

“Our goal is to preserve the residential character of Davis Place as we grow to accommodate our growing congregation.”

Eric Schmidt
Executive Administrator



Despite controversy, final WMS plans approved

Noah Eby
Co-Editor in Chief

For years, Wydown Middle School has been the subject of scrutiny from the community. Among the building's problems are its small size, its design that makes student flow difficult, and a lack of modernity that is reminiscent of the 1950s. Last week, the district took a significant step to address these issues.

The Clayton Board of Education (BOE) approved a resolution at their Feb. 9 meeting to move ahead with the Wydown reconstruction project, overriding a unanimous vote of disapproval from the City of Clayton's Plan Commission Architectural Review Board. The BOE vote, which needed a two-thirds majority of the seven-member body, was 5-1, with Omri Prais not present and Brad Bernstein opposing.

"Times have been more painful than others, but you have to keep your eye on the prize," WMS Principal Mary Ann Goldberg said after the meeting. "And the prize is a really fabulous learning environment for the kids, and you never, ever lose sight of that."

The process to bring a new structure to 6500 Wydown Blvd. has indeed been painful. Members of the community, especially those living in Skinker Heights, Wydown Terrace and Hillcrest, have spoken out against the plans and the district's handling of the planning and design process.

"I think that the process that the School Board engaged in was one of misleading the public to the plan," said Jeanne Most, treasurer of the Hillcrest Homeowners Association.

Wydown was not included in the 2009 bond issue Prop S because of talks with Washington University regarding the possibility of the middle school being moved to the CBC building on Clayton Road. The city's discontent and widespread outcry from the community led the school district to take the CBC site off the table.

"We woke up a sleeping giant with the whole Wash. U controversy, and that giant never went back to sleep," BOE President Sonny Buttar said.

Wydown Tomorrow, a committee composed of many members of the community, was selected to brainstorm and research options for the Wydown site, considering a renovation and reconstruction of the current building. In the end, the district placed a \$39.4 million bond issue, Prop W, on the April 2010 ballot to construct a new building. Plans drafted by Wydown Tomorrow, in cooperation with architect Bond Wolfe, were used to promote the bond issue.

"[The Wydown Tomorrow plans] were all within the setbacks," Most said. "Nobody ever spoke during the Wydown Tomorrow design process about the new school option or the renovation ignoring the setbacks in

the design." But when the plans were changed after Prop W passed, many community members felt that the district had pulled a "bait and switch," having the community vote on one plan and then drastically changing it.

"In your meetings, in your reports, in your Prop W campaign materials, brochures, District websites, meeting materials, even a Facebook page sponsored by [the] School District, the Board of Education and School District represented to the voters and residents of Clayton

"Times have been more painful than others, but you have to keep your eye on the prize. And the prize is a really fabulous learning environment for the kids, and you never, ever lose sight of that."

Mary Ann Goldberg
WMS Principal



Arcturis/Neumann Monson

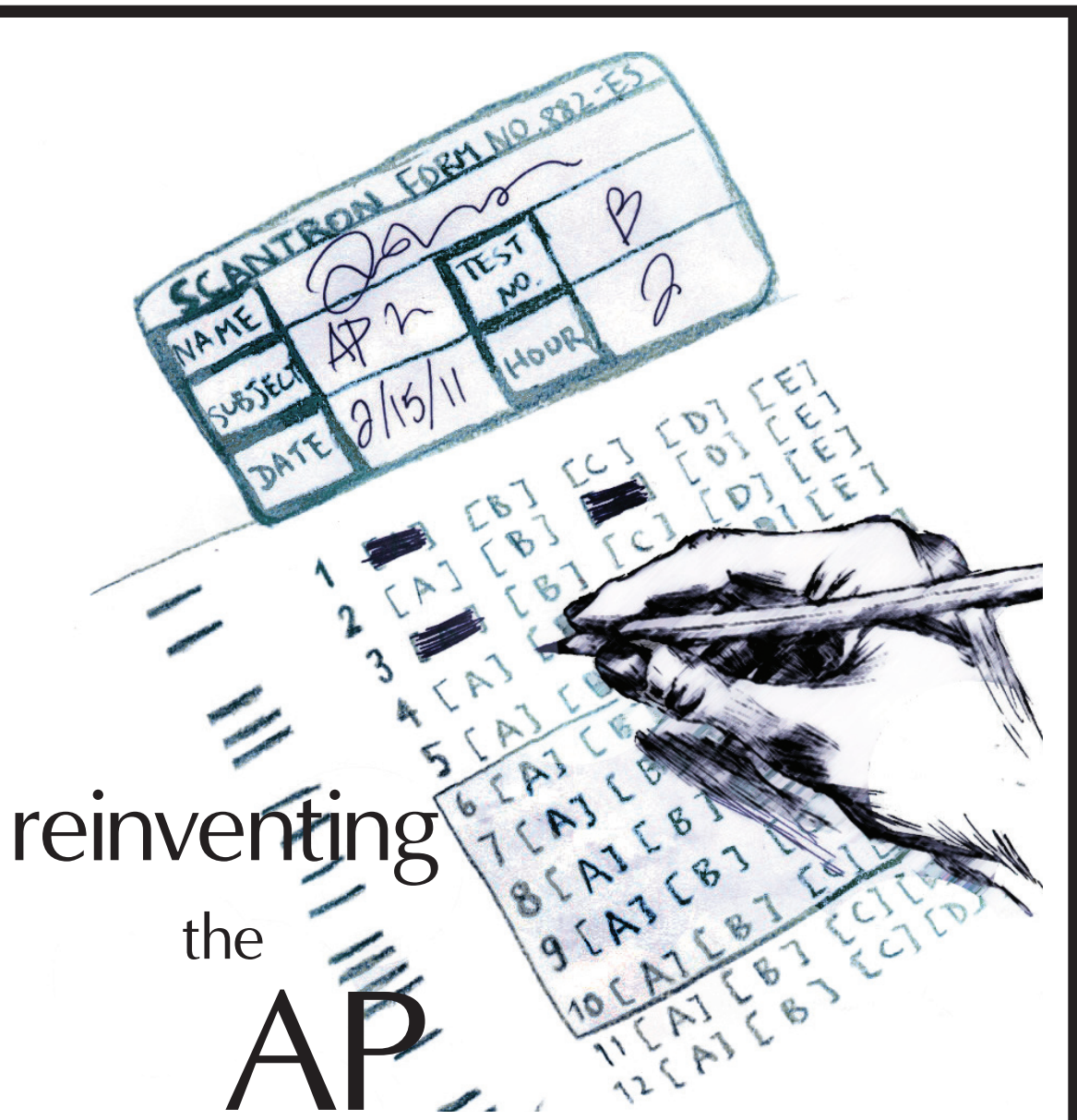
An architect's rendering of the exterior of the planned WMS building, showing the rounded parapet and spandrel glass windows. In addition to finalizing the exterior, the BOE approved a resolution on Feb. 9 to override the ARB's disapproval of the design and move forward with construction, which will begin this spring.

that a vote for Prop W would be a vote for building the new middle school according to the [Wydown Tomorrow] site plan," wrote Hillcrest trustee Stan Mulvihill in a letter read by Most at the Feb. 9 BOE meeting.

BOE President Sonny Buttar explained this apparent discrepancy in multiple ways. She said that Wydown Tomorrow and Bond Wolfe were not drafting schematic plans – they were only doing a feasibility study to determine whether it was even possible to construct a new building.

In addition, they did not deal with title work or do an extensive survey of the property because the district did not want to have more money than they had to in a feasibility study that was simply determining if a new building was even possible. Buttar said that because they did not deal with title work, the district discovered after Prop W that the property line on one side was off in the Bond Wolfe plans.

WMS Redesign, pg. 2



reinventing the AP

by Jocelyn Lee

The College Board is revamping and rethinking curriculums and exams in several Advanced Placement (A.P.) subject areas. By cutting back the amount of content to be covered in some of the courses, the College Board aims to shift the focus toward building deeper understandings of curriculum material.

By definition, an A.P. class is supposed to emulate a college-level one. It is developed with the help of college faculty and designed to cover "the breadth of information, skills, and assignments found in the corresponding college course," according to the College Board. Most significantly to some, it gives high school students the opportunity to earn college credit.

Some are concerned that the changes will make the courses and exams less demanding, and, perhaps, no longer "college-level." However, in A.P. classes such as Biology where memorization can become burdensome for students, some of the revisions might be for the better.

"The changes in the A.P. exam will certainly make for more 'fun bio,'" junior Fergus Inder said.

AP curriculum, pg. 6

Cafeteria works to find balance between nutrition and taste

Sarah Blackwell
Editor

The cafeteria constantly changes for the better. Chartwells, the company that caters to CHS' cafeteria, aims to make the menu cheaper and healthier.

In approximately one month, the Board of Education will examine the cafeteria food, as it does every five years. In preparation, the School District of Clayton has been making recent advances to the menu. It has become healthier, but must also appeal to the students.

"We actually decided two things have to happen," Chartwells representative Bridget Jordan said. "Number one we need better nutrition and number two we have to educate the kids."

In order to get the kids to eat the healthier food presented to them, Jordan thinks that they need to know why nutrition is important.

"Teach them why whole grain is

better," Jordan said. "Why low fat is better. We've got some programs in place in the elementary schools that will help to do that."

Another goal for a healthier student population is for students to eat whole meals instead of less nutritious snacks.

"We know that you guys can go out and get whatever you want as far as Subway and open campus," Jordan said. "So what we are trying to do is make it inviting for the students to stay here in school to pick up a meal."

These full meals have been carefully formulated with the help of dietitians from Fontbonne University. The healthiest options are part of a new "balanced choice line."

"We try to push three things: low fat dairy, whole grains and fresh fruits and vegetables. You pick a meal and you get all these components," Jordan said.

In order to lower the fat in the meals, the elementary schools have

purchased combi ovens, which steam and bake the food to keep the juices inside, making it taste fried, but without any added fat. There is a computer program used to calculate the nutritional information in each meal.

"We put the whole meal together so the computer actually draws up the whole nutritional value of the meal so you know it meets the criteria of no trans fats, the right amount of carbohydrates, the right amount of protein, not too many calories but enough calories," Jordan said.

But there are a lot of calories in each meal, especially for an elementary student.

MyPyramid.gov advises that children four through eight years old have anywhere from 1,200 to 1,800 calories a day, and children nine through 13 have 1,600 to 2,200 calories a day.

Cafeteria nutrition, pg. 4



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Leading the way in sustainability

Clayton's Green Power Community Challenge puts it at the forefront of the environmental movement.

Wind turbines from Blue Grass Ridge Wind Farm in Kings City, MO, one of many wind farms that AmerenUE has supported through its Pure Power program. Clayton partnered with Ameren and Microgrid Energy last spring to begin the process of becoming a Green Power Community.

Zach Praiss
Community Editor

Clayton has a history of being a leader in sustainability and environmental protections. In the 1990s, the city instituted one of the first recycling programs in the region. Several years ago, it pioneered a single-stream recycling program and at the start of this year Clayton was of the first municipalities in St. Louis to enact a public smoking ban. Now, Clayton is on its way to becoming the first Green Power Community in the state of Missouri.

In the spring of last year, Clayton launched a citywide effort in a partnership with AmerenUE Pure Power and Microgrid Energy to become a Green Power Community. To gain this recognition by the Environmental Protection Agency, the city must have 2 percent of its total energy consumption coming from clean renewable energy sources.

"Green power is just a piece of sustainability," said Cindy Bambini, the team leader of the Clayton's Green Power Community Challenge with AmerenUE Pure Power. "You have to look at your waste, you have to look at your recycling, and you have to look at your transportation. And Clayton has taken a holistic approach to this and [the Green Power Community Challenge] was just another nut to crack for this community."

In the Green Power Community Challenge, Clayton residents and businesses can voluntarily either purchase renewable energy credits (RECs) or install on site renewable energy systems like solar panels to help the city come closer to the 2 percent renewable energy target.

"The involvement of our two companies – Ameren's Pure Power Program and Microgrid – is about helping make it easier to participate in the challenge by providing

different options for residents and businesses," Rick Hunter, the Chief Executive Officer of Microgrid Energy, said.

Pure Power is AmerenUE's voluntary renewable energy program. Residents and businesses can simply enroll by choosing to add a little to their monthly energy bill to offset their energy consumption through RECs, which go towards supporting the construction of large-scale renewable energy projects in Missouri. Although they are not directly utilizing the new renewable energy from wind farms being built with the support of the Pure Power program, the overall amount of green power on the grid is increasing.

Many Clayton residents and businesses have embraced the challenge and signed up for Pure Power to reduce their carbon footprint and help Clayton come closer to completing the challenge.

"The challenge has been very

well-received in the community," City of Clayton Mayor Linda Goldstein said. "Dozens of local businesses and many Clayton residents have signed on to the challenge. It's very exciting."

Currently, 29 Clayton businesses and 193 residents have signed on to the challenge. Local businesses, which expend a substantial amount of the city's total energy consumption, have made a significant difference by signing on for the challenge.

"The business community has been phenomenal," Bambini said. "We went to the top 50 consumers of electricity in the city and so far, 29 of them have committed to the challenge, which is outstanding."

The Moneta Group is among the businesses in Clayton to support the city in accomplishing the challenge.

"Participating in the Clayton Green Power Community Challenge is just another way for us to make



a positive contribution to the community," Moneta Group Principal Tim Halls said. "Regardless of your beliefs on global warming, there's no arguing that the supply of fossil fuels is finite, and we need to develop cost-efficient alternative sources of energy before we run out of coal, gas and oil. Participating in the challenge is a very small price to pay to advance that effort."

In addition to helping Clayton complete the challenge, purchasing RECs through Pure Power invests in green energy construction projects solely in the state of Missouri.

"When you purchase a REC from Missouri's wind farms, not only do you get the environmental benefits but you are getting the economic benefits that come from a large construction project in Missouri," Bambini said.

RECs purchased through the Pure Power program currently support the Farmers City Wind Farm located in the northwestern corner of the state. The development of the wind farm has created 150 permanent jobs and raised over \$600,000 in tax revenue annually. It consists of 73 turbines and produces enough electricity to power approximately 33,000 homes annually.

"It takes a second to enroll, but the impact on Missouri is long term," Bambini said.

Clayton residents and businesses also have the option to install onsite renewable energy systems to help the challenge. People can work with renewable energy installation companies like Microgrid Energy, which is

based in Clayton and specializes in energy efficiency and the installation of photovoltaic solar panels. More than a dozen residents are currently considering installing solar panels and through a federal grant the new Clayton Police Station will have solar panels.

The City of Clayton has set Earth Day 2011, April 22, as the deadline for the challenge. Today, the city is approximately 87 percent of the way to reaching the 2 percent renewable energy target goal. As a result, every household and business that signs on to the challenge can make a significant difference in helping Clayton becoming the first Green Power Community in Missouri.

"It sets an example for other communities," Goldstein said. "It's a challenge for us to do it, but then it's also a challenge for other communities to do it... It also creates an awareness in the community that encourages residents to be more environmentally thoughtful in their daily life and decisions."

If Clayton were to complete this challenge, it would be among the 33 other cities across the nation that have achieved the status of a Green Power Community - continuing to be at the forefront of community sustainability and environmental awareness.

"I think the main benefit [of participating in the challenge] is helping the community achieve something great," Hunter said. "I think it would be an exciting thing to say that we would be the first Green Power Community in Missouri." ☺

Change finally coming to Wydown Middle

After an at times arduous planning and design process, the Board of Education decided last week to move forward with the Wydown construction project.

Continued from pg. 1

Architects Arcturis, which has never before done a school, and Neumann Monson, a firm from Iowa, then drafted plans for the new building. After repeated delays – meetings were rescheduled from October 2010 to November to early January 2011 and finally to Jan. 18 – the Clayton Architectural Review Board (ARB), after reviewing the plans, voted unanimously to recommend that the district not move forward. The ARB cited the mass, extent, and character of the design in its disapproval.

"I believe this school was designed to be built in a rural or suburban setting, and it's not designed as an urban-looking school," ARB Chairman Harold Sanger said.

Under Missouri state statute, the district is able to override the ARB's decision. Yet the fact that the ARB meeting was postponed so significantly has put the district in a hurry.

"This has been put off and put off and put off," Buttar said. "And in order to meet our timeline of getting this building done by the fall of [2013] we have to be breaking ground this March."

At a Feb. 3 public workshop, one community member questioned why the district was asking the community for input "at the eleventh hour," just a week before it would decide whether to move forward with the plans. It has become a common sentiment among some in the community that the district has lost something in its rush to finish the designs and move on according to the timeline.

"It is my opinion that they are going too quickly, and they have the wrong architect, and they are sacrificing not the right product for an arbitrary time schedule," Sanger said. "The school's been there a long time, students have suffered and I'd prefer them not to suffer, but if it took them another year and they got it right, 10, 15, 20 years down the road who's going to care?"

A proposal to speed up the construction that has been an option since the Facilities Master Plan is to move

students off-site, which could cut construction time in half while avoiding the loss of certain amenities (gym, theatre, field, etc.) during construction. In addition, it would be about \$1.6-2.2 million cheaper, according to an SM Wilson estimate.

Buttar said that the BOE has pushed to have all options explored concerning where students will go during construction, calling it an "open issue" that "doesn't need to be decided right now."

"[Moving kids off-site] is something that, if there's significant enough savings – which we don't yet know, it's too early – we would like to reevaluate it and we would like to see what the options are for where kids could be," Buttar said.

Issues raised with the current designs are numerous.

Other than the physical appearance of the building – which many argue is too institutional and does not correspond with the architecture of the neighborhood – one of the most prominent complaints is the large size of the building, which does not meet setback guidelines.

"Nobody wants the building to be ugly, but changing the exterior from one option to another with windows of one sort or another – those don't address the basic issues of arbitrarily overbuilding on a limited site."

Buttar said that this "overbuilding" is a result of a site that is far too small, and that the BOE has "turned over every rock." To go back now and try to redo the nine-month design process would be, according to Buttar, "ridiculous."

Safety concerns have been voiced regarding the road that will run through part of the campus, leading from Wydown Blvd. to the underground parking garage. Mechanical gates will be installed to prevent students from entering the road when they should not, and while the gates have not yet been designed, Buttar said they will be done with maximum attention to safety.

Finally, the specifics of the large, regulation-sized field are not yet clear. Some community-members, including Most, are concerned that the district will decide to use



Architect's renderings of the designs for the new Wydown Middle School, as approved by the Board of Education last week. The BOE decided on a number of exterior characteristics at the Feb. 9 meeting, including a non-extending bay window (above left), a rounded parapet (above right) and large spandrel glass windows (below).

artificial turf on the field, which is also used by Parks and Rec, and the community as a green space.

"I certainly wouldn't call it a green space if it's artificial turf," said Parks and Rec. Department Director Patty DeForrest. She added that she thinks the district should build the field with the students in mind, not Parks and Rec. or the city.

Only time will tell what exactly the final Wydown Middle School looks like, inside and out. But it is certain that the process to plan and design a new school has been an arduous one, a journey that has seen countless irritated, upset and frustrated comments from the community. Though there has undoubtedly been positive feedback as well – Buttar said she has received many emails supporting the Board – the process has often been bitter.

Buttar maintained that the process has been open, and that although the final design may not be desirable for all, it is the result of what has been a long and thorough process.

"There is a difference between saying you're input was not solicited and what you want not being a part of the final plan," Buttar said. "There's a big difference. I can guarantee you access and voice and an opinion, I can't guarantee you that the result will be what you want."

Brad Bernstein took a slightly different view of the controversy that has enveloped the redesign project. In a prepared statement that he read at the Feb. 9 BOE meeting before voting against the resolution to move forward, he explained his apprehension to move forward with a process that has received so much flak and criticism.

"If we settle on the current design without trying to figure out what is causing so much consternation from so many parts of the community who would not normally weigh in at this level of concern – the well-respected City Planning and Zoning Commission Architectural Review Board, who are involved in construction projects all the time, that unanimously rejected our design; both aldermen from Ward I; a large group of realtors whose business depends on the successful growth and development of our community – we are not, in my opinion, living up the trust that is placed in us by the enormous latitude we are given," Bernstein said.

SM Wilson will put out the first bid package, which will be mostly for site work, on Feb. 22, according to Director of Communications Chris Tennill. The BOE is scheduled to approve the low bidders on March 16, and ground will be broken within a few weeks of bids being approved. ☺

Residents call for reverse in parking lot plans

Jake Bernstein
Editor

Central Presbyterian Church and the Davis Place subdivision have coexisted for over 75 years. With neighborhood residents complaining about growing parking problems and the church proposing to demolish three houses to solve the problem, a conflict has arisen.

In October 2010, the city of Clayton implemented a parking restriction in the Davis Place neighborhood for non-residents. The restriction limits non-resident parking to one hour on weekdays and Saturdays on the neighborhood streets surrounding the church.

The church, which offers well-attended weekday ministries and a Wednesday night dinner, proposed to solve the parking problem by demolishing three houses and an apartment complex, all of which they own, to build a parking lot. The church sees the parking lot as a long-term solution to the resident's concerns.

"We are currently able to provide enough weekday parking for staff and our larger ministries only because we are able to use the old Schnuck's lot on the corner of Hanley and Clayton," Eric Schmidt, Executive Administrator for the church, said. "But, the Schnuck's property is for sale and can't be considered a permanent solution as can parking on our own site."

The Trustees of Davis Place, who referred to their January 30 letter to the church for comment, stated that they hoped the church would explore alternative options before deciding to move into further planning. The letter referenced the church's current plans as in "direct opposition" to the church's pledge to the neighborhood in 2006.

"Our goal is to preserve the residential character of Davis Place as we grow to accommodate our growing congregation," Schmidt said in the 2006 letter on behalf of the church. "Any development on the Biltmore side will be designed specifically to preserve the residential character of the neighborhood."

Schmidt explained that certain events have made it necessary for a change of plans. According to Schmidt, "the economic downturn" has affected their ability to raise funds and delayed the previously envisioned building project. In addition to a growing congregation, the parking restriction has brought the need for "weekday on-site parking" to support staff and ministries.

The church has an existing two-story, 181-space garage at their education facilities across Hanley Road. Longtime Davis Place resident Edward Rader conducted an individual parking lot study and questioned the church's need for additional parking.

"I went to the church parking lot on a number of different occasions, including Sundays and weekdays," Rader, who has lived in Davis Place since 1963, said. "I consistently found that there was a substantial number

of available parking spaces."

Though Rader's data spanned 20 visits to the church lot, he was unable to retrieve sufficient data for Tuesdays and Fridays, when the larger ministries supposedly meet. Nonetheless, he believes that his weekday traffic counts show that the church does not need additional parking.

Whether or not the parking lot is necessary is up for debate. However, everyone agrees that the current parking situation does not benefit either party. Junior Emma Vierod, who lives four houses from the church and one house from the proposed parking lot, is concerned about the current parking situation.

"It's frustrating to come home on Wednesday nights and Sundays and having to park on a completely different street because the spots near my house are all taken," Vierod said.

Rader agreed, and thought that if anything, the one-hour time restriction was too lenient.

Sonia Beard, a Davis Place resident and member of the church, said she saw the parking problem as minor in comparison to "the good that's being done in the church."

"Our outreach is global," Beard said. "The good that we do as a church body reaches way outside of my little family here. I think the people who complain about the cars being parked out there are being singularly focused and really don't see the big picture."

In addition, Beard said that the church is trying to solve the neighbor's complaints.

She said that the church was trying to be a good neighbor and wanted to hear every idea that the neighbors offered.

While the residents complained about the lack of parking, all agreed the current situation was not safe for pedestrians or drivers. Schmidt described the current situation: one parks at the "school garage of the Schnuck's lot" and is then required to walk "down Hanley with fast moving traffic immediately next to the sidewalk" to reach the church.

"This especially relates to the elderly and moms with young children, who comprise a large portion of our weekday ministry attendees," Schmidt said.

