



MCT Campus

## BOE candidates promise commitment, change

**Education:** J.D., St. Louis University School of Law; B.A., University of Virginia

**Employment:** Anheuser Busch Companies, Inc., Corporate Counsel – 1988–2002; The May Department Stores Company, Corporate Counsel – 1982–88; The St. Louis Redevelopment Authority, Assistant Counsel – 1981–82; and private practice

**Civic Memberships:** Clayton School Board – 2006 – present, Treasurer since 2007; Special School District Governing Council – 2006 to date; Clayton School District Curriculum Committees, Literacy and Assessment – 2002–06; PTO, Captain School – Co-President, 2005–06; Treasurer, 2003–05; Secretary, 2001–03; Clayton PTO Council – Secretary 2001–2004



Jane Klamer

**Laura Bleeke**  
*Reporter*

The Board of Education candidates for the upcoming elections are all extremely different. They all have different views, personalities and opinions. They are diverse, but they all share the same determination to make the Clayton Schools the best they can be.

Lily Raymond and Jane Klamer are both running for reelection. Klamer is the Board's current Treasurer, while Raymond holds the position of Secretary. Sebastian Bautz is the only candidate running for the first time.

One of the biggest issues concerning Clayton Schools is the controversial Proposition S. Both Klamer and Raymond voted for Proposition S along with the rest of the Board of Education. Bautz is using his opinion in the matter as one of the factors that sets him apart from his opponents.

"My problem with Prop S is not what is on Prop S," Bautz said. "But what's not on Prop S. My problem with Prop S is really the fact that Wydown disappeared from it in a last minute, unorthodox fashion."

Along with Proposition S, Bautz has many feelings about the economic goals for the Board of Education, as well as goals for the future. To make sure they include the many students that will enter the Clayton schools in the years to come.

"The Board of Education's job is not just to make everything fun and nice right now," Bautz said. "But we have to be able to provide good education for not just the people who are going to graduate in the next couple of years, but all those kids such as mine, who are now in kindergarten, who are going to have to take advantage of what is available then."

Bautz continued in saying that the financial situation we are in now, will burden us in the future.

"The district right now is running on a financial track that will basically lose

its entire reserve fund by 2013," Bautz said. "And I really don't see any of my opponents pick this up and declare how exactly they are going to solve that problem, so I feel I want to contribute to this responsibility."

Bautz believes that his opinion on the financial state and his position on Proposition S are not the only things that set him apart from the other candidates. He believes that the Board of Education is not open enough to the parents and voters of Clayton.

"What I am proposing is that the Board has an open checkbook policy," Bautz said, "that will allow anyone and everyone at any given time to see every dollar that is spent so we can see where it is going."

Bautz was born and raised in Germany. His wife, a former CHS graduate, was there studying abroad. When they met Bautz moved to the United States, he became increasing aware and involved in the educational programs.

"I think I bring some global perspective to the school district," Bautz said. "And I think the time is right for that to be introduced. I

just want to contribute to keeping our horizon wide and making sure we are benchmarking ourselves globally and are as ambitious as we can be."

Bautz believes it is time for a change within the board, and that he can be the one to make the change.

"I put some fresh air in the board room," Bautz said.

Lily Raymond and Jane Klamer may be old faces in the board room, but they are still determined to make a change in the district.

Lily Raymond is devoted to education, and her love for learning is her drive

for being on the Board of Education.

"I felt like I had something to contribute," Raymond said. "I think because I'm a psychologist, I knew I had something different to offer."

Raymond's profession is one of the biggest things that set her apart from the rest of the board.

"Right now we have five attorneys, one business person, and me," Raymond said.

She is able to bring her experience of psychology into the board room, and let that be a guide to staying focused and being able to work well together.

"As a psychologist listening is really important," Raymond said. "Observing, looking at data and analyzing it, caring

about the individual differences of people and also working with in a group and collaborating with different people."

With Proposition S, the beginning of the search for a new superintendent and proposed land swaps, the Board of Education has kept their hands full. But they still have many plans for the future, and things they want to see improved within the schools.

"Just this last month we've reviewed the gifted program and one of the things they've been working on is meeting the needs of more kids," Raymond said. "We have a lot of talented kids, a lot of smart kids, that maybe don't qualify for gifted, and I think that's really important."

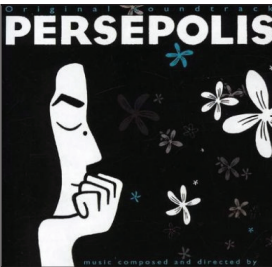
Raymond believes that it takes more than just good ideas to be able to be on the Board of Education.

"I use my heart and my head," Raymond said. "I'm okay with letting the

BOE candidates, 8



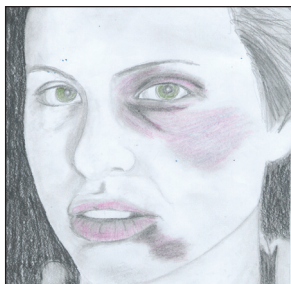
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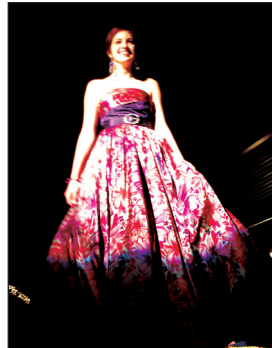
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## Bill allows optional four-day week in Missouri public schools

**Nina Oberman**  
*Editor*

The economic crisis is not limited to the business world. Schools, too, have seen a drop in funding, leading legislators to consider new measures that will adapt education to today's unique financial circumstances.

Most recently, the Missouri Senate and House of Representatives voted to pass a bill that will grant public schools the option to adopt a four-day school week.

Under such a plan, districts would eliminate Fridays and extend each school day by an hour, cutting out a total of 32 days per year.

The total number of annual instruction hours, however, would remain the same.

"There are widespread issues of school

districts around the state of Missouri," State Representative Sue Allen said. "The four-day school week has the potential of saving some school districts a lot of money on transportation and maintenance costs."

The plan is most appealing to rural districts, where buses must cover great distances to pick up and drop off students every day.

Clayton, meanwhile, will likely never adopt this schedule due to the district's small size and general fiscal comfort.

"This bill does not mandate," Allen said. "It basically allows for local control of a school district based on their needs and issues."

A study by the American Association of School Administrators, which interviewed 546 schools, showed that 15 percent are considering moving to a

four-day week and three percent are actually doing so.

Several schools that chose to implement this schedule have seen improved morale and increased attendance by both students and teachers.

Yet while the bill has various financial and educational benefits, critics point to the unnecessary burden it places on parents, forcing them to find costly child-care on Fridays that would normally be free.

"A four day school week is going to be less expensive, but that savings is done largely on the back of the parents," State Representative Steve Brown said. "The fact that some of these districts have to save money is a flaw in the government's funding of education itself."

Opponents also draw attention to the fact that many students in poorer

districts rely on reduced-price school lunches for nutrition. One day less of school could mean one less meal.

There is doubt, in addition, as to whether or not students can handle a longer school day.

"It's going to put a lot more strain on students because teachers aren't going to cut down on homework," senior Caitlin Bladt said. "Sports are going to be pushed back an hour, which means kids are going to be getting home at seven or eight to do homework."

Teachers, too, are unsure as to whether or not such a schedule could fit into their curriculums.

"Seeing students on a daily basis is so valuable," science teacher Sally Lazaroff said. "I would just wonder if the teachers would start giving worksheets to fill the time. For certain classes it might adapt

beautifully, but for others it may just be busy work."

Students agree, however, that the four-day school week would better suit working on long-term assignments.

"It would make me feel more anxious for weekends, and it would be more comfortable on big projects," junior Jack Harned said. He doesn't think that the hour extension would make him feel in any way less focused.

"It would be nice to have an extra day of the weekend to get everything done," sophomore Elle Jacobs said. "Even with the extra hour added onto each day there would be more relaxation time."

While opinions on the adoption of a four-day school week differ, its implementation reveals the extensive impact of an economy in decline as cultural structures themselves begin to change. ☛

## Bathroom stall graffiti threatens violence

**Ken Zheng**  
*Editor*

In the boys' bathroom by the library entrance, someone had scrawled a message concerning violence towards African Americans and Jews. The written message was reported on March 5.

Principal Louise Losos paraphrases the threat into a message that the perpetrator would kill all blacks and Jews on Friday the 6th, with no mention of which month.

"We heard about it end of the day on Thursday," Losos said. "There were rumors that it had been there for weeks, but when we followed up with those they turned out to be referencing a different piece of graffiti, one without a threat. I would be surprised if it was up for very long, the language was far too inflammatory for it to be unreported."

The message has been removed from the wall in the bathroom. Losos thinks it is unlikely that the perpetrator will be caught and also thinks the school made the correct decision.

"The decision was made as a result of a collaboration between the School District and the Clayton Police Department," Losos said. "I thought [students] did a great job, they were positive and supportive throughout. I heard no complaints, even after submitting to multiple bookbag searches. The faculty was great. They helped where they could, and did the most important tasks, teaching and taking care of our kids. I was very proud of how our entire community reacted. Such moments could be divisive, instead it brought our school community and our greater community closer together. I always feel safe at CHS, and Friday was no different. I firmly believe that it was merely graffiti, but you can never be too cautious."

Corporal Doug Fink of the Clayton Police Department saw nothing suspicious during the entire day.

"Everyone was very cooperative," Fink said. "The students, staff and parents that were present took the situation very seriously. Generally, everyone seemed okay with the school and police department's response. They were very supportive. There wasn't really any joking around. People took it quite seriously."

When students came in, police officers verified that they

were students here either by photo identification or a staff member of the school district. They also had to check all packages and parcels. The police were looking for any dangerous items. The morning of the school day, there was a line as people's belongs and identities were checked by officers.

Freshman Zach Praiss did not think there was much of a delay.

"I felt CHS was safer than ever before on Friday," Praiss said. "I thought it was something that was serious in the sense that it could not be ignored, however in the end I think it was probably was not going to have a serious effect."

Praiss would not have gone to school had there not been police officers.

During the day, teachers noticed that their classes were noticeably light on attendance. That just speaks to the seriousness to which people take their safety these days. In light of the threats and possibilities, people didn't ignore it. They perceived this to be important enough that the children stayed home.

School threat, 8



Nicole Burton

When students entered CHS on Friday, March 6, they were met by Clayton Police officers who verified student IDs and checked backpacks for dangerous materials. These security checkpoints served to protect students after a threat written on a boys' bathroom stall.

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# Mexican drug war escalates, death toll reaching 1440

**Maddy Bullard**  
*Reporter*

The drug-related violence in Mexico has escalated in the past few months to an alarming level. “Thousands have been murdered this year alone,” said retired Army Gen. Barry McCaffrey in an interview with NPR.

The drug cartels who are causing the violence are large, organized, powerful groups extending into other areas of South America and even the United States.

Analysts and military planners fear that Mexico risks collapse. A failed Mexican state could mean trouble for the U.S. as well. In a worst-case scenario, Mexicans fleeing the violence in their country would most likely seek shelter in the U.S.

The U.S. military recently identified Mexico and Pakistan as the two countries at the highest risk of collapse. The U.S. Justice department said Mexican organized crime is the “biggest organized crime threat to the United States”. The cartels’ influence has reached 230 cities, where they now operate, according to an article in the Wall Street Journal.

However, according to Dr. Guillermo Rosas, a professor at Washington University in St. Louis, this is an exaggeration.

“The United States Army just groups Mexico and Pakistan in the same category,” Rosas said. “This seems to be exaggerating.”

Rosas isn’t worried about Mexico’s long-term stability as a country.

“I just can’t see Mexico becoming a failed state,” Rosas said. “It is true, however, that there are parts of the country where you can’t say that the federal government is in control.”

To help in the conflict, the U.S. has provided Mexico with \$400 million per year to help pay for training and equipment for law enforcement.

Mexican President Felipe Calderon has launched a campaign to “clean up Mexico,” and none too soon. Although the President may have had good intentions, Dr. Rosas pointed out that Calderon’s campaign has stirred up some of the unrest.

“He wanted to wage a frontal war against the drug cartels in Mexico,” Rosas said. “[The violence has] mostly been a consequence of government action.”

In many cases, the police are connected with the drug cartels, or even on their payroll. Right now, Mexico is trying to get the violence under control with the help of the military. So far, according to an article from NPR, Calderon has deployed 25,000 troops to help fight the drug traffickers.

Fighting the drug cartels is an uphill battle. An article in the Wall Street Journal, drug trafficking in Mexico brings in about \$10 billion each year; the government has only \$1.2 billion to spend on federal law enforcement each year.

According to Rosas, one of the main problems is the lack of a centralized police force in Mexico.

“Murders...are prosecuted by the federal government, but other things, like kidnapping, which are also important crimes, are state-level authorities,” Rosas said. “There’s a lot of variation among states, in commitment, but also in terms of capacity, and corruption.”

Some areas of Mexico are more affected than others. “It’s essentially localized in the border area, and...some areas around the Pacific Coast,” Rosas said. “When you talk about the border, even then, you can identify some hotspots, some really red areas...[especially] the two largest cities in the area, Tijuana and Ciudad Juarez.”

Chihuahua, a northern desert Mexican state, has been hit particularly hard, suffering nearly 3,000 deaths last year. Not only are Mexican border cities in danger of being hit, but so are American cities.

“It’s not far-fetched to believe that the violence can easily spread across borders,” Rosas said. “That’s something that, if you know how to do it, you can do easily, and if you have contacts on both sides of the border. Violence will not stop there just because Mexican jurisdiction stops on one side and American jurisdiction starts on the other.”

Ciudad Juárez, a border city near El Paso and a hub of drug-related activity, is at the eye of the storm. The government has mobilized 5,000 troops to take over the Juárez Police Department.

The city, and surrounding state of Chihuahua, are under siege by the drug lords, whose weapons and men often out-



Mexico has become a transit point to smuggle South American cocaine into the US among a number of other drugs. Although Congress recently passed plan worth nearly 400 million dollars to stop Mexican drug trafficking into the US, crime has recently skyrocketed.

number those of the police. The drug gangs get most of their weapons, which include bazookas, rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons, from the U.S. Although Mexican gun laws are not permissive, the cartels have the resources to keep themselves well-armed.

“The close border Mexico shares with the U.S. works both ways,” Rosas said. “It’s easy to get rather sophisticated weaponry if you have the money and if you have the contacts.”

Juárez Mayor José Reyes Ferriz has also been threatened by the traffickers. Since he has made the cleanup of the corrupt police force one of his main goals, he has received threats of murder and decapitation. Reyes Ferriz, however, is determined to keep the criminals from gaining control.

That’s why he decided to accept the soldiers’ help. Not only are the Juárez police overwhelmed by the criminals, but many of them are involved with the cartels.

Rosas says that this corruption is widespread and far-reaching within the ranks of Mexican law enforcement.

“You’re fighting against someone who has no scruples of any kind,” Rosas said. “For a local policeman, very often the decision is between taking the bribe, or getting killed, or seeing your family killed.”

An article in the New York Times states that in January 2007, a former police chief admitted he smuggled a ton of marijuana to El Paso. Last year, Mexico’s head of federal police was murdered, the order given by one of his own officers.

“The Mexican drug czar, three months ago, thereabouts, was actually arrested, he was in charge of coordinating the war on drugs, and then it turned out that he was also [linked],” Rosas said.

Mexico’s top prosecutor of drug traffickers, and several other senior officials, were charged with being on the payroll of one of the cartels. A former candidate in a gubernatorial race said he was approached by one of the cartels who offered to pay for his campaign if he would “look the other way” with respect to drug trafficking. He refused; he lost the election.

The violence not only serves to scare citizens into submission and complicity, but also exhibits strength to other cartels. This corruption creates more problems when the police forces themselves clash over loyalties.

“It has been a problem, for example, that a municipal force protects a particular gang, and when the state police tries to become involved, the municipal force defends the drug traffickers against the state police,” Rosas said. “That’s one advantage that [the traffickers] have, because they can play the different police forces against each other.”

Juárez Police Chief Roberto Orduña Cruz resigned on Feb. 20 after the drug cartels threatened to kill a police officer every 48 hours until he quit, according to an article in the New York Times. First, his deputy was killed; then the Operations Director; then three other police officers. Yet another police officer and a prison guard were found dead.

The cartels have set up a tax system and collect revenue from business owners, shooting anyone who refuses to pay. In Juárez, signs on local schools demanded the teachers’ Christmas bonuses and threatened murder to those who didn’t comply.

Secrecy and the ability to corrupt the police are not the cartels’ only advantages.

“They are well-organized,” Rosas said. “Whenever the Mexican government argues that they’ve made a big, high-level arrest, it doesn’t take long before that cartel that was hit to reorganize itself and sort things through.”

The drug cartels also fight among themselves over turf and smuggling routes.

“It’s mostly wars over turf, over who gets to control the different accesses to the United States, who gets to control suppliers...these are criminal [organizations] that are extending into different types of business, so it’s not only drugs, or even particular kinds of drugs, anymore,” Rosas said. “They expand into different types of drugs, they expand into different kinds of illicit activities, extortion, car-jacking, and even prostitution.”

One result of the escalated violence is that the Mexican gov-

ernment is finally taking action against the cartels, after a long period of denial, ignoring the issue, and complicity.

“The government’s argument [is] that the violence that you see now is mostly the result of the breakdown of the drug cartels,” Rosas said. “That’s because they are suffering the pressure from the Mexican government, they are breaking down in infighting, they are trying to vie for control of more territory and whatnot, and so therefore the more violence you see, paradoxically, the better things are going, because it means that the cartels are more disorganized.”

Reyes Ferriz raised benefits and salaries to attract new police recruits, to replace the corrupt ones. According to the *New York Times* 289 cadets are being trained at Juárez’s police academy. For Mexican officials, creating an uncorrupted police force will be a challenge.

“It’s not [only] a matter of selecting people to go into the police force, but you also need to keep monitoring them, and keep training them and to keep making it worth their while to risk their lives and to avoid being corrupted,” Rosas said. “This is an extremely tall task.”

During President Calderon’s first three years in office, there have been nearly 10 times the number of clashes with drug gangs as in his predecessor’s six years as president. As a result, Mexico recently passed a law that will help reform all of the country’s police forces. They are also trying to enlist the help of the United States.

“What the Mexican government has been trying to secure from the U.S. is a promise of cooperation in trying to cut down the arms trafficking from the U.S. to Mexico,” Rosas said. “It’s not as if this would entirely solve the problem, but this is perceived as something that should not be that difficult to address, and that would really make a difference at least in the short term.”

However, it could take longer than 15 years to complete, says Mexican attorney general Medina Mora.

According to Rosas, the initiative needs to be a joint American and Mexican operation.

“From the point of view of the American government, it’s all a problem of corruption out of the border and it would be solved if only the Mexicans get their act together,” Rosas said. “From the point of view of the Mexican government...this is a problem of consumption in the United States...It’s not that simple. Even Mexico, now, has become a country that also consumes drugs in heavy volumes. I think the idea that this is only an American consumption problem is...as misplanned as the American belief that it is only a Mexican consumption problem.”

In the end, the government’s size and the peoples’ support may save Mexico.

“I see this more as a transitory situation,” Rosas said. “I think there’s no way that different cartels, or even highly organized individuals, are going to be able to wage successful war against a state that’s more or less capable, that has some taxing capacity, and that works under a democratic regime, so it...has the support of the electorate.”

Despite this hopeful outlook, the drug wars in Mexico are not likely to cool down soon. Many Mexicans have abandoned the hope that the drugs trade will eventually be completely eliminated; they merely hope for stability and a lull in the violence.

“Under the current regime of prohibition of drugs, I don’t think this can be eliminated,” Rosas said. “It’s just too lucrative.”

The drug cartels are not afraid to change tactics because of the Mexican government’s pressure.

“Even now, the Mexican cartels are starting to think about new routes,” Rosas said. “They are expanding... These are risk-takers, and they won’t stop because of all this pressure.”

The cartels will remain, but hopefully Mexican attempts to eradicate the violence will be successful.

“If [the government manages] to increase the costs of engaging in this kind of activity, [the cartels] are going to have to...diversify, they are going to have to find new routes, they are going to have to find new markets, so you might be able to drive it down,” Rosas said.

Drug cartels in Mexico seem to be a somewhat permanent problem, but the government hopes for a lull in the violence will arrive soon. 🌐

# Rise of developing BRIC economies rapid, projected to save world economy

**Sneha Viswanathan**  
*Editor*

In less than 40 years, the economies of Brazil, Russia, India, and China (BRIC’s) are predicted to be larger than the G6 economies in terms of US dollars, according to a report by Goldman Sachs entitled “Dreaming With BRICs: The Path to 2050,” written in 2003. The term “BRIC’s” was created in 2002 by Jim O’Neill, Head of Global Economic Research at Goldman Sachs.

“When we first wrote about it, particularly when we first looked at the 2050 potential, many people believed that we were being very conceptual and it was idiotically optimistic, some kind of fantasy for the future,” O’Neill said in an interview in 2008 with the Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. “But here we are, and many financial markets are completely dominated at the moment by what’s going on in these countries. BRIC economies collectively are now 15% of global GDP, about half of that of the US. China, interestingly, is exactly in line with what we projected. What could happen is it will be poised to overtake Germany as the third-largest economy in the world.”

The BRIC economies each have certain reforms to make in order to set themselves on the track of long-term growth. O’Neill references specific factors in his advice for growth in each of the countries.

“In China it would be to try to do more with currency reform,” O’Neill said. “With India, if there was one single thing, it would be to try to boost fallen investments to allow more investors in. In Russia, try to make it easier for so many people in the West to understand you [Russia], because many people don’t realize what a good story the Russian story in BRIC’s is.”

In 2003, Goldman Sachs reported that Brazil’s economic growth rate was lower than Russia, India, and China’s due to higher debt carried over from the 1980’s, lower investments, and less trade relative to the other BRIC’s. However, O’Neill believes that Brazil’s economy is rapidly catching up to the others.

“In some ways the Brazilian example at the moment is arguably the most interesting. In the past six months there has been growing evidence that Brazilian economic growth is starting to accelerate significantly,” O’Neill said.

O’Neill believes that the general public’s perception of the

BRIC economies is often inaccurate.

“There are many, many, misunderstandings about all the BRIC’s countries,” O’Neill said. “Russia often leads the way. Many Western people have a very Anglo-Saxon, westernized view of how these countries should ‘behave,’ and in essence, believe they should be like us. I think it’s important, as part of the new, integrated BRIC influence on the global economy, that everyone understands that not only are we not like each other, we don’t need to be like each other. One of the reasons why the world economy is doing better is because there are these big countries sustaining growth on their own basis.”

According to the Goldman Sachs report, the key general factors for overall growth are strong political establishments, openness to foreign investment and trade, and high education levels. Overall growth is measured by growth in the capital stock, growth in employment, and technical progress. Each of the BRIC nations has seen growth in one or more of these areas, but lack progress in others. The working-age populations of China and Russia are projected to decline more steeply than those of India and Brazil. On the other hand, India and Brazil lag further behind in education than the other two BRICs.

“China, for example, to become the biggest economy by another 20 years, only needs to grow on average by just over five percent, half what it’s currently doing,” O’Neill said. “For India to become the challenger to the US, to become the second-largest economy by 2040, only needs to grow by six percent. It’s been growing recently by between eight and nine. It’s important that people realize some slugging in growth; it might actually be helpful for the sustainability of it. Beyond that, I think the biggest of many issues I would highlight is that it’s very important that global policy-making organizations start to give more roles to these countries within the global setting. I could give many examples; global warming being one that’s now a topic that wouldn’t have been six years ago. Given the demand for energy and growth and of energy consumption in China and India in particular, there is absolutely no way we can get a solution to global warming without these two countries being involved. To not have them as equal members of things like the G7 and G8 is increasingly preposterous in my opinion. People shouldn’t think of BRIC’s as traditional emerging markets. I deliberately thought of the word “BRIC” to mean that these four countries are part of the “brick” of the modern world economy.” 🌐



Finished cars produced by Chinese automaker, Chery. This past January, China outsold the US in the global automarket, and the number of cars exported monthly continues to top those of the US. China’s economy, along with that of Russia, India and Brazil, (collectively known as BRIC) are projected to continue growth with their export-based economies and potentially save the world economy.



# Octuplet birth challenges safety of in-vitro fertilization

Meredith Redick  
Senior Managing Editor

A faceless doctor. A mother of six. Half a dozen cryogenically frozen embryos turned into eight living, breathing, babies.

This is the story of Nadya Suleman, whose staggering birth of octuplets in January has since inspired a national polemic. Suleman had six embryos transferred into her uterus via in-vitro fertilization (IVF), a process in which oocytes, or eggs, are fertilized outside of the womb as a treatment for infertility.

Unmarried and caring for six other children, Suleman's birth of octuplets has made her an instant celebrity in the past three months due to the controversy surrounding the conception of these babies—and the blame for the undesired consequences.

IVF is a treatment that has allowed many couples to overcome infertility in the 26 years since the first human embryo transfer resulted in a live birth. According to BBC News, over 3 million babies have been born through IVF procedures.

Washington University reproductive endocrinologist Randall Odem describes the procedure.

"Embryos are grown and chosen based on their appearance," Odem said. "Typically embryo transfers are performed on day three and if patients have an adequate number of acceptable quality embryos, then they are cultured to day five and a blastocyst transfer is performed."

By the time an embryo has developed to the blastocyst stage, it contains about 150 cells. Reproductive endocrinologist Kelle Moley notes that embryos are not always permitted to progress to this stage before transfer.

"We only transfer on day five if the patient has a lot of embryos," Moley said.

Because some embryos at the day-three stage could stop developing before they reached the blastocyst stage, earlier embryo transfer, while less reliable, offers a better chance for pregnancy.

