

"I'm interested in culture and travel and documenting what I see. With photography, I am able to translate those things I'm interested in into art."

Seth Lewis
Sophomore



Confronting CRIME

Ware number one. In national crime, that is. Or so they say. Although the CQ Press has ranked St. Louis as the most dangerous city in the country, this is—to a certain extent—a misconception. Although the statement at face value seems alarming, a closer look at the ranking's inner workings tells a different story.

Chief among the factors in the rankings is city size, something that St. Louis doesn't have much of compared to other cities in the U.S.

St. Louis City's boundary, unlike those of other ranked cities, solely included the 62-square-mile limit of the actual downtown area. The surrounding counties were excluded. Given the skewed surface area measure to spread reported crime over, St. Louis appears to have a higher concentration of crime.

So what does this mean for the misrepresented surrounding counties?

For our own dear Clayton, relatively little. The term "Clayton Bubble", often referenced amongst Claytonites with affection, applies for its crime as well; that is, it has little.

"Our crime rates have mostly gone down every year," said Clayton Police Chief Tom Byrne. "It's a very safe city."

Crime, pg. 6

Graphic by Monica Gierada

Superintendent Herrmann announces her resignation

Noah Eby
Co-Editor in Chief

Clayton School District Superintendent Dr. Mary Herrmann announced on Jan. 14 that she will resign at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. The Board of Education (BOE) plans to replace Herrmann with Dr. Sharmon Wilkinson, current Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Student Services, who will serve as Interim Superintendent effective July 1, 2011.

Herrmann cited separation from her family, who remain in Chicago, as the reason for her decision to leave Clayton.

"As you know, balancing the priorities in our lives is always a struggle," Herrmann wrote in a Jan. 14 email to staff. "For me, facing the realities of relocating and working so far away from my family has been particularly challenging. This personal decision to leave Clayton has been very difficult, as I have such high regard and enthusiasm for the community and the school district."

This is Herrmann's first year as Clayton Superintendent following Don Senti's retirement last year. The BOE underwent a two-year search before offering Herrmann the position. Though her time with the district has been brief, BOE President Sonny Buttar told the Globe that Herrmann's resignation was a "profound disappointment" for the the District and

Clayton community.

Buttar said Herrmann had a "profound impact" on the District, citing her willingness to work with the Board on implementing national and international benchmarks to compare Clayton to other schools. She said Herrmann has a "deep, broad base of experience" with schools outside of Missouri, and that "losing the depth of her experience is really, really sad."

The duration of Wilkinson's service as Interim Superintendent is yet undecided, according to Buttar. The Board has also not decided when to begin the search for a permanent replacement.

Buttar described Wilkinson as "a wonderful administrator" who is "remarkably open-minded" and has a history with the District. She said the Board has "utter confidence" in her ability.

As for Wilkinson, she said she is "extremely humbled and honored" to be asked to serve as superintendent, and she said she is "pleased to try to continue the work [Herrmann] has begun here."

"It's important to remember that this district is what it is because of its students, support staff, teachers, administrators and parents who all value educational excellence," Wilkinson said.



Christina Perrino

On Jan. 14, Superintendent Herrmann announced her plan to leave the District at the end of the school year.

Go to chsglobe.com for updates and complete interviews from this story.

PISA results affirm District's global viability, leave room for improvement

Dawn Androphy
Co-Editor in Chief

Last winter, Clayton sophomores sat down to take the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). PISA, an international standardized assessment, serves to globally compare the skills of students in the application of math, reading, and science.

The test is administered every three years, and the international contractor tells countries to randomly select schools and, within those schools, randomly select 35 students. In countries with low populations, all of the students aged 15 are tested. Clayton was one of the 100 randomly selected schools for participation in the test.

One purpose of the test for Clayton was an ACT/PISA collaboration to determine whether PLAN test scores could accurately gauge scores on international tests. However, instead of testing the required 35 students, Clayton was the only school to test every sophomore.

The decision to expand the testing group was made to test Clayton's international competitiveness. Superintendent Mary Herrmann was pleased that the District had seized this opportunity.

"Our decision to participate in PISA demonstrated our District-wide commitment to continual growth," Herrmann said. "These very positive results are a tribute to our students, staff, and community."

It was especially important to take the exam because it is unlikely that Clayton will be selected to participate in the study again, despite advocacy on the part of the School District.

"Our decision to participate in PISA demonstrated our District-wide commitment to continual growth. These very positive results are a tribute to our students, staff and community"

Mary Herrmann
Superintendent

"Participation in this study provided a unique opportunity to do some international benchmarking and find out how our students performed relative to their peers in top performing countries," Herrmann said. "We believe it is our responsibility to prepare our students to be globally competitive."

Clayton was treated as its own country for the sake of comparison against other countries. When compared to the participating countries, Clayton placed first in reading and science and second math. Shanghai students placed second in the former instances and first in the latter.

"Our Clayton students performed very well internationally," Herrmann said. "These results affirm that Clayton is truly a world class district."

Likewise, for District Chief Communications Officer Chris Tennill,

the results served as an affirmation of Clayton's standing as a world-class school.

"We've always feel like we do a really good job here and we've asked for years on surveys if people think we have a world-class education and they said, 'Yeah, we think you do,'" Tennill said. "Now we've got some data to back that up."

While Tennill still feels that Clayton can always improve the education it provides, he thinks that the results serve as an answer to self-evaluations of the District's flaws.

"It gives a reason to pause and just say for a second, 'You know what? We are doing a pretty good job with what we've got going here,'" Tennill said.

However, as well as showcasing Clayton's relatively impressive scores, the results also reaffirmed the United States' trailing position in international education rankings. While Clayton did perform well for a school in the United States, Clayton performed relatively at the same level as an average school in Shanghai.

Tennill, however, still views the results as positive in light of the "documented gap" between the U.S. education system and higher-performing countries.

"Even the average schools in Shanghai, Taiwan, Singapore, Finland, that are beating us [the United States] on other tests, test better than the top schools in the states," Tennill said.

PISA, pg. 8



M+H Architects

Centene Centennial Plaza raises questions of school sponsorship

Jonathan Shumway
Editor

With the ongoing renovation of CHS, there are also plans to design an entrance garden on the circle at the front of the high school. For the building of Centene Centennial Plaza, the PTO allocated funds from several sources, including Clayton community members, former Clayton alumni, and corporations.

Controversy has arisen concerning the list of donors, as Centene Corporation, a global corporation headquartered in Clayton agreed to donate \$63,000 to fill the original fundraising gap for Centene Centennial Plaza, with the agreement that the new garden would be named after them. The preliminary cost for Centene Centennial Plaza was estimated at \$115,000, but the estimate has grown with added elements such as lighting.

The fundraising effort has been carried out for almost a year, with the PTO being responsible for attaining the funds for the Plaza. No district money will be spent on Centene Centennial Plaza.

"The first thing that we did was that we contacted all the Clayton families that had a student attending CHS, or had a Clayton student graduate since 2005," Cindy Rappanotti, a PTO member who has helped in the fund-

raising effort for Centennial Plaza, said. "In spring and summer of 2010, that was our focus. We also sent out a press release in the spring. There was also a visual and literature for the planned plaza at the Clayton Hall of Fame dinner. We made personal efforts to some donors, and also had others that have donated, who have bought bricks, such as the Clayton water polo team, and Boy Scout Troop 21—groups that have connections with CHS. The Plaza is going to recognize these donors."

Although Centene Corporation contributed a significant gift for the construction of Centene Centennial Plaza, much of the Clayton community has been involved in the fundraising for the Plaza.

"Most of our participation has come from families who bought one or more bricks for \$250 each," Rappanotti said. "There have been about 200 families that supported the effort. Michael and Carol Staenberg provided a significant gift for the Centene Centennial Plaza. Centene also helped provide funding for Centennial Plaza."

PTO member Sue Hodapp, who has conducted the negotiations with Centene Corporation, believes that Centene's donation shows what Clayton is all about.

Centene Centennial Plaza, pg. 8

See pg. 22 for the staff's judgement of this issue.

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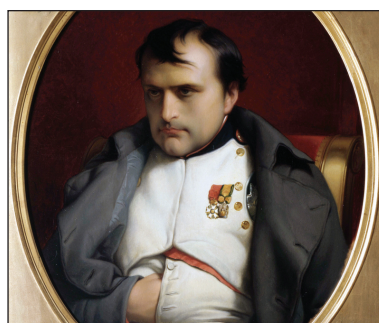
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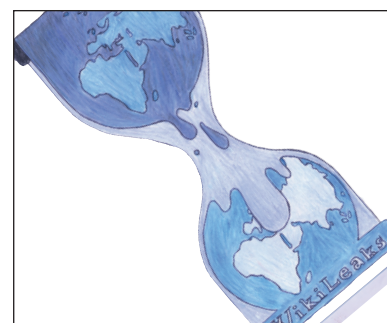
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Noah Eby
Co-Editor in Chief

In 2001, when her son was in second grade, Holly Ingraham saw a void and promptly chose to fill it. Her son was playing basketball with Clayton Rec., but she and others perceived the need for a more competitive option for young Clayton athletes. The result was, and still is, the Greyhound Basketball Club (GBC), a non-profit, volunteer organization that serves children from third to eighth grade.

The club strives to establish a high level of competition while remaining open and inclusive, and it hopes to provide "true student athletes," as Ingraham put it, for the high school program by keeping future teammates together on the same elementary and middle school team. At the heart of the club since its founding has been the belief that athletic and academic excellence are not mutually exclusive.

"We had met with [Superintendent] Don Senti and discussed the idea of having a club team that would be kind of a school-sponsored team, school district-sponsored in the sense that we could get access to the gyms and utilize the facilities," said Ingraham, now GBC President and a coach for the fifth grade girls' team. "That's how it started in 2002, and since then we've grown."

And grown they have, more than doubling their numbers from 72 players in 2009-2010 to 150 in 2010-2011. Part of the growth was fueled by the addition of fourth through eighth grade girls' teams, but almost every grade level on the boys' side also added a squad.

However, with this growth have come problems. Namely, allegations have arisen that the GBC has violated the terms of its written agreement with the school district, a contract that allows the organization to use district facilities free of charge. Among the "criteria for usage" listed in the agreement are that a "no cut policy" be in place and that "teams must have 80 percent of Clayton residents or students."

The issue of the no cut policy is a technical one that is in many ways up for interpretation. In no way does the GBC "go up to a parent and say 'You're cut,'" Ingraham said. But the club does hold tryouts at the beginning of the season, and on some occasions not every child who tries out is placed on a team.

"I don't see that as cutting," Ingraham said. "We have limited resources, just as the school district has limited resources. Our guideline that we've set for ourselves is to have a roster of 8 to 10 players with a coach. If we have more than that, then we're looking to create two squads within [one grade level] or, if we can't accommodate, if we don't have another coach, we'll refer players to Parks and Rec. and invite them to continue to attend practice."

This interpretation of what "no cut policy" means does not sit well with some parents, though.

"If 24 people show up for a tryout, by my reading of the rules, in one way or another 24 kids should be served," said Andy Brown, a Clayton parent who has two children currently involved with the GBC and one who has graduated from the program.

Whether or not the organization's actions have technically violated the "no cut" policy is not purely objective. Yet CHS Athletic Director Bob Bone said that,



Balancing Act

Controversy has arisen surrounding the Greyhound Basketball Club as it struggles to maintain a high level of competition and Clayton's philosophy of athletic opportunity.

technicalities aside, the spirit of the law is not necessarily being followed.

"By the letter of the law maybe it's not cutting someone, but I think the intent was if a kid wants to play, they're going to be given the opportunity," Bone said.

Additionally, Bone said that the district needs to "protect the guideline that Clayton kids that want to participate are getting the opportunity. That's why they're using our facilities for nothing – because our kids are involved. That's very important to me." He added that he has heard complaints from multiple parents about the GBC regarding the agreement.

As for the 80 percent guideline also included in the agreement, the GBC acknowledges that, while in its entirety 83 percent (125 of 150) of its participants are Clayton residents or students, there are certain cases in which individual squads have exceeded the 20 percent limit of non-Clayton participants.

"[The agreement] is something that, once it was in place, we maybe didn't stay on top of as much as we should have," Bone said. "And to a degree we maybe assumed that the guidelines were being followed, and I guess we can't do that."

Tim Phelan, GBC Board member, said that the group views "team" as a grade level, not a specific A, B

or C squad. This is largely due to the fact that the squads are not static – players move from squad to squad, often playing at two or even three levels, according to Phelan. He described this system of fluid team structure as having a "profound impact" on the club, as kids are "checking their egos at the door."

Yet this interpretation of the rules is not a view shared by all.

"It doesn't take too much interpretation to decide what the word team means," Brown said.

Brown added that, ideally, "unless numbers dictate" that there aren't enough players for a B team, "under no situation" would he see a reason to bring in a non-Clayton athlete.

If only things were that simple. The GBC argues that Clayton, a small district, simply does not have enough talent to field a team at each grade level that would be able to compete at a sufficient level. Jay Ponder, a Clayton parent who coached with the GBC from its inception, provided a sort of case study for this argument.

A sixth grade team that he was coaching was made up of all Clayton kids, but it lost three-quarters of its games playing in weak leagues, "and that doesn't get the kids ready for high school," Ponder said. The next year, two non-Clayton athletes were brought in and the team

was improved, so much so that by eighth grade the team went 45-17 playing in highly competitive Mathews-Dickey and AAU games. That experience of playing at a high level, Ponder said, is "what got some of the boys ready to play over at the high school."

"The way the [Clayton varsity] team plays together, the way they're able to press, run the floor, they're not scared of fast, quick teams – that's all that playing down at Mathews-Dickey when we had some good players and could compete," Ponder said.

He added that while a high level of competition may not be necessary at the elementary level, it is imperative once kids enter middle school. He also said that it is not absolute and varies case by case, depending on the depth of talent of a certain Clayton grade level.

Maintaining a high level of competition also keeps the most talented Clayton kids from leaving for other club teams that would separate them from their future teammates, according to the GBC. As Vice President of the GBC Tim Elliott said, "including non-Clayton kids allows us to retain as many Clayton kids as we can."

Problems aside, the GBC has undoubtedly made headway in accomplishing its mission to "deliver a freshman class of student athletes prepared to compete and contribute to the Clayton High School basketball programs." Of the current varsity players at the high school, nine are former participants in the GBC, including Clayton Buchanan, Charlie Harned and Christian Thomas.

"I just think exposing younger players and having them be coached by a competent coaching and getting a lot of playing time has definitely made them better basketball players – it should," said CHS varsity basketball coach Ryan Luhnig, who also works with GBC coaches to enhance their training and player development techniques. "I think having our middle schoolers and grade schoolers afforded that opportunity has definitely helped our program, and I think we should always be pretty good now with this feeder program. I don't know if we'll always be 13-2 to start the year, but we should be pretty good."

Moving forward, Elliott explained that the unexpected and enormous growth over the past year has made handling the organization more difficult, and it has made the guidelines seem almost obsolete.

"The landscape for us as an organization is changing," Elliott said. "It's much easier for us to administer a program with 60 kids than 125 kids. We understand what the policy guidelines are, we're doing everything we can to serve the Clayton kids as best we can, provide a quality experience and meet those guidelines. But I think with what has happened with the club, it's gotten to the point that... we really need to sit down and revisit these policies that are several years old now and say 'What really worked?'"

The GBC plans to do just that. After the current season, the club will meet with representatives from the school district to discuss and possibly modify the guidelines. Bone and the GBC expressed strong desire to reach a consensus, for, as Bone put it, "the whole point of this is to make things better for our kids." ☺

►► Go to chsglobe.com for more about the GBC, including a letter sent to parents about the controversy.

Playtime is over for teens

Marilyn Gund
Reporter

As many have noticed, a new playground has sprung up a short distance from the high school in Shaw Park. However, despite its proximity to the high school, no teenagers are now allowed on the playground.

This new playground was constructed in the fall of 2010 and has been popular with younger kids and high schoolers alike. That is, until the ban on kids over the age of 12 was introduced a few weeks after the premiere of the play area, which includes a play structure, swings and several interactive toys.

"All of the teenagers on the playground was off-putting to parents and young children," said Patty DeForrest, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Clayton.

DeForrest also explained that the equipment just wasn't strong enough to hold teenagers since it was built for kids under the age of 12. "Teens could damage the playground," she said.

Before the ban it was usual to see a couple of kids from CHS hanging out at the playground. In a poll of 40 CHS students, more than half said they didn't really care about the playground or had never been there, while 15 percent said the playground should just be for kids. Over a fourth of the students polled thought that the playground should be open for everyone.

But the Parks and Recreation Department was shocked that the playground had received such a reaction from teenagers, especially because on many days the playground was filled with younger children and their parents.

"I was surprised it was an attraction," DeForrest said. "It had never crossed my mind that teenagers would want to use it."

DeForrest hopes that the newness



A sign now warns students that the new Shaw Park playground is off-limits to teenagers. The Parks and Rec. Department says that the jungle gym is not safe or appropriate for those over the age of 12.

will wear off for the CHS students and there will be no more problems. The playground hasn't been very busy as of late, possibly because of the change in weather, but DeForrest remains hopeful that students will not return with the warm weather in the spring months.

Also, she thinks that the new signs that alerts everyone that the playground was built for children under 12 will make the teenagers not want to go there.

Despite the unexpected turn of events for the playground, DeFor-

rest wants to offer the teenagers of CHS a chance to meet with her to discuss a new playground or activity place for just teens. She wants to sit down with kids who have ideas for a new attraction for CHS students so that the playground can remain just for the kids.

For those interested in contacting DeForrest about a new teen "playground," she is available at pdeforrest@ci.clayton.mo.us, or in the Clayton Parks and Recreation Department behind the front desk at the Center. ☺



A CHS student sits in one of the 20-year-old green chairs in the library. The Breakfast Club is trying to raise the \$700 necessary to fund new furniture, and they also hope to repaint the library and display student artwork.

Breakfast Club has high hopes for replacing worn library chairs

Parker Schultz
Reporter

"They're still sturdy, they're just looking dirty... and drooled on," CHS Head Librarian Luran DeRigne said. She was talking about the green chairs that have been sitting in the library for nearly 20 years now. Thankfully, the Breakfast Club (or Library Club) has decided to bring in some new furniture.

DeRigne says that students have come up to her asking about the possibility of new furniture.

"Occasionally we'll get 'we need new furniture,' or 'thank God,' when I say that we're thinking about getting some new furniture," DeRigne said. "Then they [the students] always want a couch, which I don't think we'll do because we did have a couch once but it was a lot of people sitting on each other's laps."

The Breakfast Club, which meets monthly in the library, is in charge of helping DeRigne make decisions for the library as well as raise money. Through fundraising events, they hope to generate enough money to cover at least half of the new furniture costs. This would add up to around \$700.

The Breakfast Club students had planned a fundraiser night for finals studying. Unfortunately, the event fell

through in the planning.

"The council had planned a small fundraising opportunity on the Thursday before winter break," freshman Abraham Bluestone said. "However, due to the snow day, the fundraiser was canceled."

Getting new furniture isn't just about choosing the type to get. DeRigne has a budget to balance. Just recently, the library purchased a flat screen TV to show the Friday announcements as well as book recommendations. The new chairs that DeRigne wants sit in a list of other library needs.

"We would really love to paint it [the library] a few different colors, but they don't really allow you to do anything other than white," DeRigne said.

She also hopes to display artwork throughout the library.

"We want to do some student artwork, like hanging big murals along the spaces between the book shelves," DeRigne said. "That would be something we would coordinate with the art department or do a student contest."

Even if some of DeRigne's ambitions for the library aren't fulfilled, new chairs are almost guaranteed. Within the next two years, the library will start another 20-chair cycle. ☺

Dog park chased out of town, residents search for alternatives

A dog park craze has swept the nation, but Clayton's attempts to jump on the bandwagon have fallen through.

Zach Prais
Community Editor

Clayton residents have been howling, barking, and growling over the idea of a dog park for over a decade and it does not look like it's going to stop anytime soon. Indeed, despite a recent setback with respect to a proposed dog park in Concordia Seminary, residents continue to sniff out other possible locations in Clayton.

Today, dog parks have become the new social amenities of communities across the country. There is overwhelming community support in Clayton due to the benefits of a dog park as a place to not only let dogs off the leash, but chat with neighbors and build a stronger community. University City, Maplewood, Creve Coeur, and Maryland Heights are several St. Louis County municipalities that have dog parks.

"The interest in dog parks is nationwide," Patty DeForrest, the Director of the Clayton Parks and Recreation, said. "It's not just a Clayton phenomenon. It's a phenomenon in cities across the country right now."

In a recent citywide Parks and Recreation community survey, 45 percent of Clayton residents think a dog park would be a good amenity and addition to the city. Such a dog park would require approximately an acre and a half of land as well as suitable fencing, water fountains, benches, and landscaping, costing in the range of \$60,000 to \$80,000 (which dog park advocates plan to raise through fundraising). In addition, subsequent operational expenses for the dog park would be paid by dog park memberships, which would be limited to approximately 200 families.

The reality of a dog park in Clayton, however, hinges on the success of finding an appropriate location for the park.

"The idea of a dog park in Clayton is not going to go away," DeForrest said. "It's really a movement...but it's a challenge in Clayton, where there is limited land."

Over the past few years, the Parks and Recreation Commission has discussed several locations including Wydown Park, Taylor Park, Shaw Park, and Oak Knoll Park. Yet none of those parks proved suitable for a dog park.

More recently, Clayton dog park advocates pushed for the dog park to be on the grounds of Concordia Sem-

inary in the DeMun neighborhood. Consideration of this location was prompted after the Seminary indicated it was willing to lease a southeastern portion of their land for a dog park.

For many residents in favor of a dog park, the proposed dog park seemed to perfect to be true as Concordia was offering to increase the amount of Clayton park space and provide additional parking. However, for a majority of the DeMun neighborhood residents the proposal was unacceptable.

Bill McClellan, a DeMun resident for nearly 30 years, was deeply upset by the proposed dog park and supported the neighborhood's organized opposition.

"[The Seminary] is kind of the face of the neighborhood, a lovely pastoral setting, and all of a sudden people from outside the neighborhood want to come in and put a six foot fence all around an acre and a half of it," McClellan said.

Furthermore, the Seminary is truly a beloved park space for the DeMun residents that is taken advantage of year round whether its kids sledding or families having a picnic.

"The seminary is a great neighbor and that's really important," McClellan said. "I mean it's wonderful to live near the Seminary, but most importantly, they let people wander their grounds...This big park, which is really private property, the Seminary treats it as if it is a public park. If you were to come out here in the good weather, you would see people sun bathing, throwing frisbees around, and fathers throwing baseballs to their kids."

Within a short time, a majority of the DeMun residents signed a petition in opposition to the proposed dog park. In response, the Parks and Recreation Commission sent out a survey to the residents and businesses in close proximity to the proposed dog park to gather further data concerning the proposal.

The results of the survey found that over 70 percent of residents and businesses were opposed to the proposed dog park because of the increased noise, traffic, and reduction of the beautiful Seminary park space.

In general, dog parks are often not located near neighborhoods, but rather, are tucked away in industrial parks or by highways.

"I think people who are opposed to them generally are opposed to them not in concept but in their back-



Claire Bliss

A sign warning residents to keep their dogs leashed remains standing after a proposal to erect an acre and a half, fenced-in dog park in Concordia Seminary fell through due to DeMun neighborhood opposition. The Parks and Rec. Commission has considered numerous locations for a dog park, but all have failed to pass the planning stage.

yard," DeForrest said.

In the end, due to the overwhelming neighborhood opposition to the proposition, the Seminary retracted its original proposal, ending discussions of a dog park on the Seminary's east grounds.

Despite this setback, the search for a suitable location continues by dog park supporters and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

"We explored the option of Concordia...[and] having heard from the neighbors, we absolutely respect their opinions and we're looking for alternatives," Deb Dubin, one of the Clayton residents spearheading the community dog park movement, said. "We are looking for leadership from the Board of Alderman and our unelected officials of the Parks and Recreation Commission to make this a reality. So, working together, we are turning our attention to other potential locations."

At the Jan. 3 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, several residents came forth with a proposal to examine Shaw Park and the acre-sized area behind the South Shelter at the end of Shaw Park Drive – the only location for a dog park in Clayton that has no adjacent neighbors.

Yet Shaw Park is the center of nearly all of Clayton's recreational activities with the baseball fields, tennis courts, Aquatic Center, ice rink, and several playgrounds.

Consequently, DeForrest has some preemptive concerns about also squeezing in a dog park, which was not found to be a significant addition for the park in the future in the last Master Plan.

"When we last looked at Shaw Park in 2007 during the Master Plan, it was felt that Shaw Park is already an over-programmed area," DeForrest said. "With a dog park, you would have to fence it in and take an acre and a half out of usage for everybody else...[Especially] on a Saturday during baseball season there's hundreds of kids coming to Shaw Park and to bring a bunch of dogs to that site isn't necessarily a good mix."

At the same time, a dog park at the southwestern area of Shaw Park would not upset any neighbors and would increase community usage and appreciation of Shaw Park.

"I think Shaw Park is a great idea," Dubin said. "However, I think it's also a potential idea and what we need to do is examine it a little further, but I'm cautiously optimistic... I'm still hopefully that the dog park will become a reality in Clayton for the community to enjoy." ☺

►► Go to chsglobe.com for more photos and a map of the proposed Shaw Park dog park as presented by Clayton residents.

Food trucks bring gourmet food on the move to downtown St. Louis



Used with permission of Sarah's Cake Stop

Sarah's Cake Stop, St. Louis' first mobile cupcake van, brings treats to customers all over the city. Follow them on Facebook or Twitter to find out where the van will be on any given day.

Sarah Blackwell
Editor

Street food is always present in city life. But recently, street food has gotten a modern, gourmet makeover.

The trend of gourmet food trucks is spreading from the west coast to St. Louis. Most of the food trucks in St. Louis can be found downtown, and offer a variety of cuisines including Mexican, French, American, and Italian.

Erik Jacobs, a pizza-lover from Clayton, is working on a mobile restaurant that serves wood-fired pizzas.

"We're putting a brick oven in the trailer to do real, authentic pizza," Jacobs said.

Jacobs' food truck is not actually a truck at all, but a 1973 airstream trailer that he is renovating into a pizza place. Similarly, Nicole Shelledy runs a mobile creperie called Holy Crepe in what used to be a school bus.

"I love crepes and how diverse they can be, and my friend lived in Hawaii where there were a lot of food trucks, so we decided to blend the two together," Shelledy said.

Food trucks are a good idea for people like Shelledy, who works more than one job.