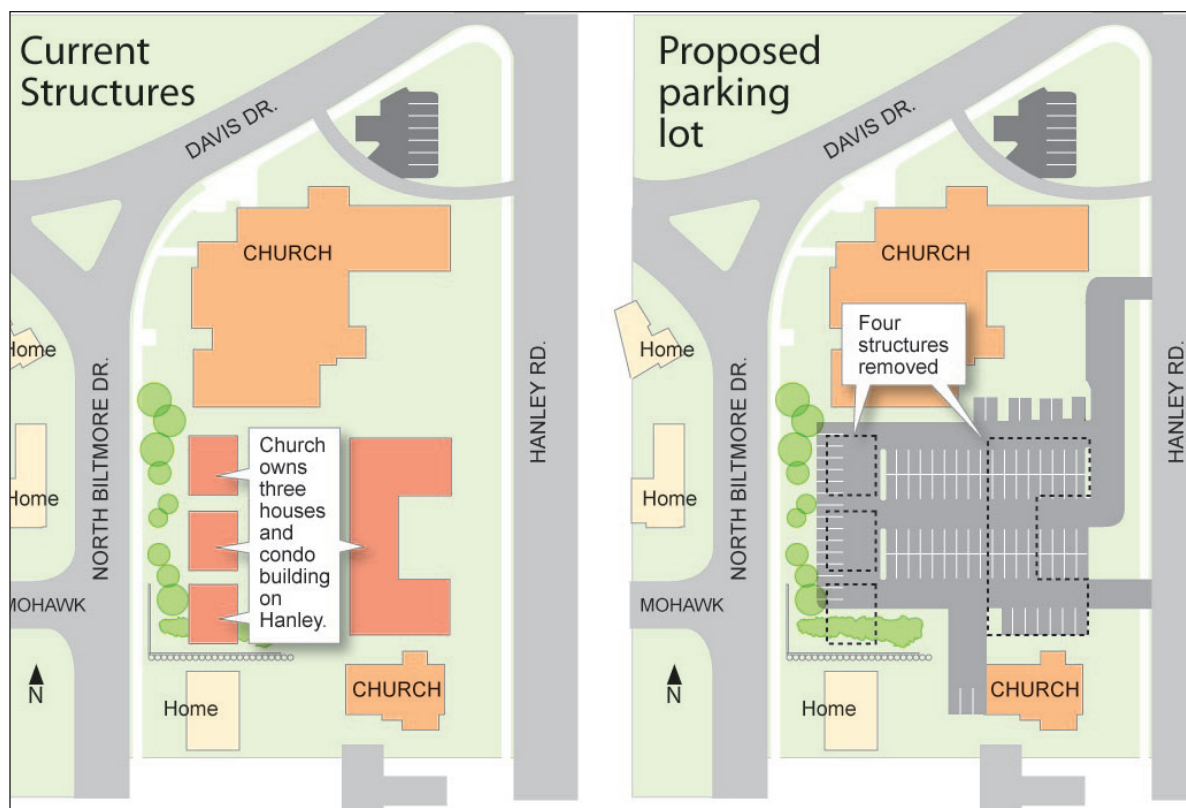
Cars often park on both sides of Davis Drive and other streets near the church. This makes it very difficult for cars to pass in opposite directions. As a Davis Place resident, Beard was familiar with people cutting through the neighborhood and called the current situation "not safe."

Rader offered a recent personal experience epitomizing Beard's concerns.

"On that Sunday [Jan. 23] which followed snowy weather, I came down Davis and there was an SUV coming right at me," Rader said. "In addition to the snow, cars were parked as they were on both sides. There was not much room to go by. Even when the weather's good,

"I went to the church parking lot on a number of different occasions, including Sundays and weekdays. I consistently found that there was a substantial number of available parking spaces."

Edward Rader
Davis Place resident



Courtesy of Davis Place News

ABOVE: The existing and proposed structure. As a part of the construction process, the church would replace residential homes and an apartment complex owned by the church with a parking lot for church employees. BELOW: The houses and condo buildings that are to be removed for the purpose of the construction project.

it's not safe."

In addition, since moving to Davis Place, Rader said that his side view mirror has been knocked off twice.

It seems most agree that the current situation needs is not acceptable. However the residents, for both monetary and aesthetic reasons, feel that a parking lot is not the solution.

The Trustees of Davis Place Jan. 30 letter to the church addressed these concerns. According to the trustees, destroying three homes in favor of a parking lot would threaten "the essential character of the neighborhood."

Because of these aesthetic concerns, Rader said that the parking lot would lower the property value of the entire neighborhood. According to Rader, the value of houses near the church will drop, and in turn, it will affect the value of the homes in the entire subdivision.

Schmidt said that ultimately, upon completion of all three phases of the church's planned construction, the aesthetic concerns would no longer apply.

"We hope that our investment in our site, when finished, will be viewed as a new green space amenity that will be pleasing to both current and future residents," Schmidt said.

Even if the aesthetic concerns were solved, Rader is not convinced that the current plans will solve the safety or parking problems. The proposed parking lot would have entry solely from Hanley Road. Rader questioned the parking lot traffic leaving and entering the lot.

"I can guarantee you, if you're number 50 on that parking lot and you have to wait to get out on Hanley Road, you will not be going back," Rader said. "You're

going to park on that parking lot once and then you are going to go back and park on our streets exactly the same way you have been doing it for the past 45 years."

According to Schmidt, the church rejected the Trustees' alternative proposal because it would "result in the loss of over a third of the planned parking." However, he said that the church was forming a team with the trust-

ees, city and county to research alternatives that would meet the needs of the all parties involved.

Beard thinks it is important to recognize that the church is in no way an evil institution trying to destroy the neighborhood. She said that the one-hour parking was presented as "a real positive" in the church and they were open to new ideas to "alleviate the feelings of the neighbors."

"The main thing that is unfortunate is that so many people who live in Davis Place are unhappy with what's

happening," Beard said.

Rader agreed with Beard in that aspect. "It is a difficult problem that is not new, one that has just gotten worse since the city stopped giving out 'restricted parking' cones," Rader said. "However, I think that the church are nice people. They are not mean. I just don't think they are using what they got."

While neighbors are wary, the church is confident that they will be able to meet the needs of their congregation and concerns about parking in the community. Both the church and Davis Place residents hope that a solution can be agreed upon which will meet both of their goals: allowing for better parking accommodations for church members and maintaining the character of the neighborhood. ☺

"The main thing that is unfortunate is that so many people who live in Davis Place are unhappy with what's happening."

Sonia Beard
Church member,
Davis Place resident

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Infamous Author Project consumes break

Anna Williams
Reporter

The dreaded author project has once again reared its ugly head at CHS. For years, juniors in the honors American Lit classes have gone through the process of choosing an author, researching their lives and finally writing a paper on them.

However, it is much easier said than done. The mere task of choosing an author was challenging.

Although all the authors have one thing in common, that is being an American author; they all have very unique and different writing styles and genres. Juniors were required to choose one such as Jack London, Isaac Isaminov, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Jack Kerouac and Philip K. Dick, just to name a few.

The requirements pertaining to the research included reading a biography of the author and completing 50 note cards containing quotes on how the author's life influenced his or her work, finding three scholarly articles and annotating them according to the guidelines the English teachers gave, and finally gathering three pieces of the author's work and annotating two of them while doing a split page journal entry over the third.

It sounds like a lot to do, however, juniors had a while to complete all of it. Yet even though a matter of months and all of winter break were given to complete the project, procrastination took its toll on many of the juniors.

"Technically I got my books as early as October, but I didn't start reading them until Winter break," junior Matt Mikesic said.

A vast majority of juniors used breaks to get their reading done.

"I got all my resources together near Thanksgiving break and started reading and annotating the last week of winter break," Riss said. "Everything was done by Tuesday of that week."

Some waited until the due date to finally finish up their projects. Overall, each student handled the project deadlines somewhat differently.

"Mrs. Teson let us turn our projects in as late as midnight that night," Mikesic said. "Of course she didn't col-



Anna Williams

lect them until 10:30 the next morning anyway."

No extensions or benefits were given to students under Mr. Hayward, however.

Wrapping the author project was also another task juniors had to undertake. The sole requirement was containing the project somehow in a box, but, depending on which teacher one had, some went to great lengths to wrap their projects, while others simply did not have the time.

"The last thing on my mind was wrapping my project," Lachtrup said. "The only time where wrapping my project seemed like a good idea was when I turned in my project and all my note cards fell on the floor."

Although no extra credit was given for this by either teacher, some students wrapped them and decorated them elaborately, while others added a few minor details to their boxes.

"I used a shoebox because, thankfully my dad had one on hand," Mikesic said. "However, since it was late at night I hastily just slapped a piece of paper on the front and wrote a witty letter that had something to do with his life on it."

Though the author project may seem like a challenge to most students it does come with its fair share of both hard and easy tasks.

"I think the hardest part was narrowing down what

I would read," Daw said. "It was hard to just pick three books by Jack Kerouac, and I ended up reading his most popular novel, one of his more well-known novels."

On the contrary, choosing major works was the easiest part.

"The easiest for me was picking out major works," Mikesic said. "There were two of London's books that are really well known, White Fang and Call of the Wild. These obviously are the biggest books that he ever did, so I was able to choose quickly."

Though choosing three works might have been easy, many juniors would agree that actually taking time and reading the novels was the hardest part.

"Getting myself to do it was hard," Lachtrup said. "Self motivation in general was a challenge because so many people were leaving it for winter break and, normally, that's what I would've done, but I was pressed for time. Annotating was also really hard. It's hard to get lost in the work when you have to stop and mark down pages."

Yet, even though reading was challenging, it had its rewards. After putting so much effort into such a strenuous project, many students felt a strong sense of accomplishment at the end of the process.

"I felt so accomplished at the end of the day if I had read parts of the book," Daw said. "I was one step closer to reaching my goal, which was really awesome."

Though the project may be sound impossible and may scare off some sophomores, if the soon to be incoming juniors heed the advice of the current juniors, the project will not be as hard as it's made out to be.

"Firstly, pick an author that does things that interest you, not just an author who has a great literary reputation," Lachtrup said. "Also, getting my project done in December made me be able to have a completely relaxing break where I didn't have to worry or stress over it for hours."

While most students leave this monster project to do over break, some get done with plenty of time to spare.

"It can be done; you just have to be disciplined," Lachtrup said. "Don't procrastinate, I know you will, but try not to." ☺

College acceptances signal end to long, tedious process

Payton Sciaratta
Reporter

Every year seniors are stressing about the idea of college: Are my ACT/SAT scores good enough? Is my GPA high enough? Which teachers should I get recommendations from and what should I write my personal essay about?

The application process is often long and tedious, as well as very time consuming.

"It was pretty stressful because I didn't get on the ball quick, so I was kind of behind with it all," senior Beau Hayden said.

Even though the application process depends mostly on the student, the family is very important for making the decision on where a student should apply. For senior Phoebe Raileanu, it was very hard because her family was not there for her.

"It was very stressful because I don't have my family here to help me," Raileanu said. "I also did everything early decision so I had to have everything done by November first, but once I heard I got in the first week in December it was such a relief to be done. So it was totally worth it."

One of the most important parts to the college application process is writing the personal essay because it

is the one way for a student to write about whatever they want, and stand out. English class senior year is very helpful in this part of the application.

"Choosing the actual topic for the essay is often times difficult because there are so many different directions," senior Deanna Depke said.

English classes senior year are very helpful in this part of the college application process because students begin writing their personal essays in class. The teachers are accommodating to this component because they can offer ideas and suggestions, as well as commentary.

Many seniors applied to numerous schools, from as little as one to 12. Depke who applied to 12 schools received an acceptance letter from 10, and is still anticipating an acceptance letter from her top choice: Emory.

While Hayden applied to 10 schools, and was relieved to be accepted to all of them, including his top choice Tulane.

"I ended up only applying to one school, George Washington," Raileanu said. "I finished my entire NYU application, but I stayed up all night doing my George Washington application so that was the only one I submitted and I ended up getting in. I was so excited!" ☺

While receiving the acceptance letters can often times be relieving, the effort and time put into the process is often very rigorous. Many students are spending on average 10 to 15 hours on the entire application process.

"Dealing with the counseling office was probably the most rigorous part of applying for college because sometimes the schools didn't have all my transcripts and stuff so I had to go in and talk to the counselors about all of that," Depke said.

As far as applying to schools, a majority of the stress can be avoiding if students keep up with the applications and do not fall behind.

"I would recommend that juniors start looking at schools now and be informed, don't be afraid to ask questions and don't get behind," Hayden said.

Even though CHS has been preparing students for college since freshman year, it is important that students realize how much work applying can really be.

"The college process is not so much actually doing it, it's more like getting instructions what you need to be doing and thinking as well," Hayden said. "It's a lot of contemplating if you want to go to certain colleges or what majors you want to pursue." ☺



Emma Riley

Student-run fashion show looking to be a success

Maia Massad
Reporter

This year's entirely student-run Fashion Show at CHS will demonstrate to the Clayton community that teenagers can create fashion and run a successful fashion show.

The members of the CHS Fashion Club are preparing to create a night of fashion on March 5, when students will model other students' fashion creations. Members of the club have been hard at work and are hopeful that this student-run fashion show will be successful.

The fashion show, held in Stuber Gym, will be on March 5. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. The pre-party will start at 7 p.m., and the show will start at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$8 for students, \$12 for adults, and \$20 for VIP seating.

In previous years, the wardrobe

classes have sponsored the semi-annual fashion show. However, due to the lack of wardrobe classes this year, the Fashion Club has taken it upon itself to sponsor the fashion show.

"The CHS Fashion Club is stepping in to make some magic," president of Fashion Club Grace Brumley said. "Many fabulous and talented students are in the process of whipping out garments for the show. This year we decided to make the show unlike any CHS has seen before."

Fashion Club has been hard at work for the past few months to make this totally student-run show happen. Having a club makes planning something like this more fun because each member has a ton of creative freedom.

The theme of the fashion show will be "Club Diamond." Everything will be pink and silver, with a heavy Marilyn Monroe influence, which will highlight the student-made gar-

ments.

"Tons of retailers wanted their stuff in the show, but this fashion show is just about student work," vice-president of Fashion Club Andie Glik said.

"This show is a bunch of hard-working teenagers putting on display their creativity and work to benefit an organization, KUTO, a non-profit charity that helps suicidal kids our age."

However, retailers, such as Brown Shoe Company, Paul Mitchell Hair Academy, Zeizo Boutique, Dos Resale Shop, and others, are sponsoring the fashion show. Junior student contributor Sydney Wright has been busy designing and

sewing clothes to put in the fashion show.

"Mostly I have been focusing on designing and creating the clothes that I am putting in the show,"

Wright said. "The clothes I have made so far are a three-quarter inch sleeve black velvet mini-dress and a sleeveless cream-colored backless dress. I am currently working on black harem pants, a royal blue one-shoulder dress, and a blazer."

Fashion Club is preparing to make the show successful by staying focused, making improvements in plans and getting student ideas.

"There are new and different kids

at every meeting, who all have something to say," Brumley said. "I love this because my ideas aren't always what is going to be best for the show. I need input from others to make this show the most successful."

Freshman Wayne Sexton is the secretary of the Fashion Club, a very important role in the planning of the fashion show.

Brumley has been trying to keep everyone focused on achieving success.

"I've started collecting their finished garments early," Brumley said. "We've had some pow-wows to ensure everyone is on board with the amount they'll be putting on, when the deadlines are, and the quality of garments we expect. Every designer will be backstage with a needle, thread, and ripper in hand to make any last minute changes they feel are needed."

Attendees can expect to see wear-

able high fashion at this show.

"This show is going to be like a New York City fashion show because all of us are trying to think out of the box and the clothes are 'higher fashion' designs instead of everyday wear," Wright said. "We are not going to go full-on couture, though; we're making clothes that can actually be worn."

The show will be like New York Fashion week because there will be photo opportunities, a DJ (Clayton's very own Josh Fagin, better known as Jay-Fay), VIP gift bags, a backstage, and a pre-party. The difference is that students under age 19 will design the clothes.

"Paparazzi will be everywhere, taking pre-party pictures and runway shots," Brumley said. "This is the most upscale fashion show at Clayton yet. We're ready to showcase every student's talents and put on a show no one will forget." ☺

A B E T T E R A P ?

Jocelyn Lee
World Editor

Beginning in the fall of the 2011-2012 school year, the College Board will begin a rollout of major revisions to many Advanced Placement (AP) course curriculums and exams. One of the major goals of the reforms is to reduce the span of content covered to allow for a greater focus on deeper, analytical thinking.

The first changes to appear will be in AP World History, AP French Language and Culture, and AP German Language and Culture. The revisions to these courses will be set in motion next school year.

According to CHS AP coordinator and college counselor Carolyn Blair, teachers at CHS will be required to go through an AP Audit, starting in March.

"Part of this process requires teachers to submit a syllabus which will be reviewed by College Board," Blair said. "All teachers with changing curriculums will have to redevelop their class and therefore their syllabus to the satisfaction of the College Board in order to continue teaching the course."

Changes to the language courses are aimed to focus more on communication and cultural awareness, while the multiple choice section on the AP World History exam will have only four answer choices instead of five. In addition, the AP World exam will no longer penalize students for guessing by subtracting points from a student's score.

The AP World History curriculum remains mostly unchanged due to opposition from educators, according to CHS AP World teacher Donna Rogers-Beard.

"Most World History teachers objected to the radical changes because the World History AP course was the most recent course added to AP," Rogers-Beard said. "It would put a considerable pressure on schools that had recently adopted AP World and trained their teachers to now make the changes suggested. The revision committee agreed to reconsider their changes and to put things on hold for two more years."

The lack of serious change for the moment may be part of the reason why the spotlight is mainly centered on the new AP Biology and U.S. History curriculums and tests, set to be implemented in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years, respectively. Also in the 2012-13 school year, revised AP Latin and AP Spanish Literature and Culture courses will take effect.

According to the College Board's website, the AP Biology revisions intend to "make 'doing science' a centerpiece for the revised course." More so than some of the other changing courses, AP Biology will experience a slightly different classroom dynamic.

"Moving away from the lecture-and-demonstration model towards a collaborative approach to teaching biology, the re-designed course provides students many opportunities to take risks and to apply reasoning skills through the inquiry process,"

the College Board website said.

CHS AP Biology teacher Sally Lazaroff said she learned of the revisions to the course last spring when she received a draft copy of the changes from AP Central. Over the summer, she attended the national AP convention.

"Attempts were made to further explain the decisions to focus the biology curriculum around four big ideas, to shift pedagogy towards more inquiry, and to emphasize the interdisciplinary nature of the study of life science," Lazaroff said.

The "four big ideas" of the new curriculum are evolution, cellular processes, genetics and information transfer and ecology. Each is divided into "enduring concepts," and further organized into "essential knowledge" topics. The goal is for students to be able to make connections across the different subject areas.

"This will not be a big change for us," Lazaroff said. "Our science department already has a strong scope and sequence, and a belief that there should be strong connections among the units of study and among the different disciplines of physics, chemistry and biology. There are 12 units of study in AP Biology. They are not studied as isolated concepts. Effort is made to point out the connections – chapters in the textbook are not isolated experiences."

In addition, the scope of material that students will be responsible for knowing on the AP test is less. The purpose of this is to allow more time for conceptual and inquiry-based thinking and understanding, according to the College Board. However, there are concerns that eliminating some of the memorization requirements will take away from the value of the class.

"The problem is that every organism, every biological process and every biomolecule in a biological process is named," Lazaroff said. "It becomes a foreign language, and hence the complaint that the study of biology is encyclopedic and requires a great deal of memorization. I think the language of biology is important, and despite the changes in the organization of the curriculum, this problem will not disappear. We will continue to use the terms and to know the names and to value the significance of using the language."

Sam Harned teaches AP U.S. History, or American History, at CHS. He, too, voiced concern about the College Board revisions.

"A lot of times these kinds of changes are smoke screens for really watering down the curriculum, watering down content," Harned said. "It's kind of like if people can't remember things, let's just change the format of the test so they don't have to remember things. Well, you kind of have to remember things in history."

Harned said he does not have any major problems with the current AP U.S. History exam, nor does he have any problems with memorization of material. He said the course is rich in content as it is now, so he is not looking forward to the changes.

"The smell of it is a little fishy, and some other people I've talked to feel the same way," Harned said. "They're a little worried that this is just a way to eliminate a lot of things so that people don't have to worry about remembering them and that maybe they can just get by a little easier."

Although the actual revisions may be for the better or worse, there is good cause for change, especially in AP Biology.

"The current AP Biology curriculum has a problem in that the school year keeps shrinking – earlier exams in May – yet the biology textbooks continue to increase in size with rapid changes in technology that allow for new research and understanding of molecular biology," Lazaroff said.

So, the curriculum and exam revisions may come out of necessity. Students commonly find AP courses stressful because of the large amount of information they must know in order to perform well on the AP exam. Likewise, teachers sometimes feel pressured to adequately prepare their students for the test.

"The changes in the AP courses are being made to allow teachers to go into greater depth in their class by lessening the breadth of the curriculum," Blair said. "In theory this will allow teachers not to feel so hurried to cover all the topics presented on the test. There is a lot of pressure, just time-wise, on teachers to get everything into the year or semester. With all the interruptions that take place in the classroom this can be a challenge."

The revised curriculums may prove to be advantageous in promoting deeper understanding and fostering student interest in learning.

"The teachers will now have to delve much deeper into topics and ensure a greater understanding," Blair said. "This takes time as well, but if a student is really interested in a certain topic, there will now be more of an opportunity to explore those interests. I think the best we can hope for is perhaps the classes will be enjoyable for both teacher and student."

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

"A lot of times these kinds of changes are smoke screens for really watering down the curriculum, watering down content."

Sam Harned
AP U.S. History teacher

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The Student Perspective

For future students in AP Biology, the College Board's revisions to the course curriculum may help relieve some of the problems that current students face.

Senior Alison Bayly takes AP Biology, and she said that at



Third period AP Biology students perform labs required by the College Board. Upcoming revisions to the course curriculum will focus more on lab work and include student inquiry-based labs. ABOVE: Junior Johnny Wong measures his blood pressure. RIGHT: Juniors Dylan Schultz, Marguerite Daw, Xiaoya Wu, and Shuyang Li collect lab data.

