Abby Williams  
Senior

”

# Students become stressed as AP Exams approach

With AP exams approaching in early and mid May, many students are becoming unnecessarily stressed, teachers say.

Sam Jacus  
Staff Reporter

With the registration process already in progress, the pressure that the advanced placement exams place upon students is approaching rapidly.

For those going through their first AP exams the pressure seems to be starting a little earlier compared to those that experienced them last year.

Junior Izzy Fratt who is going through her first experience with AP World and AP Government is starting to feel the pressure.

"I am feeling a lot of stress from my APs," junior Izzy Fratt said.

Junior Eve Root who is also going through her first AP exams is starting to think about what is going to happen. In addition to learning the content, paying for the tests is expensive.

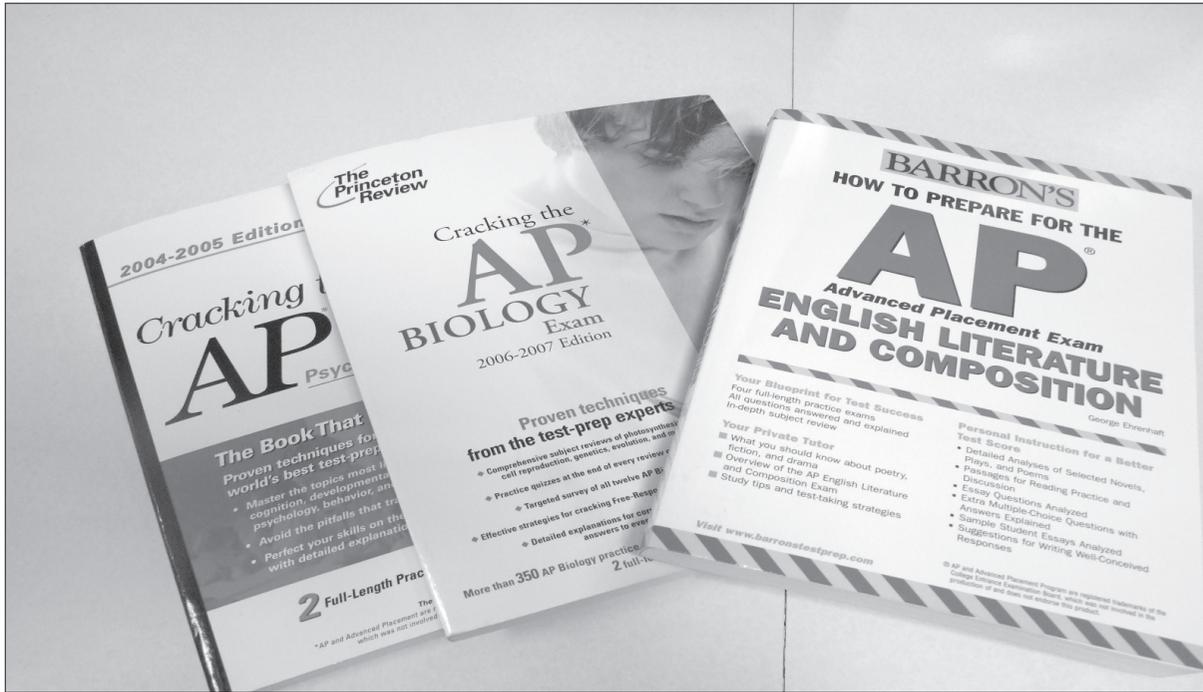
"Lately I have been thinking about the AP exams because we have to pay for them by the end of the week," Root said.

Tests this year are costing students \$87. However, for seniors that already know where they are going to college, the AP test may be a waste of money as not all schools accept the AP credit and have you test out of classes there.

Teachers do not see the reasons that students are stressing out.

"Hopefully kids are not stressing out, unless you've slacked for most of the year you should be ready to take the AP exam," chemistry teacher Nathan Peck said. "I imagine that it would be very stressful for anyone to take a test on material they haven't taken the time to master."

Others like European and American History teacher Sam Harned feel that you shouldn't be stressing out over the exams because AP classes are for people



Nicholas Andriole

With AP exams approaching, student stress levels are increasing, unnecessarily teachers say. Many students plan to use practice tests and purchasing test books to study.

that are interested in the subject for the learning of the material will come a lot easier.

Teachers plan on helping students prepare for the exam by teaching everything that's going to be on the test so students thoroughly know. Many teachers however feel that students should have been preparing for the exams during the whole year but should ramp up

their studying around a month before the exam.

"In most subjects isn't just a one academic year deal, there are lots of skills and content that need to be learned before students even set foot in an AP class," Peck said. "It's like asking a medical student when they started preparing to become a doctor; it's way before they enter medical school," Peck added.

This opinion seems to be shared by many teachers for Harned feels the same way.

"Students started preparing for the AP when they first started school," Harned said. "The exam is nothing special and the skills take a long time to develop."

The question that many people are wondering is what will be on the test.

"I'm not really sure what to expect," Root said.

However, according to teachers like Harned and Nathan Peck the subjects and material on the exams are the same and it is their job to teach us what is going to be on them.

This question is one that many people are facing whether they have taken an AP exam earlier or whether this is there

first. With each exam the content as well as the manner of the test differs. However, teachers know what is probably going to be on the test as well as what has been on the tests in the past.

CHS students are dealing with the pressure in a variety of ways.

"I am dealing with the stress by staying on top of my work and making sure to soak in the information," Fratt added.

Other people have approaches that are similar but rather focus on staying at the pace of the class.

"This is no time to fall behind," Root said.

Most students' plans for the exams however are incredibly similar.

"I plan to buy AP books and do practice tests in order to prepare for the exams," Root said. "That is just what I heard you should do, plus it makes sense."

Others have a little more confidence in what they plan on doing.

"I am going to prepare for the APs by buying those books that are all about the APs and I am going to look over my notes," Fratt said.

The preparation that students have set their minds on has a lot to do with the suggestions purposed by their teachers.

"My suggestion for kids that are trying to prepare for an AP is to learn the material, aka, study hard, from September to May," Peck said. "Familiarize yourself with the test itself and do some practice exams," Peck added.

With teachers and students inputs on what needs to be done preceding the exams and the mentality that students should have; students should be glad to know that they still have time to relax before things begin to ramp up. ☺

## Clayton to host student film festival

Hannah Callahan  
Staff Reporter

For Senior Nathan Crall fan-made movies posted on YouTube gave him the inspiration to direct. On May 3, Crall and his classmates at CHS will have the opportunity to share their original works at the first CHS film festival.

"Interest in film-making has been growing at CHS for some time due to several factors including our 'Film in American Society' course taught by Ms. Chappuis and Mr. Meyers," said Technology Specialist David Hoffman, who organized the event. "In addition, having Mac computers with iMovie pre-installed has allowed teachers to use film as a media for student expression and reporting."

Crall, who calls himself an "avid film guy," loves to direct because it incorporates two of his favorite interests: writing and theater.

"Directing puts it all into one big, artistic peripheral," Crall said. "It allows me to express my ideas through a dramatic venue, besides theater."

Junior Alex Grayson, whose grandparents own the Hi-Pointe Theater, said being exposed to movies shown there motivated him to direct.

"I enjoy watching films because it puts me in a different environment," Grayson said.

Though both Crall and Grayson will be submitting their work to the CHS film festival, their ideas greatly differ.

Crall described his film as a "hokey

Western shootout gone horribly, horribly wrong."

He said it begins with two men walking towards each other, firing, amid a plethora of cool special effects.

"But by the end of it all," Crall said. "They have missed every shot."

In order to resolve the conflict, Crall's characters will compete satirically, comfortably fitting in with the rest of his film.

"For instance," Crall said smiling, "they're going to get a bucket, put it in the street and play chess. The whole thing will end in a slap fight."

Conversely, Grayson said his creation is inspired by buddy cop films, a sub-genre fueled by conflicting characters who are forced to work together in order to solve crimes.

Named "Payback," Grayson plays the

### Guidelines for the first CHS Film Festival

• Films must be produced by one or more students while enrolled in the Clayton School District.

• Any use of copyrighted materials submitted SHOULD include evidence of a letter or email sent to the holder of the copyright notifying them of its use. This includes music, graphics, and video or film footage. We are trying to stress an awareness of copyright issues among students and encourage them to at least attempt to gain permission before using copyrighted materials.

• Students who record original soundtracks will receive extra consideration from the judges.

protagonist. He said it's a movie about two teenagers being recruited into a special agency, where they are trained to become assassins.

"My character," he said, "goes after his father's killer."

Both Crall and Grayson have taken the course Film in American Society. Hoffman said he believes the film festival will showcase a variety of movies.

"I hope whatever we get, the idea of a CHS film festival will continue to grow in future years," Hoffman said. "Films are for several important reasons—as an art form, as a way to report information visually, and as a way to sometimes escape from reality."

Crall agrees. "In Clayton there aren't many places to show my work," Crall said. "But the experience of watching my film on the big screen is incredible." ☺

• Videos should be no more than 10 minutes in length without special permission from the festival director.

• Entries must be submitted to one category only, one entry per disk, on playable -R Format DVD. Playable DVD means it will play in a home DVD player. DVDs must be labeled with film title, members of your group, and entry category.

• All videos must have school appropriate content. Any questions pertaining to this should be directed at Mr. Hoffman.

• The deadline for all films will be [blank] and all entries must include a filled-out entry form. (See CHS website)



Globe archive

Sophomore Kyleigh Smith with her buddy at the 2008 arts fair. Students and staff have been working diligently to prepare for the annual event held in April.

## Students and staff prepare for annual Arts Fair in April

Simone Bernstein  
Editor

The Olympics and art are universal languages that appeal to all. This year the themes will be combined at the annual CHS Art Fair.

Mark the date on your calendar for the annual CHS and Special School District Arts Fair is on Tuesday, April 7, 2009. The day will be filled with numerous art activities, performances and entertainment for CHS students and their buddies.

All CHS students are encouraged to participate in the Arts Fair.

"This is a day when students from the special school district can have fun and just be normal kids," junior Erica Blustein said. "This is a perfect opportunity for CHS students to give back to the community."

Students can get involved in the day by choosing to become a buddy or buddy captain. Opportunities also exist to work with a large number of students in a specific club room.

"All clubs with a sponsor and a substantial number of students can contact Mr. Hamylak about receiving a club room," junior Shelby Sternberg said. "Each club will have their own craft that

relates to the Olympics theme."

In the next few weeks members of the Arts Fair Student Committee will come to all third hour classes to encourage students to participate.

"Along with Buddy Recruitment Day, we will have other events in the next few months that relate to the Arts Fair," Sternberg said. "We will have buddy training on April 3, 2009. At buddy training day students will most likely listen to a presentation from a speaker."

If students have new ideas for activities they can participate in organizing the by attending Arts Fair Student Committee Meetings.

"All students are welcome to attend our monthly meetings," Student Activities Director Eric Hamylak said. "Our next meeting will be Feb. 24 at 6pm. As we get closer to the day of the event we are looking for more students to help us finalize plans and organize the day."

Even though school is officially off on the day of the Arts Fair, a very high percentage of students participate in this event.

"Some people say this is their favorite day of the year," Sternberg said. "This is a memorable and inspirational experience.

The committee members are espe-

cially excited about the theme this year.

"We have a variety of rooms that blend with the Olympics theme," Blustein said. "The theme has a very high potential if properly executed."

There will be additional events this year to support the theme.

"To go along with the Olympic theme we will have an opening ceremony in Stuber for everyone in the morning," Sternberg said. "Weather permitting, we may also have additional games and activities outdoors."

Plans are in the works this year to include a magician, a caricaturist, music, and a petting zoo. There will be new activities and events to coincide with the theme.

"My favorite activity last year was designing hats with my buddy," sophomore Jamie Blake said. "My buddy and I made lots of interesting arts and crafts."

This event provides a learning experience for students to familiarize themselves with the challenges that some face in life.

"When working with a buddy, high school students will learn about the hardships that some people experience in life," Blustein said.

Be a part of the Annual Art Fair where everyone is a gold medal winner. ☺

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# Latin club makes a return with new leadership changes

**Apoorva Sharma**  
Reporter

On Thursday mornings, every other week, Room 124 is buzzing with conversation. Inside, students are watching movies, discussing the culture of Ancient Rome, and eating snacks, as they participate in Latin Club.

Latin Club, where students who are passionate about Roman Culture gather, has found its feet and is finally up and running.

"The purpose of Latin Club is to learn about Roman culture and have fun doing it," sophomore Jack Ellston, one of the two senators, or senators, who help run Latin Club said.

Although Ellston and others thought of the club last year, they were not able to establish it.

"We came up with the idea of the club at the end of the first semester," Ellston said. "It was a little too late for the club to fully start up, so we decided to wait till the next year."

Pamela Skinner, a Latin teacher at CHS, explained that lack of leadership was the main reason for the late start.

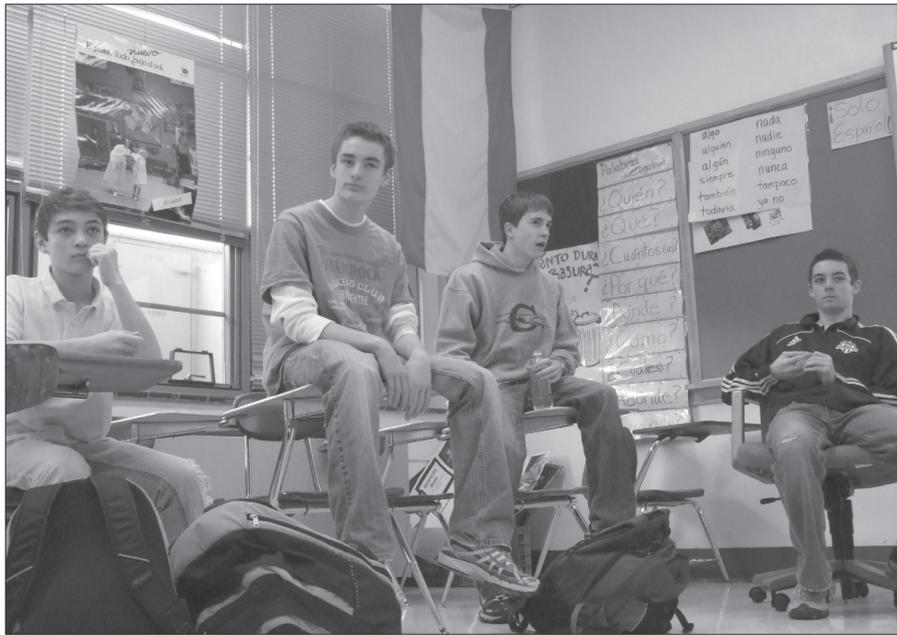
"We have had the occasional student ask about it, but no one stepped up to take charge," Skinner said.

This year, with support of Latin teachers as well as other passionate Latin students, Ellston was able to start the club.

"We managed to get the club going because of the leaders of the club," Ellston said. "My brother Carter and Alex Fine were very helpful with starting the club up and also steering it in the right direction. The help of Mr. Meier and Mrs. Skinner was invaluable as well."

Both Skinner and Stephen Meier, who is another Latin teacher, have helped organize this club. The teachers helped members of a club start an elected government in accordance to the traditional government of the Ancient Roman Republic.

"This year I decided that Mr. Meier and I would get a club



Freshman Alex Yopez, Charlie Harned, Sophomore Carter Ellston and Junior Jack Harned participate in a Latin Club meeting.

started, and then have the interested students take over the agenda," Skinner said. "So far Latin club has elected officers, designed a t-shirt (which should be ready for all Latin students to order very soon), and watched and discussed classics-themed

movies."

These activities have attracted several students to the club, especially those who take Latin. Freshman Charlie Harned, a student in Latin II, is one of the students who come regularly

to this club.

"I am a part of Latin Club because I am very interested in Roman culture and history," Harned said.

Although Latin Club has only just begun, they have great plans. Firstly, they want to do a greater variety of projects exploring other parts of Roman Culture.

"As part of Latin club we would also really like to see various groups of students get involved with other non-class Roman projects, such as discussing Roman engineering and building a model of a theater or aqueduct, for example, by following descriptions in Roman engineering manuals," Skinner said. "Or planning and cooking a Roman meal using ancient recipes. Field-trips have also been suggested by students as a possible club activity."

Ellston, along with other members of the club, has helped plan for the Club's future.

"The future of Latin club looks very bright," Ellston said. "The Latin Club is even planning to have a trip to Rome in the next couple of years."

The planned trip to Italy, which is currently planned to take place during Spring Break in 2010, has enthused many members of the club.

"I'm really excited about the trip to Italy next year," Harned said.

Currently, this trip is expected to cost around \$3100 per person, including money for meals. Meier and Skinner are setting up a meeting for those who are interested in the trip. They also want to use Latin Club to prepare for this trip.

"We would like to use Latin club as a venue for providing additional cultural information in preparation for the trip, beyond what can be done in Latin classes," Skinner said.

The club is open to anyone who wants to learn more about Ancient Rome, watch movies, and just have fun, regardless of their knowledge of the Latin Language.

"We're always looking for new members," Ellston said.

# Salmonella in peanut butter causes nationwide concern

**Martha Burke**  
Reporter

Before biting into your granola bar or cookie you might want to take another look. A recall of over 1,800 peanut butter products nationwide is causing people across America to take another look at what they are eating.

It's not the major peanut butter companies that are causing worry to millions. The Peanut Company of America, a major peanut supply company has put a voluntary recall on many of their products.

However PCA is not a direct retailer, Paul Simon from Schnucks said.

"All affected products are cases where the peanuts or peanut butter paste were sold to another manufacturer for use in one of their products," Simon said.

The outbreak, traced back to Blakely, Georgia includes not only peanut butter but also peanut-based products. The Peanut Corporation of America, which makes all the products, is putting a recall on products date Jan 1, 2007 or later.

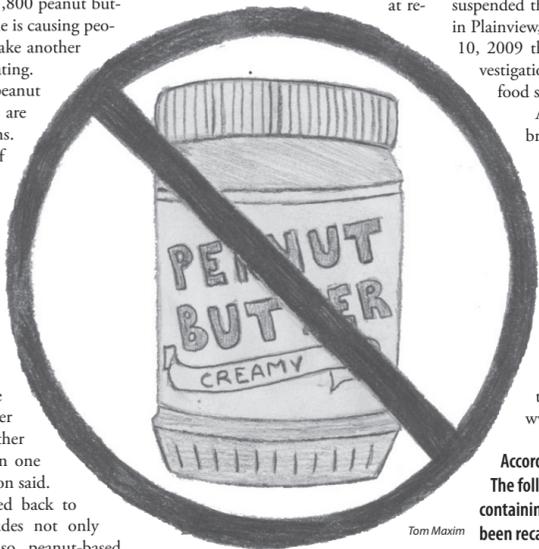
Salmonella is causing the recall, an organism that can be especially dangerous to young children and the elderly, along with those with weak immune systems.

All peanut-related products such as granola bars like Luna and Cliff bars, peanut candies and ice creams, and even pet food are risky. The recall has put customer buying to a halt.

Local retailers are also taking action. For example, Schnucks, one of the few grocery stores with a food safety team on staff, has pulled all of the recalled prod-

ucts, about 5 percent of the total that is being recalled, from their 105 stores, and placed an update list online.

Mound City Shelled Nut Co., a local peanut company sold at re-



Tom Maxam

tailers such as Whole Foods Market is taking a step to evaluate their sources. After receiving a letter from their peanut supplier that the peanuts were safe, they then sent a letter to all vendors that sell their products.

Stacy Smyrniotis from Mound City encourages consumers to ask questions.

"Sometimes that's not practical because of the red tape you get involved with calling large companies," Smyrniotis said.

Dr. Steven Sundolf of the FDA gave his advice about trying peanut butter products in a recent news conference. "If you don't know, don't eat them,"

Sundolf said. "Caution is required, I think, on the part of all consumers in the peanut products that they are consuming at least for the time being."

Most recently, PCA has temporarily suspended the production from a plant in Plainview, Texas. Announced on Feb 10, 2009 the plant is awaiting an investigation of their procedures and food safety records.

As of Feb 12, 2009 the outbreak has killed nine people.

Simon gave some helpful advice.

"No jars of peanut butter are affected by these recalls," Simon said. "PCA supplies only one percent of the nation's peanuts and peanut butter paste."

For more information and a full list of products that are being recalled, visit [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov).

According to [accessdata.fda.gov](http://accessdata.fda.gov):

The following ice cream products containing peanut oil/butter have been recalled:

- \*Hershey's brand
- \*Blue Bunny brand
- \*Nestle brand
- \*North Star brand
- \*Breyer's Tin Foil Ice Cream
- \*United Dairy

Also, snack items recalled include products from:

- \*Trader Joe's brand
- \*Whole Food's brand
- \*Sun Mart foods
- \*NutriSystem
- \*Slim-fast
- \*Special K protein
- \*CLIF Bar



Puhan Zhao

Clayton's varsity A TEAMS team and sponsors Rex Rice and Jennifer Adams pose with their first place trophy at Florissant Valley Community College Feb. 6 2009. The varsity A team consists of seniors Rowland Han, Aaron Prais, Jeremy Bleeke, Mack Su, Yiliu Zhang, Meghan Murray, Lisa Einstein and Becky Poplawski.

# Clayton TEAMS place Clayton academic science competition TEAMS took first through fifth place at regionals.

**Sarah Horn**  
Senior Managing Editor

Each year students are handpicked to participate in an extracurricular engineering activity called Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics, and Science or TEAMS.

"At the end of each school year, the Honors Freshman Physics teachers make a list of students whose performance in that course was indicative of a student who would both enjoy and be successful in a challenging quantitatively based competition such as TEAMS," Sponsor Rex Rice said. "We pass on those names to the Honors Chemistry teachers, who track those students through the first semester of Honors Chemistry. At the end of the first semester of the sophomore year, the chemistry teachers rank those students on a variety of traits that are indicators of successful TEAMS participants, and suggest other students who may have been missed from the previous list."

Every year there is a TEAMS competition in which various Clayton students participate.

"It is an academic competition administered by the Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS) for the purpose of exposing students to the possibility of considering engineering as a career path," Rice said.

Each team consists of up to eight students who work together on the exam. There are various parts to the exam.

"There are two parts to the competition, the first part is 80 multiple choice questions, and the second part is four free response questions," Senior Meredith McCay said. "For the multiple choice section of the test, the questions are broken down into sets of 10, with each set of ten focusing on a different scenario. For the free response, we work in groups of two each on a problem, however throughout the whole thing, if someone is having trouble with a question their neighbors will help them. Each part is an hour and a half long. Additionally, each year the competition has a different theme: this year's was amusement parts."

Each team has different goals and ambitions for the season. Senior Mack Su is a part of the Varsity A team for CHS.

"Our team just tried to do the best we could at the competition," Su said. "We knew that the Clayton Varsity A team has taken first in our division for many years in a row, but we didn't openly say we were hoping to continue the tradition." Senior Teddy Finn agreed on a goal to win and have fun.

"The goal is to get as many right as possible, and our team goal I suppose was just to have a good time and learn some new things," Finn said.

Rice also had high expectations and goals of Clayton teams.

"My goals for TEAMS are always the same," Rice said. "I want students to do their best and to have fun doing it. It seems to me that those goals were met. The CHS TEAMS teams have had tremendous success over the previous sixteen years that we have participated, and I have no reason to believe that this year will be different."

This year Clayton TEAMS teams performed greatly in the competition. Despite the fact that the test was considered more difficult this year, the teams still did great.

"Our varsity teams finished first through fifth in their division (Division 5) in the regional competition," Rice said. "We won't know which, if any, of those teams will advance until late March. My guess is that we will have at least one team advance, with the possibility of three advancing based on what the Part I scores look like at this point."

The junior varsity teams also enjoyed success at the competition.

"Our junior varsity teams finished first through third in their division, with the JV A team tying for the highest junior varsity score regardless of division at the St. Louis Regional competition," Rice said. "I am fairly confident that they will advance with the possibility of one or two other CHS JV teams advancing to the national level."

However, many students say the best part of teams is the cooperation, working together with close friends and great friends. Su, who was on a team with seniors Lisa Einstein, Jeremy Bleeke, Meghan Murray, Rowland Han, Becky Poplawski, Yiliu Zhang and Aaron Prais really enjoyed the bonding that occurred as a result of TEAMS.

"My favorite part of TEAMS is working with the people on my team," Su said. "My team is pretty amazing. We're all friends with each other and we work well together. It helps that we have the food situation under control - we had a lot of amazing food at the competition."

Perhaps McCay put it best. She enjoyed the academic challenge and the fact that she got to miss school.

"The competition was fun, I missed school and got to spend time with my friends so no complaints here!"