"The biggest benefit is a low overhead and the

flexibility to work when and where we want," Shelledy said.

Shelledy runs a business at home, in addition to her food truck business. Her partner, Anna, also works a job making pizzas. Jacobs agrees that flexibility is the main benefit of running a restaurant on wheels.

"I used to own a restaurant in the Central West End," Jacobs said. "I loved owning a restaurant but it was actually the other way around. The restaurant owned me. I have three kids and I need some sort of flexibility in my schedule."

He also looks forward to communicating through the internet. Jacobs plans to set up a Twitter and a Facebook account for his followers to find out where the truck will be.

According to Shelledy, another benefit of working in a food truck is the limited space, which makes managing less complicated. Shelledy also discusses the cons of running a food truck.

"It is very confusing figuring out what permits are needed to operate a food truck" Shelledy said.

The food truck trend is new to St. Louis, and laws are continually changing.

"A lot of laws are being written as we go along, because they've never had to deal with this amount of food trucks before," Jacobs said.

Some people think that food trucks are a threat

to locally owned restaurants. Clayton does not allow food trucks under any circumstances.

"There aren't that many trucks out there," Jacobs said. "Certainly, I'm not going to park myself out in front of a pizza restaurant."

Some restaurants agree that food trucks may be too big a threat.

"My understanding is that they're not too thrilled, but I feel like competition is always a good thing," Shelledy said.

Food trucks also have to compete with other food trucks. Shelledy sees that as a good thing, since she enjoys all the different kinds of street food.

"Right now we're really happy to see other food trucks popping up, especially considering how different they all are," Shelledy said. "Hopefully it'll become more popular in St. Louis. I really think food trucks bring foot traffic, and foot traffic is great for any city."

Food trucks face challenges getting started, but they may stick around St. Louis.

"Operating a food truck has proven to be challenging mostly because of the confusing rules and regulations in place," Shelledy said. "They are unclear and currently not food truck friendly. My fingers are crossed that this will [change] soon." ☺

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F.A.C.S. classes will return with new building, curriculum

Caroline Greenberg
Reporter

Construction will be over soon and new additions to the CHS curriculum will be initiated with its end in the coming fall. There will be new fashion and culinary art classes. The whole program has been completely redone and changed from before.

The culinary program at Clayton was very small before. The class will now have a start of the art kitchen with stainless steel counter tops.

Nancy Freeman, department chair of career and technology education (CTE) is very excited about the new addition to CHS.

"The kitchen will be state of the art, with stainless steel counter tops," Freeman said. "The class will teach you how to work in a restaurant."

Tony Almonds, owner of Almonds restaurant is helping to shape the curriculum. The class is for anyone, beginners to talented individuals.

"The cooking classes are based on prostart a culinary arts program," Freeman said. "Although it will not exactly be the same since the needs at Clayton are different we are personalizing the program to our students."

The cooking class was disbanded after the cottage was destroyed and has not been at CHS for the past two years. However, at Wydown, the FACS class prepares kids in learning how to cook.

"When I was in eighth grade, I took FACS with Mrs. Kochin who really taught us the beginner skills. I never knew how to cook until I took that class," Freshman Jack Burns said. "When I heard they were having a cooking class at CHS, I was so excited! It sounds really great."

In addition to the new cooking classes there will be new fashion classes. This class will be equipped with big dressing rooms and three sided mirrors. There will be room for new storage and new sewing machines. Last year the wardrobe classes were in the annexes.

"Last year the room was cramped to say the least. Attempting to have fifteen kids in a trailer, each on a sewing machine, as well as an iron, fabric, storage, and room for backpacks was a nightmare," Senior Grace Brumley said. "There was no space to lay out fabric, no space to cut out pattern pieces, no space to pin or cut or measure anything."



Taylor Gold

Brumley is the president of the fashion club and is responsible for keeping fashion alive at CHS. Since Mrs. Williams retired this past year there will be a new teacher for both classes.

"Mrs. Williams chose to retire at the exact wrong moment. It's been really difficult this year. The previously experienced students are continuing to make clothing, but unfortunately the newer students with an interest in sewing will have to wait until next year," Brumley said.

Although people have had to wait this past year for the new classes, the wait will not be in vain.

"I took fashion my freshman year at CHS," Sophomore Marin Garavalia said. "I'm so excited for the new classes to start because the new rooms will give us more space to work and to complete better and more projects."

Just like the cooking class it will be for anyone who wants to learn with no experience to highly developed.

There is not a teacher yet for the new classes but they are still looking. The teacher will be able to do both classes.

"We are looking for a highly qualified teacher," Freeman said. "We are hoping kids will sign up and trust it will be good."

Having this new addition at CHS will be a great improvement to our curriculum and will be a new experience for many kids to have.

"Students would be crazy not to utilize the new wing!" Brumley said. "Coming from a student who had to pin garments out on the Annex hallway floor and find random nooks to put my sewing kit away in, this new wing is a blessing!"

Video class coming to new facilities next year

Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent to finance new equipment for Video Studio Productions.

Jake Lee
Editor

A heavy investment has been put into the new Video Studio Productions class that will appeal to people who are interested in technology and who want to learn how to use different tools for media. Approximately \$250,000 has been spent for the new equipment, which includes studio package cameras, an intercom system, microphones, a complete control room with sound mixers, switchers and a character generator.

The class will be part of the journalism suite in the new wing of the high school and will start in the September. Students can sign up for the class when they register for next year.

According to broadcast teacher Christine Stricker, many different types of people might be interested in the new class.

"People who like creating music, interested in television, and interested in the behind the scenes work of productions will fit in this new class and will be able to advance their knowledge in these areas," Stricker said.

Before the class starts, ROSCOR, the company in charge of providing all the different equipment for the new video studio productions class, is offering workshops for Stricker and some interested students. These workshops will be running over the summer and will teach participants how to use the equipment that was recently bought.

"I'm hoping to get a lot of the technology done in the beginning," Stricker said, "so that the class is ready to begin in the next school year."

Stricker has several goals that she wishes to be accomplished to make the class as successful as it can be and to include a variety of new productions.

"I want to keep the broadcast students separate from students focused on the production side," Stricker said, "so there will be more products from the class. I'm also hoping that the new studio will be used for other productions besides GNN so we can use the new technology for what it's worth."

GNN, the Greyhounds News Network, is the current broadcast news class that creates a video of news about CHS and displays it on Fridays during third period. This class will continue but will also have some new facilities in the new wing, including six new sound-proof editing bays for doing voiceovers for stories. Stricker hopes that the new studio and class will produce more than just videos for GNN.

Stricker's last wish is to make sure that the money being spent for the new video productions class will be worth the price for the new productions that will be made.

"We're spending all this money," Stricker said, "so it would be great if a more multipurpose production with ideas relating to the community could also be made, in addition

to the journalism productions."

Nancy Freeman, chairperson for the Career and Technical Education department, shares Stricker's enthusiasm for the new class and the new studio.

"I think the new studio will bring a whole new level of professionalism to the broadcast journalism program at the high school and will offer students an opportunity to learn in a state-of-the-art facility," Freeman said.

Freeman said she was excited about the possibilities the video studio productions class offered to the entire journalism program.

"I know the Globe editors are in the midst of re-thinking how to get the news out in a variety of ways for today's audience, with more emphasis on multimedia and online aspects," Freeman said. "This studio should offer all kinds of ways to make that even more exciting and professional."

Freeman hopes students who have been involved in the technical aspects of running the theater or creating electronic music might give this class a chance.

"We certainly believe that any students who are interested in the technical aspects of media production will find this video studio productions class a good fit," Freeman said.



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New college counselor anticipates semester

Caitlin Kropp
Editor

The first thing to notice about her office is the paintings. All different shapes and sizes, they are lined up with loving care against the walls and windows, awaiting only a hook to hang from. Landscapes, still lifes, portraits, they add a bloom of color to the otherwise sparse interior. After all, it is only her first week on the job.

Smiling, Mary Anne Modzelewski acknowledges the paintings as works of her husband, Steve.

"He was my soul mate," Modzelewski said. "We were married for 26 years."

Modzelewski, recently arrived at Clayton High School from a job as a college counselor in Albuquerque, N.M., is here to fill the previously-vacant spot of CHS college counselor.

Ms. Modz, as she has her students call her, grew up in St. Louis and attended Washington University before embarking on a teaching and counseling career that has spanned several states and decades. From New Mexico to Illinois to Missouri, Modzelewski is well acquainted with the ins and outs of college counseling, especially with the lesser known side of the job.

"I feel, as a college counselor, that my job is to help people through transitions," Modzelewski said. "College counseling is much more than just sending off those applications for colleges. I see college counseling as really more about life counseling, about looking forward, ahead."

However, Modzelewski is not at Clayton High School merely for the position. She is also here for more personal reasons.

"I believe in helping students through transitions, and I, personally, am undertaking a huge transition," Modzelewski said. "I'm here because my husband passed away in September of a brain tumor. It was diagnosed this past summer, so it all happened very quickly."

Steve Modzelewski was an art teacher at the Bosque School in Albuquerque, N.M. After his passing, his wife decided to honor his memory by passing on his love for the arts to the students.

"We created an art show to raise money for scholarship funds," Modzelewski said. "My husband had thousands of drawings. He was a very prolific drawer. I had 56 drawings to represent a year in his life, and we sold the drawings to raise money for the scholarship fund."

In addition to the memorial fund, Modzelewski de-



New college counselor Mary Anne Modzelewski, or "Ms. Modz," has already begun helping students. She will hopefully relieve some of the stress on the counseling department since Chat Leonard's resignation in Aug. 2010.

scribed the loving care his school took to memorialize her husband.

"He had this art project where he had his students make these birds to hang in the atrium of the school, and so they created a permanent sculptural project in his name," Modzelewski said. "My husband's students came to his bedside in the hospital to pay him tribute and their love for him. The soccer team was actually in the championship, and after my husband died they wore 'Remember Mr. Mod' on their jerseys in the championship game."

Once the funeral and memorials were over, Modzelewski immediately went back to work, relying on the

support of her teaching community to help her through the difficult time.

"As a college counselor, it was right at the beginning of school," Modzelewski said. "So as I worked with my students, my [students] knew that I was going through this, but I did take care of every single one of their letters. Before I left, everybody had a place."

With the completion of the semester at Sandia Preparatory School, her previous school, Modzelewski looked to return to St. Louis, to reconnect with family and friends. She felt that the return, although it was made painful by her deep love for her students, was a good place to begin a new chapter in her life.

"What's so lucky for me is that the reason I wanted to come back to St. Louis wasn't because I wanted to leave my students and Sandia Prep, because I really loved them," Modzelewski said. "It was because as I was going through this transition and this great tragedy in my life, I was able to find a place here, and that allowed me to come home. So it is very meaningful for me to be here."

Despite only being at the school for one week, Modzelewski is already very pleased with CHS, especially the counseling program.

"I'm totally thrilled with the counseling model here at Clayton High, the fact that it's kind of a transparent model of counseling," Modzelewski said. "I love that at Clayton High, the student is at the center of the educational process, and that's the way I think it should be."

To her, being a college counselor is much more than finding a good college. It's about helping each student successfully navigate the waters and plan out their lives.

"Seniors, juniors, they're full of anxiety and possibility and problems and issues and things that come at you," Modzelewski said. "My job, as your counselor, is to be there to help navigate and help guide you through a maze of possibility. What is the right thing for you? How do you find your bliss?"

Although she misses her husband every day, Modzelewski hopes to use her experience to further enhance her counseling and her relationships. She is not shy about her feelings, and openly welcomes any inquiries or consolations anyone wants to give.

"I think that going through this hard period of time has already deepened my counseling," Modzelewski said. "I think that what I'm dealing with is something that you can use to teach. It's sad, but there are some strange miracles in loss. I'm working on that. I think it's important that anyone who knows me, and that includes students and staff, knows that it's okay to ask me about it or how I'm doing because I really feel that I've been given some strange gift or ability."

To further elaborate, Modzelewski explains that her perception of life has increased, which is something that she can hopefully pass on to her students.

"What it means is that I, myself, practice what I try to help my students understand about life," Modzelewski said. "You never know. I didn't know that at the beginning of this semester I would be at Clayton High School. Everything about my life has changed in the snap of a finger, but what I know is that everything is going to be all right, even after the worse that's happened." ☺

Alum founds music organization for inner-city youth

Jake Bernstein
Editor

In the Clayton School District students have access to a wide variety of educational enrichment programs from elementary school onward. Students in the St. Louis Public School District rarely have access to as many of these opportunities.

Making Music Matters, an organization founded by CHS 2010 alum Ken Zheng, offers a classical violin music program to inner city students who have no orchestra programs at their schools.

Zheng began the program the summer after graduating high school. Balancing the program with studies at Washington University, Zheng teaches violin at Stevens Middle School once a week. The United Way of Greater St. Louis assisted Zheng in starting the program.

"United Way helped us find a school to begin our program at, for which I am very grateful," Zheng said.

The program's curriculum is being developed by Zheng and two other "teachers," students who attend John Burroughs School, Ginna Doyle and Laura Cooper.

The three teachers use the Essential Elements for Strings book with supplemental material they find online.

Though all three are accomplished violinists, developing a curriculum is new to them.

"The one short hour we have with the students flies by each week," Zheng said. "At first, I thought I would have to work hard to find material to fill that time, but by the time you get there, greet the students, and set up the stands and violins, there really isn't much time left."

Making Music Matters has received support from sources such as the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, which has donated supplies for the students.

"While our program is fairly small, I'm always on the lookout for ways to expand," Zheng said.

"I wholeheartedly appreciate the support of the Symphony. We're also looking for more high school and college students to volunteer as violin teachers for an hour a week."

Cooper, who is a senior, joined the program as a teacher roughly three weeks after it began.

"I really enjoy working with the kids," Cooper said. "It's really a unique intellectual challenge to figure out how to teach someone something that you've been doing for so long that it feels natural."

Shana Renshaw, Community Collaborative Specialist at Stevens Middle School, is in regular contact with Zheng about the program and feels that the program is going very well.

"Many students are finding the desire to cultivate this new-found talent," Renshaw said. "Most have



CHS graduate Ken Zheng works with a violinist at Stevens Middle School as part of the program he founded, Making Music Matters. The organization, which has been aided by the United Way, provides violin instruction to inner city students who do not have an orchestra program at their school.

had little instrumental music exposure and no exposure to the violin prior to this experience."

Cooper taught violin nearly every week last semester despite being busy with college applications. In teaching violin to students who otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity, Cooper knows she makes a difference in their lives.

"I'm really inspired by the talent and drive of the kids," Cooper said. "I feel like I owe it to them to be there every week and be a consistent figure. I want to encourage them to do something that they're doing very well. I'm try to be friendly and fun with them so they enjoy the learning process."

Renshaw sees the students before and after the teachers arrive.

"The students are very receptive and interested," Renshaw said. "They continually express concern about access to their instruments and when class is going to be held. Many times they rush the instructors as soon as they arrive before giving them a chance to set up."

During first semester, students learned the basics of violin. Second semester, Zheng plans on teaching them more about string-crossing and bow usage.

"In this program, I've learned a lot of things," student Taquerra Washington said. "I have learned to read the music that I'm playing. It is ac-

tually fairly easy. I have also learned how to pluck the strings in order to play the violin. Just don't pluck them too hard or they'll snap. I have confidence in my playing ability as well as my ability to make music."

While teachers and students both enjoy the time they have each week, Zheng believes that Making Music Matters is more than having fun with music.

"A 2004 Stanford University study showed that mastering a musical instrument improves the way the human brain processes parts of spoken language," Zheng said. "In order to convince the district administrators that the program is worth the effort, we have to show that it's hav-


ing an impact inside the classroom as well."

At the end of last semester, the students performed in a small concert for their school.

"I hope to have at least one concert every semester to encourage the students," Zheng said. "It's important for them to see the results of their hard work. This semester, we also want to take them on a tour of Powell Hall to see what classical music is like on a professional level."

Renshaw is excited with the continuation of the program this semester and would like to keep it going. Zheng also wants to expand to one or two other inner-city schools by next year. ☺

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CRIME

Looking at the factors

St. Louis, for the past five years, has continually sustained its place among the top five most dangerous cities in the U.S. as according to the CQ Press.

But what exactly do those numbers mean? "Nobody really knows how they did it," Philippa Barrett, Chief Misdemeanor Officer at the office of the St. Louis Circuit Attorney. "[The rankings] don't bring in a lot of factors."

The rankings are based solely upon the reported number of eight crime categories--murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and motor vehicle theft--per 100,000 residents.

In reality, said Barrett, there are a slew of other factors that should be taken into account: socio-economic and educational factors, as well as a city's resources, and the inclination to report.

The latter of the four has the potential to be particularly inconsistent. There will always be an unknown amount of crime committed in cities that will go unreported. The total number of crimes committed in any city, then, can never be truly known.

"You want to look at the people involved," Barrett said. "Whether someone is inclined to report it--what they report, when they report it, the types of crimes that they're going to report, and whether gangs are present--that'll probably inflate your number of gun and drug crimes."

As might be expected, gangs are a large factor in a city's crime rate.

"A lot of [car break-ins] are gangs, Clayton Police Chief Tom Byrne said. "They'll steal a car and use that car to go around and steal a bunch of other cars."

Domestic crime, Barrett said, is another crime type that is even less consistent in terms of reports, depending on victims' relationships with those who assault, victimize, or generally harm them. Such events might go unreported, if, say, a victim does not wish to prosecute their relatives.

In sum, the numbers cannot possibly be completely accurate, especially since the numbers of these crimes that are reported versus the actual number committed may be wildly inconsistent

As an example, the City of St. Louis' statistics show that there are, overall, more reported crimes in the southern area of the city. However, this says nothing about actual rates of crime.

"Say you have a professional living in a nice little bungalow near the Southwest Garden [Neighborhood]," Barrett said. "They're more inclined to report, so that that bumps up your rate of crime, too."

Most important, however, is that the rankings assume that cities are homologous across their areas. Not so.

"We have to look at whether people have the ability to find resources to support themselves, and if they're living in really deep poverty," Barrett said. "All those things St. Louis does struggle with in some areas. What I think you've got to be careful of though, is that not every area in the city looks like that."

St. Louis is comprised of many diverse neighborhoods, all of which have differing rates of crime and prosperity.

"You get some statistics from parts of the north city that are really suffering, and you get some statistics from south parts of the city that are doing okay," Barrett said. "They really don't reflect each other."

"You get some statistics from parts of the north city that are really suffering, and you get some statistics from south parts of the city that are doing okay. They really don't reflect each other."

Philippa Barrett
Chief Misdemeanor Officer

Clayton and the City

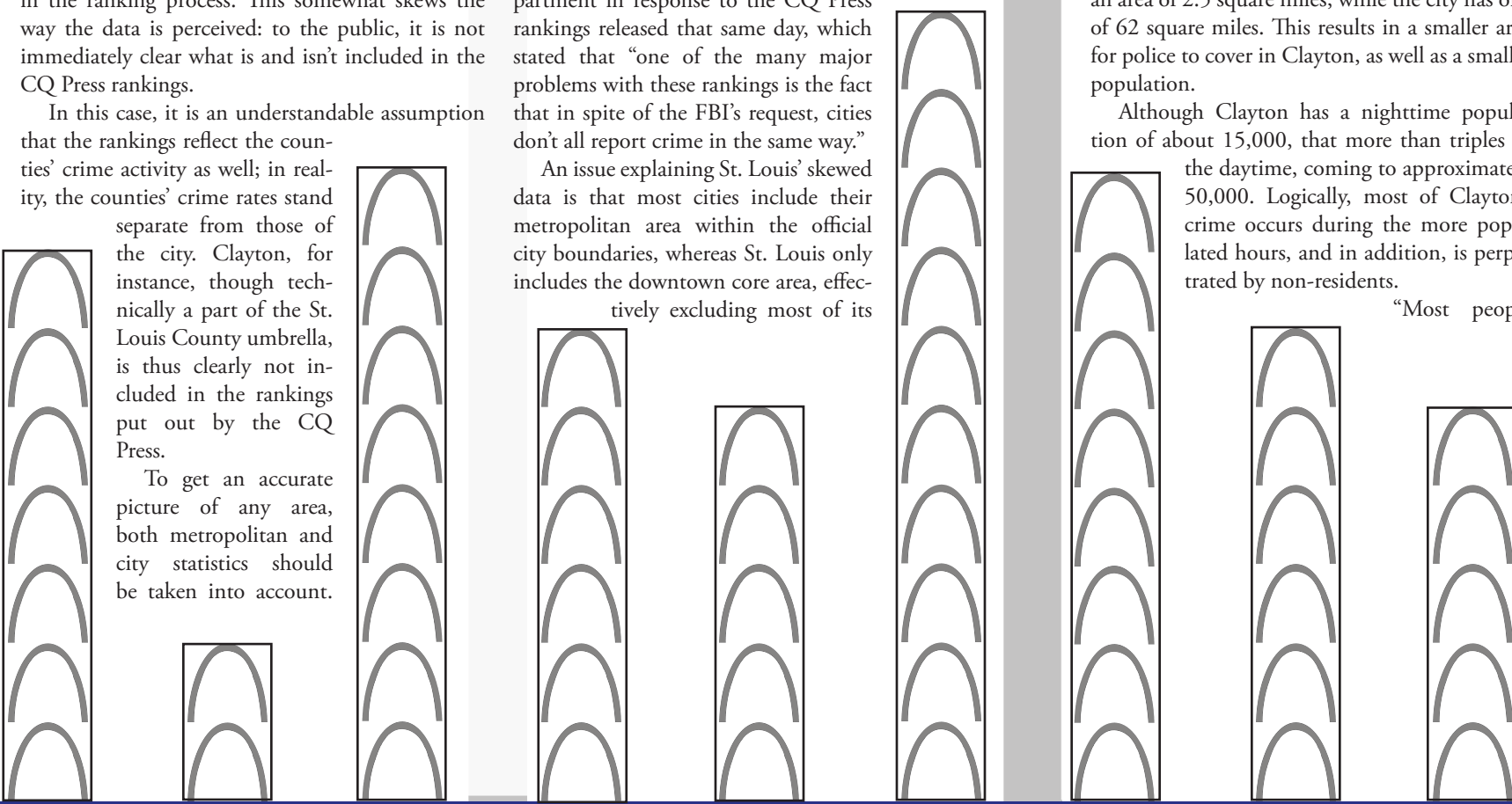
That said, the same easily goes for the surrounding counties of St. Louis, which were not included in the ranking process. This somewhat skews the way the data is perceived: to the public, it is not immediately clear what is and isn't included in the CQ Press rankings.

In this case, it is an understandable assumption that the rankings reflect the counties' crime activity as well; in reality, the counties' crime rates stand separate from those of the city. Clayton, for instance, though technically a part of the St. Louis County umbrella, is thus clearly not included in the rankings put out by the CQ Press.

To get an accurate picture of any area, both metropolitan and city statistics should be taken into account.

However, this is near impossible, as noted from the press release sent by the St. Louis City Police Department in response to the CQ Press rankings released that same day, which stated that "one of the many major problems with these rankings is the fact that in spite of the FBI's request, cities don't all report crime in the same way."

An issue explaining St. Louis' skewed data is that most cities include their metropolitan area within the official city boundaries, whereas St. Louis only includes the downtown core area, effectively excluding most of its



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CLAYTON:

2010 Part 1 Crime

237

Larcenies

41 Burgularies

14 Motor vehicle thefts

10 Aggravated assaults

2 Robberies

1 Forcible rape

1 Arson

0 Homicide

District number

Crimes against persons: subtotal per person

= 100 crimes against persons

*graph rounded to the nearest hundred

AREA (SQ MILES) 62
2009-2010 CQ PRESS CITY CRIME RANKING 1

WITHIN THE CITY
crime rates per square mile



TOP 14th in the

by Jackie Leong & Laura Bleeke



DETROIT

KANSAS CITY, MO

PHOENIX

NEW YORK

143	314	520	305
3	21	135	269

FIVE YEARS AT THE TOP

National city rankings, courtesy of CQ Press

2010	1
2009	2
2008	4
2007	2
2006	1

How we stack up

Crime in Clayton don't come from...

...the ratio of police officers to resi...

...here for 38 years," Byrne said.

...this amounts to tighter crime cover...

...a couple ways they size police de...

...Clayton is way off the charts...

...most of both St. Louis City's...

...problems is that we don't pursue...

...both agree that looking at the...



to the Old North St. Louis Restoration Group is regaining some of its former glory--little by little.

Although it may be impossible to completely restore the inner city, ailing pockets are getting back on their feet, through housing projects and rebuilding, a tactic Barrett says is also used to counter crime in derelict areas, which can quickly become crime hubs.

"We react strongly to a trend," Barrett said, "and by upsetting the balance." Rebuilding and revitalizing effectively does so, placing new activity in stagnating areas.

"I came when none of the buildings were finished or the streets were completed," Ebony Wilson, an employee of the new boutique Therapy, one of new shops in the revitalized 14th Street. "People were excited about the area and shops going up. This part of the neighborhood is very family-oriented."

Though crime is far from being eliminated in St. Louis and its counties, it is clear that they cannot be looked at in a two-dimensional manner. The factors that lend a true image to a city's, or county's, or any area's state of crime are clearly too diverse and numerous to compress into a simple statistic.

"The only thing to say about the numbers," Barrett said, "is that they're just the numbers."

RIGHT, MIDDLE RIGHT, LOWER RIGHT: Buildings from various parts of North St. Louis have the effects of neglect and subsequent crime.

LEFT: St. Louis' Old North Area is currently enjoying an extreme makeover on the once-busy 14th Street. Beyond the revamped perimeter, however, the other parts of the neighborhood remain in crumbling state.



A closer look at St. Louis' position as the "most dangerous" city in the U.S.



David Chen speaks to Clayton Math teachers about global benchmarking and methods to improve math teaching. *Christina Perrino*

Test scores rank Clayton "on top of the world"

Continued from pg. 1

Tennill also concedes that, if all schools in the U.S. were to be tested to the same extent as Clayton, that other high-performing districts would have similar scores.

"There are probably a lot of other schools, like New Trier, and some of your Chicago ring schools and some of the other schools that are in a similar school consortium that we have, that are all high-achieving, small, extremely affluent school districts that would have done just as well on this test," Tennill said. "We're not saying that we're unique. We're the only ones who put ourselves out there."

However, Tennill also thinks that Clayton's scores are particularly impressive given Clayton's demographics.