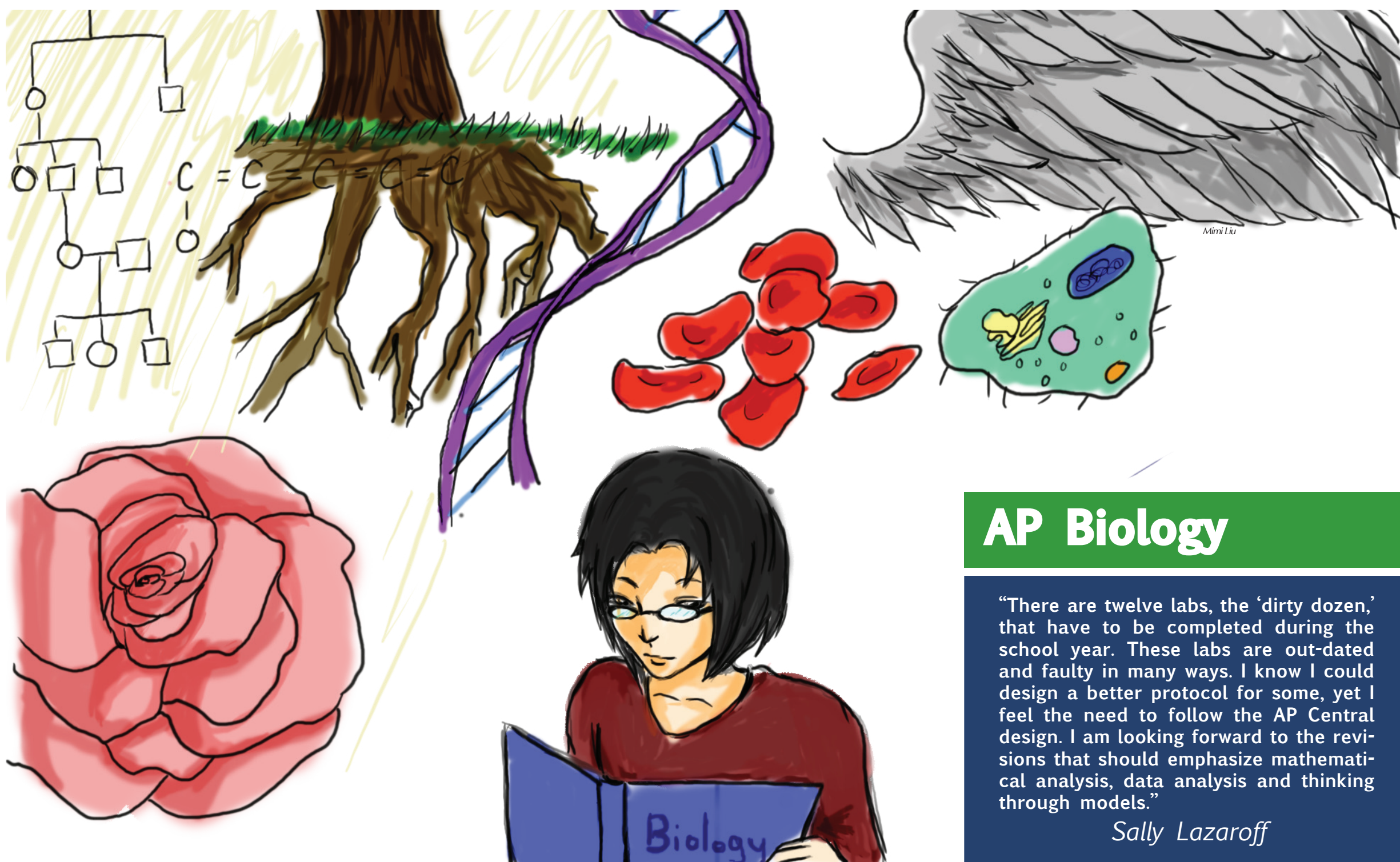
Free Response Questions

the trend of the data

AP Exam Scores - AP

Year	Mean Score
1990	3.06
2000	3.02
2010	2.86





AP Biology

“There are twelve labs, the ‘dirty dozen,’ that have to be completed during the school year. These labs are out-dated and faulty in many ways. I know I could design a better protocol for some, yet I feel the need to follow the AP Central design. I am looking forward to the revisions that should emphasize mathematical analysis, data analysis and thinking through models.”

Sally Lazaroff

many colleges she has visited, lab work in the classroom differs from high school level work in terms of student initiative and independence.

“They do labs where you have to come up with the idea,” Bayly said, “and if you’ve never been exposed to coming up with your own ideas for labs, that can be difficult.”

Regarding the AP Biology course, Bayly said that it is hard for both students and teachers to handle such a large amount of course content in such a short period of time. As a result, it can be a challenge for students to develop a passion for the topics they are learning about.

“It cuts out a lot of time to do lab work and really expand on things if you have to cover so much material and move at a really fast rate,” Bayly said. “Students can’t really get hooked on anything if they’re just zooming through everything, and they might decide that Bio isn’t their thing, even if there is something that could potentially be of interest to them.”

Sophomore Hannah Bledsoe plans to take AP Biology during her senior year, the first year for the new curriculum and exam. The changes could have both benefits and drawbacks.

“I think the changes could be a good thing because it allows us to thoroughly understand the topics, not just memorize the material,” Bledsoe said. “This would be a benefit, but it would also mean that there would be material that I didn’t know, which could be a concern when it comes to college.”

Junior Fergus Inder also said he had concerns relating to college.

“The changes will also give students greater understanding in certain lab-focused areas,” Inder said. “However, I do think in a sense it’s dumbing it down. These concepts and names that

are to be memorized are probably expected to be memorized in college biology courses, which the AP class and exam are supposed to mirror. Call me undecided about the changes.”

According to junior Dan Peipert, an AP U.S. History student, memorization is inevitable in order to prepare for the final AP test. However, he said that his teacher brings out the big picture and points out what is most meaningful and important to know.

“[Harned] does a great job of explaining the overall changes and themes brought by significant events,” Peipert said. “I think that’s more important, and it’s probably what should be tested on anyway.”

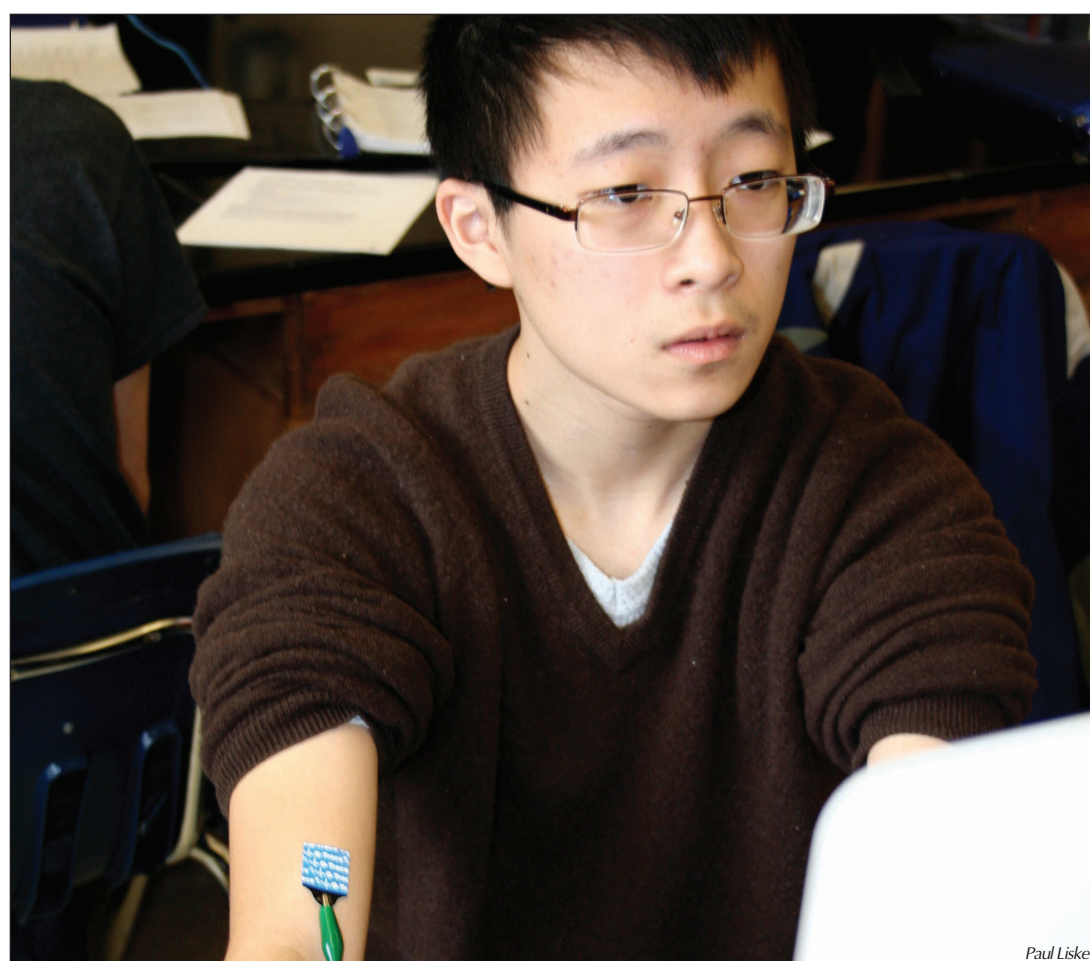
Likewise, the revisions to AP Biology are not a major concern among many students who will get to experience the changes.

“The newness of the curriculum might be a slight disadvantage, just because the teachers might still be working things out,” Bledsoe said. “But because AP Bio has been taught at CHS so long, I don’t think it will be much of a problem.”

Peipert said the changes to AP U.S. will, for the most part, be good.

In the larger scheme of things, the small pieces of information that will be cut from the curriculum will not be seriously missed.

“No one really cares about all the little things that happen so much,” Peipert said. “We’ll know there was a Progressive Era, but we won’t necessarily know all the things Theodore Roosevelt did during that time. The important things are what Theodore Roosevelt brought to the Progressive Era, not the acts that he did and the dates those acts started.”



Question: Interpret data below.

All Subjects:

Participants
490,299
1,272,317
3,213,225

Data from the College Board



AP U.S.

“If the changes make it more intellectually rich, then they’re good changes. If it makes it intellectually weaker, then they’re bad changes. It’s hard to say until we see the final deal.”

Sam Harned



News Briefs *What you need to know.*

A U.S. district judge ruled the health care bill unconstitutional since part of it requires that every person must buy insurance.

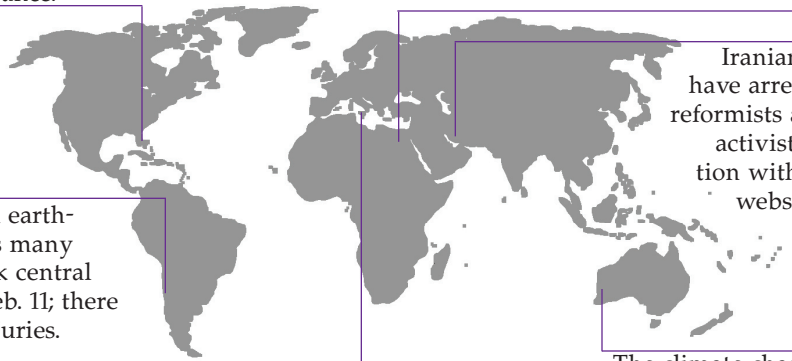
After 18 days of intense political protests, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak stepped down from power on Friday, Feb. 11 in the afternoon.

Iranian authorities have arrested several reformists and political activists in connection with a reformist website and rally.

The second earthquake in as many years struck central Chile on Feb. 11; there were no injuries.

Refugees from the unrest in Tunisia were fleeing to a Sicilian island on Feb. 11, forcing the Italian government to demand action from the EU.

The climate change department predicted that Australia's would rise by 24 percent by 2020.



The busy atmosphere of Shanghai is heightened at night when the lights and loud music make the city pulse.

Katherine Ren

Fast-paced trip to China points out differences, family bonds

Katherine Ren
Reporter

It had been nearly two years since I had gone back to visit. Two years doesn't seem like enough time for things to happen, for things to change. Although the trip would be the third time I visited China, it would be the first time I truly opened my eyes to the culture.

Lost in translation: that phrases wouldn't be an adequate way of describing it because I still speak the language. However the broken language barrier between my "birth place" and I still didn't allow me to truly understand what life was like on the other side of the globe. Having moved to the United States shortly after I turned one, the only connections I had to the country were achieved through the month long visits we took every couple of years.

However, my travels prior to the one in December left me only with impressions of China's material goods; the elaborate cityscape of Shanghai, the six-story malls, and the seven-course meals that came with every pair of chopsticks. I guess I could also say I had some recollection of the people. Or at least I remembered that there were a lot of them.

The trip lasted only as long as winter break permitted. That meant I only had a week of time to eat all the food I wanted to eat. It meant I had only a week to see all the places I wanted to see. And it meant I had only a week to spend time with the grandparents, aunts, and uncles I never got to see. A week. Seven days. Not enough time to leave an impression on anyone, or so I supposed.

After 13 hours of flying, we arrived at the Pudong Airport in Shanghai around 4 p.m. The atmosphere of the place seemed worlds away from the airport back in St. Louis. The airport was huge, yet there were few travelers. The absence of frantic commuters made the place quiet. The terminals were lined with high-end shops, each sporting their own elaborate window displays. And all the staff there seemed to be no older than the age of 30; the girls with their hair tucked neatly in a bun, decked out in suits, two-inch heels, and scarves. It seemed almost staged.

This, however, changed after we got past luggage claim. It was as if between there and the terminals, someone had switched off the mute button, and we were back on play. Wheeling around our massive load of suitcases, we were soon bombarded with other travelers frantically rushing to catch their next flight. Upon getting in line at the customs area, we were pushed by commuters rushing to their place in line. They swept by us without any words of apology, not even a mere "excuse me". I took it as a sign of cultural differences, but their lack of manners still came as a shock.

When we finally arrived in Wuhan, it was already midnight. The airport was on the outskirts of the city, about a half hour commute to my grandparent's house. As we sped down the highway, the driver paid little attention to the lane lines. Pale peach streetlights illuminated the

deserted road. Through the trees bordering the highway, you could see signs of the city. However it was too quiet, the car's engine being the only thing to fill the silence.

After living a week in Wuhan, Hubei's capital and the most populous city in central China, you begin to truly appreciate the luxury of having family cars. Taking a cab was the usual way of transportation, and if that failed there were always public buses. But due to the construction of seven subway stations, the roads were always blocked with traffic; turning a 15-minute commute easily into 45 minutes.

So it was impossible to get a taxi, and impossible to get onto a bus, for the buses always looked like the Metrolink after a Cardinals game. As a result, walking to places within five minutes away was the best solution. However as you walk on the sidewalk, you are also in danger of getting run over by mopeds.

Standing in the middle of a busy intersection felt like standing in the middle of the city. As you wait on the island for the light to turn green, you begin to see and feel the city. Sounds of horns and music blaring came from all directions. Dust drifted in the air, covering all cars with in a dirty suit. Kids sitting on the back of their parents' mopeds stare blankly into space as they eat sausages on a stick.

And when it rained, I saw couples huddled together under the same umbrella, mesmerized in each other's gazes. I saw businessmen frantically running in their suits, covering their heads with their leather man-purses. I saw mothers running, with their children in one hand and backpacks in the other.

When it rained, the city's dusty smell got swept away. But horns continued to beep, and stereos continued to sing.

The city came to life at night; the streets buzzed with street vendors and college couples on dates. The fog and air pollution gets swallowed in the darkness and is replaced with vibrantly flashing lights of an awakening city. I encountered workers handing out ad sheets every couple of blocks. I ignored them until I realized that they couldn't go home until they distributed a certain number of ads. So as a result, I found myself taking them regardless of what it was advertising.

The aspect of the country that left the deepest impression on me, however, was the people. It seemed as though my blood pressure increased every time I stepped foot outside. Life was like a giant race. People raced to get across the street; they raced to pay at the cash register; and they raced to get through the door. It was a nation where you had to fight to get to where you wanted to be.

I remember helping my uncle move in to their new home. As we got into the elevator, my mom, holding parts of a desk drawer, got

cut off by a man running into the elevator. He didn't hold the door open for her, nor did he wait for her to get on first; instead he took the last available spot leaving my mom waiting for the next elevator. This of course doesn't stand as an accurate representation of the whole nation, but it is still safe to conclude that nearly everyone seemed a lot more aggressive.

Coming back to the States, the thing I miss the most is the company we had in China. Living in the States only with my parents, I had forgotten the meaning of extended family. I never realized just how close we all could be even after years of separation.

It seemed as though the shortage of time made each moment we spent together even more precious.

My grandma had spent hours cooking upon our arrival and took the liberty of packing all her cooking into lunch boxes so we could eat right when we arrived at the airport. The moment I saw her face light up when she saw us, it occurred to me just how much pain the distance

between us had caused her. After the round of hugs, she held my hand and proceeded to chatter enthusiastically about how much I had changed.

When I arrived at my grandparent's house, I found that they had stashed the cupboard with all the snacks I had told them I liked from my previous

visit. My uncle had gone on a shopping spree for DVDs that he thought I might enjoy.

Visiting my great grandma, I found that her room was filled with pictures of when I was younger. Despite her age, it seemed as though she remembered all events that had occurred to me, even ones that I didn't remember.

My uncle took me out to eat at every restaurant possible, constantly bribing my parents into letting me go out for breakfast. My aunt took me out shopping, encouraging me to buy everything I remotely liked. From their small gestures, I could sense that they truly cared about me and wanted what was best.

The days that followed passed in the same rhythm. The city buzzed with strangers and home buzzed with enthusiastic chatter. Coming home to an empty house was awkward. I had gotten used to loud nights filled with the chattering of my relatives and the sizzling of a wok as we gathered in one dining room to eat.

The streets outside no longer sang with beeps of horns or dazzled with lights. Instead the sidewalks were deserted, only populated occasionally with someone walking their dog.

Yes, life had slowed down a pace; no more late night walks in city streets, full day shopping sprees, or elaborate seven course meals. Although I had traveled back to where I was born, I realized that home was still here, and that it was exactly where I wanted to be.



Tahrir Square in Cairo was full of ecstatic citizens as President Hosni Mubarak stepped down on the afternoon of Friday, February 11, 2011. After a speech by Mubarak on Thursday, the political action came as a surprise.

CHS alumna surprised, inspired by Egyptian political protests

After meeting apathetic youths while traveling in Egypt, Sarah Rangwala was surprised by recent political unrest.

Dawn Androphy
Co-Editor in Chief

Egypt, the most populous country in the Arab world, sent shockwaves internationally when they erupted into protests on Jan. 25, 2011 just a few weeks after the revolution in Tunisia. After decades of economic struggles and complaints about the more-than-questionable election results under the rule of President Hosni Mubarak, the straw had finally broken the camel's back. As a result of the protests, Mubarak stepped down from the presidency on Feb. 11 to the excitement of the protesters.

Sarah Rangwala, a recent CHS alumna who is pursuing an undergraduate degree at Washington University, was studying abroad in Alexandria from Sept. 2010 to Jan. 15 2011. She mainly lived in Alexandria during her time there, but also visited locations like Cairo and Luxor, during her time in Egypt. Despite her long stay, she rarely heard people speak negatively about Mubarak and never heard any positive statements about him.

"People didn't very often volunteer up information about Mubarak because it clearly wouldn't bode well for them to be caught bad-mouthing Mubarak to the wrong person," Rangwala said. "When my dad visited, he tried having political conversations with our taxi drivers and never got a much of a response. Sometimes us students could get into those topics of conversation after beginning with a bit of small talk. I did hear on occasion some less-cautious taxi drivers make snide comments or jokes about Mubarak without being prompted."

In direct contrast to the infrequent conversations about Mubarak, Rangwala saw evidence of the autocracy frequently, with signs of Mubarak and his son Gamal's face "everywhere".

In addition to observing the oppressive political environment, Rangwala observed an economic stratification that seemed impossible for most Egyptians to overcome.

"The most disheartening thing was knowing that no matter how high their resolve or how persistent they were, for the most part, it was not possible for regular Egyptians to achieve the rag to riches idea that we Americans are so proud of," Rangwala said. "Not that it is so simple here, but under Mubarak the important Egyptians are often the ones who have an 'in' with Mubarak, not necessarily the ones that are the most qualified or

most determined."

Despite sensing the overall discontent of Egyptians, Rangwala didn't expect a protest of such great magnitude to occur in Tahrir Square. Although a few protests had been planned for the local election and other controversial events during her time in Alexandria, they never amounted to anything.

As a result, she didn't initially think much of the news of protests in Tahrir. That is, until she saw the numbers and the fact that the protests were not a one-day event as she had predicted.

"The fact that people stayed out in the streets overnight and then continued their protests until this point is amazing and super inspiring," Rangwala said. "I guess I was also surprised because I had thought that the young people of Egypt were apathetic politically since we never discussed politics and none of my friends voted in the local elections. But, what I realize now, is that they weren't apathetic it was just pointless for them to expend energy getting worked about politics or voting since it never mattered as what Mubarak wanted was essentially what guided the politics in Egypt."

Rangwala believes that part of the reason for the surprising success of the protest was the recent revolution in Tunisia.

"I wouldn't have been surprised if there had been a drive to protest in September 2011 around the time of the presidential elections, since before these protests most people expected Gamal Mubarak (Mubarak's son) or Mubarak himself to run and 'win'," Rangwala said. "But I think if the Tunisian revolution hadn't occurred those wouldn't have drawn many crowds and the government would have been more prepared to put them down fast and brutally. In my opinion, most of the inspiration for the Egyptian protests came from the Tunisian revolution when the Egyptians saw the general masses in nearby country revolt despite the possible consequences and were moved to the same before having to witness another sham of an election."

Rangwala, who was greatly inspired by the Egyptian students she met, hopes that American youth begin to show the same dedication to the political process.

"Seeing how the Egyptian youth finally took matters in their own hands was exciting and I hope it inspires the American youth to take more interest in elections and politics," Rangwala said. ☺

"Seeing how the Egyptian youth finally took matters into their own hands was exciting, and I hope it inspires the American youth to take more interest in elections and politics"

Sarah Rangwala
CHS Graduate

Haslett signs letter of intent to play football for Illinois next year

Caroline Greenberg
Reporter

CHS's very own Chase Haslett is graduating and moving on to University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where he has been recruited to play football. He has been on Varsity the past three years and was captain this past year.

"Chase is one of those individuals that likes to lead through example," head coach Sam Horrell said. "He was not a big talker, unless it was a one-on-one conversation with a teammate. He has a very high level of standards for himself, so that would translate to high expectations for his teammates."

Football has always been in Haslett's life. His father Jim Haslett is currently the defensive coordinator for the Washington Redskins. Prior to his job with the Redskins he was the head coach of the St. Louis Rams, New Orleans Saints, and UFL Florida Tuskers.

"My dad has done a lot for me," Haslett said. "Being around him and the football teams he's coached for has taught me a lot about the game."

As a result of his dad's involvement and growing up with football Haslett has a vast knowledge of the sport and is a very passionate player.

"As a coach you can see certain individuals have the passion and love for the game that it takes to play college athletics," Horrell said. "It was just a matter of what level he would end up playing. To his credit, through a lot of hard work and dedication he gets to play at the highest level in college athletics which is very special."

Assistant coach Barry Ford recognized Haslett's abilities and held high expectations for his football career beyond high school.

"I expected him to go play because he has been around football his whole life with his father," Ford said. "I think



Athletic Director Bob Bone looks on as Haslett signs with Illinois. Haslett will begin training with the team in June.

he knew what it took to get to the next level because he had the background."

The recruitment process involves hard work from both the player being recruited and the coaches.

"From a football team perspective we are very involved as coaches," Horrell said. "I go to meetings with college coaches each December and May to talk about players and the level they could play at with college coaches. Then, between November and January, college

coaches come to Clayton High School to meet with me personally to talk about players, get film on them and to get a better idea of who they are as people, not just football players. We send film of our players via DVD to colleges, as well as email them video with the editing software we use."

This process of recruitment is long and drawn out to see which team would be the best fit. Illinois was not the only school that was looking at Haslett, but he decided

to sign with them because he felt it was his best option.

"I went up to Illinois about three times including junior days, and the 7 on 7 tournament which was my official visit," Haslett said. "They came to see me play baseball last spring and have been following me since last year."

Haslett was also being recruited to play college baseball, as well.

"I had an offer from University of Evansville for baseball and also the Illinois team wanted me to play for them but I think I am going to focus on football," Haslett said.

Although Haslett was recruited, he is not guaranteed playing time for the upcoming season. However, with some hard work and determination, Haslett hopes to create a larger role on the team for himself and spend some time on the field.

"I am definitely going to Illinois next year," Haslett said. "As of now I am number four on the depth chart. I am going to work my way up to the top, and push myself to get better. I leave June 10th to start training."

It is not uncommon for freshman to not play their first year. Many freshman are "red shirted" extending their eligibility a year. This extra year allows "red shirt" athletes to learn the plays and the system before playing their second year.

"This fall is a transition period for him going into his freshmen year of college," Horrell said. "He plays the most difficult position in [the] sport, so this year he is going to spend a lot of time learning Illinois' system, lifting weights, and getting used to the academic rigor. I expect for him as a sophomore to compete for the starting quarterback position at Illinois. [All he can do is] take care of his grades, work hard, and give everything he can to be the best football player. Everything else will take care of itself." 📍

Winter running club helps bridge gap between sports seasons

Meredith McMahon
Editor

Despite bitter, frosty winter winds and mounds of snow, a small huddle of CHS students can be seen running daily after school. These students are part of the CHS winter Running Club, an up and coming club at CHS that is used by athletes as a helpful bridge between fall and spring sports as well as helpful tool for other students to get in shape.