When a patient undergoes the IVF procedure, the first step is administering drugs to stimulate the ovaries to make many oocytes. According to Odem, a variety of medications can be used.

"Almost all patients undergoing in vitro fertilization take medications to stimulate the ovaries so that multiple follicles will develop and yield multiple oocytes," Odem said. "The most commonly utilized injectable gonadotropins are made in a laboratory. In the old days, these medications were purified from

urine of menopausal women, and some of those medications are still available."

These hormone treatments, while effective, can cause complications.

Ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS) is a relatively common complication in which the ovaries enlarge as a result of intake of FSH, or follicle-stimulating hormone.

"OHSS causes an influx of fluid into the abdomen, and the women get very distended and uncomfortable," Moley said. "The ovaries can be enlarged from the size of a small plum to a grapefruit."

While cases of OHSS are typically mild, the syndrome is painful, and serious cases can cause the ovaries to rupture. Proper care can lower the risk of developing OHSS, however.

"The incidence [of OHSS] can be modified greatly by appropriate monitoring and knowledgeable physicians," Odem said.

Once the development of oocytes is accomplished, the oocytes are collected and placed in a petri dish to be fertilized with sperm. Alternately, a single sperm can be injected into a single egg.

According to Moley, the cells must then be observed to confirm fertilization and growth.

“Our guidelines provide the flexibility to give each patient treatment individualized to her needs, and her best chance to become pregnant without risking high-order multiple pregnancy.”

Dale McClure  
ASRM president

”

"On the first day, it's confirming fertilization; then on the third day, it's how many embryos have progressed to the eight-cell stage. If you get to day five, you have blastocysts."

The embryos are then transferred to the uterus. Excess embryos are often frozen for use in the future.

In Suleman's case, the six embryos she utilized were excess that were frozen after her previous IVF procedures.

"The advantage of freezing embryos is that it enables couples to use these embryos in the future without undergoing another fresh IVF cycle," Odem said. "Also, if they did not freeze excess embryos their choices would be reduced and freezing is the only ethically acceptable option for many couples."

According to Odem, the main risk in undergoing IVF is multiple gestation as a result of stimulating multiple follicles. The multiple gestation rate for IVF is about 30 to 35 percent, but development of more than three fetuses is extremely unlikely if no errors in treatment have been made.

"Any fetus that is part of a multiple gestation is at risk for problems," Odem said.

Moley agrees.

"Multiple gestation is absolutely not healthy for the mother," Moley said. "It results in increased morbidity for children, and excess bedrest for the mother can increase the risk of blood clots,

among other issues."

Most IVF clinics take steps to ensure minimal pregnancy risks.

The American Society of Reproductive Medicine provides a widely used set of guidelines that work to maximize the number of healthy pregnancies while decreasing the risk of complications. The guidelines have indubitably been effective: in 2005, only 2 percent of fresh, non-donor IVF treatments resulted in triplets or more.

According to the ASRM guidelines, healthy women under 35 should not be implanted with more than two embryos at a time.

"Consideration should be given to transferring only a single embryo," the pamphlet reads. "All others in this age group should have no more than two embryos (cleavage-stage or blastocyst) transferred in the absence of extraordinary circumstances."

Suleman, a 33-year-old woman with a history of effective IVF treatments, received six embryos—a number that is never advocated by the ASRM under normal circumstances.

In a February press release, ASRM noted that Suleman's physician likely did not follow the guidelines.

"Our guidelines provide the flexibility to give each patient treatment individualized to her needs, and her best chance to become pregnant without risking high-order multiple pregnancy," ASRM President Dale McClure said. "SART member clinics are committed to following those guidelines. However, it seems that the guidelines may not have been followed in Ms. Suleman's case."

Odem believes that Suleman's physician should have been more judicious with the embryo transfers.

"If it is true that she had already delivered 6 children from IVF, it seems pretty obvious that she was fertile from this process," Odem said. "If this physician was knowledgeable of this, one would think that they would be extremely conservative with the number of embryos utilized. This sounds like a major indiscretion on this physician's part and I think he should accept responsibility and be appropriately sanctioned. From an ethical standpoint it is unfair to the patient, her children, her family, her community, the medical community at large, and the world."

Moley knows that emotions can run high in situations relating to IVF procedures.

"She probably wasn't thinking clearly," Moley said. "People get desperate, and they're sometimes willing to sacrifice safety for a higher chance of pregnancy."

Parents are sometimes willing to cut corners in order to maximize their chance of pregnancy while minimizing cost. "They might beg the doctor to implant

another embryo so they don't have to keep doing IVF cycles," Moley said.

Indeed, both the financial and emotional aspects of utilizing IVF can strain parents. According to the ASRM website, the average cost of one IVF cycle in the US is about \$12,400. In 2005, the average live delivery rate for IVF was 31.6 percent per embryo retrieval, making IVF a both expensive and emotionally loaded process whose success rates are less than 1 in 3.

Deepening the financial issues for parents is the fact that IVF is typically not a benefit covered by insurance in the US. Odem believes that this situation is detrimental to parents and physicians.

"In about 1990, I went with a group to Jefferson City to try to pass an insurance mandate in the state of Missouri," Odem said. "Our state is not very progressive and this was a complete waste of time. The lack of a mandate and the lack of insurance coverage has led to [the deregulation of IVF]. In addition, it has led to many examples of poor medical practice, inappropriate medical decisions, and increases in the multiple gestation rate throughout the state. Obviously, the better solution would be to provide coverage and insist on restrictions of the numbers of embryos to transfer similar to what is done in many other nations in the world that offer in-vitro fertilization."

Missouri and several other states are examining bills that would limit the number of embryo implants in accordance with the ASRM requirements in order to eliminate undesirable outcomes like that of Suleman, whose case was a wake-up call to the many privately operating IVF clinics that do not adhere to ASRM guidelines.

According to Moley, this legislation would likely limit the number of multiple births in the future. "The goal is always one, healthy, baby," Moley said. "Even with triplets

or twins, the risks go way up."

Moley notes that in many European countries, there is a single-embryo transfer policy. "There are very low complication rates in those areas," Moley said.

Still, Moley acknowledges that there are serious drawbacks to passing laws in the US that regulate IVF procedures.

"It might mean that women over 35 never get pregnant," Moley said. "We have to have the flexibility to change the plan if we don't think the embryos look good, for example. Every patient is not a cookie-cutter patient—every patient is different."

Odem notes that the true target of the law would be a minority of private clinics that do not follow ethical guidelines. "There is no replacement for physicians with high integrity and honesty and if everyone had those traits there would be no need to worry about

enforcement of these guidelines," Odem said. "Unfortunately, that is not the case."

Although the legal limitations would have both benefits and drawbacks, Moley is excited about Obama's recent lifting of restrictions on federal funding for human embryonic stem cell studies.

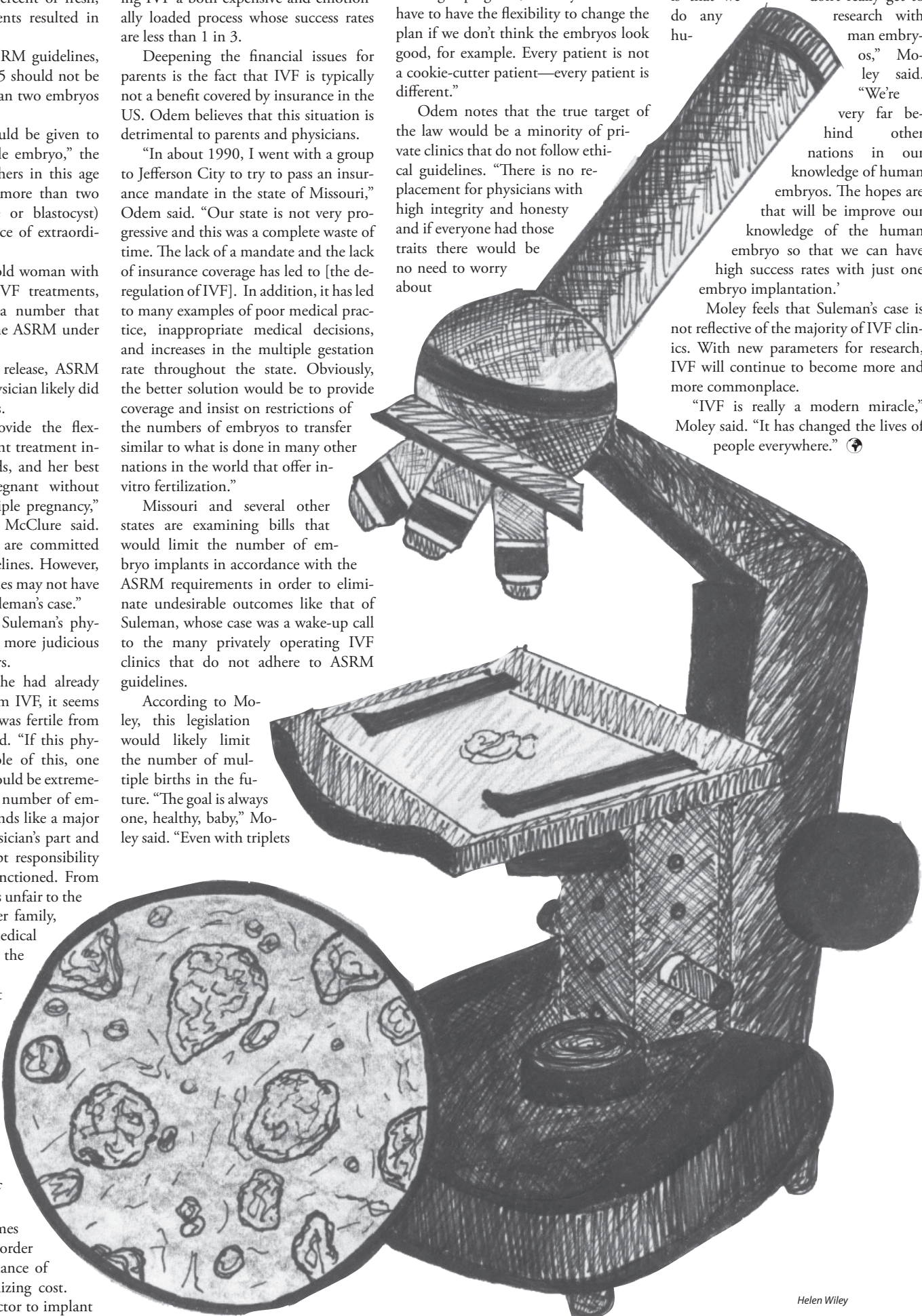
"One of the hardest parts of my job is that we don't really get to do any research with hu-

man embryos," Moley said. "We're

very far behind other nations in our knowledge of human embryos. The hopes are that will be improve our knowledge of the human embryo so that we can have high success rates with just one embryo implantation."

Moley feels that Suleman's case is not reflective of the majority of IVF clinics. With new parameters for research, IVF will continue to become more and more commonplace.

"IVF is really a modern miracle," Moley said. "It has changed the lives of people everywhere." 🌐



# EPA administrator sprouts hope for environmentalists



President Obama, left, signs an executive order to change policies on energy independence and climate change as Transportation Secretary Ray Lahood and new EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson look on. Jackson plans to make new efforts to ensure the safety of the environment and of the public.

Jocelyn Lee  
Senior Managing Editor

Lisa Jackson, the new administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has entered her new job facing high expectations that she will reverse some of the Bush administration policies. In many people's eyes, she has risen to the occasion with her recent work on greenhouse gases.

On March 10, the EPA proposed a national system for reporting emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases produced by major sources in the U.S.

"Our efforts to confront climate change must be guided by the best possible information," Jackson said, according to EPA's website. "Through this new reporting, we will have comprehensive and accurate data about the production of greenhouse gases. This is a critical step toward helping us better protect our health and environment – all without placing an onerous burden on our nation's small businesses."

According to the EPA's website, approximately 13,000 facilities, contributing about 85 to 90 percent of the greenhouse gases emitted in the U.S., would be covered under the proposal.

Suppliers of fossil fuel and industrial chemicals, motor vehicle manufacturers, and large direct emitters of greenhouse gases with emissions equal to or greater than a threshold of 25,000 metric tons per year would have to comply with the new rule's requirements.

In addition, on Feb. 17, Jackson announced that the EPA would reconsider a decision by the Bush administration not to regulate carbon dioxide emissions in new coal power plants.

Director of the Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic at Washington University, Maxine Lipeles, says the EPA is obligated to respond to a Supreme Court decision from April 2007, entitled Massachusetts v. EPA. She says this case involved a petition by several states and environmental groups asking the EPA to set motor vehicle emission standards for greenhouse gases.

"EPA said that it did not have the power to do so under the Clean Air Act and that even if it did have the power, it wouldn't be wise to use it for this purpose," Lipeles said. "The Supreme Court ruled that EPA does indeed have the power to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. The Supreme Court also ruled that the EPA's reasons for not regulating were not valid ones under the Clean Air Act."

However, the Bush administration ignored this decision, for the most part.

"Nearly two years later, the EPA has not yet taken action to respond to the Supreme Court's April 2007 decision," Lipeles said.

So now, under the Obama administration, the EPA has taken on the job of determining if carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are dangerous to the public's health and should begin to be regulated under the Clean Air Act.

This decision to regulate would be quite momentous, as it would introduce one of the farthest-reaching regulations in U.S. history, according to TIME magazine. It would have an enormous influence on numerous aspects of society: transportation, the cost of manufacturing, and the ways that utilities generate power.

"Because our economy is currently

based so much on the use of fossil fuels, we have some significant transitions to make and the sooner we begin to take action, the more smoothly and efficiently our economy can undertake the necessary transition," said Lipeles.

Including the regulation of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act could spark great opposition from Congress and U.S. industries. However, Jackson says she is aware of this and is preparing for these issues.

"We are poised to be specific on what we regulate and on what schedule," Jackson told the New York Times. "We don't want people to spin that into a doomsday scenario."

Despite Jackson's planning, many environmental advocates are still cautious about the EPA taking a leading role in addressing climate change.

"We are loudly advocating for tailor-made legislation as the best means of addressing carbon emissions," David Bookbinder, chief climate counsel of Sierra Club, told the New York Times. "Trying to address climate change via a series of rule makings from EPA is a distant second best."

However, despite mixed feelings about the EPA, many people agree that something needs to be done concerning climate change.

"I think that the U.S. will be required to regulate its greenhouse gas emissions sooner or later," Lipeles said. "The sooner we take action, the more likely we are to address this problem in a timely manner. A broad consensus of scientists from around the world says that we must make deep reductions in emissions, and must start soon to do so." 🌐



# International organization refines student views

Hannah Callahan  
Reporter

In Clayton, it's easy to ignore poverty or the struggle for human rights when these issues exist outside the realm of our well-insolated brick houses. It's easy to forget. But at the CHS Amnesty International club, students aim to educate others on social, political, economic, and environmental justice around the world. Amnesty International sponsor Janet Curry discovered her ardor for human rights growing up near Washington DC, a backdrop of constant political protests and controversy. "You could ignore all that and focus on your grades and what to wear, but it was harder then," Curry said of her suburban high school in Washington, D.C. "Many of those who earned the highest grades did so in order to be of better service to 'the Movement,' that was the higher value we judged ourselves and others by." However, she said she believes "the idea of causes is fading among the current generation."

"I think that there are other powerful variables," Curry said, "including how hopeful each age cohort feels about the possibilities for significant sociopolitical change within our country and around the world; what students hear about in terms of what colleges look for in building their resumes; and the content and intensity of social justice issues that students learn about from their parents and media in their lives."



Meng Wang

The Amnesty International banner hangs in a CHS hallway. This prestigious association helps improve global issues in addition to encouraging student participation and bringing the international society to the Clayton community.

Sophomore Michaela Waites, an ardent member of Amnesty International, agrees. Though she has attended every meeting, only two to three others attend meetings each Wednesday. "I want to be involved in things that don't just have to deal with Clayton's superficial problems," Waites said. "Even if I'm not in the Peace Corps or traveling the world, just for a half hour I get to discuss problems that are so far

away from what I have to deal with." Established in 1961 by British lawyer Peter Benenson, Amnesty International now has 2.2 million members. On Human Rights Day in 1961, the first Amnesty candle was lit in London. Since then, Amnesty International has helped to spread word of human rights issues often left in the dark. More recently, President Obama made plans to end torture and unfair trials in Guantana-

mo Bay within the first two days of his presidency. In the midst of the War on Terror, approximately 250 suspects have been incarcerated, some for over six years. Amnesty International vehemently campaigned for Obama's decision. "It really sent a message that this is a new administration that values and abides by the Geneva Conventions and human rights law," Curry said. CHS is miles away from the White

House; however, projects are being planned here as well. In 2008, the club produced a teach-in educating students on the justification of torture as part of the United States' national security policy. This spring, CHS' Amnesty International will be focusing on our involvement in Afghanistan. During their meetings, students write letters on behalf of individuals around the world who have been imprisoned because

of the authority's opposition to their ideas. "There is some positive result in around 1/3 of all the cases we undertake," Curry said. "Some are granted legal or medical help; some are actually set free." This is the idea that Waites relishes most. "I love discovering what people can do when they're all together," she said. Though few people attend meetings regularly, Curry and Waites agree that the morning's half an hour does not go to waste. "Students will get a chance to say to repressive governments and officials that we are watching," Curry said, "to prisoners of conscience that we will not forget them; to the ivory tower that we refuse to stay behind our walls; and to their peers and themselves that we can make a difference, we can inform each other using the tools that CHS teaches us so well, and we can create a little more balance for the good." Members hope Obama's reform plans, most of which coincide with the beliefs of Amnesty International, will increase popularity of their goals. Waites avidly encourages other students to join. "Instead of choosing to spend my time in the morning sleeping or studying, I come to Amnesty International," she said. "It feels good to talk about things you don't normally talk about in Clayton, to get out of your comfort zone, and to learn about issues I didn't know existed." CHS Amnesty International meets every two weeks on Wednesdays at 7:45 a.m. in the history learning center. ☎

## Downsizing of grocery products and escalation of prices cheat consumers, harm companies' prestige

Nicholas Andriole  
Editor

With the surge in commodity prices during early-mid 2008, it comes as no surprise that the cost of grocery items increase. According to the most recent available data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the governmental agency that monitors consumer prices, reported a 5.3 percent increase in the grocery price index between Jan. 2008 and Jan. 2009. Given rising costs, grocery product manufacturers have been passing along price increases mainly by decreasing product volumes, while keeping similarly sized packaging and keeping retail prices the same.

"When a manufacturer is faced with rising costs of producing and shipping its products, it has a few choices," Consumer Advocate and Editor of Mouseprint.org Edgar Dworsky said "The company often chooses to downsize the product because the company knows that consumers are very price conscious these days and might buy less if the price was raised."

There are many examples of product downsizing across grocery brands. Breyer's Ice Cream, made by Unilever, was previously sold in 1.75 quart containers, however in mid-2008 the company switched to 1.5 quart containers in an effort to account for rising commodity and transportation costs. This move comes after ice cream makers reduced their sizes from two quarts (one half gallon) to 1.75 quarts several years back. Bradenton, Florida-based Tropicana has also reduced the size of its 96 ounce carton to what the company calls a "New 89 ounce easy pour pitcher". Skippy peanut butter also reduced the size of its containers from 18 ounces to 16.3 ounces, by adding an indentation on the bottom of the jar. Finally, Proctor & Gamble reduced the number of sheets on Bounty paper towels from 60 sheets to 52 sheets.

Officials from food manufacturers once again point to rising costs as their need for reducing sizes.

"At Kraft, we occasionally make changes to packaging sizes, both increases and decreases," said Basil Maglaris of Kraft Corporate Affairs. "Changes are driven by feedback from consumers, retail customers or other business variables."

Customers seem to understand the situation manufacturers are facing but believe they are taking the wrong "I'm okay with size decreasing, but I think it should be known to the consumer," Former CHS parent and Schnucks

customer Doretha Washington said "You really are only paying for a price increase on the product."

Customers seems to agree that downsizing should be made known to the shopper, and not simply slapping a new volume or weight on the package.

"I really don't like the manufacturers reducing the size because it places profits before customer satisfaction and seems dishonest," Schnucks customer Salt Allan said.

Allan agrees with Washington that the downsizing is indeed deceptive, but hopes manufacturers will take after the roles of their English and German counterparts. Allan recently relocated to the United States from the United Kingdom and believes eliminating packaging and marketing all together will help cut costs.

"In the UK there has been talk about reducing unnecessary packaging in an effort to cut costs and protect the environment, and I would entertain seeing that here," Allan said.

Some customers believe shrinking the size of the product while holding the price steady is a decisive move on the part of the manufacturer, and many say they'd rather pay more and retain the same size packages they have been used to.

While retail prices remain the same, the cost per unit still goes up and is often less noticeable to the consumer than a direct price increase.

"[Downsizing] is indeed deceptive," Washington said. "Typically, in a newspaper advertisement you only see the price and not the size or quantity of the item."

Dworsky believes this trend will continue into other industries and products.

"Groceries are the most typical candidates for downsizing," Dworsky said "Since all manufacturers are faced with higher prices for raw materials and transportation, they too have to look for ways to economize. Nothing would stop a manufacturer of screws from putting 20 in a package instead of 24, or a bug spray manufacturer from giving you a slightly smaller bottle. Getting less for your money is, unfortunately, a practice you are likely to see across the board."

Although commodity prices have fallen considerably in the past year, consumers are reminded that prices are sticky. This means when costs increase, manufacturers pass the increase along to the consumer, but should they decrease in the future, they will likely remain at the higher price level. ☎



### 8 tips for reducing your grocery bill

1. Make a list
2. Shop the entire perimeter of store
3. Buy generic
4. Plant a garden
5. Consider joining a local food coop
6. Look at unit prices
7. Be aware of what you pay for convenience
8. Visit farmer markets, and ask for leftover produce

Source: SixWise.com

## BSU unites school

Through planned social events, such as the annual talent show, CHS' Black Student Union promotes racial unity and diversity

Mary Blackwell  
Editor

One of the most active groups at CHS, the Black Student Union is a regularly meeting club geared toward African American students.

"Originally it was 4A's, African American Academic Achievers, and that's been in existence for probably 12 years," history teacher Donna Rogers-Beard said. "And we used to have a boys organization, for African American males, but that sponsor left. Ms. Blair had the idea of bringing together, a new organization for boys and girls."

Sponsored by history teacher Donna Rogers-Beard, science teacher Mike Sankey, college counselor Caroline Blair, and Byron Lee, BSU meets once a week.

"We usually have an agenda, usually a topic of discussion," Rogers-Beard said. "There may be an issue like the election, or maybe some issues that may be of particular interest to African-Americans. Maybe a discussion will come up about a societal, educational, or domestic issue. Then we're planning activities like Black History Month celebrations, Valentine's Day sale, a college trip, and the talent show."

Although BSU was created for African Americans, it is open to students of all races. "We would love more students to join us," vice president Essence Carter said.

On Feb. 24 BSU organized an in school field trip for any interested students. A group from COCA performed in the auditorium for black history month. "That was an absolutely wonderful performance," Rogers-Beard said. "It is a shame it was not well attended but we understand that teachers were concerned about all the disruptions we've had this semester. It was really an outstanding performance and those that came were just mesmerized by the talent."

Also in February, BSU sold roses and chocolates for Valentine's Day. Fundraisers such as this fund the Williams scholarship given to a senior member of BSU every year. "The original scholarship was discontinued two years ago to honor Jazzilyn Williams who was a student here that was killed her junior year," Rogers-Beard said. "And so and we're not sure we'll have it this year because we have some money issues. The criteria for the Williams scholarship is usually someone that may have gotten involved with a rough start freshman year but by senior year has pulled it together academically and

socially." Currently, BSU is working on a new project, the annual talent show.

"So far we have held auditions," treasurer Muhammad Austin said. "This Wednesday we should be holding practices so we can get started."

The show will take place on April 3 and tickets will be sold the week leading up to the performance.

"Well we have more talent than opportunities," Rogers-Beard said. "There's been a very, very positive response to the tryouts."

The group's next project after the talent show will be organizing their college trip to Southern

Illinois University at Carbondale on March 27.

In addition to planning events and promoting constructive discussions, BSU has provided several students with responsibilities and significant roles within the club. "It's given an avenue of leadership to some students that have not had leadership roles," Rogers-Beard said.

Carter has taken the opportunity to get involved in various areas of the club. "I'm helping organize the talent show behind the scenes," Carter said. "For the Valentine's fundraiser I was one of the people that worked at the tables. I'm making sign up sheet for those who are interested and it's the same for cultural performance as well. And another thing that I do is I'm in charge of the decorating for the arts fair so when we do the arts fair I'll help out a lot with that too."

Although the BSU events are a large part of the club's activities, Austin finds the meetings to be especially beneficial.

"I joined BSU because its really helped me understand more," Austin said. "We learn a lot from each other conversing, it can really help out your lifestyle. Others need to come join it because they need to get the perspective of the teachers and the older people there. They've experienced more so they can really help us get ready for the real world and college."

BSU teaches African Americans about their roots as well as helping students look to the future.

"The purpose of the BSU is for African American students or anybody who is interested to come and bring some ideas of what to include like educational values at Clayton High School," Carter said. "Also, it's to teach people about their past. It teaches African American students about their past and helps Clayton to experience diversity of other cultures." ☎

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# Proposition S presents much-needed improvements

The controversial proposition, which requires \$51 million, will be voted on April 7. Members of the community disagree about what should be done.

Martha Burke  
Reporter

On April 7th Clayton residents will vote on Proposition S. The \$51 million bond issue provides improvement to Clayton High, Captain, Glenridge, and Meramec Elementaries, and the Family Center.

"The kids need updated facilities in order to learn better," superintendent Don Senti said. "Our science department was built before Sputnik went up."