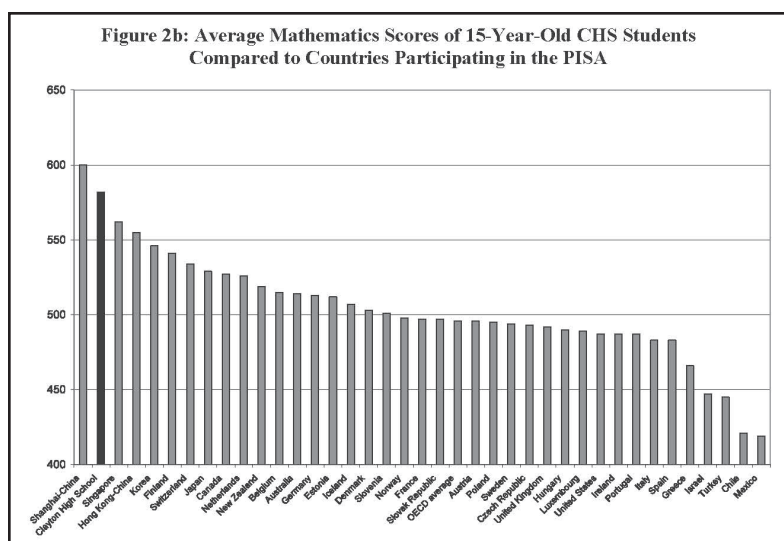
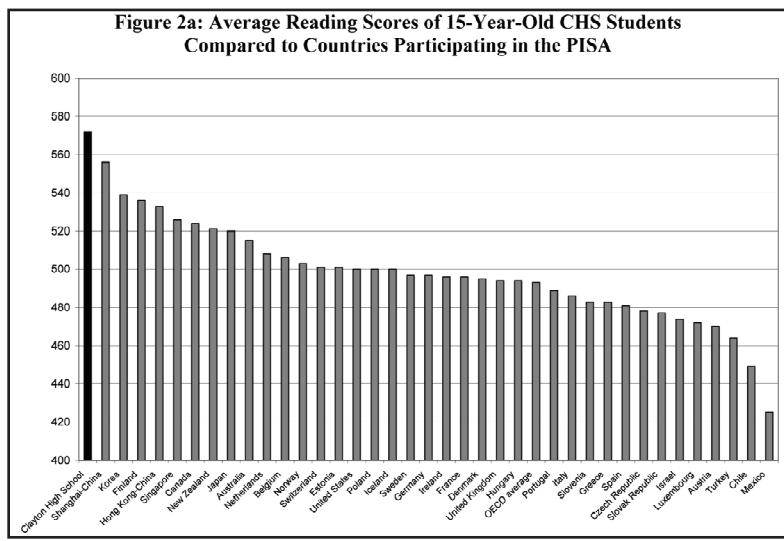
"Yes, we are an affluent, suburban school district, but we're not homogeneous by any stretch of the imagination," Tennill said. "We have 22 percent African-American students, we have 16 percent of our students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch. You don't see that type of diversity in schools in other countries, especially high-achieving schools in other countries."

Moving forward, for both the District and the United States as a whole, may require a reevaluation of our educational system.

Educational Researcher Andrew Chen, of MIT and Edutron Corporation, commends Clayton for taking a risk and testing its students so publicly with such successful scores, but still contends that Clayton would not perform favorably in comparison to top schools in a top-performing city like Shanghai. For the most part, students in higher-performing countries are held to a higher expectation.

"That's the scary thing; they work much harder," Chen said.

Chen doesn't believe that improving the American education system would be as easy as adopting the curriculums and textbooks. Many of his



adjustments are related to classroom mentality and the attitudes of students and their community.

"More ethics from students [would improve performance] and that involves both the kids and the parents," Chen said. "Throw a lot of the accountability back on the kids."

Additionally, Chen believes that there should be more nationwide standardized testing, but more as a baseline than the actual expectation. He believes that the emerging standardized tests of the past few years are a first to step in this direction.

"We should aspire to go even higher [than standard requirements], especially for Clayton," Chen said.

"The common standard is just a basic accountability measure for the 50 states."

Despite Chen's emphasis on more standardization, he acknowledges that this is not a quick fix. He believes that students' performance will improve if their teachers have a greater, more advanced understanding of the material that allows for more advanced pedagogy.

"Standardization is definitely happening, but that will not automatically fix our problem," Chen said. "Even if the standards are perfect, that doesn't mean the student will be learning. The crux is in the teachers. What's happening in the classroom?"

Naming rights for school landmark spark controversy, debate

Continued from pg. 1

"Businesses, school, and the community part of Clayton is a loosely knit relationship that works well," Hodapp said. "We are fortunate to have Centene in our community. We would not be able to do this upgrade without them."

Centene's donation creates conflict for some students, as they think having an entranceway to a public school named after a business entity would basically be a "corporate sponsorship" of a school.

However, sophomore William Bitting feels grateful for the allocation of funds given to the PTO, as the entrance garden now can be completed.

"This is not a sponsorship, but a public donor-ship from the community," Bitting said. "Centene is providing a new facility for students."

Although Bitting is appreciative for Centene's willingness to support the community, he still has concern for the kind of situation that could be created when a public high school agrees to name a part of their school after a corporation.

"This could be taken as a selfish thing, as this might create a situation where [Centene] would want something in [return], as they are a business," Bitting said. "As long as we are not forced to do anything other than giving them recognition, we are just giving them credit where it belongs."

The district has supported the efforts of the PTO to raise money through the use of naming rights.

"The district has always supported the efforts of individuals of raising extra money for projects that will enhance the school," Chief Communications Officer Chris Tennill said. "We support the PTO in whatever way we can. The PTO is going and soliciting families or corporations to help out the schools, and we are simply giving them appropriate recognition for their donation. This is perfectly ok. Many districts are going in this direction. There is a distinct difference between corporate sponsorship and using naming rights to help fundraise."

On Dec. 1, 2010, the Clayton Board of Education voted to give naming rights to the PTO. According to the Donor Recognition Resolution for the Clayton Board of Education, the BOE acknowledged that the PTO could attain more funds, through cooperation with Centene Corporation, if the planned garden was going to be named after them. Centene's name will be placed on the base of the globe sculpture, in honor of Centene's donation.

The Donor Recognition Resolution concludes: "Therefore, be it resolved, that the Board of Education of the School District of Clayton will allow the CHS PTO to provide the donor recognition via a name for the Centennial Plaza as follows: 'Centene Centennial Plaza.' Naming rights for the plaza are contingent on the successful execution of a 'Naming Rights Agreement' between the District and Centene."

The Clayton Board of Education passed the Donor Recognition Resolution with four members in favor and three members voting against it. President Sonny Buttar, Treasurer Susan Bradley Buse, Secretary Lily Raymond, and Director Steve Singer voted in favor. Director Brad Bernstein, Director Omri Praiss, and Vice President Jane Klamer voted against it. At a future time another vote will be held to finalize the issue, as Centene and the PTO are still working out the specifics to get legal agreement.

"Centene is very important to Clayton business," Singer said. "They were very generous to Clayton in their support for the football field. In having the Centene Corporation donate money, it is resources that the community does not have to spend. The Centennial Plaza will be a lovely addition to CHS."

Klamer voted against giving the PTO the naming

rights.

"This is an emotional issue," Klamer said. "It is an issue of where the name is going to the base of the Globe sculpture, as opposed to wall or brick in the area. The globe is original to the school, a symbol for the school, where the globe represented CHS students looking outward to the world. I did not want Centene on that Globe."

Centene was given three different choices to display their name at Centene Centennial Plaza, with one their name being shown on the flat surface of the ground, to be placed on the back wall of the garden, and to be placed on the base of the globe.

"By putting the name of Centene on the base of the Globe, we are not spending additional money," Hodapp said. "This is a positive choice for the school."

Although Klamer is against having the plaza named after Centene, she is thankful to Centene Corporation for their donation to the community.

"I am grateful to Centene, as this is the second gift they have given after Centene Stadium," Klamer said. "This is a gift in which Centene will not get the same amount of commercial benefit that they would see elsewhere."

Bernstein, who also voted against giving PTO the naming rights, agrees with Klamer that it is not appropriate for Centene's name to be on the globe.

"If the Board of Education does accept money from Centene, I think it is inappropriate for their name to be so prominently displayed, as proposed, at the entrance to CHS and in such large print at the base of the CHS globe,"

"If the Board of Education does accept money from Centene, I think it is inappropriate for their name to be so prominently displayed, as proposed, at the entrance to CHS and in such large print at the base of the CHS globe"

**Brad Bernstein
School Board Director**

Bernstein said.

Bernstein also feels that it is important to note that although Centene did donate money to the community, it is minimal contribution in comparison to the millions of dollars of tax breaks that Centene Corporation has received from the City of Clayton and will continue to have.

"This amount is a drop in the bucket for a Fortune 500 company that saved millions in dollars in property taxes—money that would have otherwise gone to our school district for our kids, if Centene had not received the controversial tax credits to encourage them to build in Clayton instead of as earlier planned as part of the Ballpark Village Complex in downtown St. Louis," Bernstein said.

Regardless of the source of financial support for Centennial Plaza, the Clayton community agrees overall that the plaza will provide a safe and convenient place for people to assemble and will be a pleasant addition to the CHS campus.

"It will be a nice place for students to gather," Rappanotti said. "Currently, it seems that the Greyhound entrance is the main entrance to school, not the commons entrance. With the Centennial Plaza, it will add more definition to the commons entrance, the main entrance. Currently, the commons entrance is not very inviting. The Centennial Plaza will also incorporate the

green space that is currently part of the field in front of the school."

The situation of Centene's donation, with the pre-tenure of the CHS entrance garden, creates a questioning of values for some. To some, it contradicts the idea of having a public school being independent from the business community. But others feel that a local business that also happens to be a Fortune 500 company is simply trying to give back to the community. Although Centene did provide a substantial gift, there were other donors that provided considerable funds for the Centene Centennial Plaza.

"The purpose of the Centennial Plaza is to celebrate the hundred years of Clayton High School," said Rappanotti. "The Centennial Plaza will be long-lasting."

"By putting the name of Centene on the base of the Globe, we are not spending additional money. This is a positive choice for the school."

**Sue Hodapp
PTO Member**

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Helen Wiley

Mysterious planet found in Milky Way

Some scientists say newly-discovered HIP 13044b should not have been created because it is too close to its sun.

Shiori Tomatsu
Reporter

On Nov. 18, 2010, astronomers have found a planet larger than the planet Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system, located in the Milky Way. The planet was found in the Helmi Stream, a part of the Milky Way where a group of stars that originally were from a dwarf galaxy was swallowed up by the Milky Way. Astronomers believe this planet to be from a different galaxy which was consumed by our galaxy six to nine billion years ago.

According to some scientists, this planet should not have been formed from the beginning and find it unusual that it was created. The reason is because the planet's parent sun, HIP 13044, is a poor metal star. According to a certain hypothesis on how planets form, stars rich in metal are more likely to have planets form compared to stars that are poor in metal like HIP 13044. Before this planet was discovered, this theory was backed up multiple times.

This planet HIP 13044b also revolves very close around its parent star, or its sun, HIP 13044.

Research Professor of Physics and Earth and Planetary Sciences of Washington University Ernst Zinner believes it holds no life forms at all.

"They are too close to their parent stars and are much too hot," Zinner said.

In fact, at its closest distance to its sun, the planet comes within about five million miles. According to MSNBC, that is 5.5 percent of the distance between the Earth and the Sun.

The planet's sun has gone through its red giant stage already. In this stage, the sun expands and becomes a

"giant" star.

"The star expands greatly so that the diameter of the star is at least as large as the orbit of the Earth," Zinner said. "During that stage a star loses a lot of mass in the form of a stellar wind, material blowing from the surface of the star."

Usually, when a star goes through this process, the planets orbiting around it are engulfed. Strangely enough, the planet HIP 13044b survived through this star stage.

However, HIP 13044b's sun is supposed to continue expanding, eventually engulfing HIP 13044b.

According to Science Daily, scientists believe that HIP 13044b was farther away from its sun before it entered its red giant stage. When it did hit this phase, it caused HIP 13044b to move inwards.

This discovery could also be a hint to the future of the Earth and the solar system when our sun enters its red giant stage.

Zinner believes that the Earth will most likely not survive when the sun becomes a red giant.

"The sun will extend all the way to the Earth," Zinner said. "It will happen in about five billion years."

As for the gas giants Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune, researchers believe that they will survive the sun's first phase.

"Their gaseous parts are probably to be blown away," Zinner said. "Some of the cores might survive."

In the end though, these gas planets will eventually be engulfed by our sun as it continues to expand just like HIP 13044b will be destroyed by its sun in the next five billion or so years. For the gas planets, though, this will not happen until about 10 billion years. ☺

News Briefs *What you need to know.*

A gunman killed six people and wounded another 14 in Tucson, Arizona. The incident occurred outside a supermarket where Rep. Gabrielle Giffords was meeting with constituents.

East coast blizzards resulted in hundreds of school closings and airline flight cancellations and delays.

A suicide bomber killed 18 people in Pakistan on the same day that Vice President Biden met with Pakistani leaders to discuss anti-terrorism measures.

A diplomatic hotline between North and South Korea has been reconnected after a seven-month disconnection.

Over 400 deaths have resulted from heavy flooding in and around Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Violent demonstrations in Tunisia recently spread to the capital of the country. Protestors are demanding more jobs.

Brisbane, Australia has been plagued by some of the most damaging flooding in the country's history.

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New TSA security measures: A question of privacy rights

Caitlin Kropp
Features Editor

Ever since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, security in airports has been heightened around the world. Increased surveillance, more metal detectors, and restrictions on certain items have become the norm for the past couple of years. But with a more recent slew of attempted terrorist attacks, airport security has been heightened to a degree that many call extreme and invasive.

The newest security measures from the Transportation and Security Administration (TSA) to hit the scene, full-body scanners, have been making quite a stir in the United States. Many deem the instruments, which use millimeter waves or x-rays to see through a person's clothes to the skin beneath, embarrassing and an invasion of privacy. People across the country are raising an outcry against the scanners, an outcry which the popular media has subsequently latched onto, immediately publishing any and all antics involving the scanners.

Marguerite Daw, a CHS junior, traveled to Washington, D.C. over the winter break. She went through both a pat-down procedure and a full-body scan.

"At Lambert, I just went through the regular metal detector, but then they slightly patted me down, in the front and in the back," Daw said. "But that might have been because I didn't take off my sweatshirt. When coming back, at the Baltimore airport, I did have to go through the new screening. You basically just step in there with your hands up, the door turns, and then you went out, and that was it."

A similar experience was reported by junior Katie Lefton, who, although she did not have to go through the procedure herself, witnessed her father participate in a full-body scan.

"We were coming home from the Denver airport, and there was a long line of a band in front of us, so they had all of these boxes," Lefton said. "I think they were trying to be a little extra careful, but they made my dad go through the scanner. He said it wasn't really a big deal, but when I was behind him, I thought that I might have to go through it too."

This procedure, which countless individuals have undergone since its implementation in most national airports, has garnered reactions from both sides of the spectrum. Frequent fliers, such as Daw, see it as simply



Joe Burbank/Orlando Sentinel/MCT

A TSA screener pats down a traveler at the B-side security checkpoint at Orlando International Airport, Wednesday, November 24, 2010. Although the day before Thanksgiving is the busiest travel day of the year, passenger screening appeared to be going smoothly at OIA.

another security measure, one to be gotten through quickly and without fuss.

"I fly so often that it's just second nature for me to just go through it all," Daw said. "I don't really feel all that violated."

Others on the opposite side of the argument find the procedure too uncomfortable and invasive, something that was definitely not warranted.

"I trust that it's more thorough than a regular metal detector, but I found it to be an invasion of privacy," Lefton said. "Unless they have a legitimate reason for thinking that I'm a terrorist, I don't really want to be subject to what is essentially an x-ray through your clothing."

Strong passions surrounding the debate have also resulted in some unique and highly publicized stunts. In mid-November, John Tyner, a passenger set to be flying out of San Diego, refused a full-body scan, which automatically opts one for a complete pat-down. He balked at this method as well, filming a video on his iPhone where he told the TSA official "Don't touch my junk." Since the incident, this video has been posted on YouTube, where it has been watched over 300,000 times.

In another incident in Oklahoma City, wheelchair-bound Tammy Banovac was searched for an hour, despite having worn nothing under her trench coat but black lingerie.

The resulting delay caused her to miss her flight, drawing more attention to the debate swirling around the procedures. Although many agree with the message sent, some also believe that the methods could have been different.

"I don't think it's quite necessary," Lefton said. "It's kind of eccentric, but they're just trying to prove a point, which I do agree with. I don't want somebody grabbing at me in a way that can be construed as sexual harassment. They do it in eccentric and extreme ways that I'm not quite sure I approve of, but I do agree with their message."

Others not only focus on the new procedures, but whether or not they are needed at all. Many people feel that the security utilized before was just as effective, and certainly less extreme.

"For as long as I can remember, whenever I go to the airport, the little announcement always says that the terrorist alert is at orange, so it's raised security," Lefton said. "Since 9/11, there hasn't really been any huge attack that I can think of that requires so much extra work."

For many, it comes down to a simple question: how far is one willing to go, either in protest or searches, to get a good flight? They are pretty much making a big deal out of it," Daw said. "It's just something you have to do." ☺

Bill attempts to stop digital piracy

Jack Holds
Editor

The end of file sharing and digital piracy could be near. In November, the Senate Judiciary Committee chaperoned a bill through committee phase which would permit the Attorney General to shut down entire Web sites if copyright infringement is determined to be "central to the activity" of the site. This bill, US Senate bill 3804, the Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act (COICA), sailed through Senate committee under the wing of a sponsor and 19 co-sponsors in a little less than two months.

A week after S.3804 passed committee, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a branch of the Department of Homeland Security seized the domains of a variety of sites whose central purpose was illegal file-sharing. Upon visiting these blocked sites, Internet users worldwide found their screens filled with a US government issued statement explaining the closure of the domain and the possible fines for those who jump on the metaphorical file-sharing boat.

In an interview with "New York Times," Cori W. Basset, a spokeswoman for the ICE, shed light on the incident.

"ICE office of Homeland Security Investigations executed court-ordered seizure warrants against a number of domain names," Basset said.

These government mandated seizures are part of the new aforementioned bill, which critics, net neutrality and free speech advocates, and members of the file-sharing community worry will give the Department of Justice too much power due to ambiguous wording. According to Electronic Frontier Foundation, a digital rights group that opposes the bill, simply advocating for file sharing and copyright rejection can lead to a Web site's "digital death," as wired.com called Web site closure, a fact which has sparked fiery opposition.

According to wired.com, The American Civil Liberties Union and Human Rights Watch expressed their dis-

sent of COICA and warned of human rights backlash. Furthermore, a group of "the most prominent" Internet engineers in the country, many of whom had a hand in the creation of the internet, remarked that the bill would "create an environment of fear and uncertainty for technological innovation."

To strengthen the opposition, 49 law professors deemed COICA an "unconstitutional abridgment of the freedom of speech protected by the First Amendment," and with regard to the denial of due process, wrote that "the Act permits the issuance of speech suppressing injunctions without any meaningful opportunity for any party to contest the Attorney General's allegations of unlawful content," as wired.com also noted. "We require a principle that: No person or organization shall be deprived of their ability to connect to others at will without due process of law, with the presumption of innocence until found guilty," Berners-Lee said.

To finally stop their enormous profit losses caused by file-sharing, the content companies are finally demanding the federal government take action, and COICA was the government's response.

Furthermore, House Resolution 1512, introduced in June, was titled, "Commending Google Inc. and other companies for advocating for an uncensored Internet, adhering to free speech principles, and keeping the Internet open for users worldwide." This was evidently also overlooked during COICA's inception.

The simple everyday online interactions must also be considered. Imagine not being able to access YouTube, which, in August of 2010 became the third most-visited site in the world wide Web. Since YouTube is host to copyrighted songs, television shows, and even full length segmented movies, it is plausible that the entire YouTube domain would be threatened for government closure, if the COICA bill becomes law.

Whatever the course of COICA may be, the effects are sure to impact the way which Internet users worldwide surf the web, and our collective perspective of liberty in America. ☺

New girls' swim coach shows dedication

Katelyn Eustis, the new girls' swim coach, encourages practice in order to improve times, stroke, and technique as well as team bonding so that the team may excel beyond expectations.

Maddy Bullard
Senior Managing Editor

This year, the Clayton girls' swim team has experienced a coaching shift: last year's head coach, David Kohmetscher, switched places with the former assistant coach, Katelyn Eustis.

Both are math teachers at CHS. Eustis is in her sixth season with the CHS swim team, and she has enjoyed her time coaching thus far.

"I really enjoy the girls a lot," Eustis said. "It's a great group of girls. They do well in school."

Eustis is confident that the coaching change was the best route in light of Kohmetscher's many other responsibilities in the math department and in the district.

"Mr. Kohmetscher has a lot more outside commitments," Eustis said. Those include being the chair of the mathematics department.

Senior Elizabeth Sikora has been on the team since her freshman year. Sikora also recognizes Eustis's depth of commitment.

"Ms. Eustis is really dedicated and excited about swimming, and she wants everyone to do well," Sikora said.

Senior Cecily Lane, another four-year Clayton swimmer, pointed out that Eustis is approachable, which is a good quality in a coach.

"She has definitely taken her place as a leader, which is really what we have always needed," Lane said. "She wants to make swimming fun."

Aided by a smooth transition to a new head coach, the team is motivated to continue to work hard in 2011.

"It's been great," Eustis said. "Everybody's pretty motivated right now."

Added volume is one asset the team can count on.

"I think our greatest strength is that we have a ton of freshmen," Eustis said. "They don't have a lot of experience, but they're motivated to get better."

The team has 24 swimmers this year. Eustis identified

Danielle Sikora, Julia Grasse, Katherine Kirchoff, Elizabeth Sikora, and Kate Harrison as athletes to watch as the season continues. There are three divers on the team: Emma Rivard, Michaela Edlin, and Hillary Wilson.

Both rookies and veteran swimmers have things to work on. For Lane, a balance between having fun and working hard is key for a successful season.

"Over the past years I have been on the team, we have worked at creating a really fun environment to make the team really close and make the girls want to come to practice and swim," Lane said. "Because swimming is such a hard sport to get a lot of people to join, making it fun was a top priority."

"The new swimmers got a little bit of a taste of the meets last semester, and we are looking forward to this new semester where they are very comfortable in the competition environment."

Cecily Lane
Senior

Now that so many freshmen have joined the team, the priorities have shifted somewhat.

"We really need to focus on the swimming aspect of the team," Lane said. "The new swimmers got a little bit of a taste of the meets last semester, and we are looking forward to this new semester where they are very comfortable in the competition environment. Competing would be something we need to work on."

Now that the freshmen have become acclimated to the sport, it's time for the team to focus on improving their times

and working towards hopes for state competition.

"We need to work on swimming faster and more aggressively at meets," Sikora said. "Now that everyone knows the basics, it's time to work on sprints and other ways that we can get faster times."

Thankfully, many of the freshmen remain enthusiastic about the season. Team bonding events help keep the team motivated.

"Team dinners are really fun, and they are a good way to bond as a team outside of the pool," Sikora said. "We have only had one so far, and I hope that we can have more in the future."

In addition to more practices, meets are more frequent in the last few weeks of the season.

Julia Grasse



Thafa Sass

athlete of the month

Anat Gross
Sports Editor

Junior Julia Grasse leads the swim team as a captain and top performer. Her eight years of experience allow her to be a very versatile and competitive swimmer. She swims the backstroke, butterfly, Individual Medley, sprint freestyle, and distance freestyle.

According to head coach Katelyn Eustis, the team is full of great swimmers, but "Julia stands out with her performances in the pool as well as her leadership as a team captain."

Grasse's strong work ethic is rooted in her desire to improve.

"I am most motivated by trying to improve my times," Grasse said. "It's so fun when you finally go faster than you ever have. Also, it's motivating to share a lane with people who are faster than me and, when I'm racing, to have swimmers to catch."

According to Eustis, Grasse "is very 'coachable' and will work hard to make stroke and technique changes with the spirit that even the smallest changes will help her swim faster."

In fact, one of Grasse's favorite parts of swimming is "being able to see concrete improvement from meet to meet" and bonding with the team. Her desire and willingness make Grasse a major threat in the water, as well as a strong dependable leader on the team.

"Julia is an excellent relay swimmer," Eustis said. "She will give a 100 percent effort because she knows

her team is depending on her. Sometimes she will exit the water from a previous race and step right in the line for the relay."

According to Grasse, it takes conditioning, endurance, and a desire to improve to be a good swimmer.

"For high school swimming, it also takes versatility because everyone swims every event over the course of the season," Grasse said. "That can range from all four strokes and events that last from under 30 seconds to seven minutes."

Eustis recognizes versatility as a key quality that adds to Grasse's success.

"She is always willing to step up and swim any event we need her to and do her best," Eustis said. "It is very clear that Julia has set goals for herself and expects to attain them."

According to Grasse her "number one goal this season is to join the one minute club, which means swimming a 100 yard freestyle in under a minute."

Grasse offered a bit of advice to other student athletes and swimmers.

"If you really want to excel, I think it's important to keep practicing in the off-season and making sure you work hard at every practice," Grasse said. "In a race, it's important to keep going, no matter how much your muscles are burning, especially in swimming when the races are around a minute long."

Thus far in the season, Grasse is happy with both her teammates and her own performance, getting many of her best times this year. ☺



Hannah Feagans

One of the swimmers on the girls' swim team practices to hone skills necessary for competitions. Because of their hard work, the girls won their meet against their rival team at Webster Groves High School.

"We had a really good meet against Webster," Eustis said. In past years, Webster has been a challenge for the team, but this year, the Hounds gave them a good fight. The team is gearing up for several upcoming meets, but, after practicing hard over winter break, things are look-

ing up.

"As a team, we are all good swimmers, but we just need to work on taking it to the next level," Sikora said.

Eustis plans to come back as head coach again next year, continuing to build on a strong foundation. ☺

Basketball team gives its all to fight the war against cancer

Jon Knohl
Reporter

On Jan. 27, teams from around the country will take center stage at St. Louis University's Chaifetz Arena in the 2011 American Cancer Society's Coaches v. Cancer Basketball Shootout.

The 14 teams will come together with two goals in mind: win and fight cancer. The Shootout will feature top teams from around the country along with top Division I recruits.

"I am really excited to attend the game," junior Nikki Tomova said. "It will be a great opportunity to watch some great basketball and help fight cancer."