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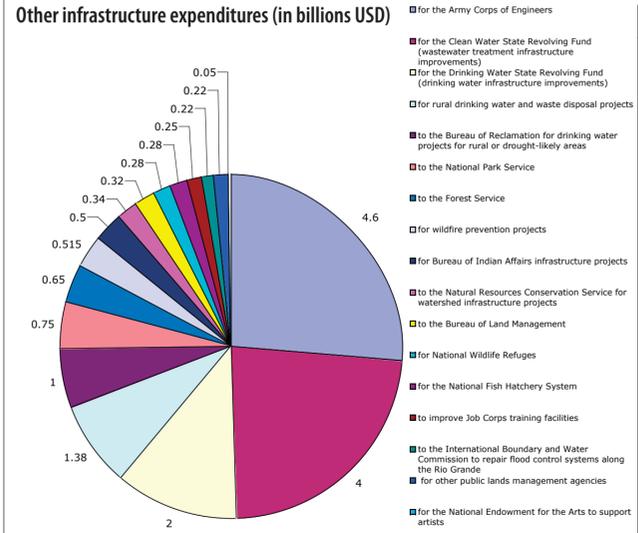
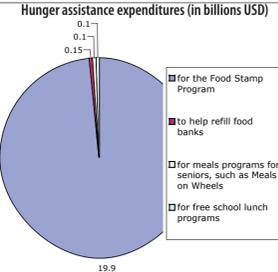
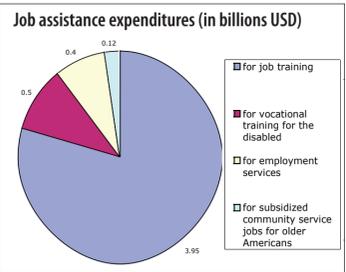
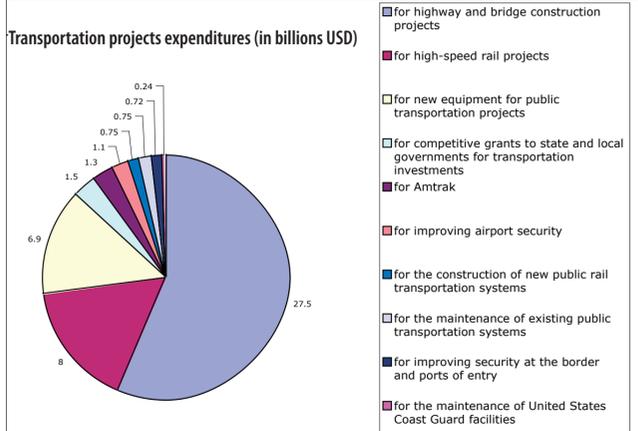
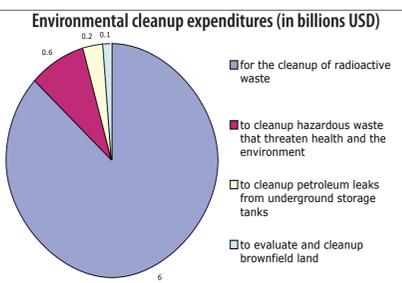
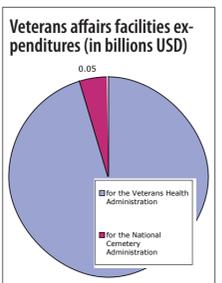
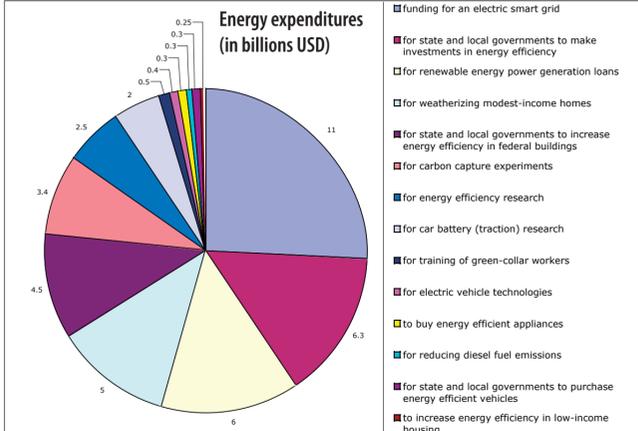
The Clayton High Jazz Band May 2008

# InDepth

## INSIDE

# Obama's Stimulus Package

Obama's economic recovery plan, the largest federal stimulus package in U.S. history, was signed into law this month. Its passage has provoked a storm of controversy amongst politicians, economists, and the public. We contacted economists at St. Louis University and Washington University for insight into the bill.



In economics we teach that when two participants in the economy, households and businesses, are unable or unwilling to create economic activity, the only participant left is government. It is pretty clear that uncertainty has placed a choke hold on both households and businesses. It is therefore appropriate and necessary for government to be the "consumer of last resort" and to keep the engine of economic growth running until the other participants get back in the game.

Lisa Gladson, SLU

One thing I would add is a discussion of the money being spent to aid State budgets. On the one hand this should have a good stimulus effect, since it will prevent cutbacks in existing services. On the other it encourages the states to continue to be irresponsible in their budgeting, which is why they are in so much trouble. It should have been accompanied by stringent requirements imposed on the states to get their budgets in order, but it wasn't.

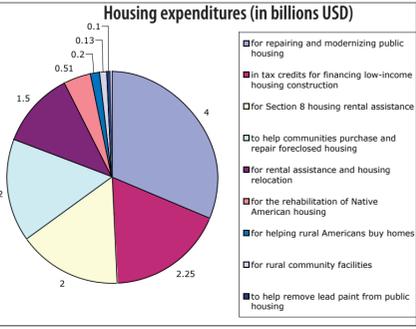
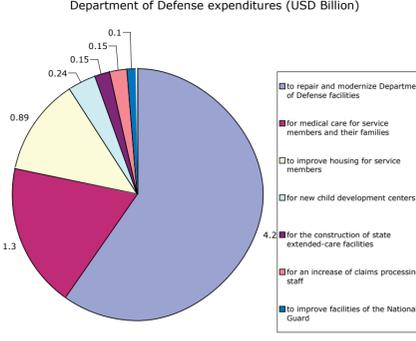
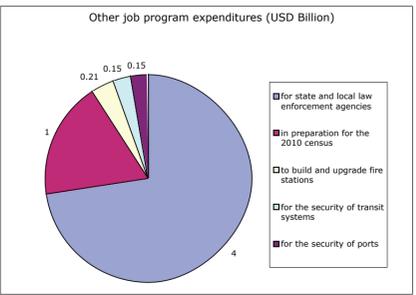
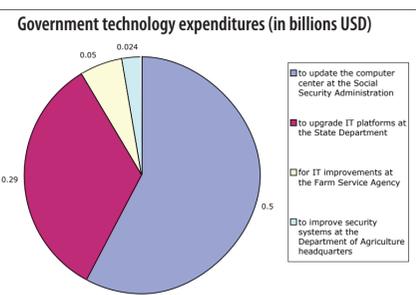
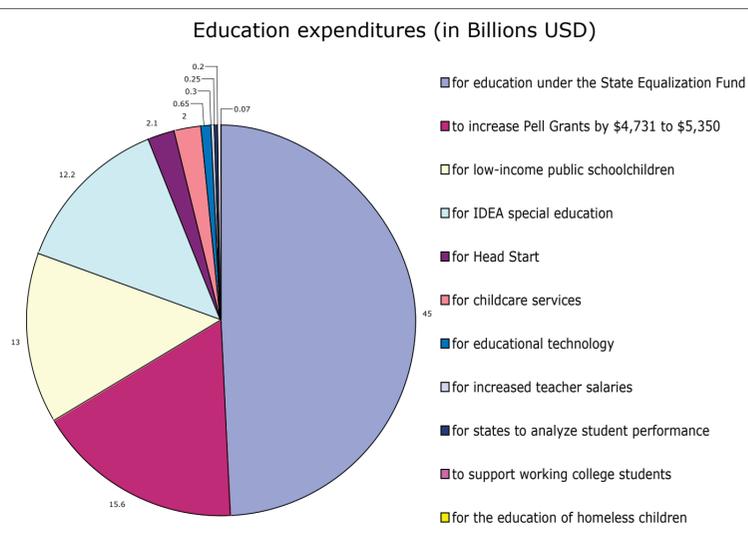
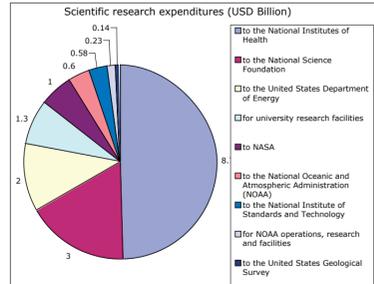
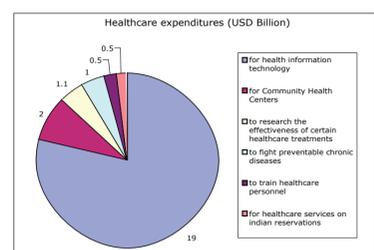
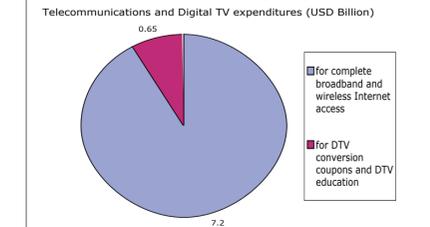
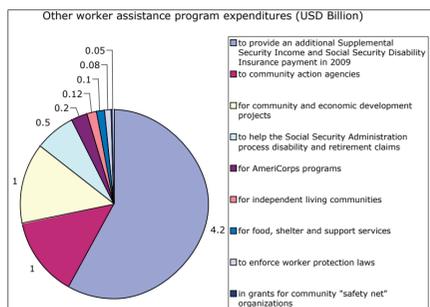
David Levine, WUSTL

I doubt that the stimulus package on its own will be enough to create all of the new jobs that President Obama has promised. However, it will prevent things from getting worse. Much has been made of the failure of fiscal stimulus to help in Japan in the 1990s. However, Japan in the 1990s wasn't exactly as miserable as the US in the Great Depression. From peak to trough, real GDP fell only by about 1% in Japan.

James Morley, WUSTL

If my taxes are cut today, the government has to finance these tax cuts. They do it by issuing more government debt. In the future, that debt has to be paid off. How? The government has to tax me to do it. Therefore, a tax cut is just deferred taxation. If I am a rational, forward-looking consumer, I won't spend my tax cut. I'll save it to pay the higher taxes that I'll be faced with in the future.

Steven Williamson, WUSTL



On February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, a 1,071 page, \$787 billion economic relief package—the largest federal stimulus in U.S. history.

Before arriving on the President's desk, the bill was fiercely contested in both the House and Senate. It passed both chambers almost entirely on Democrat votes. The bill received the support of only three Republicans in the Senate, and none in the House.

Obama signed the legislation after weeks of vigorous campaigning during which he made his case for the bill to Congress and to the American people.

His diction became more and more dire as the time for a vote in Congress approached. However, when Obama put his signature on the final bill his tone was decidedly more positive.

"[This bill does] mark the beginning of the end," Obama said. "The beginning of what we need to do to create jobs for Americans scrambling in the wake of layoffs; to provide relief for families worried they won't be able to pay next month's bills."

Barack Obama  
President

Although it is clear that the stimulus bill did not enjoy bipartisan support as Obama had hoped it would, some liberal strategists argue that there is a wide held consensus amongst economists—not politicians—that the bill will succeed. The economists we contacted were wary of this claim. "This is absolutely untrue," MacDonald said. "Mainstream economists generally agree that the period from 1950s to early 1980s convincingly demonstrated that government attempts to control business cycles were a dismal failure and that focus on growth was a much better approach."

David Levine, John H. Biggs Distinguished Professor of Economics at Washington University, agrees that there is no agreement as to whether the bill will be successful. "Most economists I know are opposed to the bill," said Levine. "Outside the administration (and they aren't free to publicly take a position against the bill) Paul Krugman would be about the only one."

Krugman is the 2008 Nobel Laureate in Economics, a professor at Princeton University, and a columnist for The New York Times. He is also an outspoken proponent of the stimulus bill.

Determining whether or not the bill has been successful may prove difficult because it is not clear what indicators of progress to turn to. In his first official press conference as President, Obama outlined four immediate measures of the bill's efficacy.

"I think my initial measure of success is creating or saving 4 million jobs," Obama said. "That's bottom line number one, because if people are working, then they've got enough confidence to make purchases, to make investments...Step number two: Are we seeing the credit markets operate effectively? I can't tell you how many businesses that I talk to that are successful businesses, but just can't get credit...Step number three is going to be housing: Have we stabilized the housing market? Now, the

"It's a very left wing bill that expands the role of government in ways that moderates think are undesirable," MacDonald said. Stephen Williamson, Robert S. Brookings Distinguished Professor in A&S at Washington University, says that while Republicans may be ideologically opposed to the bill, it is also politically expedient for Republicans to criticize it.

"They know it's risky," Williamson said. "If at the end of the year we are still in a deep recession, and the federal government is running a huge deficit, the Republicans can say 'I told you so,'" Jack Strauss, Simon Professor of Economics at St. Louis University sees a certain degree of hypocrisy in the Republicans attitude toward the stimulus package.

"They always supported large increases in government spending under Bush, a Republican," Strauss said. "They never vetoed any spending bills, but often supported earmarks. At the same time, they claim they wanted more tax cuts; this contributed to 8 years of deficits under Bush."

Bonnie Wilson, associate professor of economics at St. Louis University, observed that Republicans contend that the bill amounts to generational theft. Although she acknowledges that this accusation has been gaining ground on the right side of the aisle, she doesn't think the claim has much weight.

"McCain has been pushing this line," Wilson said. "This is another argument against deficit spending. According to this story, deficit spending entails borrowing to help ourselves today, and sending the bill to our children."

Parts of the bill are not controversial: the extension of unemployment benefits being one. Other parts like the tax cuts are deficient in that they do not reduce tax rates, but are still on balance probably a good idea.

David Levine  
Washington University  
Economics professor

federal government doesn't have complete control over that, but if our plan is effective, working with the Federal Reserve Bank, working with the FDIC, I think what we can do is stem the rate of foreclosure and we can start stabilizing housing values over time. And the most – the biggest measure of success is whether we stop contracting and shedding jobs, and we start growing again."

As far as when the stimulus should begin to effect change, the timeline is not yet certain. The money will be spent over a period of several years, so the consequences of some of the spending will also be relatively gradual.

"The effect of unemployment benefit extensions and some of the tax cut benefits should be relatively immediate," Williamson said. "About 25% of the money won't be spent until late 2010 or 2011, so won't have much effect."

Although the stimulus money has not yet begun to be distributed, MacDonald can already see negative impacts on the economy.

"Its effects are already being felt in terms of further declines in the stock market as we come to understand the magnitude of the taxes that are going to be needed to pay for the bill," MacDonald said.

Several of the economists we spoke to, however, found provisions in the bill that were indisputably positive.

"Parts of the bill are not controversial: the extension of unemployment benefits being one," Levine said. "Other parts like the tax cuts are deficient in that they do not reduce tax rates, but are still on balance probably a good idea."

Wilson agrees that the direness of the economic climate legitimizes the legislative action.

"We need to do something," Wilson said. "It is bad out there, and getting worse. The package - albeit less than optimal - is better than nothing. On the one hand, the package is surely less than optimal. On the other hand, it's not clear we know what the optimal package would look like. We have only guesses about what is optimal. Scary, but true."

"As a professional economist, I can't say that the act has any advantages," MacDonald said.

Most, however, do not take such an extreme line. James Morley, an associate professor at Washington University, believes that the bill is a mix of both good and bad. One of the aspects with which he is most displeased is the so called "Buy American" provisions, which require government-funded projects to use only American materials.

"The 'Buy American' provisions were horrifying to me, but they seem to have been watered down," Morley said. "If there is one thing that 99 percent of economists can agree upon, it is that a rise of protectionism would make this recession worse and leave long lasting negative effects on the economy."

Williamson holds that the stimulus was put together "too hastily" and that "not enough thought was given to some projects that are very expensive."

Ultimately, opinions differ drastically as to how the stimulus will be received and how it will affect Obama's political legacy his first term in office.

"Obama is often accused of being hyper left wing and only interested in reducing Americans' control over their lives," MacDonald said. "This bill has greatly expanded that opinion and given it more credibility."

Conversely, Williamson finds it impressive that Obama could secure such a massive bill less than 30 days on the job.

"No one said governing would be easy," Williamson said. "These people are new at it, and they managed to get this bill passed in short order. That's quite an accomplishment."

The larger the U.S. stimulus the greater the risk of a falling dollar, rising current account deficits and unwillingness of foreigners to finance them. With the global spread of the recession U.S. exports have also been slumping, increasing the need to place dollar debt abroad. The threat to the multilateral trading system is growing, which could lead to a repeat of the 1930s, when the open multilateral trading system broke up into protective regional trading blocs.

David Felix, WUSTL

The overwhelming majority of economists, including many if not most economists who could be described as monetarists, free marketers, or strong believers in globalization, support a strong government stimulus package. The basic principle at work is taught in Econ 101: when private spending is weak, public spending must increase to take up the slack, even if that means, as it usually will, that government runs a larger budget deficit over the near term.

Fredric Raines, WUSTL

Some people have criticized Obama's recovery program; others have criticized other types of programs. Who knows if the economy will recover quicker after stimulated by a recovery program? Most people think it will, but no one really knows for sure, or even how much quicker.

John Drobak, WUSTL

# Seniors get a jump on college decisions

Jessica Lefton  
Reporter

Applying to college presents a seemingly endless slew of choices for students. How many schools to apply to, which schools to visit beforehand, deciding what school will give you the best financial aid, and where to apply early, if at all.

"Probably a good 20-25% of our students apply early," college counselor Chat Leonard said. "But not very many of those apply early decision."

Early decision is when a student signs a binding contract which states that, if accepted, the student will attend the school, even if you are accepted elsewhere. You may also only apply to one school early decision. It is generally suggested that this is something you should only do if you are absolutely certain of where you want to end up.

"Applying early decision is a really individual decision," Leonard said. "[Students who apply early decision have] done their research, hopefully they've visited a number of different types of schools, and they've made their comparisons and know that this is the school that is number one for you. Not just number one, but the first, second and third choice!"

Also, Leonard is unsure of how many 18-year-olds in the beginning of their senior year are ready to make such a life-altering decision. If some are unsure at the beginning of the year, early decision II, which is a later version of early decision with the same binding contract, is offered in January or February.

Senior Katie Poplawski has some advice to offer those considering applying early. "Don't do early decision unless you are 150% positive you want to go to that school, and even then I'm not sure I'd do it," Poplawski said. "I only applied early to Georgetown because it was early action, though I was almost sure I'd be attending."

And for those who want an edge on the competition, but not the commitment, there is early action.

Senior Rachael Oetting applied to five of her six schools early action.

"I applied early action anywhere it was offered," Oetting said. "It is such a relief to know which colleges you are into early."

Early action is exactly what it sounds like: an early application that lets the school know you are proactive and would like to be considered before the majority of applicants because of your interest. It is non-binding, and once accepted, you have until the normal date (generally May 1) to decide whether or not to attend the school.

"Early action means that our students are on the ball, and they want to get their applications out early, which we encourage," Leonard said. "I think that [early action] is a great way to go."

Leonard does suggest, however, that early action should not be used simply as a strategy for getting accepted into all your schools.

Poplawski agrees. "I definitely recommend replying early if the school you apply early to is your first choice, because there's no point in getting accepted early to a school you don't really want to go to," Poplawski said.

In addition to normal early action, there is also single choice early action. SCEA offers all the same benefits of EA, (it is deadline oriented, decision given by or soon after winter break and non binding), but you are not allowed to apply to other schools under a binding plan. This is not a common practice, however, and is only offered by a few schools, such as Stanford and Yale.



Senior Ben Peipert poses in his college sweatshirt. Peipert applied Early Action to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Senior Hannah Novack proudly wears her Barnard sweatshirt. Novack applied to Barnard Early Decision and will attend next year.

## Course exposes students to the biomedical field

Biomedical, 1

"I really like the idea of biomedical research and looking into new treatments for people," Harned said. "I'm interested in joining the military, specifically military advancements, and a history in the biomedical field would help me greatly."

Jacus thinks the new class will cater

to many students' desires and needs. She sees it as one of a kind in both its style and content, and looks forward to teaching next year.

"I like to teach classes that kids take because they're interested," Jacus said. "And I especially like anything that involves little mysteries."



Science teacher Heather Jacus works on the plans for the Project Lead the Way Bio-medical class. She said she is excited about the class's potential.



Choir teacher Jerry Estes leads a choir class in a Wydown hallway. Members of the Clayton community feel that Wydown has become too cramped and needs to be renovated or moved into a larger space. A current proposal is in the works in which Washington University would purchase the Wydown building in exchange for the old CBC building and other assets.

## Possible land swap between WMS and Washington U

Wydown-CBC, 1

renovations included in Proposition S, and the School District agrees that the renovations are essential.

"The improvements we are asking for were prioritized by the community, particularly the science labs at the high school, but other renovations as well... so all of these things are valued by the community and we feel they are necessary," Klamer said.

As for the possibility of Wydown moving to the former CBC campus,

Klamer said that the deal is in its earliest stages; however, many Wydown staff members have already expressed their concerns.

Not only did Goldberg argue that the Wydown neighborhood is an ideal location for a middle school, she said that there are some issues with students who normally walk to school.

"We have middle school kids who walk to school, and they don't walk on sidewalks, they walk over the streets

sometimes," Goldberg said. "I just have concerns of safety issues."

Staff and administrators may disagree on the details of the solution, but both Senti and Goldberg agreed that the best fix to Wydown's problems would be a new middle school, either at the current site or at CBC.

According to Senti and Klamer, the next course of action is to determine what the community wants through a community engagement process.

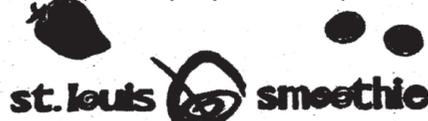
Overall, the issues facing Wydown are many, and there is no quick fix. There are numerous possible solutions as well, and there will be countless factors, including the economy, that will play into the final decision.

But whether Wydown moves to the CBC campus or remains on Wydown Blvd., Fournier and Klamer were both confident that the School District would listen to the community and do what is ultimately best for the students.

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## Water bottles wasteful, threaten environment

Water Bottles, 1

"Instead of going for convenience, if [students] would just carry around their own water bottle, I think it would be better," Collis said. "If only interested organizations would actively promote not using disposables on campus and sell school water bottles at cost. Just make it cheap. Maybe even one of those bottles that cost less than it costs to buy a bottle of water. St. Louis has very high quality water, good gracious, just go fill up!"

In response to a ban of water bottles at Washington University, Collis believes the message is a strong, but not necessarily the right one.

"Banning water bottles really sends a message," Collis said. "It's unequivocal and the population generally understands why it happens. Hopefully they'll follow through in their habits off campus. There's a part of me that doesn't want to cause consumers to behave in a way because of a ban. I think it would be better if they were educated and because of that education, they make the right choice. I understand why Wash-

ington University created the ban, but at the same time it would be nice if people just understood that plastic water bottles waste money and resources."

Being an environmentalist, Collis also advocates for other ways to minimize consumption.

"While the bottled water issue is very important," Collis said, "there are many other things that are equally important that people tend to straight out ignore because of comfort. For example, I set my thermostat at 68 degrees all winter long. That's perfectly comfortable if you're dressed for winter yet I have students continually complain about the classrooms being too cold. We have other classrooms that the heater is set at 76 or 78 and I believe that's just a complete waste of energy."

Other universities have followed in Washington University's footsteps.

"We believe the ban was the right thing to do," Malten said. "We're pleased that others feel the same."

## Boys' basketball plays cohesively

### The Hounds are building confidence, prepared for districts and seeded second in the tournament

Evan Green  
Editor

The Clayton boys' basketball team has had quite the rollercoaster season.

Early in the season, the team won seven in a row before having a three game losing streak.

After that streak, the team ripped off nine straight victories before losing their next two games, bringing the Hounds to their current 18-7 record.

The last two games for the team have been extremely interesting.

The first was at Ladue, a game that saw the rival Rams get off to a big 41-24 lead by halftime.

The second half, however, was a different story.

The Hounds came out of the locker room with a newfound fire, and quickly cut the Ladue lead to seven points at the end of the third quarter.

At the end of the third quarter, junior guard Devonte Bell swished a shot from just inside the half-court line to give the Hounds the momentum heading into the fourth quarter.

The Hounds clawed back to tie the game with about three minutes to play, a remarkable feat considering that Ladue lead by as many as 21 points at one point in the game.

At the end of the game, the Hounds trailed by three as Bell took the ball up the court with ten seconds left in the game, dribbled behind a screen and calmly splashed a game tying three pointer at the buzzer to send the game into overtime.

Even though the Clayton crowd was at this time in pure pandemonium, the Hounds still had overtime to play.

In the extra period, Ladue, much to

their credit, started the overtime on a 7-0 run, capped by two three pointers from Ladue senior Clyde Jeffers, who finished the game with a team high 26 points on 7 of 7 shooting from behind the arc.

The quick lead was just too much for the Hounds in overtime. The team was already without senior forward and second leading scorer Syd Warner, who had pneumonia, and sophomore Christian Thomas was in foul trouble.

In the end, the Hounds fell 76-68 in yet another epic Clayton versus Ladue sporting event.

Bell, seemingly carrying the team back into the game, led all scorers with 33 points in a losing effort.

Several nights later, the Hounds dropped another game, losing 72-57 to Maplewood. Junior guard Sumner Ahearn lead all scorers with 14 points.

The lone highlight for the Hounds was that Bell hit another half-court shot at the end of the third quarter.

The Hounds' final regular season game is at home against Wellston on senior night.

Even though going into the season, the team knew that it had talent; it was just a matter of putting it all together at once.

"The team has not really exceeded my expectations, maybe in terms of wins, but really, this all was able to happen thanks to the fact that the guys began to trust one another and share the ball," varsity head coach Ryan Luhnning said.

Overall, the team has relied on the so called "big three," which consists of Warner, Bell, and Thomas. But the play of the rest of the team has actually been the surprisingly key piece to the Greyhound puzzle.

"Our role players have really stepped up," Luhnning said. "Whether it is [senior guard Andrew] Kiplinger doing the dirty work and excellent defense, Sumner Ahearn becoming a good passer,

[junior guard] Alex Kasnetz's shooting, [senior forward] Louis Maclin's athleticism, or [junior guard] Josh Pickens being our back up point guard, those are the guys that have made our success possible."

While Warner, Bell, and Thomas combine to average 47 points a game, several other players have stepped up for the team.

Kiplinger, a captain and one of only three players on the team to play in every game, leads the way.

"When our scorers are not really doing well, the role players really step it up and provide us the boost that we need," Warner said.

Kiplinger is averaging just three points and three assists per game as a starter, but those numbers don't tell the true story as to his importance to the team.

"My best aspect is probably my leadership, but my goal when I step onto the court is just to play good defense and not mess up," Kiplinger said.

The "big three" are not the only play-



Sophomore Christian Thomas shoots over J FK high school players, contributing to the 53-36 win. Below, senior Syd Warner, one of the hounds' key players, takes a jump shot.