Of the \$51 million, 75 percent will go to CHS. Renovations include additions and renovations to the science department, and replacing the cottage with a new addition.

The bond issue includes renovations to all three elementary schools, including science lab additions and enlarging the cafeterias. The bond issue also plans to improve specialty classes such as special education that are now being held in the hallways.

The renovations are to benefit all students. It's not because we're growing because we're not growing, it's just because we need to update our facilities," Senti said.

Wydown is not included in these renovations but Senti promises it will be on the ticket next April.

In a public opinion survey taken in November more than half of Clayton residents still voted to fund the proposition even in time of an economic crisis.

"When times are bad it's cheaper to build and to finance the bonds is also less expensive," Senti said. "Frankly, in a bad economy it's a good time for a school district to be doing renovations."

Senti acknowledges that this is more a difficult time for taxpayers, but surveys show that Clayton residents still would pay for this. On March 4 the Clayton Board of Education voted to terminate land swap discussions with Washington University in St. Louis.

"The elections looks like it will be really close so I think by

taking the land exchange off the table, will cause more people to vote for it than would have otherwise," Senti said. "So even though the majority of the people thought it was okay to talk about it the minority who said we're really opposed to this, I think some of them will vote for prop S now that wouldn't have otherwise."

However leaving Wydown out of the bond issue isn't appeasing all voters.

"I don't think that proposition S has been well thought out, I'm against a split bond issue," Clayton resident Ellen Harris said. "What I'd like to see is the school board to come back next year when we have a new superintendent and have them present to us a comprehensive bond issue to repair all the schools and address what's needed."

However, Harris was admittedly against the proposed land swap and the way it was proposed.

"They're saying the schools are deteriorating, why did the school board wait for them to get this bad?" Harris said. "The economy's tanking, and they're not going to have the money they thought they had."

But, according to the district's communication director, Chris Tennill, in the March 12 Proposition E-newsletter, the district is not in financial difficulty. The St. Louis County Assessor announced that the median home value in the School District of Clayton declined by 5.8 percent for 2009.

"The decline in residential property values will be more than offset by an increase in commercial assessed value of 7.9 percent," Tennill said. "When you factor in the increase in commercial property values, there was actually an overall increase in Clayton's assessed value of 3 percent. This is a positive development because the assumptions used in estimating the 29-cent increase for Proposition S were based on there being no increase in total assessed value."

Tennill said that the 29 cents will be more than enough to generate the \$51 million needed to fund the projects outlined in Proposition S.

"Furthermore, decreased residential values will actually reduce the impact of the 29-cent increase on the individual ho-



Izzy Fratt

Clayton residents will decide whether to fund Prop S, which will renovate the high school and elementary schools, focusing on the science department at CHS. Many voters opposed to the plan have a problem with the fact that Wydown is left out.

meowner, with the increased commercial values will more than picking up the difference," Tennill said.

However if the bond does not pass, renovations will have to be put of or completed in small pieces.

Physics teacher Rex Rice is part of the Science Department that will benefit from the renovations..

"This building was built in the '50s and about half of this department has had little or nothing done to it since that original date," Rice said.

The ever-changing technology present in the science field makes it older facilities difficult to use. Many of the classrooms do not meet size requirements for how large classrooms should be.

"Right now we have more science teachers than we have rooms," Rice said. "We have several chemistry teachers who have to move to a different room every day than the one they were in the day before."

This makes multi-day projects, such as completing labs, impossible for those teachers.



Plus, the deteriorating state of the labs raises both health and safety concerns.

"Clayton is known for excellent schools," Rice said. "More-over Clayton science department is known for its excellence."

However, declining facilities are making this reputation increasingly difficult to maintain, along with not being as appealing to prospective teachers.

On April 7 Clayton voters will decide, yes on S? ☹

## Tutoring program reconnects students to Wydown, reaches out to the community

Schuyler Longmore  
Reporter

Volunteering is hard to come by in privileged areas, but Clayton students have made the effort recently to help out. Because of its ability to teach and learn at the same time, tutoring is a great aid to the community.

CHS juniors have spent the last several months tutoring middle school students after school. Clayton junior Jen Golden, and Learning Center director and sponsor Dee Blassic started the program with help from Golden's cultural leadership class.

The Clayton juniors tutor once a week, from after school till 4:20 to help kids with their reading skills and assist with homework. The program has been successful in improving the middle school students' work habits and academic skills, but also in providing an older person for students to talk to and learn from their experiences.

Golden picked juniors at her discretion to help with the tutoring task. The task is difficult at times, the juniors admit, because of the students' unruly and off topic behavior

"The most frustrating part is that the kids typically don't want to work on homework," junior Emil Thyssen said.

The tutors have the task of keeping



Junior Emily Rosen and buddy pose outside of Wydown. The CHS volunteers emphasize bonding with the middle schoolers.

kids on topic while trying to teach them skills to help with homework.

"The most frustrating thing about tutoring is when the kids are all riled up and they don't want to do anything," junior Chelsea Hesterberg said.

Other junior tutors find the opposite to be the problem-kids are too shy to accomplish work.

"It takes a while for the student to stop being shy around you," junior Jack Harned said. "It can be a little frustrating when they are really quiet."

In tutoring situations it is always important to get feedback from the kids on their levels of understanding, but shy behavior can detract from a tutor's ability to judge the success of his/her teaching strategies.

But not every aspect of tutoring is hard work though.

"It's fun going back to Wydown and hearing the kids talk about things that you used to do," Hesterberg said.

The tutors enjoy remembering their middle school days, including running into former teachers.

"It's interesting to see the classrooms and all the teachers," Thyssen said.

The kids themselves are fun too. Although the students can be wild and difficult to help, their company is enjoyable. Tutors find that the experience proves rewarding to everyone involved.

"The kids are really fun and hilari-

ous," junior Anna Copilevitz said.

The good feeling of volunteering is present too.

"It is a good experience to know that you are helping someone," said Hesterberg.

Tutors work hard to tutor their students, but enjoy the experience and are rewarded by the good feeling of helping others.

The Clayton students involved in the tutoring are not trained as tutors, but rather use their own experiences and knowledge to help their students learn best. Strategies vary, but all tutors get the point across.

"I provide incentives to my buddy that allow him to work more efficiently," Thyssen said. "Such as discussing girls, high school or Lebron James."

Harned agrees that the reward system is effective.

"Usually by mixing in rewards with the learning, the kids feel motivated to learn," Harned said.

Many of the tutors find that the middle school students are motivated to do their work by setting goals and rewards for dedication to their homework. Also, much of the tutoring is centered on improving the students' reading skills.

"We asked questions on the text, we had them summarize the articles, and helped them sound out words," Hesterberg said.

Each tutor has their own strategy to helping the kids learn better, but all are successful, and the middle school students enjoy the time spent with their tutors. The tutors enjoy hearing about the topics of interest to middle school students, and the students enjoy having the older tutor to talk to like a friend.

"Students have a chance to talk about things with their tutors that they can't talk to teachers or parents about," Thyssen said. "Conversely, the tutors get to hear middle school perspectives on a large spectrum of subjects."

The conversations between tutors and students help one another learn about life at a different age. This is the first year of the program, and some adjustments might be made to help the tutoring run more smoothly.

"We should have a longer time period to work with the kids because we often run out of time," Copilevitz said.

Tutoring is not always a one-way job as some juniors have found out.

"The tutoring is successful when both the tutor and the student are putting in effort for work and learning," Harned said.

With a core of motivated juniors, the tutoring pays off for the middle school students in academics and socially. The kids are learning from the tutors, and the tutors are learning from their students.☺

## Opening New Doors

Apoorva Sharma  
Reporter

While most books students read for their English class are classic literature and novels that teachers liked while they were in high school, the CHS English Department has something new in store for next year's curriculum: a graphic novel.

The book selected is Marjane Satrapi's graphic novel "Persepolis," which tells the story of the author's life growing up in Iran. It has been added to the protected literature list for English II. This is different from core literature, in that it is not required to be studied, but the chance of studying it stops other English classes throughout the district from adding the book to their curriculum.

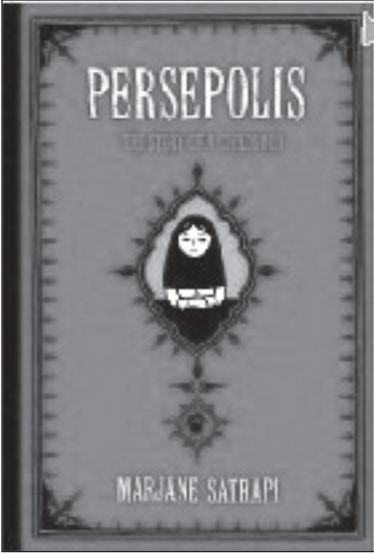
Amy Chappuis, who teaches English II, Film in American Society and Mass Media, explained the reason for the inclusion of this book to the curriculum. The main reason was that it fit nicely with the other books read in the class

"The English teachers agreed that 'Persepolis' would be a good complement to our curriculum," Chappuis said. "In English II, the texts we study all address the question, how do we react to a world that is beyond our control?"

This is the main theme in Satrapi's novel, where the main character deals with the harsh restrictions women faced in Iran. The story describes the author's struggles during and after the Iranian Revolution. Although there are many memoirs that describe life during a revolution, the English Department liked the idea of choosing a graphic novel.

"The graphic novel is another way of telling a story, so we can explore the differences and the similarities of this genre," Chappuis said. "In addition, visual literacy is a growing part of our world. Studying all types of rhetoric enhances the students understanding of the world."

Although many people think of trendy Manga comics when they hear "graphic novel," and are surprised to hear that a graphic novel is part of the curriculum, some people, like freshman



Micah Goodman are not so surprised.

"I don't think that the notion of graphic novels for an English class is at all novel," Goodman said. "Anyone that went to Wydown in seventh grade remembers reading Maus [by Art Spiegelman]."

However, Goodman approves of the decision to include it in the curriculum.


"I think it's important for students to realize that literacy isn't just about reading epics like 'The Odyssey,' it's about plot, characters, emotions, and entering a new world," Goodman said. "For many high school students, reading a graphic novel is going to be the only way to get them interested and excited about literature and the English language."

Goodman not only supports the decision because of the novel's captivating nature, but also because of its timeliness.

"I'm glad that it's a book that high schoolers have to read," Goodman said. "I read it myself a few years ago, and it, with the United States' conflict with Iran, it is all the more significant."

Chappuis also believes that students will be supportive of the addition of "Persepolis."

"We anticipated that most students would enjoy it," Chappuis said. "Students reported to me that they liked the experience." ☺



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# Acts of Desperation

As people begin to realize the financial and physical costs of smoking, tobacco companies Philip Morris USA and R.J. Reynolds are mounting advertising campaigns aimed at women.

Leah Eby  
Senior Managing Editor

As early as the 1920s, tobacco companies have used ad campaigns to target young women and girls. By appealing to how females view themselves and the social pressures that they face, as well as conducting extensive research about the female demographic, tobacco companies have conducted some of the most aggressive, successful advertising campaigns in American history.

The tobacco industry spends more than \$12.4 billion each year on product marketing in the U.S. alone, spending over \$34.1 million per day. As a result, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, almost one in every five high school girls (18.7 percent) is a smoker. Within the past two years, tobacco companies have once again released marketing campaigns specifically targeting young women. Philip Morris USA and R.J. Reynolds have launched marketing campaigns that depict sleek smoking as a feminine, fashionable activity by creating sleek packages in hot pink and teal colors and marketing them in modern, fashionable, magazines.

Beginning in the 1920s, ads for Lucky Strike cigarettes first attempted to specifically target women by linking smoking to weigh control. The ad featured the slogan, "Reach for a Lucky instead of a sweet" in addition to a picture of a scantily clad woman puffing a

cigarette.

During the World War II era, companies began to use more direct ad campaigns to target women, employing themes of fashion, beauty, and sophistication. In addition, they began to expand the portrayal of women to encompass successful women and their growing role in America's workforce and armed forces. Camel's slogan read, "First in the Service" and featured images of women in the military and workplace.

As the women's liberation movement began to take hold in the late 1960s, tobacco companies made an effort to create women-specific brands. When Philip Morris introduced the Virginia Slims brand in 1968, women became a major target of the tobacco industry. Infamous slogans such as "You've Come a Long Way Baby" played on the successes of the women's movement and enforced the image of the independent woman as stylish and sexy. According to a report released by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, six years after the introduction of Virginia Slims, the smoking initiation rate of 12-year-old girls increased by 110 percent.

In the late twentieth century, tobacco companies began to advertize "low tar" or "light" cigarettes in or-

der to appeal to women concerned about health risks associated with smoking. According to a Philip Morris document from 1978, women make up the majority of low tar smokers, and almost half of all women have switched to low tar. Almost ten years later, another Philip Morris document argued that "because of women's nurturing role in society, they are naturally more involved with low tar cigarettes than men (70 percent of low tar smokers are female). They do not want to stop smoking, yet they are guilt ridden with concerns for their families if smoking should badly damage their own health. Thus, they compromise by smoking low tar cigarettes."

Therefore, rather than quitting, women are encouraged to switch to "low tar" or "light" cigarettes. A 2006 study published by the American Journal of Public Health concluded that smokers who began smoking light cigarettes to lower the health risks were about 50 percent less likely to quit smoking than those who smoked regular cigarettes.

After almost a century of female-specific marketing, tobacco companies have once again launched advertising campaigns targeting today's female demographic.

In Oct. 2008, Philip Morris USA announced plans to makeover its Virginia Slims brand, creating "purse packs"—small, rectangular cigarette packs containing "superslim" cigarettes. Not only are these "purse packs" half the size of regular cigarette packs and resemble small cosmetics packages that fit easily into women's purses, but the packages are now available in mauve and teal colors. In keeping with the tobacco industry's history of associating smoking with weight control, the new line of Virginia Slims comes in "Super Slims Lights" and "Super Slims Ultra Lights."

In a similar marketing campaign launched in Jan. 2007, R.J. Reynolds introduced a new line of Camel cigarettes, called Camel No. 9, which come packaged in sleek black boxes with hot pink and teal borders. The name itself evokes images of the famed Chanel No. 9 perfume, and ads carrying slogans such as "Light and luscious" and "Now available in stiletto" attempt to attract "the most fashion forward woman" through magazines including Vogue, Cosmopolitan, Marie Claire, Glamour, and InStyle. Hot pink promotional giveaways—cell phone jewelry, flavored lip gloss, small purses, and wristbands—additionally serve to target young women.

Of this new marketing campaign, R.J. Reynolds

spokesman Craig Fishel reinforced the company's objective in launching the Camel No. 9 brand.

"Camel has traditionally been looked at as a male brand," said Fishel. "So we saw a great business opportunity there to be able to communicate with adult, female smokers of competitive brands that this is a product they might enjoy."

This new wave of aggressive cigarette marketing to young women has sparked criticism among health agencies and the public. In opposition, a report titled "Deadly in Pink" was issued by the Cancer Action Network, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

In this report, the coalition suggests that these campaigns are insensitive and further advocates for government intervention to prevent the negative effects of tobacco industry.

"These new marketing campaigns by Philip Morris and R.J. Reynolds show contempt for the health of women and girls," said Matthew L. Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. "The tobacco industry's aggressive marketing demands an equally aggressive response from our nation's elected leaders. By

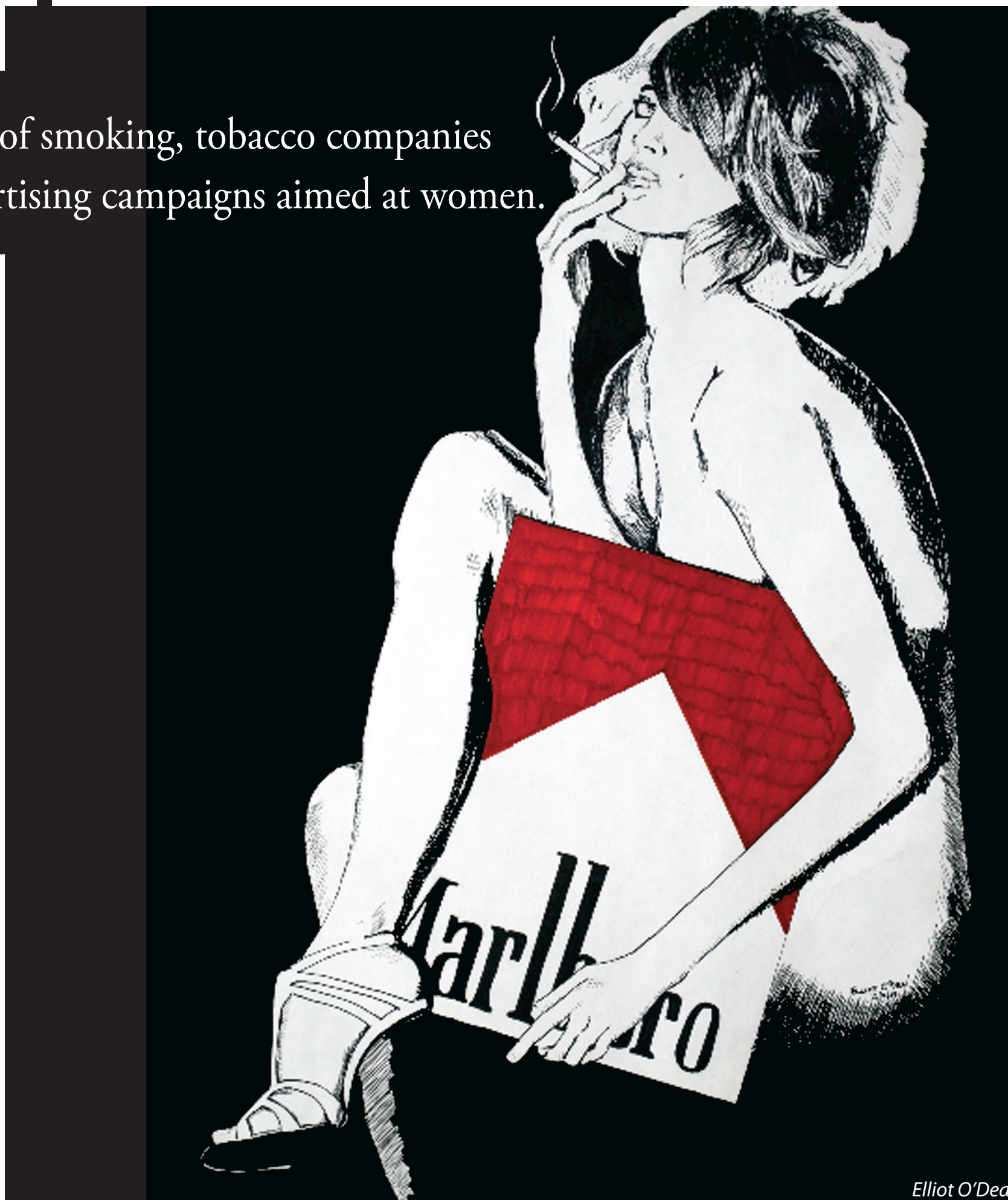
granting the FDA authority over tobacco products, the Congress can crack down on the industry's most harmful practices."

Despite killing more than 170,000 women of tobacco-caused diseases each year, tobacco products are currently exempt from federal regulation. According to the report, California State Representative Henry Waxman and Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy are expected to reintroduce legislation enabling the FDA to regulate tobacco products.

Possible legislation would grant the FDA significant authority to restrict the tobacco industry's marketing, ban misleading health claims such as "light" and "low tar," require more effective health warnings on cigarette packages, mandate that tobacco companies disclose the contents of their products and research about their health effects, and grant the FDA the ability to set requirements for new and existing tobacco products.

Critics of Philip Morris USA and R.J. Reynolds' recent marketing campaigns see action from Congress as a necessary step in curtailing the tobacco industry's negative effects on society. After nearly a century of advertising targeting young women and girls, the time has come to change the image of smoking in America.

"Big Tobacco's blatant targeting of women is just an extension of a decades-long campaign of fraud and deception designed to addict children and adults to its deadly products," said John R. Seffrin, Ph.D., chief executive officer of the American Cancer Society. "Congress must empower the FDA to regulate tobacco products to put a stop to the harmful practices of an industry that has had free reign for far too long."



Elliot O'Dea

## QUOTE BOX PRO/CON owners and managers of restaurants in downtown Clayton speak out about the proposed smoking ban



**The Plush Pig**  
smoking **prohibited**

Our position is absolutely against a non-smoking law. The city of Columbia is non-smoking, and that has put businesses out of business, by not having a choice, and customers are definitely going to areas where they the option. I believe that it would be absolutely a hindrance to the business atmosphere of Clayton, and will fight it strenuously.

Larry Lampert  
Owner



**Kilkenney's**  
smoking **allowed**

I don't think a smoking ban is very good for business. I mean a lot of other cities do it, and it works okay for them, but personally as a smoker and working in a pub I think people should be allowed to smoke in a bar if they like, and I think it's going to hurt business.

Jonathon Day  
Day Manager



**Mazara**  
smoking **prohibited**

We are a smoke-free restaurant, although you can smoke on our patio. I am personally for the ban because if every bar is non-smoking then no one is going to lose business. I don't like working in a smoky bar and I think that people can come to terms with the fact that if they really want a cigarette then they can go outside.

Abby Harris  
Manager



**Miso**  
smoking **allowed**

It would be pretty disappointing. Our bar is smoking, and if there were a ban we would lose a lot of business because we would have to send people upstairs to smoke outside, and in the winter months when it's freezing outside they're going to go up once and are they going to come back downstairs to our restaurant?

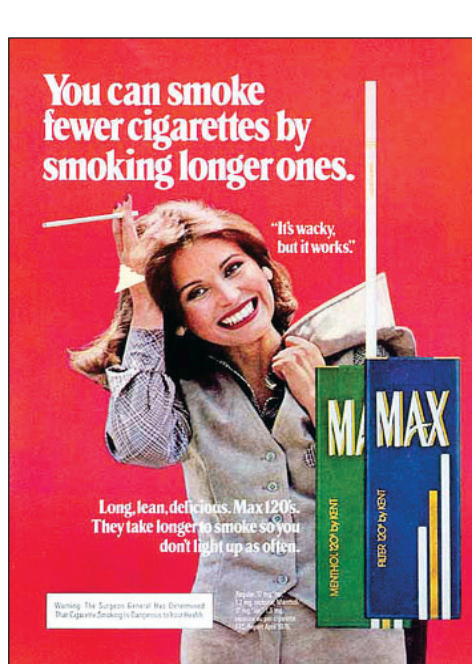
Kari Hrach  
Manager



**The Fatted Calf**  
smoking **prohibited**

There's no question that it helps the people that don't smoke not have to deal with the smoke that's going to drift toward them...I've been in restaurants my whole life and I think it's bound to hurt some people's business because smokers want to go out and sit and have a long leisurely dinner and they want to have a cigarette with their meal.

Kathleen Portman  
Owner



**250**  
number of toxic chemicals in second-hand smoke

**170,000**  
women die of tobacco-caused diseases each year

**30 %**  
of all cancer deaths are smoking-related

**46 million**  
current smokers in America

**18.7%**  
of current high school girls are smokers

**3,000**  
non-smokers die of diseases caused by second-hand smoke each year

**1 in 5**  
deaths is related to smoking



# World view of U.S. shifting under Obama

Jackie Leong  
*Reporter*

One man, one word, and two months, and the U.S. is already seeing results in its image. Obama's creed of "Change" seems to truly have taken effect in the short time he has been in office.

After taking hit after hit during the last eight years of the Bush administration, America's fallen image is finally getting a face-lift, one baby step at a time, starting with the most drastic change: the president.

"[In Peru], when Obama was elected, people were cheering in the streets," said Spanish teacher and Peru native Teresa Schafer. "They held inaugural parties. Obama is the best thing that could have happened for Latin America."

In fact, many countries have high hopes that foreign relations between the U.S. and the rest of the world will improve with a new leader in charge.

A new 17-nation poll completed for BBC World Service finds a growing optimism that Obama will be able to turn around America's fallen image abroad, along with a general negative attitude towards America, around.

"Bush was not a very strong defender of human rights," said French teacher and Guatemala native Yolanda Johannes. "He was not very popular... but the hope still stands that relations between countries will improve."

The room for progress is great in the face of an unpopular war, plus a tagalong history of tension between Muslim and Western nations, said The Global Pews Attitudes Project, which recently released a report titled "Global Public Opinion in the Bush Years (2001-2008)", in which 54 nations have placed their two cents.

The U.S. has been handed a hefty slice of the blame for the current financial crisis and environmental issues, and much opposition lies in Western Europe, even in America's previous allies. Even the globalization of American customs, ideas and pop culture, such as TV shows and music, are not contributing to America's impression in a positive manner.

However, in the wake of Obama's election, countries previously in the opposition against the U.S. –even two vastly Muslim countries, Egypt and Turkey– are expressing the hope that



Dee Luo

views and relations will improve from thus far on.

"[Obama] embodies what America is becoming," Schafer said. "He is a symbol of hope and change."

Schafer added that had another Republican been elected in

November, the U.S. would have lost many of its Latin American supporters.

However, Obama does have some work ahead of him. Having inherited the Bush years' problems, the majority of coun-

tries in the BBC poll believe the global financial crisis is the top priority, followed by withdrawing troops from Iraq, then addressing world climate issues.

The next on the list is improving relations with foreign countries.

"Central American countries are so small, they feel overlooked," Johannes said. "They feel as if they are not taken as seriously as larger, more sophisticated countries."

With Obama, she believes, that could change.

Johannes said that Obama seems to epitomize the U.S in a better light by focusing more on the people, rather than represent America simply as a military power, as Bush did.

Those countries that had no optimism last year are, in the face of Obama's election, now expressing a newfound hope that relations will become better.

The most optimism come from Ghana, where 87 percent of the polled respondents expressed this hope- Germany and Spain came in second, both with 78 percent optimism, and France, with 76 percent. Of America itself, 65 percent are optimistic that foreign relations will improve.