The CHS boys' basketball team has the special pleasure of playing in the event this year. The Hounds will take on New Rochelle High School from outside of New York City. The

New Rochelle Huguenots are currently 4-3 and are led by P.J. Torres who averages 29.0 PPG. Torres is currently being recruited by two NCAA Division I schools, University of Rhode Island, and Duquesne University.

"New Rochelle is a NYC Basketball powerhouse," senior guard Ahmad Smith said. "They have a history for being one of the best teams up there so it should be a good matchup, to say the least."

On the other side of the court, the Hounds will feature two Division I recruits, seniors Christian Thomas and Ahmad Smith. Thomas and Smith are both averaging 21 PPG this season followed by junior Clayton Buchanan, who is averaging close to 10 PPG. The team is currently 14-2, and they are undefeated in conference.

"I feel very confident about our team going into this game," Smith said. "It doesn't matter who we play;

we will always go in with a winning attitude."

The Hounds lost to Hazelwood Central (12-0), ranked ninth in the nation in the Maxpreps Freeman Rankings, and Miller Career Academy (9-5).

Even with the injury of junior guard Charlie Harned, the Hounds are maintaining their winning record. Harned is out with two torn ligaments in his ankle.

"With Charlie out, it will give some others players a chance to play and to compete for some playing time," junior guard Jake Bernstein said. "He should be back hopefully just in time for districts."

With junior Tyler Ponder back for the rest of the season, he will be expected to help fill in Harned's shoes while he is out.

The team looks to pull away with a victory in its first appearance in the showcase. Tickets are on sale for \$4 for students and \$15 for adults. ☺

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From left to right: Jaclyn Poe, Erin Bax, and Katherine DeBoer set up on defense against Ritenour. After some tough losses the lady Hounds look to swing back in the second half of their season.

Girls' basketball looks to improve

Aidan Hayward
Reporter

The CHS girls' varsity basketball team is off to a rough start this season. With a new coach this season the team is adjusting to the change.

"We try to have an up tempo practice," new Head Coach Heath Kent said. "Every minute of practice is scripted in what we do. We do drills that last no longer than 5 to 10 minutes, then we'll move on to something else."

The new practice strategy is working well for the players.

"The team is improving a lot now," junior Sarah Tait said. "Coach Kent really wants us to learn the fundamentals, which is something we were struggling with before."

Coach Kent has proven to be an asset to the team. The girls are happy with his performance as head coach.

"Coach Kent has been showing us a bunch of new plays," sophomore Carmen Planells said. "He seems to

really know what he's doing."

The team is working on improving by boosting their skill level through rigorous practices.

"We try to make practice as fast and intense as we possibly can," Kent said. "We're trying to improve all of our skill levels such as ball handling and rebounding."

With only one returning starter this year a few players had to step up this season.

"Some of the star players on the team include [Junior] Haley Wartman and [Senior] Iesha Powell," Tait said. "They are good role models and leaders for some of the younger players on the team, like Carmen Planells and Katherine DeBoer."

Despite the disappointing start DeBoer is still hopeful for the remainder of the season.

"We're off to a bad start, but were working really hard," DeBoer said. "Hopefully we'll do better as the season goes on."

The team is looking to turn thing around after their recent 49-33 victory over Normandy. Their next home game is Jan. 21 against Barat Academy at 5:30 pm. 🌐

Race for NBA title "Heats" up

Christian Thomas
Reporter

This particular NBA season was set to be a memorable one from the beginning. Offseason transactions had sports analysts claiming this was the biggest summer in the history of the NBA. The Miami Heat looked like the clear favorite after acquiring superstars LeBron James and Chris Bosh to team with previous Miami star, Dwayne Wade.

"I was already a Heat fan," senior Ahmad Smith said. "After they got LeBron and Bosh, I knew it was over. Miami is going to win the championship this year."

The Heat got off to a rocky start, losing their first game of the year to the Boston Celtics. At one point, the Heat carried a subpar .500 record. The team has responded well to the obstacles, and currently leads their division and is the favorite to represent the Eastern Conference in this year's NBA Finals.

Another fan favorite is the Boston Celtics. Led by the fearsome-foursome of Rajon Rondo, Ray Allen, Paul Pierce, and Kevin Garnett, the Celtics are always in the discussion as a top team in the league.

"I really like Rajon Rondo," sophomore Carmen Planells said. "I play point guard for my team, so I can learn things by watching him. I was also cheering for the Celtics in the Finals last year."

The Celtics were eventually downed by the Los Angeles Lakers in seven games in the Finals.

Los Angeles Lakers guard, Kobe Bryant, is striving for his second career "Three Peat" in hopes of tying Michael Jordan for six total championships. The Lakers returned nearly all key contributors from last season's championship team, making them the favorite to win the Western Conference for a fourth year in a row.

"In my opinion the Lakers are the team to beat," junior Justin Campbell said. "Kobe is the best player in the

game. He has a good supporting cast also. I look forward to watching them win the championship in June."

Also in the Western Conference, the Oklahoma City Thunder is a team to watch. Young, athletic, full of potential describe this team. Last season, they improved their win total by more than 20 games making them the most improved team in the league.

Unfortunately, their fairy tale season was cut short by a loss to the Lakers in the first round. Led by superstar Kevin Durant, the Thunder are currently in first place in their division and have the potential to make a playoff run in April. Durant returned to the Thunder this season after averaging 30.1 points per game which led the league, making him the youngest player in the history of the NBA to do so.

Quietly sitting atop the Western Conference standings are the San Antonio Spurs and Dallas Mavericks. Both clubs are led by groups of older, experienced players and have plans to upset the heavily favored Los Angeles Lakers.

"I have liked the Mavericks since I was a kid," senior Meris Hoxha said. "I don't have much basketball background, but something about them appeals to me. I hope they win it all."

Even with so much excitement surrounding the outcome of this season, there are some CHS students that choose not to get involved with the NBA.

"I usually don't watch the NBA until the playoffs start," senior Kameron Stewart said. "That's a lot more exciting to watch and I don't really have time to follow so many teams during the regular season."

With so much occurring in the first half of the season, frequent watchers should be in for a big second half. This is usually the time where teams struggling find their identity and it is also the time for winning teams to lose focus. Only time will tell whether or not preseason predictions will hold. 🌐



The Miami Heat's LeBron James, right, looks at the scoreboard as his team trails the Los Angeles Clippers in the second quarter at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California, on Wednesday, January 12, 2011.

Underclassmen step up after injuries hurt wrestling team

The "hardest working team" at CHS hopes to finish the season strong after a rough start.

Anat Gross
Sports Editor

The wrestling team proudly carries the title of the "hardest working team" at CHS.

Wrestlers can be seen flying around the Clayton Center's track, they can be found in the weight room getting big, and if one were to pass by the wrestling room, tucked away on Stuber's balcony, they can be heard hitting the mats all in one day's practice.

"It's a lot more work conditioning wise," senior Captain Jordan Henry said. "We run as much as the cross country team some days, and we also lift and wrestle on top of that so it's hard work."

The practice is so rigorous that in comparison competitions are a walk in the park.

"When our guys have a dual meet or a tournament it's kind of like a day off for them," head coach Doug Verby said. "They're only wrestling for six minutes or they have three or four matches, whereas a normal practice they're going all out for two and a half hours."

Sophomore Edward Davis feels that the toughness and individuality of the sport separates it from most others.

"Wrestling is an individual sport in which you have to be aggressive, tough, smart, and defensive," Davis said. "You have to strategize and always be a step ahead of your opponent as well as disciplined and determined."

While the individual aspect of the

sport sets it apart, the team atmosphere is still vital to their success.

"During practice we need everyone to be there so we can do things together," Henry said. "Also the meets are team based, so if we all come together we can win meets. Last year we won a tournament and got a trophy so without the team that wouldn't be possible."

The team has faced a great deal of adversity throughout the season thus far, trying to overcome the loss of certain team members and injuries.

In last week-end's all-suburban tournament two additional wrestlers were injured: one with a broken collarbone and the other with a broken nose.

Due to injuries, missing weight, and a lack of commitment, a number of freshmen and new additions to the team have stepped up.

Sophomore Colin Shenberger joined the team this year and has been a great addition to the team.

"He's done a great job," Verby said. "He came in in great shape, he's tough mentally, he works hard, and he never gives up during a match. He's a great addition for us this year."

January is expected to be a tough month for the team, with two dual

tournaments a week plus a tournament on the weekend.

"We have a Tri-Meet with Ladue and Brentwood," Davis said. "And a meet with Berkeley during these next two weeks but overall, it's up to seven meets until we wrestle at districts, so by the time districts do come around we will be ready."

"Wrestling is an individual sport in which you have to be aggressive, tough, smart, and defensive. You have to strategize and always be a step ahead of your opponent as well as disciplined and determined."

Edward Davis
Sophomore

While Verby is slightly disappointed by the rough start to the season, he has high expectations for the remainder of the season.

"We'd love to repeat a champion of the U-City tournament, place high in the Priory tournament, and qualify some people for state," Verby said. "I think we have a really good opportunity. We dealt with some adversity, but the core of our team is still going along."

Henry sees the season as an "up-hill battle," but instead of being concerned with the early struggles of the season he looks to improve on a daily basis.

"I just take it day by day, and win by win," Henry said.

Verby shares this optimistic view for the remainder of the season.

"We're wrestling tough," Verby said. "We're doing a real nice job, but we faced adversity and hopefully that's over." 🌐

Joseph Bradley



Thaka Sass

male athlete of the month

Anat Gross
Sports Editor

Junior Joe Bradley has two seasons of wrestling under his belt and for his third season he is expected to dominate on the mat and perhaps make a run to qualify for state.

Yet being a good wrestler comes with time and hard work. Bradley spent the fall playing football, which kept him in great shape for the winter season, and he reviewed wrestling moves in his head so that they would be "second nature" to him.

"It takes a lot to be a good wrestler," Bradley said. "It is a very demanding sport. You need to commit to coming to practice every day and working, practicing your moves all the time making sure you can do them correctly in a match. You have to be more attentive to what you eat more so than other sports because you have to make a certain weight class."

According to head coach Doug Verby, Bradley possesses many of these qualities making him a standout wrestler on the team.

"He has a great work ethic [and]

ability to lead without talking a lot,"

Verby said. "He basically just comes and works hard everyday. He's getting over an injury with his knee, but he is able to come in just drill, work hard, never complain, and everyone just follows his lead. He leaves it all on the mat when he wrestles."

Bradley's number one goal this season is to place in the semi-finals at districts, qualifying for the state meet.

Thus far Bradley is performing well, but he discussed a few of his weaknesses including his struggle with thinking quickly during fast paced matches, some poor execution, and hesitation. However, Bradley also listed many of his strengths as a wrestler, including his quickness and strength.

"My biggest strength is actually my technique," Bradley said. "Though it doesn't stand out much as opposed to my strength or speed it is actually pretty good."

Verby recognizes Bradley's strengths and his improvements since last season. He hopes that Bradley will win a few tournaments before districts and then qualify for

state.

"I'd love to see him qualify for state depending on how the weight classes match up," Verby said. "He could definitely get to a point where he's wrestling tough."

In fact, Bradley's favorite part of wrestling is the tournaments.

"My favorite thing about wrestling actually is the tournaments," Bradley said. "I get a lot of wrestling done in one day and I learn a lot from the people I wrestle in tournaments such as a new pinning move or a setup to a takedown that I might be able to use in my next match. But even while I get a lot of learning out of a loss, it's always nice to do well and place in the top three and get a medal in the end of it all."

Bradley's work ethic and commitment to the sport may earn him a spot at the State meet this year. He offered some advice for other student athletes looking to be successful.

"Stay committed and push yourselves and your teammates," Bradley said "Even though wrestling is kind of an individual sport, we still have a team and if your not working neither is your partner." 🌐

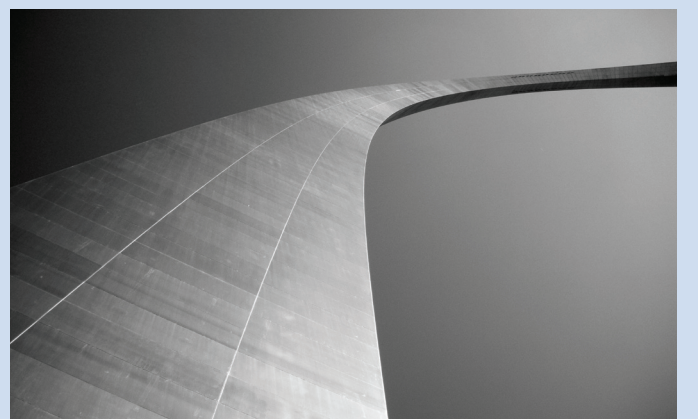
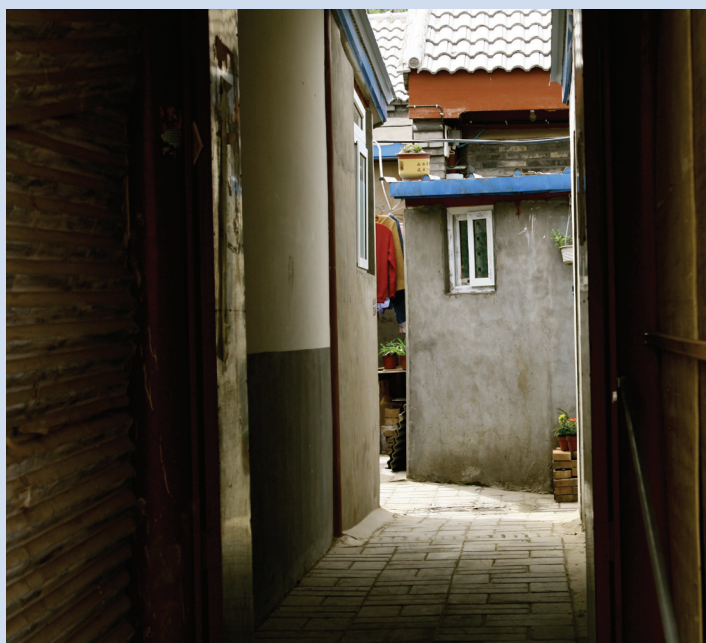


CAPTURING THE MOMENT

Sophomore Seth Lewis has found his true passion in photography. In only two years, his skills have brought him a handful of contest wins and hundreds of beautiful images. With one finger on the shutter button, Lewis proceeds into the future with high hopes for a career doing what he does best: capturing the moment.

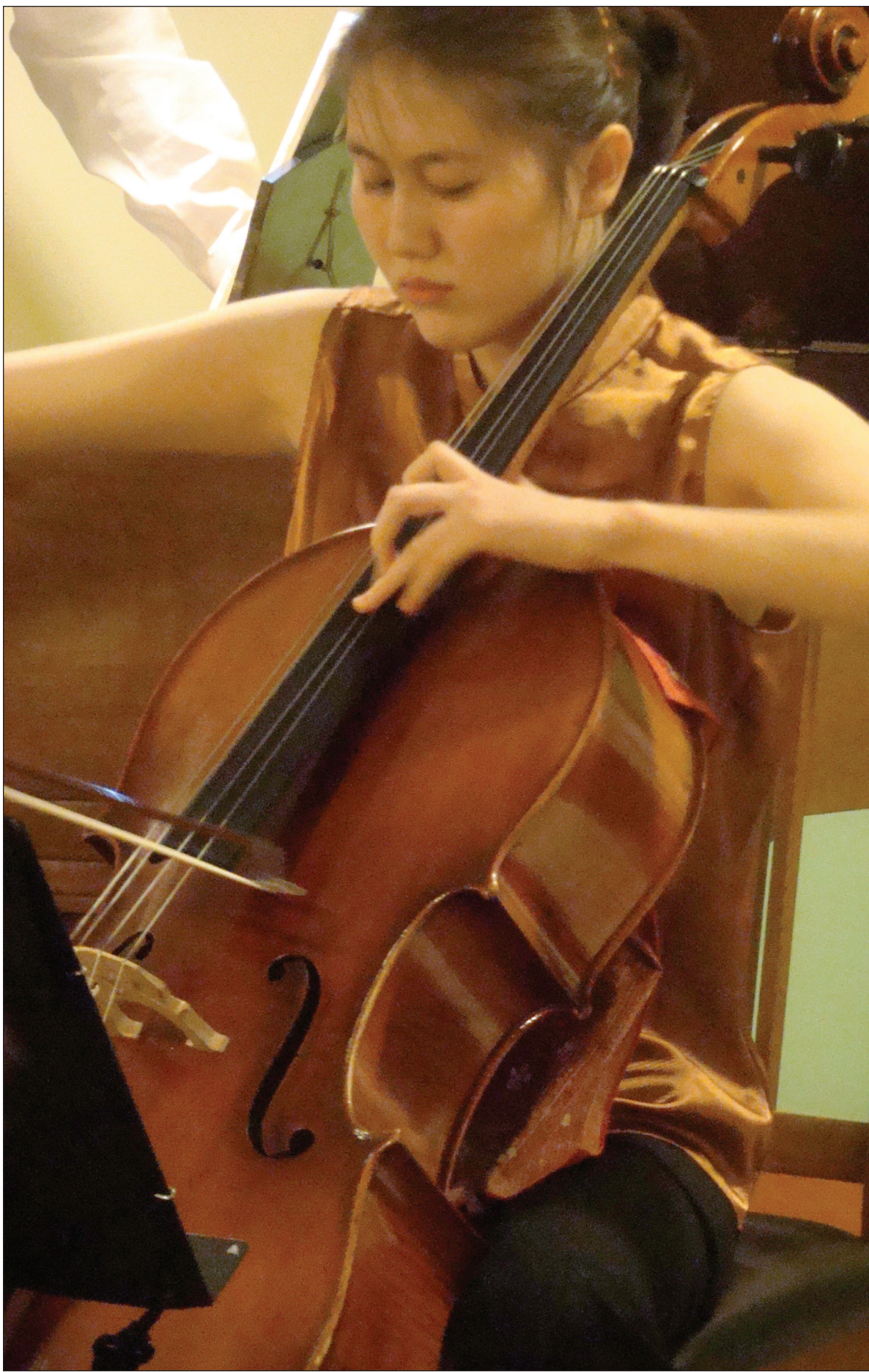


"I'm especially proud of getting Best in Show in the U. City Photo Show. I went out of my comfort zone, tried something completely new, and I didn't know how it was going to turn out."



"Sometimes when I'm in the car and I see things, I think, 'Wow, that would be interesting to photograph.' When I see ideas like that I keep them in my head."





Sarah O'Brien

Mongolian cellist Nomin Zolzaya concentrates while practicing her beloved cello. The 16-year-old moved to the United States as an exchange student in order to further her musical education. "We are hoping that in a year, she will apply to the fine music conservatories here in the U.S.," Dana Myers, her American host mother, said.

Going the distance: A musician's tale

Nomin Zolzaya is a long way from her home in Mongolia, but every mile she goes means she is that much closer to her dream of becoming a concert cellist.

Arya Yadama
Reporter

All over, people are taking action to help others in need. Very rarely however, is a family so willing to change its own lifestyle to help educate a young boy or girl.

Nomin Zolzaya is a 16-year-old Mongolian exchange student. The Myers family has taken her into their home to help her study cello in the United States.

Zolzaya grew up in Mongolia, where she learned how to play cello from her mother.

"The most important thing was when my mother introduced me to the world of classical music and how to play this beautiful music," Zolzaya said.

A lot of Zolzaya's ability is pure talent. Dana Myers, her "American mom" was in amazement at her playing ability, especially in relation to the meager resources in Mongolia.

"There are only two cello teachers in Mongolia," Myers said. "At a certain point, she surpassed what her teacher had to offer and basically taught herself."

Zolzaya is not part of a music program or project. Her experience started when she met Peter Myers, another young cellist, in Mongolia.

"One of the most important events of my life was when I met Peter Myers in Mongolia," Zolzaya said. "He encouraged me to come to the U.S. I really wanted to change my whole life, change my future."

Despite barely knowing Zolzaya, Myers was immediately impressed with her talent and decided to act on a hunch.

"Peter was taken with the talent and expressivity of the young Mongolian cellist in the group, Nomin," Myers said. "On an impulse, he called us up and asked if she could come live with us."

However, letting another teenager, especially one

from another country, into the house is a huge responsibility, but Myers was ready to take it on.

"We see the world through new eyes on a daily basis, having Nomin with us," Myers said. "We are learning about each other and the vast differences in culture."

At 16, Zolzaya practices quite a lot. She is talented enough to be in the St. Louis Youth Symphony, and she practices several times a day.

"My American mom wakes me up. I have a little breakfast, and then start practicing the cello or doing my English homework," Zolzaya said. After English class which she takes every afternoon, Zolzaya returns home. "Some more practicing and then it's dinner time."

Now in America, Nomin is given many opportunities daily. She has the chance to study with cellist Ken Kulosa.

"He knows how to help so that you can accomplish both the physical and musical," Zolzaya said. "That is my teacher Ken Kulosa."

Coming to America, having to learn a new language, making new friends and leaving one's family is not easy; however, Zolzaya talks about her birth home and her current home with equal love and joy.

"It is a very different world from Mongolia," Zolzaya said. "In Mongolia there is much more space and less people. Winters are bitter cold in Mongolia with temperatures falling way below zero degrees."

With Kulosa's and the Myers' families help, Zolzaya has been able to grow tremendously as a musician.

"Nomin has huge potential," Myers said. "She has a flowing communicative quality to her music making. We are hoping that in a year, she will apply to the fine music conservatories here in the U.S."

Through her determination, hard work and help from many, Zolzaya has been successful in securing a viable music career for herself. ☺



Millionaire in our backyard

Wash U student Juliette Brindak struck gold with her concept for a social networking website for young girls, Miss O and Friends.

Sri Panth
Reporter

In the past few years, the Internet has emerged as a new platform for businesses, and, as a result, it has revolutionized the way people do business.

It has made many aspects of business possible that would have been unfathomable more than 15 years ago. Hence, the Internet has been the catalyst for the success stories of many entrepreneurs.

There is Mark Zuckerberg, creator and current CEO of Facebook, the world's largest social networking site, as well as Jimmy Wales, the founder of the largest online encyclopedia, Wikipedia.

A relatively recent addition to this list is a Washington University student, Juliette Brindak, who has achieved momentous success through her own Internet corporation, Miss O and Friends.

Juliette Brindak's story started six years ago when she was 15. Her mother, a graphic designer, drew pictures of fictitious girls known as Miss O and Friends and enlarged them as design pieces for Brindak's younger sister's birthday party. Brindak's sister and her friends were crazy about the pictures and Juliette decided to create a website about the Miss O figures.

The website, known as MissOandFriends.com, is a social networking site for girls to talk to one another and play that is "run by girls, for

girls." Miss O and Friends soon gained immense success, and Juliette began talking with companies in New York regarding advertising on the site.

Now, Brindak is worth 15 million dollars.

Brindak's staff consists of about 30 people, including her parents. Her mother gives the company ideas for illustrations and designs while her father gives them financial advice. However, Juliette sometimes questioned their position in her life.

"My parents were so involved with my whole venture that sometimes I wondered if they were actually my parents or my colleagues and it got frustrating," Brindak said. "Looking back however, I realize that if it weren't for them, Miss O wouldn't have been nearly as successful as it is now."

The real question is how she was able to balance her venture with the rigors of high school, especially since she played two sports (lacrosse and field hockey). For her, high school was actually the easy part.

"It wasn't as difficult to balance Miss O with high school as with college because of its rigor and location," Brindak said. "I lived in Delaware and most of my advertisement negotiations happened in New York, so when I came to Wash-U, I had a dilemma. I had presentations to do, papers to write, and then I needed to fly to New York! On top of that, I wasn't really given much leeway with my scheduling so juggling Miss O

with Wash-U got really hard."

Despite the website's immense success, Brindak says she still has plenty of goals for Miss O and expects it to become even bigger.

"Eventually, I want Miss O to do licensing and I also want to open shops revolving around Miss O products," Brindak said. "I think Miss O and Friends has the potential to grow outside the Internet."

For Juliette, her whole venture with Miss O and Friends has not only been a learning experience, but a life changing one as well.

"If anything, I think my venture made me grow up faster," Brindak said. "I mean, as a high school student I was already negotiating with different companies and I became exposed to the professional world very quickly."

As for advice for any upcoming entrepreneurs, Brindak encourages selecting the right people for the job.

"If you have an idea that you want to implement, make sure you have a good team!" Brindak said. "You don't necessarily need a staff, but just a group of people that can give you good ideas, like in my case, my parents."

Brindak's personality is contrary to the negative perceptions often associated with millionaires. Despite her current status, Brindak remains humble about her experience.

"I think I'm just an ordinary person who had a good idea and profited from it," Brindak said. ☺

filling in the blanks

Getting to know math teacher Stacy Felps

Steven Zou
Reporter

I became a teacher because... When I went to college, I went to be an engineer because when I was in high school, any girls who were good at math and science went to engineering school. I spent all my time tutoring people in the engineering school in physics and calculus, and everybody kept saying you should be a teacher, you should be a teacher, so one day I finally figured it out: I should be a teacher.

Math is the most important subject because... It is the best. Math helps you see the beauty in the world, helps you describe everything, any patterns. Anything that happens in form and shape and space has to have some math behind it. It's just beautiful.

My favorite quote is... I don't live by quotes, but I live by song lyrics. Anything that happens triggers a song that I know and I start singing. I sing about everything. One of the things that I say is "You need to expect great things from yourself. If you are not expecting great things from yourself, who is going to?" Right now—this is going to sound silly, but I like Katy Perry even though people make fun of those who like her—and she has a song called "Firework." There is part that says "You are a firework and you have to ignite," and that is my quote. It's in you and you just have to find the spark.

When I was in high school, I liked to... Dance. I was in charge of the dance team in our school. We would perform all over the country and all over the state, and we would win all sorts of competitions. Dancing shows your freedom and your expression and gives you chance to hear music and hear rhythm and hear patterns and make your body match the rhythm and the pattern of the music and just feel good.

Now, I like to... Ice skate. I am not competitive and I am not good. We have a group of adults that started to skate after the age of 40. We work together as a team, and we compete and do shows. We are not great but we enjoy being together and have a good time. I decided to try ice skating because my daughter is a figure skater, my husband plays hockey, and my son plays hockey. So I was at the ice rink all the time, I decided as long as I was there, I might as well try ice-skating.



Clare Bliss

My greatest fear is... I don't know. I thought about it and thought maybe spiders or bad weather, but none of those is a big deal.

My hero is... I don't know who that is, but my mom is amazing. I don't know if I have a hero, but I have a lot of people who are special to me.