Andrew Dowd

“When our scorers are not really doing well, the role players really step it up and provide us the boost we need.”

Syd Warner  
Senior



ers that came into the season with goals for themselves.

"Going into the off-season, I made it my goal to start and have a good season my senior year," Kiplinger said.

Kiplinger has certainly helped the Hounds to their current 18-7 record. Even with an impressive record, the Hounds know that they have a lot to improve.

"We have got to improve our man to man defense if we want to be successful," Bell said.

Warner agreed with that statement and also had another area of improvement for the team.

"We have to be able to stay focused every game," Warner said.

Warner's mentality plays right into Luhnning's mantra for the team. That mindset that has been extremely successful for the team so far.

"We just take every day as a one game

at a time scenario, so that we don't look ahead," Luhnning said.

As the regular season wraps up, the team will prepare for the district playoffs, a scene that has not been too kind to the Hounds in recent years.

Luckily, the Hounds secured the second seed in the tournament, meaning that they have a bye in the first round and will not play until the semifinals of the district playoff.

The team will likely face Berkeley at 8:30 on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at MICDS.

With one of the better teams in recent memory, the Hounds are hoping to make a deep run into the playoffs, achieving the goals that the team set at the start of the season, and sending the seniors off with a bang.

With such a barrage of weapons, the Hounds have plenty of firepower to do just that. ☺



Julia Reilly

A member of the Clayton swim team dives in the pool during one of the teams practices.

## Girls' swim team succeeds individually, lacks in numbers

Maddie Bullard  
Reporter

The air is heavy and humid in the lap pool at the Center of Clayton. A girl's swim meet is going on, Clayton vs. Parkway Central. The relay team has just begun their swim, and are lagging behind.

The girls lined up on either end of the pool are cheering on their teammates as Clayton slowly inches closer and closer to the lead. Finally, they pull through at the last minute for the win.

The shouts of the girls are short-lived, though, as they prepare for their next event.

Clayton swim meets may not attract as big an audience as football or soccer, but for the close-knit group who participate, this sport is both rewarding and challenging.

"I used to swim competitively and I wanted to stick with it," sophomore Elizabeth Sikora said.

Sikora is a veteran swimmer who participates in a variety of events.

"I usually swim the 200 Medley Relay, the 200 Free Relay, the 100 Breaststroke and one other event, like the 50 Free," Sikora said. "My favorite individual event is the 100 Breaststroke."

Senior Julia Hartel is another veteran swimmer, who has participated in the sport for four years.

"I went into freshman year not planning on swimming competitively because I was nervous about starting swimming again," Hartel said. "One of my friends who was a junior and had swum for two years convinced me. I joined and have no regrets."

For the Clayton girls swim team, there hasn't been as much to cheer about this year.

"Our season isn't going too well this year as far as wins, but I'm still having a good time," Sikora said.

Hartel agrees that the team is not up to last years standards.

"Because we lost so many upperclass-

men, the skill level of our team went down so our record wasn't as good as last year," Hartel said.

Last year, the team qualified for state in all three relays. This year, the athletes have fallen short of that goal. Yet, in spite of the team's disappointing record, Hartel still enjoys the sport as much as ever.

"It's a great way to stay in shape and it's a fun way to meet new people at our school," Hartel said. "One thing I dislike about swimming is that long workouts, and swimming by yourself can get boring and monotonous."

There are aspects of the swim team besides winning meets which make it worth the long workouts.

"We are having a lot of fun and all of our swimmers made huge personal improvements," Hartel said.

Sikora also thinks that the small size of her team is an advantage.

"I think that this year's team is fun because we have become really close," Sikora said. "We're a small team so I've really bonded with everyone."

The team was successful in a big meet against Rosati-Kain and Hazelwood East.

"It was one of our only wins and we got first place in all three relays, which are worth the most points," Sikora said.

It was also an exciting meet for the team.

"We only had the lead by 2 points, so we had to swim really fast and win events in order to maintain our lead," Sikora said.

Swimming is a very time-consuming sport, with both meets and practices after school usually lasting two hours.

"Meets can take longer, especially if they are far away," Sikora said. "Swimming takes up a lot of my time."

But for Sikora, the time commitment is worth it.

"I enjoy swimming because it's a good work out and it keeps me in shape," Sikora said. "I will probably return to swimming next year." ☺

## Anticipation builds for March Madness

Tom Evashwick  
Reporter

In the sports world, March Madness doesn't refer to the frantic week of midterms or the wild week of spring break. It's all about basketball.

March Madness is a month-long tournament comprised of 64 teams to determine the national champion.

Every season, a few elite teams distinguish themselves early and are considered favorites, while others sneak in at the last moment and claim their spot.

However, with March drawing ever closer, the annual debate over the four number one seeds has arisen.

Before this season, North Carolina was the consensus number-one ranked team and huge favorites to win the Big Dance.

Led by reigning player of the year Tyler Hansborough, UNC was even picked by Vegas, with 10:3 odds.

However, losses to Boston College and third-ranked Wake Forest knocked UNC out of the number one ranking.

Led by big-man DeJaun Blair, Pittsburg gained the first number one ranking in school history.

"What Blair did to Hasheem Thabeet and UConn a few weeks was ridiculous," junior Emil Thyssen said. "He'll definitely be playing in the [NBA] All Star Game in a few years."

Yet the Panthers lost a week later and relinquished the honor to Wake Forest and player of the year candidate Jeff Teague. Currently, Pitt is ranked first.

Duke then picked up the necessary votes to claim the top spot after Wake lost to unranked Virginia Tech.

However, the Blue Devils then lost to Wake Forest, were in turn blown out by Clemson, losing by 27, squeezed by unranked Miami in overtime, and finally lost to Boston College. The Blue Devils have had a sub .500 record since the end of January.

Despite its recent woes, junior Matt Militello is still confident in Duke's success.

"Duke will win it all this year, guaranteed," Militello said.

Oklahoma comes and goes through player of the year favorite Blake Griffin. Averaging just about 23 points per game and 15 rebounds per game, the sophomore has been projected as the number one overall pick in the upcoming NBA draft if he decides to leave school early.

"It's unbelievable what Griffin has been able to do this year," junior Max Goldfarb said. "He's almost too good for the college game."

After blowing away its Big 12 opponents so far this season, Oklahoma has been picking up steam and is one of the favorites to pick up one of the four top

seeds in the tournament, and has recently overtaken the top rank after UConn lost to Pittsburgh. The Sooners then lost.

"If the season ended today, the number one seeds would most likely be UConn, UNC, Pitt and Oklahoma," Goldfarb said. "I still think UConn will get the number one overall seed. Duke, Michigan State, Wake Forest and Louisville would all fall just short."

The other big debate surrounding the tournament is the so called "bubble teams."

Some big name schools can get left out unless they receive an automatic bid from winning a conference tournament. Of the 65 teams, 31 receive automatic bids, so only 34 at large teams get a berth.

Georgetown and Notre Dame, both highly ranked earlier in the season, have endured losing streaks of five and seven games, respectively, and have to practically win the remainder of their games and make it far in the Big East tournament to receive a bid.

Wisconsin, Indiana, Miami (FL) and Michigan all have work left to do as well if they want a spot in the field.

"I think Ohio St., Florida, and Tennessee could all be left out," senior Ben Stamp said.

As it stands now, Arizona, Kansas State and BYU have all put up impres-

sive records in good conferences, and have good shots at being some of the last teams chosen.

Every year, a school emerges from the shadows and makes a run far into the tournament, none more remarkable than 11th seeded George Mason making the Final Four in 2006, or 10th seed Davidson making it to the Elite Eight last year.

This year, the electric nation's leading scorer Stephen Curry has a chance to once again lead Davidson into the tournament.

However, a lack of size up front and a talent drop-off will prevent the Wildcats from going far into the tournament. With impressive records so far, Dayton (23-3), San Diego State (18-6) and Utah State (24-2) have good chances to be the dark horse of this year's tournament.

However, the biggest surprise this year may come from Mizzou. While they went unnoticed during the preseason, the now 8th ranked Tigers have posted big wins this season against Texas, Cal and USC and have a legitimate chance to win the Big 12 Championship this year and propel themselves into the national spotlight.

With the selection Sunday drawing ever closer, teams playing their hearts out to earn a spot on the dance floor. ☺

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# All-time best Cardinals starting lineups

With Spring Training in full swing, the start of the third regular season at new Busch Stadium just around the corner, and an All-Star game to be held in St. Louis in July, one Globe editor decided to compile a list of his all-time best and most dishonorable St. Louis Cardinals. The list includes past and present Cardinals.

Evan Green  
Editor

With the MLB season starting, an all-time Cardinals team seemed like a great list to compile. This is the starting nine for my all-time St. Louis Cardinals lineup. I have also listed my 9 worst Cardinals. The list includes both past and present Cardinals. Here's my take:

**A key:** AS=All Star game appearances; HR=Home Run; RBI=Runs Batted In; BA=Batting Average; WS=World Series; ROY=Rookie of the Year Winner; MVP=Most Valuable Player Winner; OBP=On-base Percentage; 3B=Triples

**CATCHER:** Ted Simmons (6 All Star games, 12 years, 172 HR, 929 RBI's, .298 BA) - Before Whitey Herzog traded away Simmons for not cutting his hair (possibly one of the worst reasons of all-time), Simmons was much beloved by Cardinal fans for being an all-around good athlete and person (played football and baseball at Michigan). Simmons' replacement (Darrell "The Drunk" Porter) was liked by some, hated by others, but was definitely never the steady rock behind the plate for the Cardinals that Simmons was.

**Dishonorable mention:** Darrell Porter - The Cardinals have consistently had good catchers (see Matheny, Molina, even Pagnozzi), even Porter put up good stats, but it was his excessive drug and alcohol abuse that make him so dishonorable. Porter's fast-lane life sadly led to his demise as he died in 2002 in a car crash in which cocaine was found in his system. That is just not the way a Cardinals catcher that won two WS should go out.

**FIRST BASE:** Albert Pujols (1 ROY, 2 MVP, 1 WS win, 1 Gold Glove, 7 AS games, 319 HR, 977 RBI, .334 career BA, .424 OBP, 1,471 hits) - It is mind boggling that Pujols has compiled all of the above stats in only 7 plus seasons. That being said, Pujols is possibly the best all-around hitter in baseball this decade. When all 30 MLB managers were polled at the beginning of the 2008 season on who they would least want to face with the game on the line, Pujols led the votes, getting 11 of the 30 votes. The next closest player received 4.5 votes. As well as seeing the ball so well, and hitting to all fields, Pujols has consistently been clutch for the Cards, who doesn't remember his walk-off absolute bomb against Brad Lidge? The one in which Andy Pettite is seen saying, "Oh, my God," in the dug-out. If that isn't clutch, then I don't know what is. All in all, Pujols has already compiled the best numbers of any Cardinals first basemen in the history of the franchise.

**Dishonorable mention:** Tino Martinez - Martinez produced some of his worst career numbers with the Cardinals, the only time Tino ever showed true passion with the Cards was during his fight with then Diamondbacks pitcher Miguel Batista.

**SECOND BASE:** Rogers Hornsby (HOF, 1 WS win, 2 MVP, 2 Triple Crown wins, .424 BA in 1924, 301 HR, 169 3B, 2,930 hits, .358 career BA) - One only needs to see Hornsby's 1922 stats, in which he batted .401, hit 42 HR's, and had 151 RBI. Other than that though, Hornsby is the only player to win the NL Triple Crown twice, his career BA is an NL, and the best career BA for a right handed hitter of all-time. As well, Ted Williams once said Hornsby was the greatest hitter for average and power in baseball history. If that compliment isn't enough, then nothing is. Hornsby was also a great fielder. His all-around attributes make him possibly the best second basemen of all-time, not only in Cardinals history.

**Dishonorable mention:** Adam Kennedy - Kennedy was more help to the team as part of the trade that brought Edmonds to St. Louis than at any other time. When you bat .219 in 87 games (as he did in 2007 for the Cards), you better excel at some other aspect of the game well, but Kennedy has no speed and a decent glove and arm, rendering him as helpful as the Cardinals bullpen last year.

**SHORT STOP:** Ozzie Smith (HOF, 13 consecutive Gold Gloves, 2,460 Hits, 580 SB, 1978 ROY, 15 All-Star Games) - While Ozzie was never much at the plate, he had decent speed, but we all know that that is not why Ozzie made the list. The Wizard lived up to his nickname with the glove, and will always be known for his back flips before he took the field. Ozzie retired as arguably the best fielding shortstop of all-time. The legend that Ozzie is still live on in the hearts of Cardinals fans forever, and always as the Wizard. And who will ever forget Ozzie's walk off HR in the 1985 NLCS, in which the term, "Go crazy folks, go crazy" was coined by the late great Jack Buck?

**Dishonorable mention:** Royce Clayton - Yes, the man had to take over for a legend, but that doesn't excuse his poor attitude and poor play (highest OBP with Cardinals: .321). Not to mention that his numbers are out of the leadoff spot

**THIRD BASE:** Ken Boyer (5 Gold Gloves, 7-time All-Star, 1 WS win, 1 MVP, career .348 BA) - Other than being second all-time in Cardinals Grand Slams (7), Boyer helped lead the team to their 1964 World Series Win, and was named the NL MVP of that season. He is the only Cardinal to ever hit for the cycle twice, and he was nicknamed "The Captain", solidifying his spot in the lineup.

**Dishonorable mention:** Ken Reitz: While he was a fan favorite, Reitz's stats are actually horrendous. He had a career BA of .260 and a career OBP of .290. How did he make the All-Star game in 1979? He batted .270 with 8 HR and 53 RBI that season. On top of that, Reitz was a mediocre fielder (23 errors in 1975) and had even less speed (10 career SB).

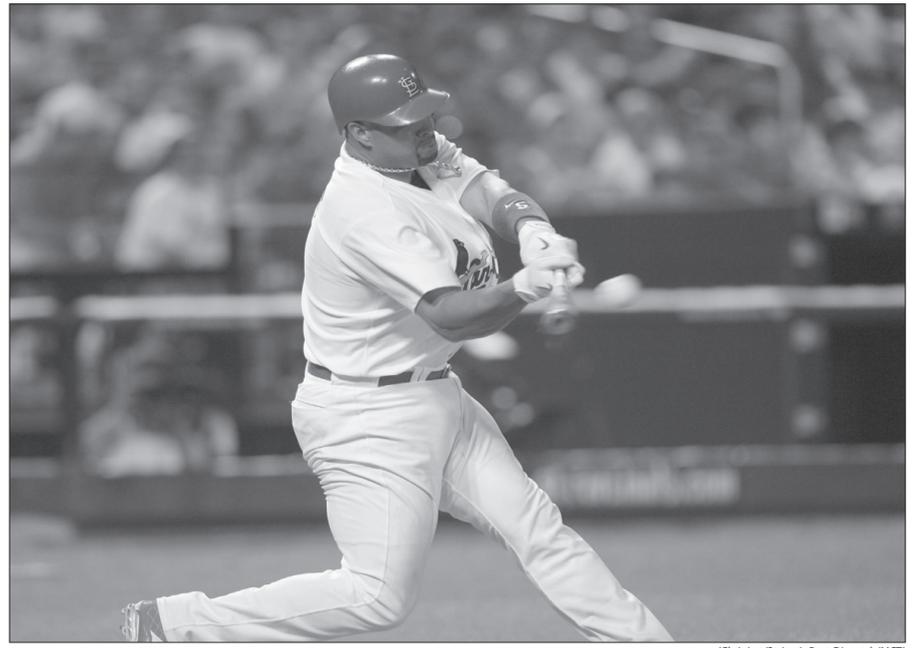
**LEFT FIELD:** Lou Brock (HOF, 6 All-Star games, 938 SB, 3,023 hits, 2 WS win, 118 SB in 1974) - Brock's incredible speed helped him set the record (when he retired) for SB with 938. While many Cardinal fans remember the Lou Brock umbrella promotion (the Brockabrella), few remember that he was acquired by the Cards in a deal that sent Ernie Broglio to the Cubs in one of the most lopsided trades of all-time. That was also the last trade between the two rivals for a long time. Brock's speed, coupled with his power to the gaps combined to make Brock a Hall of Famer and one of the most beloved Cardinals of all-time.

**CENTER FIELD:** Jim Edmonds (10 Gold Gloves, 7 All-Star Games, 1 WS win, 377 HR, 1165 RBI) - Jimmy Ballgame will forever be remembered in Cardinal fans' hearts for his clutch walk-off HR in Game 6 of the 2004 NLCS. Many fans, however, forget about Edmonds' almost as clutch catch in the first inning of Game 7 of that same NLCS, the catch that saved several runs from scoring in which Edmonds is flat-out, parallel to ground leaping to make the catch in the gap. Edmonds was loved by many for being an all-or-nothing type of player. As well, Edmonds had one of the best arms in baseball for a long time, and he combined with Pujols and Rolen to make the Big 3 trio. Edmonds' excitement as the Cards won the 2006 WS, was that of an extremely happy child, summing up Edmonds' child-like love for the game.

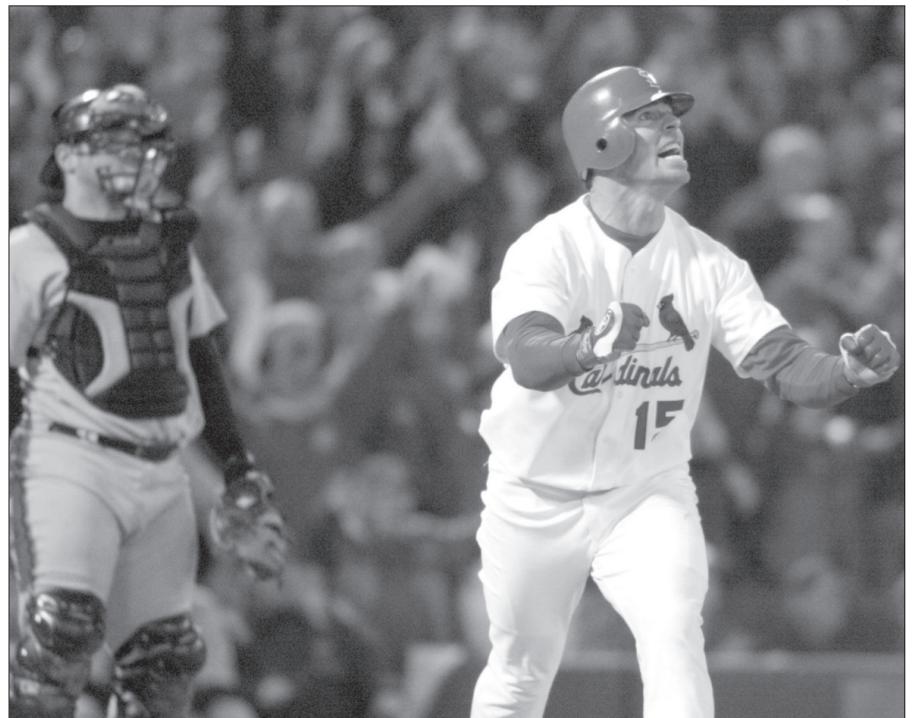
**RIGHT FIELD:** Stan "the Man" Musial (HOF, fourth on the all-time hits list with 3,630 hits, .331 BA, 475 HR, 1951 RBI, 3-time WS Champ, 7 Batting titles, 3 MVP's) - Those stats alone show why Stan was truly the Man. Not only did he play all of his 22 seasons with the Cards, but also his presence in St. Louis was why he was truly respected. Stan was the quintessential All-Star, a man whose greatness cannot be put into words. An all-around good guy who once said, "I love to play this game of baseball - I love putting on this uniform."

**Dishonorable mention (entire OF):** J.D. Drew - Drew managed to be injured for a good chunk of his stay with the Cardinals, leading him to be dishonorably mentioned. Yes, he put up some good stats, but Drew perennially didn't hustle and was on the DL every season with the club. Even La Russa commented in his book Three Nights In August that Drew seemed to "settle for 75%" of his talent. A man more concerned about his paycheck than the integrity of the game should completely disgust every baseball fan.

**STARTING PITCHER:** Bob Gibson (HOF, 1 MVP, 2 CY Young awards, 2 WS wins, 9 Gold Gloves, 528 appearances, 255 CG, 8 All-Star games, 251 Wins, 3117 K's, career 2.91 ERA, holds the single-season record for ERA: 1.12 in 1968) - Gibson literally changed baseball; after the 1968 season in which Gibson set the ERA record, the pitching mound was lowered. He was, therefore, directly related to one of the many changes for the hitters that have occurred in MLB history. Gibson's gamer mentality was at an all-time high when Roberto Clemente broke his leg with a line drive and Gibson pitched to the next two batters. Gibson was always the competitor, as Hank Aaron once told a young Dusty Baker, "Don't dig in against Bob Gibson, he'll knock you down. He'd knock down his own grandmother if she dared to challenge him. Don't stare at him, don't smile at him, don't talk to him. He doesn't like it. If you happen to hit a home run, don't run too slow, don't run too fast. If you happen to want to celebrate, get in the tunnel first. And if he hits you, don't charge the mound, because he's a Gold Glove boxer." As well, as being a great boxer and pitcher, Gibson even played for the Harlem Globetrotters. Gibson was truly a great athlete in general.



(Chris Lee/St. Louis Post-Dispatch/MCT)



(Chris Lee/St. Louis Post-Dispatch/MCT)

Top: Albert Pujols is the pick for all-time best Cardinals first baseman. Bottom: Jim Edmonds is the all-time best Cardinals center fielder.

**Dishonorable mention:** Jason Marquis - Marquis gave Dave Duncan absolutely no credit, and then supposedly quit following the pitching guru's tutelage. While he was so-so overall, the games Marquis blew were much, much more memorable than the few gems he tossed. Marquis was even left off the 2006 playoff roster, a roster that included Anthony Reyes (the 2-14 wonder) and Jeff Weaver (5.18 ERA). A 6.02 ERA and 35 HR allowed would do that to you.

**RELIEF PITCHER:** Bruce Sutter (HOF, 300 career saves, 2.83 ERA in 661 games, 1 Cy Young, 6 All-Star games) - Sutter's tough guy credo, matched with his innovative split-finger fastball combined for a lights-out situation whenever Sutter entered the game. Sutter famously clinched the 1982 World Series against the Milwaukee Brewers, ending the game on a strikeout.

**Dishonorable Mention:** Ron Villone and Esteban Yan - Two men that somehow make me mad even when their names and the Cardinals are merely mentioned in the same sentence. Both seem to do the inevitable every time: blow the game whenever they can. When you give up a bomb to a man who hasn't homered since May 14, 2008 (Villone to Andruw Jones on August 5, 2008), you just deserve to be dishonorably mentioned. As well, Villone in 2008: 4.68 ERA in 74 Games. When you pitch that much, your ERA better be lower than 4.68. As for Yan in 2003 with the Cards: 6.02 ERA in 39 games.

If those two teams ever took the field against each other, one might have a feeling that the result would be quite lopsided.

Sources: <http://www.baseball-reference.com>, <http://www.baseball-almanac.com/quotes/quomusl.shtml>, Sport Magazine's All-Time All Stars (Tom Murray, 1963). ☛

## Attention all Clayton students, come support your fellow classmates

As I stood in the stands of a recent boys' basketball game, I looked around.

I noticed that the students were broken into two sections, with the majority of the split determined by grade.

It was a sad sight to watch one grade stand and cheer in possibly their last ever basketball game as a student at Clayton High.

On the other hand, I saw two grades sitting, not really paying attention to the game; their backs turned to the action, as they talked among themselves.

I noticed one grade not even in attendance. This was it, I could not just stand by and watch as only a few people seemed to be attempting to will the team back into the game, a playoff game no less.

A playoff game with the possibly the best Clayton boys' basketball team in recent memory falling farther and farther behind.

Then, as the team seemed to slowly climb back into the game, I expected that maybe the students would finally get into the game, but no.

### Turf Tales



Evan Green

I mean sure, they started to pay more attention, but not as much as they should have for a playoff game.

As the game wore on, I started to think about the entire high school sports year and just how few people have gone to the games this year, a decline that I have noticed dating back to my freshman year.

To the best of my memory, attendance at sporting events was pretty good my freshman year, with a senior class that liked going to games, and decent football, hockey, and basketball teams.

Sure people seemed to come a little late to games, but most stayed to the end. And when the playoffs or Ladue games rolled around, everyone seemed

to go.

Sophomore year, the teams were not quite as good and attendance slowed down a little, which was not too surprising.

People came to games a little bit later than before, and left early in blowouts. But when the playoffs came, everyone still went, and same with the Ladue games.

But then junior year came, and, as noticed in football games, people seemed to show up in the middle of the second quarter and leave in the middle of the third quarter, no matter the score or the opponent.

I remember being at the game against Ladue when we had just a seven-point lead in the fourth quarter and there were barely any students still there. I mean this is LADUE people, our rival, and still no one stayed to the end of a one-possession game. Even in the Homecoming game, almost no one was left at the end, and this was a day game.

And then hockey season rolled around, a sport that Clayton has had modest success in lately. This was the worst attendance to hockey games I have seen in a while. Even in the out-

door game against LADUE, and not too many people came.

The worst point of the hockey season came in the second game of the first round of a playoff series against Priory; a game in which five Clayton students showed up to watch the team win the second game to force a mini-game in which the team lost in heart-breaking fashion.

Then, everything seemed to come to a breaking point for me at the end of the basketball season at MICDS. The team willed its way back from a large first half deficit to eventually tie the game at one point in the second half, and, for the few people at the game, even less were legitimately rooting hard for the team or even paying attention to the game.

The part about the issue that re-

ally seems to anger me is more the large amount of effort that Clayton students put in for their teams in practice, the off season, and games as well; large amounts of effort in order to proudly support their school on the field.

The sad part is that their fellow students are not even recognizing the effort.

Whatever happened to the old time theme in which the entire town would turn out for every home game and make most of the road trips too?

For most Clayton athletes, their senior season will end up being the last games they play that truly matter or even count in a larger scheme of things.