However, reports another recent BBC poll, that though many countries, such as Canada, Egypt, Ghana, India, Italy, and Japan, are expressing overall optimism, their views of the U.S. itself are largely negative, and Russia and China have grown more negative in their overall opinions. Most Europeans show little change in their views.

It seems that America has gotten a jump-start with the election of Obama, said BBC. However, it points out, that's not enough; America will have to make good on its newfound policy of hope and change to truly change foreign opinions.

"It's too early now to see what will happen," Johannes said, "but [Obama's] first impression was very good. It is a more positive image that he's already given."

So far, with Obama's determination to reboot U.S. foreign policy (having currently already reached out to America's adversaries, in hopes of easing tensions- Russia, China, Syria, Iran, and possibly the Taliban), Johannes thinks the idea still stands.

Could it happen? Many think so.

"The thought of the impossible becoming possible... is finally reality, not just a dream," Schafer said. ☛



Nichole Burton

Despite the heightened security and the presence of the Clayton police to man the entrances, seniors Lisa Einstein, Maddie McMahon and Jeremy Bleek enjoy a typical warm day studying in the CHS quad on March 6.

## Schools maintain normalcy despite threats

### School Threat, from 1

Assistant Principal Marci Pieper agrees with Losos' assessment.

"Our police department felt that we should be really concerned about the safety of our students," Pieper said. "You can't ever go back and say that we didn't know about it and didn't do anything. We would always rather err on the side of caution if it concerned our students. The students are our most important and precious thing."

A couple of months ago administrators had a table-top exercise. The chief of police, paramedics and all the emergency entities met along with different people from the district. The administration was given scenarios and had to respond with the appropriate action.

"I think every school will handle situations like this in a similar manner," Pieper said. "The way that we handle things at CHS is that we work with the police department in the city. We recently had some exercises in conjunction with the city. We had all these scenarios on what would happen and what we would do as a result."

History teacher Donna Rogers-Beard also thinks that the threat was a prank. However, there's also a law called the Safe School Act.

"I thought the school responded appropriately," Rogers-Beard said. "For example, the covers we have over the small windows in our doors are part of the Safe School Act. The various drills that we perform are also part of the Act. Our school handled it well. I think the threat had nothing to do with racial tensions. Someone tried to figure out what button can I push to get everybody agitated. I think you got a sick person out there who wants to get people excited. I hope we find out who is it, because those people erode our freedom."

She also thinks that the freedoms given to students at CHS, such as open campus, are well-deserved.

"If one person does something like this, that person should be found," Rogers-Beard said. "What I hope is that students appreciate their freedoms, that they will try to find out just as hard as the administration who did it, and turn that person in. It could be anonymous, I don't care. This kind of thing just disgusts me."

A second threat was reported on March 10, this time concerning a bomb.

The threat was found in a stall bathroom stall in Stuber Gym. Although the threat did not reference a specific group, the police were immediately notified.

The building was quickly evacuated and searched with bomb-sniffing dogs. No explosives were found and the building has been cleared and declared safe to return to for school tomorrow. The Clayton police are actively investigating this threat.

A threat alert day also took place at Wydown on March 17. If the vicious cycle continued, the district would have to take drastic measures to prevent it.

Even the elementary schools have been affected by the recent incidents.

On March 18, a student discovered a threatening message directed at African Americans written on the wall of the boy's restroom near the second grade.

The school administration has been in constant contact with the Clayton Police, who are actively investigating the incident.

"It's hard to project," Losos said. "I think we would do a more protracted educational piece, but the overall security of the building would have to be reviewed."

## Economy affects college choices

Preeti Viswanathan  
*Editor*

Amidst the economic downturn, high school seniors across the country will be looking for the colleges that offer them the best financial aid.

Senior Nichole Burton believes that the recession has affected her college plans and will affect her decision of which college to attend.

"[The economy] is affecting me in many, many ways, and the first way is that I'm basically out of a job up until the summer," Burton said. "Usually I just work at Northwest Coffee every Saturday, but because of the economy they decided to close on Saturdays."

Burton had initially planned to use the money she earned from working at Northwest Coffee to buy plane tickets for visiting colleges; however she is no longer planning to do this.

Although she was accepted early decision to Middlebury College, Burton has decided not to attend due to an insufficient financial aid package.

"When I got financial aid it wasn't enough, so we asked them to reconsider their offer, but it didn't change and so I'm officially not going there, which is unfortunate," Burton said.

Other seniors' college choices are hardly determined by the economic situation.

Senior Akshita Kalyanaraman, whose mother has worked at Washington University in St. Louis for more than seven years, said she will not be affected by the economy.

"My mom has been working at Washington University, and they cover half of [my] tuition, which is around eighteen or nineteen thousand dollars, at other colleges," Kalyanaraman said.

This amount is enough to cover the tuition of Southern Illinois University, where Kalyanaraman will go next year, though she still has to pay the dorm fee.

Other Clayton High Students who have parents working at Washington University would also most likely not be affected in their prospective college choices due to the economy.

This is because of Washington University's policy whereby a student's tuition at any college is covered by half the cost of Washington University's tuition if the student's parent has worked there for seven years or longer.

Senior Jessica Lefton said that her college choice would be based on the amount of financial aid she receives.

"Depending on where I get in I'll choose the school that offers me the best scholarship package," Lefton said.

However, financial aid differs regardless of the economy.

"I have been affected a little bit, but I probably would have chosen the school that gave me a decent scholarship anyway," Lefton said.

While Burton would have gone to Middlebury if the economy was in better shape, she is considering other colleges that have suitable financial packages.

"I have my heart set on Wellesley now, because they have a new aid system where if you make under one hundred thousand dollars an year, then you only need to pay 10 percent of your income, and if you make more than that up to a certain point, they are going to cap your total debt over four years at twelve-thousand five hundred dollars, which is pretty amazing," said Burton, who is hoping to receive a scholarship from Washington University because her mother is an alumnus there, she is also considering Grinnell College. ☛

### Worried high school seniors

*High school seniors who say they have done the following due to the financial crisis:*

- **Considered** less prestigious colleges that may be more affordable
- 57%
- **Changed** focus from four-year to two-year college
- 14%
- **Decided** to get a job while in college
- 71%
- **Increased** time spent searching for scholarships
- 85%

© 2008 MCT  
Source: MeritAid.com online survey sent to 50,000 high school seniors; 2,535 responded Oct. 3-10, 2008  
Graphic: Judy Treible

## Candidates seek term on school board

### BOE Candidates, from 1

feeling part and the emotion part be part of how I arrive at decisions, and I work very hard."

What Raymond is able to bring to the board is both different and valuable. It is able to put her on a different part of the map than her opponents and allows her to be noticed.

"I go to lots of meetings and I like to observe and listen and go to the schools and go into the classrooms," Raymond said. "And I think I use that experience and that knowledge and I bring it to the board table. I think I bring what I've observed and what I've listened to, to our decisions and I think it adds a value."

The third candidate for the Board of Education has, like Raymond, already had the experience of holding a position on the board these past three years. Klammer is currently the Treasurer of the Board of Education.

Although she has served on the board for three years, Klammer feels like she has still more to offer to the community.

"I have really enjoyed it," Klammer said. "It can be really hard, but I feel like it's a good outlet of how I want to serve the community. Three years goes really fast, and there's still a lot more out there that I'm still interested in. I'm just interested in staying involved this way."

Klammer, like four other board members, studied law. But she still believes they all have their differences.

"There are five lawyers," Klammer said. "But we've all got different backgrounds and different areas of expertise. The most distinctive thing about me is that I'm the only from the First Ward."

Klammer is the only member to voice the opinions of the Captain area of Clayton, and this sets her apart from the others. She does recognize that they are all similar in many ways, but they all think differently and have different opinions to share.

"I've been paying attention to the work of the board since 2001," Klammer said. "And I feel like I have done a good job of attending to the work that comes to the board, and it's not that I've never made a mistake, but people can look at my record now and decide if they would find themselves agreeing with me more often than not, and decide whether I could represent them well."

Bautz, Raymond and Klammer all have different strengths that they can bring to the table.

They all have different opinions and views, but in the end they all want the same thing. They want to see education in Clayton schools flourish, and for kids to have endless amounts of opportunities. ☛



## Boys' lacrosse team shoots for state championship

Even after being faced with many obstacles such as injury and an unsatisfactory practice space, the CHS boys' lacrosse team still aims for state recognition.



The boys' lacrosse team practices in their current space at Forest Park. Players and parents are concerned about the safety of the area.

Aaron Praiss  
*Senior Managing Editor*

Last year, in an unfortunate overtime, the boys' lacrosse team lost the state championship to Fox High School. The final score was 9-8.

"This year our main goal is to win the state championship," Coach Mike O'Brien said. With a serious devotion to the sport, the boys' lacrosse team is determined to redeem their unfortunate loss from last year.

However, the team is already facing some obstacles. Senior Brigham Wheelock injured his knee, putting him out for the season. Wheelock, along with senior Terry Ellis, was honored last year as an All-State attackman.

"Wheelock's knee injury is unlucky, yet the team is still very strong," O'Brien said. "We have four extremely skilled captains: senior Andrew Dowd, junior Jordan Stern, junior Max Goldfarb and sophomore Josh Goldstein, the first sophomore captain in 10 years."

The other obstacle that the team faces is being a club sport or a non-school sponsored sport. In many other school districts around the state, because boys' lacrosse is not included under MSHSAA, the boys' lacrosse teams are left very isolated from the schools.

In Clayton, the story is exactly the opposite.

"The boys' lacrosse team is very well supported by Clayton," O'Brien said. "We are allowed to play on the football field and under lights for night games. The school has also provided the team with many other opportunities, including running the concession stand to raise money."

Another bonus for the boys' lacrosse team is the chance to travel more often. For example, the team has traveled to Chicago, Louisville and just this past month, to Springfield, Missouri.

The main obstacle that the team is facing this year is practice space. Currently, the team is practicing in Forest Park.

CHS and the team are constantly working together to find new and better fields for the team, such as Wydown Middle School's field.

"The school has certainly been working with us a tremendous amount," O'Brien said.

Forest Park is criticized mainly for its unsafe attributes.

"There have been two recent instances of car burglary during practice," Dowd said. "As a result, we have had to take the issue into our own hands, having a parent take time out of their day to watch the cars."

Moreover, in Forest Park, the team can not draw out field lines and boundaries, making practice more complex.

"The thing is though, Clayton has done a fabulous job of supporting and helping our team as much as possible," O'Brien said. "In the 13 years that I have worked as a coach for Clayton, new sports and activities have been introduced, along with new construction. Now there are far more activities, all of which are competing for limited resources."

Despite the obstacles involved with Forest Park, O'Brien expresses his gratitude toward the school for offering its supporting hand.

"Compared to all of the schools around us and in the state, our boys' lacrosse team is one of the best supported teams for having Clayton to support us," O'Brien said. "For example, on our away trip to Springfield, Missouri, we got to see how many more difficulties other boys' lacrosse teams have to overcome. One team we played, Springfield Republic, can't even use the school mascot and name in games. They are completely isolated and separated from the school. They even have to draw their own lines on the field and cut their own grass. The school doesn't help at all. Here at Clayton, we are privileged."

With the season just starting, the boys' lacrosse team has a long way to travel. The three games in Springfield, Missouri demonstrated how far the team still has to go. They lost two games very closely and only won one game. But, in the end, hopefully they can pull off a state championship victory.



Izzy Fratt



Izzy Fratt



Izzy Fratt

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# All-time best Cardinals starting lineups

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

Evan Green  
*Editor*

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

*A key: AS=All Star game appearances; HR=Home Run; RBI=Runs Batted In; BA=Batting Average; WS=World Series; ROY=Rookie of the Year Winner; MVP=Most Valuable Player Winner; OBP=On-base Percentage; 3B=Triples*  
**CATCHER:** Ted Simmons (6 All Star games, 12 years, 172 HR, 929 RBI's, .298 BA) - Before Whitey Herzog traded away Simmons for not cutting his hair (possibly one of the worst reasons of all-time), Simmons was much beloved by Cardinal fans for being an all-around good athlete and person (played football and baseball at Michigan). Simmons' replacement (Darrell "The Drunk" Porter) was liked by some, hated by others, but was definitely never the steady rock behind the plate for the Cardinals that Simmons was.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Dishonorable mention:** Ken Reitz: While he was a fan favorite, Reitz's stats are actually horrendous. He had a career BA of .260 and a career OBP of .290. How did he make the All-Star game in 1979? He batted .270 with 8 HR and 53 RBI that season. On top of that, Reitz was a mediocre fielder (23 errors in 1975) and had even less speed (10 career SB).  
**LEFT FIELD:** Lou Brock (HOF, 6 All-Star games, 938 SB, 3,023 hits, 2 WS win, 118 SB in 1974)- Brock's incredible speed helped him set the record (when he retired) for SB with 938. While many Cardinal fans remember the Lou Brock umbrella promotion (the Brockabrella), few remember that he was acquired by the Cards in a deal that sent Ernie Broglio to the Cubs in one of the most lopsided trades of all-time. That was also the last trade between the two rivals for a long time. Brock's speed, coupled with his power to the gaps combined to make Brock a Hall of Famer and one of the most beloved Cardinals of all-time.

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

If those two teams ever took the field against each other, one might have a feeling that the result would be quite lopsided. Sources: <http://www.baseball-reference.com>, <http://www.baseball-almanac.com/quotes/quomusl.shtml>, Sport Magazine's All-Time All Stars (Tom Murray, 1963). 🗞

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

to go.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The part about the issue that re-

ally seems to anger me is more the large amount of effort that Clayton students put in for their teams in practice, the off

season, and games as well; large amounts of effort in order to proudly support their school on the field.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Turf Tales



Evan Green



# Climbing up the wall

A new club at CHS offers students a chance to climb at areas around St. Louis. No climbing experience is required, but students are advised to begin at the Center of Clayton wall.

Tom Evashwick  
Reporter

One hundred feet above the ground the only thing stopping gravity from taking its toll is a thin rope attached to your harness.

Your arms are burning, your feet cramped, yet the adrenalin pushes you toward the top.

The path to the top may not be clear or easy, but once there it is a feeling like nothing else.

Some people may shy away from this, but others love the thrill of rock climbing.

The newly formed climbing club is one of the few athletic clubs in CHS, and has already made trips out to the local climbing gym, Upper Limits, and plans to continue doing so every Friday.

"Climbing is a great sport," junior Julian Katz, president of the climbing club said. "It's easy to pick up and anyone can be good after a learning curve."

Since climbing is a bit off the beaten path even in terms of action sports, it has been growing in popularity.

Recently, the rise of popularity of the climbing classes has increased the interest in climbing, and the club hopes to organize all those interested together.

"Some people can get really into climbing," junior Sam Visser said. "But then again there are those that just do it for recreation. We hope get more people interested so we can further promote climbing."

Many students can start to climb at the Center of Clayton wall.

"The Clayton Center's recently re-done climbing wall is a good place to learn the basics," Katz said. "Developing the obscure muscles used for climbing is

key to success."

Climbing is actually considered one of the more difficult sports.

"There is no clear path to the end," senior Brigham Wheelock said. "Figuring out how to conquer the wall is half of climbing."

They would like to focus on bouldering.

"We really hope to help out everyone with bouldering," Katz said.

Bouldering is climbing no higher than 12 feet.

"Trying to solve the different puzzles is really what got me hooked into the sport," Visser said. "At first it was pure frustration. I wasn't about to stop until I figured something out. Now, it's still just about perseverance, but at least I know I can do it."

Despite the difficulties, Katz says that no experience is required.

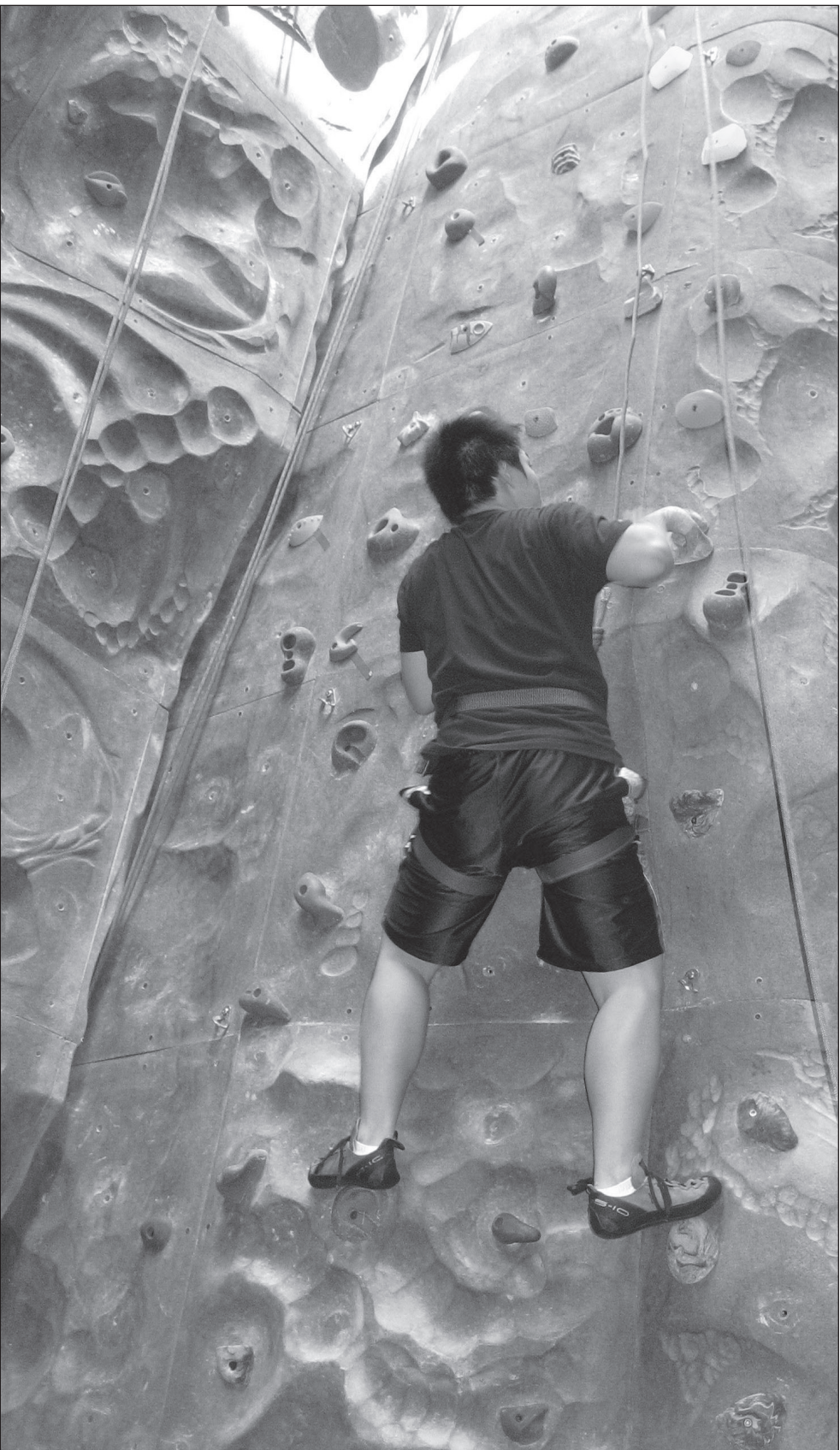
"The great thing about climbing is that there is always something that even a beginner can do," Katz said. "No real skill is required, but flexibility definitely helps."

Eventually, the club hopes to take an outdoor climbing trip.

"Climbing outdoors is a whole different experience," Visser said. "It's a lot more challenging and dangerous, but also far more rewarding once you succeed."

Before taking a trip to Elephant Rocks, members need to be fairly advanced. "To climb outdoors requires far more skill," Katz said. "Training at Upper Limits or even the climbing wall in the Center is something I would definitely recommend."

So if you are looking for a thrill or another way to work out, the climbing club is just right for you. 🌐



Photos by Izzy Pratt

# Sports managers provide support

Students often manage a team to stay involved. Many of these students are often unrecognized.

Christian Thomas  
Reporter

Every time an entire team is called to the front office, they are heading towards the finished product of team managers. One part of the strenuous job that team managers perform is baking the pre-game snacks for players.

The new spring sports season has caused a lot of excitement at CHS. As practices begin, spring athletes work hard to prepare for the upcoming games.

However, the managers of those sports are often unrecognized by other Clayton High School students for their hard work and dedication.

"Alli Holt and I make sure the team has enough water to stay hydrated during games," senior Bri Sachar said. "We also bake treats before each of the lacrosse games."

"The treats are supposed to get the team excited," added senior Alli Holt. "We also cheer the team on and run errands for the coaches."

Sachar and Holt have managed the lacrosse team for the past two years.

"After watching my brother play freshman year, I used to get really into the games," said Sachar. "So sophomore year I decided to help out."

Holt has a similar story, becoming a manager during her sophomore year.

"I decided to be a manager because lacrosse is a really fun sport to watch," Holt said. "I had never really watched a full game of lacrosse so this was an interesting opportunity for me to learn the game."

Both have been fully committed to the team, attending all of the games.

"I love watching the intense games and also being somewhat part of the team. There are not bad parts of my job," said Sachar.

However, Holt had different thoughts.

"I don't like having to watch games in the rain or cold," Holt said. "Hanging out with the team is a lot of fun, though."

The hard work and determination of the managers has not gone unnoticed among members of the team.

"Alli and Bri are great," senior Terry Ellis said. "They are very dedicated to helping the team. Also, both are really fun to hangout with in between games and practices."

Ellis returned to the lacrosse team after a phenomenal junior season in which he was an All-State selection.

"I enjoy the cupcakes they bake for us," sophomore Josh Goldstein said.

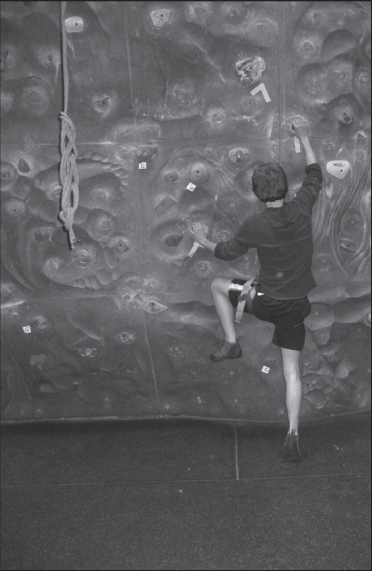
This is Goldstein's second season on the varsity team. Many CHS students are unaware of the benefits of managing a team sport. Sachar recommends managing a sport to students who would rather watch and help out, than actually play.

"Managing is also a great way to stay involved and meet new people," Holt said. "Any Clayton student that is very outgoing, organized, and spirited, would make a good manager."

Sachar is looking forward to her final season as a manager.

"The team is a very great group of guys. I am excited to watch them play and do well," Sachar said.

Last season, the lacrosse team lost in the state championship game by one goal. The Hounds look to repeat its great playoff run and win the state title this season. On May 9, 2009 the Hounds square off against rival Ladue, with the playoffs beginning the next week. 🌐



Above: Sophomore Philip Zhang scales the Center rock climbing wall during gym class. Rock climbing is one of the many elective gym classes offered for sophomores, juniors and seniors. A student belays Zhang and encourages him at the bottom of the wall.

Right: At the bottom of the wall CHS sophomores Christopher Williamson and Tanner Schertler prepare to belay each other. Before climbing each student runs through a set of commands and safety checks.

Far Right: In this beginner rock climbing class, sophomore Auggie Turner practices bouldering the Center of Clayton wall. When bouldering, students can go no higher than 12 feet.

THEATRE

PHILOSOPHY

STUDIO ART

MUSIC COMPOSITION

ELECTRICAL  
COMPUTING ENGINEERING

COMPUTER SCIENCE

GEOLOGY

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

DECIDING

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

SOCIOLOGY

MUSIC EDUCATION

HISTORY

A UNIVERSE OF KNOWLEDGE  
IN A CITY OF OPPORTUNITY.



**Domestic violence****The scope**

Domestic violence is most commonly perpetrated against women by men, who have traditionally been in positions of power and authority. Abuse of women and girls takes many different forms, including battering, forced pregnancy, abortion and psychological abuse.

**The magnitude**

In the United States, 28 percent of women reported at least one episode of physical violence from their partner. Of these cases, 40 to 60 percent were against girls aged 17 or younger. A woman who has been domestically abused is 12 times as likely to attempt suicide as one who has not.

**The causes**

Major factors contributing to the occurrence of domestic violence are cultural definitions of appropriate sex roles, women's economic dependence on men, under-representation of women in power, politics and the media, the notion of the family as a private sphere under male control, the and the acceptability of violence as a means to resolve conflict.

**The effects**

Violence against women and girls denies them of their most fundamental rights, as outlined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Health consequences of violence against women include injury, unwanted pregnancies, chronic pain, HIV/AIDS, miscarriage, depression, fear, anxiety and suicide.