Although the club has existed at CHS for several years, it has become much more popular and dedicated this year under the eyes of two cross-country and track coaches Kurtis Werner and Pat Sullivan.

The club meets every day after school from 3:20 p.m. to around 5:30. Usually about six people or so show up every day. "It's very, very rare that we ever skip a day, and when we do, most people make up the running at home anyways," sophomore Derrick Stone said.

The club has been around for quite a while at CHS.

"The idea of winter running club was actually founded well before I arrived at the school district by former cross country runners," Werner said. "I have taken more of a direct approach and become involved with my other assistant coach to allow cross country and track runners a chance to get in shape for the upcoming season."

The club does some serious running practice, much of which is very similar to workouts done by the cross country and track teams. The workouts usually alternate between long runs (six to seven miles), average runs (three to five miles), and speed workouts, which are on the track, involving running 200 meter repeats to 400 meter repeats.

"We do speed work days where we try to hit fast, consistent times on the track," Stone said.

Winter running club is very preparatory based.

"Running club differs from the track and field season because it is mainly getting prepped for the upcoming season and workouts aren't as intense," Werner said.

The training is a serious deal to junior Matthew Millet, a cross country and track runner.

"This club isn't just about staying in shape," Millet said. "It's about getting faster. I don't think just anyone would want to go run five to six miles or run intervals in this kind of weather."

Although very serious to some members, the club is also open to many people who want to stay in shape dur-

ing the winter months.

"We've had a lot of people, not even on the team, come out and join," Stone said. "It can help you a lot on the off season. It can especially help soccer players train in the off season. It gives you much more endurance if you can do what we do each day."

Sophomore Matt Garrett agrees that the training has helped him bridge the gap between running seasons.

"Last year I was not motivated to keep up a regular training schedule, and come spring I was in poor shape for track," Garrett said. "This year people can show up to their sport in shape and ready to build up from there."

Millet thinks that the club has definitely helped him stay in shape for track in the spring.

"Had I not decided to do this [winter running club], when track season rolled around, I would have spent half the season getting back into shape and the second half getting better," Millet said. "This way I have the opportunity to not only use the entire track season to get faster, but also take full advantage of the winter season."

Stone suggests that the track season this spring has a better outlook because many members have been training with the club.

"Last year we lost a lot of conditioning because we took too much time off during this part of the year," Stone said. "I think our team will definitely be more of a threat [to other competing teams] during track season just like we were during cross country season this year."

Garrett agrees that the winter running club has many positive effects.

"I would most definitely recommend the winter running club because it will give any athlete a competitive edge against those who didn't train in the off season," Garrett said. "Also, running is great workout for anyone who wants to exercise."

The winter Running Club looks forward to a bright future.

"I think [the club] will stay so long as we have the dedication that we do now," Stone said. "Coach Werner and Sullivan have done a great job of motivating us through the off season during the club practices."

Garrett also looks forward to the years to come.

"I think that with future support from the cross country and track programs along with other students who want to stay in shape, this club will hopefully be around for a while," Garrett said. "I think that it would be great for other CHS students to get involved in running all year long." 📍

"Had I not decided to do this when track season rolled around, I would have spent half the season getting back into shape and the second half getting better."

Noah Eby
Junior



Junior Matthew Millet runs in the snow after school with other members of winter running club. Members look to stay in shape between sport seasons to upkeep their levels of performance throughout the year.

Erin Bax



athlete of the month

Jake Bernstein
Editor

Not only has senior Erin Bax worked hard to improve her skills, but she has also led the girls' basketball team to make strides. After starting out the season 1-9, the girls' team went on to win six of their eight games to reach a very respectable record. Bax was a key player and leader during this stretch.

"This year we had pretty much a brand new program, so we got off to a rough start," Bax said. "Now that we're all more comfortable with each other and Coach Kent has gotten to know us better, we've been playing a lot better and displaying much better teamwork. We have definitely improved as the season has gone on, and that is reflected in our record."

Bax attributed the team's improvement to better adopting Kent's style. Kent, however, mentioned Bax's work ethic as a key factor.

"She always works hard, and is always pushing the rest of the team to get better," Kent said.

As a captain this year, Bax's hard work has influenced the team.

"When people see that she is pushing herself to get better by coming in early before school to work on her shooting it raises the bar for everyone else," Kent said. "She is one of our captains so a big part of her job is make sure the others are following her lead through being vocal and her example in practice."

Bax agreed that the role of captain was a big responsibility.

"My role on the team is being a leader," Bax said. "Because I'm a senior and have been on varsity for three years, I try to set a good example at games and at practices by showing dedication and hard work. Whenever our team goes through tough times, which we've had our fair share of, I do my best not to complain and to keep my teammates in line."

In addition to helping the team as a leader, Bax has been a tremendous asset playing at the forward position for the Hounds. Kent said that he could count on Bax "on a nightly basis" to rebound and battle opposing players in the post.

"My greatest strength on the court is my defense," Bax said. "I've always been the girl who has to guard the 'big, corn-fed farm-girls,' as my former coach would say."

Bax has improved mightily over the course of her basketball career, thanks to her aforementioned work ethic. Bax said she has taken advantage of the "before-school open gyms" which the team has offered. She offered advice for prospective basketball players.

"My advice regarding work ethic is to leave it all on the court every time you play," Bax said. "I like to leave

practice and games knowing that I gave it all I could and did my best. If I don't feel that way, then I've cheated myself and my team."

As the season's end nears, the Hounds still face many good teams in their remaining games and Bax has one final goal.

"My main goal for the rest of the season is to win a game that we are not expected to win," Bax said. 📍

"When people see that she is pushing herself to get better by coming in early before school to work on her shooting it raises the bar for everyone else."

Heath Kent
Head Coach

2011 NFL Mock Draft 1st Round (Top 5)

David Androphy
Reporter

Considering the complications regarding the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the NFLPA and the owners, the 2011 NFL draft is set to occur April 28-30 in NY's Radio City Music Hall. The first round is on the 28th. There is still hope that the CBA situation can be settled out before the March deadline to avoid a NFL lockout. Here are my top 7 1st round predictions as the NFL offseason is soon to be underway.

1. Carolina Panthers: Nick Fairley, Auburn (DT)- Fairley's stock has risen dramatically after his spectacular performance in the BCS National Championship Game. The Panthers are in need of a run-stopper after giving up an average of 124 yards per game (ypg) on the ground.

2. Denver Broncos: Da'Quan Bowers, Clemson (DE)- The Broncos failed miserably last year to get penetration through opponents' offensive lines and managed to force only 23 sacks. They gave up the 7th most amount of passing yards with 236 ypg and need a defensive end to pair up with Elvis Dumervil and put pressure on the opposing QB's.

3. Buffalo Bills: Prince Amukamara, Nebraska (CB)- With already the best defensive tackle taken off the board at this time, the Bills are in desperate need of a defensive playmaker. Amukamara had 5 INT's and 3 forced fumbles a year ago. His young talent could be a defensive duo with Clayton Alum and Jarius Byrd at the safety position.

4. Cincinnati Bengals: A.J. Green, Georgia (WR): The Bengals could potentially lose WRs Chad Johnson and Terrell Owens to free agency and one of their top priorities is the WR position. They are also a potential buyer for a QB as Carson Palmer has demanded to be traded and could be in the free agency path.

5. Arizona Cardinals: Vonn Miller, Texas A&M (DE)- Miller had a great senior year with the Aggies collecting 68 tackles and 11 sacks. His pass-rushing ability is a must for the rebuilding Cardinals. Just like the Bengals, the Cardinals could soon be in the market for a free agent QB with Donovan McNabb, Marc Bulger, and Kevin Kolb scheduled to be unrestricted free agents. ☛

Ahmad Smith



Thalia Sass

athlete of the month

Anat Gross
Sports Editor

According to senior guard Ahmad Smith it takes "energy and a love for the game" to be a successful basketball player. Smith is currently one of the leading scorers averaging 21.4 points a game. His five years of playing experience and his scoring ability make him a great asset to the 16-5 Hounds.

"Ahmad's role is to take over the game when he needs to," sophomore guard Tyler Walker said. "He offers a lot of great things to the team, but mainly it's his scoring ability."

According to assistant coach Mike Nelke, Smith's scoring ability makes him a standout player on the team.

"He can score in a variety of ways," Nelke said. "He can hurt you from the inside or out and does a great job scoring off of offensive rebounds. When he gets going there is not much anyone can do to stop him."

As is the case for most athletes, hard work and determination have led to Smith's success. He spent a lot of time in the summer working on his shot and getting in the gym. According to head coach Ryan Luhnning, Smith has very little left to improve on.

"We need Ahmad to continue to score," Luhnning said. "But [we] also [need him to] improve his court awareness on defense and offense. If he does that he will be unstoppable."

Nelke also expects him to compete as one of the top

players in the St. Louis area.

"To go along with his scoring," Nelke said. "We also expect him to be a leader on the defensive end and be a great passer. When he does those two things along with his scoring, he is certainly one of the better players to watch in St. Louis."

Walker agrees that Smith's style of play is hard to match.

"Most players you can label one way or the other, for example, a player might be a good shooter or a good athlete. But Ahmad simply knows how to score and that is something you cannot teach."

Mike Nelke
Assistant Varsity Coach

"The thing that separates him is just his skill, plain and simple," Walker said.

Smith's favorite thing about playing basketball is hearing the fans. He is currently working to win districts and he plans to play at a Division I or II college next year.

According to Nelke, Smith is capable of playing at the next level as long as he finds the right fit.

"Ahmad is a very unique player in his ability to score," Nelke said. "Most players you can label one way or the other, for example, a player might be a good shooter or a good athlete. But Ahmad simply knows how to score and that is something you cannot teach."

Smith scored a career high of 41 points in the 80-65 victory over Jennings last week. He is currently on the scoring leaderboard for St. Louis area high schools with 427 points.

Smith encourages young athletes to adopt the attitude he has taken.

"Don't let anyone tell you you can't do something, coaches, people, no one," Smith said. ☛



Corinne Dubreuil/Abaca Press/MCT

J. Conrad Williams Jr./Newsday/MCT

Out with the old, in with the new

Tennis's greatest rivalry heats up as Rafael Nadal closes out the set on Roger Federer, an aging tennis great.

Jack Holds
Editor

While tennis players of recent generations marveled at previous tennis greats such as Pete Sampras, Jimmy Connors, Andre Agassi, Bjorn Borg, Rod Laver, John McEnroe and more, tennis students of the present continue to debate the greatest player of the new generation; Roger Federer or Rafael Nadal?

Federer has 16 major titles.

Nadal has nine.

Fed has amassed upside of \$62 million so far.

Rafa nearly \$38 million.

And Federer is ranked at world number two.

Nadal? Number one.

However, to make conclusions based solely on the number of Grand Slam titles won, net career prize money, or current world ATP rankings would be unfair.

While these categories shed light on the success and greatness of each respective player, there is more to tennis than simply the shiny trophies players hold above their heads.

Sure, both players are 6 foot, 1 inch and weigh virtually the same -- 185 pounds, but upon further examination, the dichotomy between Federer and Nadal becomes apparent.

Federer is a Swede, a gentleman, and glides across the court in a graceful manner, sweeping the opponent from side to side with pinpoint accuracy and right-handed magic.

He seems to hover barely above the court surface and sits atop the baseline, dictating play, but running down well-placed returns when necessary.

Nadal, on the other hand, is a Spaniard with rugged, lefty, western-gripped strokes that send the ball lurching toward space with tremendous spin.

He scrapes across the court, reaching nearly every ball on his side of the court, best highlighted by his mastery of the slippery clay surface at Roland Garros where he slides to victory.

Nadal is a gentleman in his own right, but he has earned the unofficial "matador" moniker due to his young, cheery, and assertively handsome attitude on and off the court.

As noted, deciding the greater of the two based on Majors won, net career prize money, and current world ranking would be wrong. Primarily, Federer would easily win the rivalry with 7 more Majors than Nadal and \$24 million more in prize money. While Nadal is the current world number one, the rankings change year to year and even tournament to tournament.

A prime example of the need to look closer than the number of Majors won is Andy Murray, world number five, who has yet to win a major in the five and a half years he has spent as a professional tennis player competing at the top level. This lack of titles does not make him a poor player; it only means that one must dig deeper to discover his greatness. Furthermore, the fact that Nadal is younger than Fed must be taken into account.

Rafa is now at the mere age of 24 and went pro only nine years ago when he was 15. Federer, on the other hand, is almost in his 30s -- he is 29 years of age, and went pro roughly 12 years ago when he was 17.

Federer is, relative to professional sport and tennis standards, starting to get old. Signs of aging are starting to appear in his game too, both in the style of his game, and his match scores.

He's not as quick. And Fed dropped a few sets here and there to unseeded players in the Aussie Open just a few

weeks ago.

In conclusion, what we are currently witnessing is the transition from a decade dominated by one player, Roger Federer, to a decade dominated by another, Rafael Nadal.

Even their stereotypes suggest this transition; Federer is the older, gentleman-like player while Nadal is the young and aggressive bull fighter.

In the next half-decade, Rafa is likely to take center stage and win more matches while Federer fades over time, eventually pushed to retirement by age and a growing family; he has two twin girls born back in mid 2009 after all.

For now though, we can appreciate the drama and excitement of the Federer and Nadal rivalry and hope for more Grand Slam finals between the two to keep the tennis world on its toes, so to speak. ☛

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March Madness tournament loaded with competition, talent, excitement as teams gear up for road to national championship

Christian Thomas
Reporter

The Men's NCAA Tournament is always a fan favorite. In the single elimination tournament played every year, teams from every conference in the country are competing for one thing: A championship.

The 2011 Men's NCAA Tournament will surely be one to remember. For the first time in its 72 year history the tournament will feature 68 teams instead of the traditional 64. Also for the first time in 35 years, the tournament is likely to have a team finish undefeated.

As of February 8, the Ohio State Buckeyes are a perfect 24-0. The Buckeyes returned an outstanding trio of guards with seniors David Lighty and Jon Diebler and junior William Buford. Last season the team finished 27-7 and lost in the Sweet 16. Lighty, Diebler, and Buford combine with freshman center Jared Sullinger to create the most balanced offensive attack in the country. Freshmen Aaron Craft and Deshaun Thomas provide the Buckeyes with additional offense off the bench, while senior Dallas Lauderdale gives the team rebounding and leadership. Even as the current favorite, there are other teams the Buckeyes should look out for.

The Duke Blue Devils are looking to repeat as tournament champions for the first time since the 1991 and 1992 seasons.

"I have been a Duke fan for a long time," senior Meris Hoxha said. "To me they are better this year than last year. Look out for them come tournament time."

Seniors Kyle Singler and Nolan Smith are arguably the best duo in the country and combine for 39 of Duke's 85 points per game. Sophomores Seth Curry and Andre Dawkins add outside shooting to the Blue Devil's attack, while junior Miles Plumlee and sophomores Ryan Kelly and Mason Plumlee provide rebounding and defense. Freshman Kyrie Irving proved to be a key asset for the team, averaging nearly 18 points per game before a toe injury cut his season short. It is uncertain whether he



Duke's Seth Curry (30) reacts after Duke secured a lead over North Carolina in the second half at Cameron Indoor Stadium in Durham, North Carolina, on Wednesday, February 9, 2011. Duke pulled out a 79-73 triumph.

will return in time for the tournament.

Even with the departure of five first-round NBA Draft picks, the Kentucky Wildcats are always a team to watch in the postseason. Freshman Terrance Jones leads the team in scoring (17.9 points per game), rebounding (8.9 per game) and is second in steals (1.2 per game). Jones is expected to win the Southeast Conference Freshman of the Year Award. Freshman Brandon Knight contributes to the fast-paced, high energy Wildcat offense with his outstanding scoring ability (17.5 points per game) and unselfish play (4 assists per game), while freshman Doron Lamb adds nearly 14 points per game off the bench.

Juniors DeAndre Liggins and Darius Miller are known for their defensive play and also mentor their younger teammates. The Wildcats have arguably the best coach in college basketball, John Calipari, who led last year's team to the Elite 8 in his first season with Kentucky. Prior to his tenure with the Wildcats, Calipari led the University of Memphis to a record setting 38 win streak before falling to the University of Kansas in the Championship of the 2008 tournament.

The University of Texas has been mostly known for football in recent memory. Jordan Hamilton and company are looking to shed the image of Texas being simply

a "football school," and are off to the best start in school history. The sophomore forward is averaging a team high 19 points and eight rebounds per game.

"I have always been a Texas Longhorns fan," senior Carter Ellston said. "Usually, the basketball team doesn't have as much success as the football team. I am glad that is starting to change."

Hamilton is complimented by freshman Tristan Thompson (12.7 points per game), senior Gary Johnson (11.6 points per game), freshman Cory Joseph (11.0 points per game), and sophomore J' Covan Brown's 9.3 points per game off the bench.

As usual, the Big East Conference is loaded with several teams capable of winning the tournament. Seven of the conference's 16 teams are ranked in the top 25 of the ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll, the most of any conference in the country. Pittsburgh is in first place of the conference and has the most talent of any team in the country. The Panthers have nine players seeing regular playing time, including Big East Player of the Year Candidates Ashton Gibbs and Brad Wanamaker. Gibbs missed a few key games with a minor knee injury, but the Panthers had other players fill his shoes and did not miss a beat. Other Big East teams to watch are Connecticut, Louisville, Villanova, Syracuse, Notre Dame, and Georgetown.

Each year there is a "Cinderella Story;" A team that makes it further than they should, destroying everyone's bracket. In the 2010 tournament, the Kansas Jayhawks earned a #1 seed and were expected to win the entire tournament. Their championship dreams were shattered by #9 seed Northern Iowa Panthers. Also last year, the Butler Bulldogs earned a respectable five seed. Most programs would be content with such a good ranking, but the Bulldogs seemed to use this as motivation. The Bulldogs knocked off #1 seed Syracuse, #2 seed Kansas State, and #5 seed Michigan State en route to facing Duke in the Championship. The Bulldogs lost by 2. Who will this year's "Cinderella" be? Only time will tell. ☺

Story of Australian Open underdog brings inspiration, hope

Jack Holds
Editor

The Australian Open obediently takes place every year.

It's predictable; during the later weeks of January, the greatest tennis players worldwide assemble in this Pacific stage to play some mean ball.

But those who dismiss the Aussie Open as simply another tournament, another name engraved on a trophy, are sure to be sorely disappointed. In a whirlwind of aces, winners, overhead smashes, fist pumps, and exclamations of triumph, the 2011 Australian Open proved both inspirational and record-breaking; a tournament for the ages.

From January 17 to January 30, the world watched from first serve to championship point as a few hundred contestants set out to kiss the elusive trophy, to hold it high above their heads. When all was said and done, Serbian Novak Djokovic put his lips to the polished metal of the men's trophy while Belgian Kim Clijsters raised her's in victory.

In three straight sets, Novak, or "Nole" as his fans affectionately dub him, tidily defeated Brit Andy Murray, longtime rival and good friend.

Novak's path to the championship match was a testament to how hard he has worked over the years, which the scores of his early round matches reveal. His training has been extensive and his work ethic steely. After the US Open late in the fall of 2010, Novak took no time off and resumed preparation for the Australian Open, which paid off tremendously.

Furthermore, Nole, world number three, is a player who is so easy to like. His charming personality and sense of humor, coupled with his adept athleticism and nearly seamless game provide juniors worldwide with a positive role model to emulate.

Novak is also given far too little credit on tour. When

people think of professional tennis, they generally imagine Roger Federer gliding across the court, or Rafael Nadal's signature biceps and wicked spin.

While Fed and Rafa have a combined 21 Grand Slam titles, Nole weighs in at just two Major wins. And this is what makes his win in Melbourne in late January so much sweeter. It was both relieving and pride-evoking to see Djokovic and Murray, who is also underrated and has not yet won a Major, duke it out in a Major championship, a seemingly fresh set of faces for a tennis scene constantly dominated by Federer and Nadal.

As if a cherry on top of Djokovic and Murray's half-and-half milkshake, Djokovic defeated Federer in straight sets in the semifinal, while Murray took down Ferrer, a Spaniard who had defeated Nadal in the previous round. While I still genuinely respect both Fed and Rafa, it is inspiring to see the underdog pull through every now and then to highlight talent otherwise left in the quarter or semifinals.

Turning to the women's side of the Australian Open, Clijsters rallied back from a set deficit to defeat Li Na in three sets, collecting her fourth Grand Slam title.

While Clijsters won the championship, it was Li Na who stole the hearts of both the Australian public and tennis fans worldwide.

Na, world number nine before the Aussie Open, had already amassed considerable success before her record-breaking 2011 Major. But in the first month of the new year, Na's flat, hard-struck forehand propelled her to a new international ranking, newfound fame in the world, and a permanent place in the history books.

She became the first Chinese woman to reach a semi-final and final of a Grand Slam tournament. Her journey to the championship match earned her the number seven spot in the world. And Na's playfully sarcastic interviews and affectionate sense of humor branded her image in the memories of fans.

If that's not enough, Na defeated world number one



Serbia's Novak Djokovic hits a forehand shot to Switzerland's Roger Federer during their men's semi-final match of the Australian Open tennis tournament at Melbourne Park in Melbourne. Djokovic won, 7-6, 7-5, 6-4.

Caroline Wozniacki in the semifinals to advance. Ironically, Na had defeated Clijsters, 7-6, 6-3, in the final of a pro circuit tournament a few weeks prior to the 2011 Aussie Open in Sydney, Australia.

Although Na could not muster her first Grand Slam title under the pressure of the spotlight in the Pacific stage, her breakthrough this year foretells a very success-

ful and competitive year.

Like the men's final between Novak and Murray, the Li Na and Clijsters match brought a fresh spin to a game where a select few individuals often reign.

Tennis fans around the world will be pleased in a few months when Roland Garros, the French Open in Paris, rolls around. ☺

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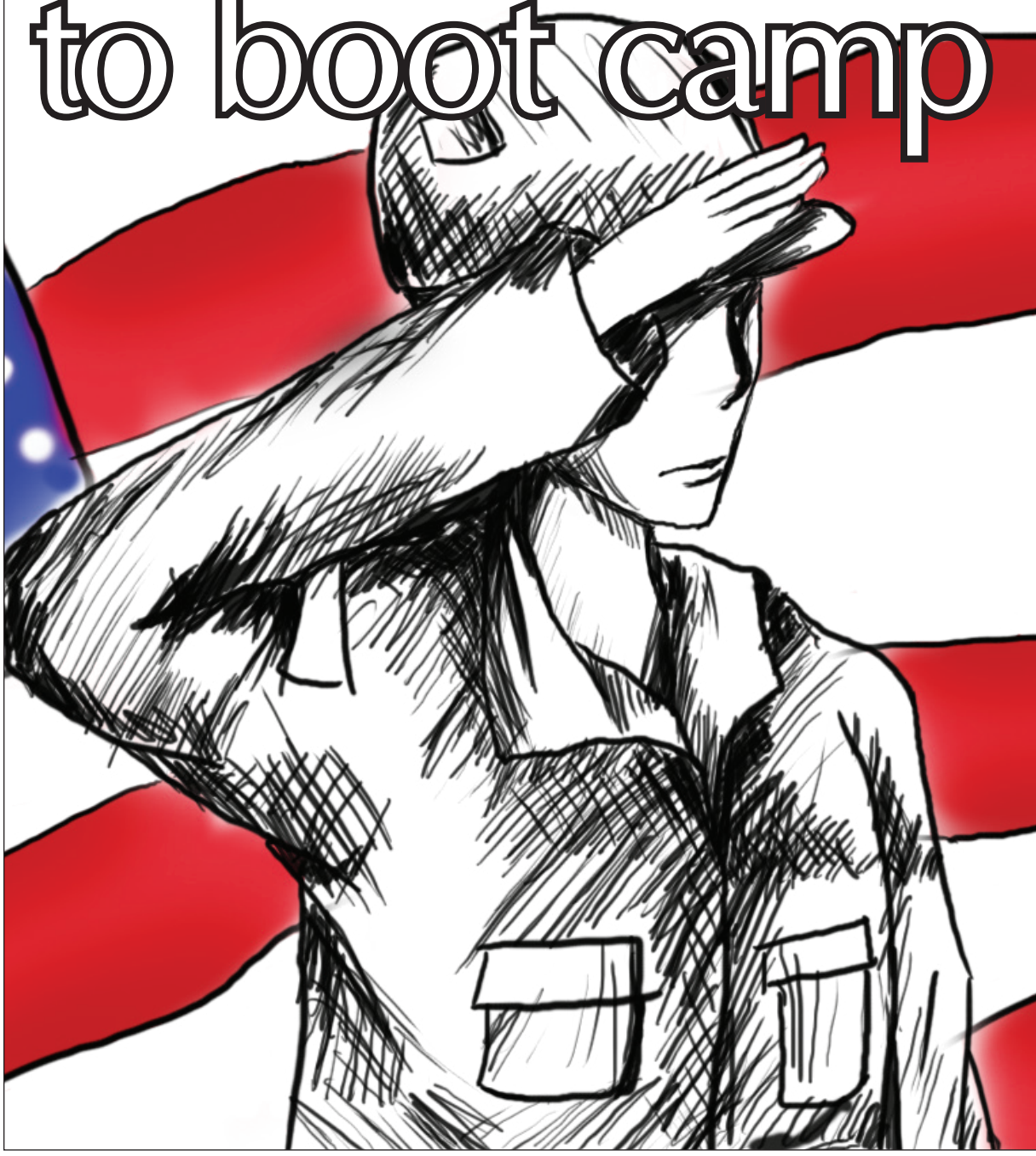
The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely on advertising.