As well, high school playoffs are magical things in which anything can happen and events occur that become the best memories of some peoples' lives.

With that in mind, why not rally around each other and decide to start attending our fellow students' games, supporting them along the way; because any high school athlete will not deny how much of a lift it is for their friends and classmates to come watch them play.

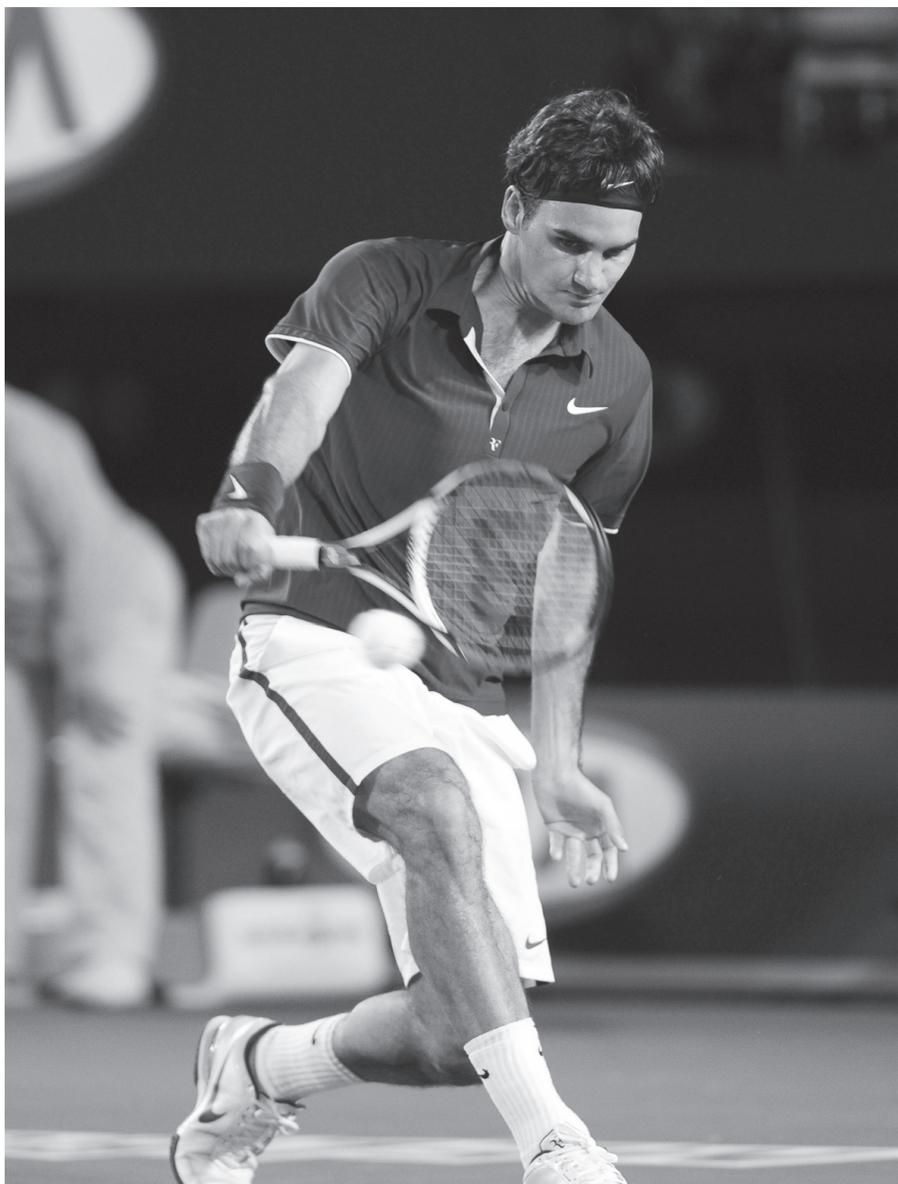
And for the seniors, make the most of your last sports season to root on your friends, whether it be on the lacrosse field, the track at Gay Field, or even the baseball diamond.

Come out and support all the hard effort that Clayton students put into their separate events just to be able to wear a jersey with the Clayton name on the front.

And to the athletes, encourage your friends to come to the games, and continue to put forth your best effort and successfully represent your school day in and day out.

And to all Clayton students, remember, these are the only four years of your entire life to be a part of these things; and those years go by fast.

So cherish the moments that you have for now, because before you know it, those days and moments are long gone. ☛



Roger Federer, who has thirteen Grand Slam titles, was defeated at the Australian Open this year after losing last year's tournament.

Student Perspective

## Federer's performance falls short of inspiring fans at Australian Open

Ellie Bullard  
Senior Editor

Going into the Australian Open last year, Roger Federer had won the Australian Open three times in a row. He had reason to feel confidence going into the first major final of 2008, and most people predicted he would win. However, the match ended in an upset when rookie Novak Djokovic beat Federer in 2008's finals match in a mere three sets.

This was only the beginning of Federer's fall from grace as number one in the world. Throughout the next year, Federer failed to play at his best. For the past two years, the tennis player who has often been hailed as being the best player of all time has not had the best of luck.

The pattern continued into 2009. In the Australian Open, Federer played his arch-rival, Raphael Nadal, now ranked number one in the world. I shouldn't have been surprised that Federer lost this year's final against his arch-rival Raphael Nadal—but I was. It was a huge loss because if Federer had won, he would have tied with Pete Sampras's for most Grand Slam singles titles.

The first time I saw Federer play,

I was in my early teens and I had just begun playing tennis. I watched Federer play, winning every set and match he attempted to win. He made beating top ranked players seem easy. He seemed so obviously more talented than the other players that I saw no reason to root for any other competitor.

After all, I was watching Federer at the peak of his career—a time when he won 95 percent of his matches and the only other player who was a remote threat was Raphael Nadal. Entering 2008, I was expecting another golden year for Federer.

However, it was just the opposite. Although the year would have been a great year for anyone else, it wasn't even comparable to Federer's past few years in which he has won two, even three, Grand Slam titles each year. After his loss in the 2008 Australian Open, Federer revealed that he had been diagnosed with mononucleosis. This probably affected his playing in 2007 and 2008.

However, now the mono is long gone and Federer still hasn't found his rhythm.

Federer doesn't seem to be the same

guy—his effortless playing style has gone out the window, along with his confidence.

This year after losing the Australian Open, Federer seemed especially defeated when he made a public display of tears at the awards ceremony. It wasn't just any match, though—if Federer had won this match he would have tied tennis legend Pete Sampras for the record of most Grand Slam singles titles ever won, which is 14. Federer has a whopping 13 Grand Slam singles titles, but still needs one more to tie Sampras. It was truly heartbreaking to watch the man who had once been invincible weep in front of the crowd, completely broken.

"You can't go through your whole life as a tennis player taking every victory that's out there," Federer said on the stand. "You've got to live with those, you know. But they hurt even more so if you're that close, like at Wimbledon or like here at the Australian Open."

Although Roger Federer may not be back to his effortless, invincible self quite yet I still believe that he will be successful in the remainder of his career. I look forward to a great year for him. ☺

## Hockey team celebrates successful season

Katherine Greenberg  
Reporter

This year the Clayton hockey team has new coaches and a new attitude for the season. Chris Wirtel and Jeff Gorges were new additions to the team. Chris Wirtel coached Afton Club Hockey for five years before coming to Clayton.

"I was very excited to start the season," Wirtel said. "I only knew a few of the players from coaching on Afton, but I had heard good things about the Clayton hockey team."

Junior Connor Dougan has been playing on the hockey team for the past two years. "The biggest change we had this year was a new coach," Dougan said. "He really created a relaxed atmosphere that made everyone very comfortable and want to play."

The season ended this year with a record of 13-8, a much better record than last year's, 8-9.

Junior Corbin Holtzman is also happy with the change in coaching staff this year.

"This year our coaches were much younger and it was much easier to relate to them," Holtzman said.

"This year the team was able to come together much better," junior Jordan Stern said. "We all worked hard and really wanted to win. The only thing that really would have helped us was if all of our players were able to come to all of the games, but because so many players are on hockey teams outside of school we were missing our starting lineup a lot."

Connor Dougan is on a select team outside of the school hockey team.

"I go out of town a lot for my other team," Dougan said. "I really tried to make all the games but I missed a few."

Wirtel has high expectations for next year.

"We are losing three players next year, Captains Tim Smith and Murphy Horlacher," Wirtel said. "Zach Cavalini is moving to Boston, but I think that the team has improved so much in one season that they will really be able to grow in the next season."

This year the greyhounds lost in overtime to Priory in the first round of the playoffs.

"I was pretty upset about how the season ended," Stern said. "We lost in overtime to Priory in the first round of

the playoffs. We have played Priory four times, won two and lost two and unfortunately, that time we did not win, but we played well."

Junior Scott Morrison said he really enjoys going to the hockey games.

"I try to go to all of the games but a lot of them are at difficult times and I can't make it," Morrison said. "I also think the night games are much more fun than the day games."

Sophomore Kyleigh Smith agrees. "I always want to go to hockey games but I never hear when or where they are," Smith said. "I think they need to be publicized more."

Hockey is a club sport at Clayton. This means that the players have to pay for their equipment, and not the school.

"The main reason I wish hockey was not a club sport is so that we would not have to pay as much to play," Stern said. "Other than that I don't think being a club sport affects the team."

"I think that because we are a club sport we are not taken as seriously by the school," Dougan said. "I think that hockey would be given more attention if it was not a club sport." ☺

### Athlete of the Month

## Paige Meneses



#### BY THE NUMBERS

#### State Scores:

2009 438.80-1st  
2008 409.40-2nd  
2007 358.35-7th  
2006 353.80-8th

"Paige has been an outstanding athlete over her entire career at Clayton. She's been a great leader and a strong contributor to the team in every aspect."

--Coach Dave Kohmetscher

SWIMMING

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The Globe staff congratulates

## Paige Meneses

on winning

## the state diving championship!

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# Poms team combines dancing, spirit

Rachel Nevels  
Reporter

As the national anthem finished at Last Tuesday's varsity boys' basketball game, the pom pom team sat anxiously, waiting for their half-time performance. One first timer, junior Breia Jefferson, admitted to pre-game jitters.

"I've been a cheerleader all three years, and this is my first year dancing," Jefferson said. "It's somewhat different, and a bit more nerve-racking, but Coach Dana and my team mates make it cool."

Coach Dana Jones, the pom pom coach for the past two years, was a Clayton Greyhound herself, and never thought she would come back to be the pom pom coach.

"What kid in high school thinks they're going to come back and be a teacher or a coach?" Jones joked.

Jones was a serious dancer by age 11 and part of the pom team when she attended Clayton High School.

"Two years after I came back to Saint Louis, I decided that I wanted to see how things had changed," Jones said. "And on the record, not much has changed." Jones joked with a hardy laugh.

Jones' attractive personality and welcoming smile not only won me over, but also the girls on her team.

"When I heard that Dana was going to be the pom pom coach, it made me want to do it more because we learned a lot about her dancing experience during the cheer leading season, and she seems as if she really enjoys doing it," Jefferson said.

Some girls admit to just wanting to do it for fun, or to enhance their dancing skills, such as freshman Carol Clay.

"When I did cheer leading, it had a lot of dance elements to it, which made me want to try dancing and I'm glad I did," Clay said. "Coach Dana taught us real basic stuff that was really helpful, like how to keep our toes and back straight, but most importantly how to feel comfortable in front of a crowd." Clay said.

These skills were apparent during their halftime performance, when every girl smiled the entire time, despite a missed move, or a wrong count.

"My daughter gave me an analogy about reaching goals," Jones said. "She said that in order to reach your final goal, you have to achieve smaller ones,

which are like stepping stones in order to get to the big goal. You get a piece of the trophy with every experience, until finally you get the whole thing. And for the girls, each performance is like a piece of that trophy."

The team has several seniors on the team that have provided good leadership as well.

"Being a senior, I would sometimes lead stretches or just try to take a leadership role," senior Leigh Tait said.

As well, some of the dancers were better at different types of dance.

"I had more of a classical training, so I could help the girls with some of the jazz and classical dances, and they helped me a lot with more of the hip-hop styles," Tait said.

For the seniors, the season provided many great memories.

"My favorite dance was the last one of the season, where sort of had a senior solo piece and kind of took a bow," Tait said.

In all, many dancers suggested the team for next year.

"I had a lot of fun for my first year, I really recommend poms," Tait said. ☺



Meng Whang

The poms team performed at half time of a recent boys' basketball game. The team has performed at many of the Hounds' home games during the season.

## Athlete of the Month

## Dougan leads team

Evan Green  
Editor

The Clayton High hockey team took a huge leap forward this season, improving from a team that went to the Challenge Cup last year and went to a better playoff this year in the Wickenheiser Cup.

This progress was thanks largely in part to the effort of junior forward Connor Dougan.

In 21 games for the Hounds, Dougan tallied 15 goals and 33 assists for a total of 48 points. Dougan's average of team leading 2.3 points per game lead the team to its 14-7 record, much better than they did last year.

"Coming into the season, my goal was just to improve on a terrible last season," Dougan said.

While placing fifth in the division in scoring, Dougan was also playing club hockey, meaning that he was not always at full strength for Clayton games. However, his experience in the off-season playing club hockey lead to an improvement this year.

Dougan took several steps to prepare for this season.

"Other than play for the Afton Americans (his club team), I lifted weights, ran a lot, and enjoyed a good round of golf," Dougan said.

Dougan's intense efforts in the off-season prepared him for the grind of playing twice as much hockey during the high school season.

Other than put the puck in the back of the net, Dougan excels in several other facets of the game.

"My best aspect is just grinding finding the open guy with the puck," Dougan said.

Dougan's stellar passing truly showed this season as he finished third in the entire Mid-States region for assists. Even

though Dougan did well this season, he still feels that there are several parts of his game that he can develop.

"I really need to improve on putting the puck in the back of the net," Dougan said.

Dougan's effort for the team was not just in his personal game, but a true improvement for the whole team.

"When I go out there, I just try to be the ultimate team player," Dougan said. "Whether that means blocking shots or taking hits, I just try to do my best in order for the team to win."

Dougan also did a great job during the season mentoring the younger players and leading by example by truly exemplifying the team slogan.

"Our motto is just that 'you look good, you play good' and to go out there and play hard every game," Dougan added.

Fellow Greyhound hockey players noticed Dougan's leadership qualities as well.

"He would always crack a good joke when we were down," freshman forward Gabe Jacus said. "He was just a great line mate too because he would always find me when I was open."

After a somewhat disappointing loss to a good Priory team in the first round of the Wickenheiser Cup, Dougan is already looking ahead to next season and preparing for a successful senior campaign.

"My goals for next year are to improve on this season, bring back the Clayton Hockey Spirit Club, and to get more fans to come to the games," Dougan said.

With Dougan's winning attitude and great leadership, Clayton hockey fans truly have something to look forward to next season. ☺

# Connor Dougan

"He would always crack a good joke when we were down, he was just a great line mate too because he would always find me when I was open."

--Freshman Gabe Jacus

**BY THE NUMBERS**

<b>Total number of goals:</b> 15	<b>Finished 3rd in Mid-States region for assists</b>
<b>Total number of assists:</b> 33	<b>Average points per game:</b> 2.3

HOCKEY
CENTER/LEFT WING

## Q&A: new girls' lacrosse coach comes to Hounds' program with high expectations

Martha Burke  
Reporter

As winter sports come to a close, Clayton High School prepares to make some new changes to the spring coaching staff. Christina Perrino will be stepping in as the new girls' lacrosse coach after the Hounds finished with a 12-3 record last season.

"The new coach really seems enthusiastic and excited to start," junior attack and varsity returner Eliana Harris said.

Perrino, an employee at the district administration center, will begin her first season as the lacrosse coach. The Globe recently talked with Perrino about her new job.

**Globe: When and why did you start playing lacrosse?**

Perrino: I grew up in Cincinnati, which is where I started playing lacrosse my freshman year of high school. Like many players, I played field hockey in the fall and then picked up lacrosse as a spring sport. In the beginning, lacrosse's similarities to field hockey were what drew me to the sport, but the more time I spent with the lacrosse stick, the more I realized what a perfect fit the sport was for me. Its intensity, quickness and demand for teamwork won me over more than any other sport I'd ever played.

**Globe: What prior coaching experience do you have?**

Perrino: I started coaching at the youth level. I quickly realized that I loved teaching how to play the game, but I wanted to go beyond the basics with my players, so I started to coach high schoolers. I coached for a high school club team for two years, coaching the freshman team my first year and the varsity team my second year. I also played with the St. Louis University women's lacrosse team, and stepped in as the team's coach my senior year.

**Globe: What job do you currently have?**

Perrino: While I don't work in the high school building, I always feel like I'm a part of the high school. I work in the District's

communications office, so I do public relations work for all of Clayton's schools. I've been the District's Communications Specialist for a little over a year. I'm thrilled to have a stronger connection to CHS now through lacrosse.

**Globe: What are you looking forward to improving in the Clayton program?**

Perrino: In its second year as a state-sponsored sport, lacrosse is thriving throughout the St. Louis area, and Clayton is no exception. I know Clayton had an awesome season last year, and I hope to use that momentum to continue to build the program and strengthen CHS lacrosse's status as a dominant, solid program in the area.

**Globe: Why do you want to work at Clayton?**

Perrino: I wanted to coach for Clayton because I strongly believe in the school's unique athletic philosophy of inclusion for all players. I admire Clayton High School athletes for their commitment to becoming well-rounded individuals as they balance their academic, athletic and social lives. I'm really looking forward to helping my players grow as much as I possibly can.

**Globe: What different coaching techniques do you have?**

Perrino: Teamwork is key for me. In practices and games I rely on the entire team to make a single play happen. Whenever I go over a skill or technique, I encourage my players to think about how it will actually happen during a game and how each player participates in what's happening. Lacrosse is such a fast-paced sport, so transitions are also big for me. I like to spend a lot of time in practice working on getting the ball from our defense to our offense and in the net as fast as possible. ☺

Editors Note: The column Turf Tales will return to the Globe next month.

# STONE SC CARLIE

## GOING BEYOND THE NUMBERS

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**"30 Rock"** *Best Television Series*

"The Office" "Weeds" "Ugly Betty" "Flight of the Conchords"



*Best Movie Actress*  
**Kate Winslet, "The Reader"**

Penelope Cruz, "Vicky Cristina Barcelona"  
Anne Hathaway, "Rachel Getting Married"  
Meryl Streep, "Doubt"  
Amy Adams, "Doubt"



*Best Movie Actor*  
**Heath Ledger, "The Dark Knight"**

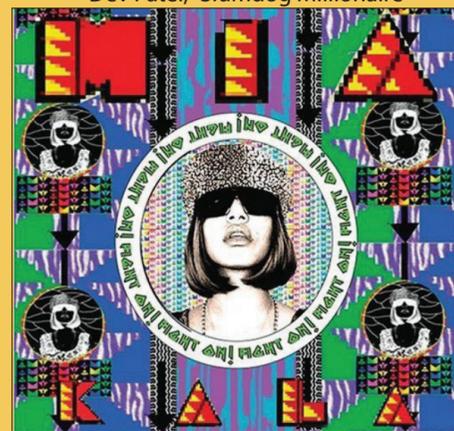
Sean Penn, "Milk"  
Philip Seymour Hoffman, "Doubt"  
Leonardo DiCaprio, "Revolutionary Road"  
Dev Patel, "Slumdog Millionaire"



**"Vicky Cristina Barcelona"**

"Pineapple Express" "Role Models" "Wall-E" "Tropic Thunder"

*Best Comedy*



**Paper Planes, M.I.A**

"Viva La Vida," Coldplay "Single Ladies," Beyoncé  
"American Boy," Estelle "Gamma Ray," Beck

*Best Song*



*Best Animated Short*

**"Le Maison en Petits Cubes"**

"Lavatory Lovestory" "Skhizein"  
"This Way Up" "Presto"



**Slumdog Millionaire**

"The Dark Knight" "Milk" "The Reader" "Doubt"

*Best Drama*



*Best Television Actress*  
**Tina Fey, 30 Rock**

Mary Louise Parker, "Weeds"  
Sally Field, "Brothers and Sisters"  
Jenna Fischer, "The Office"  
Kristen Schaal, "Flight of the Conchords"



*Best Television Actor*  
**Alec Baldwin, 30 Rock**

Steve Carrell, "The Office"  
Hugh Laurie, "House"  
Justin Kirk, "Weeds"  
Bret McKenzie, "Flight of the Conchords"

# Life

## SPRING MUSICAL: Peter Pan

The CHS Theater Department soars to new heights with this year's production.

page 24



## CHS's own novelist: Linda Kelly

Fontasha Powell  
Senior Managing Editor

Little did anyone know that CHS boasts its own author: Linda Kelly. An administrative intern, she has in fact published a novel and is currently embarking on another literary endeavor.

"I have been writing all my life, since about second grade," Kelly said. "I wrote my first short story when I was eight and couldn't spell anything."

Kelly published "Portia's dream" roughly two years ago.

"Portia's Dream is a fantasy adventure," Kelly said. "It's about a young girl who has been transported to another world to find her real parents and family. She meets lots of interesting people along the way and discovers that the same people exist in both worlds and have to deal with issues such as prejudice and lack of communication."

It took Kelly about five years to write the novel. During this time, she was also juggling a full time job, children and school.

Kelly's stepdaughter, Samantha, who recently turned 20 years old, served as inspiration for the novel.

"My stepdaughter, Samantha, was a bright, adventurous girl of 12 when I first met her and started writing the novel," Kelly said. "Another inspiration was the fact that I had been a teacher for almost 20 years. I wanted to write a story with which teenagers could relate that could give good moral values disguised within an interesting story."

Ray Bradbury, author of "Fahrenheit 451" and Isaac Asimov, author of "I, Robot" also served as inspiration.

"Bradbury and Asimov influenced me with their perfected art of the short story in science fiction," Kelly said. "I was so amazed by how they could give such a big picture in a short five or six pages. That made me want to write, and made me want to create."

Kelly decided to self-publish her novel after trying for two and a half years to publish by sending manuscripts to publishers.

"Many publishers have regular clients and very few read the work of writers who haven't published yet," Kelly said. "I spent hundreds of dollars sending out manuscripts, and I got a few rejection letters, but mostly, publishers didn't answer."

Anxious to give her novel to readers and tired of waiting on mainstream publishing houses to contact her, Kelly researched self-publishing using literary guides including "Publishing for Dummies."

"Once I got my manuscript, I got a copyright and found a company called Rose Dog Books," Kelly said. "I signed a contract and only had to pay \$2,400 which is very affordable. Self-publishing can cost up to \$20 thousand."

Not only did Kelly publish her own novel, but she also illustrated the cover design for "Portia's Dream" and drew the map of NARJ, the fantasy world, inside

the novel.

After viewing the book, Senior Bill Behrend was intrigued.

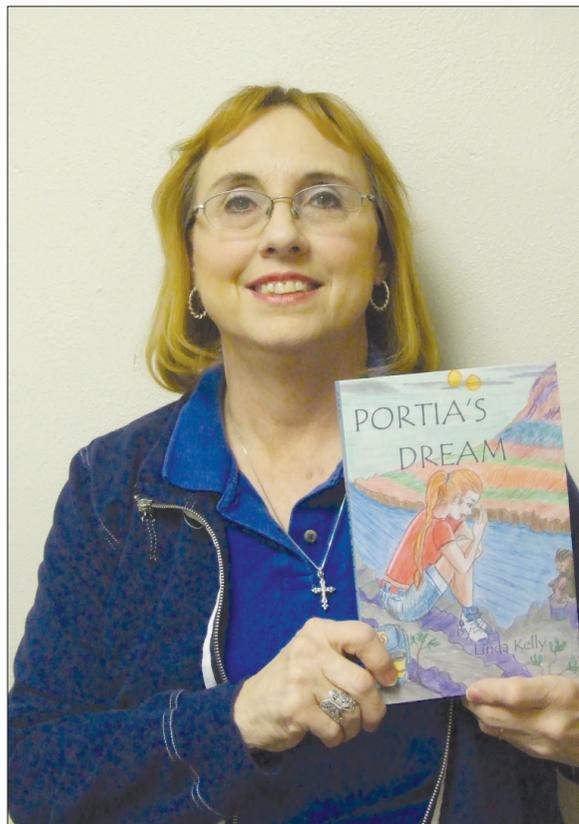
"The artwork looks really interesting," Behrend said. "It's surprising that someone here at CHS did it. It's something that I would definitely consider reading."

Currently, Kelly is working on creating other literature, including a cyberserial on Myspace.com about vampires. Kelly started the blog last January and updates it weekly, adding a few pages at a time. The webaddress is Myspace.com/livingdreamlife.

"My cyberserial is called 'The Truth About Vampires,'" Kelly said. "I jumped on the vampire bandwagon and I'm writing a very tongue and cheek story about vampires. However, it's different than what's currently been written. I know lots of people like blogs and short creativity. Plus, I try to keep up with the times."

Kelly donated a copy of "Portia's Dream" to the library and invites students to read the novel. She also emphasizes that she loves writing because of the freedom it enables.

"There are no limitations and boundaries to writing, especially science fiction," Kelly said. "If you develop characters in a believable, relatable way, it will draw readers' attention. If you want to write, write something you're proud of, something that has meaning for young people in our world today." ☺



Linda Kelly poses with her novel, "Portia's Dream". Kelly spent roughly five years writing the book, which was published two years ago. The story tackles universal issues of prejudice and communication as a young girl is transported to another world.

## Living on food stamp budget gives insight

Preeti Viswanathan  
Editor

In September of last year, the Illinois Food Bank Association participated in a nationwide challenge of living on \$25 worth of food in a week as part of a nationwide effort to encourage communities to be proactive in ending hunger.

Frank Finnegan, Executive Director of the St. Louis Food Bank, was one of the participants, and he discussed some of his experiences finding out what it would be like for someone living on food stamps.