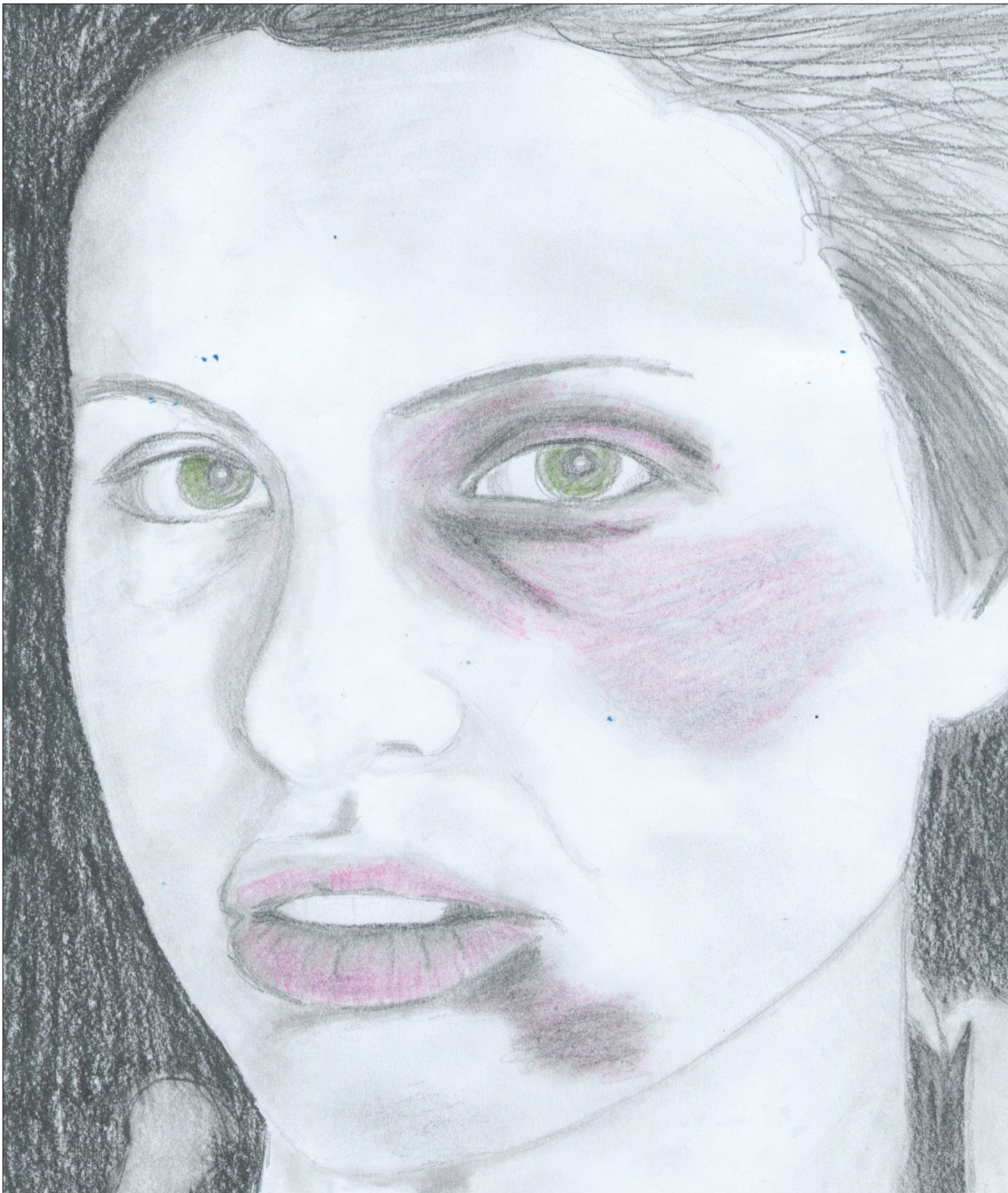
**The strategies**

The process of ending domestic violence begins by empowering women with the knowledge of the problem and the tools to escape. For men to overcome violent and abusive behavior, traditional male roles in society must be reevaluated.

**The hotline**

Victims of domestic violence, as well as those who suspect an abusive situation, are encouraged to call the 24-hour National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233). The key to ending abuse is speaking up.

Source: UNICEF Innocenti Research Center



Sonja Petermann

# From celebrity to reality

Chris Brown and Rihanna's buzz-generating case of abuse underscores the grave problem of domestic violence in today's society.

Chelsea Cousins  
Reporter

Recent news has put singers Chris Brown and Rihanna's careers at stake due to a recent incident, which took place weeks ago in late February. Once huge headlines, reading "*Rihanna & her Attacker*" and "*Brown Beats on Girlfriend*" surfaced, news media everywhere began showcasing what appeared to be the most recent outbreak of domestic violence.

Brown allegedly beat girlfriend Rihanna; however, reasons behind this act of violence still remain unknown. When news of the attack hit newsstands, many other Clayton High School students were in shock.

"The fact that Chris is known to be such a sweetheart makes the whole situation hard to believe because you'd think if two people loved each other, they would never imagine putting their hands on one another," junior Danyiel Johnson said.

Love can often be a strong word to describe a relationship at such a young age, primarily because people tend to rapidly change their minds about others.

"Chris Brown is barely older than we are and it's scary to see someone just turn on you like that," senior Olivia Hayes said.

What many fail to realize is that an act of violence undermines any verbal pronouncement of love.

"News of Chris' alleged attack on Rihanna came to me as a complete shock," senior Patrick Cunningham said. "Bottom line, no guy should ever put their hands on a female – it doesn't matter who you are!"

While some students at CHS remain focused on Chris' role in the attack, others try to put themselves in the shoes of the victim.

"Personally, if I was put in this kind of situation, I wouldn't let this minor setback hold me back from pursuing my career," sophomore Leah Johnson said. "I'd base how I carry on with my life on my own judgments."

In a report that was recently filed at a Teenage Research Unlimited (TRU) poll, 40 percent of teenage girls age 14 to 17 reported knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend.

"I think it's important for victims of domestic violence to understand the consequences of taking their abuser back," Danyiel Johnson said, "because if he hits you once, there's only a matter of time before he strikes again."

Another student responds to victims rekindling with their attacker.

““

When you're dating someone and they're trying to control who you're with and who you can hang out with, that's often giving you a red flag that you need to be on the lookout for yourself, as well as others.

Sharon Parker  
CHS Nurse

””

"It's not anyone's responsibility to stay with an abuser," Hayes said. "Remember, the problem won't ever fix itself without professional help."

As students went on, they went further in depth about what they believed to be the start to being involved with domestic violence.

"In the male aspect of it all, domestic violence starts with their idea of having to be and remain in charge," CHS school nurse Sharon Parker said.

Domestic violence is a mechanism of control, occurring as people tend to lose a sense of grip of their relationships.

"I think a lot of times, it has to do with how a person is brought up," Danyiel Johnson said, "because if you were raised in a violent environment, that can affect you in many ways."

Victims of domestic violence may also show certain weakness, making it harder for them to relax and focus on the more positive aspects of their life.

"To me, domestic violence starts with a person's inability to deal with anger or some tragic event," Hayes said, "because people can be emotionally haunted by certain events and can only cope with their feelings by hurting other people."

However, people involved in domestic violence relationships aren't always open to change.

"It can become difficult to tell people in those kinds of relationships apart from others because they will do anything they can to cover up the symptoms," Cunningham said.

Statistically, TRU reported that in February 2008, only half of all teens 11 to 14 years old claimed to know the warning signs of a bad or hurtful relationship.

"When you're dating someone and they're trying to control who you're with and who you can hang out with, that's often giving you a red flag that you need to be on the lookout for yourself, as well as others," Parker said.

As seen in many domestic violence cases, the situation can sometimes grow worse if nothing is done to prevent it. Domestic violence should not happen to anybody. But it does—and when it does, there is always someone willing to help.

"If people could acknowledge the fact that they have a problem, they could seek the help they need and possibly end up helping other people," Hayes said.

For the perpetrator, the key is recognizing that he needs help and doing what he can to make his wild habits stop.

"There are all kinds of agencies and women's shelters where women can get help, but, ultimately, people in these kinds of relationships need to get out while they still can," Parker said. "They should do whatever they need to do to feel safe, even if that means getting a restraining order."

It is up to us to help each other as much as we can, without interfering with relationships gone bad. If nothing is done to lessen the risk of abuse, then matters will only get worse. In fact, TRU reported that of the women between the ages 15 and 19 murdered each year, 30 percent are killed by their husband or boyfriend as a result of staying in a domestically abusive relationship.

"A lot of the time, women that are stuck in a relationship become isolated and begin avoiding the people that mean more to them than their partner," school nurse Dede Coughlin said. "However, what people don't understand is that by distancing yourself from loved ones, you're lessening your chances of getting help."

Whether one has lived with abuse, or lives next to someone who is being abused right now, whether it has happened once or numerous times, the safest choice is to help one another escape these relationships.

"It is sad to see how many cases of domestic violence go unseen because people either think they should keep it a secret or work out their issues on their own," Hayes said. "But what people don't know is that only more damage can be created if people like Chris Brown go untreated." ☹



# Life

## Student organization serves community

Hannah Novack  
Editor

“I joined the Community Service club because I was interested in doing community service and I thought it was a good way to get involved,” co-president of the club, Lisa Einstein said.

When Einstein first joined the club, she was no novice when it came to volunteering.

“I volunteered at my synagogue, played guitar for patients at hospitals, and visited retirement homes,” Einstein said.

Students, like Einstein, use the Community Service club to lend a hand.

“Most of the stuff I do now, I try to include in the Community Service club because it’s more fun to volunteer with friends,” Einstein said.

Club sponsor Sarah Falkoff was also interested in community service and this motivated her to get more involved in the club.

“[A few years ago] two students asked me to become the club sponsor,” Falkoff said. “I love volunteering, doing charity work, and working with students.”

The club is primarily student-run. Students can approach the club with their ideas, and officers and students plan the events.

“It’s a way for students to give back to the school,” Falkoff said. “It also links the district and the Clayton community to CHS.”

Principal Dr. Louise Losos understands the importance of community service in the Clayton community.

“Community service is an inherent good,” Losos said. “A lot of kids have the impulse to help out, but don’t know how. The Community Service club gives them the structure and opportunities.”

While Clayton encourages students

to perform community service, there is no minimum number of hours required to graduate.

“Mostly private schools have a required number of hours,” Dr. Losos said. “In public schools, it is trickier to mandate volunteerism.”

However, volunteering is required to become a member of National Honors Society (NHS).

“We are thinking of setting a figure as one of the requirements for eligibility because one component of NHS is service,” Losos said.

Also, students who have dedicated a significant amount of their time to community service are honored in the graduation program. There are sections that denote students who have performed more than 40 hours and more than 100 hours.

Vice-president Jen Golden holds a similar view to Dr. Losos.

“I like that the club gives students opportunities to get involved where they normally wouldn’t,” Golden said. “It’s really easy to come and help out and the club helps to get the word out.”

Sophomore Loni Schuman also sees the benefits of the club.

“I wanted to join a club and this one seemed like a lot of fun and a cool way to give back,” Schuman said.

There are many aspects that make the Community Service club unique from others at Clayton.

“We don’t like being a fundraiser club,” Falkoff said. “We are more a club of doers.”

Another important aspect of the club is that it is open to anyone at anytime of the year.

“I like that it’s open to the entire school and that you can be as involved as you want,” Lisa Einstein said. “People

## Rockin’ Runway

On March 14, CHS wardrobe students created a stunningly beautiful fashion show. The show benefitted victims of Neuro-Fibromatosis and the CHS Practical Arts Department.

page 24



Tracy Einstein

Tracy Einstein and her buddy enjoy themselves during Messy Play, an annual event organized by members of the club.

can participate in what activities interest them and there’s a little something for everyone.”

Contributing to the Clayton community is a major priority for the club.

“While there are lots of communities that need our help, the first community we should be helping is our own,” Einstein said.

Events are held throughout the year. “Recycling is done every week, and members try to clean up the highway at least twice a year,” Falkoff said. “Usually there is one major event every quarter.”

Some activities the club participates in include Family Center events such as Messy Play, which is popular among students. Messy Play is an event organized by community members, including Family Center employees and Clayton

parents, and students come to help out with the various activities.

“The [activity] I like the most is Messy Play because I like doing the activities they set up for the little kids,” vice-president Jen Golden said.

Other activities include the Big Read, canned food drives, and the St. Louis Dance Marathon, which is held at Washington University and raises money for the Children’s Miracle Network.

“We also organized an ACT/SAT book drive, and the books donated were sent to students at other school districts,” Einstein said.

For Schuman, one of the most satisfying activities she has participated in was the Adopt-a-Family project.

“The club went to Target and bought a particular family lots of toys and games,

including a spa kit for the mom, so that they could have a meaningful Christmas,” Schuman said.

A particularly memorable project for Einstein was called Acción Social, a tutoring service dedicated to students who speak Spanish and may have difficulty with their school work.

“This was a really satisfying experience, aimed towards our more committed members,” Einstein said. “It’s really good to get involved in communities that are not as fortunate.”

Einstein believes community service is a valuable experience for Clayton students.

“Doing community service benefits the volunteer just as much as it benefits the community they are helping,” Einstein said. ☺

# New video yearbook intrigues students

Although the video yearbook to be created by Dino Kanlic is a new idea at CHS, many students are still skeptical of its long term use and lack of student participation.

Simone Bernstein  
Editor

Students can purchase a yearbook this year without the binding. CHS students can now reminisce about high school through a compilation of DVDs. The CHS Video Yearbook will contain about six DVDs.

This set of movies will consist of interviews from students and teachers concerning their year at CHS. All students and staff are invited to participate.

“I really enjoy working on these projects because they are incredibly worthwhile,” said Dino Kanlic, creator of the video yearbook. “The main part of the box set will be the student time capsule where all of the interviews will be featured. So far over 400 students and teachers have been included. Over the next couple of weeks anyone who has not had the chance to be part of the yearbook will be able to sign up at the bookstore to schedule a time.”

Everyone included on the DVD will have an icon of themselves on the main screen. Students will have the ability to scroll through all the pictures.

“Students will be able to scroll through the moving pictures and click on anyone who they would like to hear from,” Kanlic said. “An index page will also appear as soon as a DVD is put in, which will make it even easier to locate friends.”

Along with students and teachers, events like prom and graduation will be featured on this video yearbook. The cover art for this DVD set will be a collage of student images and the art on the six disks will highlight different pieces of the school grounds.

Kanlic, a student at Maryville University in St. Louis, has been making videos since age six. Last year, he developed the idea of a video yearbook for his high school Parkway North. This year the project is expanding to other local high schools.

“Last year I made a video yearbook for my high school, Parkway North, which was a 12 box set,” Kanlic said. “Due to the remarkable success of the project, I am now creating video yearbooks for CHS, De Smet and Parkway North.”

Kanlic feels a video yearbook allows students to keep more accurate records of their friends and teachers.

“Yearbooks serve as time capsules and allow people to keep a record of what high school was really like for them,” Kanlic said. “Actual moving video and sound makes this all the more personal. It will be very cool in five years to be able to see what your friends

“Although the video yearbook is a cool idea, a paper yearbook is much more traditional. Students should buy a paper yearbook over the video yearbook because it is much easier to look at in the future.”

Morgan Stoner  
Junior

”



Jessica Shen

Videographer Dino Kanlic interviews junior Katherine Greenberg in a CHS hallway.

said and hear what you said all those years ago.”

Some CHS students feel it is important to buy both the video and paper yearbook.

“Although the video yearbook is a cool idea, a paper yearbook is much more traditional,” said junior CHS yearbook member Morgan Stoner. “Students should buy a paper yearbook over the video yearbook because it is much easier to look at in the future. If students are interested, the hard-cover yearbooks are still for sale.”

Other students have no interest in purchasing the video yearbook.

“The paper yearbook is made by Clayton students,” freshman Jonathan Knohl said. “A video yearbook is just not the same. It is nice to know that students play a role in the paper yearbook process.”

Starting March 16, the video yearbook will be available to order in the bookstore for \$20 less than the paper yearbook. Checks can be made out to “Alpine Video.” All interested in adding an interview to this video yearbook should contact the bookstore. However, if you enjoy the end of year autographs, the video yearbook would be void of personal notes and signatures since it does not lend itself to writing that personal message on the DVD set. ☺



Photo courtesy of CLAMO

Tracy Einstein dances during the black history month production from COCA.

## Performance conveys beauty, understanding

Katherine Greenberg  
Reporter

For black history month the COCA dance company did a 30 minute production depicting the segregation of African American people over time. Seniors Lisa and Tracy Einstein were in the cast and spent over 20 hours a week rehearsing, since December.

“It was really an amazing show,” Lisa Einstein said. “It was really difficult to do because we had to portray these characters that we had never experienced to show the segregation.”

The show was choreographed by Khris Paige, a student at University of Missouri- Kansas City.

Olivia Hayes heard about the show from Lisa and Tracy Einstein. She has seen two other COCA productions.

“The show was beautiful and helped me see the progression of Black History over our nations history in a unique way,” Hayes said. “I was really moved by the emotion and effort that was put into the performance too.”

The COCA dance company usually does shows for elementary schools but for this piece the show did five shows, including two elementary schools, CHS, Crossroads and the St. Louis Job Corps.

“I think that going to the St. Louis Job Corps was the most important show,” Lisa Einstein said. “It really seemed like the people there had dealt with the segregation we were portraying and it clearly

impacted them.”

Senior Kate Wheelock attended the performance because she is close friends with people in the production.

“I liked the show because the dancing was really great,” Wheelock said. “It was interesting to watch the dancers react to the emotion of the show.”

One unique aspect of the show was that there was no intermission.

“I loved how with no intermission, everything was connected together,” Hayes said. “I liked the way the dancers transitioned from one decade to the next. The pictures that played as the music went and people danced was a whole new aspect of a show that I had never seen.”

Lisa Einstein has been dancing in the company since sophomore year and even though it is a big commitment, she thinks it is worth it.

“I love COCA,” Lisa Einstein said. “It is a really special place that brings us incredible choreographers. At COCA everyone is so passionate about dance, these are people that want to spend their life dancing.”

The first company contains only 11 people, so for Einstein it has become like another family.

“Although it gets to be stressful with so much school stuff going on, it’s definitely worth it,” Lisa Einstein said.

Lisa Einstein plans on making dance a major or minor in college. ☺

## News Briefs

### Prom Update

Prom this year will take place on Saturday April 25, 2009 at Windows on Washington. The theme is “My Big Fat Greek Prom.” Doors close at 7:45 p.m. and dinner starts at 8:00 p.m. Coronation is at 10:30 p.m. and Prom will end at 11:00 p.m. After Prom is from 11:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at Tropicana Lanes. For seniors, tickets are \$55 which also includes the After Prom tickets. For all other students and guests, tickets are \$65. Tickets will be sold from April 8 to April 15 during lunch hours at the school store.

### Clayton Summer Academy

Brochures with course offerings will be mailed out on March 30. This year summer school goes from June 8 to July 2. The morning session is from 8 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. The afternoon session is from 12 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

### CHS Arts Fair

The CHS Arts Fair will take place on April 7, 2009. All students are encouraged to attend. Contact Mr. Hamylak if you would like to be a buddy.

### Learn about Proposition S

The School District of Clayton Board of Education is hosting a series of informal conversations about Prop S. Members of the community are invited to ask questions. These meetings take place on April 1, 2009 and April 5, 2009. The meeting on April 1 is at Starbucks, on Hanley and Wydown, from 7p.m. to 8:30p.m. and on April 5 at the Center of Clayton from 2p.m. to 3:30p.m.

### Enrichment Meeting

On April 6, there will be a “meet and eat” in the counseling meeting room. Contact Mr. Henderson or Mrs. Baldwin for more information.



# Hiking, biking trails in Missouri provide an active escape

Missouri has many beautiful parks and trails, including several close to St. Louis. Many CHS students enjoy the fresh air, exercise and scenic views that hiking and biking in nature provide.

Sarah Horn  
Senior Managing Editor

In the early morning, at Castle Rock, the mist can just be seen on Nims Lake and a small 10-foot waterfall empties into the water. Small creeks weave throughout the loop trail and Flowering Dogwoods carpet the path. At the top point, gigantic castle rocks serve as sitting places to admire the beautiful nature.

Located around 30 minutes away from Clayton, Castle Rock is considered one of the most beautiful hiking and biking trails in all of Missouri.

CHS alum Hyrum Shumway enjoys hiking in Missouri and explored many trails as a former Boy Scout. One of Shumway's favorite places to visit is Castle Rock.

"My favorite biking trail is Castlewood State Park," Shumway said. "It has fabulous views and also can be a perfect Sunday stroll as it is not a rigorous trail."

While a leisurely trail for some, Castle Rock is also the site of Pro-cyclers and race competitions in spring.

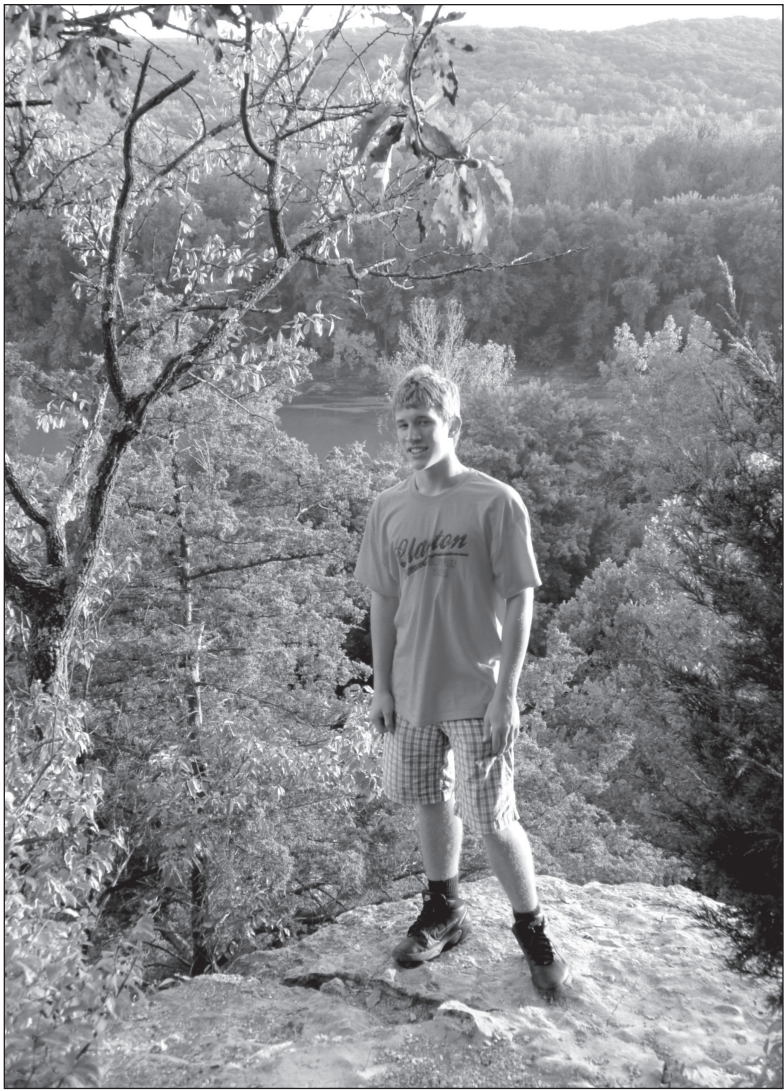
"There is not too much to do in St. Louis for hiking, but the nearest I would say is Castle Rock," junior Luke Madson said. "It is hilly, but safe enough that you don't get too far out and lost. A lot of pro-cyclers go there and there are some awesome race competitions."

However, Castle Rock is not the only option for hiking and biking in Missouri.

"The best trails are really in the Lake of the Ozarks and even Babler State Park," Madson said. "Babler State Park is 30 minutes away."

On the western edge of St. Louis, Babler State Park is known for its early morning running trails and evening get-away hikes.

For Shumway, the best hiking lies in Hawn State Park (located at Ste. Genevieve), especially in the wintertime.



Courtesy of Jonathon Shumway



Courtesy of Jonathon Shumway



mostateparks.com

## 10 Best Hiking Trails in Missouri according to tripleblaze.com

1. Busiek State Park Springfield
2. Sac River Trail Springfield
3. Berryman Steelville
4. Lost Valley St. Charles
5. Chubb Trail St. Louis
6. Council Bluffs Trail Potosi
7. Klondike Park Defiance
8. Blue River Trails Kansas City
9. Rock Bridge Memorial Columbia
10. Castlewood St. Louis

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Jonathon Shumway stands before a scenic overlook in Castlewood State Park in Ballwin, MO. Peter Shumway pauses upon a cliff in Castlewood. Castlewood is nearly 5 miles across and straddles both sides of the Meramec River. A picnic shelter in Babler State Park in Wildwood, MO provides a peaceful spot for park patrons.

homestate that rival those with a fraction of the cost."

For CHS students, hiking and biking trails offer a fresh way to exercise and enjoy the lovely spring weather.

"Hiking enhances my workout experience because it provides a great incentive to workout and is a great workout in itself," Shumway said. "Too many times I feel that people start a physical activity

because they feel it is 'good for them'. I would suggest do some sort of physical activity that you like and you will stick to it much better and reap the rewards from it more effectively."

From more locally placed spots such as KATY Trail to the popular Castle Rock location, Missouri is full of hidden treasures that provide a unique nature experience that cannot be found in St.

Louis. A great way to relieve stress, hiking and biking trails are becoming more popular with Clayton students who crave a getaway.

"Clayton High is tough," Shumway said. "A short hike provides time with nature and is a great stress coping mechanism. I personally know how stressful CHS life can be. Take a break; You hard-working students deserve it." 🌍

# Girls on the Run fosters healthy self-images, lifestyles through running

Taylor Stone  
Editor

While some elementary school girls rush home at the end of the day to watch their daily episode of Spongebob Squarepants, others remain at school, lacing on their running shoes to participate in the after school program Girls on the Run.

GOTR, according to its official website, "is a non-profit program that encourages preteen girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through running. Our curricula address all aspects of girls' development - their physical, emotional, mental, social and spiritual well-being."

Currently there are over 50 sites and nearly 1000 girls in the St. Louis program. Girls on the Run St. Louis has sites in St. Louis City and County, St. Charles County, and Illinois. Nationally, there are more than 150 Girls on the Run councils across the United States and Canada. Captain, Glenridge, and Meremac Elementary Schools each contain Girls on the Run after school programs and teams.

Holley Boeger, the Girls on the Run of St. Louis program director, describes GOTR.