1. A young participant of Messy Play creates her masterpiece with acrylic paints. 2. A Messy Play participant has a fun time getting messy at the shaving cream station. 3. Sophomore Ravail Poredy chats with a preschooler during the. 4. Senior Marin Klostermeier demonstrates an activity for watching participants. Klostermeier was the main CHS coordinator for the event, helping to recruit most of the volunteers. 5. Senior Zeina Zaide helps a child at the macaroni art station. 6. A Messy Play-goer relaxes at one of the most popular stations, the sandbox. 7. Freshman Stephen Zou supervises a girl at his art station. 8. Little girls have fun playing with finger paints during the event. 9. Junior Emily Erblich and Freshman Stephen Zou distribute paint supplies at Messy Play. 10. A young girl enjoys extrathick finger paint at one of the stations. (Photos by Elizabeth Sikora)



From books to boot camp



Though most CHS students opt for college after graduating, some instead choose the military for a different set of opportunities.

Kara Kratcha
A&E Editor

As most of Clayton's upperclassmen struggle to apply to colleges or grapple with financial aid, some pursue a different career path. 98 percent of last year's CHS graduating class matriculated to a 2- or 4-year college. But a few chose to enlist in the military.

College counselor Carolyn Blair cites Clayton's college-prep reputation as a big factor in CHS's low military interest.

"We tend to attract families that are quite interested in CHS as a college preparatory school," Blair said. "I think a lot of families choose Clayton School District for that reason. While this is not the best option for every kid, we have a lot of parents who at least start out thinking that this is their child's trajectory."

Senior Victoria Griffin's family initially wanted her to take a more traditional college route, and she says her decision to join the Marines has caused tension.

Joining the military, however, does not necessarily mean giving up a college education. From ROTC to online courses, there are viable ways for soldiers to afford and schedule time to go to college.

Griffin, who has already enrolled in the Marines, plans to earn her sociology and social work degree from the American Military University, an entirely online college dedicated to soldiers.

"They know you're in the military so they work around your work schedule," Griffin said.

However, though entering ROTC in college often leads to scholarship opportunities, Clayton students tend to find their college options reduced by the limited number of ROTC programs available, according to Blair.

"We have some interested in ROTC for the college scholarship, but often the restrictions on which college the student can attend has been an

issue with students who have been interested in the past," Blair said.

The military also offers job security. Once enlisted, new recruits are guaranteed a job after boot camp. First, however, they have to contract. In St. Louis, this process happens at the Military Entrance Processing Station downtown.

"Contracting is horrible," Griffin said. "It consists of going to stay at a hotel downtown where all the other people from your area go to contract from all the different branches. You wake up at five and get bussed down to the fed building to take a whole bunch of different tests. They take your height, weight, test for drugs and alcohol, give you a whole physical, do background checks, and take your fingerprints."

Potential recruits also must pass the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), which Clayton does not offer, although interested students can arrange to take the test at another area high school. The test is multiple-choice and determines what positions applicants may receive.

Griffin chose to enlist in the Marine core as opposed to another military branch because of the sense of family fostered there.

"Something I've noticed about marine core recruiters is that unlike other branches, they keep in contact a lot," Griffin said. "It's really a sense of family. They try to keep in touch with everyone they get in contact with. It's because it's the smallest branch. I guess they figure if you're nice to everybody and get along with everybody."

Despite concerns from family and some teasing for being the only girl at her weekly Marine meet-ups, Griffin is satisfied with her decision to join the Marines.

"I've always been kind of intrigued by the military lifestyle," Griffin said. "It's always been something I've been drawn to. I considered all my different options. When it came down to it, it was what made me happy." ☺

A Student Perspective History beyond artifacts

Ben Colagiovanni
Editor

In America, history is tangible. You can walk upon the battlefield at Gettysburg. You can hear John F. Kennedy debating with his advisors about how to handle the Cuban Missile Crisis on tapes available at his Presidential library. You can touch the Statue of Liberty.

In St. Louis the place to have concrete interactions with our state's history is at the Missouri Historical Society (MHS) Library, located on Skinker Blvd, which contains hundreds of thousands of historical documents and artifacts.

I am always particularly excited to visit there, as each time I walk away with an improved, more intimate understanding of my state's history. Yes, it is amazing to analyze a speech written and delivered by Thomas Hart Benton in the United States Senate in 1854 discussing the benefits of popular sovereignty in Kansas and Nebraska. Yes, it is amazing to read a summary of the Dred Scott v. Sandford Supreme Court case published in 1857. Yes, it is amazing to turn the pages of a first edition copy of Mark Twain's Tom Sawyer.

But what moves me most is a plaque hanging above a bookshelf not far from the library's reference desk engraved with these words: "Martin Luther King Jr., spoke in this room on November 27, 1960, and delivered a lecture to an audience of over 2,000 persons."

Naturally, the first time I read this plaque I was eager to examine the speech King gave. Perhaps, if I was lucky, I would be able to touch a copy of the manuscript and run my fingers across the handwriting of our country's foremost Civil Rights Leader. Best of all, I was only steps away from a friendly librarian.

However, I was dismayed when he told me that not only did the library not have a copy of the speech but that no copy is known to exist, and the library's many efforts to locate one have been futile.

How could there not be even a brief description of the content of the speech somewhere within the four levels of storage space throughout the building?

When I returned to the library the next week I was hopeful that somehow a copy had been located in my absence or that the librarian I talked to was misinformed. This time I asked assistant archivist Molly Kodner as to the whereabouts of the speech, but the answer remained the same: no text of King's address exists.

I confess, my disappointment quickly turned to anger, so much so that I blurted out,

"Doesn't the fact that you don't have a copy of King's speech detract from the historical value of the event?"

Kodner responded quickly and earnestly.

"I think the fact that he [King] was in this room speaking is truly amazing," she said. "I'd like to know what he said, but I don't think it detracts at all from how cool it is that he was in this room giving a speech, espe-

cially considering the time period."

Kodner's reply caused me to ponder an aspect of history that I had always known was present but never fully understood. I finally had an explanation for the immensely powerful feeling of importance I sensed upon visiting some of our nation's most revered places.

The aura created by historically important events has a value independent of the artifacts that are associated with them and generates a feeling of significance that in the right arenas of the world is unsurpassed.

Yes, it would be inspiring to meet John F. Kennedy, but the eternal flame which borders his gravesite serves as a powerful reminder of the service he gave to our country and creates an aura which never ceases to send chills down my spine.

Yes, I never had the chance to see Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio, or Mickey Mantle patrol the outfield at Yankee Stadium, but the aura of their presence there makes it one of the most magical places to watch a baseball game in the country.

And yes, while still no text is known to exist of King's speech on November 27, 1960, the aura of his presence in that library resonates and serves to distinguish the building as a true St. Louis landmark. It is even more remarkable that before it was a library, the MHS building was a Hebrew Temple, the first of its kind West of the Mississippi River, established in 1837. The descendants of the founders of this congregation had the foresight to invite King to speak at their temple after he had been denied permission to speak by other local religious venues.

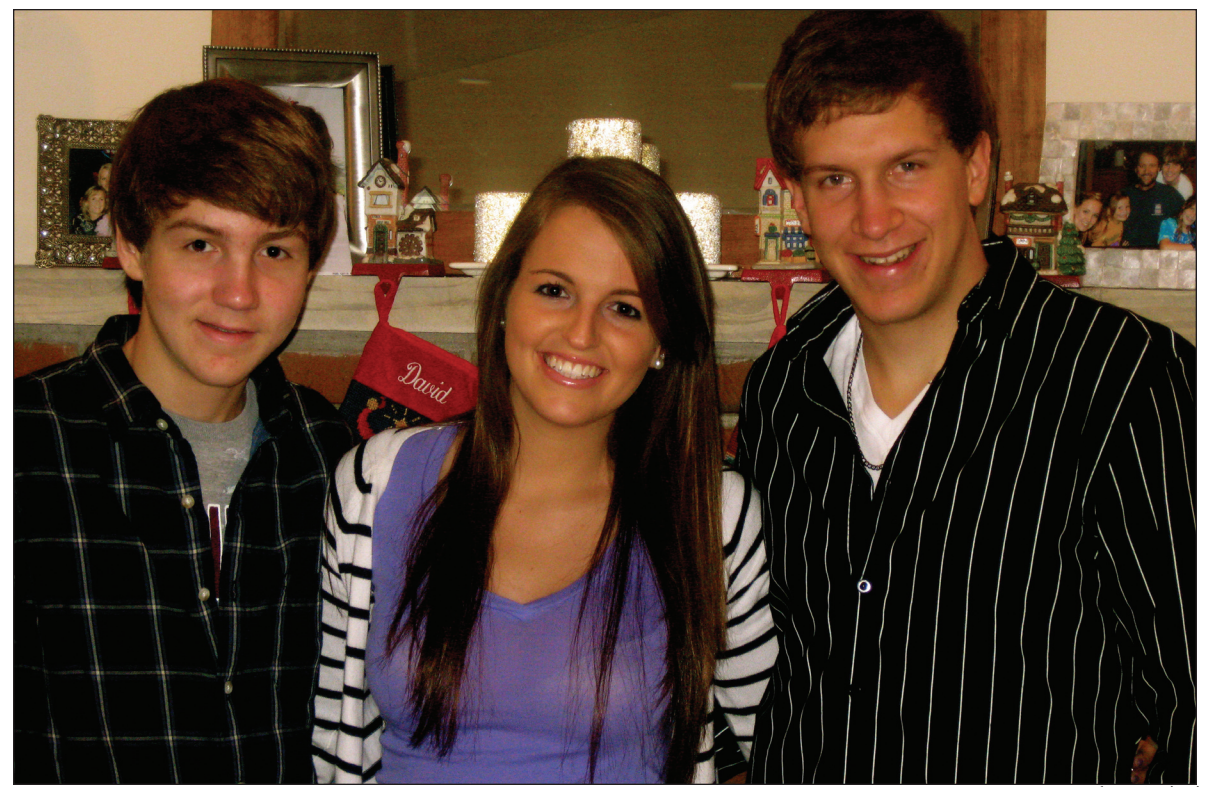
While there is clearly a separation of church and state in this country, there is an irrefutable connection between church and history in America.

King came to St. Louis during the height of the Civil Rights Movement on seven different occasions, drawing large crowds (the largest 8,000 at Kiel Auditorium) and riveting those who attended. The work he helped our nation accomplish with respect to race relations was truly historical and the benefits it created can still be seen today.

Yet, it seems as though our appreciation for figures like King, and the work they have done is beginning to wane.

In our increasingly material world it seems as though our society needs concrete reminders of their accomplishments, and if these are not present, interest lags. After all, it is Black History Month, which appears to be woefully underrepresented.

Thus, I will no longer mourn the fact that not all of our nation's history is tangible—and neither should you. Rather, we should seek out places like the Missouri Historical Society's library not only for their much needed maintenance and protection of historical documents and artifacts but more importantly for their preservation of the spirit of history, which when fully felt is the most powerful way to remember our nation's past. ☺



Courtesy of Marci Boland
Business teacher Marci Boland's son Drew and daughter Kali pose for a Christmas card photo with the family's exchange student, Linus Graf.

Exchange student introduces fresh view on life in America

Steven Zou
Reporter

Most people in America have to wait nine months to get a new addition to their family, but business teacher Marci Boland added someone to her family in just a matter of days.

She got a better deal by taking a foreign exchange student in to her family.

Last summer, Boland received an email about students from other countries who still needed a place to live. Boland talked to her family about it, and it was her son who wanted to help.

"My son Drew went to the Youth for Understanding (YFU) and that is the organization we worked with. He was looking at the profiles and narrowed the choices down," Boland said. "The whole process of taking in the foreign exchange student took about three to four days."

Soon foreign exchange student Linus Graf came to be the newest member of the Boland family.

Graf has his reasons to come to the United States to become a foreign exchange student.

"I came to the U.S. mostly to learn English," Graf said. "I also came to the U.S. to learn about the culture and to learn a different point of view of everything that is happening around the world."

Boland said the process of getting a foreign exchange

student was not too hard.

"People came in to our house and they asked us a bunch of questions, like 'Where is the kid going to sleep?' and 'Where is his bedroom going to be?'" Boland said.

On the student side, Graf says the process was easy.

"I did some research on foreign exchange student on the Internet and I found YFU," Graf said. "It was pretty easy because I contacted them and YFU did most of the work for me, like finding a school and a host family."

However, there are rules that Graf has to follow in America.

"The legal age of drinking in Switzerland is 16, and he is already 18 so drinking is not a big deal to him," Boland said. "But when he came to the U.S., we told him that he cannot drink and he was totally fine with that."

Graf says the school in Switzerland is a lot different than the school here.

"In Switzerland, we have to learn two languages during the four years in high school, whereas here, you guys only have to learn one," Graf said. "Also, there is less school spirit in Switzerland, and back home we don't really care about our school, whereas here you guys go to basketball games and hang out with friends, but we don't do that in Europe. Also, if you want to play a sport, you have to pay about a 100 bucks to join because sport is not through school."

Exchange student, pg. 14

Local company encourages safe driving, good decision-making

Sarah Tait
Editor

Teenagers have become mostly immune to the 'do good' messages they are bombarded with daily. Sharon Goedeke's message, however, is one teens might want to listen to: Be safe. Be happy. Be thumbbody.

Goedeke and her husband are the founders of a company called Thumbs on the Wheel. Thumbs on the Wheel aims at taking teenagers' focus off of their phones and, true to the name, back on the wheel.

"We try to compel anyone with car keys and a cell phone to do the right thing," Goedeke said. "Just use common sense and simply drive with your thumbs on the wheel."

Though texting and driving is an occurrence that has become more and more common, Thumbs on the Wheel takes a different approach to tackling the problem.

"There are a lot of messages out there on safe driving and we applaud all of those," Goedeke said. "Our message tries to address the human nature side of the problem. It's not about doing it because the law says so and it's not about doing it because you saw a sad story on Oprah; it's about driving safely because somewhere deep inside people know the difference between right and wrong."

A reliance on everyone's basic knowledge of good and bad is at the heart of the Thumbs on the Wheel phi-

losophy. Goedeke believes the problem of texting and driving is fairly straightforward and doesn't need to be addressed using extreme measures.

According to Goedeke, texting and driving can be solved by merely encouraging people to employ their common sense.

"It's good to pass laws, but we wanted to try a solution that was just an attitude and a personal choice," Goedeke said.

Thumbs on the Wheel promotes safe driving for all drivers, but high school and college students are special targets for the company.

Having grown up in a society heavily imbued with technology, Goedeke considers youth especially prone to texting while driving.

"Young people are much more dependent on technology than any 40-year old ever was when they were getting their license," Goedeke said. "It's normal for a technology-driven person to respond to that buzz at any time because they've been doing it forever. What they have to realize is you can't do that when you're behind the wheel of a car."

Goedeke hopes Thumbs on the Wheel will do much to help people come to that realization.

Goedeke came up with the idea for Thumbs on the Wheel with her husband fairly recently after the problem of texting and driving continued to grow.

"A few years ago, we started to hear headlines about

the terrible things that had happened because of distracted driving," Goedeke said. "Hearing these things, we thought, this is interesting that our country must pass laws to combat a problem that really involves nothing more than common sense."

Though the company is young, it has already spread to 13 states through Goedeke's grassroots efforts.

The budding company just celebrated one of its first major accomplishments after a Missouri hospice organization agreed to be a 'thumbbody' company.

The organization, which drives cars around to care for their patients, has pledged to place their full support behind Thumbs on the Wheel and the issue it promotes.

With one success already under her belt, Goedeke has big plans for her company, among which are bringing Thumbs on the Wheel to all 50 states and establishing a 'thumbbody' high school.

More than anything else, however, Goedeke wants to see texting and driving eradicated.

"We want to get to the point where just like you buckle your seatbelt as soon as you get in the car, you automatically don't pick up the phone while you're driving," Goedeke said. "We want it to be socially unacceptable to drive any other way."

CHS has been home to a club with similar goals in past years: Peers Protecting Peers. Juniors Margaret Mulligan and Lauren Friedman were co-Presidents of the

club last year.

Mulligan echoes Goedeke's sentiments about the importance of practicing safe driving.

"I think that safe driving and being aware of how important it is to focus on the road can really save lives," Mulligan said.

Though Thumbs on the Wheel has yet to reach Clayton High School, Peers Protecting Peers has shown just how prevalent unsafe driving is at CHS.

During a random seatbelt check conducted by Peers Protecting Peers last year as Clayton drivers were leaving the parking lot, 42 out of 277 drivers (including staff and parents) weren't wearing their seatbelts or were driving unsafely.

Friedman explains that many at CHS don't know just how important it is to drive safe.

"I think texting and driving affects a lot of our friends," Friedman said. "If people haven't gotten into a car accident, they don't think it's that big of a deal. But people really need to think about it and be educated about it."

Both the local efforts of Peers Protecting Peers and the more national efforts of Thumbs on the Wheel attempt to confront a problem that is increasingly pertinent and increasingly dangerous.

"If we don't all start our cars knowing that safety is important, we put our own lives and the lives of others at stake," Mulligan said.



Courtesy Thumbs on the Wheel



MCT Campus

Netflix topples Blockbuster

Paul Kieffer
Reporter

Five years ago Blockbuster was still the place to get movies, but now something has changed. Netflix has made hundreds of Blockbusters go out of business.

Is it because we are too lazy to drive to the nearest movie store and rent a movie? Is it because of the instant viewing option? Different people have different reasons.

Almost everyone you talk to these days either already has Netflix or wants to get it. The only question is why. Statistics show that Blockbuster offers the same amount of options and has its own advantages.

They both offer \$8.99 down payment. Netflix charges \$2 extra for Blue-ray, but you can have movies out for as long as you want. Blockbuster does not charge extra, but you can't have more than one movie out at once. So they both have pros and cons, but what makes Netflix distinctively better than Blockbuster?

Maybe at this point it is because of national image. Blockbuster is no longer viewed as thriving. They are viewed as a bankrupted business that is planning to close over 500 more stores.

"I like Netflix better," sophomore Adam Luxon said. "I just don't have it, mostly because they have the instant viewing option, and they deliver, too."

Even if we don't have Netflix, we want it because of the fact that it is simply better than Blockbuster. There does not need to be any further discussion after that point. Netflix is better.

Netflix also has this image as being easier now because that is how it has always advertised itself. Even though Blockbuster has its own strengths as being easier, Netflix has been better at advertising.

"I guess Netflix because you can download them straight to your television," sophomore Alosha Lowery said. "Also it is pretty cheap and you can have them for as long as you would like."

Just as before we believe that Netflix is simply better. Perhaps if there were better knowledge about Blockbuster and its strengths, we would find that more people liked Blockbuster.

Right now Netflix just has a better National image, and unfortunately it looks as if Blockbuster is being run out of business. There is nothing they can do to stop the fact that Netflix has become more popular.

"I like blockbuster better than Netflix mostly because I don't have it," freshman Jess Raskas said. "It seems just better to get it from the movie store."

Even though Netflix is obviously winning the larger race, Blockbuster still has its loyal fans. It is toughest on these people as they have to slowly watch Blockbuster go out of business. For some people it just makes their experience better.

They like that feeling of going to the movie store and having the movie in their hands as they drive home.

Netflix just seems to be better at pointing out its own strengths. They have won the advertising battle, and it's fair to say that have almost one them the war.



Dee Luo

iPhone 4 spreads to Verizon customers

Lovers of the new Apple device can finally enjoy superior technology as well as better coverage.

Chris Cho
Reporter

Sleek, slim, reliable, fast, and addicting are all words that can describe the iPhone 4 from AT&T. The Apple product, sold to over 100 million customers, is the new "must get" on the markets.

The phone can be a handheld video game system, a useful reading appliance, a movie player, a camera, a web surfing device, and, of course, a phone.

Customers will love the infinite amount of tasks that can be accomplished with just one phone.

The AT&T carrier is currently marketing the iPhone 4 and has been very successful in doing so. With all new features including Face Time, multitasking, and HD video, the phone will be distributed along with another carrier: Verizon Wireless.

The Verizon wireless iPhone 4, along with the already presented features, will include several more features. AT&T has been berated for frequently dropping calls. Verizon is known for their reliable network and great coverage.

In addition, Verizon will create competition for these two carriers; pressure will mount when the new iPhone 5 is released

around the beginning of summer.

Verizon is also more likely to offer unlimited data plans for the iPhone, forcing AT&T to rethink the out-of-date plans offered in stores today.

The release of the Verizon iPhone will help Apple to a certain extent creating competition and hype. The price of the iPhones for both carriers will be the same, priced at \$199.

Both carriers present their advantages and disadvantages. If you are looking for a cheaper data plan, Verizon is the choice for you. If faster 3G speeds are what you count on, AT&T is the right choice for you.

With many Clayton students enjoying the use of the iPhone, what do they have to say about the iPhone moving to Verizon and what do they like about the phone as of now?

"Quality, apps, big storage, compatibility with the computer, and Face Time are amazing. I would definitely switch if I had the chance."

Jack Wei
Sophomore

Not only do students love their phones, but they also understand all phones have their flaws.

"I have the iPhone 4 and love it," sophomore Maggie Charity said. "I don't really pay attention between AT&T and Verizon because they all have their own flaws. There is no need to switch to Verizon."

No matter which carrier they preferred, students said their iPhones were an important part of their lives.

"Well it's an ipod and computer and phone all organized into a simple, easy to use interface system, sophomore Willie Wyssession said. "It can do anything."

Not only is it interactive and entertaining, but it is also an item of organization. "I like it because I check my mail and Facebook all the time," senior Charlie Beard said. "Plus I surf the net and use the calendar feature as well. Our family has a bundle plan so switching to a different carrier would cost money and be a hassle."

With every great product comes a fault. However, with the iPhones, student complaints were minimal. The students found no vital fault with their phones.

The duration of the battery was an issue that came up multiple times.

"The most distracting part of the iPhone is the limited battery capacity," said Beard.

Students seem to enjoy the iPhone as an AT&T customer, and they believe the new Verizon will be similar to the phone they currently have.

With many assets and favorable qualities, the iPhone is appreciated throughout the public. With the addition of Verizon as a carrier, the iPhone will surely thrive.