"It was difficult because it came down to \$25 a week, which is the average benefit that an individual gets on food stamps, and that is [equivalent] to \$3.57 a day," Finnegan said.

The directors of all eight food banks, covering 12 counties in the southern Illinois and Missouri region decided to partake in the challenge.

"I thought about what I was going to make, and I started on Monday, and decided that I would make do with ham and beans or something," Finnegan said.

"Unfortunately I wasn't organized enough to do my shopping on Sunday, and I hadn't bought anything yet on Monday morning, so I skipped breakfast and came into work," he added.

Because he couldn't buy lunch, Finnegan's mind was clouded with thoughts of hunger as he watched his coworkers eating.

"I skipped lunch, and I was sitting here at around about 2 o'clock and looking around. Everybody else was either at lunch or eating lunch and somebody had popcorn in the microwave at work, so I could smell that, but couldn't eat any."

Finnegan said he generally bought ham, beans, and eggs, but was not able to choose among the many varieties in the grocery store. The only thing that mattered to him was the price.

"There were at least three or four different varieties of dried beans, but I didn't care what [brand] it was, I just got the cheapest one," he said.

Every few cents that Finnegan saved mattered to him that week.

"If I could save a nickel, that's what I was doing," he said.

During the course of the week, Finnegan frequently skipped lunch and said that he ate ham and beans for dinner every night. While this provided a temporarily filling meal, it lacked the nutrients found in fresh fruits and vegetables, which Finnegan could not afford with the \$25. He also found it was much easier for him to spend a limited amount of money on food as an adult, but questions whether a child would be able to stand the repetitive diet.

"One of the things I thought about was that as a single adult, it was easy for me to do it, or easier anyway, to get by just by myself. But if I had a child, I don't know if that child is going to get the same thing for seven days," Finnegan said. "It's just not going to happen."

The lack of a nutritious diet for children can stunt growth and development relative to peers who are eating nutritionally. On the other end of the spectrum, Finnegan said, the elderly who don't have healthy diets have less effective results if they are taking medications.

"Chances are if you're on medication, the efficacy of those prescriptions is not going to be what it should be, so it impacts both spectrums," Finnegan said.

Finnegan added that supermarkets donate "unused" foods to food banks.

"What food producers give away are their mistakes – either being overproduction or mislabeling, or a new product they're introducing to the marketplace that they're not selling very well," Finnegan said.

With better manufacturing, producers today have less food to donate than they did earlier, because they don't make as many mistakes producing the food.

Also, companies now have more avenues to which they can sell their foods; so they are often selling overproduced foods to other stores instead of donating to food banks.

Finnegan said the St. Louis Food Bank actively donates foods to 26 counties in the St. Louis and Illinois areas.

"Last year we distributed about 14 million pounds," Finnegan said. "That's more than a million pounds each and every month." ☺



Pope Benedict XVI in Vatican City

MCT Campus

## Pope establishes YouTube presence

Carol Iskiwitch  
Chief Copy Editor

Chris Crocker, the "Chocolate Rain" guy, and now...the Pope?

As of January, the Pope has his own YouTube channel, updated several times each week with messages from Pope Benedict XVI to the world.

The opinions of Catholic members of the CHS community vary regarding this new development in the Church's outreach efforts.

"I think it's great that the Pope has a YouTube channel," junior Sarah O'Brien said. "It's refreshing to see the Catholic Church modernizing."

Senior Paige Meneses is concerned about the intentions behind the YouTube channel.

"If the Church is doing it to have a more modern or progressive image, I don't agree with that because the Church is terribly conservative and clings to its traditions," Meneses said. "The gap between its image and the truth will grow."

Senior Maddy McMahon feels more positively about what the Vatican's technological forays could mean for modern Catholics.

"I like that the Catholic Church is making an effort to communicate with a new generation of Catholics who are used to using things like Facebook, Myspace, and YouTube," McMahon said.

McMahon draws a comparison to political figures who use the internet to reach wide audiences.

"Political leaders like Obama and Queen Elizabeth have YouTube channels and other sorts of media to communicate with people around the world," McMahon said. "I think that religious leaders would be wise to also spread their messages through the various, new types of media now available."

Junior Kathleen Naccarato also feels

that the Pope has found a good resource in YouTube.

"Personally, I'd like to see the Pope reach out to suffering communities with messages of hope and peace," Naccarato said. "Particularly with the rough economic and political times, it would be nice to see the Catholic Church preaching more about charity and tolerance."

McMahon feels that shorter videos would best serve the Vatican's purpose.

"I don't necessarily think he ought to post homilies, but short messages could be interesting and informational," McMahon said.

Naccarato and McMahon are in luck, as many of the Pope's first videos are messages urging peace and charity, and they are all less than three minutes long.

McMahon doubts that entire Mass services will be posted, but remains concerned about this possibility.

"If entire Masses were recorded and put on YouTube, I think that would detract from the incredible community that any church is built upon," McMahon said. "Also, for Catholics, the most important part of the Mass is receiving Communion, and you can't receive a virtual Eucharist."

O'Brien, on the other hand, feels that recording Masses would be beneficial for those who are unable to attend church regularly.

Meneses also thinks that posting Masses on YouTube is fine.

"They are already on TV; it doesn't mean people will watch him though," Meneses said.

Whether the Vatican will succeed in its attempts to reach a larger audience via YouTube remains to be seen. All we know for now is that the news continues to astound and amuse those who hear it.

As Naccarato so aptly puts it, "I sense a comedy sketch." ☺

### St. Louis Area Food Bank

- Distributes food to 26 counties in Missouri and Illinois
- Each year over 5,000 volunteers spend over 12,000 hours helping to sort and package food
- In cooperation with over 500 food pantries
- Rely on food drives, donations from area companies and grocery stores, and USDA and America's Second Harvest to supply food.

Source: <http://stlfoodbank.org>

## News Briefs

### Changes in Finals Schedule

Graduation will be held on a Wednesday evening this year due to the Jewish Holiday of Shavuous falling on the following Friday. As a result, finals will occur on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday instead of Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. This will allow time for members of the band and choir, junior marshals, and siblings of graduates to recuperate and study.

### New Center ID Requirement

CHS students wishing to use the Center before, during or after school must obtain the new Center ID. To do so, visit the main desk, present your CHS ID, and have your picture taken. The Center ID will be printed on the back of your CHS ID.

### Spring Sports Starting Up

Spring sports will begin on March 2. Athletes must pick up their eligibility cards from the Athletic office before the first day of practice.

### Red Cross Blood Drive

The annual StuGo sponsored blood drive will be held on Feb. 27 from 9 am to 2 pm on the Center of Clayton rubber courts. Anyone over the age of 16 can donate, while 16-year-olds must have parents complete a consent form. Donors should be sure to drink plenty of fluids, eat foods rich in iron, and bring a photo ID.

### National Honor Society Informational Meetings

Students interested in learning more about the National Honor Society are invited to attend an informational meeting on either Feb. 26 or March 17 at 7:45 am in the auditorium.

# Students of Hispanic descent find ways to blend traditions

Fontasha Powell  
Senior Managing Editor

Projected to constitute 30 percent of that nation's population by 2050, Hispanics are an ever-growing minority culture. Here at CHS especially, many students of Hispanic descent are finding unique ways to blend their cultural traditions with the Clayton environment.

Senior Carolina Tejada is Peruvian by descent.

"When I was 3 years old, I lived in Peru for 4 years, and every year I kept moving from Peru to Brazil because my parents divorced when I was young," Tejada said.

Tejada said that speaking Spanish constituted a large part of how she culturally identifies herself.

"We always speak Spanish at home because my mom doesn't want me to forget my Spanish," Tejada said. "She always speaks to me in Spanish, and I respond back in Spanish."

Freshman Paul Lisker is Mexican by descent.

"I was born in Mexico City and I lived there for 6.5 years," Lisker said. "We had to move because of my dad's job."

Lisker said that of all the things in Mexico, he missed his family the most because they were close to him and helped contribute to his identity.

"I miss my family," Lisker said. "Most of them live there. Also, I miss my hometown and the familiarity. It's what shaped me to what I am today."

Tejada agreed.

"I miss my family," Tejada said.

Similar to Tejada, Lisker mostly speaks Spanish in his household as well.

"We speak entirely in Spanish at home, no English allowed," Lisker said.

Senior David Angeles-Albores, similar to Lisker, was born in Mexico City as well.

"I liked in Mexico City until I was 16 years old," Angeles-Albores said. "Socially, Clayton has been a challenge for me. I'm used to close physical contact with my friends like shaking hands with boys and kissing girls and giving them hugs to greet them. At Clayton, I can see a friend and they don't even say hi. They're not being mean, it's just the way things are done here."

Senior Alex Sher is only half-Mexican by descent. His mother is from Mexico and his father is not.

He believes that separating school and culture is very important, however, he does agree that because he is only half-Mexican, most of his cultural norms are not entirely Hispanic.

"I keep my Hispanic culture and school separate," Sher said. "But at home we eat Mexican food, we visit Mexico during the summer and speak Spanish occasionally at home. My dad can't speak it, but he can understand it."

Senior Natalia Birgisson is half-Venezuelan.

"My mom is Venezuelan and I lived in Venezuela when I was 4 years old for 6 months," Birgisson said. "We sometimes speak Spanish at home," Birgisson said. "My mom, sister and I speak sometimes when we're alone together. Sometimes when we're upset we slip into Spanish. We also speak Spanish we don't want my step-dad to understand."

Birgisson does believe that socioeconomically, Clayton is much different than where she has been in Venezuela.

"The culture there is very different than here," Birgisson said. "Clayton is mostly upper-middle class and in Venezuela a very large percentage of the population is unemployed."



Freshman Paul Lisker stands at the top of Machu Picchu in Peru. Lisker, who lived in Mexico City, Mexico for six years, misses his family. Also, Lisker misses the familiarity of his hometown. His family tries to blend traditions as they celebrate traditional Mexican holidays like Independence Day and only speak Spanish in the home.

All of the Hispanic students agreed that there are cultural traditions that they maintained in their country of origin that they continue to practice in Clayton.

"In Peru, on New Years Eve you eat 12 grapes for each month," Tejada said. "Every New Years we do that. We also celebrate Christmas by exchanging gifts on Christmas Eve, rather than on Christmas Day. We also don't really celebrate Thanksgiving."

Tejada also had a Quinceañera 2 years ago. The Quinceañera signifies the transition of a female in Latin American society from a girl to a woman.

"I had a Quinceañera when I was 15 years old," Tejada said. "It was really nice and I got a new dress and a big party and guys lifted me up in the air and carried me around on a chair. It's a really big thing. It's like the same as a sweet sixteen party."

Lisker observes big Mexican holidays, one of his favorites being Independence Day.

We celebrate major National holidays like Mexican Independence Day," Lisker said. "We have a group of Latin American friends that we have celebrations with. On Mexican Independence Day, the President of Mexico recreates the first shot that started the Independence War in the 1800s. We usually watch that on TV. The next day, we also watch the military parade on TV. That's fun to watch."

Sher enjoys Day of the Dead, which honors and celebrate

deceased loved ones, because of the decadent food.

"My favorite Hispanic holiday is Día de los Muertos mostly because of the food," Sher said.

Although he speaks Spanish at home, listens to Latin American music and eats Peppers and Tortillas as open as possible. Angeles-Albores thinks that in Clayton, he can't fully celebrate some of his cultural traditions to as much of an extent as in Mexico.

"As far as celebrations go, food is a big part of Hispanic celebrations," Angeles-Albores said. "My family doesn't get to celebrate much because we can't get the ingredients here that we need to cook certain things. So rather than celebrations, we remember certain days by calling our family in Mexico. But personally, I listen to Latin American Music."

Still, most of the students of Hispanic origin believe that cultural differences do exist between Clayton and their hometowns.

"Activities at Clayton are very limited," Angeles-Albores said. "Mexico City is 12.5 times larger than Clayton, so there are always places to go, like the Plaza, clubbing and partying. Places are also open a lot later in Mexico City."

Birgisson believes that the learning environments in Clayton and Venezuela differ.

"We go back to Venezuela every summer," Birgisson said. "One thing I remember about Venezuela is that the schools

were very strict. There was more conforming to the rules rather than students learning through individual potential differences, like at Clayton.

Birgisson stresses the importance of the nuclear family.

"One of the big things in Latin American culture is the importance of family," Birgisson said. "The family is super important and supersedes everything. For example, if there is a family issue, I'll go see about that before I even start my homework. This is different than some of my non-Hispanic peers because in North America, the culture is more individualistic and family isn't as much as a priority."

Some students, like Lisker seek to ease the transition between cultures by befriending those with whom he can relate.

"I'm good friends with Andres Angeles-Albores, who is a sophomore," Lisker said. "I talk to him in Spanish whenever I see him. I think that I'll also join Spanish club. A teacher here, Ms. Mullins, taught at my school in Mexico a few years after I graduated, so talk whenever I see her as well."

Despite the somewhat smooth assimilation into Clayton culture, some cultural questions pertaining to cultural identity have yet to be answered.

"When my sister and I visit Mexico we speak Spanish and go to the beach," Sher said. "It's like we're actually Mexican during that time, rather than only half-Mexican. It makes me wonder: What if we were actually Mexican?"

Students use online databases like J-stor to help write research papers. CHS strives to make sure the resources available are maximized.

## Online databases, a valuable resource

Meredith Redick  
Editor

Every student at Clayton dreads writing the research paper that's bound to come along sometime during these four years.

Endless source citations and leafing through books that were published in 1925 are only a part of the process: learning to use the district's online scholarly databases can be another obstacle for students seeking information.

The databases don't seem like they should be hard to use. A supplement to the Clayton Media Center that encompasses science, literature, news, and social studies resources, many of these databases are gold mines of concisely collected, reliable information. The trouble seems to be in extracting materials.

"I think students rush," CHS librarian Lauran DeRigne said. "They want to get the information fast, so they just don't look at the content. They pick two or three articles—however many sources they're required to have—and so they don't get the best material."

DeRigne manages the databases every year, as well as visiting classes to help out.

"Often a teacher will collaborate with me and ask me to show students how to use the online resources," DeRigne said. "It would be nice to have more time, but usually I only have 15-20 minutes, which isn't enough to really teach everything."

DeRigne believes that students can get more out of the databases if they use

them more effectively.

"Oftentimes, people find it frustrating because they try one keyword or one phrase, and if it doesn't work, they give up instead of thinking of other words," DeRigne said.

Simple changes in the method of search can make a world of difference.

"I think it's really important for students to go to Advanced Search when they can so that they can look over everything in an organized way," DeRigne said.

Unfortunately, search tips don't help much for students who don't know where to start. The world of databases is an intriguing, but sometimes confusing one. There are a variety of options, and it can be hard to tell which sources are suitable for a project. Tutorials are available on the CHS media website, at www.chsmediacenter.com.

Without knowing the material that each database offers, finding information is near impossible. DeRigne summarizes the purposes of some of the most popular databases at CHS:

"J-stor is good for any kind of scholarly article, for really any department," DeRigne said. "It's probably best for junior and senior students because it's very college-level, in terms of the reading level. Discovering Collection, on the other hand, is better for freshmen and sophomore students because it is at an easier reading level, and there's a lot of biographical information, which is useful for biographical research papers." Newsbank and Ebscohost are the pre-

ferred sources of current events or news information, and Noodletools is a popular site that allows students to package bibliography and works cited information. Annals of American History is a primary-source database that is also useful for research papers.

DeRigne focuses on making sure the resources available are maximized.

"Every year in the spring I look at the statistics on which databases are being used and if it hasn't been used in the past two or three years, I reflect on it and decide whether to keep it," DeRigne said. "Sometimes we give teachers trials and ask them what they think better databases would be."

Some databases, like J-stor, were requested by subject departments at CHS. "J-stor was requested by the social studies department and it is one of the most heavily used in that department," DeRigne said. "Additionally, we get some free ones from Morenet, a resource for public education."

Despite the troubles that can arise using the databases, DeRigne believes they can be a powerful resource for students. "It's a more current way to do research," DeRigne said. "It's important to have relevant resources that students will want to use."

DeRigne is available to guide students through the process of using online databases in the library from 7-4, the library's hours.

"Students can always come find me, DeRigne said. "I know it gets frustrating, but I'm always here to help."

## Meaning of patriotism debated

Hannah Novack  
Senior Editor

In September 2008, the then Democratic vice-presidential candidate Joe Biden said about a tax increase for Americans earning \$250,000 a year or more: "It's time to be patriotic... time to jump in, time to be part of the deal, time to help get America out of the rut."

Biden said these remarks amidst the chaotic first weeks of the current financial crisis. However, not everyone shared Biden's view that paying taxes is patriotic.

"Raising taxes in a tough economy isn't patriotic," Republican presidential nominee John McCain retorted. "It's not a badge of honor. It's just plain dumb."

Based upon this instance, the definition of patriotism is a highly malleable concept.

"Patriotism is often changed to fit different groups' viewpoints," history teacher Donna Rogers-Beard said.

Rogers-Beard noted that the outward display of patriotism has become increasingly more important since the beginning of the Cold War around 1949.

Even before this time, expressing a sense of national pride was emphasized through the National Anthem, waving the American flag, and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

These aspects of patriotism became more apparent after the Civil War era.

There are certainly many opinions as to what qualifies as acts of patriotism.

"To me, flying a flag has nothing to do with patriotism," Rogers-Beard said. "Patriotism, to me, is sort of like a religion in the fact that there are difficult things to do such as sacrifice for the group conscience. It also involves being a critical thinker or running for an office. That's patriotism. The outward superficial doesn't take much effort."

Junior Emily Wack shared a similar view concerning patriotism.

"I guess in general, [patriotism] is really just having a concern about America," Wack said. "Even if you didn't agree with Bush's policies, or if you aren't happy with Obama, or either, the fact that you're concerned about America's direction and care about the country's future shows patriotism."

Many Americans consider sacrifice a key component.

"Patriotism is when an individual voluntarily makes a personal sacrifice, their efforts are worth much more than if they had been forced," Senior Ryan Walden said.

Biden's statement indicated that he believes paying taxes falls under this aspect of patriotism.

"I agree with Biden's statement," junior Danny Steinberg

said. "Although people may argue that their money is rightfully theirs, the difference between the rich and the poor has increasingly grown year after year, so people with vast wealth need to recognize that they should pitch in to help drag the country out of a seemingly lengthy economic crisis."

Walden does not agree with Biden because paying taxes is a mandatory act.

"Paying taxes is mandatory, not an option, so Biden's 'patriotic' tax scheme is [ridiculous]," Walden said.

This debate may also help to explain the seemingly constant division in Washington between Republicans and Democrats.

While President Obama, Vice-President Biden, and other Democrats agree that raising taxes is a necessary burden to help raise America out of this economic funk, Republicans believe that this is one of the last things Americans need at such a dire time.

Both sides believe their stance on the issue is patriotic.

"The idea behind [taxes being patriotic] is totally misguided," Walden said. "In times of economic depravity it is the upper class that stabilizes the situation by continuing to shop, travel, and indulge in whatever other expensive hobbies they might have. Raising taxes on those people would directly impair their ability to do things of that nature, and hurt the economy overall."

Rogers-Beard feels that paying taxes is a contribution that all citizens should be willing to put forth.

"It costs money to belong to any club," Rogers-Beard said. "If you want the organization to do well, you need to do your share."

Rogers-Beard also stressed that this patriotic act isn't completed once the check is signed and the envelope is sealed and sent.

"You also need to make sure that the money is being spent wisely as well as how it is spent at any level of government," Rogers-Beard said.

One fact that cannot be denied on either side of the debate is that America is not a homogeneous country.

Therefore, it would only make sense that there are varied beliefs concerning patriotism and forms of expression.

"The whole thing during the election with 'real' America and 'fake' America just polarized different interpretations of patriotism and the American dream," Wack said. "Real' and 'fake' make it sound like one side has the right interpretation of the American Dream. Clearly, there is no right and wrong. There's just different, and instead of polarizing ourselves we should just work towards understanding different interpretations of patriotism."

# Easy to implement and hard to detect

Clickjacking is a relatively new threat for internet users. Simply clicking a web browser could allow an attacker access to information stored on a user's computer.

Sarah Horn  
Senior Managing Editor

A new security threat is raising concern on the Web. Referred to as clickjacking, the attack is a malicious tool used by hackers attempting to take control of the computer or steal confidential information. Almost utterly transparent to the oblivious user, simple to execute and difficult to stop, clickjacking poses a serious problem to Internet security.

Coined by Robert "RSnake" Hansen and Jeremiah Grossman, two security researchers, a clickjacked page deceives the user into giving confidential information by clicking on a concealed link. The attackers typically show a set of fake buttons, and then load another page over it in a transparent layer. Hansen and Grossman conducted an experiment to prove their theory.

Giorgio Maone, is a software developer working at InformAction, explains what clickjacking is.

"In fact, with clickjacking we designate a class of attacks (also known as "UI Redressing") which consist in hiding or disguising a user interface element from a site you trust (e.g. the 'Send' button of your webmail site or a pre-configured 'Donate' Paypal button) in a way which leads you to click it without knowledge of what you're exactly doing...this way he can easily trick you into interacting with it, and you end performing a financial transaction or allow him special permissions, without remotely suspecting that something evil is going on." Maone said.

Maone means that a hidden transparent layer is on top of the layer view-

ers see. Often, the browser will click a "Send" button for example that allows the criminal to hack into the computer and steal valuable information or spy on the web user.

"You clicked anywhere in their apparently innocuous page, believing you were doing nothing dangerous, but in reality you were activating your microphone and/or your webcam for Flash access, allowing the remote attacker to spy on you instantaneously," Maone said.

It exploits very basic and standard web features which are implemented everywhere and are unlikely to be removed anytime soon.

Giorgio Maone  
Software Developer

Clickjacking is also very dangerous because it is so easy to implement.

"Every web browser is affected because this attack doesn't rely on any vulnerability or bug which might be fixed overnight: instead, it exploits very basic and standard web features which are implemented everywhere and are unlikely to be removed any time soon," Maone said.

Clickjacking is hard to avoid, except on Mozilla Firefox.

Firefox offers a free download NoScript extension available at the website <http://noscript.net>. This website provides the only true defense, ClearClick. ClearClick is a NoScript module developed by Maone that automatically protects the user.

"NoScript already protected you from clickjacking before ClearClick, but you needed to enable its "Forbid IFrames" option," Maone said. "That was not the default setting, though, because some people found it inconvenient, even if permissions were selective. Therefore I decided to design a specific countermeasure, meant to be enabled by default and active even if you switched NoScript in the less safe "Allow scripts globally" mode. I started from a close analysis of

the way this attack works, and the resulting technique came out very simple yet effective."

Therefore, Maone discovered a way to prevent clickjacking. Clickjacking hides something that is dangerous to click, so ClearClick does the exact opposite—it makes a plug-in object clear by taking a screenshot of it without any covering layers and compares it with the screenshot of the page the viewer sees. If the pages differ, NoScript raises a "ClearClick Warning", which shows the user what they were really going to click.

Dave Hoffman agrees that with Mozilla Firefox, clickjacking is virtually impossible. However, on other Internet browsers it remains a huge threat.

Firefox offers an 'add-on' called NoScript which prevents JavaScript from running in its browser making clickjacking impossible," Hoffman said. "But without Java running, many of the website's capabilities are lost. At this point there is no good solution."

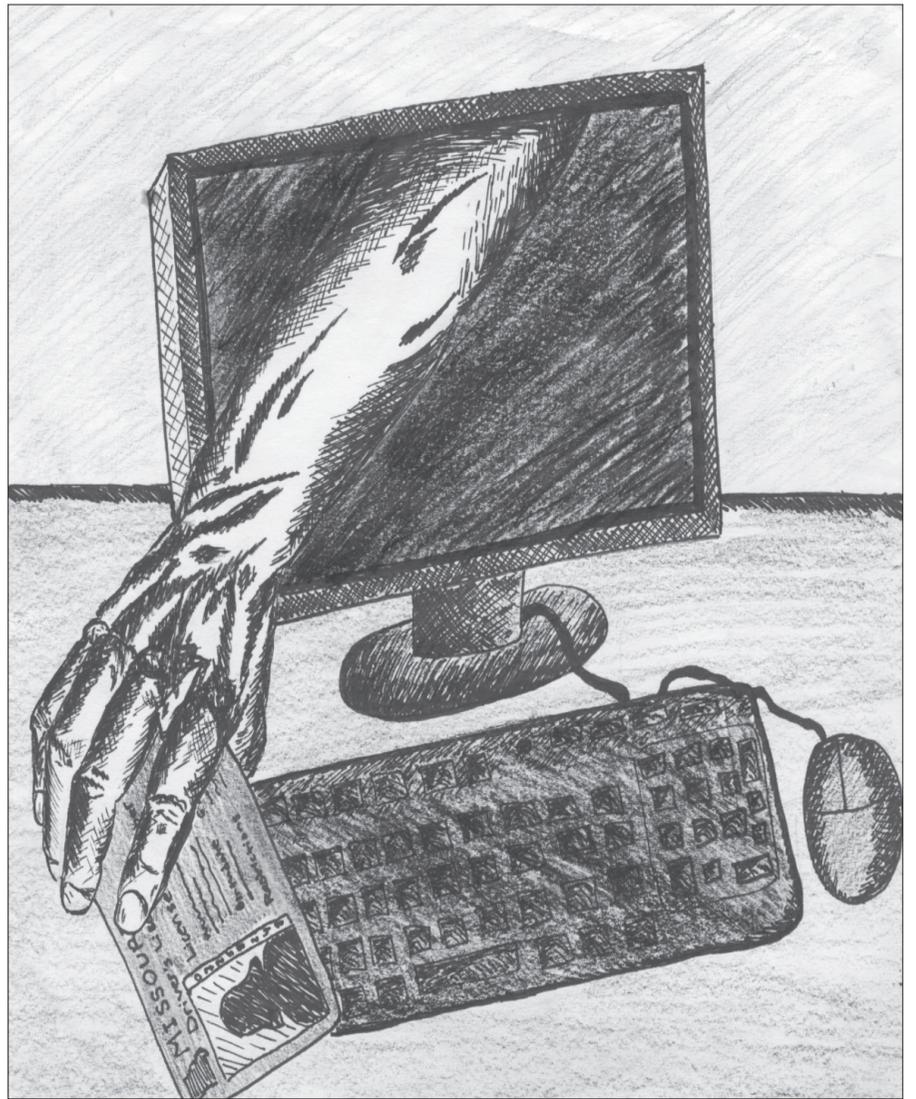
Maone also warns those who use other Internet browsers of the dangers that lie with clickjacking and a lack of solutions.