"It's a character development program for girls in grades 3 through 8," Boeger said. "The Program combines life skill lessons with training for a 5K run (3.1 miles) in a creative, interactive, and fun way."

Currently, GOTR hosts two 5K races a year, one in October and one in May.

Becky Stone, a head coach of Glenridge Elementary School's GOTR team, identifies the importance of the program.

"GOTR helps young girls learn how to accomplish goals and learn lessons of taking care of themselves, bullying prevention, nutrition, and positive behavior. They are taught these life lessons through fun, interactive games while training for 5K races."

The organization was founded by Mary Barker in 1996 in Charlotte, NC with only 13 girls.

"She used her experiences as a teacher and counselor coupled with current research on adolescent issues to create the curriculum for the program" Boeger said.

As a 4-time Hawaii

Iron-man triathlete, Barker began running at the age of 15—an age when she found herself stuck in the "girl box," a term she coined that described a place where only girls who were a certain size with a certain beauty were popular; when girls who wanted to fit in had to mold their personalities and bodies to fit the requirements of the box.

The national magazine "Runner's

World" awarded Molly its "Golden Shoe Award" in 1998 for contributions to the community through running.

That resulted in calls from across the country and Molly decided to share her vision with the world, launching the organization to new heights and its ultimate success.

"Molly wanted to make a place for girls to go to be themselves," Boeger said. "Girls feel they need to act in certain ways and do things people expect them to. GOTR creates a safe place for them to be themselves and not have to worry about ap-

pearances and are able to run and ultimately be happy."

Stone agrees that the organization brings out ultimate happiness in the runners.

"I like to see girls participate in a healthy after school activity and to see the results of girls working hard and finishing a race," Stone said. "It's remarkable to see how great they feel about themselves after such an accomplishment"

Boeger believes that GOTR not only benefits its members, but also significantly benefits the St. Louis community.

"Right after school, some kids would get in trouble if parents aren't home," Boeger said. "GOTR truly contributes to community in that it provides healthy place to be. Girls can feel part of a team and are able to contribute back to community, learning the importance of discovering their personal values. Ultimately, they learn to discover what they can be empowered to change in community by doing service projects."

Stone describes the service projects

the GOTR members contribute to.

"At the end of the season, our team picks a local charity to raise money for and we have some sort of fundraiser, such as a car wash or bake sale," Stone said. "It's great for kids to learn how to participate in community service projects."

Girls on the Run retains a unique vision and goal.

"GOTR has a vision to expand, of uniting girls across all socioeconomic boundaries and differing incomes," Boeger said, "This vision is chased through building the number of scholarships offered to participate in the program, and expanding growth in numbers in the St. Louis area."

Awareness for the organization has significantly grown, as well as those participating in the 5K races. The next race, May 17, will be held in Forrest Park and start at the Muny, with a projected 2000 runners to participate. All GOTR races are open to the public, and funds raised go back to the girls to honor scholarships.

"It's great because families get involved, as well as teachers, principals, and students," Boeger said. "The St. Louis community is able to collaborate in such a prominent endeavor as completing a 5K race."

Despite the daunting task of completing a 5K race, Boeger acknowledges that different types of girls can participate in the program, regardless of athletic ability.

"Girls on the Run gives an opportunity to girls to be on a team without being in a largely competitive atmosphere," Boeger said. "Some girls like GOTR for the conditioning, if they're training for a different sport, but others who aren't especially athletic just realize that running is the healthy thing to do. The girls are therefore able to meet new friends and just be healthy."

Stone recognizes the possibility for growth in mental and physical determination to be competitive.

"We have had third graders that would walk the courses their first year in Girls on the Run, but by the time they reached fifth grade would want to be competitive and feel that they are able to do well in races," Stone said. "It's all about sticking with it."

Undoubtedly, GOTR is truly a gem in both the St. Louis and national communities, embracing eminent dreams and an optimistic attitude, just like its members. 🌍

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# Innovative method initiates social, political change in East Africa

An East African theatrical troupe, Haba Na Haba, travels through different cities and slums with one goal in mind: to change lives. The group, along with specialists and students involved in African social work, recently convened at Washington University for a panel discussion over effectiveness of theatre in social work in African nations.

Ugochi Onyema

Senior Managing Editor

A new form of enacting social change has emerged through theatre and the arts. Haba Na Haba, a Kenyan theatre troupe has been traveling through various troubled Kenyan slums, and several Washington University students are involved with the troupe in one way or another. First year MSW candidate Eric Ndichu can relate to the optimistic and informative messages offered by through Haba Na Haba.

“For me, one interesting statistic is that out of 800 students in elementary school, only one student makes it into college,” Ndichu said. “When I was growing up, there was no school bus. I had to walk miles barefoot. At noon, we had to walk back home to eat lunch and then come back. If your mother was not home, you either ate from the garden or went back to school. But in the midst of that, being in an urban area, there was a lot of motivation. I went to high school in an urban area, so there were better opportunities for education. So I went to a good high school. After high school, I went to a university in Kenya for four years, then I started working. I developed an interest in studying abroad. I went to Sweden and now I’m here at Washington University.”

Ndichu is a prime example of the type of success that Haba Na Haba uses to inspire motivation and drive to those left in difficult conditions in the Kenyan slums. George Ndiritu, the director of Haba Na Haba, believes that there is always hope even among the depths of despair.

“In the slums, people don’t have role models,” Ndiritu said. “But there is a ray of hope, that you can walk and we that doctor or engineer.”

The cast members of Haba Na Haba truly feel that art is an effective manner to parlay meaningful messages to the masses. Member Elizabeth Waithira believes changing just one life is a great reward.

“We are using art as our tool for change,” Waithira said. “We always address the issues that affect our day-to-day life. It’s a unique way to crack a message into at least one person’s life. The message may stay in the person’s mind and change his or her life. I think that art can change people’s lives.”

While Haba Na Haba is used to send messages to its audience, a total of which exceeds 500,000 spectators within the last few years, MSW candidate Claire Wolff thinks that the performances can also create links to diametrically different people and ethnicities, an important lesson she has learned through her practicum work with the Pulitzer foundation.

“I strongly believe that art can create social change,” Wolff said. “It can be used to empower individuals and build bridges between individuals and communities.”

Ndichu feels that the arts are useful tools to trigger social change within all African nations, not just Kenya.

“I’m looking at affecting social

change from a theater perspective. All of these people in Haba na Haba are from different tribes. Theatre unites everyone because people go home with a [specific] message.”

“In Darfur, genocide is going on and a lot of people have lost their lives. We want to influence the international community to do something about it. Theatre is a way to educate and initiate change.”

According to Washington University alum Reynolds Whalen, the problems facing Kenyan slums are more relatable to natives when presented in an art form.

“When you put a character on stage, the audience identifies with that and you get the full attention of the audience,” Whalen said. “You can’t distribute pamphlets because a lot of people in that area may be illiterate. You can’t give lectures, because the people you are speaking to might understand a completely different dialect.”

Ndiritu thinks that the performances force everyone to take a good, analytical look at the problems facing every region of Kenya.

“In Kenya, 1 out of 9 people are HIV positive,” Ndiritu said. “There are a lot of projects that deal with AIDS. The problem that is killing most people is bad policies. No one wants to trace the problem. Water keeps spilling onto the floor, but no one wants to shut off the tap. There are people who are dying from gang violence and no one is doing anything about it. We have gone back to an era where people are afraid of talking. There comes a time where a nation must wake up and tell the truth.”

According to Waithira, although Haba Na Haba has an impact on spectators, the cast can only do so much.

“In the ghettos, people don’t discuss or think far ahead, they think in the present, and they don’t think in the past,” Waithira said. “You must be well informed about your community and have

information on your fingertips because people will ask questions. If you want to stop something, do it directly. If you want someone to change, it has to be voluntary, because you cannot change them.”

If you want someone to change, it has to be voluntary, because you cannot change them.”

Elizabeth Waithira  
Member of Haba Na Haba Cast

original career pathway.

“I actually wanted to study law, but it required 44 points and I had 43,” Ndichu said. “I had to find a career close to law, so I went into social work. I wanted a career with a social justice component to it. Especially when you’re taught by different teachers, you’re exposed to different opinions. Social work became appealing when I went to a presentation about it.”

Toward the end of his undergraduate career, Ndichu made the transition from law to social work.

“I found myself working as a probation officer, and I while doing that, I found myself arguing for people to receive rehabilitative services,” Ndichu said.



Above: Kenyans of the Kikuyu tribe urge Kenyan soldiers to enter the Mathare slum in Nairobi, where Kikuyus have been fighting with rival Luos since a disputed presidential election, Thursday, January 3, 2008. The Mathare slum was a major area affected by poverty that was discussed during the panel discussion at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work on March 18, 2009. Below: Residents of Nairobi’s Mathare slum flee fighting between the Kikuyu and Luo tribes on Thursday, January 3, 2008. The Red Cross said that 200,000 Kenyans were displaced by ethnic clashes that have erupted over that week. The Mathare slum has a condensed ration of people and has problems with eliminating the large amount of gang violence and prostitution.

“The more I learned and watched, the more I realized that there was something fundamentally wrong with the justice system, so I wanted to gain more perspective abroad.”

Ndichu thinks that there are several detrimental factors contributing to the current political and social states of Kenya, as well as other African nations, and there are many changes that he would make in terms of Kenya’s social infrastructure.

“I would address the historical injustices that have been committed,” Ndichu said. “Post-colonially, there has been a lot of anger fueled. Even if it is just the prosecution of people who have stolen lands from native Africans, any rectified occurrence that has caused injustice to Kenyans would be a good thing.”

Ndichu also believes that although the turmoil in Kenya and other African nations has been brewing for quite some time, the Western media outlets are causing more trouble by creating confusion.

“How Africa is portrayed in Western media [is another problem],” Ndichu said. “Colonial powers used the number of colonies held in Africa to measure

supremacy. Now they are using other tactics to show supremacy over Africa. They use economics to show supremacy. Areas like China, the US and European nations are trying to exert influence over Africa. And it’s up to Africa to absorb all of these influences and values to model democracy. And since these values are different, they create chaos, and that’s why Africa is always messy. The western media has portrayed African negatively. Some of these huge media companies are used to ideologies of Western regions.”

Also, according to Ndichu, the fact that most African nations are newly formed nations in comparison to most Western nations, including the United States.

“Most African nations have been independent for less than 50 years,” Ndichu said. “We are trying to find the balance between Africa and nations like the United States. But that doesn’t work because we see a lot of problems in Africa compared to that of the U.S.”

The vulnerability that African nations are subject to due to their status as newly independent nations crates an avenue for more developed nations to



Photos courtesy of MCT Campus

impose different sorts of influence.

“Important assets are also the source of problems, especially oil,” Ndichu said. If you look at Sudan, a huge producer of oil, they don’t care so much about democracy. So what happens is China buys oil and gives African nations weapons in exchange. Whereas countries like the US are trying to bring an end to conflict, there are some nations that encourage violence in Africa.”

Ndichu believes that the influence that developed nations hold over African nations forces the continent to become a kind of prize for a contest of which nation reigns supreme above the rest.

“You cannot rule out international influence,” Ndichu said. “All of these international forces use Africa as a battleground for gaining supremacy, not in

terms of warfare. Fighting for supremacy over Africa leads to Africans hearing all of these divergent views, which causes chaos. If the underlying causes of problems in Africa, including injustices, are changed, then true change [and progress] will come.”

Although there are several rampant problems in Kenya and the rest of Africa, there is still hope—a hope that Ndiritu does not fail to recognize.

“When we went to first grade, we were given seeds to plant and some plants grew and some died,” Ndiritu said. “It’s about sustaining life, because if you decide not to water the plant, it won’t grow. Even though we lived in one of the most dangerous cities, we’ve managed to grow.” ☺

## Cultural differences perpetuate utilization of stereotypes at CHS

Bianca Vannucci

Reporter

Sometimes comments are made concerning how students from other

countries are smarter just because they’re from elsewhere. Whether it’s because of stereotypes or a difference of culture, international students have a different

experience with the academics at CHS than students brought up in America.

“Of course he would know the answer to this math problem, he’s Asian.

He has to be smart.” Phrases like this are not unknown to the ears of most students here at the high school.

“People assume I’m smart because I’m Asian,” freshman Jake Lee said. “I don’t like it [because] it’s dumb to judge people because of heritage.”

However, Lee feels he gives special care to his grades.

“It’s part of my culture,” Lee said. “My parents try to make me focus on grades. I realized how important college was at an early age.”

Although Lee, whose parents are South Korean, was brought up in America, he still feels a bit of a cultural difference.

Freshman Aaron Dharna shares Lee’s pressure on academics. Dharna was born here in St. Louis but with a Hindu upbringing.

“When I was four years old, six of my cousins came to America from Kenya and lived with my intermediate family for nine years,” Dharna said.

This is certainly not typical of most families here,

“What makes my upbringing different than most people is that most have a small family and in my house there were

11 people,” he adds, “My cousins came here to go to college.”

Dharna was greatly influenced by this sense of immigration. “When my dad came to America he had to stay in school

or he would have had to go back to Africa, so there has always been a real value on education.”

Many CHS students are here because of this belief that hard work and an education in America will pay off. Senior Sam Ziade moved here from Lebanon in 2002, also in search of a better education. For those who were not brought up in the United States, like Ziade, born in Beirut, there were some additional challenges.

“I had to learn English,” Ziade said. “It was easy, but at first teachers would go a lot easier on me and not ask me as many questions.” Despite the language barrier, Ziade said school was tougher in Lebanon.

A different experience altogether is Elle Flinn’s, born in Auckland, New Zealand. Flinn, a junior, moved here this year.

“In New Zealand high school is different,” Flinn said. “You choose a path: history, math, science...When I came here I noticed I was ahead in math, which helped me get into more challenging classes.”

Stereotypes may be right or wrong and although different cultures and upbringings may aid some students in different subjects, many of these CHS students share one

common quality: motivation. They share a passion for hard work in order to excel in the education they deserve, and although sometimes they may be stereotyped, nobody minds being asked where they’re from.

“I like it actually when people ask me about Lebanon, it makes me feel like I have something special,” Ziade said. ☺

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# Polar Extremes

Fontasha Powell  
Senior Managing Editor

Pole dancing has become a popular workout for women everywhere and is gaining popularity among CHS students.

Senior Becky Poplawski has been taking pole dancing class at Floored on Grand located on 3190 South Grand since last August.

"I started dancing because I thought it would be a more fun, interesting way to exercise," Poplawski said. "I heard about it through my friend Taylor Obata, who had taken a couple of classes."

Poplawski loves to keep in shape, working out almost every morning. Although she admits that pole dancing is an awesome workout, she still runs for cardiovascular exercise because she believes pole dancing mostly works her muscles.

Melissa Kassly, the owner of Floored on Grand said that the physical benefits of pole dancing are amazing.

"Pole dancing pretty much works every muscle in your body, especially your core," Kassly said. "It's relaxing and it's a fun way to exercise, especially for the people that don't want or like to go to the gym."

In fact, pole dancing is a very popular class. In the higher level classes, dancers are encouraged to wear shorts.

"We've offered pole dancing for a little over two years," Kassly said. "It's very popular. We have about 20 classes a week, and they're all pretty much full. We have three full-time instructors and one instructor that doesn't teach full time."

Poplawski thinks that her class is very comfortable and accepting.

"My class is at the studio is really fun and supportive," Poplawski said. "Whenever we try new moves and new tricks, everyone's really supportive and our teacher is really supportive and tells us what we're doing wrong and how to fix it. It's really friendly and a lot of people hang out outside of class."

Her first day of pole dancing class, Poplawski said that she was anxious.

"I was really nervous my first time because I went by myself, so I didn't know anyone there," Poplawski said. "I was planning on doing it just to try it and I got hooked, so I just kept going back."

Kassly said she believes that one of the best aspects about the pole dancing classes at Floored on Grand is the bonding.

"Pole dancing is a type of dance that gets you comfortable," Kassly said. "There's a group setting where everyone is really supportive. Also, it's a great way to get to know people. There are so many friendships built, and a lot of girls in the classes become best friends."

Poplawski believes that one of the best features of pole dancing is that there's no one routine.

"The best part about pole dancing is improvisation," Poplawski said. "You learn tricks, and unlike a lot of dancers who learn routines to one song, we get to put them together how we want."

However, pole dancing does have its disadvantages.

"The worst part about pole dancing is the bruises that you get," Poplawski said. "I look like I've been abused. They're all over my legs, arms, calves, thighs, everywhere."

Poplawski also doesn't like the social stigma associated with pole dancing.

Another negative aspect of poledancing is the assumptions many other people make about it.

"It's really annoying to tell people that I do pole dancing because I get a lot of looks that like 'oh, you work at a strip club'," Poplawski said. "Dancing for exercise has nothing to do with stripping. The biggest response I got from my friends were either really amused or just 'oh, your mom is letting you do that?'"

Poplawski, in fact, hid that she was taking pole dancing classes from her mother when she first began.

"I told my mom I was going out to coffee or hanging



All photos by Jessica Shen

Senior Becky Poplawski performs tricks she learned in her pole dancing class at Floored on Grand. Poplawski had a pole installed in her room shortly after she began taking poledancing classes. To the left, Poplawski performs a trick called "The Ankle hang." It's among the most challenging positions because it requires lots of upper body strength. Above, Poplawski does the sitting pretty, a move that works the inner thighs and the glutes. Poplawski thinks that the best part about pole dancing is that she is allowed to improvise.

house and install it was a bit awkward."

Floored on Grand offers an eight-week session for \$100. For those who wish to just try out a class, drop-in classes are \$15. Currently, all the classes are full, but a new class is starting a week from Saturday, and another is starting April 4.

Another location that offers exotic dancing is The Lifestyle Center off of Forsyth. Their version of pole dancing is called "Cardio Stripfit." For \$59 a month, they offer unlimited dance classes that include pole dancing, zumba and hiphop. According to the website, fitsexybody.com, "[Anyone can] get the buns, legs, abs and arms of a dancer with this... workout [that] incorporates cardio with sexy dance moves and pole dancing to achieve a long, lean dancer's body."

All in all, Poplawski would like to continue pole dancing in college and would recommend pole dancing for anyone who wanted to give it a try.

"I'd say go for it and be ready to be in pain for awhile because it takes a lot to get used to some of the tricks," Poplawski said. "You have to repeat a lot of tricks, and at first it really hurts, but it gets better I promise."

Kassly also recommends pole dancing. She thinks the benefits are priceless.

"It's really good for your self esteem, especially for girls that are kind of shy," Melissa said. "It brings you out of your shell even if you're scared." ☺

## Laptops increasing in popularity among students

Sam Jacus  
Reporter

It used to be rare to see students carrying around computers from class to class; however, today it is just another part of going to school.

"I carry around a laptop all day," junior Emil Thyssen said. "It helps make work efficient."

Thyssen is one of many kids who carry around their laptops during the day.

For the older kids at Clayton High, laptops seem even more familiar.

According to Thyssen laptops are a great way to organize your work and when almost all your work can be done on a laptop there isn't much reason not to use a laptop if you have one.

Students see the positives and negatives to carrying a laptop around during class.

Thyssen feels that the positives far outweigh the negatives when it comes to carrying a laptop.

"If I have an archive of all the work that I've done and am currently doing work, it is much easier," Thyssen said.

Thyssen, however, sees laptops from both perspectives.

"There are times when my computer distracts me, but I'd say 85 percent of the time I'm using my computer for school work," Thyssen said.

Thyssen also feels that teachers wouldn't have



Senior Matt Reznick works diligently on his schoolwork in the library. He is one of the many CHS students that have laptops.

Jessica Shen

a problem with students using laptops because it eliminates the whole my printer is broken and my e-mail is down excuse.

According to junior Alozie Onwumere, who doesn't carry around a laptop with him during the day, not much work would be accomplished if he brought a laptop to school.

"I would play games and do other stuff," Onwumere said. "There is no chance that I would pay attention."

Onwumere also thinks that there is no point in bringing a laptop because English is the only class that he would use a laptop in. He feels that a laptop wouldn't even be necessary in that

class because he can just work on and complete his essays at home.

Other students like junior Erin Murray don't bring their laptops to school because they are too heavy and they fear that they might get broken.

Another reason that students don't always carry around their laptops is because they can be a major distraction if not used in the right manner. Murray also sees positives that many students do not see in bringing laptops to school.

"They are good for the environment," Murray said. You don't need to use any paper unless it's for a paper or an assignment that is being collected."

While students have mixed feelings about the use of laptops in school. Teachers, on the other hand, seem to like the idea of students using laptops.

"Kids using laptops in class is a personal choice and a trust issue; however, most students seem to pay attention while they are in class," chemistry teacher Nathan Peck said.

Peck also feels that with teachers using their laptops in most classes that student use of laptops shouldn't be a distraction.

The overall opinion of both teachers and students comes down to the idea that it is a personal choice and that if the students are remaining on topic then there is not a problem with using them during class. ☺



# Futuristic tale combines bravery, intrigue, spunk

Gabrielle Lachtrupp  
*Reporter*

In Suzanne Collins’ “The Hunger Games,” the United States is re-imagined as the future state of Panem, where the nation’s leaders are finding new and more sadistic ways of squelching rebellion with each passing year. This is the world of “The Hunger Games,” where annually the teenage citizens of each of the 12 Panem Districts submit their names for a bloody, fight-to-the-death contest televised for the whole country to watch. Participation and viewing are mandatory.

Started as a reminder of the Districts’ powerlessness after their defeat in a rebellion against the Capitol’s autocratic rule, the “Hunger Games” mean riches and glory for the winner and a slow, painful death for the other 23 at the hands of, well, each other. There are the wealthy Districts that actually breed volunteer “tributes,” kids with corded muscles and knife-wielding skills formidable enough to actually have a decent shot at fame and fortune. District Twelve, the home of Katniss Everdeen, is not one of them.

Having supported her family on the money from the meat she can manage to poach from a nearby forest, Katniss is no slouch when it comes to surviving the worst. District Twelve is the end of the line as far as Districts go, a sooty, grimy vision of coal-mining Appalachia without any of the charming bluegrass music. The citizens are undereducated, underfed, and poor enough that their barely-disguised resentment of the Capitol is essentially ignored. No Tribute from Twelve has won the Games in nearly four decades. So when Katniss’ younger sister has her name drawn as a contestant, it comes as a surprise when Katniss submits herself in her sister’s place.

At first, she assumes death is inevitable. But as the Games begin, she manages to find use for nearly all of her skills, and with enough luck, skill, and intelligence, she finds she just might win. Of course, there’s the thorny problem of having every one else murdered. And fellow District Twelve tribute Peeta Mellark’s declaration of love isn’t exactly helping...

I was surprised, given the book’s premise, how much I ended up liking the book’s main character, who is required to pull off some unbelievable, not to mention ethically dubious, feats in order to obtain victory. There’s a grim but funny edginess about Katniss that keeps her physics-defying archery skills and high-flying arboreal stunt work (apparently an innate trait just for you, know, general awesome) engaging and readable.

Just when you think she’s getting a little too perfect (she’s beautiful but doesn’t know it, single-handedly keeps family from starving with her Robin Hood-esque hunting skills, sacrifices for a generically helpless little sister and wins the hearts of two equally hunky male specimens in the process), her snarky brand of humor and clear-eyed observations in the face of danger redeem her. It takes a special type of protagonist, when facing impending doom, death, and possible disembowelment, to deadpan about her trainer: “And then, because it’s Effie and she’s apparently required by law to say something awful...”

At the end of the day, even if the reader is close to pounding the wall from frustration from her typical teen-flick romantic cluelessness, Katniss is still one of the most evolved protagonists I’ve read in adolescent literature.

She’s just smart enough to realize how little she really knows, both about fighting and Capitol politics. Plus, she’s one of the few female characters with a “fiery temper” that actually seems to have both positive and negative effects. (Typically, it’s either reduced to a side-show pulled out at times when it’s

## Clayton Classic

# Old-fashioned romance blends modern twists, humorous dialogue

Bianca Vannucci  
*Reporter*

For my mother’s birthday, I sat down with her to watch one of those movies mothers want to see on their birthdays. “A Room With A View” has a cheesy plot line, British accents, and it’s set in the early twentieth century. Surprisingly, I laughed more than I do while watching the comedies that have been recent box office hits.

Made in 1985, this movie, based on the 1908 novel, tells the story of a young, confused English girl, Lucy Honeychurch. Lucy finds unapproved love in Italy. Her perfect manners don’t exactly match those of her handsome, but eccentric, English suitor, and her aunt and chaperone certainly will not allow anything to happen. There is a scandalous kiss in a barley field and the plot moves to England, where the fate of our confused heroine will soon conflict with the interests of her proper family. I know by this point I’ve sold your mothers onto the movie, that is, if they haven’t seen it already, but, as I’ve said before, I was surprised. This movie aged well.

The setting and costumes for the movie, both of which won Oscars, are beautiful, but not exaggerated, and throughout the whole movie there is a postcard feel to the Italian streets and

convenient for humor/sexual tension, or else becomes a repository in which all other character traits are stuffed inside and locked tight, because God knows sarcastic, angry people are never, ever, ever anything but.)

I ended up reading “The Hunger Games” in one sitting, and I defy even the slowest of readers to do otherwise. The first-person perspective helps, and there’s a constant undercurrent of fear and horror that makes even the makeover montages move at lightning speed.

In fact, some of the book’s most terrifying scenes are spent in preparation for the Games, where Katniss is poked, prodded, and coached to perform and enchant an audience of millions. Such preparation is almost as necessary as training to fight.

Wealthy Capitol citizens, who view the games as the height of entertainment and place bets on the success of various contestants, can opt to “sponsor” favored tributes with gifts of costly food, medicine, or weaponry during the games themselves. In many cases, Katniss’ survival may hinge merely on the dress she is wearing. Still, it’s only after a good third of the book that the action really kicks off, when Katniss and the other Tributes are thrust forward into the Games’ gigantic wilderness Arena.