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Best Movie Actress
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Best Drama
The King's Speech



MCT

Best Comedy
Toy Story 3



Provided by Disney Pictures/MCT

Best TV Actress
Tina Fey



Jay L. Clendenin/Los Angeles Times/MCT

Best Movie Actor
Colin Firth



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Best TV Actor
Alec Baldwin



Jay L. Clendenin/Los Angeles Times/MCT

Best Musical Artist
Nicki Minaj



Lionel Hahn/Abaca Press/MCT

Best TV Show
Modern Family



Al Seib/Los Angeles Times/MCT

Best Song
"Forget You"- Cee Lo Green



Courtesy of Ceelgreen.com

Oscar anticipation builds with 'Social Network', 'King's Speech' leading the pack, building hype

Eudora Olsen
Reporter

The award season is off to an exciting start, with a plethora of great movies from 2010. The front-runners for the upcoming Oscars, however, are very clear.

Aaron Sorkin's masterpiece, "The Social Network," directed by David Fincher, stars Jesse Eisenberg as the infamous creator of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg, and is an ambitious film of friendship and corruption.

Colin Firth stars in "The King's Speech," which is directed by Tom Hooper, as King George IV. This witty and compelling film details King George's struggle with a speech impediment, which he overcomes with the help of his speech coach Lionel Logue, played by Geoffrey Rush.

These two films have risen as the dynamic duo in this awards' season. Each has received top honors at the Golden Globes: "The Social Network" won Best Drama Motion Picture, Best Screenplay, and Best Director. "The King's Speech" won Best Actor in a drama that

same night.

Although "The King's Speech" didn't win the Golden Globe for Best Picture, it did receive the prestigious Screen Actor's Award for Best Picture, and Colin Firth won again for Best Actor.

There has also been a lot of buzz about "The Fighter," directed by David Russell, which stars Mark Wahlberg as Mickey Ward. This film is a captivating story, but the plot is a little too predictable. It has yet to nab a Best Picture or Best Actor award, but the Christian Bale and Melissa Leo have received six awards collectively for their supporting roles. They are predicted to win the supporting role awards at the Oscars.

Still, the question is, "Who will win the top awards at the Academy Awards?" With the competition building and both "The Social Network" and "The King's Speech" already winning big in the main categories, it is hard to say.

In past Academy Awards ceremonies, one movie has dominated the evening by winning several of the main categories: "The Hurt Locker" in 2010, "Slumdog Mil-

lionaire" in 2009, and "The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King" in 2004. This year, however, there will likely be a clear split.

Students and staff at CHS seem to also be divided over Oscar predictions.

Sophomore Sarah Lerwick, who has seen "The Social Network" several times, is a big fan of the movie on the Facebook phenomenon.

"The Social Network" is so intense," Lerwick says. "The acting is amazing, and the movie as a whole was so good."

Lerwick also predicts that "The Social Network" will win Best Drama, and she thinks its leading man, Jesse Eisenberg, will win Best Actor.

"Jesse Eisenberg dove into the role," Lerwick says. "He deserves the Oscar."

On the other side of the debate is Latin teacher Pamela Skinner.

"The King's Speech' has a phenomenal cast," Skinner says. "There were lots of strong performances throughout."

Skinner is also hoping that Colin Firth will win the Oscar for Best Actor.

While the aforementioned two movies seem to be dominating the hype the darkly comedic western "True Grit," directed by Ethan and Joel Coen and starring Jeff Bridges, Josh Brolin, Matt Damon, and Hailee Steinfeld has emerged as an underdog.

Sophomore Graham Fiorello is confident that "True Grit" will be the underdog of the competition and win Best Picture at the Oscars.

"The Coen brothers always win," Fiorello says.

Just from viewing the results of the award shows leading up to the anticipated Academy Awards, the intensity between "The Social Network" and "The King's Speech" has clearly been building. The award for the Best Picture has been awarded to both multiple times, along with the award for Best Actor accolades.

No one knows what the of the Oscars will be, but with an array of amazing films on the ballot, the Academy Awards airing on Feb. 27, 2011, are sure to be an exciting watch. 🌐



Two cultures blend into one unique neighborhood

Dawn Androphy
Co-Editor in Chief

South City's popular Cherokee Street is a manifestation of culture clash in the best way possible. Visitors can grab cheap, authentic Mexican food and, just a few blocks away, pick up some antique furniture. Meanwhile, at night, Cherokee transforms into an essential location in St. Louis's local music scene. Cherokee Street is a true gem that too many CHS students miss out on.

Beautiful, traditional old St. Louis buildings are abundant throughout the Cherokee-Lemp Historic District. On Cherokee Street's Antique Row, one can delve into a variety of vintage and antique stores. Across the span of just a few blocks, there's everything from expensive, upscale stores like Borough Vintage, the more moderately priced Retro 101, to the low-priced Ruth's Vintage Clothing.

Also on Antique Row is the Curio Shoppe, a unique shop filled entirely with crafts and art created by local artists, music by local bands, clothing designed by local

designers, and even St. Louis-made foods. Once inside, it's easy to support local businesses by snacking on some St. Louis-made chips and buying a one-of-a-kind leather wallet made by a local artist.

Also easily accessible is Hammond's Books, which impressively serves as a vessel for over 80,000 books. Nearby is the only all-vinyl music store in St. Louis, Phono-Mode. While the stock is small, it's easy to flip through and represents an eclectic mix of classic rock and more contemporary indie music albums. You definitely won't find the most recent Coldplay album, but there are some surprising picks scattered in the stacks.

In between shops, one can grab a tasty coffee at Foam Coffee & Beer. Their cappuccinos are some of the best in town and they're open late to boot. There's also a small stage in the back where customers can catch a great local band performing at no charge.

At the other end of the street, there's a clear shift in scenery and tasty Mexican food abounds.

Meanwhile, one can visit the excellent Apop Records between

tacos. If you're looking for anything experimental or underground, this is the place to go. The store has a nice collection of CDs, vinyl, and cassette tapes. To mix things up, the store also stocks some books and local zines that are fun to browse through.

Not far away is the Cranky Yellow, a self-described "identity crisis," that includes a shop, gallery, publishing house, and performance space.

If you're looking to catch a local band or browse through the unique collection of goods, you're in for a treat.

A lot of the goods are handcrafted or derived from a completely unique source. The merchandise is literally indefinable and customers will find anything from creepy felt puppets to a prison television set to handmade neon deer antlers.

Cherokee Street begs you to both try and fail at defining it. Filled with nostalgic remnants of the past and burgeoning stores looking to the future, all with a multicultural flair, Cherokee Street is truly a one-of-a-kind location in the heart of South City. ☛



Cherokee Street spices it up

Jackie Leong
Managing Editor

Cherokee Street has long been known for its selection of Mexican cuisine, and we could see why—or, rather, we could taste it.

La Vallesana, our first stop, was our favorite from the restaurants we sampled. Unassuming on the outside, the place features a small and simple front area with tables at which you seat yourself. But don't let that fool you.

The food is simply explosive, and in terms of the salsa, of which we were given two varieties, we mean this almost literally. Don't worry that they charge you for ice water, because you'll need it.

There, we ordered a pair of

shredded beef tacos and a chicken quesadilla, both of which were excellent, though a little high on the cilantro on our particular day. No matter—the blend of flavors was delectable, to say the least.

In our humble opinions, we favored the quesadilla—the refried beans and melted cheese mixed with the meat to create the perfect consistency. However, at little more than a dollar a pop, La Vallesana is the perfect place to get your taco fix.

A few doors down is another self-proclaimed "Taqueria", which sells tacos similar to those at La Vallesana. These, too, were delicious. Neither place breaks the bank, so if you're on a budget, you're in luck. But head to La Vallesana if you miraculously have room for dessert

after your meal. It sells frozen treats as well. In fact, the place used to be two places, La Vallesanas 1 and 2, which sold tacos and other "meal" food, and desserts, respectively.

The old Vallesana 1, which resembles a classic taco truck, is closed for renovation, and you can find all the menu items at the other location instead.

If you're not in the mood for Mexican, the good people at Black Bear Bakery understand. Offering a selection of delicious and wholesome baked goods, we recommend the fresh breads.

The bakery prides itself on its use of local and organic ingredients when available, as well as Fair Trade products and even home-grown ingredients during growing season. ☛



1 Cherokee Street has evolved into a fusion of Mexican restaurants and antique shops. It has a handful of record stores as well, giving it a unique, retro feel.

2 Black Bear Bakery's homey venue provides a comfy place to read while munching on their freshly baked goods.

3 Cranky Yellow sells local handmade jewelry including these rings and bracelets. It also contains a performing space, a gallery, and a publishing house.

4 This Cherokee statue, right outside of Foam Coffee & Bar, overlooks the street, warmly welcoming pedestrians.

Girl Talk brings accessibility, fun to concert and newly-released album

Andie Glik
Reporter

Girl Talk fans were treated to a pleasant surprise when the mash-up artist released his album online in November. The album was free, since all of music used in Girl Talk's albums is taken from other musical artists. Gillis takes pieces from hundreds of different songs to create his own music.

"He's said he doesn't call himself a DJ for a reason," senior and DJ Josh Fagin said. "While he is still mixing songs together, he's blending so many tiny samples together at once. It creates a performance that's more improvisational than just a DJ."

The Girl Talk concert in 2009 was complete chaos. There were no rules and the stage hands had no way of controlling anyone at the show, so people did whatever they wanted. Over 100 people flooded the stage, crowding around Gillis and helping him hold his makeshift

speaker booth (a fold-up table with speakers duck taped to each side). It felt like a giant dance party in someone's basement with almost every adolescent in the St. Louis area attending.

The Girl Talk show on January 18th was extremely different. Gillis' music has become even more popular throughout the years, and the show sold out in two weeks. The people who were allowed on stage were chosen prior to the show and there were only around 40 of them.

Gillis' DJ booth was a massive metal contraption with a bright, glaring screen on the front. With the 40 awkward, neon colored dancers that barely took up the stage and the over-the-top DJ booth, the stage looked overplanned and dull. It felt like a forced dance party (but mitzvah perhaps?). Everyone in the pit was pushing and trying to get on stage, making it unbearable to be in.

Senior Allison Goldfarb, who attended both shows and preferred the one in '09 explains, "So much of the

appeal of a Girl Talk show is that anything can happen."

With two sold-out shows at the Pageant and an online album that "broke" the internet, there has to be a reason that so many people are drawn to Gillis' music.

"It's fun to listen to his songs and hear what he comes up with and what he chooses to mix together," Senior Emily Goldman explains. "I think a lot of people came to the show because they like to hear stuff like this, and because he uses a lot of pop songs that everyone knows."

Many people who are interested and involved in the music scene love Girl Talk, and so do people who only listen to top 40 hits.

"It's music I don't ever really listen to that much, mixed with some music I've never heard before, mixed with music I do listen to," Senior Cole Weiche, a musician, said.

Junior Carmen Ribauda sums it up perfectly: "I don't know anyone who takes Girl Talk seriously, unless they're thinking of it in terms of a seriously good time." ☺



Nicole Indovino

Andy Rooney serves as source of humor, inspiration for career path

When I grow up, I want to be Andy Rooney.

For the sake of my unaware peers, because I can only assume that most of my peers are unaware of this man's existence, I shall backtrack a bit: Andy Rooney is a commentator on 60 Minutes, the hour-long news program that runs every Sunday night on CBS. He is an old, rather unattractive man, and his job entails using a week to come up with a short, largely trivial segment centering on a rant or complaint.

Okay, no, I don't want to be old with bad teeth, an ill-fitting suit and rather sunken eyes, but I do envy his job. In fact, I think I'm a perfectly qualified candidate to take over.

As far as I can tell, Andy Rooney was the very first video blogger, in on that phenomenon so early that he had to actually appear on television, not the Internet, to do it. Yes, he vlogged before blogging was even

a thing. And I love vloggers! In fact, my friends and I have recently considered using YouTube to keep in touch in college.

See? My resume could soon include experience in attention-span deficient video broadcasting.

Also, complaining is something I'm really good at. Just ask my mom; she frequently whines that I only write Globe articles that take negative positions on issues. Clearly, what she has failed to understand is that this is a marketable skill.

My critical pieces on the Twilight franchise, the inflexibility of certain Clayton academic tracks, and what-

ever else I've complained about via student journalism are simply practice for my inevitable career path.

Besides, as a fair and objective reporter, I am only exposing the truth with my many opinions.

Rooney also has to keep his thoughts brief. I'm good at that, too. I have never, for example, written an article of much more than the required 500 words without a specific request. My essays? Short. My comments in class? Short. My attention span for projects of any kind? Short.

Finally, to fill Andy Rooney's illus-

trious position, I would have to find an array of inconsequential topics to discuss. Luckily, I already spend plenty of time doing just that; finding and discussing interesting but minor details on Facebook, Wikipedia, and other corners of the Internet already fills up much of the time I should spend doing homework. The minutiae of everyday life hold my curiosity far more consistently than any practical issue of policy, debate, or public figure.

I bet Mr. Rooney makes a lot of money for doing what he does (yet another reason I would be perfect for the job: I am excellent at spending money). Did I mention he only seems to have to do any significant work once a week? My dad says that he just has to stay alive long enough for me to prepare to take over the position. The only problem is that I don't think I look enough like a cranky old man to get the job. ☺

Blots and Scribbles



Kara Kratcha



An employee at DeMun Oyster Bar prepares oysters for a customer.

New oyster bar in DeMun area excites

DeMun Avenue, a small street between Clayton Road and Wydown Boulevard, is home to a small, budding shopping district. Recently, this quiet street has become home to a few new shops and restaurants, including its newest addition, DeMun Oyster Bar.

The small restaurant is an antique chic dining room, with a large crescent bar that fills the majority of the space. The tilted floor to ceiling windows on two sides of the room takes full advantage of the restaurants corner location and opens up the small room. The light from the street adds to the dimly lit room, creating a romantic setting.

It is a simple room filled with antique light fixtures, posters, and mirrors. A detailed tiled floor accents the simply appointed dining room to create a cozy feeling without the clutter or inevitable claustrophobic feeling of such a small space.

The mismatched heirloom China adds to the restaurants romantic character and charm.

The left wall is filled with a large chalkboard with the title "Today's Oysters" displayed at the top. There is a list of about seven oysters, of the ten they usually have, available for that night.

The oysters offered each day have been harvested, mostly from the Pacific Northwest, earlier that same morning. The oysters, mussels, and clams are then delivered to the restaurant at five in the afternoon, six days a week.

The menu is simple, on the left

side there are detailed descriptions of the ten oysters, any of which they may be offering any given night. On the right they offer mussels, clams, pommes frites, a few salads and soups.

They also offer some entrees including a Shrimp Poorboy sandwich, dinner sized Pan Seared Scallops, Poached Salmon, and Grilled Tenderloin. The oysters are about as fresh as they come in the Midwest, and are served appropriately on a bed of ice with an incredible Champagne Shallot Mignonette on the side.

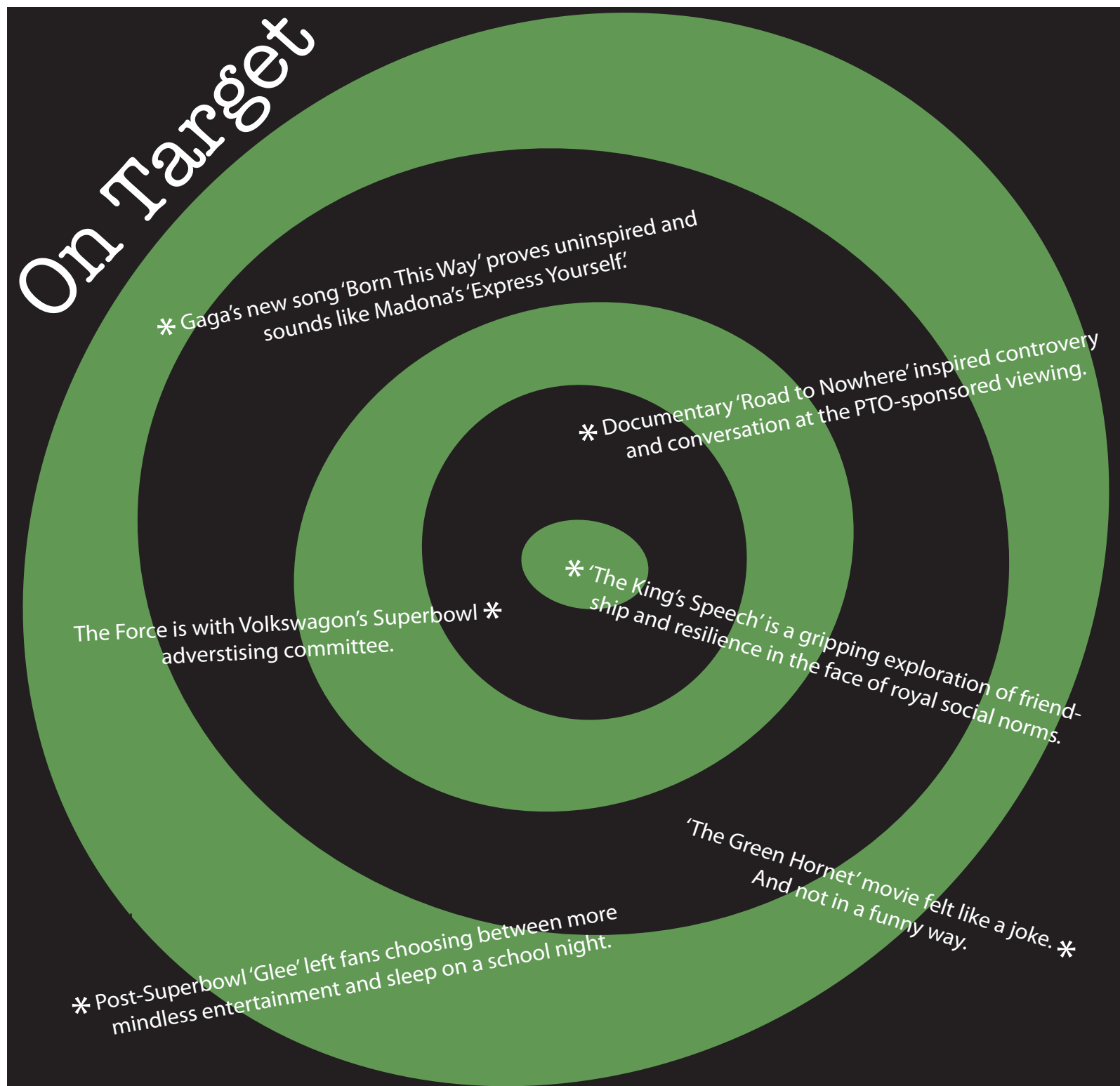
The restaurant has a definite New Orleans feel to it, from the Poorboy Sandwich to the light beignets, to the French champagne poster on the wall and the distinct wrought iron detailing on the windows, it is easy to believe the room is situated in the middle of the French Quarter.

The only thing missing was an espresso drink to end the meal. But like the restaurant, the coffee specialties are still growing.

Although they have high hopes for having an espresso maker someday, all they have at the moment is a home coffee maker.

The service is friendly, relaxed, and knowledgeable of the different oysters and seafood served.

DeMun Oyster Bar is a great addition to the growing neighborhood, and it will add an element of nightlife somewhat missing from the area. Being the only oyster bar in Clayton, and one of the few in the St. Louis area, it has found a niche that needed to be filled. ☺



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Students in the dream sequence dance to "Out of My Dreams." FROM LEFT: junior Maria Massad, freshman Mo Mills, senior Ruthie Polinsky, senior John Holland, senior Sarah McAfee, senior Kelsey McFarland, junior Jason Riss, senior Addy Wexelman and junior Peter Grayson.

Showing of happy-go-lucky 'Oklahoma!' inspiring, impressive

Shiori Tomatsu
Reporter

Last year's "Sweeney Todd" was wonderful, but this year's musical was just as amazing. From Jan. 20-23, CHS performed Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical "Oklahoma!"

The musical was created in the middle of World War II, intended for people to watch something optimistic. The plot revolves around two lovers.

Overall, the show was incredible. It was easy to see that every member of the cast was into the play, becoming their actual characters. Two actors that did an exceptionally convincing job of their parts were seniors Justin Elliot and Ruthie Polinsky.

Elliot, playing the role of the peddler Ali Hakim, did a humorous job of delivering his lines to the audience to the point that whenever he came onto the stage, the audience automatically started giggling. Polinsky, taking on the role of Ado Annie Carnes, brought her character to life just by her facial expressions and body language when speaking. With these small details, it made her part seem even more hilarious.

One part of the show that was quite enjoyable was the song and dance number for "The Farmer and the Cowman." The cast did a dy-

namic job of making every dancer move in unison, and each dancer looked like they were having fun.

What also made this play interesting was that it looked like everyone was from the era during which "Oklahoma!" takes place. The costumes were realistic, and most of the clothing designs wonderfully mimicked clothing from that time period.

The female singers sounded lovely and sweet. One of the songs that sounded particularly nice was "Many A New Day," in which all the female cast members sang. It was wonderful.

What was surprising about this musical was the depth and power of the male singers. This year's bunch was a great group. Many helped the show become livelier.

Individuals that should be mentioned are seniors John Holland and Ian Miller, junior Fergus Inder, and sophomore Robbie Love. All of these individuals stood out in their own way, and their characters were developed and strong. They all contributed to the play with their roles, and it helped the musical be full of energy.

Another impressive aspect was that the show felt like it was run professionally. The singers were all animated, and the cast really was able to bring the play to life. The cast did

not look like they just memorized lines and regurgitated all of them.

The set was also a strong point in the play. The houses actually looked real with grass uprooting from the bottom of the ground.

One section of the stage that was enjoyable was the background screen with the house and a barn on it. It gave more depth to the stage and made it feel like the audience was actually in Oklahoma.

The pit orchestra's performance was also one of the most impressive of the show. The pit was given less time to learn the music than they have in the past; however, despite the time crunch, they did an incredible job learning the music and sounded effortless. The music was also very well controlled and did not overpower the singers on stage. The singers were heard clearly, and it was a perfect balance between the accompaniment and the singers.

The best collaboration of the show between the pit and the entire ensemble was the musical's signature song, "Oklahoma!" There was much energy in this song that it was hard not to smile. The pit did a great job staying with the cast, and vice versa. There were many high notes in the pit music for this piece, but the players did a wonderful job.

This was just a show that had to be seen to have been believed. ☺

Clayton Classics

Despite outdated effects, old sci-fi films still pleasing to young viewers

Parker Schultz
Reporter

"Close Encounters of the Third Kind," produced by Steven Spielberg, came out in 1977. Back then, CGI was still new, and producers were actually better off using puppets. Today, films like "Avatar," directed by James Cameron, and "Tron: Legacy," directed by Joseph Kosinski, are redefining the science fiction genre. Yet, for some reason, we're still re-watching the classics.

When I saw "Close Encounters," I couldn't help but smile at the plastic aliens. The spaceships glowed like broken disco balls. I still loved the movie.

The strongest part of "Close Encounters" was the plot. The story followed a power line worker who spotted an alien spacecraft. Left with a sunburn as his only proof, Roy Neary set out to learn the truth about the spaceship. At the end of the movie, Roy steps through a blinding light into the belly of the spacecraft.

The plot was original. It explores ideas like extra-terrestrial communication, as well as personal identity.

The movie's lack of graphics forced it to focus on other photograph effects. Steven Spielberg's filming was phenomenal. He used the camera to film up-close shots, giving the film intimacy. My favorite shots were the profiles that Spielberg shot of his characters. It made me feel

like I was standing on the set.

Today, directors can afford to shoot scenes where planes are knocked out of the sky. The most amazing CGI effects of 2010 were found in "Avatar." It explored a high-definition alien world. The battle scene at the end blew my mind. Unfortunately, "Avatar" lacked plot. The movie was predictable. James Cameron could have taken a few notes from Steven Spielberg on plot.

"As 3-D filming is more and more widely used, science fiction movies will benefit greatly. The classics we all enjoy were made with simple technology."

There's no denying that graphics would have added to "Close Encounters." Science fiction films rely more on special effects than any other genre. "Tron: Legacy," which came out in 2010, grossed near \$167 million. The original film, "Tron," released in 1982, had almost the same plot, but only grossed around \$27 million. Remaking "Tron" was a genius idea, because the movie thrived with better graphics.