The most important life lesson that I learned is... Not to rush everything, not be in a hurry, don't wish your days away, don't forget to live today while you are wishing everything to hurry up. Sometimes I come into class and say "Happy Monday," and people say what's happy about Monday and I say, "Be careful because you spend one-seventh of your life on Monday, so if you just decided that Monday is never going to be a good day, then you have just wasted one-seventh of your life." You just need to make sure to make every day a good day. For example, I finished college very, very fast and I started to teach here at 20, and I don't know why I hurried, but I should have enjoyed college more. I love teaching here, but I wish I just had slowed down and enjoyed college.

When I stop teaching, I want to... I can't imagine stopping teaching. I can't imagine not being here. I want to stay here all my life, forever and ever. I don't know what it is going to look like when I am finished, because I can't imagine not being here. I am not thinking about retirement yet. I've been here 27 years already. I taught Mr. Moody and Coach Horrell and Mrs. Stricker's sister. I even taught Andy Cohen, the producer on Bravo. I've been here longer than anybody else in the building. ☺

Language barriers challenge new students

Katherine Ren
Reporter

The national ethos of the United States can be summed up in three words: The American Dream. It is a dream in which freedom offers the possibility of prosperity and success. It is a dream that becomes motivation for thousands to leave their homes in search for the future where they are provided consummate opportunities. However, the pursuit for happiness comes at a price; the journey of being launched into a foreign environment where one's greatest obstacle is the means of communication can be terrifying.

Junior Maamoun Hossayrami came to the United States from Lebanon in 2004.

"I came to the United States for a better education and for a better future," Hossayrami said.

Likewise, junior Jeremy Beaudette moved from Montreal, Canada in 2008 for similar reasons.

"I came to the United States for my dad's job, but also to learn how to speak English," Beaudette said.

Fortunately for Hossayrami and Beaudette, language didn't become a major obstacle.

"Going to school was difficult at first because I did not speak English well enough to communicate with my classmates," Hossayrami said. "But by the time I was in high school, I was speaking perfect English. CHS is a good school because it offers a lot for foreigners. I know

that the ELL class helped me tremendously through my time in the Clayton school district schools. My parents still try to help me as much as they can with school work. However if they can't, I always have my uncles who have been in the U.S. for years who can help me out."

Other new faces to CHS include junior Meizi Liu and junior Gabby Tang. Liu came to the United States August of 2010 with her mother, who now works as a researcher at UMSL. Liu's mother came to the United States to pursue a better career and greater opportunities.

"The rest of my family, including my father is still in China," Liu said. "I really miss my family and friends in China. But we stay connected using the internet, so it's convenient I guess."

However, a new environment still introduces new hardships.

"The most challenging thing is to make presentations in class since English is my second language," Beaudette said. "However, since the U.S. isn't really different from Canada, I had no trouble getting comfortable."

Liu also agrees that communication often creates a barrier in both her social life and her academic life.

"The hardest thing for me at CHS is communicating in English," Liu said. "I can't always understand what my classmates are saying, thus it is very hard to make friends with them. Similarly, I never participate in any clubs or extracurricular ac-

tivities. I see the posters, but I think communicating during them would just be too difficult."

Tang came to the United States in 2007 because of her parent's career opportunities. Like Hossayrami, Tang finds adapting to the culture and the way of the people her greatest hardship.

"It's very hard to get around here," Tang said. "There is little public transportation and there is hardly ever anyone on the streets. My mom has not gotten her license yet, and neither have I. So when I don't have a ride, I have to walk 40 minutes from school to home."

However regardless of what country they came from, all the students seem to agree that CHS' academic techniques and strategies are right where they should be.

"I think CHS is a great school compared to the schools I went to in Canada," Beaudette said. "Instead of having eight periods a day, we had four 75-minute periods. CHS is more serious than my previous school. There, people skipped a lot and they didn't really care about their grades. There weren't many A students."

For Liu however, the story shapes out differently.

"There was a lot of competition in China. At my school we had 40 classes in my grade with about 60 students in each class," Liu said. "We arrived at school before 6:50 a.m. and left at 9:40 p.m. every day. We had eleven periods each day, in-



Alexis Atkinson

Karen Hales-Macham teaches senior Montazer Al Qazzaz in CHS' English Language Learners (ELL) classroom.

cluding three periods of evening self study. Most weekends were reserved for extra classes or self study sessions. So coming to CHS, I definitely feel more relaxed."

For most of the students, future plans of staying in the U.S. aren't concrete.

"I plan on staying through col-

lege," Hossayrami said. "However, I don't know if I want to live the rest of my life here."

Similarly, Liu also finds herself juggling with the options of her future.

"I really miss my family and friends back in China, but it should get better with time," Liu said. "No

doubt in saying that it's definitely hard. I went back to China during winter break to visit, so that helped. Although this year's Chinese New Year, I won't be eating dumplings and receiving Hong Bao money with most of my family, spending it with my mother and new friends is also something to look forward to!"

New Year's resolutions motivate students for a successful 2011

Lauren Friedman
Reporter

As the winter season rolls by, several students get into the holiday spirit by setting personal goals for the upcoming New Year. While some set specific goals to follow, others devise general goals in hopes of improving certain aspects that they possess.

Some students hope to see improvement in their grades, whether it be in all of their classes or simply just one. Some students aim to change their study habits.

Freshman Lauren Indovino has high hopes to earn the best grades that she possibly can next semester.

"I am going to stay on top of my work," Indovino said. "I will get help from others, use my time more wisely, and make sure to get more sleep each night."

Indovino has made a few New Year's resolutions in the past, but she has never followed through with them. This year, she has come up with ways to check her progress, which will hopefully help her to succeed.

Senior Marin Klostermeier has created a resolution in order to keep herself from falling into the tendency to be lazy that sometimes comes with being a second semester senior.

"My New Year's resolution for this year is to continue to put the same amount of effort into my school work that I did first semester," Klostermeier said.

She plans to achieve this goal by reminding herself that second semester is no different than first, and that there is still much more for her to learn before she graduates.

While some students see the beginning of a new year as an ideal opportunity for change, others do not believe in creating New Year's resolutions. Junior Bianca Vannucci thinks that New Year's resolutions are ineffective and rarely followed for very long.

"I do not believe that you should have to wait until Jan. 1 each year to change your life," Vannucci said.

Her theory is that if you tell yourself that you are going to wait until Jan. 1 to change something about yourself, chances are that you will not follow through because if you were actually motivated to make the change, you would have done so right away.

For some students, the idea of creating a New Year's resolution is new, and some find it appealing while others see it as unnecessary. Junior Dan Peipert has never made a New Year's resolution before, and he does not



Nicole Indovino

plan to change his ways for the year of 2011.

"I do not believe in making New Year's resolutions," Peipert said. "I know that the beginning of a new year gives us a good opportunity to change our lives, but I think that the best time to change is at the moment that you decide you want to change."

Although many of the people who create resolutions often anticipate that reaching their goal will be a simple challenge, research in Psychology reveals that it can be extremely difficult to change an existing habit. Mr. David Aiello, the Psychology teacher at CHS, shares information from a psychological standpoint about why it is that New Year's resolutions may not always result in success.

"It usually takes a person around 10 times of performing an action in order for that action to form a habit," Aiello said. "It would be beneficial for people to devise strategies for achieving their resolutions so there are rewards and checkpoints along the way to reinforce

positive behavior and progress."

For those who created resolutions this year, whether it was a tradition or a new chance for change, hopefully they will stick to their goals and eventually find the improvements that they wish to see.



Regine Rosas

Your Pot's Desire is a store in the Delmar Loop that provides unglazed pottery to anyone who needs a creative outlet. People of all ages and experience can create something beautiful, like the teapot pictured above.

Satisfy your pot's desire

Anna Williams
Reporter

Your Pot's Desire truly lives up to its name by providing a variety of pottery for people of all ages to unleash their creativity! Whether carefully planned or spur of the moment, a trip to Your Pot's Desire will satisfy your craving for a creative outlet.

"This is a paint your own pottery studio where customers come in and select a piece of pottery," owner Britanny Crittenden said. "We have a wide variety of items. Mugs, bowls, vases, pots, platters and plates. Everything is fully functional once it's been fired, so you can drink out of the cups and eat off of the plates."

A pottery shop adds a creative element to the Delmar Loop.

"Making pottery was a hobby of ours," Crittenden said. "There are two owners, myself and Whitney Wade. We're sorority sisters, so this is just a fun idea we had. We enjoyed it so much we wanted to bring one to the area."

Crittenden graduated from St. Louis University as a business major. She followed in her father's footsteps, a businessman, by starting her own business.

"I always wanted to start my own business. I wanted to put my studying skills and my research to use," Crittenden said. "So I started this."

During the holiday season, Your Pot's Desire provides a way to make a unique gift instead of buying something generic at a chain store.

"For the holiday season we have ornaments, holiday figures, and such," Crittenden said. "We also have several Hanukkah pieces."

Along with a new variety of figurines, the store also has a number of specials for the holiday season.

"We have a lot of outside specials," Crittenden said. "A lot of our specials happened after Thanksgiving; however, we do stuff with Living Social and we're in the Town Planner Calendar. There's so many different coupons in there like buy

one get one free and buy one get one half off. There's a lot of easy ways to save, so it's not going to be super expensive to make pottery here."

For those who are not creatively inclined, Your Pot's Desire provides several example books, stencils, and stamps to help guide your creativity.

"I want to stress that you don't have to be an artist to work here," Crittenden said. "We have a lot of creative aid like sponges and carbon paper where we can transfer a pattern or image right onto your piece. It's very easy. You don't have to be a skilled artist at all to be here and most of the time the people who come in here are not."

Overall the experience to be had at Your Pot's Desire is one that cannot be found easily in other cities for this shop offers a unique experience to try something new and make something with sentimental value. A trip to Your Pot's Desire will give you a fun experience that will last longer than the pot itself.

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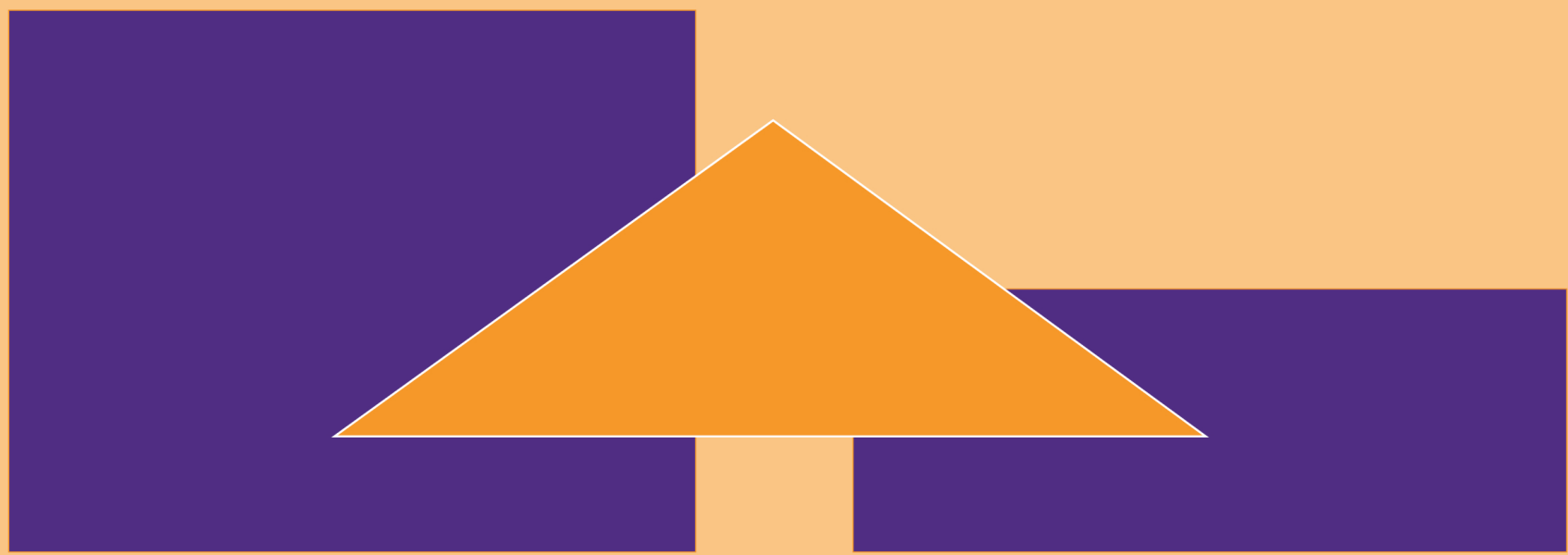
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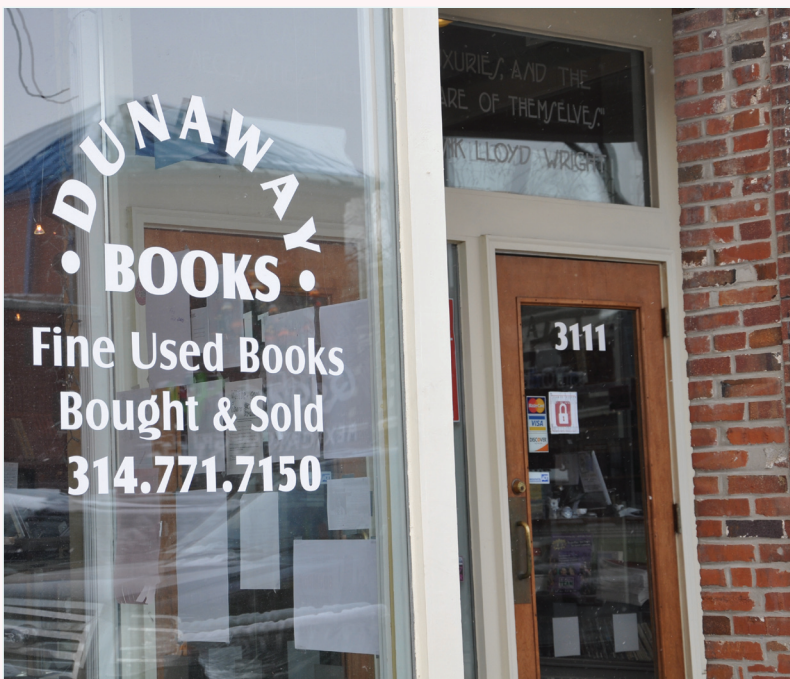
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Outside the Bubble

Exploring Tower
Grove Park and
South Grand



Petra's is a Mediterranean restaurant and hookah bar. The bar extends all the way down a thin hallway with small rooms filled with art, hookah smoke, and South Grand regulars. Petra's is a great example of the nightlife in the area.



Dunaway Books is a haven for lovers of used books. It's filled wall-to-wall with books: all used, all cheap, and in good condition. It was voted the best used bookstore by the Riverfront Times and there is literally something there for everyone. With a first floor and basement filled to brim with books, it is extremely doubtful that you will leave empty-handed.

MoKaBe's coffee shop moved to this corner in 1994 and has since established itself as a fixture both in the neighborhood and in the LGBT community. Most of the regulars are recovering alcoholics so they gather around the bar for delicious coffee drinks. You can get a plain cup of coffee, or one of their delicious concoctions created to mimic a mixed alcoholic drink. The menu ranges from vegan breakfast burritos to French Dip sandwiches. MoKaBe's is perfect for people watching, eavesdropping, and the best cup of coffee in South City.



Andie Glik
Reporter

The heart of South City is in the green trees and Chinese-style gazebos of Tower Grove Park. Home to seasonal farmers' markets and the famous International Festival, the Park brings an eclectic mix of people and activities. A gift to St. Louis from the generous bank account of Henry Shaw, this park is a thriving piece of St. Louis history.

From the young hipsters who have recently invaded the area to the elderly men and women who have inhabited the area for decades, you can find a wide variety of people in the park. Tower Grove Park is lined with streets

of urban townhouses and delicate, elaborate mansions. Some houses sport plaques stating the year that the home was built. Many of the houses date all the way back to when the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair, making this area a permanent reminder of the great city St. Louis was built to be.

Overlooking the park, Arsenal Street meets South Grand and buds into an area filled with coffee shops, bars and bookstores.

The South Grand and Tower Grove Park area is filled with beautiful and exciting things to do. From the Park itself, to the restaurants and shops surrounding it, this area is one part of St. Louis that you really shouldn't miss.



City Diner is a 50's-style diner that serves all of the classic diner favorites. It's open for 24 hours on the weekends, so it's the perfect place to grab a 3 a.m. stack of pancakes. For the last ten years, Sauce Magazine has voted it the best diner in St. Louis. According to the Riverfront Times, City Diner also has the best grilled cheese, biscuits and gravy, and pancakes. Stop in for a malt at the counter or an oldies tune from the jukebox.



The King and I is the perfect Thai food restaurant. St. Louis has a large selection of Thai restaurants, but if you haven't eaten at the King and I, you're missing out. With an extensive classic Thai menu and special booths that are dug into the ground (you actually crawl into them), it is quite the experience. For a more traditional meal, try Lemongrass, a Vietnamese restaurant next door to King & I. From Vietnamese curry to lemongrass dishes to their signature "hot pot" dishes, Lemongrass has lots of wonderful dishes to choose from.





Gweneth Paltrow stars as an up-and-coming country music singer/songwriter struggling with romantic complications in her marriage. With her husband/manager, new love interest, and a beauty-queen-turned performer, she embarks on a tour designed to save her career. Here she performs for an especially young crowd.

Despite promising cast, catchy sound track, 'Country Strong' disappoints

Caroline Greenberg
Reporter

"Country Strong" is a great portrayal of a person swirling farther and farther into a dark hole.

Kelly Canter (Gwyneth Paltrow), a famous singer/songwriter, is pulled out of rehab to do her comeback tour after a devastating disaster the year before. At rehab, however, she meets Beau Hutton (Garrett Hedlund) who is her "sponsor" and provides a romantic complication in her marriage with James Canter (Tim McGraw). Beau becomes her opener along with Chiles Statton (Leighton Meester), who is a fresh-faced pageant queen. The group travel around Texas on a comeback tour trying to find the balance between love and fame.

Paltrow's performance is captivating and swirls you around with her character's constant problems and fallbacks. However, it is hard to ever get a feel for the character because we never learn the back-story of the illness that derailed her life.

Hedlund's character is in the music business for the love of the music, while Meester's character thrives on the fame of it. The obvious differences between the two people drive the sexual chemistry between them and makes for first-rate dialogue. From the very beginning of the movie, as he sweeps in to save her from embarrassment on stage, you can see the outcome of them as a couple.

The confusing thing about Hedlund's character is that you're never quite sure what the motivations for his actions are. One second he is having sexual relations with Paltrow and the next he decides he shouldn't be with her for her health and gets with Meester instead. You're never quite sure if he is there

to help Paltrow's character get better, to woo her, or to be with Meester.

Hedlund's character is not the only confusing one; the plot line between the four characters thickens but makes the movie feel like it is more of a soap opera rather than a drama. The concert scenes, which don't have any sort of energy, do not improve the movie. While most concerts are taped using multiple

pans, shots of the crowd and, generally, a lot of camera movement, the camera never moves. Instead, most of the music sequences are a series of one shots with only short cuts from the original screen. These

characters are meant to be at their best while performing, but instead it shows them at their driest.

The movie had wide varieties of actors and actresses, but overall it was a disappointment. The movie was quite predictable with only a few unexpected moments. Though the film does have its bright spots, it also doesn't inspire the attention span to give the audience a reason to care about any of these characters.

However "Country Strong" has received a Golden Globe nomination for "Best Original Song-Motion Picture" and is running against "Burlesque," "The Chronicles of Narnia" and "Tangled." For all the country music lovers out there, the music was strong and catchy. As I left the theater I had a tune from the movie such as "Summer Girls," a catchy, cheerful tune sung by Meester, or "Coming Home" by Paltrow in my head. The music did not disappoint, so if country music is what you like to listen to you'll love that, other than that the movie just isn't up to par. ☹

"The movie was quite predictable with only a few unexpected moments. Though the film does have its bright spots, it also doesn't inspire the attention span to give the audience a reason to care about any of these characters."

Caroline Greenberg
Reporter



History Museum's Napoleon exhibit brings historical figure to life through real artifacts

Dawn Androphy
Co-Editor in Chief

Much has been said about Napoleon Bonaparte. In fact, the only person who has been written about more than Napoleon is Jesus. However, in casual modern discourse, Napoleon is often reduced to a power-hungry egoist fueled by anxiety about his short stature.

One of these points is immediately rebuked upon entrance to the Missouri History Museum's exhibit "Treasures of Napoleon". Upon his death, Napoleon's autopsy reported his height to be 5 feet 2 inches tall, but this measurement was actually in French feet and was never converted to English feet. In actuality, Napoleon was about 5 feet 6 inches tall, which was actually about average for a Frenchman of his time.

This challenge of a common misconception is a perfect introduction to the exhibit, which personalizes Napoleon by displaying various objects from his life and portraits of him, his family, and his court members.

The very origin of the exhibit is fascinating in and of itself. The exhibit, comprised of over 300 items, is created from the extensive collection of Pierre-Jean Chalencón, who is an expert on Napoleon and his imperial court. Chalencón's own collection is comprised of over 500 items and

began when, at 17, he sold his motor scooter to purchase Napoleon's letter announcing his defeat of the Prussians at the Battle of Jena.

The very extensive nature of the collection becomes ever more clear with each progression through the rooms set aside for the exhibit. The items are placed in chronological order such that the visitor not only learns about the legendary figure's life, but also sees the evolution of his public image.

Napoleon was obsessed with his public image and increasingly used Greek and Roman imagery throughout his life. Even as a young military leader in the Italian Army, one letter shows him declaring to his troops, "Mountains now separate us from France. You will traverse them with the speed of eagles."

Napoleon later used similar imagery with each portrait marking turning points in his life. In his first portrait as the First Consul of France, he is dressed in red and the other consuls wear blue. Later, in his first portrait as the Emperor of

France at the age of 35, Napoleon wears a necklace of golden eagles and a golden laurel crown, evoking his role models Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar, in particular. In the famous painting of Napoleon crossing the Alps, he guided the artist's depiction by demanding that he look calm atop an exuberant horse when, in fact, Napoleon actually rode a mule. In yet another nod to his posterity, Napoleon had the names of other historical figures who had crossed the Alps written beside him (Hannibal and Charlemagne).

In addition to the beautiful portraits scattered across the exhibit, one sees numerous letters written in Napoleon's hand and even one written by his seven-year-old son to his mother. There is even a sleeve to one of Napoleon's dress coats with a stain on it. When Napoleon stained the coat, he had the sleeve replaced and the tailor saved the old sleeve. Later, the rest of the dress gown was lost at the Battle of Waterloo. Also in the collection are several items from

his coronation and even the portable bed that Napoleon brought with him on battles.

Towards the end of the exhibit, there is a lock of Napoleon's hair from his time in exile as well as handwritten copies of different versions of his will. However, the exhibit comes to a stunning close with Napoleon's iconic hat that he

wore during the 109 Battle of Essling. While it is easy to become lost in the sheer volume of historical artifacts on display, certain objects are so loaded with historical meaning and context that one can't help but be drawn in and astonished by the fact that this object is right before them. At various points, I was flummoxed by the degree to which one of the most influential and important people in history was being humanized before my very eyes. Very rarely does one get to step into the life of such an iconic historical figure."

Dawn Androphy
Co-Editor in Chief

If you choose to visit the exhibit, I recommend giving yourself at least an hour. There are several rooms of bounty filled with intricate objects to be examined. In fact, my only criticism of this exhibit is that there may have been a bit too much too look at. "Treasures of Napoleon" is presented by the Missouri History Museum through April 3. The museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and until 8 p.m. on Tuesdays. Cost is \$12 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors and \$6 for children age 6-12. ☹



Photo by Rebecca Hale (c) National Geographic. Used with permission of the Missouri History Museum.

'King's Speech' inspiring, deserving of awards

Jocelyn Lee
World Editor

If you have heard anything about "The King's Speech," you'll know that actor Colin Firth plays King George VI of England, a man who tries to overcome a stutter as an increasing number of responsibilities are thrust upon him.

At the end of the film he gives a speech, which, unsurprisingly, proves to be a personal success for him and an inspiration for many others.

Despite the predictability, the movie is well deserving of the attention, awards, and nominations it has received so far.

The story itself is fairly simple. The Duke of York, later crowned King George VI, wishes to rid himself of a stutter that causes him humiliation and frustration both as a public figure and in his personal life. Named Albert, he is the second son of the aging King George V and second in line to the British throne.

With the help of his wife (Helena Bonham Carter), the future Queen Elizabeth, Albert seeks help from physicians and speech therapists, but all to no avail. Frustrated that nothing seems to work, Albert seems ready to give up.

However, Elizabeth discovers Lionel Logue, played by actor Geoffrey Rush, an unconventional sort of therapist for speech defects.

She brings the reluctant Albert to Lionel's office — since he tells her he cannot come to them, no matter if they are royalty — and so the journey begins.

Lionel insists that he will call Albert "Bertie" from the moment they meet, because a familiar first name basis will set them as equals in their relationship.

"The film stays on track in its focus on Albert's relationships and development as a friend, husband, leader, and speaker."

Jocelyn Lee
Junior

Although at first not at all pleasant or cooperative, Albert gradually opens up, with a few exceptions when he reverts back to his condescending attitude toward Lionel.

Years pass, and Albert's father passes away. Albert's reckless and irresponsible older brother, David, becomes King Edward VIII; this is bad news for Britain.

While the country is on the brink of war with Germany, then under the rule of Adolf Hitler, David is distracted from his political duties by a married American woman whom he plans to wed after she is officially divorced.

Such a marriage would be potentially harmful to the public image of the royal family, as the



Colin Firth portrays Prince Albert, who reluctantly becomes King George VI after his brother abdicates the throne in "The King's Speech."

woman will have been divorced twice before marrying David.

Under tremendous pressure, David abdicates, and Albert finds himself king.

The overwhelming pressure Albert feels as King George VI is only worsened by his fear of his speech impediment, which he still struggles to conquer with Lionel's help.

As they spend time together, Lionel learns more and more about Albert's character and the effects that the king's troubled childhood have had on him. Their

friendship has its ups and downs and is quite funny and moving.

I was glad that the story does not get too carried away with sideplots relating to the war and to the scandal of David's love affair, although these, too, would be fascinating stories if they had been further developed.

Instead, the film stays on track in its focus on Albert's relationships and development as a friend, husband, leader, and speaker.

There is a reason why the "The King's Speech" has received three Golden Globe nominations for its

actors and actresses (seven nominations total). By far the greatest aspect of the movie is the performances of Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush, and Helena Bonham Carter, not to mention a couple of other supporting actors.

Firth and Rush depict their characters' relationship with such believability and complexity that it is hard to imagine that neither of them will receive an Oscar.