There, they’re met by giant wasps, detonating fireballs, and, of course, each other. Alliances form. Resources are pooled. People have a nasty habit of being stabbed. And, at the end of the day, the faces of those killed are projected into the sky.

The book’s clever and fast-paced enough that the bonds of reality rarely snap, but there are a few scenes I had trouble accepting: one, food literally popping out of nowhere (I don’t care how advanced your dystopia is, it can’t create matter, especially not plum-studded beef stew, darn it), and several involving the Capitol’s creepy animal “mutations” that seem to run on pure horror movie logic and nothing else.

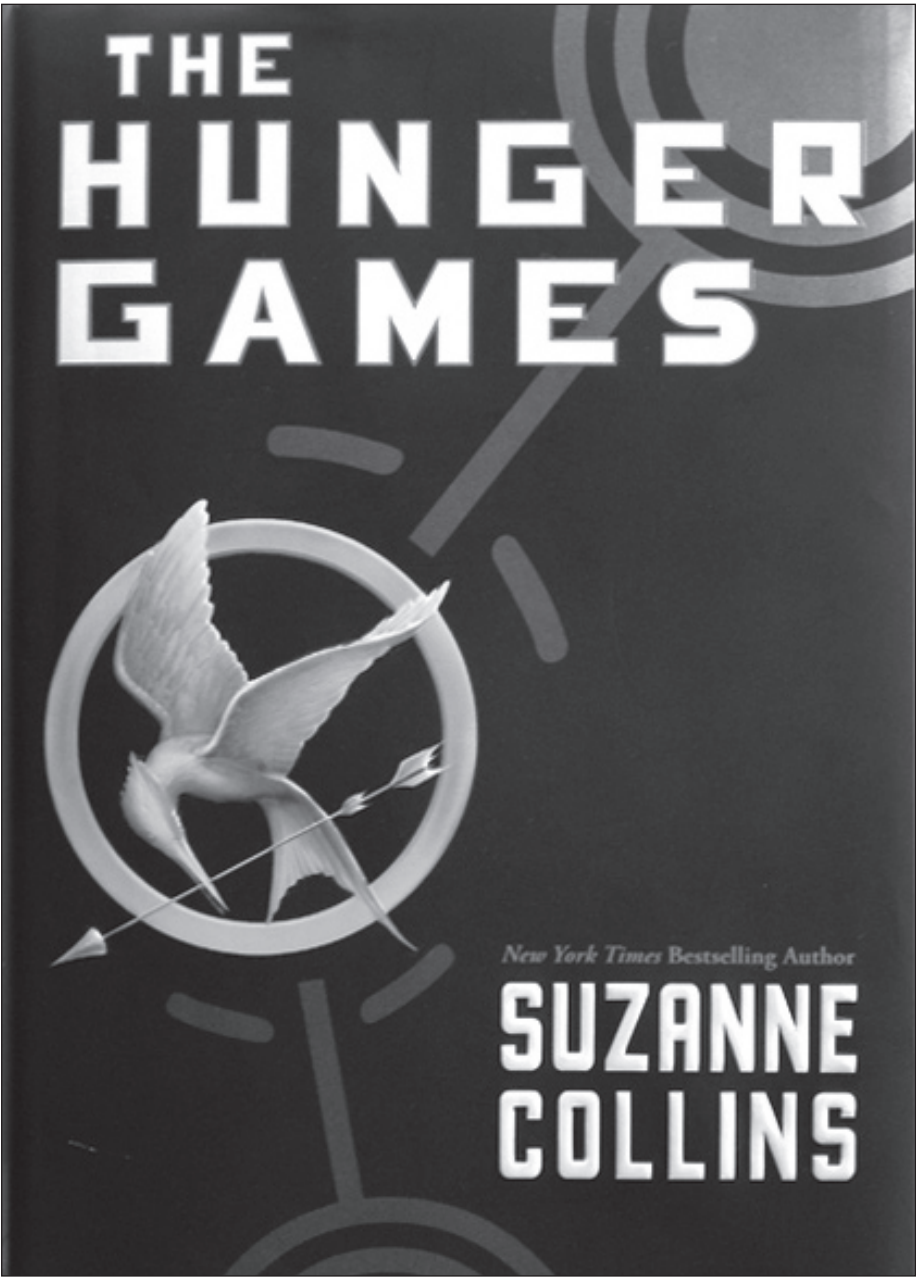
Still, author Collins’ handling of survival issues is pretty superior, and the reader is constantly reminded that our heroine can’t outrun werereatures or homicidal children without first resting, eating, and keeping hydrated. Given Katniss’ default preference of flight over fight when it comes to physical disputes, much of the book’s tension revolves around key issues like... finding stream beds.

Interestingly, while the constant pangs of hunger and thirst

English houses. The costume designs do not distract from the point of the film, but rather add to its soft, easy-watch vibe. As you watch it you might want to pause it here and there and wonder if they really would do such things to their hair. The answer is yes and the sooner you come to that realization the sooner you’ll be able to enjoy an old fashioned chick flick with actors that can actually act.

Despite it being Helena Bonham Carter’s first movie, despite her lack of orange tan or overly waxed her eyebrows, she conveys the picture of a heroine that can inspire viewers. The male actors are, on the other hand, still pretty conventionally attractive. Julian Sands is very straightforward in his portrayal of Miss Honeychurch’s suitor, but Lucy’s brother, played by Rupert Graves, is no less attractive.

However, the simplicity with which the rest of the characters are cast draws even more attention to the main character, letting the viewer root for her to follow her heart through the end of the movie.



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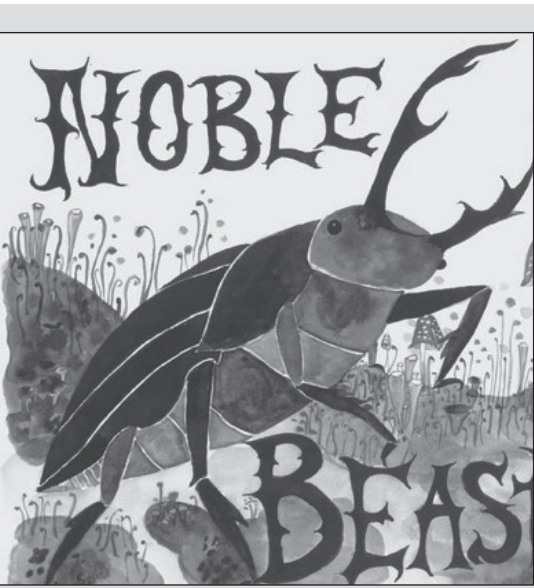
never seem to get repetitive, character deaths are so frequent that the reader eventually just shuts down from the desensitized banality of it all. There are only two scenes, one in the book’s center and one near the end, in which they are particularly affecting.

Of course, since the story is being told from Katniss’ perspective, who is far more concerned about staying alive than the well-being of her fellow tributes, a lot of the narrative casualness is excusable. Indeed, it would probably be a lot more disingenuous to sappy the ends of some of the nastier characters, many of whom have homicidal tendencies so exaggerated one wonders if they’re not being made deliberately unsympathetic so that their deaths won’t break the flow of the action.

Despite whatever flaws it might have, particularly with the aforementioned horror-movie logic and some issues fleshing out more minor characters, “The Hunger Games” is undoubtedly one of the better books I’ve read all year. Creepy, funny, and subversively smart, the protagonist propels a story forward that doesn’t need much to make it exciting. The first of what looks to be fascinating trilogy, “The Hunger Games” shows Collins’ versatility and ability to appeal to a wide audience. She skips easily between social commentary to gritty survivalism to genuine humor, and her romance skills, if not fully developed, show promise. Pick it up; you won’t be disappointed. Just make sure you’ve got an hour or four to spare. ☺

Another quite surprising aspect of this movie is the humor with which the dialogue is written. Near the beginning of the movie especially, the script contains satire, which makes the movie a little less elegant, and opens it to different kinds of audiences. I will not sit down for a movie that is not especially entertaining. An action plot and a few humorous lines do not make a movie bearable to me, but I sat there through the whole movie. The jokes were not all wonderfully proper, but the contrast between the proper and formal setting of the English countrysides and the “dirty” jokes of the youth of the movie was entertaining.

Basically, if you’re embarrassed to be renting a movie labeled in the romance section made more than 20 years ago, when’s your mom’s birthday? It will give you a good excuse to watch an entertaining movie. ☺



Andrew Bird’s latest album “Noble Beast” provides listeners with a blend of poetic lyrics and instrumental variety.

## Artist conveys emotion through soulful lyrics

Dawn Androphy  
*Reporter*

Andrew Bird’s “Noble Beast” (released Jan. 20) elicits all sorts of emotions on just the first listen. The album feels somewhat like a map of Bird’s mind in that the mood and tempo are constantly changing.

He does all of this without creating a moody, annoying diary-like feel to the album like so many have done before him. It has a flair for the dramatic, while still being down-to-earth and relaxing like many of the more relaxed releases of 2008. Unique hooks and instrumental skill make “Noble Beast” noticeably different from the pack.

Andrew Bird is a surprising standout among current recording artists in that he is able to seamlessly blend a noticeably modern style with both folk and even classical elements. Simply his ability to smoothly transition from plucking at his violin to strumming his guitar without a hint of awkwardness shows that Bird is one of the more talented singer-songwriters working today.

He manages to get away with using strange lyrics in his songs such as “Underneath the stalactites/The troglodytes lost their sight, oh/The seemingly innocuous plescostomus though posthumous” on the track “Anonanimal” without sounding pretentious. Not many others could do this, but Bird’s charm comes through in every song and simply makes the more advanced word choices seem artistic and sincere.

“Noble Beast” does, however, have its weak spots. The album has splotches where the violin plucking and signature whistling gets a tad repetitive. These moments don’t really last that long and the listener is quickly drawn back in by an added bassline or an intriguing vocal line.

Because Bird’s album itself is so intimate, it’s not surprising that he excels as a live performer. At his March 15<sup>th</sup> show at the Pageant, Bird made weaker moments on the album come to life.

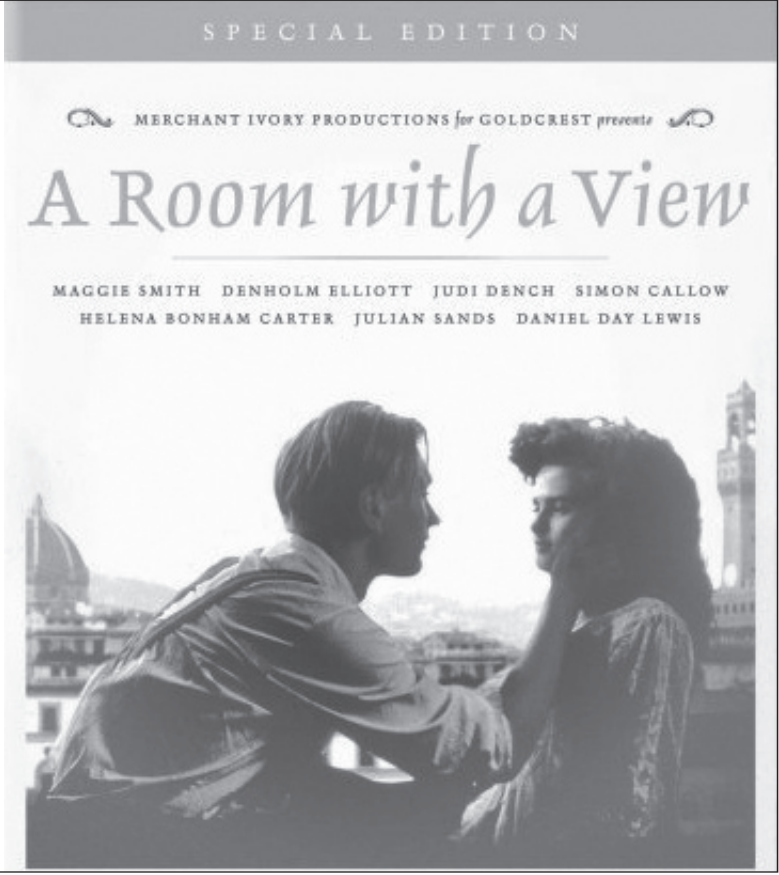
He started the show off with an instrumental piece played solo on the violin, whistling and occasionally singing while plucking at the violin’s strings. After about 10 minutes, his backing band walked onstage and helped him bring some of his more complex songs to life.

Bird succeeded in bringing his music to life at the performance by switching from instrument to instrument throughout the night (and often during the songs). In fact, experiencing the songs live and seeing how all of his unique sounds came to be was quite an experience itself.

The rest of the audience seemed to agree and responded well to his comments between songs that ranged from musings about the wonders of the City Museum to an improvised song listing every string instrument he could think of.

Bird’s release deserves an A for its wonderfully textured songs with lyrical depth and instrumental beauty. It’s one of those genre-bending albums that actually achieves its goals.

Although the album definitely sounds better as a whole with repeated listens, if you’re just a one-track buyer, two standout tracks to buy by themselves would be the catchy “Fitz and the Dizzyspells” and the impressive vocal showing of “Not a Robot, But a Ghost.” ☺





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# Counselors advise college-bound students

Tips and guidance are given to students with the eventual goal of attending college after high school

**Payton Sciaratta**  
*Reporter*

Throughout students’ four years at high school, they worry about making the grades and keeping the grades. A common question among students is, “Is it better to be in an easy curriculum where you can make straight A’s or be in a rigorous curriculum and have maybe B’s or C’s?” The answer to this is easy.

“You need to be in a curriculum where you can maintain balanced grades with balanced co-curricular commitments,” college counselor Chat Leonard said.

However, most competitive schools such as Yale want the rigorous curriculum and the A.

“When it comes to academics, colleges look for students to challenge themselves and take challenging classes,” freshman counselor Alice Morrison said.

Throughout the four years at high school, students are put under a lot of pressure because of the stress of college. However, high school shouldn’t be just about getting into college.

“Ask, Ask, Ask,” Morrison said. “We don’t want high school to be based just on college, but we also don’t want students to get to their junior year and just start looking at colleges.”

Many students coming into high school for the first time believe that they can slack the first year because colleges only look at sophomore year, junior year and senior year. However, this statement is false.

“Colleges look at you as a scholar,” Leonard said. “They want to make sure that if you are admitted, you can be successful as a student.”

Freshman year students should be focusing on adjusting to high school. It is a whole new setting and there are so many more things to be involved in. Freshmen should get used to the school, start getting involved and find an activity or a sport where they fit in.

Although they cannot let their grades slip because they will then have to focus mostly on grades the rest of their years at high school instead of being able to spend a lot of their time doing extra-curricular activities.

Lastly, they should be setting up solid study habits and looking for the best ways that they learn and find a way to be successful and succeed in high school.

After students have adjusted to the school and they have found their solid study skills, they then move on to their sophomore year. During this year, it is important to stay involved, but students must stay focused on their grades.

“Stay focused on your grades,” sophomore counselor Tobie Smith said, “it is by far the best thing you can do to keep to prepare for college.”

During students second year of high school, they should also be starting to challenge themselves with at least on class that pulls them out of their comfort zone. Students should also master self-advocacy throughout this year.

“Seek assistance in solving problems or getting advice,” said Smith.

Sophomores should also be enjoying their year.

“Sophomore year is unique,” Smith said. “You are no longer the newest students in the building, you understand the role of a high school student, but you don’t have the stress of

Freshman Year	Sophomore Year	Junior Year	Senior Year	Overall
Focus on adjusting to high school	Getting involved	Academics	Grades	Making grades
Getting involved	Stay focused on grades	Getting involved	Rigor	Taking a challenging curriculum
Setting a solid study skill	Challenge yourself with at least one class that takes you out of your comfort zones	College Meeting	ACT/SAT	Doing extra-curricular activities that you are passionate about
	Master self-advocacy	ACT/SAT Preparation	Deadlines	Keeping a balance in your life
	Enjoy your year	Enjoying life	Leadership	Make healthy life-long decisions

preparing for tests, college preparation, etc.”

When students come to their third year of high school, they tend to get stressed out a lot because they have a lot on their plates. They need to focus on academics, keeping their grades up. This is the year they need to study the hardest because this is the year we begin to take our SAT/ACT. This is one of the most important tests they will have to take during high school.

“The ACT/SAT are only one criteria that most colleges use to determine admissability,” Leonard said. “It’s more important what you do over four years than what you do on a four-hour test.”

Aside from keeping their grades up and cramming all this studying in so that they don’t bomb their tests, they must enjoy life. High school will soon be coming to an end, and these are supposed to be the best four years of your life. They should start attending college meetings. This is the year where most students tend to start looking at colleges and deciding where they want to attend.

Then students reach their final year of high school. During

this year they must be focusing the most on their college application process.

“Your grades are important throughout high school, but especially during your senior year,” senior counselor Mark Snyder said.

“Highly competitive schools look very closely at 7th and 8th semester grades. Sometimes, quarter grades are also reviewed for students who apply early. Some students have had admission decisions from colleges rescinded or they have been placed on a type of academic probation due to deficient grades during their senior year.”

Snyder says students then need to focus on rigor.

“The term ‘rigor’ can be looked at relative to the individual student’s ability over an extended period of time,” Snyder said. “For example, if a student took Honors English during their freshman and sophomore years earning grades in the B range, but then decided to take American Literature and other semester electives in English instead of honors during their senior year in order to earn A’s, this could be perceived negatively by admissions representatives at highly competitive colleges. As

a general rule, students should try to earn the highest grades possible in the most rigorous courses that they are able to take within reasonable human limits and expectations.”

Students must then keep their focus on ACT/SAT. The higher the score, the more colleges are going to look and accept them as a student.

The final two things that students must focus on in their final year of high school are deadlines and leadership, meaning students must not over work themselves, but they must work hard and meet all deadlines to receive the best grades possible.

“Overall, seniors who know their limits and manage their time well will have a greater chance at success during their final year of high school and beyond,” Snyder said. “I believe that the key for seniors is developing a balance between the competing academic, extracurricular, social worlds and staying focused on their personal goals.”

When it comes to colleges, “The United States alone has over 300,000 colleges,” Morrison said. “Our goal for our students is for them to be educated, so they find a great fit, where they can be successful and can shine.” ☺

## Colors lighten spring duds

**Rachel Nevels**  
*Reporter*

The past few weeks have shown that slowly but surely spring is on its way! That can only mean more warm weather to come.

CHS students have been shedding off their winter layers, showing more vibrant and playful spring-friendly clothing. If you look down the halls, you’ll see many fun patterns from floral to plaid; textures from silk to flannel; and colors from flesh-tones, to pastels, even soft yellows, oranges and pinks.

“I’m most excited about seeing the new stuff that my favorite designers are putting out, and trying to take a little bit of that and mix it up into the clothes I make,” junior Anna Copilevitz said.

Copilevitz, who recently had her own clothing in the CHS *Rockin’ Runway* fashion show, also suggested trying out new bold trends. According to Teen Vogue, another new trend is the jumpsuit.

“Jumpsuits are making a comeback. They’re different and while some can be completely hideous, some can be totally cool,” Coplievitz said. “Grace Brumley made some jumpsuits for the show and they were definitely bold colors used by all the designers.”

Many more cool trends are appearing with the approach of warm weather such as short shorts, paired with a long, sleeveless cardigan. “I think this look can’t be pulled off by many people,” Senior Asia Watkins said. “But when put on the right person this look is definitely hot.”

Mentioning spring without spring break would be a crime. That’s why Splash employee and CHS junior, Gabby Mottaz suggested beach-friendly gear from her store.

“Right now, the best thing at Splash are our swim suits,” Mottaz said. “We have a ton of really great ones by Vix and Trina Turk that perfect for spring break. We also got in really cute sandals by Mystique and Dolce Vita.”

According to dsigner.com, Pantone Fashion Color report gave the top 10 colors for spring ’09, blue and purple topping the list.

“New York’s fashion designers encourage hopeful attitudes with lively colors, while sophisticated, grounded hues address the need for stability in times of economic uncertainty,” said Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute.

Whether it be a day on the beach for spring break, or just another day out with the girls, there are many new fun and trendy looks to try out this season. ☺

### TOP SPRING COLORS

Fuchsia Red	Palace Blue	Lucite Green
Salmon Pink	Super Lemon	Lavender
Dark Citron	Rose Dust	Fuchsia Red



Credit to Rihannon Jones

Sophomore Andrea Glik flaunts a floral dress perfect for spring



Credit to Rihannon Jones

Senior Chandler Rollins pairs a black , white and grey checkered shirt with a fashionable black hat



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| Circuit City               | Red Robin                 |
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| Creative Nails             | Sam's Club                |
| Culver's                   | San Sai                   |
| Dick's Sporting Goods      | Scrubs & Beyond           |
| Dollar Tree                | Shoe Stop                 |
| Dress Barn                 | Sonic                     |
| East Coast Pizza           | Sports Clips              |
| Embroidme                  | St. Louis Bread Co        |
| Emperor's Wok              | St. Louis Closet Company  |
| Ethan Allen                | St. Louis Tan             |
| Factory Card Outlet        | Starbucks                 |
| Fastframe                  | Steak N Shake             |
| Family Christian Stores    | Subway                    |
| Fitness Showcase           | Sunshine Drapery          |
| Fleet Feet                 | SuperCuts                 |
| Fox and Hound              | T-Mobile                  |
| Gamestop                   | Taco Bell                 |
| Garage Interiors           | Target                    |
| Golden China               | the old spaghetti factory |
| Golf Galaxy                | Total Hockey              |
| Hallmark                   | True Advantage Fitness    |
| Hardees                    | Two Blind Guys            |
| Hong's Trading Co.         | Ulta Beauty               |
| J. Bennett Jewelry         | Verizon Wireless          |
| Kirkland's Home            | Wal-Mart                  |
| Lane Bryant                | World Market              |
| Linens 'N Things           |                           |



# 'Octo-mom' causes controversy, outrage

She's been the national talk for so long, we can't even remember how the whole thing got started. The ways we've attacked her are numerous: sanity, finances, overall competence—we've even got this nifty little speculation about plastic surgery use. She's been criticized left and right.

She has fourteen kids, eight of them infant octuplets. Unless you've been hanging out under a rock recently, you know that I am referring to Nadya Suleman, recently dubbed the flattering nickname "Octo-Mom".

Scenario: Unemployed single mom, 33 years old, and living in her own mother's house, which faces foreclosure. Living on a few disability payments and \$490 a month in food

stamps. Now enter 14 children, all begotten by costly in-vitro fertilization (IVF) treatments, rumors of multiple plastic surgeries, and a hospital bill for her latest octuplets that's expected, says the Washington Times, to stack up to \$2 million. Now add in the little side note that the woman plans to go back to college amidst the financial fray, and you have Nadya Suleman. Is it just me, or is

something wrong here? How in the world did she end up in this mess? How in the world have all of us gotten involved in it, too?

I'll tell you: follow the media. Originally the coverage was a simple story on the second set of octuplets in the U.S. But then it morphed into something more, something that dragged taxpayer money and rumors of incompetence. And now— it's just pure gossip and controversy.

Blogs and newspapers have denounced the woman as crazy, selfish, or a hybrid of both. And after the latest little tidbit about Suleman offering a video of her octuplet delivery for a six-figure sum, I'd like to agree with the latter option. It's all about the publicity.

Now, whether the publicity stunt has an ulterior motive or not really isn't our concern. It could be for the attention, or she might be doing it so as to sucker a few more people of their online donations more efficiently. Who knows?

She obviously can't pay for it all— and the slack is shunted over to the taxpayers. But the worst aspect of the whole mess is



Photographers and onlookers try to force their way in the garage of octuplet mom, Nadya Suleman, March 17, 2009, in La Habra, California, as she arrived home with at least two of her babies.

that the people who had the power to stop this single mother didn't. Consider the IVF clinic. Who in their right mind would impregnate a woman with a number of embryos when she is

single and already has six children? Why would one take this woman's money when she obviously is not going to be able to pay for these children? Someone was obviously incredibly

blind to her circumstances. Yes, she had successfully delivered her other six children— but how someone takes care of fourteen of them is beyond me.

Here we enter her fertility doctor, Dr. Michael Kamrava. Not only did the man knowingly implant a high number of fetuses (six, if I recall correctly), but he did it at her expense. At the taxpayers' expense. Who gives IVF to a woman living on food stamps? Obviously he's either shortsighted, greedy, or doesn't care. Or possibly all three.

And Suleman knowingly had them all implanted. You'll remember, of course, that all 14 of her kids are courtesy of Kamrava's IVF procedures.

So here are my qualms with the system of today. It seems that if you want what you want, you'll get it. You want kids? You're unemployed and can't pay for them? No matter, because if you search long and hard enough, you'll find someone willing to give them to you. There are no penalties, except for excessive press coverage, but it doesn't exactly seem like she's pushing that away.

No. The fault falls on the doctor, the patient, and, thusly, on America. He didn't care about the ethics, just about the money. She just wanted the kids, apparently, but she and her acrylic nails seem to be liking fame, even if it's infamy. It's selfish irresponsibility on both ends, but the biggest failure is on our part.

We as Americans have failed to completely uphold our system of integrity. Things slip through the cracks, and the dust beneath the rug builds up until it all explodes. Then we stand there and wonder whatever happened, when just a second ago it was just a rug.

Well, we can't put it off any longer. We have to deal with it, and some already are. But some still haven't seen the light. In the wake of the critics and the media, Suleman has both made and gotten multiple offers, from a nonprofit organization's offers to help her out financially, to reality shows, to porn offers. Yes, porn. And this is where we as speculators take things too far. Our obsession with Miss Octo-Mom is giving her exactly what she craves: attention. Now where is the logic in that?