As 3-D filming is more and more widely used, science fiction movies will benefit greatly. The classics we all enjoy, like "Close Encounters," were made with simple technology. Using new special effects, science fiction movies can be taken to the next level. The older films are still worth watching. They pushed the technical limits of their time, but they also developed plots that would last generations. If you have never seen "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," it's definitely worth a rental or a download from Netflix. ☺



Michael Sheen, left, and Garrett Hedlund, star in "Tron: Legacy," the remake of the 1980s original film. (MCT)

'Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother' proves intriguing

Jackie Leong
Managing Editor

Musically gifted, intelligent, successful.

If you're of this era, then you're probably rather familiar with the Asian stereotype. So is Amy Chua. In fact, if you pick up her newly-released novel, she'll be happy to tell you all about it.

Chua, a self-proclaimed Chinese mother, recently made waves this January with her new novel, "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother," her account on what it's really like to raise two such stereotypically successful children. And if the first chapters sound vaguely familiar, it's because they were released early as part of a promotional excerpt by the Wall Street Journal under the immediately provocative headline, "Why Chinese Mothers Are Superior."

And what an opening—to the book's arrival and to the ensuing widespread debate—that was. Before she even goes into the details, Chua lays down the rules for her Highly Successful Chinese Parenting. No sleepovers, no play dates, no TV or computer games. More importantly, Chua's children, Sophia and Louisa—referred to affectionately as Lulu—were not allowed to choose their own extracurricular activities.

As could have been predicted, the excerpt alone garnered a record number of reader responses and sparked an ongoing debate, and, after reading just a bit more of Chua's

full novel, it's easy to see why.

The premise of "Tiger Mother" is, as the cover blurb states, to report how a firecracker Chinese mother at the top of her game, so to speak, retreats from her strict parenting after her more rebellious younger daughters teach her a lesson about moderation.

Does Chua achieve this? It depends on how you look at it. If one reads only the words, without giving any thought to tone or intent, then absolutely. But when tone does enter the picture, then "Tiger Mother" becomes the unwitting portrait of denial.

"Every step of the way, Chua's words are coated with self-assurance, to the point where sometimes it's hard to tell whom she's trying to convince. She inserts sentences describing how her children are better off, happier, or, my personal favorite, that they'll thank her in the future."

Because although Chua sings like a bird about the virtues that she's learned—that she's going to let up on her ridiculously strict parenting so that her child can have the simple choice of what activity to pursue—she, in the end, proves to have learned very little.

Every step of the way, Chua's words are coated with self-assurance, to the point where sometimes it's hard to tell whom she's trying to convince. She inserts sentences describing how her children are better off, happier, or, my personal favorite, that they'll thank her in the future. When such things pop up at the high frequency at which they do, it's hard to believe that Chua learned anything at all.

Sure, Chua was successful. For a while. After all, there aren't a lot of ways to describe a mother who pushes her older daughter so hard that she reaches Carnegie Hall by eighth grade, so hard that her younger

daughter scores the attentions of a private teacher at Juilliard.

But we also use the term "successful" quite loosely. Because although both girls became the envy of their peers through their musical gifts, there is no denying the appalling behind-the-scenes picture that got them there, which is an absolute mess.

That's not to say that she didn't see results. She did. And they were wonderful. But the fact remains that she chose and set her children's lives herself, without a thought to their own opinions. And then she wonders why Lulu, her virtuoso violinist, chose to give up her concertmaster position, her spot with her famous teacher, and her years of hard work.

Let us bring the discussion back to the hordes of successful Asian children, then. Are they really successful? Is a life of mindlessly following a parent's increasing demands necessarily worth all that?

No. Can there be no happy medium? Chua herself is working towards one. Her book, though it shows that she has a long, long way to go, shows that even in the Asian household, there is room for improvement.

Bottom line? I recommend wholeheartedly that you read Chua's memoir, if only to find out where you stand in your own working mindset. Chua has stated that it's not meant to be a parenting book, which is good; no child should have to endure what Sophia and Lulu did, and probably still do, despite Chua's baby steps.

What's more, "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother" is a quick and easy read. That's fine, though, because you'll probably spend the next few hours in deep thought and self-reflection. If nothing else, America's new favorite Tiger Mother knows how to spark a debate sitting one spot from the top the New York Times Bestsellers list. ☺



Actor James Franco stars in a scene for movie "127 Hours." (Chuck Zlotnick/Courtesy Fox Searchlight/MCT)

Aron Ralston has only 127 hours

Nina Murov
Reporter

Yes, the scene where James Franco cuts his arm off in "127 Hours" is disturbing. But, fortunately, that is not all the film is.

The movie is based on the true story of hiker Aron Ralston, who decided to take the adventure of a lifetime back in 2003 and hike in Utah's Blue John Canyon. Things made a turn for the worst when Ralston fell down a shaft and ended up trapped by a huge boulder that pinned his right arm down. After five days of hunger, dehydration, and trying to free himself, Ralston was forced to make the only decision that would save his life—cut off his right arm.

Many wondered how director Danny Boyle would portray this unbelievable story. Boyle chose actor James Franco to play the role of Aron Ralston. Many knew Franco as the funny stoner in "Pineapple Express" or the villain in "Spiderman." There was doubt about the choice to make Franco the lead role, but he proved them all wrong.

For more than an hour, the audience is trapped down in that hole with Franco. With only flashbacks and hallucinations to bring the audience away from the rock, Franco keeps the audience captivated with his amazing portrayal of Ralston's passion and desire to survive.

To say that this is Franco's best role is an understatement.

This was his performance of a lifetime. Not only does Franco play a believable Ralston, he makes the audience experience the emotional feelings that go along with the character. He couldn't have done it without the director.

Boyle had already impressed the movie industry with his Oscar winning film "Slumdog Millionaire." But with "127 Hours," it didn't look like he had much to work with. For one thing, there is really no change of scenery, and, for another, there is only one main character. Boyle used every tool he had, and he used them well.

With the music and lingering sound effects, as an audience member, the only thing you could do to escape the tension of what Aron was going through was to turn away from the screen, because then you don't have to see the blood. Boyle doesn't shy away from showing the audience what cutting off an arm looks like. You see Ralston cut through both bones of his forearm. With the visuals and sounds coming together, the fact that it all looks so real is worse than the thought that a man is cutting off his own arm.

With the physical and emotional techniques Boyle uses, the audience can sense what Aron is feeling in that moment.

I recommend this film to anyone who wants to get a hint of what it feels like to be the subject of a true survival story. With the unbelievable effects and acting, "127 Hours" should be armed with an Oscar. ☺

Talking Points: Cloning the Mammoth

With the DNA of a frozen preserved woolly mammoth, a team of scientists is trying to bring the extinct animal from the Ice Age back to life, sparking debate.

Thaw, revive past

Shuyang Li
Reporter

Ever since Jurassic Park, there is hardly a child to be found who does not (perhaps secretly) wish for a similar scenario. But thanks to Japanese researcher Akira Iritani, this childhood dream may one day become a reality. Granted, he intends to revive an herbivorous, benign woolly mammoth instead of a roaring, terrifying dinosaur, but the technique holds incredible promise.

Naysayers abound regarding this promising event. Although Iritani believes it will take five years or more to clone a mammoth from harvested genetic material, ethical issues are already being debated.

The harvesting process itself is fairly straightforward and noncontroversial. For the first time, viable preserved woolly mammoth DNA has been obtained from a frozen mammoth carcass.

What runs afoul of some, however, is the technique for growing the mammoth itself. DNA will be inserted into an elephant egg which has had its nucleus removed, and the "mammoth egg" will be incubated in an elephant uterus.

The idea of mixing species like this may seem unethical, even borderline genetic experimentation, but the process is based on sound medical and biological theory - that implanting the mammoth egg in a similar, genetically-related animal will allow it to better survive and hopefully mature.

Another common line of reasoning is that money should not be wasted on such trivialities, such frivolities as reviving a woolly mammoth, that the idea is akin to a risky gamble. However, this revival technique has been tested before, and in trials completed three years ago, Dr. Teruhiko Wakayama successfully cloned a mouse from tissue that had been frozen for 16 years.

The greatest issue facing this experiment, however, lies in the precarious lands of cloning. The word itself is highly controversial, and "human cloning" has long been heralded as the dark harbinger of an age of uniformity and oppression. There are some who declare cloning to be unnatural, even.

Yet, those who claim cloning somehow violates nature's laws fail to realize that in nature, on Earth, many animals actually clone themselves. Anemones and hydra are some often-cited examples, while in the microscopic realm, almost all unicellular organisms including bacteria and yeast clone themselves in lieu of reproduction.

Indeed, cloning is not an unknown, bizarre, unwieldy concept to grasp for most. It is likely that those who protest the hardest also enjoy in their daily diet nourishment from clones. The reason why such fruits and roots as grapes, bananas and potatoes can maintain their deliciousness and characteristics for millennia is because they are born from cloned cultivars.

Farmers have been using cloning for years - why is it suddenly an issue when research is involved?

Furthermore, the slippery-slope theory that mammoth cloning would lead to the cloning of other animals and ultimately to human clones displacing individualism is purely speculative and unlikely.

The ethical quandaries raised in opposition to cloning woolly mammoths are vastly overstated and follow from similarly overreaching claims. Dolly the Sheep, born 15 years ago, did not herald in an age of human cloning and despotism as doomsayers claimed. Neither did the advent of in vitro fertilization, with the birth of Louise Brown in 1978.

And while the cloning of the woolly mammoth is ethically benign, it is also tremendously helpful to the field of science. Because the mammoth is a species that barely survived the transition from ice age to a quasi-modern climate - only to gradually die out - scientists can model modern ecological effects on the mammoths.

Not only would this provide important historical and physiological details about the species, but it could also lead researchers to finding previously unknown organisms that lived around the same time.

Modeling is not limited only to the ecological effects on the mammoths - rather, the mammoths could stand in for nearly any other species in the grand scheme of things, including humans. By interpreting the behavior of these mammoths, vital data can be gleaned about how humanity might be affected by the changing climate - even as we bring climate change down on ourselves.

Ultimately, whether or not this cloning experiment works is irrelevant: the results will provide important information on the viability of techniques to bring back the past and unlock the secrets of earth's history.

But then again, maybe I just hope that one day, dinosaurs will once again roam the lands of this world. Is that so much to ask for? 🌍



Laura Bleek
Managing Editor

In the 1990's, when Steven Spielberg's movie Jurassic Park was released, people were terrified and awed by the fictional, and seemingly impossible, story. But this tale could be closer to truth than we believe.

In Jurassic Park, scientists were able to use damaged DNA in dinosaur remains to clone the extinct species and raise them in a single park, soon proven to be disastrous.

Somewhat similar to the story of Jurassic Park, a team of Japanese, Russian, and American scientists has launched a program in an attempt to bring back to life the extinct woolly mammoth. This massive mammal is thought to have been extinct for nearly 10,000 years, the last of the species dying off in the last Ice Age.

Akira Iritani of Kyoto University is heading the team of scientists. Their plan is to extract the DNA from a preserved mammoth carcass and then insert it into the eggs of an African elephant.

They hope to find undamaged tissue within a preserved carcass, and then replace the elephant nuclei in the egg with mammoth nuclei and create an embryo with the mammoth genes.

The embryo would then be put into the elephant's uterus in hopes of cloning the mammoth. The elephant is the closest living relative to the mammoth, believed by to be kin enough to act as a surrogate mother to the woolly mammoth DNA.

The woolly mammoth has been so well preserved over the past 10,000 years because it has been sealed, frozen, in Siberia's permafrost. Iritani and his team will use the method used by Dr. Teruhiko Wakayama of the Riken Centre for Developmental Biology, who in 2008 was able to clone a mouse that had been in deep freeze for 16 years, to clone the preserved mammoth, which has been stored in a Russian laboratory.

Jurassic Park is often seen as a warning or cautionary tale against messing with genetics and biology. Now that this seemingly impossible story is closer than ever to the truth, it might be worth it to look at the guidance from this advisory fable and question what exactly we are doing, why we are doing it, and what the lasting effects will be.

Cloning is a huge step forward in the scientific frontier, and although there are health benefits from it, like stem cell research, there are also ethical and scientific drawbacks to cloning animals.

The main reasons Iritani gave for cloning the woolly mammoth is to, "examine its ecology and genes to study why the species became extinct."

But if scientists successfully cloned the mammoth, how would the animal be affected by the new habitat?

The woolly mammoth, if successfully cloned, would most likely find its home in Pleistocene Park, a nature reserve in northeastern Siberia. The privately owned area is attempting to recreate the grassland habitat found in the area during the last Ice Age.

The park would be filled with animals and plants the woolly mammoth may have encountered 10,000 years earlier, but the area would still be isolated. Like its relative the elephant, woolly mammoths are social animals. By isolating one it goes against their behavioral instincts and is unhealthy for them psychologically.

The reasons behind cloning the animal may also prove to be unethical. As Iritani had stated, the scientists are reviving the species in an attempt to find out why the woolly mammoth died in the first place. In other words, the researchers would be performing experiments on the animal, and possibly unprincipled tests. One of the largest moral boundaries to the cloning is the inevitable experiment that will follow. If the scientists are successful in cloning the mammoth they will most likely do the same thing to preserved Neanderthal tissues. This is when serious ethical issues become pertinent. Should a Neanderthal be considered a human? Should we treat them like animals? Would they have the same rights as humans?

It has been proven that Homo Sapiens and Neanderthals did indeed interbreed, and therefore a Neanderthal would be a direct relative to us. Researchers would want to conduct experiments on the species to see why they died off and although this may be enlightening in the scientific world is it really ethical? 🌍

Player discovers greater meaning in the team

I have 43 brothers.

On Friday nights we line up, two by two, geared in our orange and blue awaiting the go-a-head signal. The butterflies thrash in our stomachs, and we all try to fight them down. The tension builds in our throats; we just want to yell and eventually some of us do. We're pumped. We're ready. We're off. Jogging onto the turf, from the shadows of the field house into the lights, the Greyhound pride flows through our veins. In that climactic moment when our cleats hit the turf, the adrenaline pushes us into a sprint across the endzone. I can be spotted by my minuscule height of 62 inches or perhaps instead by the two tattered ankle braces I wear religiously. If that's not enough of a separation factor, a hint of my brown ponytail can be spotted in the small space between my helmet and ill-fitting shoulder pads. We are a unit, a team; they are my brothers, and I am their sister.

Everyone thought and some hoped my dream to suit up as a Clayton Greyhound was just a phase during my "tomboyish" youth. My

mom was supportive, but underneath that strong exterior she feared I'd be smashed by some 6'2" 300-pound offensive lineman. She was wrong; he would be bigger than that.

Despite my mom's concern, on the first August morning of my football career I stepped out of her car and made my way down the asphalt towards the field house. One of the varsity players walked towards me and stopped to ask me what position I played. I told him I wasn't sure yet. He responded, "You look like a linebacker." I nodded and contemplated this as I made my way to the front doors. I liked the way it sounded, and so I became an inside linebacker for the Clayton Greyhounds.

I've been playing football for four years, but I've made fewer than 10 tackles and have never been exhausted at the end of a game. During a typical game my workout is over

after our pregame warm-up. I go through practices being pummeled by hundreds of pounds of bones and muscle to the point that all the air from my chest goes out in one quick breath. My arms have been decorated by black and purple splotches, an imprint of my practice jersey, and even an orange and blue cast. Yet, I still stand on the sideline watching the game I've prepared for all week pass me by. And the question that I have been forced to face is whether or not it was all worthwhile. Are the rare two minutes in a game that doesn't count and perhaps half

a play at the end of fourth quarter, if I'm lucky, really worth the endless hours of grueling practice? Is that rare moment when the coach yells out my name, puts his arm on my shoulder pads, and shoves me onto the turf in the midst of a game really so precious?

Looking back, I've been disap-

pointed. I had walked into the field house expecting and dreaming about what it would be like to suit up and play my first game. Yet, each game I've played in I couldn't help but feel bitter and angry at being put in only because the clock is quickly approaching zero. I've been insulted and questioned each year; I've been hit and run over too many times. Yet, Coach always tells us to "never walk away from the game." And as pointless as my football endeavor may seem to others and sometimes even to myself, I could never turn in my irritatingly uncomfortable shoulder pads.

I've come to realize I don't stand a chance against the average football player, unless I dive at his legs or take my chances and hope he's not wearing a cup.

Perhaps I keep coming back for the challenge, or perhaps for the possibility that during those two minutes of play I just might reach up, pull the football into my hands, feel the butterflies freeze, the sinking turf under my cleats, tuck the football away, and... 🌍



Players on the CHS Varsity Football team line the field at the 2010 Homecoming game against Chaminate. Anat Gross (pictured third from the left) has enjoyed playing with the team for the past four years.



A shopper spends a moment at a makeshift memorial in front of the Safeway store after it opened on Saturday, January 15, 2011, for the first time since a shooting seven days ago that killed six and wounded 13, including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

Tucson shooting should be impetus for more gun control

The issue of gun control has always been a hot topic in America. With the recent shooting in Tucson, however, discussion of the issue has been revitalized and gun control has once again become fodder for political pundits of all affiliations.

Unfortunately, it seems that rational behavior and compromise have been left at the door for most of these discussions. A mass shooting of this sort is always an emotional subject for everyone that often brings the most extreme viewpoints to the surface of those discussing gun control.

While some may argue that the sale and possession of firearms must be legalized completely and others hold staunchly to their belief that it is a Constitutional right for any American to own a gun, there are a few things that most people in this country can agree on.

The fact of the matter is that 97,820 people were shot and 9,484 were killed by guns last year in America. Meanwhile, only 200 people were killed by guns in Canada, 194 in Germany, and 39 in England and Wales. The U.S. firearm homicide rate is greater than Canada, Germany, and England/Wales by rates of 5, 13, and 44 respectively. This is a huge disparity that needs to be addressed with legislation.

The first is that there is absolutely no reason for this country to allow automatic or semi-automatic weapons. These assault weapons are too dangerous for civilian possession and are a threat to our society. The Federal Assault Weapons Ban signed into law by Bill Clinton prohibited the manufacturing of semi-automatic weapons for civilian use, but expired in 2004. All attempts to renew the ban have been blocked from reaching the House floor. This needs to change.

We also need to ban or more strictly regulate the manufacturing and distribution of handguns for civilian self-defense. The fact of the matter is that these guns are used to kill people. According to the FBI, 75% of homicides committed using firearms involved handguns. While long guns, which are typically used for hunting, need to be regulated as well, special attention must be paid to handguns.

If we have fewer guns in this country, then there will be fewer murders and suicides. According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, keeping a firearm in the home increases the risk of suicide by a factor of 3 to 5 and the risk of homicide by a factor of 3. On average guns are more likely to raise the risk of injury than to protect and are used to intimidate or threaten more often than they are used to prevent a crime.

However, the guns that people in this country do own need to be strictly regulated.

There needs to be a national gun registry such that authorities can easily trace who owns which firearm and where/whom they purchased it from. Before being able to purchase a gun, a person should pass not only a background check, but also provide references and prove their mental stability. Jared Lee Loughner, the accused party in the Tucson shooting, would most likely not have been able to purchase a gun in a state like New York, where it can take almost a year to get a handgun and references are a required part of the handgun licensing process.

No one should be able to walk in and out of a store to purchase his or her first gun in one visit. Guns need to be less accessible and it needs to be much more difficult for dangerous people to buy guns if we, as a country, are to prevent spontaneous acts of violence.

Finally, once people own guns, they should not be able to carry concealed weapons. Allowing a potentially untrained, impulsive, or emotionally unstable person to carry a concealed weapon places the public in danger of a spontaneous outburst that could leave people killed. No federal law exists that prohibits carrying concealed weapons off federal property, and legislation needs to be passed to make this a national policy. At the very minimum, people should have to apply for special concealed weapons permits.

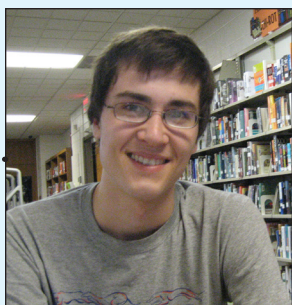
Gun control is a national security issue that needs to be addressed if we, as Americans, are to feel safe in our own country and feel secure that illegal weapons sales are not occurring across the border. We need to remember that guns can be used to kill people, so they shouldn't be available to anyone who wants one that very second.

Staff Editorial

Agree 97%
Disagree 3%

And now it's your turn . . . Should we have stronger gun control laws?

Ian Docherty
Junior



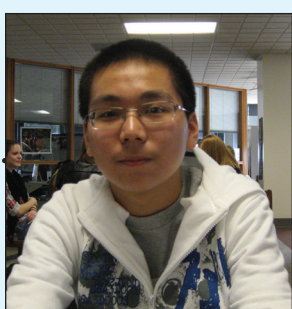
"My father, being from Scotland, tells me that there are far fewer gun issues in Great Britain due to Britain's strict gun laws. I believe that stricter American gun laws could have the same effect."

"While any household item can be used as a lethal weapon, guns are often the most commonly used medium. With that in mind, I think there has to be stricter legislation on gun control."



John Holland
Senior

Mengjing Chen
Junior



"There should be stricter gun laws in America. Between Columbine, Virginia Tech, and now the shooting in Tucson, I definitely feel it's time for stronger legislation. Our safety is at stake."

Progressive Era Survey evokes feelings of nostalgia, yearning

It was June 23, 1913. The world was on the verge of devastating war, but to the children of Cleveland, Ohio, it was just a typical Monday. Some played in the streets and alleys, others in vacant lots and playgrounds, and some stayed indoors. Some did absolutely nothing.

Rarely do we, the living, have an opportunity to peer into the distant past, to catch a glimpse of what life was like when our great-grandparents were merely toddlers. Yet, the "Play Census of Cleveland Pupils" — a Progressive Era survey of the activities of over 14,000 children on a single day — allows us to do just that. It provides a unique perspective, a view of the past that is at once romantic and comical, dingy and nostalgic.

Some of the best statistics are these: 7,799 children were in the streets, 883 in vacant lots and 3,581 in yards; 1,354 were working, 7,358 were playing and 5,961 were simply "doing nothing." Of those children playing, 1,638 played baseball — including 190 daring girls— 531 flew kites, 92 lucky ones rode bicycles, 471 built sand piles, and, best of all, 3,171 were "playing in other ways mostly just fooling." They fought and teased, shot craps and pitched pennies, chased chickens and tied cans to dogs.

In many ways, the scene is chaotic. Children play outside in the dark, dilapidated alleys, sweat in the summer heat and smog. They cause mischief by "roughing a peddler" and stealing apples.

And still I cannot help but long to be alive on that day in Cleveland, to join the 153 kids playing tag or the 47 roller skating. It is pure, unadulterated fun — unplanned, unorganized, and decidedly organic.

Today, almost 100 years since that hot, windy day, we have completely altered childhood. No child is sent out to play by himself, to find a vacant lot to play baseball or jackstones with his friends. Everything is orchestrated and overseen — parents call each other and schedule "playdates," where the children are carefully

watched and guarded.

As for the kids "doing nothing" in 1913, they would have their hands full today. They would go to a violin lesson in the morning, a tennis clinic in the afternoon and a math tutor in the evening. Or maybe they would be shipped off to a summer camp in Michigan or Colorado, something with a nice, Native American-sounding name, where counselors would watch over their every move to regulate and administer play.

We laugh when we see that the study's conclusions include that the streets are "conducive to just the wrong kind of play," and that "a place to play does not solve the problem: there must be a play leader," but it is these very conclusions that have shaped our childrearing style. We stray from playing in the streets, opting instead for the comfort of a couch in front of the TV and the cool breeze of air conditioning; we pay people to play with our kids when we go to work instead of allowing them to find ways to amuse themselves.