Firth masters Albert's stutter, while he also carefully portrays an arrogant and self-conscious man who has been much affected by the emo-

tional abuse he received as a child.

Both witty and serious, the screenplay is well crafted and balanced. Unfortunately, the movie is rated R for one scene — perhaps one of the best scenes — when Lionel urges a string of profanity from "Bertie," when he realizes that his client never stutters when he swears.

Although it won't sweep the Golden Globes or Oscars, "The King's Speech" should win a few major awards, and it certainly qualifies as one of the most noteworthy films of the year. ☺



Helen Wiley

'The Voyage of Dawn Treader' disappoints

Meredith McMahon
Editor

I think it would be easiest to say that "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader" directed by Michael Apted is a fabulous movie—if you are 12 and very into fantasy and dueling. The most magical part of the movie is its plotline, which followed closely to C.S. Lewis's novel, "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader". The fact that the movie was a childhood favorite and had retained some nostalgia from the book made the movie cute, but not memorable.

Essentially the movie is about the younger children, Lucy (played by Georgia Henley) and Edmund (played by Skandar Keynes) Pevensie, and their obnoxious cousin Eustace Scrubbs (played by Will Poulter) who are transported to Narnia onto the ship The Dawn

Treader. They are then swept into an adventure of trying to help Prince Caspian find the seven missing lords of Narnia by uniting their swords despite temptation, vanity and challenges that appear along the way. Of course, the trail is laden with opportunities for special effects in the form of dragons, islands, sea serpents and talking mice. For the most part the visuals were well done, although they weren't exceptional.

One of the highlights of the movie was Eustace Scrubbs, whose excessively literal diary entries added a bit of comic relief, and his character change was well acted. Lucy and Edmund were well played too, although what the movie was lacking was the older siblings, Susan and Peter. Although the movie included Prince Caspian (played by Ben Barnes), the movie felt like it missed the elders' presence that was so prominent and

well received in the first two movies.

My biggest complaint was that there were a lot of dueling scenes and jokes that were aimed towards a much younger audience and didn't attempt to bring the movie to a much higher level intellectually, unlike some other children's movies which are humorous and engaging to most adults as well as children, and because of the allegories the movie was slightly more heavy-handed.

However, this movie made allusions to more Christian allegories than the previous two movies in the series, which gave the movie another layer of depth. However, the Christian allegories are more of C.S. Lewis's idea than the director and/or screenwriter's, but the theme was more obvious than in the previous movies of the series.

"The Voyage of the Dawn Treader" is not a bad movie—it had a lot

to live up to and did not meet its expectations. With two previous, popular and high selling movies in the Chronicles of Narnia series, this movie did not at all compare with the other movies. The sets and scenes (especially battle scenes) in the previous two are much more full blown and the screenplay and acting more intense and believable. It was a bit of a letdown for fans who wished to see the same caliber work as in the other movies.

Overall, "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of The Dawn Treader" was a mediocre movie—not terribly bad, even good for someone in the correct audience age (8-13 years old, I'd say).

However, the movie's poor jokes, unpopular younger sibling main characters, and high expectations made it, all in all, not something to go out of your way to see. ☹

Changed Zodiac signs result in public outcry, confusion

An AOL News headline summed up the phenomena best: "New Zodiac Sign Dates Causing Identity Crisis on Twitter."

Apparently, new Zodiac breakthroughs have revealed two shocking bits of information: first, it's been so long since the Babylonians invented Zodiac that the dates assigned to the symbols are no longer accurate. And second, out of some misguided love for the number twelve, the Babylonians gave one symbol the boot. Ophiuchus, also called Serpentarius, is the thirteenth zodiac sign. With this news having surfaced, some followers of Zodiac have found themselves under the influence of a new star sign.

Now, I am not one of the 31 percent of Americans who claims to believe in Astrology, and I'm not entirely sure why Minneapolis astronomer chose this January to reveal his astonishing new research. In short, I don't much care about Zodiac, new developments aside (besides, I remain a Capricorn, as far as I can tell, so my galactic fate appears untouched). What interests me is how quickly this information went viral and why, as AOL so aptly phrased, it has caused such an Internet uproar.

When I first heard of the change in Zodiac, I was not looking to read my daily horoscope. I wasn't reading a newspaper. I wasn't talking to my friends or parents about current events. I was doing what most young people, I think, do first when they come home from school and turn on the computer: checking Facebook. Having logged on, I found an odd trend; among the usual status updates and link sharing were interspersed a few posts about how violated people felt by their sudden change in star sign. Interested, I headed to Google.

And that's where the AOL headline comes in. In a develop-

ment that might confuse adults but seems perfectly natural to forever-connected teenagers, I had a hard time finding actual information about Ophiuchus itself. Instead, I encountered the previously mentioned headline and ones like it.

Obviously, one news source—in this case, Minneapolis's Star Tribune—had to report on the Zodiac breakthrough in the first place. But once that article was released, somehow the information it contained took to the Internet with particular abandon. Barring the initial release of information, this news seems to have spread predominantly through Facebook, Twitter and other social media outlets.

Now, clearly, our usual notion of star signs—that is, the twelve "originals" as we would usually think of them—was based on one culture's arbitrary decision to eliminate one of thirteen in order to preserve the number twelve, and, perhaps, avoid the number thirteen. For us modern people, however, the Zodiac seemed set in stone, and a change came as a shock. Today, our concept of the Zodiac has been influenced by another apparently arbitrary decision, but this time the impact has been

magnified by the power of viral social networking. A process that previously took hundreds of years to play out—the cementing of star signs in the general public's collective minds—is being undermined in a matter of days because of a drastic increase in mass, global communication.

Like 9/11, like the demotion of Pluto from planet status, like any realization that changes how a person views himself or the world, even a tiny, frivolous thing like Zodiac signs can cause identity crisis. And the Internet allows each micro-crisis to become big. Personally, I'm just happy to remain a Capricorn. ☺

Blots and Scribbles



Kara Kratcha

'Lonely Avenue' creative lyrics and unique music wins praise

Eudora Olsen
Reporter

It isn't often that a popular recording artist collaborates with a famous novelist to make music gold, but that is exactly what happened when the album "Lonely Avenue" was created.

The popular American singer/songwriter Ben Folds was approached by the British author Nick Hornby over a year ago.

Hornby gave Folds lyrics, which Folds strictly followed and wrote music to. Neither of them expected the album to be anything but a side project, but the album's popularity rose out of its release date Dec. 9, 2010.

The album has a wide variety of tunes, from blues to rock to retro 70s-style riffs, and everything in between.

The lyrics are written by an author, so mini storylines rise out of Folds' musical genius.

Many of the songs, "Levi Johnston's Blues" and "Claire's Ninth" to name a couple, follow closely the adventures of a character. This story-quality adds to the charm of "Lonely Avenue".



Although the album is short, only 51 minutes in total, it leaves no room for "fillers." Every song is unique and catchy.

Hornby has a very distinct style of writing, but this is not to say that the album lacks variety. Folds makes sure to diversify the songs by having an array of instruments.

These include his classic piano and backgrounds of orchestration, electric guitars, and synthesizers. Or, in the case of the angsty "Saskia Hamilton", all of the above.

The listener is sure to relate to the album's mixture of melodies. Such topics as love, divorce, politics, death, and hope are sprinkled throughout the songs. They provide the depth that ensures the listeners will connect to the music.

In a true Ben Folds' fashion, sentimentality is key. Most of the songs are told as past experiences and life lessons. The lyrics are simple, but meaningful.

Hornby adorns his writing with an abundance of metaphors and symbols, while Folds sets the perfect key for the tone (no pun intended) of the lyrics.

The album is short and sweet. The songs run at a fast pace, but with the simple press of a button, you can keep them running on repeat. And you will want to.



The test of wills between Jack Byrnes (Robert De Niro, left) and Greg Focker (Ben Stiller) escalates to new heights of comedy in the third installment of the blockbuster series, "Little Fockers."

"Little Fockers" disappoints

Nina Murov
Reporter

Third time is... not the charm. I'm talking about the third installment in the wildly popular Focker franchise, "Little Fockers." Starring Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro, the Focker family is back, along with two new members.

Back in Chicago, Greg and Pam (Stiller and Teri Polo) have twins, one boy and one girl. The twins are about to turn a whopping five years old, and that means planning a birthday bash.

But if the pressure of the party isn't enough, Greg has his harsh father-in-law, Jack Byrnes (De Niro) bugging him about taking over the family watchdog after Byrnes' time is up, becoming the "God Focker." Focker also has to deal with two romantic situations, Andi Garcia (Jessica Alba), Focker's new work partner, and Kevin Rawley (Owen Wilson), his "best friend" that likes Pam a little too much. Since Greg can't handle it all, his crazy and loving parents (Barbra Streisand and Dustin Hoffman) come in and help him out.

Unfortunately, two little Fockers didn't bring any

major laughs to the big screen. One would think this movie was bound for another hit, after "Meet the Parents" and "Meet the Fockers" still have audiences repeating their lines every time they are reminded of the movie. But truthfully, the "Little Fockers" has no point.

The film is very rushed. As one problem comes up, the audience barely has time to take it in before the next one, making it unorganized at the end when the plot comes together. The acting in the movie is just not what it was in the first two films.

It seems as if the entire cast wanted to get the movie over with, instead of doing their actual jobs.

The film was the same old thing, besides two new members, and a gorgeous, flirty work partner. Greg is trying to settle Jack down, he is jealous of Kevin and Pam's connection and his parents have a little trouble at first, but once again, they work it out.

I could have walked into this movie and told you what was going to happen before the first scene was over. With only two funny "action scenes," lines that aren't as memorable and acting that is only so-so. Overall, "Little Fockers" is a big disappointment.

'True Grit' has true Western flair

The Coen brothers' remake of John Wayne film outshines the original.

Stephen Pastor
Reporter

"True Grit" stands out as one of my favorite movies of the year. This remake of the 1969 movie "True Grit," which starred John Wayne, now has Hailee Steinfeld in the spotlight. She delivers an excellent performance playing the role of Mattie Ross, the daughter of a murdered man. The hunt is on as the very stubborn 14-year-old Mattie attempts to find her father's killer (played by Josh Brolin) and bring him to justice.

Mattie's intent is not to personally kill her father's murderer, but to subdue him and bring him back to the town where her father was murdered, where she would like to see him tried and then sentenced to death by lynching.

When she realizes she cannot do it alone, she asks around the town and determines that Marshall Cogburn (Jeff Bridges) is the right man for the job. Once Mattie finally convinces Cogburn to agree to help her, a Texas Ranger named LaBoeuf (Matt Damon) also happens to be on the hunt for the same man: Tom Chaney.

As they are about to set out, Cogburn deceives little Mattie and makes an agreement with LaBoeuf that when they capture Chaney they will both take him down to Tex-

as together and share the reward that was being offered.

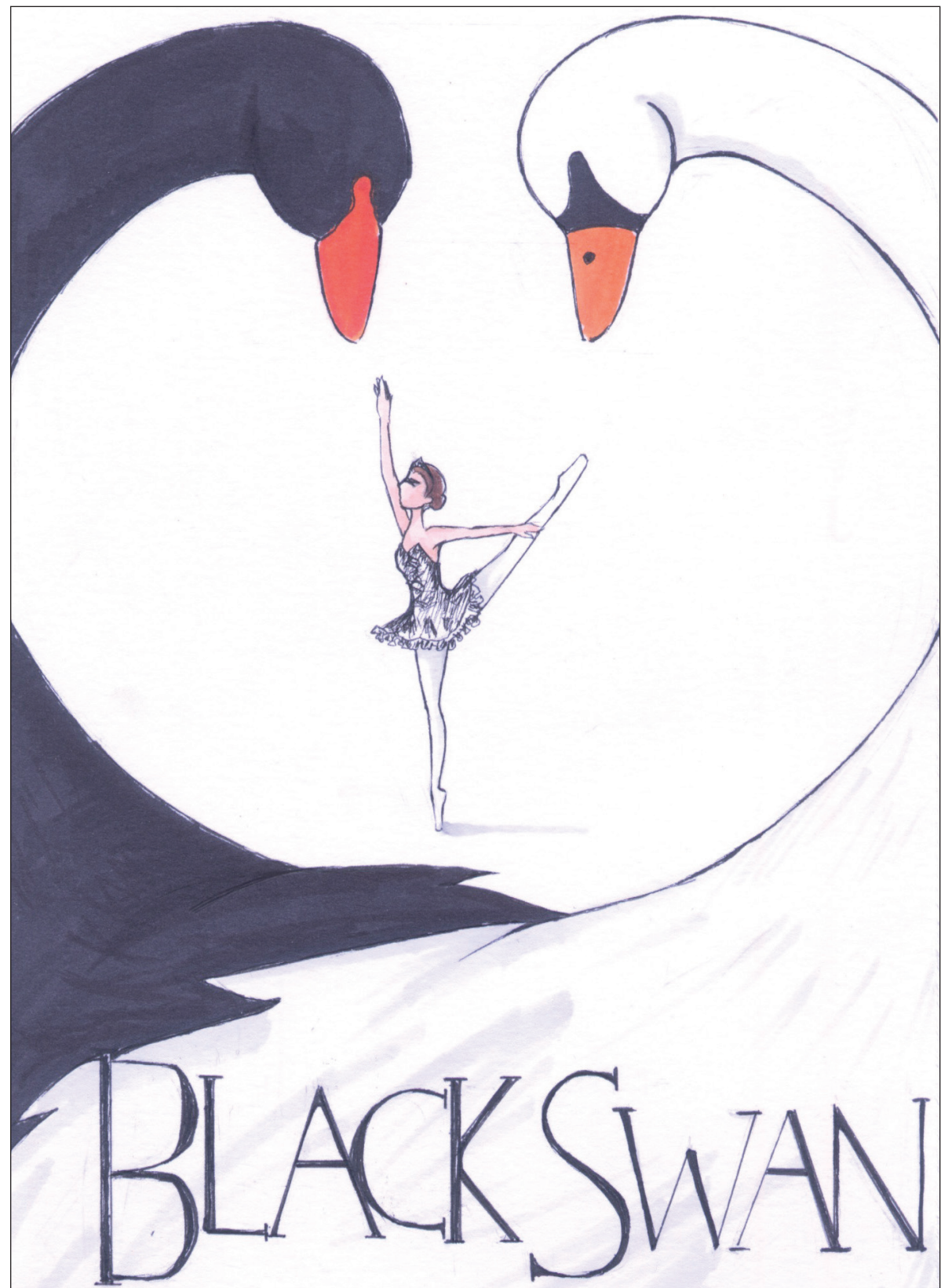
Outraged by this, Mattie catches up to them before they can get out of town and insists that she go along. On their journey to find Chaney, the two men and Mattie run into all sorts of people and criminals that Cogburn is all too familiar with.

While the movie does contain its fair share of violence, it also focuses on ideas of friendship, dedication, and revenge. The whole cast of actors, as well as the Coen brothers, have done a phenomenal job of making the character's emotions come to life. You will be cheering them on for the entirety of their journey.

This movie is very well done, and one could not expect much less than perfection coming from Ethan and Joel Coen, as they direct this soon-to-be classic. The nonstop suspense and simplicity of the movie adds to its originality: no overdone and over-the-top Hollywood special effects here.

"True Grit" is one movie that is worth the \$12.00 a person to go and see in theaters.

The nearly two-hour film will have you intrigued throughout the entire story, and there is always some action taking place on the screen. This remake is one to go check out.



"Black Swan" graces the screen

Unique film gives insight to psychotic dancer's mind.

Payton Sciarratta
Reporter

"I had the craziest dream last night about a girl who was turned into a swan, but her prince falls for the wrong girl, then she kills herself," said Nina, the lead character in the film "Black Swan".

"Black Swan" is a story of a young girl, Nina (Natalie Portman), whose life is consumed with dance. She is presented with the opportunity to audition for the part as Swan Queen in the ballet "Swan Lake"; however, while she succeeded in playing the innocent white swan she failed in being able to switch roles as the evil twin sister, or the black swan, so Nina did not believe she'd receive the role.

The next morning, Nina arrives at the studio in attempt to talk her director, Thomas Leroy (Vincent Cassel), into letting her have the part.

In an effort to see if Nina can play the black swan, Leroy sexually seduces her. Because of the movie's strong sexual content, disturbing violent images, language and some drug use, it was rated R by Motion Picture.

The movie itself has caused some controversy because of the idea of the lesbian sex scene.

Portman's father was somewhat disturbed by the idea of his daughter playing this role, but it was an opportunity Portman did not want to turn down. Her father claimed that the movie was a bit "degrading."

Aside from the debate about whether or not this was against Portman's morals, it also touches the subject of perfection.

"I just want to be perfect," Nina said to Leroy in one of her rehearsals.

"The only one standing in your way is you," Leroy responded to Nina.

Not only in the film does Portman seem to go crazy when driving for perfection, but in real life she strived to become a flawless dancer by training months in advance for the part.

Darren Aronofsky, the director of "Black Swan," did an excellent job of portraying the strenuous amount of work that not only dancers go through, but ambitious people in general, when they strive to succeed in an area.

In the film, because Nina is driven off the wall due to her mother's constant mental abuse and her desire to want to be the best dancer in New York, the audience is able to see the psychotic side come out in her.

As the movie continues, and the audience sees the amount of pressure that Nina puts on herself to become more seductive, the audience is able to see her literally transform into the black swan. Aronofsky lets us see what is going on in Nina's mind, while allowing us to see what the audience is viewing when they watch her dance.

It is extraordinary the way he creates this image that allows us to see the different perspectives all at once.

Even though "Black Swan" contained some disturbing scenes that made viewers cringe in their seats, it is an exceptionally unique movie because anyone can interpret it in their own way.

It is a movie that viewers are able to see over and over, while discovering something new that they weren't able to grasp the first time around.



Jeff Bridges plays Rooster Cogburn and Hailee Steinfeld plays Mattie Ross in Paramount Pictures "True Grit".



Maria Massad
Editor

Oh, what a beautiful morning.... Oh, what a beautiful play.... There is a beautiful feeling everything's going okay.

"Oklahoma!" is this year's upcoming musical, and students are already hard at work perfecting their performances.

Practices have begun for both the actors and pit orchestra, and the tech crew is hard at work as well.

Rehearsals are usually every day after school, and they last for at least a couple hours. These rehearsals help the students prepare for the upcoming performances on Jan. 20-23. Much hard work goes into preparing for the performance. Part of the work is getting into character so that the audience will believe what they are seeing.

"To get into character for rehearsals, I allow myself to cool down from the rest of the day so that I can really focus on playing my part," freshman and chorus member Claire Lisker said. "You have to make yourself believe that you are the character that you are playing, so that way you can react how your character would—in other words, acting naturally. You have to make the audience believe you as well."

Senior John Holland, who plays Will Parker, does not have a routine to get into character, but he does prepare in certain ways for playing an overly energetic character.

"I have to convince myself to be extremely lively and ready to exert a lot of enthusiasm," Holland said. "Will Parker's role as a bit of the comic relief helps to take the time out of building a deep character and put time into making my lines as funny as they can be. I find it most rewarding when I am able to deliver a joke with perfect timing that allows for the most humor possible."

Others, however, like senior Sarah McAfee, who plays the female lead character Laurey, do not have a special way of getting into character.

"For me, once I start looking over my lines and getting into the scenes, the character just starts to come," McAfee said. "On days when it doesn't come, I just have to buckle down and try to really focus. Focus is really the biggest thing for me in terms of characterization."

Freshman actor Ben Diamond, who plays Cord Elam, agreed with McAfee.

"I don't do much to prepare during rehearsal," Diamond said. "Usually, it's something simple, like saying the lines over and over again in my mind while I'm fidgeting. However, I also like to reserve about 10 to 30 minutes to go over my lines at night before rehearsal the next day."

"Oklahoma!" takes place on the prairie territory. Because of this, the actors must adopt a country twang to be convincing characters.

"It's difficult to make to accent sound authentic," McAfee said. "There's still the same amount that goes into searching for character depth and trying to consider the plot and staging on a grander spectrum—the musical being the show we put on in the large theatre."

The student actors always warm up before practice begins; it is an essential part of preparing for getting into character.

"You must warm up somehow," Lisker said. "For singing, you warm up your voice and stretch your mouth. For dance, you warm up and stretch your body, and for acting you mostly relax your

body and focus yourself into character. There are several specific warm up routines that we all know as a group that can prepare us for each thing. I find it really rewarding to be able to explore and express yourself through singing, dancing, and acting."

In fact, dancing is a central focus of this play.

"The dancing portions are where the actors can really shine with a musical that is built around the music rather than the story," Holland said.

Indeed, actors do not only prepare physically, but they also prepare mentally for their roles. As a matter of fact, according to McAfee, knowing one's lines is also helpful.

"Preparing for acting is a lot of looking over your lines and making sure you know your blocking," McAfee said. "It's always nice to have your script out of your hand. I love the rehearsals when you have the script out of your hand and you know exactly what to do. Those are the times when you are really able to play with your character, and the magic really happens. Those are the rehearsals where the show starts becoming a real per-

formance instead of just blocking scenes, and it is so cool to watch everybody grow."

Theatre director Kelley Ryan believes that to create the best possible play, students should know their lines as soon as possible.

"The lines really should be the least of it," Ryan said. "Kids should [be] off the book as soon as possible. We work on character relationships, rhythms, and making sure the story is clear. Hopefully, what will happen during performances is that everything will be so ingrained in each person's mind that when they perform, they trust the rehearsal process, tell the story, and just relax and have fun."

Diamond believes that Wydown productions are very different from high school productions due to the ways that high school students prepare.

"Rehearsing for plays at Wydown was different mainly because the [high school] actors are more mature, so we get more things done," Diamond said. "Also, people look and sound good the first time they try a dance or set of lines, whereas at Wydown it was more that they really had to practice a lot to sound good. I think that comes from the kids at the high school being more independent."

The tech crew is also hard at work creating sets. Director John Armstrong supervises the students at work.

"Generally, each crew member gives most of their focus and attention to a certain task at hand," junior and tech crew member Matt Mikesic said. "As soon as a person finishes a job, he or she is assigned a new one. The process repeats itself each day until we have quality sets for the show. The average member, like me, does a little bit of everything and just gives help where it is needed. We get to add our own input and ideas that are often used during building the sets. What is really rewarding about the whole process is being able to watch the show and see all the props in use and knowing that I helped

make the show more spectacular."

"Oklahoma!" is very different from last year's theater production, "Sweeney Todd."

Not only do the accents differ, but also the moods of the different musicals are also complete opposites.

"Sweeney Todd" was very music-intensive, but this show is not quite as much," Ryan said. "This show is a dance-heavy show, so there are more dance rehearsals. The students have five hours of dance rehearsals a week. They practice musical theatre dancing, stylized Broadway dancing, and a little ballet. There is also work on developing the country-twang accent. 'Sweeney Todd' deals with lots of drama and dark themes. This show is lighter. There is definitely some darkness, but it's not as intense as 'Sweeney Todd.'"

"Sweeney Todd" is a lot darker than "Oklahoma!" McAfee said. "Oklahoma!" tends to be considered sort of a fluffy musical with not a lot of intense plot. That's something we're working on. We're trying to get into the depth of the show to make it really realistic and heart-felt."

The music of "Sweeney Todd" also is darker than the cheerful music of "Oklahoma!"

"Sweeney Todd" was a lot less straightforward musically," junior flautist Taylor Kloha said. "With Sweeney, we tended to spend more time rehearsing the spots with sudden, bizarre time and key signature changes. It seems like 'Oklahoma!' is going to be more of a run-through-it-until-we've-got-it-down kind of situation. The two musicals are polar opposites. Both are well-known, successful musicals individually, but 'Oklahoma!' is much more cheery and upbeat. 'Sweeney Todd' was an amazing production, and 'Oklahoma!' should be outstanding as well."

The reason for the cheerfulness is that "Oklahoma!" was first performed in the World War II era, when audiences wanted a light-hearted performance to escape from the reality of the war, contrasting with "Sweeney Todd."

"Thus, 'Oklahoma!' is a funny and entertaining show that focuses more on song and dance," Holland said. "Sweeney Todd" is, of course, Sondheim's exploration of ideas of revenge and madness, which results in a very different, very dark show."

McAfee acknowledges that the musical is not a modern one, but that this quality should not detract from the entertainment of the musical.

"Oklahoma!" was actually the first stage-performed musical in 1943," McAfee said. "It is not modern at all. It was modern for its time, but there's nothing twenty-first century about it at all. The songs are written in a classical musical style, and the setting is in 1906. It's definitely different, but don't let the idea that it's old turn you off—it's a lot of fun and really entertaining." ☺



LEFT: Sophomore Caroline Kidwell, senior John Holland, freshman Mo Mills, and junior Lewis Grant share a smile during rehearsal for CHS' rendition of the musical "Oklahoma!" RIGHT: Robbie Love and Fergus Inder sing side-by-side as they prepare for this year's production of "Oklahoma!" TOP: Junior Margaret Mulligan, freshman Carly Beard, and senior Katherine Thompson have fun rehearsing for the upcoming musical "Oklahoma!"



Photos by Alexis Atkinson

WikiLeaks: Dangerous or Insignificant?

WikiLeaks, a website dedicated to bringing important news to the public through independent, anonymous "leaks," has recently come under criticism for publishing potentially damaging information.

Website compromises US diplomacy *WikiLeaks may lead to censorship*

Shuyang Li
Reporter

Given the media uproar over Wikileaks, one would think that the Pentagon Papers had been released all over again. But unfortunately for Wikileaks and its supporters, the magnitude and effectiveness of the files that it has released for public review are nowhere near the significance of Daniel Ellsberg's 1971 leak on U.S. policy in the Vietnam War.

The most controversial information released by the organization falls roughly into two sections: what has been termed the "Afghan War Diaries" and a variety of diplomatic cables from over 250 embassies across the world. The "Afghan War Diaries" were partially released in July of this year, with 75,000 documents released and around 15,000 remaining. They paint a picture of the darker side of war, of friendly-fire incidents and civilian casualties, and of the escalation of Taliban violence. Yet is that all so surprising? Still, Wikileaks ostensibly deserves praise for releasing documents that better educated the public on the war in Afghanistan. Ostensibly,

Its goal of providing transparency in this situation seems to be accomplished. But was transparency really attained? It turns out that none of the documents released contain any particularly new or significant insights. For years, the public has been bombarded with reminders that the war in Afghanistan is underfunded, Karzai's government is corrupt, and that the Taliban remain powerful. Nothing new has come of the whole affair, besides the names of hundreds of Afghan informers and their location.