"If you're not a user of the Mozilla Firefox web browser, you're pretty much out of luck: you would need to disable plug-ins and IFrames, which is sometimes impossible and always impractical, since most browsers have no means to do it selectively," Maone said.

While the solutions are limited, major software companies are searching for a solution.

Microsoft released a new Internet Explorer 8, which has a new partial clickjacking prevention option. The web site developers can place a tag in a page header that assists in detecting and preventing frame-based UI Redressing.

The most important lesson to be learned from the clickjacking scare is to be careful when browsing the Internet and to be wary of criminals and hackers that are searching to steal information, money or spy on the innocent users.



Helen Wiley



MCT Campus

Many CHS students anticipate the prom because of its elegant atmosphere. "Everything seems very glamorous, like it's a treat," junior Chelsea Embree said.

## Search for the perfect prom dress

Kara Kratcha  
Reporter

Limo after limo pull up to an elegant building. Girls in shiny dresses and corsages step out of the cars on the arms of their dates.

All are ready for a night of eating, dancing and partying well past midnight. No, this is not Cinderella's ball; this is the image of an ideal high school prom.

According to [prettyforprom.com](http://prettyforprom.com), the word prom originally stood for promenade.

The first proms were college events, but they did not gain their notoriety until they spread to high schools across the United States in the early 1900s.

Today proms are lavish events that include limos, ballrooms, prom courts and, perhaps most importantly, fancy gowns.

Traditionally the focus of a prom is the dress and the date. Do students at CHS hold these same expectations for their own prom night?

Junior Chelsea Embree seems to think finding the perfect dress for prom is pretty important.

"The dances at school are not nearly at the same level [as prom], and therefore not nearly as worthy of such a nice dress," Embree said. "I always think of a prom dress as one of those things that I'll hang on to for years. I mean, I may as well, since it's probably going to cost me a small fortune."

For Embree, the perfect dress would cost about \$200. However, Junior Ting Lu seems to disagree. She says that

she would be willing to spend \$80 maximum on a dress.

"I'm not going to spend a ton of money on a dress to wear for just one night," Lu said. "I went with a date last year and I kind of just want to go with friends this year."

Despite their budget differences, Embree agrees with Lu about the importance of a date.

"I don't think having the perfect date is too important," Embree said. "Going with a group of single friends is still fun. It's all about making good memories."

Still, whether you plan on spending \$80 or \$200 on a dress, it is important to buy a dress that is different from all the other dresses at the prom. Junior Ellen Spann offers an alternate way to get a unique, inexpensive dress.

"Buying thrift is way cooler than buying from department stores," Spann said. "You can be sure that you'll be the only one with your dress there."

Clayton High's prom is scheduled for the night of Saturday, April 25 at the Windows on Washington convention center. Although prom is many weeks away, Clayton's girls are already thinking about their preparations. Perhaps, even though the material focus of prom has changed for high school students, the desire to act grown-up and sophisticated remains.

"I think that the most exciting thing about prom is how high-end it feels," Embree said, perhaps summing up the modern view of prom. "We go to a hotel, everyone's dressed like royalty, and we can all stay out later because the school sponsors an after-prom. Everything seems very glamorous, like it's a treat."

## Advertisements entice, stereotype, entertain viewers

Payton Sciaratta  
Reporter

Every day when teachers and teens at Clayton High School drive to school, they are being bombarded with commercials on the radio and billboards. Not only in the cars are they constantly having to listen to and see ads, but also at home when they want to watch their favorite TV shows.

Many people have different thoughts about commercials and ads.

"Radio commercials are so annoying, so fake and they choose the most annoying people to do it," sophomore Kelsey McFarland said.

Some people hate ads not only because they are annoying, but because they are also very repetitive.

"A commercial is unsuccessful when they say call 1-800-595-1427 and they repeat it literally 15 times," freshman Sara Garfinkel said.

In reality many commercials are very unsuccessful. Marci Boland, the market-

ing teacher at CHS said, "It is generic and bland. It tries to market everyone so it markets nobody," marketing teacher Marci Boland said.

Sometimes commercials can be successful.

"It hits its target market. You have to reach the group that you are trying to sell your product to and that it breaks through the clutter and stands out," Boland said. "Humor is always the best. We like to laugh and we remember the funny commercials."

When commercials include creativity, they become more appealing to the eye.

Stereotypes play an important role when it comes to commercials. Different ads are targeted towards different groups of people.

"It perpetuates stereotypes that men are supposed to be able to handle pain. Violence is used to market to men because guys think it's funny," Boland said. "Commercials that tug at our hearts are liked by women."

Consumers all have a love-hate relationship with different ads whether they are good or bad.

"We love commercials because they are entertaining, but we hate the fact that the industry is pushing us to buy something," Boland said.

Many students at CHS have bought something from a commercial in the past.

"When I was eight, I begged my parents for a Digi-Draw," Garfinkel said. "It broke when I took it out of the box."

Different ads are creating many problems for people because a majority of commercials are for fast food restaurants.

"I do not think that it leads to obesity, but it leads to us never being satisfied," Boland said.

Consumers are going to see and hear these ads forever. They may create problems for your health or it may be helpful to your lifestyle.

In the end, we realize that "We always want more," Boland said.

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## Preparations for CHS spring fashion show proceed rapidly

Ugochi Onyema  
Senior Managing Editor

The Fashion Show produced by students enrolled in Linda Williams Wardrobe classes has become somewhat of a CHS tradition. It is an event that occurs every other year, and this third official event displays a significant potential for success.

The fashion show, otherwise known as 'Rockin' Runway', was collaboratively planned by students and Williams, who junior Simone Lenoir says was the reason she became involved in the project.

"Mrs. Williams really inspired me to participate in the fashion show," Lenoir said. "She's always been encouraging me with my sewing, so the fashion show is a good way to explore and showcase my talents."

Many newcomers to the Wardrobe classes were interested in participating in the fashion show. Senior Rachael Oetting was a key element to the planning of Rockin' Runway, even though this was her first year any type of sewing course.

"I took the wardrobe class first semester, and when Mrs. Williams wanted to know whether or not anyone was interested in planning a fashion show, I volunteered," Oetting said.

The sewing classes provide a place for CHS students to both enjoy themselves and learn a valuable skill. According to Oetting, the amusement increases during the planning period of the fashion show.

"My favorite part of participating in the fashion show is sewing the clothes," Oetting said. "That's always the most fun."

According to Lenoir, fun is a major factor in the fashion show but the most important sentiment is the sense of accomplishment that accompanies the construction of the fashion show.

"My favorite part of planning the fashion show is feeling as though I am apart of something that will be really great and to have my name associated with it," Lenoir said.

"I am hoping for the best, but really just want to create a fun environment. I really want everything to work out."

The proceeds from the fashion show go to two worthy causes, which Williams says will benefit the Clayton community.

"A part of the profit from the fashion show will go to Neurofibromatosis, which is a serious yet underrepresented disease," Williams said. "The second part of the profit will go to the FACS department at CHS, which we need in order to maintain the quality of equipment that we use in the sewing classes."

Like Williams, Oetting has high hopes that the show will be successful.

"The fashion show is going to be really classy and will display all of the talent that the seamstresses possess, and it's just going to be a lot of fun," Oetting said. "There's going to be music, a lot of good food, an amazing runway, and an announcer. There's also going to be special entertainment at the beginning of the show."

This entertainment is going to be provided by special member of the Clayton School District faculty, which according to Lenoir will add a level of excitement to what will be a fascinating event.

"We have Mr. Varley coming to sing, so that will be very entertaining," Lenoir said. "Attendees should expect a fun and friendly environment. Also, there is a certain level of excitement in knowing the designer or model on the runway."

Although Oetting is hopeful for the outcome of the show, she is also a bit anxious that the students may not match the standards set by the previous two fashion shows.

"The first fashion show [that occurred three years ago] set the bar really high," Oetting said. "The fashion show that occurred two years ago was good but had more of a casual feel. We have two examples of how a quality fashion show should be executed."

Oetting believes that the attendees will feel a sense of wonder at the quality of the garments that will be sent down the runway.

"People who are interested in attending the fashion show should anticipate a night of fun and exhibition of the designs and accomplishments of the wardrobe students," Oetting said. "A lot of the garments look like they were done by professionals. Also, seeing the models strut their stuff down the runway will be fun for everyone."

A handful of seamstresses are planning on showcasing several outfits on March 14, which is a group that includes Lenoir.

"I am aiming for 10 pieces for the fashion show," Lenoir said. "If I end up having more than ten pieces, that would be great, but I definitely want at least ten garments in the show."

Lenoir also adds that the excitement of the upcoming show should not be limited to just the seamstresses and the models.

"Anyone who is interested in attending the show should contact the FACS department to buy tickets in advance, and we always need volunteers for decorating," Lenoir said.

One notion that Oetting, Lenoir and Williams can agree on is the importance of the sense of community that emerges from the production of the fashion show.

"Hopefully the Clayton community will be proud of all that Clayton students can accomplish," Lenoir said. "And hopefully, our peers will be impressed by all that we have accomplished." ☺



Photos by Nicole Burton

**Top and Right: Sophomores Grace Brumley and Leah Sternberg fit mannequins with dresses during wardrobe class in preparation for the fashion show, which will take place on March 14 of this year.**

**Below: Leah Sternberg utilizes a sewing machine**



## Seniors plan to use spring break to cherish last memories together before graduation

Caroline Stamp  
Reporter

Each year, that one week rolls around that every senior looks forward too- senior spring break. Some choose to go to the ever popular Mexico, while some are choosing to go a different route.

"I am going to Daytona Beach, Florida with my three best friends," senior Chelsea Flood said. "Alexis invited me to come to Florida and it worked out well because her mom is chaperoning so parents were more ok with it."

Senior Shannon Harms also plans to go on spring break with a small group.

"We are going to Deer Lake, which is in Texas," Harms said. "Personally I prefer a small group because there will be less drama."

Flood agrees that a small group is the better way to go. "I like the smaller group better because those are my closest friends and you get to interact with each other more."

The largest spring break trip this year consists of about 25 kids and 15 parents who are all going to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

"I think our group is pretty big," Senior Alli Holt said. "But it's a good thing so people will always have other friends to hang out with no matter what they feel like doing during the day."

Although Mexico is a popular spot for spring break, some students wanted to do something unique. Also, parents can be hard to convince to have senior spring break outside of the

United States.

"Our initial idea was to go to Florida or Mexico," Harms said. "My dad has an apartment in Texas, so driving to a parent's house lets them know that we will be safe."

Once a vacation place is picked for spring break, activities have to be planned in the destination.

"There is a big water park we are going to visit and we are also going to go visit my sister," Harms said.

Flood has very relaxed plans during her spring break. "We are just going to chill, tan, and go shopping," Flood said.

With the big group going to Mexico, many activities have to be planned to keep everybody entertained.

"We are going to lay by the pool, play in the ocean, go snorkeling, and parasailing," Holt said. "Maybe even fishing or sailing!"

Senior spring break is a great time to spend with your friends and feel the freedoms that you will experience away from home at college.

"It's our last time that we are all together before graduation," Holt said. "It also gives us freedom that we will experience in college but haven't yet."

Ultimately, seniors are excited to have freedom and a great vacation with their friends before they leave for college.

"It's a big deal because it's one of the last times you get to be with all your friends just partying and relaxing," Flood said. "It's one of the last memories you have before going to college." ☺



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## State of Missouri offers many local attractions for vacationers

Grace Cohen  
Reporter

This year due to the suffering economy more people will be staying home for vacation. What most don't know is that Missouri is more than cornfields and museums but home of the largest pecan, Starlight Alpaca Ranch, Walt Disney's hometown, Swiss Sausage Company, wind farm and much more.

Looking for something out of the ordinary? Visit the 12 thousand pound 12 foot by 7 foot pecan replica located in Brunswick, Missouri. The massive pecan was built by the Jameses in 1982. Nearby is the "Nut Hut" with a painting of a cartoon which shows a nut being chased by a hammer. This sign is known as "the mad murderous hammer."

Alpacas wouldn't be expected to live in Missouri, but not so with the alpaca ranch located 20 minutes south of Hannibal Missouri. Visitors can explore and watch the 85 alpacas who call The Starlight ranch home. Free tours are given by appointment. The ranch is located at 55105 Buffalo Lane, New London about two hours from St. Louis. Contact the Starlight Ranch at 573-267-3778.

For all the meat lovers out there try The Meat and Sausage company, family

owned and operated since 1969. They offer more than 70 variety of smoked meats and sausage. The company is located 15 minutes from Herman Missouri on Hwy. 19 S. and offers free samples daily. The company is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Interested in going green? Go see the Loess Hills Wind Farm, America's first 100 percent wind-powered community. See the giant wind turbans and how they work to supply Rock Port with power. Tours are given by appointment. For more information call Richard Baldwin at 660-744-6562. The Loess Hills Wind Farm is located between Rock Port and Tarkio which is 360 miles from St. Louis.

Walt Disney's home town is also in Marceline, Missouri. This would probably be an all day excursion. Disney's home town features the barn where he recalled most of his happy childhood memories, Ripley Park, Walt Disney's Hometown Museum, Uptown Theater, Walt Disney Post Office, Walt Disney Park and Pool and Walt Disney Elementary School. This trip can easily be made into an overnight stay at The Uptown Theater Bed and Breakfast. There is also an assortment of places to eat

in the town. Marceline is located half way between Hannibal and St. Joseph, four hours from St. Louis. Admission is charged depending on the site visited, for more information go to [www.marceline.org](http://www.marceline.org).

Its pie, pie and more pie at The Blue Owl Restaurant and Bakery. In addition to their massive caramel apple pies, they serve a home-cooked breakfast and lunch. The Blue Owl is located in Kimmswick Missouri, a small town on the Mississippi River banks that features all kinds of arts and crafts stores. The restaurant is open Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Independence Missouri is home to America's 33rd President, Harry S. Truman. The Presidential Museum and Library is open to the public. Learn more about Truman and the issues he faced during his presidency. See how his decisions in The White House affect Americans today. For more information go to the Truman Presidential Library's website at [www.trumanlibrary.org](http://www.trumanlibrary.org).

Bellefontaine Cemetery is place for those who want a glimpse of past St. Louis residents. The grounds are impressive in any season. The cemetery is not just tombstones but an arboretum

and sculptural marvel. Some well-noted Americans such as General William Clark and Adolphus Busch are buried there. Bellefontaine Cemetery is located at 4947 West Florissant, visiting hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. everyday.

Want to go for a hike? Try Pickle Springs Natural Area in Farmington Missouri. A beautiful two mile trail passes by waterfalls, rock shelters and canyons. Makes for a great day trip. Farmington is only one hour away from St. Louis. Admission is free.

Another good place to take in the outdoors is Elephant Rocks State Park. The park got its name from giant granite rocks standing end to end just like a line of circus elephants. The largest 1.5 billion year old rock, Dumbo, weighs 680 tons. Trails all around the State Park pass by a quarry pond and mazes of elephant rocks. Elephant Rocks State Park is located in Pilot Knob Missouri. For more information contact the State Park at 573-546-3454.

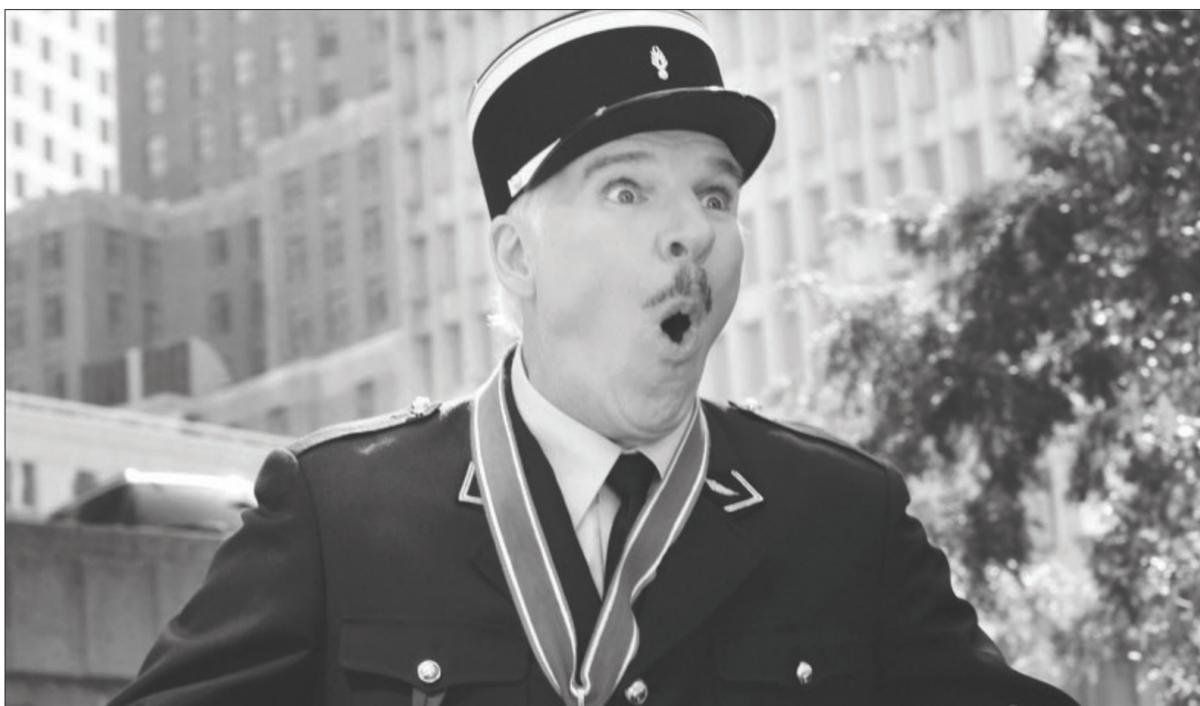
From alpaca farms and cemeteries to huge pecans Missouri has something unusual for everyone. If a sunny Florida vacation isn't in the cards for this spring or summer vacation, look no further than the backyard because Missouri has many fun and memorable places to go. ☺

# 'Pink Panther 2' charms despite changes to traditional elements of film series

Sneha Viswanathan  
Editor

Fans of Blake Edwards' Pink Panther series undoubtedly crave more of Inspector Clouseau's clumsy hilarity. As a pioneer klutz in a film series, the original Clouseau (played by Peter Sellers) provided plenty of comic relief. His accidents make viewers' real-life blunders seem minuscule in comparison. The second remake of the Pink Panther, Pink Panther 2, starring Steve Martin, lacks a fully reincarnated Clouseau but still conveys sufficient comic relief.

The plot of the film begins in a manner similar to the original. Multiple valuable items are stolen in exotic locales, the most precious item being the Pink Panther diamond. The items appear to be stolen by a single thief who calls himself "The Tornado" (versus "The Phantom" in the original series). The head of French police, Chief Inspector Dreyfus, is wary as always of Clouseau, but is forced to allow Clouseau to take up the case after the Pink Panther is stolen in Paris. However, Clouseau doesn't work solo with French police in the film. Instead, he joins a "Dream Team" of international detectives who assemble together to solve the crime. They start out in Paris, but then travel to Rome where a suspected friend of "The Tornado" is believed to live. Most of the detectives suspect that the friend is actually "The Tornado, and try to prove it by checking his right shoulder for an alleged wound. When they realize that there isn't a wound on his right shoulder, they leave the lead. But Clouseau has other suspicions. He claims that "The Tornado" is in the



Steve Martin stars as the iconic clumsy Pink Panther character Inspector Clouseau. In Pink Panther 2 Clouseau travels over Europe with a "Dream Team" of international detectives.

vicinity of the friend's house. His hunch proves to be right when the Pope's ring is stolen the next day by a thief who leaves the Tornado's signature card. After one of the members of the Dream Team finds a key in the Pope's chamber, the detectives track down the locksmith who made it and find him dead with a suicide note, claiming to be the Tornado. Several items are recovered at his house, but the thief claims to have destroyed the Pink Panther in the note. When the de-

tectives find the dead man with the suicide note, they declare the case closed. However, Clouseau suspects that the real thief is still on the loose with the Pink Panther, and through a series of observations concludes that the thief is one of the members of the Dream Team. True to the original series, his conclusion is proved correct in the end.

Unlike the traditional sequence of events that lead up to the end in Blake Edwards' films, Clouseau is surprisingly

logical in this remake and is recognized for his ability to solve the crime. The deliberate nature of his deductions isn't in character with the traditional rambling, meandering ideas with which viewers associate the original Clouseau. Blake Edwards always made Clouseau correct through lucky accidents, not genuine logic. An unexpectedly logical new Clouseau takes away the appeal of a happy-go-lucky detective who is always right in the end by the sheer power of

his oblivion.

Martin delivers enough klutziness to keep the audience laughing. An incredibly weak disguise typical of Clouseau prompts one of the most hilarious scenes in the movie. He also manages to set fire to the same place twice and innocently accepts it as part of his duty. However, the acting overall is mediocre. Some of the scenes with accidents are overdone and seem almost intentional. Other scenes are reenacted in a way that seems

incomplete without key original characters. For instance, Clouseau's traditional fight sequences with his assistant Cato are represented by a fight with his friend's young sons. It somehow isn't as funny without Cato, a character whose specific purpose is to attack Clouseau whenever and wherever possible.

At first, Clouseau's participation in a team seems to minimize his role. However, Martin delivers humorous dialogue that is laughably arrogant and defensive. The actors playing detectives act out their condescending attitude towards Clouseau very well; combined with Clouseau's good intentions, this draws viewers' sympathies towards him and increases his likeability. Other characters that were supposed to portray original characters were not very convincing. For instance, John Cleese couldn't pin down Inspector Dreyfus's mad mannerisms and his performance fell short of expectations.

Viewers will enjoy the animation and theme music at the beginning of the movie, which stays true to the glamorous image of the Pink Panther. This glamorous image isn't entirely carried through the rest of the movie. The original Clouseau frequently made clumsy moves while at sophisticated settings with wealthy party-goers. These settings highlighted the contrast between Clouseau's mannerisms and those of people around him, which added to the hilarious appeal of his character. Martin doesn't specifically appear in settings that are out of place for his character, which is an aspect that seems to be missing from the movie. Despite the lack of glamorous settings, Martin's portrayal of Clouseau sets Clouseau apart very well from the crowd just by using everyday objects.

Pink Panther 2 is a light-hearted, cheery movie that reminds us that our mistakes and embarrassment will never be as great as those endured by Inspector Jacques Clouseau. Through the remake movie, he remains in the public consciousness to take the fall for us. ☺



The Saint Louis Pageant, located in the Delmar Loop, has become a hub for music fans, offering a wide range of shows for all ages.

## St. Louis Pageant offers musical diversity, fun

Schuyler Longmore  
Reporter

Less than a block east of Skinker stands a definite staple of St. Louis' musical culture, The Pageant. With red letters on a bright blue vertical sign, the concert hall stands out along 100 feet of precious Delmar street front to serve the St. Louis citizens with live music in a variety of concerts almost every week of the year.

A unique location for live music, the St. Louis Pageant has grown to be a well-known St. Louis institution since its opening in 2000 by the Delmar Loop's own business magnate Joe Edwards. Edwards also owns Blueberry Hill, Pinup Bowl, and the Tivoli, but this concert hall really completes the set of St. Louis entertainment venues by bringing in great amounts of people on concert nights.

The Pageant has a maximum capacity of 2,000 people with an open area near the stage sloped to accommodate audience height differences, seating areas towards the back for the weary, and a 21 and older balcony above the main area.

All ages are admitted for all shows unless otherwise noted. A \$2 surcharge is required at the door for all minors, and buying tickets on the day of the show is always more expensive than earlier purchases. Also, buying tickets in cash is usually about \$5 cheaper than buying with a card.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and the concert begins at 8 p.m. for every show, but the main act may not perform until late if there are multiple opening acts.

The band of the night decides the smoking policy for the night, so the area can get quite smoky by the end of a popular show. As for trash, the concrete floor is kept very clean except for minor spills.

The rowdiness of the crowd is always dictated by the band's followers, for example: Flogging Molly (coming Feb. 25), a punk band, will draw a more raucous crowd than the Yonder Mountain String Band's more relaxed vibe (coming Feb. 27 and Feb. 28).

The Pageant offers great musical variety and excellent acoustics for successful shows from rap to rock to country to jazz, so check out the venue for your favorite bands, and enjoy the best live music St. Louis has to offer. ☺

## 'Legally Blonde' triumphs over fluffy stereotypes

Taylor Stone  
Editor

As sugary and pink as a marshmallow peep and dashed with as much energy as a "Bring it on"-worthy cheer competition, "Legally Blonde: the Musical" is the perfect antidote to the dreary winter blues and cruel economic times.

The musical, based off of the Amanda Brown novel and 2001 hit movie starring Reese Witherspoon, certainly provides a large amount of pink and pep while relatively avoiding the label of girly-fluff.

Sadly, the musical's last performance at The Fox Theatre in St. Louis was Sunday February 1.

Tony Award winner Jerry Mitchell directed and choreographed while Nell Benjamin and Laurence O'Keefe provided music and lyrics.

In its first year on Broadway, the show earned seven 2007 Tony Award nominations, 10 2007 Drama Desk Award Nominations, a 2007 Outer Critics Circle Award and the chorus of the musical was honored by Actors' Equity Association's Advisory Committee on Chorus Affairs (ACCA) with the first ever ACCA Award.