I have never been one to feverishly schedule activities for my free time, especially over the summer. My mother always asks how I don't get bored, how I'm able to live without something to "do." But that, in a sense, is the true essence of play. For once I want to be free from a schedule, liberated from the agonizing chains of planning and organization, and independent to find my own fun. Unfortunately, it has become almost impossible for children to experience this type of real play.

This is a sad transition. Gone are the days when children were independent young adults who could manage their own lives, the days when play was a creative challenge, the days when kids were truly allowed to be kids, to have the freedom to explore and experience on their own. Gone are the days like June 23, 1913, when 5,961 children did absolutely nothing in the streets of Cleveland.



Noah Eby

Highs and Lows

Revolutions in Egypt, Tunisia differ, need to be examined individually

Revolution seems to be the word on everyone's tongues today. The successful ousting of Tunisian dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali got the entire world talking. When it was followed, mere weeks later, by extensive demonstrations in Egypt, the message seemed obvious: the spark of revolution was spreading across the Middle East.

The real question is this: can Egypt really be expected to become the next Tunisia?

The facts don't suggest that this is a reasonable expectation. While the methods of protest and regimes appear similar, people seem to forget that Tunisia and Egypt are two very different countries. What works in one will not necessarily prevail in the other. When it is boiled down, there are two key differences between Egypt and Tunisia that make a successful revolution difficult to anticipate.

First of all, Tunisia has a much better educational system than Egypt. Over the years, the Tunisian government funneled much more money into their educational system in an attempt to give rise to a prosperous, educated middle-class.

Instead, high unemployment rates coupled with a poor economy gave rise to another result: an educated, unemployed, and deeply frustrated populous.

The Tunisians had the education and the organization to understand the situation of the government and to act on it as they saw fit. Their revolution worked because the majority of the people understood that something was wrong with Ben Ali's regime.

Egypt is different. Under Mubarak's regime, educational spending has decayed significantly. With so few people being afforded a decent education, most of the rioters have little education or organization. Can they really be expected to achieve the same results as the Tunisians?

Secondly, the nature of the army's relationship with its citizens differs in both countries. In Tunisia, after Ben Ali deployed the army into the streets to deal with the protestors, the army actually joined sides with the civilians,



Protesters wave flags Friday, February 11, 2011, at downtown Cairo's Tahrir Square, where tens of thousands of Egyptians gathered to demand the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak.

refusing to fire on demonstrators. The Egyptian army will not be so lenient. Mubarak holds direct control

of the army, and, if he so desires, can use them to forcibly put down the demonstrations occurring.

Undoubtedly, however, the spark of revolution will continue to fan across the Middle East, encouraged by the success in Tunisia. Frustrated peoples can look to the news and see ordinary people, no foreign aid or religious affiliation involved, who took control of their government. And they can even attempt to achieve that in their own nation.

The problem is, everyone else isn't Tunisia. Extenuating circumstances and differences in regime styles can pose insurmountable obstacles for would-be revolutionists. And with those obstacles will come more bloodshed, more lives lost.

People are, and should be, given the right to overthrow a despotic government; any scholar of Lockian social theory will agree. The real questions come to the when and how. Revolution styles are not one-size-fits-all: situations change with nations, and expecting anything other than that is delusion.

Tunisia was special; there can be no disputing that. I just wonder if people realize just how special it really was.

Generation fails to effectively use time saving tools

Though mankind saves time by using modern tools, schedules continue to be filled with stressful activities.

When looking at an object as insignificant as a mechanical pencil, the practicality of it is always the furthest thing from our minds. Humans constantly find a way to evolve our surroundings. We have put in the effort to evolve a charcoal stick to an ink pen to a pencil and finally to a mechanical pencil and essentially, give life to an object. But why do we try so hard to make things better? Perhaps it is because we try to scavenge all the extra time we can get.

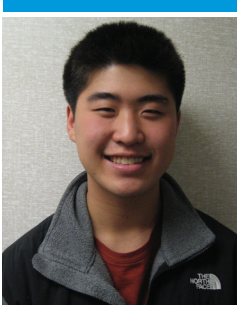
We notice that our lives are not that long and are willing to find a way to extend it. By focusing our thoughts and actions on efficiency, we are able to live a "longer" life. Cutting the time to get up and sharpen a pencil may not seem significant, but when adding all of these small actions, a great deal of time is saved. But why do we search for a longer life through efficiency? Common answers may be to work longer hours, to spend more time studying, or to make room to organize and plan for the future. Whatever one's desire may be to open up their schedule, in the end, one will usually fill that extra space of time with another activity.

Humans are naturally drawn to constantly working and using their time productively. We take advantage of the extra time we are given, but in many cases, we use it incorrectly. With the new tools that help us to save time throughout the day, we become more efficient and can focus the minutes we save on to other things. However, we spend these minutes by fitting more into our schedule and trying to make our lives also as efficient and productive

as possible. Instead of relaxing or taking a moment to enjoy life for even the slightest moment of a day, we urge ourselves to not waste time and focus on what we believe to be the "big picture". For high school students, it can be a continuous study habit in order to reach the dream school, leading to no time for a social life. The same can be seen in adults that are workaholics, who spend little time with their families and lose meaning in what is truly important.

Though putting time aside for work and study is necessary, it should not take up all the time that is saved by the tools we have made over time.

Mankind is so centered on efficiency to the point where we lose appreciation for the luxuries that surround us. We don't realize how incredible it is to have a coffee maker or a car to take us everywhere. We are not grateful for the efficiency of the objects of our everyday lives. We don't take advantage of the time saved to relax and enjoy life. Rather, we sulk when the Internet is slow or when the McDonalds takes too long to give us our orders. Time is so sacred to us, but yet it is still wasted, even when we believe it is saved. Time is a factor that will be with mankind forever, but it does not mean how we use our time is also set in stone. We should not fool ourselves with this "longer" life we are creating through our efficient tools. So stop and savor the moment when you feel happy or when you want to remember a treasured moment later. It's the least you can do to thank that mechanical pencil that saved you the 30 seconds of walking. ☺



Jake Lee



Dee Luo

Sleeping in class a problem?

A few nights ago, I attended the CHS PTO's screening of the documentary *Race to Nowhere*. The film was very interesting and quite relevant to my life as a high school student. However, about a quarter of the way through the film, I found my eyes drooping, my head buzzing, and my muscles relaxing—the telltale signs of an oncoming catnap.

Being an avid sleeper, I know those symptoms well. It's not that I get more sleep than the average teenager. I go to bed around 11 pm nightly and sometimes get up as early as 5 am. But what does separate me from my peers is the amount I sleep during the day. "Recreational sleeping", "napping", "daydreaming", call it what you will; I am a veteran of this activity.

The only problem with my love of naps is that I have a hard time controlling exactly when I doze off. My highest frequency seems to hit right around 12 pm, when I should be eating lunch. Unfortunately I don't have a lunch period in my schedule this year (largely due to my own stubbornness regarding the classes I wanted to take), and I seem to be suffering the consequences. As you may have inferred, I am in class at noon each day. My dozing tendencies have no correlation whatsoever to my level of interest in the class's topic; I'm usually fighting to stay awake because I want to hear what's being said. I don't understand how other students can survive on five or six hours of sleep a night; many of my friends seem tired on a daily basis, but none of them are dropping like flies during their AP classes like I do. I joke with a few of my friends that I'm a budding narcoleptic; of course I realize my problem is nothing so serious as that.

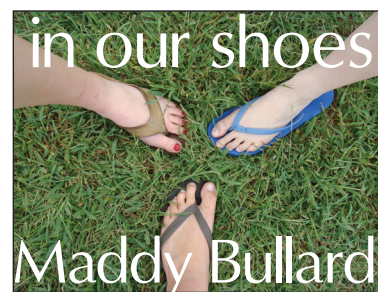
I try my best to make up my "sleep deficit": I sacrifice homework assignments for an hour or two of sleep, and

hurriedly finish them during my free minutes the following day; I take naps when I get home after school; I slept until 1 pm on one of our recent snow days. Alas, my strange ailment persists.

The documentary I saw that evening was about the large amounts of pressure on students of all ages in America. It emphasized the small amount of sleep many students, especially high school and high-achieving students, get on a nightly basis. Interviews of students who spend 7 hours nightly on homework were surprising to me. I wondered whether my unfortunate sleep patterns had anything to do with my homework load.

So I thought about how much homework I had to do that night. I had to read three articles for history, finish a circuit problem for physics, complete a packet of vocabulary for French, and fill out a worksheet for Personal Finance. Not too heavy a load; total it would have taken me about an hour and a half. But I decided not to do it. I got home after the film at 10:30 or so, talked to my mom, and went to bed around 11. The next morning I woke up at 6:45—that's 7 hours and 45 minutes of sleep. To a lot of my classmates, that probably sounds like sleeping in. Despite that reasonable (by our standards) amount of sleep, I still dozed off during school at the usual time the next day.

What's most surprising to me is that despite my persistent sleepiness, I'm still managing to get basically the same grades I've always gotten; I seem to be learning the material in my classes just as well as I did in the past. Maybe there is some truth to the science-fiction notion of sleep-learning... or maybe I've just gotten more efficient at cramming before tests. ☺



Maddy Bullard

Radio shuffle proves more conducive to creativity, exploration of inner self

As I pulled up to the stoplight at Clayton and Brentwood, "Dynamite" by Taio Cruz came on the radio.

As per tradition, I quickly cranked up the volume on my stereo and rolled down my windows (yes I can say that because I have the old crank windows) – trying to ignore the near zero degree weather. Waiting for the light to change, I got my dance groove on and belted out the lyrics.

Alone in my car, with the dry winter air, and the loud music nearly busting my car speakers, my errand had turned into the highlight of my day.

Realizing the odd scene I had made at the intersection I looked around. The two teenage girls in the car next to me were giggling at me. The woman next to me was smirking. And, out of my rearview mirror, I could see a young girl in her car seat dancing passionately and smiling at my car.

Music over the car radio has a unique energy to it, an energy that can even make the people in the cars around you happy.

There is nothing quite like sitting in my car when the perfect song on the radio comes on.

The moment is not special due to the fact that it helps speed along a boring car ride, or that my 1996 Honda civic stereo has any special acoustic quality.

The energy of the radio is spontaneity.

With the birth of the digital age, consumers have gained unprecedented control over the music they hear.

If I have a song I want to listen to, I can look it up on YouTube or even buy it on iTunes in a matter of clicks.

MP3 players that hold tens of thousands of songs in a consumer's pocket, personalized Internet radio stations that scientifically determine which songs to play based on the consumer's preferences and increasingly easy access to buying music on the internet have allowed greater and greater control over our music enjoyment.

However, with these new advances in the music industry have smothered spontaneity in music listening.

When I listen the radio, even

with the annoying commercials and dreadfully overplayed songs, it is refreshing to listen to music I have no control over.

No pause, no play, no shuffle – just music.

Some of the songs I hate, and I change the station, and some of the songs are only ok. But not loving song is the beauty of the radio, that is why when the right song comes on, it's pure euphoria.

This is no life altering epiphany.

But maybe the next time you hop in your car and want to throw in a CD or plug in your iPod, turn on the radio instead – you might be surprised what you find. ☺



Justin Elliot

Reaction to PISA test results raises a concern

While being ranked "number one in the world" holds prestige and honors the CHS community, it can also give a false sense of accomplishment and impede academic improvement.

Guest Column

Paul Lisker

Just a few weeks ago, the 2009 Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) results were published, and Clayton High School proclaimed exultingly that students had placed first in the world in both reading and science, and second place in math—significantly superior scores than those of America as a whole.

Such was the accomplishment that the Missouri Commissioner

of Education, Chris L. Nicastro, extended a congratulations to the Clayton district, and some teachers have been celebrating their status as top in the world.

Yet others have had a more cautious and reserved reaction to the statistics.

As politician William Watt once said, "Do not put your faith in what statistics say until you have carefully considered what they do not say." This is precisely what Clayton has done—the scores have been taken out of perspective.

What the rankings have skillfully obfuscated is the fact that Clayton

was not compared to other schools; rather, it was ranked among cities and countries alike.

Thus, the average of Clayton's scores was compared to the average scores of whole countries—which include both high caliber and lagging schools.

Placing above the average of another country is no guarantee that Clayton is superior to the best schools in that country—the "best in the world."

Rather, the only conclusions that should be gleaned from the various graphs is that Clayton's science and reading programs would be above

average programs in every country of the world and that the math program would be above average in every country but Shanghai, China.

This more reserved interpretation is, in a way, more comforting—it's more believable and realistic. Yet it also provides a more precise—though perhaps worrying—perspective of what China is striving to become.

Clayton prides itself as one of the top public schools in Missouri, if not in the United States—yet in Shanghai, a city of nearly 17 million people, most schools provide a better mathematical education.

Ultimately, though, this more

cautionary interpretation of the statistics may benefit Clayton more than by proclaiming to be first in the world.

While asserting to have topped the charts is certainly satisfactory, it provides less motivation to continue growing—after all, what's the need if we are already at the top? Only by analyzing the statistics fully and understanding the implications of the endless numbers do we begin to realize that Clayton is above average—but must still continue to grow and progress to maintain its celebrated position in this highly competitive world. ☺

the globe

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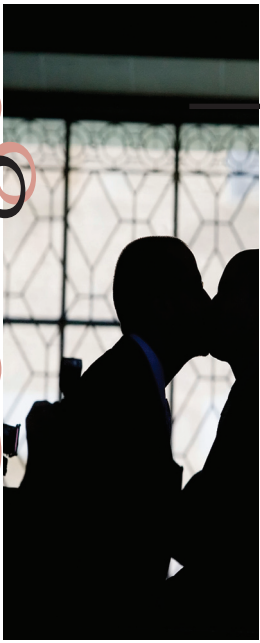
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Winner of MIPA All-Missouri, NSPA All-American with four marks of distinction, Quill and Scroll Gallup Award, CSPA Silver Crown (2004, 2005, 2009), Pacemaker winner (2003), NSPA Hall of Fame Member (2006)

Go Figure



Brian Baer/Sacramento Bee/MCT

3 calories

Kissing is actually quite beneficial for the body. One kiss burns approximately three calories. One kiss that lasts for a minute burns 26 calories. Unfortunately, kissing also quickens heart rate and heightens hormone levels so much that one or two kisses can shorten life span by almost a minute. Although kissing is a beneficial act that is aided by special neurons that help us locate our significant other's lips in the dark, kissing isn't always legal. According to Ruth McConnell, author of "The Kissing Cure," it is illegal for a mustached man to habitually kiss other people in the state of Indiana, and kissing a stranger in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is a crime.

409.2 cases

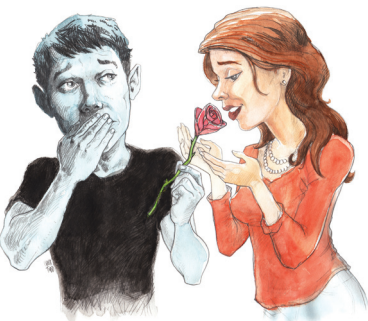
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported a total of 1,244,180 cases of Chlamydia in 2009. That's about 409.2 cases per 100,000 people, a 2.8 percent increase compared to 2008.



Philip Brooker/Miami Herald/MCT

18,726 females

Tristan Miller, a researcher at the German Center for Artificial Intelligence, used statistical analysis to calculate the number of females in a pool of potential girlfriends. After factoring in intelligence, attraction and age, he found a pool of 18,726 acceptable females from a population of 5,592,830,000. He concluded that he would have to go on one blind date per week for 67 years before meeting the proverbial girl of his dreams.



Fred Matamoros/The News Tribune/MCT

Thumbs Up

Clayton sweeps WYSE, beats Ladue in basketball and Quizbowl

The end of winter/good weather

President's Day (Four day weekend)

Exchanging valentines

Black History Month

Snow days!

Egyptian Revolution

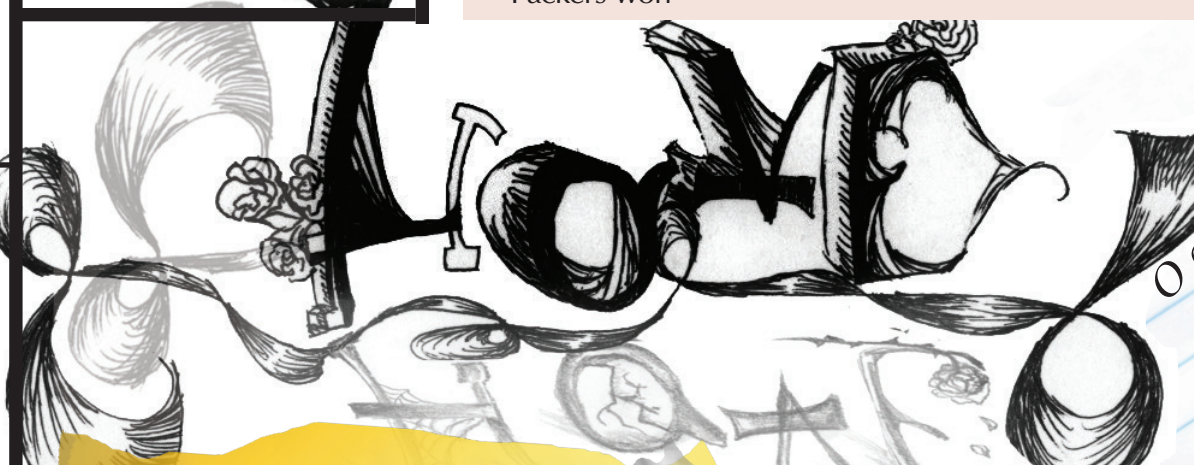
Broomball

Packers won



- Singles Day
- Ice storms
- Steelers losing
- Superbowl commercials
- Lack of Yemen Revolution
- Remaining ice refusing to melt
- Pujols not signing with the Cardinals

Thumbs Down



O Do Not Love Too Long
William Butler Yeats (1865-1939)
SWEETHEART, do not love too long;
I loved long and long,
And grew to be out of fashion
Like an old song.

All through the years of our youth
Neither could have known
Their own thoughts from the other's,
We were so much at one.

But O, in a minute she changed--
O do not love too long,
Or you will grow out of
fashion
Like an old song
(1903)

I cannot live with you
Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

I cannot live with you,
It would be life,
And life is over there
Behind the shelf

The sexton keeps the key to,
Putting up
Our life, his porcelain,
Like a cup

Discarded of the housewife,
Quaint or broken;
A newer Sevres pleases,
Old ones crack.

I could not die with you,
For one must wait
To shut the other's gaze
down,
You could not.

And I, could I stand by
And see you freeze,
Without my right of frost,
Death's privilege?

Nor could I rise with you,
Because your face
Would put out Jesus',
That new grace

Glow plain and foreign
On my homesick eye,
Except that you, than he
Shone closer by.

They'd judge us-how?
For you served Heaven, you know,
Or sought to;
I could not,

Because you saturated sight,
And I had no more eyes
For sordid excellence
As Paradise.

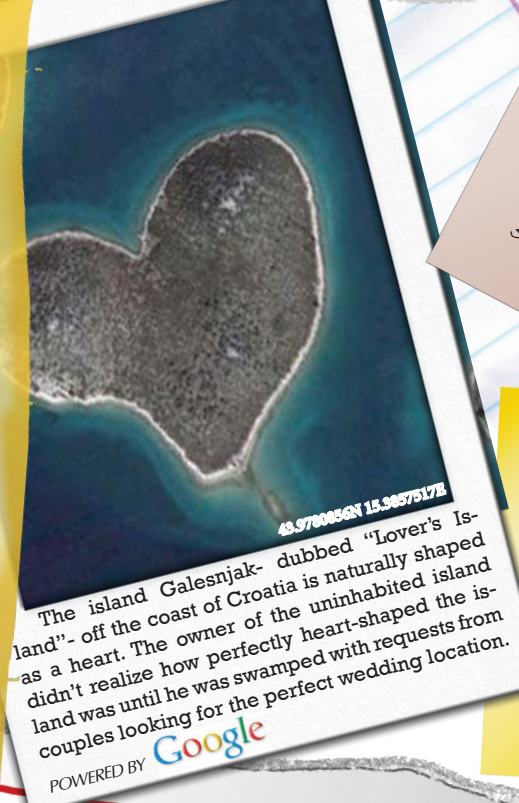
And were you lost, I would be,
Though my name
Rang loudest
On the heavenly fame.

And were you saved,
And I condemned to be
Where you were not,
That self were hell to me.

So we must keep apart,
You there, I here,
With just the door ajar
That oceans are,
And prayer,
And that pale sustenance,
Despair!

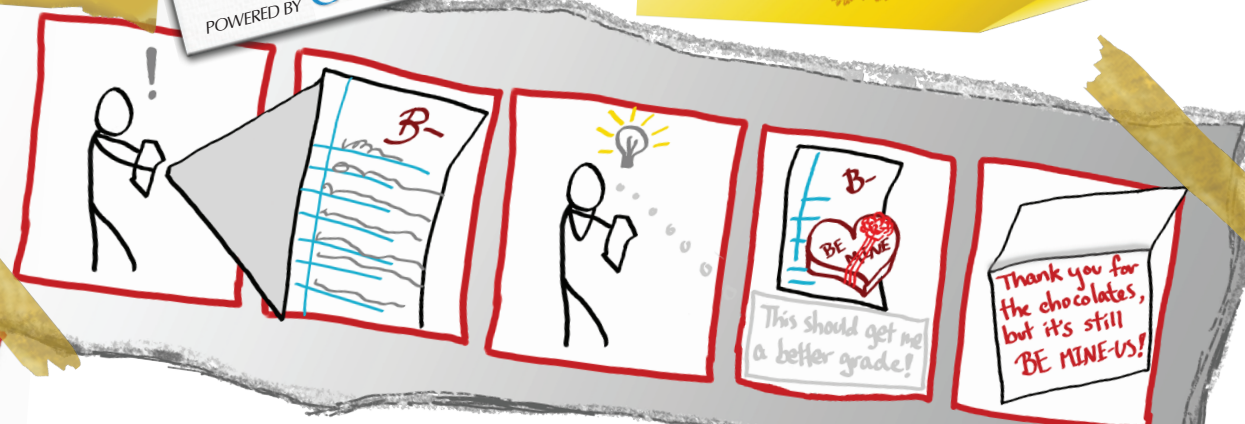


Google labs scanned 5 million books in Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish from the last 500 years into a database to create the Google Books Ngram viewer, a program that graphs and compares the rise and fall of certain phrases and concepts over history. Based on the results, love still prevails over hate (even if the love's margin has significantly decreased).



The island Galesnjak- dubbed "Lover's Island"- off the coast of Croatia is naturally shaped as a heart. The owner of the uninhabited island didn't realize how perfectly heart-shaped the island was until he was swamped with requests from couples looking for the perfect wedding location.

The average woman uses approximately her height in lipstick every five years and eats about 2.5 lipstick pieces per year. But she's not the only one who ingests fish scales, aluminum, coal tar, and synthetic dyes in lipstick. Her partner also eats about 0.7 lipstick pieces per year.



While February is the month for love and happily-ever-afters, not every relationship is a fairy tale. Approximately one out of four women and men in America experience domestic abuse, defined as a pattern of abuse by one or both partners in an intimate relationship. Remember that a relationship can turn dangerous due to an innumerable variety of reasons, so knowing the signs of domestic abuse will never hurt. Some signs of domestic abuse include: humiliation and verbal assault, physical violence, forced sexual encounters, threatening rights, etc. Don't assume one gender is the abuser and one the victim: according to the Domestic Violence Research Center, between 600,000 and 6 million women are victims of domestic violence each year, and between 100,000 and 6 million men are victims. If you are a victim of domestic abuse, or know someone in an abusive relationship, please remember that you are not alone, it's not your fault and help is available. The National Domestic Violence Hotline, available twenty-four hours a day, is 1-800-799-SAFE (7233). The YWCA Women's Resource Center (located at 140 N. Brentwood Blvd) hotline is 313-531-7273.

Zoom In



This is a close-up of a heart, but how was it formed? Go to www.chsglobe.com/online/2011/02/zoom-out-february/ to find out.

Graphic by Chuck Todd/Bay Area News Group

Dee Luo