Which brings up another point - in the organization's eyes, the ends seem to justify the means. Military operations and technicalities are not covered by newspapers because real live people are involved and endangered. It's easy enough to summon up anger at the army for "dirty" operations. It's much harder to justify the release of information that harms people who cooperate with the government and that could possibly lead to those people's executions. Wikileaks has only offered up weak excuses, vaguely citing that the files will help in "ending the war in Afghanistan."

Perhaps Reporters Without Borders, an international press freedom organization, put it best when they reproached Wikileaks director Julian Assange for the "incredible irresponsibility" he showed in leaking "documents disclosing the names of Afghans who have provided information to the international military coalition that has been in Afghanistan since 2001." What Wikileaks has done with its "Afghan War Diaries" has been to lift the shroud of secrecy that protected Afghan collaborators and exposed them to the Taliban's retribution.

The diplomatic cables released by Wikileaks is a completely different affair. Nevertheless, some news outlets as well as the organization itself have already begun referring to the event as "Cablegate." Now, putting these papers on the same level as the famous Watergate scandal is a plain insult to the investigators involved in Watergate. That event led to drastic revelations about the presidency misusing its powers and corrupting democracy in America.

What the diplomatic cables' release has done is reveal some startlingly frank evaluations of foreign leaders as well as international diplomatic deals. These releases do not warrant the severity of danger that some public officials warn of, nor are they as groundbreaking or significant as Wikileaks claims.

Indeed, many foreign-policy and international analysts say that the information released so far contains nothing

new to them, and some documents contain information that is over a decade old. Nonetheless, as with the "Afghan War Diaries," Wikileaks' newest leak hurts the diplomatic institution that is imperative to the smooth operation of international politics. The release of bits of information that were withheld from diplomatic partners could strain relations and cause mistrust, as would some rather frank evaluations of foreign personalities. To stay ahead of, or even on par with one another, countries must continually broker deals and observe competitors.

The release of these cables compromises United States reputation and makes it harder for foreign nations to trust it. After all, how would they know that sensitive diplomatic dealings will remain secret?

As a final note, Assange's recent threat to trigger the release of what he claims to be a deluge of national and commercial secrets if he is prevented from leaking is not only dangerous but juvenile. He seems to feel that if he cannot do as he wishes, he will take the country down with him.

Assange's mentality combined with the casual and clumsy willingness to reveal information that could endanger over hundreds of lives spells a recipe for disaster - for both himself and the international community.

Ultimately, Wikileaks cannot be permitted to continue on its reckless path.

The correct course of action is to stop Wikileaks and prevent further release of what information it claims to possess. ☹

Dylan Schultz
Editor

The most recent media craze has undoubtedly been the infamous WikiLeaks scandal.

Despite the website having been created in 2006, the topic of released secrets involving branches, namely the military, of the United States government has popped up in many a heated discussion.

The main attacks on WikiLeaks and its

editor-in-chief Julian Assange have, not surprisingly, come from members of the U.S. government.

They argue that the release of classified information is a threat to both our homeland security and international diplomacy.

The goal of WikiLeaks, a non-profit private organization, is simply to inform the public of any possibly controversial goings-on in our nation.

Assange likes to think of it as more of a

whistleblower in society that points out wrongdoings rather than implying how to react to them.

If this information damages the reputation of the U.S. further, the worry shouldn't be over the release of classified documents.

It should be about how our nation is run and the way we evaluate the officials we put in charge.

The goal of

democracy is to grant every citizen a voice with which they can influence the establishment that governs them.

The goal of this government should be to create the best possible environment so the people's rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are protected.

When any government fails to do so, the people of a democracy should be aware so they can make informed decisions that contribute to their government in the future.

WikiLeaks provides the proper decision making information for not only all Americans, but for the entire world.

WikiLeaks receives criticism worldwide. Germany, Australia, Thailand, and Iceland have all attempted to block the information from getting to their citizens.

However, WikiLeaks also finds itself in the good graces of other nations such as Brazil, Ecuador, Russia, and Venezuela.

Like many websites, WikiLeaks has been attempted to be blocked on all internet in China. This is not at all surprising since China has been trying to control the media that is accessible to its citizens for years.

What is surprising is a different country that attempts to block WikiLeaks: the United States.

Currently in the Library of Congress, the infamous site is blocked. All federal employees are also forbidden to see the site not only at work, but also in some cases on their own personal computers.

Even though this is a small area of blockage, but it is still significant. In fact, it could open a dangerous door to media censorship that affects the entire nation.

Hopefully any attempt to block information sharing websites such as WikiLeaks will prove unsuccessful as it is in violation of the first amendment rights that all U.S. citizens are entitled. Other efforts of the U.S. to protect itself from WikiLeaks have proved unsuccessful for good reason.

There was a wish to arrest Assange on the grounds that he and his site encouraged theft of government property. There is no doubt that more possible attempts to silence Assange will follow.

While WikiLeaks stands as a controversial topic in terms of releasing "classified" information for the world to see, the underlying issue is the freedom of press. After all, WikiLeaks is a private site, with its contents produced anonymously by independent authors. Its goal is to provide the public with what it deems relevant, important information and news. If WikiLeaks, a website aimed at increasing transparency, become censorable, where will the government draw the line?

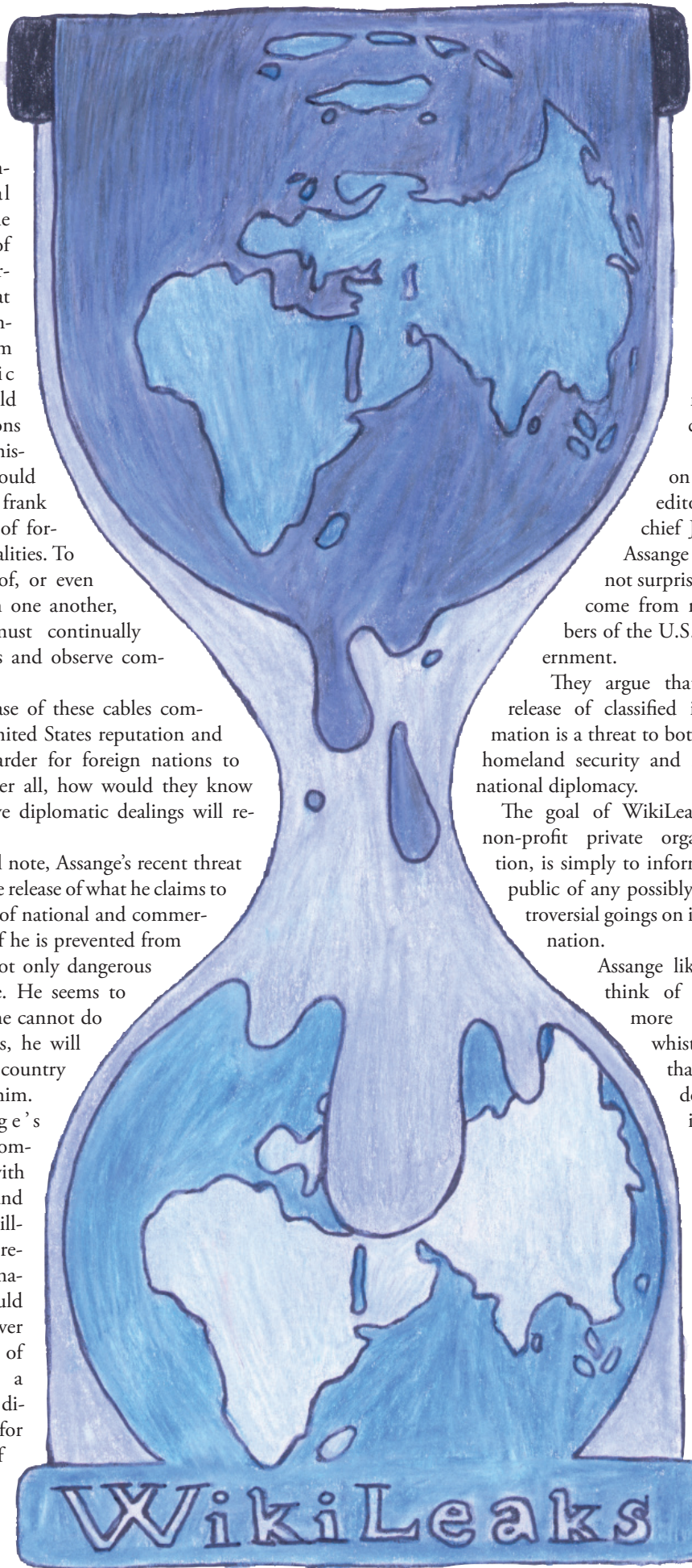
The second president of the United States, John Adams, tried to outlaw negative speaking out against the government with the Alien and Seditions Act. This was, of course, found unconstitutional and removed.

If speaking against government is acceptable, then why should having proof for reasons to speak out against the government suddenly become a questionable issue?

Unquestionably, the actions of WikiLeaks have been legal and moral. An informed society will make better decisions that help everyone.

A suppressive society that forces people to only think closed-mindedly is dangerous. Censoring sites like WikiLeaks puts the U.S. one step closer to this type of society.

Which one do we want to become? ☹



Frequent interactions with TSA staff leave student puzzled

What does TSA stand for again? Is it Throwing Stuff Away?

During the past holiday season, these three letters were frequently brought up as news channels discussed the tougher airport security measures.

TSA actually stands for Transportation Security Administration, a federal agency that overlooks the safety and security of the traveling public. You have seen them if you have ever passed through security at an airport. They are the ones who "welcome" you to the airport by asking you to take your shoes, watches, and belts off, occasionally taking your belongings away, and sometimes sending you through their new toy, the body-imaging machine.

I have grown closer to the TSA through my frequent airport visits during winter break. Sadly, I am still not accustomed to their unique culture and practices.

On a more serious note, my encounters with the TSA caused me to question and reflect on how effective these security measures really are. It all started here at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. My family was passing through security for our flight to New York City when the conveyor belt from the X-Ray machine stopped rolling. Something was wrong with our small, carry-on suitcase. After discussing with the inspector at the monitor and pointing to a dark, unrecognizable shade on there, a TSA officer took our suitcase and conducted a search. The problem was a pack of D cell batteries. He took it out temporarily and ran our suitcase

through the machine again. After that, the batteries were returned to us and we were told that everything was fine and we could move on. The minor inconvenience didn't bother us too much at the time.

After our New York trip, we went to New York's LaGuardia airport to take our flight back to St. Louis. It was days after the New Year, and the airport was crowded. After waiting in line for around 20 minutes, it was our turn to pass through security and our suitcase was stopped once again. I expected that the TSA officers had seen those D cell batteries on the monitor again and were unsure what that dense mass of metal was.

However, I was surprised that after the search, the TSA officer took out my hair gel instead. The officer told me that I am not allowed to carry this gel onto the airplane because it exceeds the limit of 3.4 ounce.

The container was 5 ounce and it was half empty, which makes the actual content inside less than the limit. Not wanting to let them throw away my belonging, I questioned whether they go by the volume of the container or the volume of the content inside.

The supervisor came and said that it doesn't matter and insisted that he is the supervisor so I should believe him. However, I persisted because my question was not answered. Then, a "supervisor of the supervisor" came and impatiently told me that they go by the volume of the container.

I was still not 100 percent convinced. By this point,

the unfriendliness displayed by the TSA staff had caused me to question whether they were honestly stating the policy or just giving me a hard time on purpose, but I did not wish to waste any more of my time on this matter and risk missing my flight. I let them take away the hair gel and moved on.

On my flight back, the more I thought about the security measures, the more it bothered me. First, I couldn't find an explanation for the inconsistency between the search in St. Louis and the search in New York. In the TSA in New York, why did the hair gel cause trouble whereas the D cell batteries went undetected?

For a second I was convinced that security is just stricter at busier airports. However, that can't be completely true either as I realized my 10 ounce contact lens solution, which is way over the 3.4 ounce limit, was also undetected.

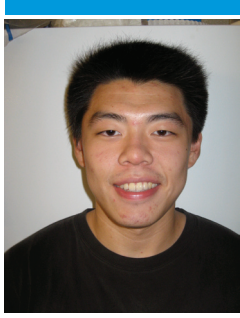
Although the effectiveness of stricter security measures remains questionable, I sympathize with the intentions of the public supporters and the government for tougher security. One of the places we visited on our last day in New York was St. Paul's Chapel near Ground Zero. In the days after 9/11, this building was where people came together to serve and comfort those who grieved and those who searched for survivors in the ruins. Many of the things on display, particularly the photos of those we lost and letters from their families, reminded me of what a dark time it was and how important it is to prevent tragedies like 9/11 from happening again. In adopting stricter security measures we have traded convenience for increased safety. The TSA needs to step up to ensure that



Sarah Blackwell

this tradeoff is still worthwhile.

Inconsistent searches like those I encountered send a confusing message to the travelers, simultaneously jeopardizing public trust and cooperation that the TSA sorely needs. ☹



Philip Zhang

A few weeks ago on a brutally cold December afternoon, I decided to grab a soothing cup of hot chocolate.

Because I was nearly frozen, after ordering my drink I sat down as far away from any windows as possible, took a deep breath, and started to read a magazine, thankful for the refuge I had found from the harsh conditions outside.

However, as I began to read, I couldn't help but notice out of the corner of my eye a series of frantic movements. At first I disregarded this peripheral distraction, figuring it would soon stop, but it persisted.

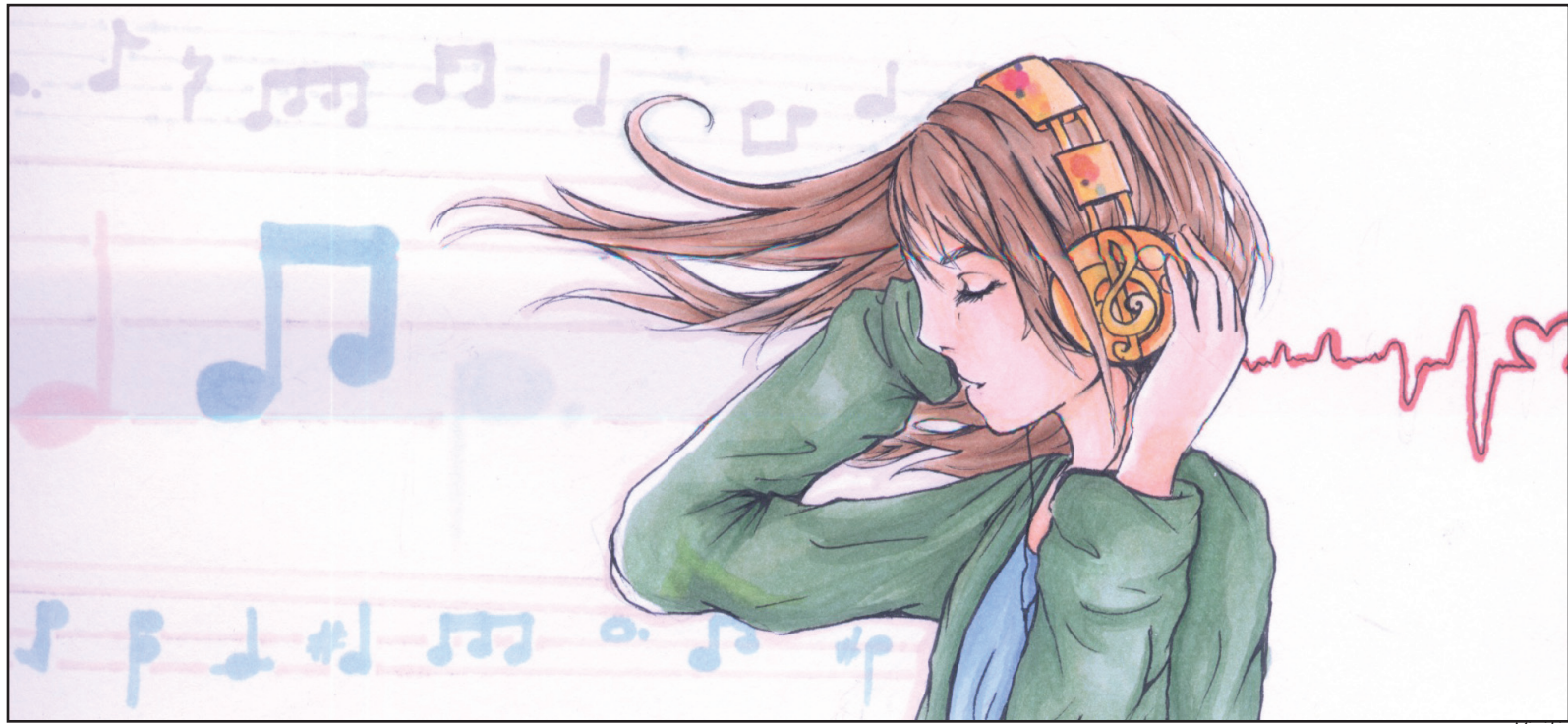
I then turned to my right and was slightly surprised to see a woman tapping the table top as if it were a piano, fingers in perfect playing form, sheet music sprawled out in front of her.

I noticed that other customers were gazing at her confoundedly, while I, a pianist, smiled admiringly, identifying with her desire to practice the piano without one in sight, not to mention in an environment where there was other music playing in the background.

Was she using her time effectively? The scientific answer is a resounding yes.

In multiple experiments scientists have used brain-imaging techniques to prove that imagining that one is playing an instrument is almost as effective as the physical actuality of playing because simulating play stimulates the same portions of the auditory and motor cortex stimulated during an actual performance.

Since I have engaged in similar imaginative exercises, I can attest to the effectiveness of the process. Even more interestingly, I am able to hear every note as I stroke the empty air. Some internal mental function com-



Exploring life's rhythms

pensates for the absence of the sound of music.

This data reveals that our minds have access to an internal, highly functioning musical landscape, which allows us to recognize an important distinction between external music, music we hear with our ears, and internal music, music that plays within our heads.

Clearly, the woman at the coffee shop could hear the music in her head as she tapped it on the table. Thus, I pause to ask, how attune are you to the musical landscape in your mind? In other words, what kind of internal music do you hear and why? What was the most recent tune you were humming? What inspired you to think of it? These musical tidbits

can tell you things about yourself.

In *Musophilia*, Dr. Oliver Sacks, a noted neurologist, relays a poignant, personal anecdote about how he lets music educate him.

Years ago during the cold month of December in New York City for a couple of successive days, Sacks kept hearing snatches of a song which he was too busy to attend.

Because it was so persistent, he finally he forced himself to take some time to sit down, close his eyes, and listen completely to the music playing in his mind.

As he did so, he recognized it.

The piece was Bach's "Capriccio on the Departure of a Most Beloved Brother". Sacks' moment of revelation brought the simultaneous remembrance that his brother was gravely ill.

Although he had tried to suppress his brother's dire situation, his mind forced the issue by repeatedly playing a song which he would eventually have to confront and would lead him to deal with his underlying emotional grief.

The music haunted him but did so purposefully.

This recollection is one example of how our musical minds communicate with us in times of emotional need. The results are compelling and illuminate the responsibility we all have to tap into our inner stereos.

Perhaps this goal could and should be our society's New Year's Resolution in 2011.

Listening to songs can be a portal to an alternate universe—a personal musical universe. In this musical universe, lyrics, melody, instrumentation, and emotion are intertwined to provide our listening selves with an outlet for expression and a chance to explore parts of ourselves otherwise hidden or dismissed in the rush of ordinary life.

So thus the question becomes

how do we navigate this musical landscape? There are two relatively simple ways to get started. The first step has to do with the external music.

This step requires making the crucially important and simultaneously enjoyable decision to expose yourself to more music.

Turn on the radio during your lunch break, listen to your iPod on your way to work out, attend a concert, do anything to give yourself more exposure to the music surrounding you.

The more you listen with your ears, the more you will store in your brain's musical hard drive, and slowly but surely, you will begin to build a diverse library of music.

The second step has to do with the internal music. This task is more sophisticated but equally, if not more important.

It is difficult because it requires you to tune into the frequency of your subconscious, but it is important because the messages within the music will allow you to become more in touch with the innermost workings of your mind.

The power of music transcends that of language and as a result gives you a peculiarly direct connection to your emotions if you are willing to focus enough to identify the songs you are hearing and make the association between your chosen songs and your brain's emotional motive to play them.

In cultivating the music of your mind you will find yourself happier, healthier, and more complete this New Year. I promise you that the joy music brings can be surprising, uplifting, therapeutic, and inspirational.

So take the challenge and listen to the rhythm of your life.



Ben Colagiovanni

Changing tastes of younger generation unfairly criticized

My generation is lazy, incompetent, incapable of focusing on a single task, and completely unprepared for the world that we will grow into as adults.

Or, at least, that seems to be the idea that society at large is being sold. Personally, I'm not buying it.

It's always been trendy for older generations to judge youth and compare their own lives and experiences to those of current youth. The results are rarely a favorable commentary on just how right the newest, burgeoning generation is. In fact, the results tend to be an examination of how [insert new phenomenon] is changing how kids perceive [insert long-lasting institution] and how the result will be a complete reinvention of [insert same long-lasting institution] that will bring the world to an end.

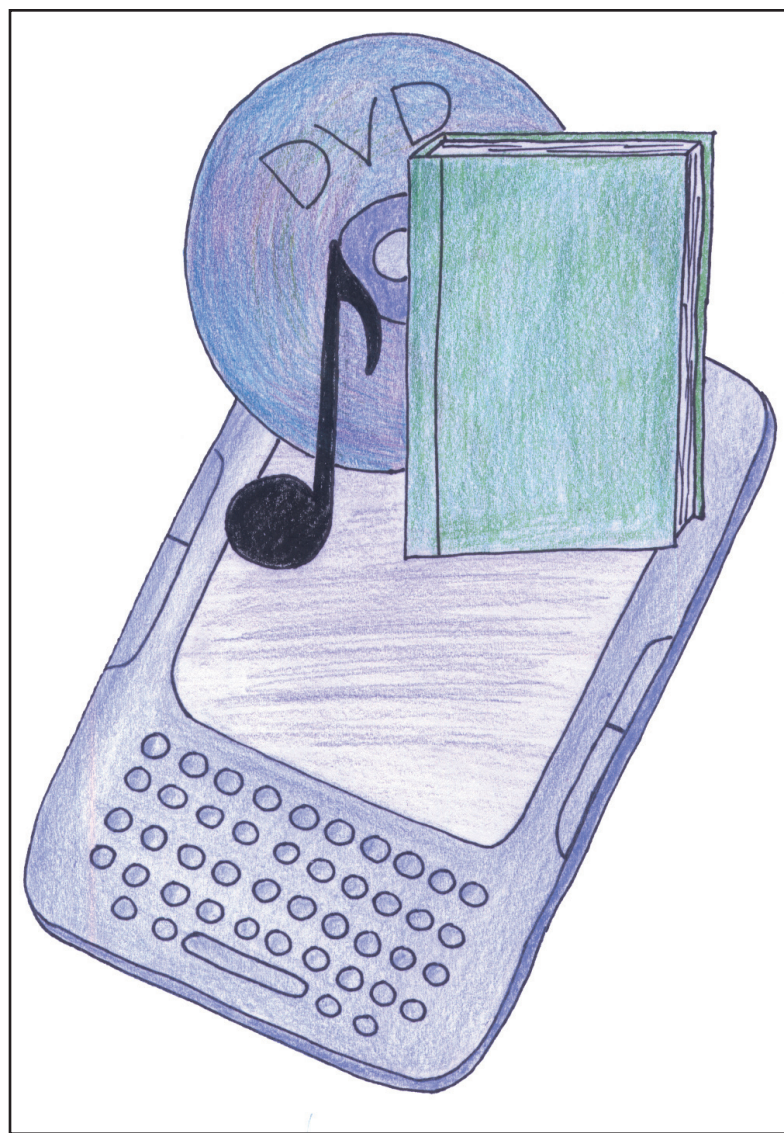
The part of this formula for outraged editorials that I would like to challenge is that very last sentence. Yes, the world is constantly changing and things that we consider to be a permanent presence today may no longer be recognizable to the next generation. However, why does each generation seem to think that anything different from their past experiences has to be a bad thing?

One common complaint is that our generation's attention spans have been ruined by the ubiquity of multi-tasking and multimedia in our online usage.

While I certainly understand concerns about many peoples' increasing disinterest in reading long-form literature, this change in interest is more likely a symptom of what direction literature will go in next. Not too long ago, the novel was considered to be a lower-brow medium of digesting literature.

Maybe the next wave of literature will be short-form stories and nonconventional poetry, or even combine various forms of media to tell a story.

The potential of such a literary revolution becomes ever more clear to me as Kindles and other electronic reading devices become more common. Soon, new novels may be



Helen Wiley

published in an eBook format that simply can't be translated to a traditional, physical book.

The novel of the future may combine prose, verse, videos, audios, and animated gifts, among other things, to tell a single story, or even numerous stories at once.

In other words, young people aren't too lazy to read a traditional novel; they just enjoy deciphering a story from various sources and means of communication.

This is not to say that novels will disappear forever. I, personally, love a good novel and I don't see myself ever

ceasing my habit of reading more traditional novels. However, I'm also open to the idea that the way that I will digest information in my future might be a more layered ap-

proach to consolidating information and narrative.

Very few authors publish their works as a serial anymore in the way that Charles Dickens did, but Dickens has most certainly not been obliterated from the literary canon. It's rare to find any modern people complaining about the way in which Twentieth Century writers progressed from the ways of Nineteenth Century writers, so why should my generation's progression from the past be considered negative?

I guess what I'm trying to say is that our generation is different from the previous generation because the world that we will inhabit as adults will undoubtedly be different from the world today. Or maybe it's the other way around.

Either way, maybe our so-called deficiencies are only preparing us to exist in the world of the future. Maybe we're not too lazy to focus on a single task, but just too ambitious to limit ourselves to one task at a given time.



M-H Architects

Putting Centene's name on globe for cash disappointing

"I will meet you by the globe."

Every student of the past five decades is no doubt familiar with using the globe structure, standing just south of the high school entrance, as a meeting place. While the rest of Clayton High is nearly unrecognizable to the alumni from 50 years ago, the globe has remained a Clayton High School icon.

This could soon change. Last year, the Clayton High School PTO proposed to build a plaza across from the CHS entrance. This plaza was to be solely funded by donations from members of the community.

The project, to be located across from the CHS entrance inside Mark Twain Circle, will, according to PTO member Cindy Rappanotti, "unify the front of the school, and provide a meeting area for students, visitors, and people of the community." A major part of this project includes moving the globe across the street to its new spot in the Mark Twain Circle.