In the fall of 2007, MTV aired the show in its entirety to stellar ratings and was subsequently nominated for two 2007-2008 Daytime Emmy Awards.

Though "Legally Blonde" played its final show on Broadway last October, it has had lasting success, with a 2008 MTV reality show "The Search for Elle Woods" and a U.S. national tour.

The story begins when Elle Woods, the heroine, gets dumped by her Harvard-bound boyfriend Warner Huntington III and resolves to push aside her sorority life and shopping bags to follow him to Harvard Law School. At first, Elle is written off as a "dumb blonde" and rivals with Warner's new fiancée, the (oh-my-God) brunette Vivienne. However, Elle befriends the supportive manicurist Paulette and learns initiative and responsibility from pleasant and helpful Harvard graduate Emmett. Elle's adventures lead her to an internship in an exciting murder trial and an embrace of the power of femininity and intelligence.

Heather Hachi's straight-forward stage book presents the musical as an almost carbon copy of the movie version, with music and dance numbers thrown in to highlight certain elements of the plot and enhance comical scenes.

The musical, not surprisingly, was entertaining and fun. As an entity, it had



Legally Blonde the musical transcends light-hearted blonde jokes due to a strong cast.

a swift pace, with numerous set changes and modern dance numbers. The atmosphere of the production was vibrant, with every shade of pink imaginable practically straining the audience's eyes. With a quirky plot and bold characterization, the show was composed of witty, high-energy dialogue and the musical numbers did well to explore character's motives and thoughts with sharp, colorful lyrics.

The highlight of the entire production was the lead actress, Laura Bell Bundy. With Elle-worthy drama attached to the role itself, as the actress set to play the lead in the St. Louis show, Becky Gulsvig, broke her toe and an understudy was called for. Bundy, the original Elle in the Broadway production,

promptly replaced Gulsvig. Bundy received 2007 Tony, Drama Desk, and Drama League Award nominations for her work in "Legally Blonde". She also originated Amber Von Tussle in "Hairspray" on Broadway, and performed Glinda in "Wicked". She's had various television roles in shows such as "Modern Men", "Cold Case", "Veronica Mars", and a lead role in "The Guiding Light" (1999-2001). She also is a singer/songwriter represented on her country album and Christmas-themed album.

Bundy's performance in "Legally Blonde" was phenomenal, as she truly showcased her talent as a legitimate, renowned actress, not some MTV reality starlet. Bundy displayed likeability and bold charm, perfectly in sync with the personality of her character. Her energy and charisma lit up the stage and she positively defined the vibrancy of the show. Bundy's singing and dancing were entertaining and top-notch, and she managed to retain both Elle's bubbly nature and intelligence.

Another highlight of the show was D.B. Bonds, who played the role of Emmett. He displayed Emmett as much more complex than in the movie while delivering impressive vocal skills in two of the show's more impressive numbers "Chip on My Shoulder" and "Take it Like a Man".

Another notable performance was that of Natalie Joy Johnson, easily the most humorous character in the show, and was the star of notable songs of the production, "Ireland" and the infamous "Bend and Snap".

The actors who have to play the not-so-likable roles of Professor Callahan (Ken Land), Warner (Jeff McLean) and Vivienne (Megan Lewis) carry them off with composure. Admittedly, it's Ven Daniel who steals the show as UPS delivery guy Kyle, as well as the cute canines playing Elle's chihuahua Bruiser and Paulette's bulldog Rufus.

The production itself was exceptional down to the last detail. The scenic design by David Rockwell, costume design by Gregg Barnes, and lighting design by Kenneth Posner and Paul Miller all contributed to the bold, unique presentation. The scenic design and costume design was true to the movie version while adding twists of originality and spunk, such as the prison scene and court room scene. The large amounts of Pepto-Bismol pink in both the scenic designs and Elle's costumes were bold and creative.

The songs altogether were entertaining and fun, but not altogether memorable compared to similarly heroine-driven shows such as "Hairspray" and "Mamma Mia". However, each of the songs contains a strong likeability factor and advances the plot with creative, flamboyant lyrics.

Truly, dismissing "Legally Blonde: The Musical" as fluff is a mistake indeed. The themes of the power of sisterhood and the importance of individuality are demonstrated by the heroine's triumph over sexism and her personal inhibitions. As Elle herself would say, "Being yourself never goes out of style". ☺

### Upcoming Shows

Flogging Molly with The Aggrolites, Feb. 25

Yonder Mountain String Band Feb. 27 and Feb. 28.

Sound Tribe Sector 9 (STS9) March 14

Slightly Stoopid March 19

Umphrey's McGee March 27

Bloc Party March 31

Morrissey April 8

New Found Glory May 26

# Exercise important for student health

Health experts recommend 60 minutes of daily exercise for healthy minds and bodies, even for busy teens.

Jackie Leong  
Reporter

Calling all CHS students: you should be getting 60 minutes of exercise per day. Yes, 60 minutes. And, yes, every day.

Work out regularly after school? Relax. But if not, your routine probably doesn't cut it. The numbers are in: 32.2 percent of high schoolers spend three or more hours a day in front of the television. Early signs of heart disease are appearing in many young people. Bottom line: young people in the U.S. today are less fit than those of one generation ago.

A hectic schedule, loads of homework, and piles of extracurricular activities could just push a person near the breaking point. And if you're stressed enough, your logical answer is probably that you don't have time.

"Most people are lucky to get in two to three hours of exercise a week," said Health Education teacher Melissa Hobick. "[Having no time] is such a common excuse. You have time for TV- you have time for exercise."

Along with the universally known benefits of exercise, such as a healthier heart, there are perks you probably forgot about. Exercise counters stress and releases tension—the polar opposite of the stereotypical way of dealing with stress, which normally consists of eating, sleeping, or simply bottling it all up. Plus, it fights anxiety and depression, increases feelings of happiness by releasing endorphins, and improves a person's self-image. There are more than enough reasons to exercise than not. All in all, it acts as a cleanser that flushes the system clean and

leaves a person feeling refreshed.

"There are so many benefits [of exercise], it's unbelievable," Hobick said. "You feel a hundred times better. You sleep better. You look better. You feel better."

In contrast, the pitfalls of staying on the couch-potato road are perhaps the reasons why many feel constantly tired and stressed. In losing muscle tone, metabolism slows, because muscle burns more calories than fat. And, of course, the "big one," as Hobick calls it, is weight gain.

“Exercising early on sets better habits for the future. Exercise routinely now, and you will carry those habits through life.”

Raul Artal  
SLU Professor

However, weight isn't everything. Many CHS students may be within what is referred to as a healthy weight range—but that one fact does not necessarily guarantee a healthy lifestyle. Overall, health is just one aspect of the big picture— what Hobick refers to as NEWS: Nutrition, Exercise, Water, and

Sleep. And especially on the sleep part—many students are at a deficit.

So how do teens kick those unhealthy habits? "Prioritize," Hobick said. "If you don't schedule it into your day, you won't exercise. You have to make it a priority."

If the 60-minute figure is a bit frightening, remember that you don't have to fulfill it in one go; break it up into 15- or 10- minute segments. And besides your actual exercise periods, make small changes in your regular routine. Walk to Starbucks instead of driving; park farther from the doorway; run around the block for a study break. It all adds up at the end of the day.

"When you finish [exercising], you feel better," said freshman Sara Garfinkel. "I love it."



Junior Chelsea Granberry uses a Center of Clayton fitness machine after school for her daily exercise. The Center of Clayton is open to all students and faculty for use during the school week.

# Modern music fails to live up to rock classics

Rachel Nevels  
Reporter

Within the last five decades, music has gone from Chuck Berry's "Maybelline" to Soulja Boy's "Crank that Soulja Boy".

Since Rock 'n' Roll hit mainstream America in the late 40's and early 50's, teenagers have identified themselves with music. After Rock 'n' Roll, Disco was the new craze, then came hip-hop in the late 70's and early 80's. Hip-hop started in the black community and eventually spread to the Latino community and white suburban America. After hip-hop came pop and R&B in the 80's and 90's.

But today, hip-hop has still held its spot in mainstream society. But the often positive and sometimes subtle sexual messages in songs have grown to be extremely offensive and more blunt in their messages.

"I think today's music is made more for partying and clubbing and being able to enjoy it," Junior Don Stewart said. "I'm more into lyrical-Rap because it reflects my personality more than anything else out there. But like everyone else, I might nod my head to 'Soulja Boy' or something like that."

Most music critics and music artists of past decades agree, labeling mainstream music as "party music" or more recently "ring-tone music".

"Both of my parents like the same music I do." Freshman Fatimah Austin said.

Fatimah Austin is the younger sister of senior Muhammad Austin, who has taken a liking to music and aspires to be a music producer. The entire Austin family is, in fact, very involved in music and fashion. As Fatimah would say, she considers her family to be very contemporary and urban.

"I do not agree that mainstream music has gone down the drain. I just think that every decade has its ups and downs with the music it produces. There are still songs out there that are good, popular, and send a positive message," Austin said.

After it has all been said and done, music in today's society remains a hot topic. But the question remains, is contemporary, mainstream music bad or good?

However, the important thing to think about is will people enjoy the music produced from future generations? Will future music be similar to the music of today or starkly different?

But, when all is said and done, what can possibly be worse than "Crank that Soulja Boy"? ☹



### Personal Trainer

## A fitness awareness quiz

Here is a simple test to see how much you really know about fitness.

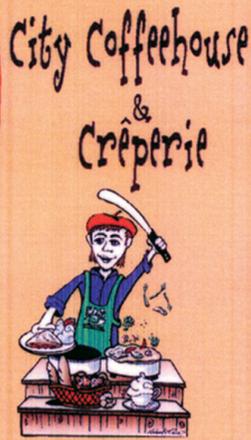
- If you do not need to lose weight, there is no need to be physically active.  True  False
- At least 60 minutes of physical activity is recommended every day.  True  False
- Getting in shape requires a gym membership or home equipment.  True  False
- The main elements of fitness are aerobic fitness, muscular fitness, stretching and core muscle stability.  True  False
- If you are physically active, you can eat whatever you want.  True  False
- Regular physical activity can reduce the need for some types of medication.  True  False
- You can stop thinking about physical activity at age 65.  True  False
- Full speed ahead is the best way to start an exercise program.  True  False
- If you have no energy for physical activity, it is better to rest instead.  True  False
- To maintain the benefits of physical activity, you need to keep it up.  True  False

ANSWERS: 1 False, 2 False, 3 False, 4 True, 5 False, 6 True, 7 False, 8 False, 9 False, 10 True

For a prominent clinic's interesting explanation of the answers, see <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/fitness/QZ00057>

Source: Mayo Clinic Fitness Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap © 2009 MCT

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- Target
- the old spaghetti factory
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- True Advantage Fitness
- Two Blind Guys
- Ulta Beauty
- Verizon Wireless
- Wal-Mart
- World Market

# Board decision to exclude Wydown from bond issue regrettable

In April, the Clayton community will have the opportunity to vote on a \$51 million bond issue that would provide renovation funds for the Family Center, the three elementary schools, and the high school. Under the proposition, however, Wydown Middle School would receive no money.

This is because an increasingly serious discussion between Clayton and Washington University over a potential land swap has begun to develop. Although exact details have yet to be decided, the current proposal involves Clayton giving up the Bracken building, the Maryland school, and Wydown in return for the old CBC High School campus and a significant amount of money.

Proponents of the swap say that Wydown is too cramped for space, and that the only way to give both teachers and students the room they need is to move to a larger school with a larger campus.

But renovating the existing high school, or even bulldozing the building and starting from scratch, are both poor options from a student and community point of view. Ultimately, the best choice for everyone is to keep Wydown where it is.

Over the past year, and especially over the past several months, the architecture firm Christener has been working with the district to develop renovation plans for every building in the district. In December 2008 those plans were approved by the Board. This means that when the Board voted in January to exclude Wydown from the proposed bond issue, there were already master plans in place to renovate and expand the middle school.

No such plans to either retrofit CBC or construct a new building have even been started. Drawing them up would be another long, tedious, and wholly unnecessary process. We already have plans to renovate the existing building—let's use them.

Although Wydown's current location has some downsides



The front entrance drive of Wydown Middle School on 6500 Wydown Boulevard.

it also has many positives. The school is located between both the Captain and Glenridge neighborhoods, putting it within easy walking distance for many students. Wydown Boulevard acts as a sort of artery for conducting kids home—especially Glenridge residents, who pour onto it en masse when school gets out.

The fact that Wydown is easily accessible by foot is beneficial to the school in that it simplifies the dismissal process, but being part of a residential community is certainly a symbiotic relationship. If Wydown were to be moved, the Hillcrest neigh-

borhood in which it is currently situated would undoubtedly feel a negative ripple effect.

It is difficult to overstate the importance of having a school as part of neighborhood. There is a certain energy and liveliness that a neighborhood can experience only when it is home to a thriving school like Wydown. Every day at 3:15, students spill out onto the sidewalks, inviting each other over, playing in each other's yards, getting yelled at by each other's parents. On the weekends, Wydown's field is host to recreational sports like soccer and baseball for elementary school children. The

presence of the school facilitates interaction and connection and community building even outside of the school day. All that would be lost if Wydown were to move.

However, the most disturbing consequence of the decision to exclude Wydown is that in the commotion caused by the Board's vote, the passage of the bond issue itself may now be in jeopardy. Some people upset about the Wydown situation are threatening to protest the decision by voting against Proposition S.

This would not be in the best interest of any of the students in the district, depriving them from many essential improvements. Even the students who are currently at WMS will reap the benefits of the necessary high school improvements. As it now stands the decision about what to do about Wydown must be separated from the importance of passing Proposition S.

Although the Globe does not condone the recent Board action, it is wholly in favor of passing the bond issue as it stands to get much needed funds to the high school and the elementary schools. Last November, the Globe ran an editorial outlining why passage of the bond issue was imperative—a stance we still hold (see "Blueprint 4 Tomorrow costly but necessary.")

Ultimately, it is truly regrettable that the Board chose to keep the middle school out of the upcoming proposition. It would appear that in this case the allure of a lot of space and a lot of money prevented a practical decision from being made. But it would be even more regrettable if people upset over the situation refuse to support a bond issue that is clearly in the interest of all Clayton students. ☺

**Proposition S**  
APRIL 7, 2009

Agree **76%**  
Disagree **23%**

# India trip awakens, opens doors

There's a story in Jewish tradition, a midrash. The legend goes that when Moses stretched his staff out to part the Red Sea—a mistranslation of the Hebrew phrase Yam Suph, which probably meant the Sea of Reeds—the waters refused to part. The Egyptians were closing in. Time was of the essence. Finally, a man named Nachshon began walking into the water. The water covered his legs, his arms, his shoulders, until he was nearly fully submerged. Only then did the sea begin to recede.

The point of the story is that miracles only happen when you are willing to dive in. I believe that the same is true of comprehension. We all seek to understand our world, the small niche that God or Allah or the Flying Spaghetti Monster has graciously provided for us in existence. But I believe that understanding of what is familiar to us can only come with the exposure to what is new, strange, or foreign. We must all be willing to wade through the waters, both of life and of thought.

This winter I went to India. When asked about my trip, even if the vaguest, most disinterested acquaintance, I find myself at loss for what to say. I tend to smile nicely, offer a few choice phrases, but I might as well be reciting a script. It is not that there are no words for India, rather, that there are not enough words at all to describe that ineffable feeling of every moment being snapped into crystal focus by its newness, its dazzling unfamiliarity. Mere language becomes hopelessly inadequate.

How could I possibly begin, speak perhaps of an act as simple as waking? In Pushkar, I wake to open my lids slowly, with trembling fingers that slowly pare apart eyelashes congealed by grit. Bird-

song is augmented by the wail of a funeral procession, with voices taut as bowstrings and fingers skidding across glistening cymbals. The sun, fragmented by glass crossed with iron bars, forms a thousand yellow blisters upon my wall.

Or what of breakfast, which is chappatis, hot and wet with grease, soupy bowls of daal and lemon juice in a battered can? I eat hunched over like the nearby monks, flashy in carrot-colored robes with smiles beatific enough to cleave their faces in two. There's a monkey a few tables over, a mess of oversized limbs with a greedy face slicked by yogurt. His fingers are those of a pianist's, long, slender, and elegant; he uses them to pick his nose.

The markets, too, are impossible, those steaming, pulsing clots of heat and sound that run together until their colors bleed dark. The cows here are fat, with lolling tongues dark and pitted like strips of tar, eyes milky and sightless and adorned with the jewels of countless flies. Workers in loincloths and rich housewives draped in saris the color of sunlight swirl past the tents and carts and spindle-wheeled rickshaws. The few government-regulated shops are encased by hundreds of smaller, ramshackle shanties and stalls, a teaming egg sack to the shop's bloated spider. Alleys and back-alleys are thin as grey skeins of silk, a stone-and-gravel web running beneath flags of Technicolor laundry. The air is clouded by the sharp, acrid scent of urine and sweat and marigolds being crushed underfoot.

In such cramped quarters, one is astounded by how quickly individual breath is lost, that such a simple task of inhaling and exhaling begins to thrum with those around you in one single,

voiceless tandem. The steady creaking of wheels over stone, the slip and slap of bare feet on pavement, is deafening. If there was ever a sensation of drowning, it was now. For a few brief instances, I felt the terror like Nachshon most have felt, as the waves slowly began to clog his nostrils and distort his vision. Yet, at the same time, I marveled at the different world that revealed itself as the waters parted.

I found myself often wondering at my own life when I returned, where space and silence is often boundless. Sitting in my kitchen one morning I was both astounded and unnerved by the unbroken line of vision that led from where I was sitting, past my dining room and the hallway and finally, my front door, which was open just enough so I could glimpse the (empty) street beyond? The fact is that emptiness is the ultimate luxury in a country where thirty percent of its citizens live in closer quarters than US incarcerated felons, and the average square footage of a home is a mere five hundred square feet. Yet, I find myself at loss, unmoored in a landscape that used to be anchored by clutter.

I also began to chafe at the lack of color, the plodding uniformity and dullness of green and brown and gray, with shade so subtly varying they could very well be the same! Dark-wash denim is poor fare for eyes used to a feast of scarlet silk. Yet I relished, too, in my lust for tap water and organic asparagus and clean clothing. My bed proved even softer and fluffier than the indulgent white bread rolls, which I ate several at a time. At times, my greed proved far greater than even I could anticipate. My first day back, I took two hot showers and a bath. The second day I took three. The idea that water would just run, run on the simple command of a faucet turn, and that it could be hot and would remain hot until you ordered its ceasing—I confess I took



Above left: The city of Pushkar is one of the oldest cities in India and is located on the Pushkar Lake, in the desert state of Rajasthan. This photo includes the ghats, or stairs leading down to the water: typical in many Indian cities.



Above right: The Temple of Brahma is located in Pushkar, and it is one of the few temples of its kind in India. Unlike other Hindu Gods, who may have many temples in one city, Brahma - the God of Creation - has only a handful of temples throughout all of India.

great pleasure in my excess. Starting in Delhi, I had learned to soap my hair on a stool and prayed three pea-sized dots of conditioner would do the trick. My father frequently extolled the imminent practicalities of showering Indian-style, i.e., standing in a large bucket of water while filling and re-filling a smaller one for soaking your head. As hotel rooms got smaller and lime-scale more invasive, we all began to try more inventive methods to get clean.

Without India, without my willingness to wade into the ocean of new, I could have never seen what was before me. My coat and gloves transformed

in two weeks from mundane necessities to charming novelties. Trips to the grocery store, in their sanitized, refrigerated abundance—you mean I can eat fruit fresh? No diphtheria?—became, for a brief period of time, a trip filled with enchantment. Everything from wooden floors to wallpaper was fascinating. Perhaps most bizarrely, I found just as much pleasure in my new revelations as I did in my old ones.

I admit that such experiences are few and far between, and I count myself fortunate indeed. But I also know that such a feeling can be captured even in the briefest moments of our average, day-to-

day lives. So, here, I entreat my reader—go out and explore. Venture briefly from your normal path, walk in the shade if you are accustomed to sun. I ask you to be briefly as a child is, to touch and smell with mute wonder, to run your fingers across desks and leaves and windowpanes that have become damp with rain. Taste, but slowly, and with your lids lowered. It is easy, this. Here: adjust your mouth. Allow your tongue to bow with the weight of food; sense its warmth, its shimmer of taste. Let it dissolve. Know that on your lips is the salt of the Sea of Reeds. Trust that it ill part to reveal brand new vistas. ☺

# Student's record player illuminates past, provides 'organic' music

There is something so poetic about listening to music on a record player.

As the large, black disk turns round and round, the tiny needle barely grazing its surface, a sound rarely heard today escapes the confines of the plastic and floats gracefully into my ears. The record seems to hum its melody as it releases a coarse, unrefined tune that wafts throughout the room, its resonance engaging all listeners.

In contrast to the synthetic, processed sound of CDs and iPods that is representative of today's materialistic popular culture, the organic sound of the record player echoes a time of authentic fervor for life, freedom, and love.

As the record spins, liberating the soothing words of the Beatles, thoughts spin through my mind...

Close your eyes and I'll kiss you,  
Tomorrow I'll miss you,  
Remember I'll always be true,

And then while I'm away,  
I'll write home every day,  
And I'll send all my loving to you.

These were the first words that Americans heard when the Beatles took the stage on the Ed Sullivan Show on Feb. 9, 1964. With these words, John, Paul, George, and Ringo took the universe by storm.

Beatlemania united not only a generation, but the world. From high school dances in New Jersey to downtown pubs in London, the Beatles brought together a generation with their anthems of love, meditation, peace, and happiness.

The message of the Beatles' music sought to initiate change in the world by changing the thoughts of individual listeners, an effort that continues today through their music.

During the influential years of the 1960s and 1970s in the United States, another voice spoke to the American

population through music: Bob Dylan.

The great singer/songwriter mastered a number of different musical genres, including traditional folk, rock & roll, folk rock, protest music, country, blues, and gospel.

Throughout his 40 year career, Dylan constructed a significant body of works, placing him among the most influential artists of the twentieth century.

Dylan wrote a variety of songs, from the tender country melody of "Lay, Lady, Lay," to the folk rock of "Mr. Tambourine Man," the rock of "Like a Rolling Stone," and classic protest songs such as "Blowin' in the Wind"...

How many times must a man look up

Before he can see the sky?  
Yes, 'n' how many ears must one man have

Before he can hear people cry?  
Yes, 'n' how many deaths will it take till he knows

That too many people have died?  
The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind,

The answer is blowin' in the wind.  
The sorrowful tone of Dylan's familiar voice instills a sense of empowerment and passion in me as it leaves the record



Leah Eby's record player spins on, playing the "organic" and "authentic" sounds of "life."

and enters my ears. Dylan's music has forever influenced songwriting, and the message of his music - a lesson near forgotten by my generation - will remain in the spin of the record player.

Reflecting on the songs of the Beat-

les, Bob Dylan, and others like them as I lie in bed with the old-fashioned records turning one by one, I have begun to reject the music of my generation.

The words of musicians used to mean something. They used to inspire, protest,

and change the world. But what happened to the music of record players? Where did the ardor and profundity go?

Well, the answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind, the answer is blowin' in the wind... ☺

## Staff Editorial



Gabrielle Lachtrup



Leah Eby

# 81st Oscars promote universality

The 81st Academy Awards were fabulous. There is no other word to do them justice. In light of this year's spectacular show, and as a devoted Oscar fan, I therefore feel compelled to celebrate what I found to be the finest evening since the 2004 ceremony—when Billy Crystal hosted and "The Return of the King" made its historic 11 for 11 sweep.

An award show is only as good as its host, and Hugh Jackman did not disappoint. A seasoned emcee of the Tony Awards (he held the role from 2003 to 2005) Jackman can sing, he can dance, and he can capture and capitalize on the energy of a live audience. His opening songologue set the tone for a ceremony that was big and brassy yet intimate and personal.

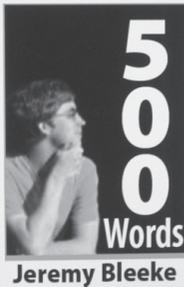
The awards began with Penelope Cruz's win for best supporting actress as a fiery and unstable seductress in the comedy "Vicky, Cristina, Barcelona." It was a role reminiscent of her earlier work with the Spanish director Pedro Almodovar, in whose hands her comic genius first came to light.

The presentation of the supporting actress award introduced something unique to this year's ceremony—a personal tribute to each of the nominees by a previous winner. This was the form followed for each of the acting awards, and it honored the actors and actresses in a very personal and heartfelt way.

Over the next three hours a lot went down. Beyonce showed up and, along with Jackman, "brought back the musical" in an epic montage of the greatest show tunes in the business. Tina Fey and Steve Martin teamed up for several sidesplitting minutes of banter as they presented the writing awards.

A.R. Rahman accepted his award for "Slumdog Millionaire's" Best Original Score, then immediately took the stage to perform two of the three nominated Best Original Songs. His

"Jai Ho" won. Over the course of the evening "Wall-E" won Best Animated Picture, Heath Ledger won Best Supporting Actor, the delightful "La Maison en Petits Cubes" won Best Animated Short, and Danny Boyle won Best Director. But despite all this festivity, the greatest moments of the show came during the presentation of the final three awards, for Best Actress, Best Actor, and Best Picture.



Jeremy Bleeke

It should be understood that my personal cinematic universe revolves around a trio I fondly refer to as 'Meryl And The K/Cates' (yes, we are on a first name basis), and all three were represented to some degree in this year's top honors.

Both Meryl and Kate (with a K) were honored with nominations for Best Actress in a Leading Role—Streep for her work in "Doubt," and Winslet for "The Reader." When Winslet (finally, after 5 previous nominations) won, she said in her acceptance speech that she couldn't believe she was even in Meryl's company (although the rest of us can). As for Cate Blanchett,

despite the fact that she was not nominated this year, she owned the screen in "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"—the film that led the nomination race with 13.