In searching for donations to fund the project, the PTO approached Centene, a growing Fortune 500 Company based out of Clayton. They offered to give the \$63,000 necessary to complete the plaza as designed.

In return, Centene negotiated to have the corporation's name be placed in prominent letters at the base of the globe. However, the alumni, faculty and most importantly, we, the students, had no input in this process of selling the naming rights to a school landmark.

Public schools across the country are calling on corporations for sponsorship, selling off naming rights as an expedient way to raise money. Though it can provide big money quickly, corporations do not belong in any public school. School is a place where kids should be safe to learn and to be protected from consumerism, probably for the only time in their lives.

However, for many of these public schools that offer naming rights to corporations, the money is absolutely necessary. If the school does not provide a safe environment for the students and the money could help ensure a safer setting, then the ill-fitting corporation names can be overlooked. Or in the case that the sponsorship money allows for serious opportunity to better the school's academics, the sponsorships are an appropriate way to solve the problem.

Luckily, Clayton is in neither of these situations where extra funding is absolutely necessary. The globe does not seem in danger of rolling off its stand, nor is it inhibiting student learning.

In addition, since the entire donation is being used to aesthetically improve the entrance to the school, it would be hard to argue that this donation, in any way, will better our academics. Therefore, there is no reason to sacrifice our school name for this project.

Though \$63,000 is quite meaningless to a Fortune 500 Company such as Centene, it is important to recognize that Centene is not the bad guy here: the PTO asked them for the donation. We should instead look to the PTO and School Board and ask how could we let a corporation's name be planted on a school landmark without input from the alumni, faculty and students?

The irony in the situation is when one considers the original goal of the project: to celebrate the longevity by commemorating the centennial of Clayton High School. We should have taken pride in this purpose and respected the history of Clayton High School before deciding to plant "Centene" on the sculpture.

The globe should have been named after a Clayton individual, who helped shape the school over the last century, whether it be a revered principal, superintendent or some other figure. The globe will still be there, but in a few years time, will the globe itself no longer be considered a school landmark?

Will students instead associate the iconic structure with the Centene sign lining the bottom? What will passersby think when they gaze at the corporation spanning the globe stand?

Selling off naming rights should be something left for sports arenas, not public high schools. We have lost the opportunity to recognize our history, an opportunity that we will never be able to recover.

Some time down the road, a similar situation will occur. We need to act now to ensure that our commons, library and quad are not placed on the table due to a simple lack of fundraising. Student, alumni and faculty opinions on such issues need to be valued, and a system of communication between the School Board, PTO and student body should be implemented when these questions arise.

Dawn Androphy



Highs and Lows



Jackie Leong

As the competition to get into college increases with every passing year, the time needed to continue artistic hobbies cherished in childhood becomes harder to find in high school years.

Special holiday gift revives forgotten desire for art

The pressure of high school pushes artistic hobbies to the side; however, importance of maintaining artistic outlets throughout life is found in the oddest of the places

72 colors.

The square tin of colored pencils, shed of its holiday wrappings, sat heavily in my hands. I peered at it reverently, but I wasn't really seeing the tin. The countless combinations and possibilities were already parading in my mind's eye.

I was whole again.

But let's backtrack for a moment, because any logical person knows that "becoming whole again" entails the brother thought: some kind of loss. In my case, it was art—in the broadest sense of the word. As a child, art for me wasn't only drawing (though that was my main activity), it was painting, beading, decoupage, knitting, and—I remember this clearly—collecting huge arrays of marbles and other small trinkets and sticking the lot of it in a giant Mason jar.

Of course, as I got older, I traded the beads and marbles for—more sophisticated, shall we say?—graphite sets, pastels, and all the other tools that every artist has in his trick bag. But the artistic zeal was still there, even then.

Everybody has that one special thing that they have a knack for. What no one realizes is how easy that thing is to lose. Somewhere between childhood and where I stand today, I had lost my art, and didn't even realize it. As if sleepwalking—in a trance—I put my charcoal at the bottom of my closet and forgot about them.

The funny thing is—there's always something funny, isn't there?—that I saw that bag every day when I opened the closet. I just didn't ever exert the effort to take a peek in it once in a while.

And then this year—my junior year—I woke up one day and realized something had gone missing.

I couldn't put my finger on it for some time; after all, the reason I had subjugated my watercolors to the dusty graveyard of the closet floor was that I had no time for art in high school. The art program I'd gone to every Thursday during my Wydown years had ended; with it,

I had buried my art under the mounds of equations and essays and conjugations.

Now, I felt something stir. ("Awakening" might be clichéd. I'll say "rising from a dormant state." That's something school taught me, you see, so the years lost weren't all in vain, were they?)

I will, of course, have to give school some credit. Some twist of fate ensured that I would have to be making some kind of art in some area of my studies. And with every sketch, I was enjoying myself more and more.

I dug into my closet sometime this autumn and found everything I'd buried (metaphorically and literally, of course. School also taught me that distinction during my sabbatical from art) in pretty much the same condition as I'd found it.

I bought a sketchpad and got to work.

It would be an overstatement to say that everything became brighter and that the sky opened up whilst angels

began singing. But I had finally put to rest the dull nagging that had set up house in the back of my mind for the last few years. If happiness got a little more three-dimensional when I recovered my graphites, then that's all it took to make a world of difference.

Something I hadn't realized was missing was back. And there was—believe me—much rejoicing.

And so now, as I sat there by the fireplace with a tin of Prismacolors, I was speeding towards making up the years I'd lost.

I had feared that I wouldn't have time for my drawings, sketches and doodles once I entered CHS, and so I had shut them out almost completely. Now, wiser and more aware, I was going to reset the balance. My schedule, yes, was as packed as always. But somehow, art didn't seem to add any more weight to my burden; if anything, I guessed it would make the rest more bearable in rough times.

In any case, I wasn't going to let it slip away again. And with that in mind, I began to draw. ☺



Jackie Leong

The joy of '90s sitcoms: looking to the past for laughs and entertainment

It's about the only break from school I get during the week. Every day at 5 p.m., I turn on the TV. And it's not to watch some dumb reality TV show or to see rich celebrities argue with each other. No, my form of entertainment is much better than the television of today. I turn on the TV to watch some good ol'-fashioned '90s sitcoms: "Friends" and "Everybody Loves Raymond".

Anyone who has yet to watch one episode of either show is sorely missing out. They are among the best sitcoms—may I even go so far as to say the best shows?—on Earth.

"Friends" is about, as the title so illustriously says, a group of friends. This includes fashionable Rachel, geeky Ross, eccentric Phoebe, air-

headed Joey, bossy Monica, and sardonic Chandler. Together, they act as one hilarious, dysfunctional family, even though they all live separate lives. Everyday occurrences become comical stretches of time and the viewer gets to know the characters really well.

Upon first glance, "Friends" may seem like a show lacking any substance. Actually, it probably is, if a person does not delve into the depths of the characters' souls, but then, that can be true of any show.

Each character's quirks add to the funniness of each episode. I don't think any given episode would be as funny if the directors cut out Monica vacuuming a vacuum or Joey and Chandler's weird but understandable

love for Duck, Jr., and Chick, Jr.

Combine the characters' peculiarities with their awkward romances—Ross and Rachel, anyone?—and everyday interactions, a person ends up watching side-splitting antics.

Of course, "Friends" could never compare to "Everybody Loves Raymond". "Everybody Loves Raymond" is basically the epitome of an enjoyable sitcom.

"Everybody Loves Raymond" is about Raymond (of course), his wife Deborah, his kids, and his parents, and his brother; but mostly, it's all



Maria Massad

Reality of late teacher fails to match fantasy

Fourteen Clayton seniors sat quietly in a room. The late bell had rung in my Advanced Placement course and we were still awaiting the arrival of our teacher. He is occasionally a few minutes late to class, so this was nothing out of the ordinary.

But as a few minutes turned to five, and then five to ten, it began to look like we weren't going to have class.

I have always imagined what would happen if my teacher didn't show to class. In fifth grade I even wrote a book about my class escaping school, going to the Arch, getting abducted by aliens, and then saving the world. Not too bad for fifth grader.

As an underclassman, I was a big believer in the urban lure of "the three minute rule." This widely spread rumor among underclassmen of CHS

has (incorrectly) convinced many students that if a teacher does not arrive within three minutes of the late bell, class is dismissed.

I often have daydreams about ditching class and joining a street parade to sing the Beatles' "Twist and Shout" a la "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," which just so happens to be my favorite movie.

So, when my dreams became a reality and such an opportunity fell in my second-semester senior lap... what did I do? Absolutely nothing.

Along with the rest of my class, except for one student who actually had the guts to leave, I just sat there.

We spent our time debating if we should leave or not. Some of us even wanted to go find our teacher. Each of us talked loudly and made our point as to why we should stay or why we should leave. To the oblivious bystander it may have seemed like we were having a debate tournament.

Ultimately, the decision to stay where we were prevailed in each round of the debates. So, clearly, my dreams did not come to fruition.

However, as I sat by observing as my peers, I realized why we didn't leave. We were worried about the looming consequences of skipping class.

We were a group of second-semester seniors. Our grades hardly matter and some of us are already in college, but we were still paralyzed by the fear of tarnishing our

near-perfect reputations.

We let our fears that we would bump into our teacher as we exited to the classroom, or of doing something we weren't supposed to control our actions.

When our teacher returned to class, he praised us, saying that we were better people than him. He wouldn't have stayed had he been in our position.

But, I realize, we did nothing noble at all. We only followed the rules because of our own fear.

I know now that it would have been much nobler to leave and follow my heart than to follow the rules and succumb to fear. ☹



Justin Elliot

The daily battle with procrastination

It's an addiction from which many teenagers suffer. And, rather than growing out of it, the problem tends to snowball as time goes on. Compounded with senioritis, the problem becomes nearly uncontrollable. What is the problem, you ask? Procrastination.

Distractions seem to bombard me each night as I attempt to complete my homework assignments. It seems a paradox that my biggest asset is also my largest impediment towards completing work on time; the paradox is my laptop. With my laptop comes the Internet. But with a wealth of information comes a wealth of distractions. I'm more likely to use the Internet to search videos or check Facebook than watch a TED talk about the composition of ribosomes.

In the process of writing this short newspaper column, I've already found myself taking multiple "Internet Breaks." Once, to search for TED talks (during which search I ended up on Facebook). Then, a second time, to look up a synonym (during which time I continued two conversations on iChat). The third time, for no reason at all, I looked at a series of pictures on the National Geographic website.

My time-wasting isn't ever pro-

ductive, and usually isn't all that enjoyable. Usually, the homework I'm avoiding wouldn't be so painful if I'd just get started on it.

You may well ask, why not just finish your homework early, and then waste time after it's done? Well, I ask myself that very same question on a daily basis.

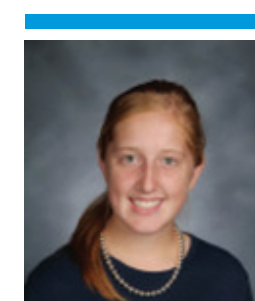
My propensity to waste time defies logic and reason; it seems to be a bit of a psychological mystery. Part of the reason I continue to waste

time in this fashion is that it's become so terribly easy to do. I admit, steps could be taken—I could have a friend change my Facebook password or any number of things to stop myself from visiting these sites time and time again, from frittering away my daylight hours with mind-

numbing games and juvenile videos. Instead, I pretend that Facebook has practical uses. I convince myself that I need to check the Mock Trial message page or the time of the next lacrosse pre-season workout. Invariably, I deviate from these goals.

But I think if wasting time were truly a problem, if it were actually causing tangible, irreparable harm to my scholastic career, then I'd stop... wouldn't I? ☹

Turn on the TV and start laughing. ☺



Maddy Bullard

diculously dysfunctional family. The show wouldn't be the same without Marie and Deborah's constant contesting for Raymond's attention, Raymond and Robert's sibling rivalry, or Frank's odd habits.

Just watching the Barone family's behavior is enough to laugh out loud. It's not everyday that I get invited into another family's house to watch them live in a way that can make me keel over with laughter.

Sure, maybe it seems a bit odd that, as a teenager, I am watching old '90s sitcoms instead of "90210" or "Gossip Girl". But, I highly recommend watching these two shows to get a hearty laugh.

Turn on the TV and start laughing. ☺

the globe

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The Globe student newspaper exists primarily to inform, entertain, persuade and represent the student voice at CHS to the best of its ability. It serves as a public forum for the Clayton community.

All content decisions are made by the student editors. The Globe is self-funded for all publishing costs and offers advertising to all school-appropriate businesses. Please contact our office for more information.

The Globe is distributed to students and staff FREE. We also offer bulk mailing subscriptions for \$20 a year and first-class subscriptions for \$30 a year.

Letters to the Editor
All letters to the editor must be signed when submitted to the editorial staff; the editorial staff will consider a request for a letter to be printed without a name only under rare circumstances. The paper reserves the right to edit letters for length and repetition. Letters are subject to the laws of libel, obscenity, incitement and copyright. All compliments, opinions, complaints, and suggestions are welcomed and should be forwarded to the Globe Office.

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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

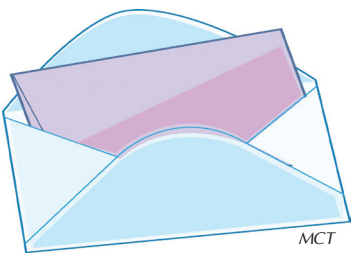


30.6 percent

According to NationMaster.com, 30.6% of people in the United States are obese. Yet again, America is still the most obese country in the world, followed by Mexico with 24.2% of the population. North Korea is the least obese country, with 3.2% of its population having a BMI higher than 24.9 (a healthy BMI would be 18.5 - 24.9). It's not surprising that America also has the most McDonald's (12,804 restaurants) while North Korea has 243 McDonald's restaurants (ranked the 12th country in the world).

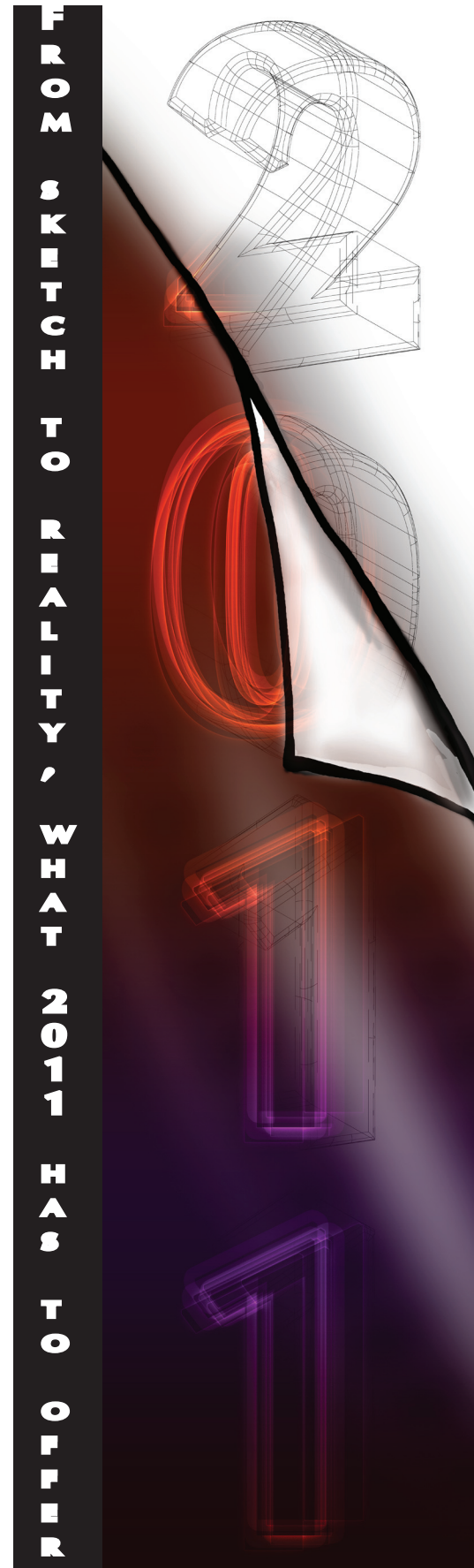
107 trillion

For those who feel like Facebook and Twitter are taking over the internet, it's reassuring to know that 107 trillion emails were sent in 2010 compared to 25 billion tweets on Twitter and 600 million people on Facebook. No matter how many fancy apps and email extensions Facebook and Twitter add, they can never quite replace good ol' email.



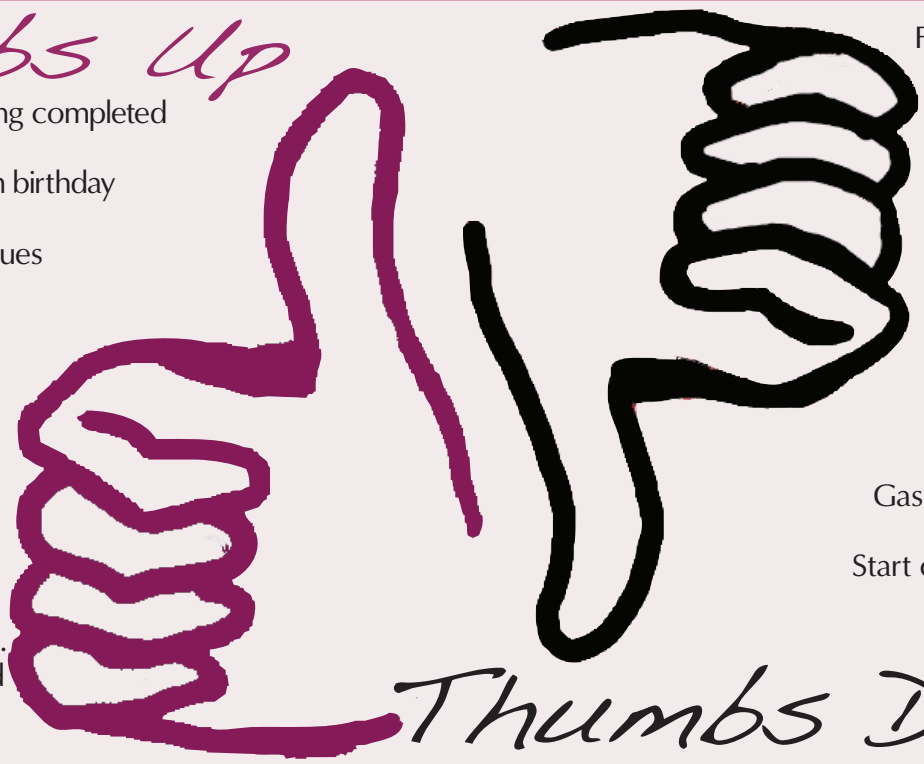
423 million views

The masses of preteen girls swooning over J-Beks have prevailed over the equally crazy Gaga supporters according to the most recent YouTube view count statistics. While Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance" has 326,832,779 views, Justin Bieber's hit "Baby" featuring Ludacris has 424,988,898 views: approximately 100 million more views.



Thumbs Up

- New addition to the building completed
- Tennessee Williams' 100th birthday
- Economic recovery continues
- NFL Playoffs
- New Year's resolutions
- 11/11/11
- Smoking ban in effect
- Pat Shurmur leaving St. Louis to become head coach in Cleveland



- Forgetting to write 2011 in dates
- No Olympics or World Cup
- 10-year anniversary of war in Afghanistan
- Anticipated 2011 Cardinals season
- Gas prices on the rise
- Start of the presidential race

Thumbs Down



The Nissan Leaf, a 100 percent electric car, can seat up to 5 passengers, has 5 doors and can go 100 miles per charge (convenient for suburban commutes or daily short trips). The estimated price is around \$26,000.



There's going to be a lot of exciting technology in 2011, from the iPhone 5 to the Playstation phone. One anticipated market is the "tablet war," with Toshiba's Tab, Motorola's Xoom, and Blackberry's Playbook all having gesture-based interfaces.



The Chevrolet Volt is the new generation hybrid, with a gas engine that recharges on a battery. The Chevy Volt will charge overnight, enough to carry you 40 miles on pure battery power before the gas generator, which is capable of powering the car for hundreds of miles on one tank of gas, kicks in.

Gas prices are predicted to keep rising, possibly hitting five dollars a gallon. Likewise, crop failures will cause a two to three percent increase in food prices. The increase will be particularly notable in fruit and dairy products.



New beverages with less carbonation and more fruit-based flavors from real (and exotic) fruit juices are expected to be on the rise in 2011. With flavors extending from the comfort zone of apple and orange to South American crops like acai, these new drinks, which are loaded with naturally-occurring vitamins and minerals, are expected to be a new health craze.

Photos from MCT Campus

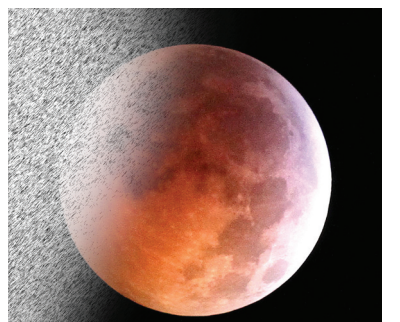
- Green Lantern - June 17
- The Hangover 2 - May 26
- Super 8 (Director J.J. Abrams) - TBA
- Hugo Cabret (Director Martin Scorsese) - Dec. 9
- The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo - Dec. 21
- Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 - July 15.



The phrase "there's an app for that" has extended to food service. With an increasing amount of food apps, don't be surprised when ordering and waiting for your food becomes obsolete. Eventually, your phone will let you pre-order from a restaurant's menu and send a signal for the kitchen to make your food by the

time that you enter the restaurant. This will eliminate the customary restaurant waiting time.

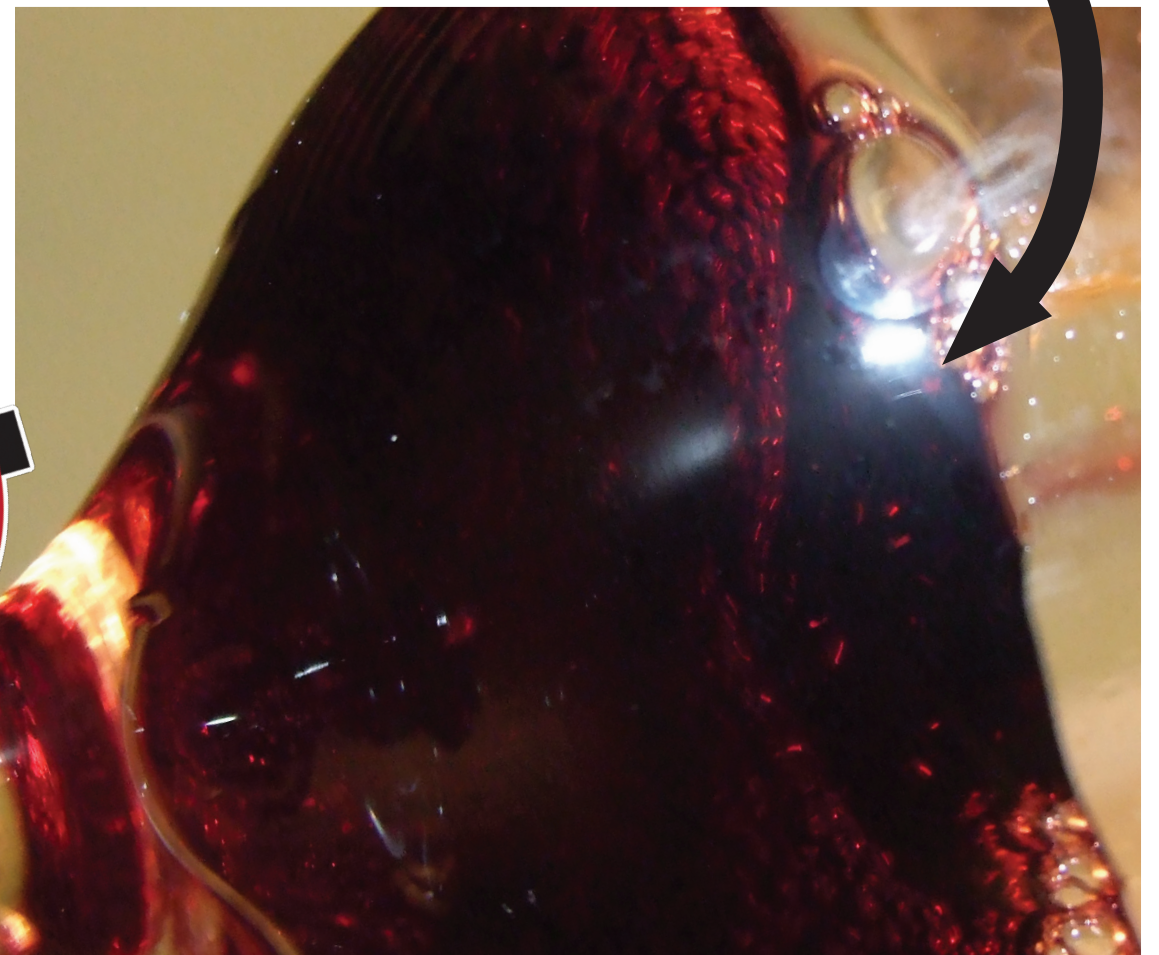
- NASA' MESSENGER will arrive on Mercury - March 18
- Partial solar eclipse - June 1
- Total lunar eclipse - June 15
- Jupiter, Venus, Mars and Mercury will all be visible in May



Spring fashions are already out, and there a couple of interesting trends. According to Reporter Andie Clik, anything sheer and mesh is in while ruched clothing and oversized purses are out. Natural colors, leggings, neon lace and men's button-down shirts are also going to be very trendy in 2011.

On Jan. 9, America woke up to a disturbing scene playing out in Tucson, AZ. A single gunman opened fire at a constituent meeting for U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords, wounding the congresswoman and 12 others and killing six. Though the murderer's motives are yet unknown, there has been speculation that the attempted assassination was politically motivated. Giffords, a Democrat, was an ardent supporter of President Obama's healthcare plan and had just won reelection in a brutal campaign. Whether or not the shooter was actually fueled by political fury, this horrible event serves as a dire harbinger of things to come if the vitriolic nature of national politics is not redressed. Both the left and right are guilty of using violent and overly aggressive rhetoric. This was exemplified by Sarah Palin putting Giffords in crosshairs during the 2010 congressional race. Such actions are deplorable and counterproductive to addressing in a meaningful way the real problems facing the nation. If politicians fail to cool their fiery, slanderous talk, the American people will likely witness more and more wake-up calls like the one they experienced two weeks ago, when six civilians were killed and 13 injured at a Safeway in Tucson, AZ.

Zoom In



This picture is a close-up of an object. What is it? Go to chsglobe.com/zoomoutjan for the answer!

Dee Luo