There was a moment of poetic justice when Sean Penn, who was nominated for his portrayal of the charismatic and homosexual politician Harvey Milk, accepted the Oscar for Best Actor in the state that earlier this year had voted into law a ban on gay marriage.

And at the climax of the evening, when "Slumdog Millionaire" was named Best Picture, the feeling of an international joy was palpable. During a year in which there is so much to be distressed about, these 81st Oscars provided a welcome escape to honor the universal language of cinema.



Kate Winslet accepts the Oscar for Best Actress for her role in this year's "The Reader."

# Winter depression and procrastination chronic, yet curable

Although early in the month we had a brief respite from the cold and dreary weather we expect from February, lately, winter has been looking a lot like, well, winter.

Winter is undoubtedly the most unbearable season of the school-year for those of us who suffer from a notable drop in motivation and some sort of undiagnosed seasonal affective disorder in the first half of second semester. The desire, if not the very ability, to do homework seems to have escaped us, we find ourselves moping around, and we're seemingly always pessimistic and uncomfortable.

The ultimate cure, of course, for this unhelpful winter tendency is a change of scenery. Unfortu-

nately, there is still a good deal of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter left until spring break.

However, one doesn't need a completely new environment in order to escape the dreary day-to-day routine of procrastination and added stress. The tiniest of changes can keep up with homework far easier.

The old motherly maxim of "go clean your room" maybe have some reason behind it besides just locating that long-overdue library book rotting beneath the bed. I've found that simply clearing off my desk can make school-work much more manageable. When the world outside is a complete mess (as it often is on so many cold, sunless February days), sitting

down to work at a desk that *isn't* can be almost pleasurable.

There are times, however, when a person just doesn't have the time or patience to clean his or her workspace.

In such cases, I am a complete advocate of finding a new one—whether it be Starbucks, Kaldi's, or the County Library. It does require shaking off the usual winter lethargy, yet the productivity that occurs as a result of a new environment is well worth the extra effort of finding car keys, a coat, and gloves.

But curing the winter blues isn't all about finding a comfortable place to study. Rewarding yourself for staying on top of everything is definitely part of that cure.

Small self-rewards throughout the week can be

extremely motivational—from grabbing a cup of coffee with a friend after school to downloading a new CD off of iTunes. It may also be a good idea to find some time to go to the Center of Clayton or the YMCA during the week, since adrenaline can be a quick fix to a dreary winter day's depression, and the health benefits can work toward your long-term happiness.

At the end of the week, watching movies is a good way to get out of the depressed winter mind set, and going out to dinner with friends is a good way to unwind and socialize at the end of a busy, cooped-up week.

Winter, and subsequently third quarter, will be over sooner than we think. We just have to stay positive and focus on the task at hand—day by day, week by painstaking week.

# Actress Kristen Wiig deserves an Oscar

And the Oscar goes to...

Every year, during the month of February, it seems that everyone stops what they are doing to focus in on the drama, excitement, and commotion of the Oscars. This year was no exception.

Yet, I can't help but think about all of the actors and actresses out there who have never been awarded an Oscar, or will ever be awarded an Oscar. The thought is heart-breaking.

Specifically, I am considering (of course) "Saturday Night Live" (SNL). Your immediate response is that SNL has only become worse in recent years, and was a much funnier show about 2 decades ago. Well, while that may be, there is a diamond in the rough which has been long overlooked.

...Kristen Wiig, for best supporting actress and comedian on SNL.

Whatever role she is in, Wiig takes the spot light and goes above and beyond the expected. Wiig is truly a diamond in the rough and struggling show of SNL.

Perhaps everyone knows Wiig best in her roles as Judy Grimes, Penelope, and Judith the ugly fourth sister. Somehow, Wiig always ends up the weird, ugly, creepy and mentally unstable character in SNL's live skits.

No one could possibly forget Wiig's appearance on the Weekend Update, speaking about a mile per minute, replacing every other word with "just kidding." I don't know how she does it, but amazingly she is able to change topic about 50 times within a time span of less than a few minutes.

How do you even go from hot soup, to steak, to your mother being invisible, to pocket books and purses, to private dancing lessons and back to soup?

Then, there is Wiig as Penelope.

Wiig dominates in those skits, taking every line from the other actors and spinning it into some compliment of her. Sure, it is unbelievable; yet to watch a woman like Wiig exclaim with a straight face that living in a macadamia nut is better is hilarious. The hair-twisting and lip smacking complete the scene, making Penelope's presence in the scene unbearable for the other actors, yet somehow a laugh-out-loud experience for every person watching the show on their couches.

Last but not least, Wiig always ends up with the bizarre and usually creepy roles on the show. This definitely helps her stand out amongst her other co-actors, especially when she has a larger

than usual forehead and Barbie-sized hands. Wiig is the odd-one-out. In a recent SNL show, Wiig was in a skit with three other actresses, all of whom were sisters singing on the Lawrence Welk show for the first time.

The camera starts with each of the other three sisters first, and their beautiful solos, but then unfortunately, pans over to Wiig and her unusually large forehead. Rather than sing beautifully like the other sisters, Wiig of course has a man voice and sings about eating dead cats off of the side of the road. This is Wiig's prime time role: she fits it perfectly.

Within a short time on SNL, Wiig has found her comfort zone, and has excelled unbelievably. I just don't see why she isn't nominated for Best Actress. What does Kristen Wiig not have in comparison to Angelina Jolie or Kate Winslet?

Just kidding. Yet, my heart still aches for Wiig, as she won't hear her name called on the microphones of the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles.

Instead, the usual big-wig names will win countless awards, and Wiig will continue to act on a show that is quickly losing its reputation.

I still have hope in SNL. You will see, Wiig will save the day, and win her Oscar for once and for all.



Maddy McMahon



Aaron Praiss



Courtesy of NBC



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We also remind students that as the Globe is a student publication, all compliments, opinions, complaints, and suggestions are welcomed and should be forwarded to the Globe Office.

-- Your Globe Editors

Clayton High School Globe  
1 Mark Twain Circle  
Clayton, MO 63105  
(314) 854-6668  
Fax: 854-6794  
globe@clayton.k12.mo.us

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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.

# Dirty Politics

Student views politics from negative perspective after witnessing unfair decision in mock council

These days, it seems that no matter how hard the media tries to get a fresh perspective on things in order to get the latest scoop, the news is always the same; things are getting worse.

As the country is looking to the government for leadership, the only things politicians appear to be doing are blaming each other, getting into sex scandals, and selling Senate seats.

However, after a recent extra curricular activity I find myself, not angered, but able to understand the politicians' inability to get anything done in Washington.

Just a few weeks ago I attended a Model United Nations conference. With just around 100 kids from the St. Louis area, we did our best to transform the hotel ballroom we were in into a political sanctuary with visiting delegates from around the world.

At the conference, I was the delegate from Australia, and I was dealing with the humanitarian crisis in Somalia.

When I was preparing for the conference I thought my resolution would pass at the conference with no effort at all.

"Why wouldn't the U.N. want to help Somalia?" I thought.

However, it is much more complicated than just helping Somalia.

The U.N. is not just deciding on if they should help Somalia or not, they are deciding how they are going to help Somalia. This is where politics comes to a halt; not only did my resolution on Somalia not pass, none of the resolutions on Somalia passed.

When a majority of the parties in the U.N. can't decide on how they should execute something, nothing gets done. Even though Somalia is in dire need of aid, because we could not decide on *how* we would give them aid, we instead gave them no aid at all.

Not to mention the bureaucracy of it all—in the U.N. nothing can happen without a vote. There is actually a vote

necessary to vote. Although much of the old fashioned rules are necessary to keep the conference moving, the rules dehumanize the issues.

Delegates aren't voting for the sake of the starving African children. Delegates are voting on how well written resolutions are and how persuasive the speakers are.

I personally found myself only voting for resolutions written by delegates who voted for my own resolution.

Even though this was just a group of high schoolers pretending to have global power, it really shed light on how issues can really get caught up in "politics."

From this experience I began to understand what Congress is going through right now. It is not as if any members of Congress want our economy to go down the drain, it is just that they don't know what to do, so they just do nothing.

When they are debating about a billion dollars there, and a million dollars here, Congress isn't thinking about how hard we worked for that money, they are thinking about how many zeros are in a number.

So am I condoning Washington's infamous inability of accomplishing tasks? Of course I'm not. But I understand how they could find themselves in the trap of "politics."

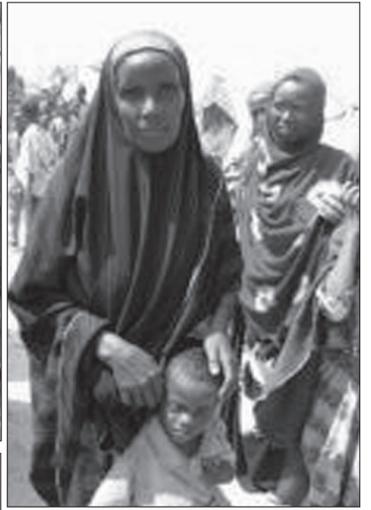
The question remains—is this what our founding fathers saw in democracy, a system where even the slightest amount of controversy may cause a bill to never pass, or an issue to never be dealt with? No one truly knows the answer, but one thing is for certain, it has gotten us this far.

However, hopefully our new president has truly ushered us into a new era of bipartisanship, focusing on what is best for our nation and not politicians.

Even though this hope may seem naive given the recent complete lack of Republican support for the stimulus package, I am keeping my fingers crossed that this promise isn't thrown into the same box as all of the other campaign ambition that will never come true. ☹



Justin Elliott



Courtesy of MCT Campus

Clockwise starting from upper left: Hadi Khadija Mohammed's house in Mogadishu, Somalia, was destroyed by rocket fire in March, and now she lives among more than 200,000 others in displacement camps outside the capital city. The United Nations says the humanitarian crisis in Mogadishu has developed into the worst in Africa. Qasbi Omar Abdi, 45, had slept on the ground in a displacement camp outside Mogadishu, Somalia, for three straight nights, December 8, 2007. After her husband was killed by gunfire, she fled the capital with her five children, joining more than 200,000 people who live in camps outside Mogadishu. Mothers wait to have their children vaccinated in a displacement camp outside Mogadishu, Somalia, December 8, 2007. This month the United Nations Children's Fund and the Somali Red Crescent Society provided vaccinations for some 50,000 children in the displacement camps outside Mogadishu, the epicenter of what U.N. officials call Africa's worst humanitarian crisis. United Nations "blue shirt" guard, at left, stands watch over a displacement camp outside Mogadishu, Somalia, December 8, 2007.

## Education in Chinese culture inspired by past relationships with East Asia

"Clayton is going to offer Chinese next year, maybe you should take it," my mom told me. I was signing up for classes when I thought it might be interesting to learn the language and about the culture, so I decided to sign up so here I am today, after a semester of Chinese I. I never would have seen myself a few years ago writing Chinese characters, but now I know about 100 characters, at least sometimes—though I occasionally forget a stroke or two.

One of the reasons why I chose to take the class is that my family has had connections with East Asia and China for about the last 30 years. My mom first lived in East Asia, while serving on a Latter Day Saints mission, and working for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—serving in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand, and the Philippines. During her mission she learned the Mandarin Chinese—the language now offered at CHS. Later, after my parents got married, my dad decided to work for the World Health Organization with United Nations and to teach

at Beijing University. They lived there in 1989, the year of Tiananmen Square protests, with my two sisters. My sister is now serving a LDS mission in Hong Kong, China, so as you can see; I have some connections with the Chinese language and culture.

As for my thoughts concerning the Chinese program at CHS, I have found it very rewarding, but also difficult. The reason that I find it rewarding is that I feel that it will give me opportunities in the future, since, after all, the Chinese language is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. It is also a difficult language, perhaps one of the most difficult ventures that I have yet pursued.

To understand the Chinese program, one must understand the curriculum and what it focuses on. The Wydown Middle schoolers now have the chance to

take Chinese, but will cover in two years, what we cover in one. Since the Chinese program is now just beginning, all grades are at the same level, so right now the classroom is mixed with underclassman and upperclassman alike. That has been an interesting experience, but also fun, since it gives everyone the chance to meet people from the whole student body. Some of the students already know how to speak Chinese, but don't know the characters. Personally, I knew a few words my mom taught me as a child growing up.

Concerning the Chinese class itself, we focus on the culture, the oral language, and written language. The most difficult part, at least for me, has definitely been the learning of the characters. To be considered proficient in the Chinese written language, at least 3,000 characters need to be known. It is easier than it may seem, but even

so, most characters are made of smaller characters, known as radicals. There are 54 main radicals used, so by knowing this material, it is easier to discern the meaning of a character.

For most of the year we have spent learning the daily material necessary to understand and participate in Chinese culture, such as learning everyday phrases, dates, family, and of course learning about Chinese New Year, the biggest festival in the world, causing the biggest annual human migration in the world.

I feel that we are learning Chinese language and culture well, but will take some time to be competent. My mom remembers that it took her many late nights and prolonged patience to learn the language, but perhaps in the end, it will be worth the frustration, to be able to speak the Chinese language. It has been entertaining for our family when she talks to the Chinese waiter at a restaurant or in other places we have been, and they always are a little taken aback that the American lady in front of them can speak Chinese. ☹



Jonathan Shumway



Meng Weng

Junior Laura Klammer and seniors Nichole Burton and Jordan Stanley listen attentively to a lesson by CHS Chinese teacher Pinpin Yu. This course has had a successful first year at CHS and has been a popular choice with students.

## Burdens of current economy have little impact on wealthy suburbia

Lately, my father has been telling me this story more often than usual: my grandmother, who was 15 in 1934, cared for her seven siblings. In the midst of the Great Depression, her father died. Her sister attended college to become a nurse while my grandmother was left to provide for her family. As stocks continued to drop and tables became barren, her position at home wasn't one she could argue. Though she was a very talented writer and artist, she wasn't provided with the advantages women have today. She never was able to go to college.

When I knew her, she was a penny-pincher who never liked to see anything go to waste. We laughed about it, but there was a haunted reason behind it. She was changed forever. Towards the end of her life, she described what happened with a twinge of poignancy, but not regret. She knew she couldn't change what had happened.

Almost untouched, I live in Clayton; I'm protected in a microcosm of SUV's and brick houses. But sometimes I see thin, quiet cracks in our nation's economic façade: red sale stickers at the mall, fewer cars in parking lots, worried faces. These reminders mark the growing economic crisis.

I knew nothing of the economy before it showed up in The New York Times style section this fall, reporting a new trend called "recession chic." As a 15-year-old, the economy was an enigma. It held connotations of ostentatious old men wearing suits with slicked back hair, walking along Wall Street. However, today, I can't escape it.

For instance, on a Sunday afternoon, a copy of The New York Times invariably lies wrinkled on my kitchen table. The thin grey paper is torn; my father has turned each page too pugnaciously. There's a photograph of a sign reading "foreclosure" in bright red letters, resting on dead grass. While I try to sympathize with the subjects of the story, I feel apart from it. I have nothing to worry about except my math homework this afternoon.

I don't feel affected now; however, the invisible economy hangs over my head like a shadow. It's an ominous reminder of future difficulty paying for college or finding a job this sum-

mer. At the Galleria, amid pocket books and mannequins in glittering window displays gesturing for me to come in and spend, the economic crisis is most evident. It's easy to spot the omnipresent effects of the economy since I've become aware. Shoppers carefully observe each price tag, gravitating towards the sales.

Outside, under a pallid winter sky, two bundled figures wait at a bus stop. Are they unemployed? Is the New York Times story theirs? I don't know. But I watch behind the tall glass doors, shielded from the wind.

In the midst of this economic crisis, I am discovering a vague sense of the world's grief through thin cracks in this wall I live behind, illuminating the dark winter. The little reminders are beginning to add up, though.

As I sit on my windowsill, looking through the glass smudged from my breath, I see more people walking. More cars rest outside of stores like Walgreens; the blazing signs reflect on their sullied windshields. And sometimes I see the panic in my parents' faces.

My mother carefully looks through old receipts with worried eyes; economic troubles have deepened her wrinkles.

While sometimes I feel as though I have not been affected by the economy at all, I don't ask my parents for very much anymore, out of fear. I love owning books and occupying each page with my own esoteric scribbles, but I've started going to the library.

These are small things; my house is not being foreclosed and my parents haven't lost their jobs. But maybe, subconsciously, I've felt obliged to react to the reports of further economic decline every morning on channel 5, and the quiet clues in Clayton, at the mall. During Obama's inauguration a blur of anonymous faces roared throughout Washington D.C., as all economic troubles were forgotten. However, at the same time, I wondered how long before citizens will become consumed by our nation's failing economy again; will Obama, a political demigod in the halls of CHS, really solve this problem? It's something we won't know for sure until the time comes. ☹



Hannah Callahan

### Jobs reports

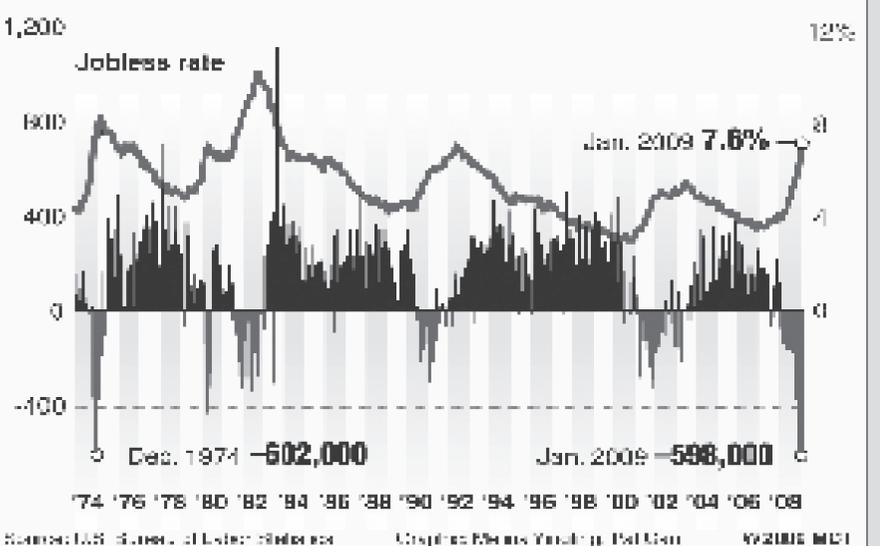
Employers cut 598,000 jobs in January, raising the unemployment rate to 7.6 percent.

Total cuts  
Since recession began  
December 2007  
-3.6 million

### Mounding job cuts

Monthly change in nonfarm jobs, seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Monthly jobless rate, seasonally adjusted



MCT Campus

Charts showing trend in U.S. jobless rate and job cuts; the U.S. economy shed 524,000 jobs in December. As of January 20, the federal debt is up to \$10.6 trillion and while stocks at Wall Street continue to fall, the employment rate rises up to 7.6% this month.

## Sarah's Line of Infamy

All photos from MCT

### Bobby Jindal



Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal has suggested that his state may not be interested in the \$4 billion assigned by the stimulus package, even though he faces a potential \$2 billion budget shortfall. The stimulus package would create 50,000 jobs and place a significant sum of money for rebuilding infrastructure. Guess what, the stimulus package passed so get over it and move on. Your "republican principles" are starting to sound like a sore loser who is refusing to help his state that is in great need.

### A-Rod

In 2003, when he won the American League Home Run title and MVP, A-Rod tested positive for steroids and lied. I am not sure which I am more upset that he did: steroids or Madonna?



### Chris Brown



Chris Brown was missing from the Grammys after allegedly beating up girlfriend Rihanna. Now he has lost most of his commercials and his songs are no longer played on the radio. At least he didn't "Run It" and had the dignity to turn himself in.

### Stephen Fowler



On Wife Swap, the infamous Stephen Fowler verbally insulted his "wife", Gayla Long from Missouri. He called her "Undereducated, over-opinionated and overweight." and insinuated that she spoke two languages: Bad English and Hick. Either it was a sore attempt for 15 minutes of fame or he is the most ignorant, narrow-minded jerk to grace Reality TV. And that is saying a lot.

### NY Post

The NY Post published a comic by Sean Delonas that sparked major debate about whether it is racist or not. The comic depicts two cops shooting a chimpanzee and the caption says: "Now they will have to find someone else to write the stimulus bill." The chimpanzee is supposed to be Obama and African Americans were referred to as "monkeys" in a derogative manner. Some claim it was only supposed to be in reference to a recent event, but really... that's just pathetic.

The Interest page focuses on funny and interesting bits of pop culture. If you have any item you think is worthy, drop us an e-mail 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.



petfinder.com

Petfinder.com is an online database of homeless pets that need adoption. It has been up and running for 10 years and has helped over 10,000,000 pets find healthy homes. So if your family is searching for a new member, go to [petfinder.com](http://petfinder.com)!



### eCycling!

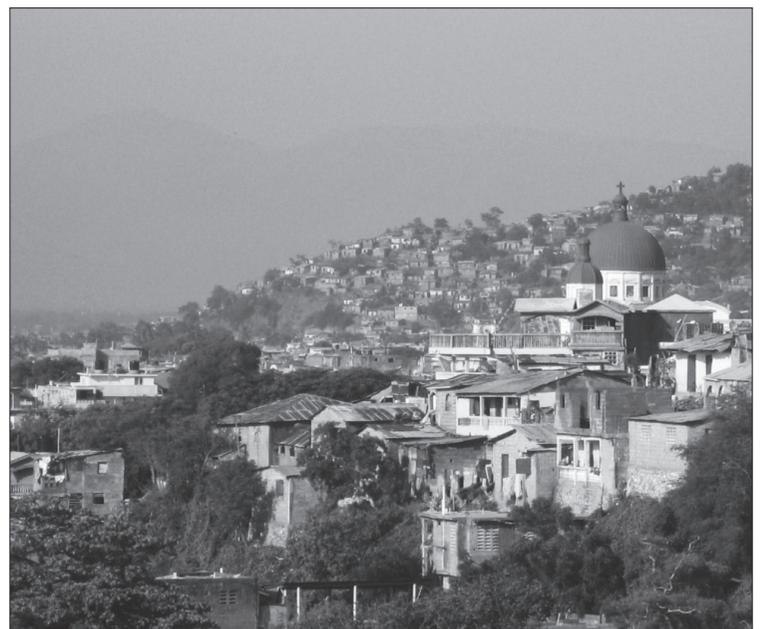
Take your old computers, cell phones, and other electronics to a local recycling center. Many computer stores and cell phone services will recycle old products for you. By recycling old electronics, this keeps the lead, cadmium, and other harmful elements out of the landfill.



## February Photos of the Month



During her trip to Haiti last summer, photographer Leah Eby was able to capture images of the colorful country, complete with the complex notion of Haiti's vibrant, yet suffering population.



At the local clinic where Eby volunteered, Haitians await medical attention (left). The landscape of this coastal town in mountainous, the hills covered in decrepit concrete houses.

Photos by Leah Eby

## 'PETER PAN': A TIMELESS TALE REENACTED



**Ugochi Onyema**  
Senior Managing Editor

On February 19, the Clayton High School Drama Department's production of 'Peter Pan' commenced. A strong ensemble cast supported the musical, a fundamental detail that sophomore Ian Miller, believes was imperative to the success of the production. Miller, who played the lead character, Peter Pan, approves of the aura that the cast created during the formation of the musical.

"We were very strong as an ensemble because we all worked toward the advancement of the show as a whole," Miller said. "There was a lot of mutual trust, and that's the optimal environment for creativity."

According to Miller, the unity felt by the entire cast was evident even through the series of auditions.

"The auditioning process wasn't really directly competitive," Miller said. "I think that everyone was unsure and nervous about the outcome."

Theatre has been apart of Miller's life for a long time, so the move to the role of Peter Pan seemed like an obvious transition.

"I am very involved in the theatre department, and it was the next logical step," Miller said. "Each show is a great opportunity to develop my skills as a performer."

Miller believes that the difference in this year's production forced the cast to adapt a new type of energy on the stage.

"It was very ambitious from both technical and theatrical perspectives," Miller said. "The aim and focus of the show was much more youthful. Thus, it required a different form of energy that is nearly inexhaustible."

Although the cast played a large part in the smoothness of the musical, the production would never have been successful without the technical crew. Miller said that although the crew experienced a few missteps, they were consistently prepared.

"We had a wonderful, competent technical crew to guide the course of things. We encountered a number of difficulties, between microphones failing and wardrobes falling. They really tested our resilience as a team, but we pressed through and still delivered on our performances."

Through the process of the production of 'Peter Pan', Miller embarked upon a journey of self-analysis, and he came to the realization that what he most appreciates about theatre the manner in which it forces him to self-reflect.

"The thing I like the most about theatre is the ability to explore new worlds and bring a person to life from inside of you, then display that being to your audience," Miller said. "Even after a show is over, you can take something away from it. Increasing your understanding of humanity and deepening your personality by meshing yourself with a character is another positive aspect of theatre." ☺

**COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:** Seniors Nathan Crall, Patrick Cunningham, Mariah Smith, junior Nick Oliveri and others perform in the CHS production of 'Peter Pan'. Sophomores Ian Miller and Ruthie Polinsky portray Peter Pan and Wendy, respectively. Miller in the midst of a scene with senior Tracy Einstein (Tinkerbell). Miller watches the action on stage. Senior Susie Wirthlin, Miller and the rest of the ensemble performing a musical number. Crall and Oliveri hilariously committing to their roles of Smee and Captain Hook, respectively. The ensemble, including Miller, Einstein, sophomore John Holland and junior Meredith Redick. Redick (Slightly) and two fellow lost boys make a scene. Amanda Wagner and Alex Yepez dance around the stage. Holland's John Darling has a moment. Miller soaring above the crowd as Peter Pan. Einstein's Tinkerbell prances about the stage. According to Miller, the entire ensemble contributed to the success of the play, as they had to endure trials and tribulations such as 'microphones failing and wardrobes falling.' Although there were several obstacles, the cast and crew were more than able to evoke a type of energy with which they previously were not required to acquaint themselves.