Sure, we like to gawk at the pictures, but the big yellow headlines on People magazine aren't helping anyone.

No. No, and no again. America, wake up and smell the roses, because this isn't a tabloid. It's ethics. And it's time we all figured that out. ☹

Proposition S  
APRIL 7, 2009

## Clayton depends on support for excellence

I am about to finish my last two months at Clayton High School —

— And I couldn't be happier with the education, the teachers, and the amazing opportunities I've had as a result of my career through Glenridge Elementary School, Wydown Middle School and finally CHS.

The Clayton School District and Clayton community are truly phenomenal: one of a kind.

Every day that goes by is one more day I am thankful for the school district I attend. I know that I live in a community that works so hard for its schools and puts forth tremendous amounts of effort to make students' lives the best possible. I couldn't ask for much more.

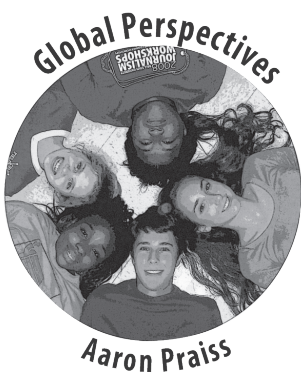
To me, voting "yes" for Proposition S isn't really a debate or a controversy, rather a step forward in continuing to improve and upgrade the schools that Clayton cares about.

Proposition S is mainly directed at science renovations and revamping: "S" standing specifically for science.

First on the list in Proposition S is CHS. The main goal of Proposition S at the high school is to update the outdated science facilities and labs.

An entirely new three-story building, extending the science floor, would help tremendously. A new state of the art and modern science floor would be unbelievable. I am already astonished with the teachers and opportunities I have in science at CHS, but think about how much more we could do. At this point, the outdated facilities are only restricting student learning opportunities, especially when chemistry teachers are forced

to teach in non-science classrooms. If Clayton really wants to keep up with the excellence it is surrounded with and maintain its level of quality education, renovations are a must.



tub" that we got the chance to mess with throughout the week. The situation wasn't terrible.

But, to have these new science labs in each elementary school would be an incredible enhancement for students to get real hands-on lab experience before moving on to the middle school. Curriculums could be better coordinated between all three levels of schools, thus creating more consistency in scientific understanding.

Proposition S is an entirely necessary bond issue and more importantly, a great chance for the school district to move

Another goal of Proposition S is to have a science lab room built at all three elementary schools as a place where students can be introduced to some of the fundamentals of science and experimental protocol.

From what I remember in elementary school, I had a "science

forward again. The last time any renovations happened in Clayton was in 1994 for all schools except CHS, and then in 1997 just for CHS.

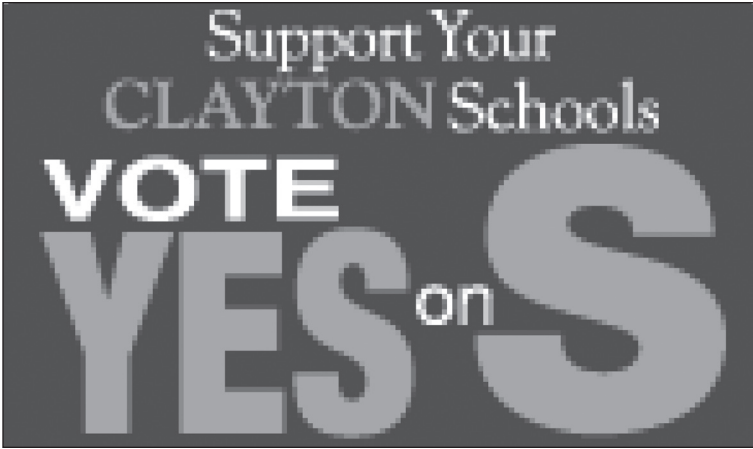
It is now 2009. While the schools are not in terrible condition, they do need renovations, changes and updates every once in awhile. I think a decade is long enough. Last, Wydown has not been forgotten.

As a matter of fact, Wydown will get much needed attention and community engagement in the near future. Wydown is certainly an exceptional case in terms of renovations. It is on a difficult plot of land.

Thus, rather than rush forward with a bond issue including renovations for Wydown, it only makes sense to leave Wydown up for future discussions and thoughtful community engagement. Like our last phased bond issue, from 1994 to 1997, Proposition follows an identical path. Let's start now with a great step forward at all of the elementary schools, Family Center and CHS, and then approach Wydown in its own light.

It would be nice if I could graduate in two months and still know that I live in a great community that truly cares about its schools and students.

Proposition S is simply a plan to keep our schools amazing. Isn't that what we all want for Clayton? ☺



## Letter to the Editor

With the April 7 vote on Proposition S, which would institute a \$.29 cent increase in property tax to fund overdue school improvements, the school district stands at an important crossroads.

Currently, with fantastic teachers and active students, the facilities of the high school do provide the basics, but they do not enable our teachers or students to work to their highest degree. Teachers teach and try to conduct labs in science rooms built before a sizable amount of our faculty was born.

When theater equipment breaks, someone has to figure out how to Gerry rig it because most of the equipment

is so old that there are no replacement parts anymore. These are just two of many obstacles encountered from the Family Center to the High School.

While most of the bond issue will fund improvements of the high school, Prop S will also fund improvements to our elementary and family center buildings, instilling a higher standard of quality across the District for all students.

It will also enable this newspaper's staff to move out of the Cottage and into a room that actually supports today's journalism, give offices to the Athletics Departments, keep classes out of hallways in the elementary schools, and a

myriad of other things. And it's all possible with a tax increase which is less than the average Claytonian's daily Starbucks, or comparable to a few haircuts at Preston Salon.

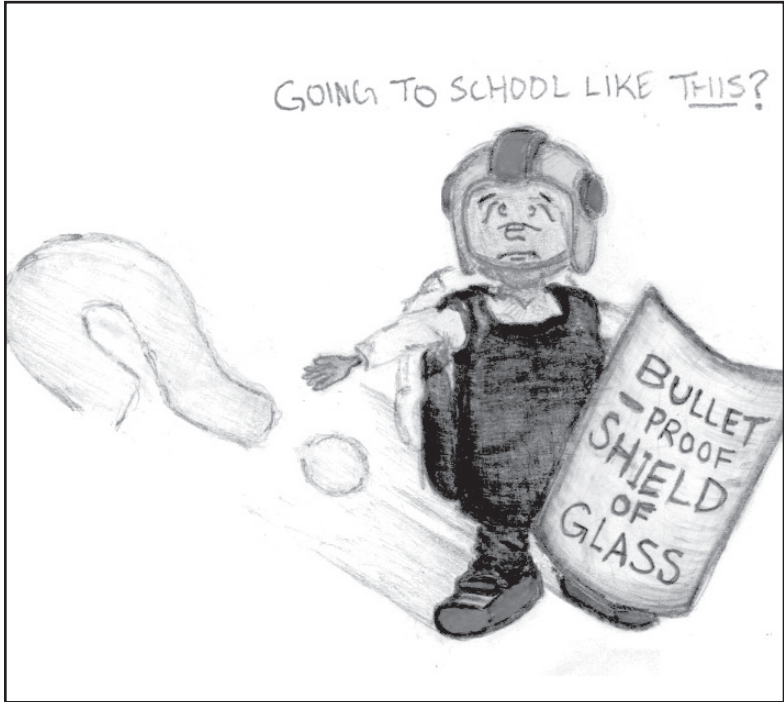
The issue of education in Clayton extends beyond the families who have students currently enrolled in the District. With today's economic situation, more and more families may rely on public education, and with a stellar school system, our homes will continue to attract the people who make this town. There are few communities where neighbors work, live and send their children to school all within a two-square mile area.

Prop S comes at a small sacrifice with a huge payoff.

As a student, if you're 18, just vote. It's easy and you can miss class via the voting excuse. If you're under 18, bug your parents.

And if you're not a student, and reading this, think about why the articles buffering this page are so good—because Clayton has long continued to fund its schools and produce well-rounded, successful and amazing students. Now is no time to stop.

John Buse  
Alumnus



Ali Sehzadeh

## Security measures sufficient

"Some men just want to watch the world burn," said Alfred in "The Dark Knight" as he described the maniacal Joker.

Two messages, found on separate days, threatened the safety of students attending Clayton High School. Both were anonymous pieces of graffiti located in boys' bathrooms. The writers are unidentified but fully aware of their own actions. The second threat likely occurred due to the high levels of attention received by the first.

While it's hard to say how long the graffiti was on the wall of the boys' bathroom next to the library, the threat was reported to the administrators after school on March 5. The message was vulgar and threatened the safety of African Americans and Jews on Friday the 6. As a direct result, school security was increased considerably the next day.

Police officers waited for students' arrival and requested photo identification and permission to search student belongings. Although the day ended with no problems, another threat —this time a bomb threat— was found on March 10. Again, the police department worked together with the school district to create a solution: a thorough search of the school campus with officers and their dogs. The search yielded no results and school went on normally the following day.

The school administrators, collaborating with the police, took the best available options to them both times. They responded with a firm and cautious implementation of security during the first threat and backed away from visible response during the school day for the second threat. The police performed a thorough search before students arrived at school the previous evening. In case the perpetrator was writing threats in or

der to get responses from the school, the bomb threat had minimal impact on the second school day.

The safety of students should be the main concern of the administrators and they demonstrated their ability to maintain a safe school environment on both days. The responses were not rash or frantic and were implemented effectively. They were drastic measures in response to an alarming threat.

On the days of the threats, some students stayed home. On both days, there were no major incidents and everything proceeded smoothly. The students cooperated well and everyone was safe.

The perpetrators are still unknown, but their minds are as twisted as the Joker's if they wrote their messages in order to create a reaction from the police, administrators, parents and students. Regardless of whether or not they were pranks, the responses took serious time and effort. Some students missed school because of the threats and many parents were worried about the students who did attend those days. If the perpetrators are found, serious punishments from the police and administration will ensue.

Wydown also reacted to a threat message on March 17. As copycats become a problem, more resources and time will have to be used in order to combat the growing number of problems. The proliferation of this threat could become worse as more perpetrators emerge.

The threats are affecting the environment of our school. The haven that CHS was before the commotion has now been disrupted. The overall atmosphere of our school has changed for the worse despite the excellent response from the administrators. All of us should be vigilant to try to prevent such actions in future. ☹

### Staff Editorial

Agree 100%  
0% Disagree



# Sports involving animals unethical, horrifying

Late last month in the streets of Calcutta, thousands of snake charmers protested the increasing enforcement of a 1991 ban on snake charming performances and the 1972 Wildlife Protection Act that India passed to prohibit even the ownership of such reptiles.

The scene was just one of the ongoing battles between established traditions and new ethics. We are seeing the gradual disappearance of customary entertainment that involves animals—cockfighting was made illegal in all 50 states only as recently as last August, Catalanian plazas del toro are facing increasing political pressure to shut down, and greyhound racing has been banned in 7 states.

While some may argue that using animals for entertainment, whether in blood fights or racing, is traditional and/or enjoyable, it is in reality the ignorance of our modern ethical ideals for the sake of “tradition”—a concept that can never be justification in and of itself.

For instance, according to tradition, Indian snake charmers often rip out the fangs of the venom-

ous snakes they make “dance” (in reality a frightened response to the vibrations the animal feels from the music), leaving them defenseless when, after a period of a year or so, they release them into the wild.

Can we truly impose indirect death upon an animal in the name of tradition? And even if we can, are we willing to directly murder animals?

Tourism is mainly what keeps the thousands of snake charmers still performing across India so determined to continue their tradition. Thus, it is money that drives the outdated entertainment, and not a true sense of loyalty to one’s cultural heritage. Were the money to dry up, the snake charmers would surely turn to another source of income. But the money will not dry up—not as long as the global community continues to view such cases of animal torture or abuse through non-judgmental, and even bemused eyes.

Therefore, it is up to every individual within the global community to recognize the rights of animals regardless of whether their genus be Homo or Python.

Another controversial use of

animals for entertainment is a bit closer to home than India, and even involves Clayton High School’s mascot—the greyhound, a dog known for its speed.

The greyhound racing industry continues to come under severe criticism despite an slight increase in the number of dogs adopted after their racing careers for euthanizing or abandoning dogs once they’ve outlived their usefulness on the track.

How can we use these animals for our entertainment, and then discard them? This abuse must not continue. Racing animals is not entirely bad, but the industry’s demand for profit inevitably leads to abuse—abuse that can only be completely eliminated by the elimination of the industry itself.

The greyhound’s speed may have increased its fame, but it has also caused it much suffering, and it is time for this suffering to end, even if it means ending the days of the dog on the racetrack.

Besides just frightening or rac-

ing animals for profit, the ancient “sport” of blood fighting, or setting animals against each other in a fight, still continues around the world. The most commonplace of this era is probably cockfighting, which was made illegal in the last of the 50 states to ban it, Louisiana, just less than a year ago.

Cockfighting involves setting two roosters against each other, sometimes armed with sharp blades on the backs of their legs, and then betting on them. The fights are not typically to the death, but repeated fights causes enormous physical damage over time, often blinding and mutilating the birds.

The ban of cockfighting in the United States is not enough to make the event obsolete—even within the United States itself.

We must become educated enough to understand that yes, tradition is tradition, but any tradition which violates the rights of a living being is an offense to the humane qualities that define our humanity.



Courtesy of MCT Campus

Two gamecocks fight in mid-air in a cockfight in Bagra-Baborshtain in Kabul, Afghanistan. Although blood fighting is outlawed in the Koran, cockfighting is a popular sport in many Middle Eastern countries such as Afghanistan and Pakistan.

# Living in moment proves both difficult, yet rewarding

We have all seen or been guilty of answering a text, phone call, AIM or twitter during a family dinner. It’s undeniable the call or message may have been important, but what is more important is the people sitting around you.

Living in the moment is something that I think is being lost. Technology makes it so easy to communicate with people anytime and anywhere. It’s not that I don’t like technology—quite the contrary. I find myself wanting the latest gadgets and fancy do-dads everyday.

I have always had this extreme fascination with the apple iTouch. My mind goes wild with questions when I see the commercial for it. How does it work? How many games does it have? Why don’t I have one? The thing can practically cook dinner for

you. It has everything but the kitchen sink. There is one thing it doesn’t have to offer; companionship and memorable moments.

While some people may argue, “of course this thing has priceless moments, just take a look at my high score.” That moment may have been exciting for a short while but the things that count are enjoying a spring day, going out to see a movie, having a family game night, hanging out with friends, taking a long walk, just the little things that make life what it is. Just imagine all the things that can be missed.

Another thing that has been bothering me is when people say, “I wish it was spring

break already.” While I, too, wish spring break would come, I think it’s important to enjoy everyday. Being your present age only happens once, you will never be this age again. Don’t always look at the clock and wonder how much time until another day, live in the present.

Think back to fond memories; maybe when a friend told a funny joke, something in nature caught your eye or the thrill of winning a much-anticipated game. The best memories had are those of living in the moment.

It’s important to take everyday as it comes and learn from each minute of that day.

Try not to dread hard days filled with tests and social obstacles. The most challenging days are the ones you learn the most from. Don’t rush them by them, or else you’ll find yourself rushing through life and missing important lessons.

What I mean to say is: live in the moment, time passes quickly. Spring break and senior year will come quickly. Don’t let technology, no matter how cool or fascinating, distract you from the simple joys in life today. Perhaps—just once in a while—turn off the cell phone or computer.

I would like to end this column with a quote by the innovative science fiction novelist H.G. Wells: “We must not allow the clock and the calendar to blind us to the fact that each moment of life is a miracle and mystery.”

# On-line newspapers fail to satisfy student

I realize that the era of print journalism is coming to an end. As the number of free news sources available online skyrocketed, fewer and fewer people are willing to subscribe to papers reporting “old news.”

As circulation falls so do advertising prices, leading to slimmer pages, fewer sections, and job cuts. Newspapers such as the Christian Science Monitor and most recently the Seattle Post-Intelligencer have done away with the printed word, going completely online. Others such as The Rocky Mountain News have folded entirely.

The farewell note in the final issue of The Rocky Mountain News, published only two months shy of its 150th anniversary, contains a phrase that I, as a journalism student, believe borders on tragic. “We will scatter,” wrote the paper, and indeed they will—the men and women that worked to put out each issue will disperse.

As a member of a newspaper staff, I can’t imagine what it would be like to work on an entirely online “publication.” The very fact that reporters, photographers, editors, designers, and publishers must work together to produce a printed product on deadline (be it daily, weekly, or monthly) is what holds a publication together.

Although the process of producing a high school newspaper such as the Globe is difficult to put into words—I believe that it must be experienced, not explained—I will give it a shot.

During the chaos that is deadline week, stories must be collected and copy-edited; photos have to be downloaded and selected; art, graphics, layout, advertising and printing must be coordinated.

Every month it seems like we won’t be able to finish—someone’s story (usually my own) isn’t in, or the server’s crashing, or an ad has to get moved, or a page isn’t laid out properly. Every month we have nights where we stay until 10 o’clock (or later) fixing pica spacing, converting photos to CMYK color code, or trying to reach someone for a last-minute interview.

We become delirious, slap happy, infuriated, and frantic. Usually around 9:30 our adviser (or should I say demigod?) Nancy Freeman begins to break out into impromptu song, the signal that we will soon be kicked out of the office. Finally we PDF our pages and send them to the printer, hoping that the more finicky colors will turn out and the ink won’t bleed



Jessica Shen

Jeremy Bleeker sits outside of his Mecca, trying (and failing) to imagine a world without print media.

too much.

But then one day, around 3 p.m., a van shows up with stack upon stack of papers. We descend upon them hungrily, scanning for errors as we revel in the product of all our hard work. Since my fellow senior editors and I took over control of the Globe this August we have put out eight issues (this one included). I can honestly say that the days on which those eight issues arrived in the Globe office have been among the most (if not *the* most) rewarding of my high school experience.

I have dreamt of working on a newspaper when I grow up. Although I know that the Globe operates nothing like a professional newspaper, I do believe that the same spirit of camaraderie and shared commitment exists at the headquarters of the New York Times as does in our cramped little office in the Cottage. I also believe that that camaraderie is cultivated by the common goal of producing a newspaper and then enjoying the fruit of that labor in tangible ink and paper, not in the flickering depths of a computer screen.

I can’t imagine working on the newspaper staff if we didn’t produce the Globe. Although some may call them impractical or outdated, newspapers for me will always be magical.



Grace Cohen



Courtesy of MCT Campus

Michael Phelps of the United States celebrates another gold and an Olympic record in the 100-meter butterfly on Saturday, August 16, 2008, in the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing, China.

# Be cautious of omnipresent cameras

As teens, we are told time and time again from the media, our school and possibly our parents that a high school and college experience full of sex and drugs will land us nowhere. But we all know that this theory is just a load of bull.

The current President of United States, Barack Obama, openly wrote about his stoner past in his book “Dreams of My Father.”

He even admitted to his dabbling with cocaine and that the only reason he had not tried heroin was because he did not like the pusher who was trying to sell it to him.

How was Obama, and almost every other President from the last 50 years, able to escape the ghosts of their dark pasts?

It’s simple, they either denied their infamous past or they gave the American people some manufactured damage control, scripted by their campaign manager.

The hypocrisy of the situation is boundless, but this column is not about that. I’m writing this story because I am sad to say that the days of dodging the horrors of our past are officially over.



Justin Elliott

Michael Phelps recent incident with a picture of him using a bong was the major indicator of this.

With one photo Phelps was able to place a thick shadow over his recent victory in Beijing. Losing Kellogg as his sponsor and the respect of many of fans, according to the New York Times, some financial experts predict that this photo will cost Phelps upwards of \$100 million in sponsorship.

But why was this photo so controversial? Just four years ago Phelps got a DWI at age 19 and the media almost made no fuss.

Is it the eight additional gold medals he has added to his repertoire that has changed the landscape? I refuse to believe so.

The only difference between this incident and four years ago, and Phelps and Obama is one thing, a picture.

It is true that a single picture is worth a 1000 words, but it also something much more substantial, it is cold hard evidence.

Even in a world of digital pictures and Photoshop, society goes head over heels for a picture

catching someone red handed. No one can deny a picture. This is the scary fact that all of us will have to deal with in the future.

Yes, photography has been around for a long time, but the age of Facebook, Myspace and picture phones has not. If a picture was floating around the Internet of Obama sorting cocaine or Bush playing beer pong, I doubt they would have ever held the title of President.

When it comes down to it, I am not saying that high schools should change their life style, nor am I condoning them.

All I am saying is that teens shouldn’t do stupid things in front of a camera. Not only have some Clayton High School failed at shying away from the camera, they embrace it.

Facebook is overflowing with profile pictures of students chugging beer, or playing beer pong. Other profiles contain hundreds of pictures of students smoking and getting wasted every weekend.

It might look cool now, but in 10 years it might be your worst nightmare. Just do yourself a favor and be smart about being stupid: if you do something stupid just don’t let someone take a picture of it.

# Globe

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We also remind students that as the Globe is a student publication, all compliments, opinions, complaints, and suggestions are welcomed and should be forwarded to the Globe Office.

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# Obama lifts ban on embryonic stem cell research

Students voice opinions on the drawbacks and benefits of stem cell research.

Pro: Lifting of ban offers multitude of positive possibilities for saving lives.

On Monday, March 9, President Barack Obama saved countless lives with the single stroke of a pen. Obama signed an executive order lifting an 8-year-old ban on using federal funds for embryonic stem cell research, a decision that has been commended by scientists, doctors, and patients across the globe.

Embryonic stem cells are essentially blank slates; they can be assigned to generate practically any of the types of cells found in the human body. Thus, they are a scientific gold mine. For over a decade now, scientists have been raving about how embryonic stem cells could be the master key to unlock the vexing diseases of our time, and Obama's move has made researchers excited for the future.

"This is huge," Amy Comstock Rick of the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research told the Washington Post. "It is eight years overdue to have human embryonic stem cell research put back in place with other forms of research for patients in this country."

In addition, U.S. News and World Report reported that stem cells may someday cure diseases like diabetes, heart disease, Parkinson's disease, and Alzheimer's. A treatment for any one of those illnesses would be monumental and would save thousands of American lives.

Actor and Parkinson's patient Michael J. Fox has campaigned extensively in favor of stem cell research, and he expressed his satisfaction with Obama's order in a prepared statement.

"Now that the President has taken this critical action, I am excited by the prospect of American scientists carrying human embryonic stem cell research forward toward better treatments and cures that will affect countless millions of lives," Fox said.

Despite the obvious advantages to embryonic stem cell research, there is still vehement opposition, primarily from conservatives. Their main argument is that embryonic stem cell research destroys human life, and thus should not be funded by the government. Though the research does require the destruction

of human embryos, federally funded destruction of human life is not a new concept.

The current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, which are supported mostly by conservatives, have resulted in the deaths of over 4,000 Americans. These wars are for a worthy cause – to protect America from outside threats and to preserve the ideals that make this nation unique – but so is stem cell research.

Embryonic stem cell research destroys life in its earliest stages, but could save the lives of those who are suffering and in pain. Surely that is a worthy cause. And at least the humans destroyed in stem cell research, if you can even call a clump of cells in a Petri dish human, don't have children dependent on them or parents longing for them as the soldiers in the Middle East do.

Many opponents also argue that instead of embryonic stem cell research, scientists should be focusing on adult stem cell research, which is non-lethal. This makes sense, but the area of adult stem cell research is fairly new and it will take time before it will produce any real results. Harvard scientists estimate it could take up to ten years before scientists really get the hang of it. Furthermore, adult stem cells only have the ability to produce a few of the body's 220 types of cells, and are thus not nearly as versatile as embryonic stem cells.

In all, the Obama administration's move shows a new direction in government not seen in the past eight years: the separation of ideology and science. The fact of the matter is that almost all scientists believe that embryonic stem cells could provide a cure to some of the most devastating diseases that are causing patients pain and suffering on a daily basis.

And so I ask the opposition: What gives you the right to refuse to heal the wounds of the sick? And what allows you to deny the innocent Americans plagued by disease the right to live a normal, healthy life? The answer is nothing. Absolutely nothing. ☹

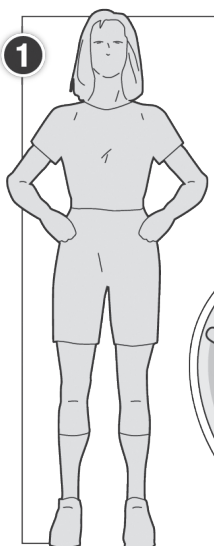


Noah Eby



## Understanding stem cells

Stem cells are among the body's most versatile components, reservoirs capable of growing into virtually any other part of the body.



1

### Adult, or tissue-specific, stem cells

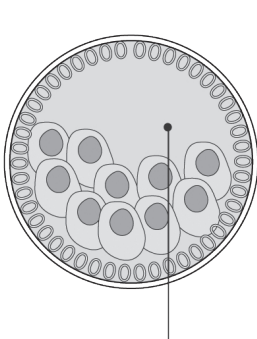
- Reside in every organ, tissue and cell in the body, even in fat
- Surgery abroad on patients with spinal cord injuries uses stem cells extracted from nasal cavity
- Bone and stem cell transplants use cells derived from marrow extracted from the spongy hollow of bone



2

### Umbilical cord blood

- Contains stem cells that are considered younger and more adaptable than embryonic stem cells
- Have been used in transplant procedures for less than a decade



3

### Embryonic cells

- From in-vitro fertilization; the early blastocyst cells develop in the first five days after fertilization
- Can become many types of adult cells; have potential as therapy for wide range of problems

Source: Free Press research

Graphic: Detroit Free Press, F.S. Fluker, Pat Anstett

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Courtesy of MCT Campus



Jonathan Shumway

Con: Use of embryonic stem cells for medical research destroys the right to life; alternatives exist.

As scientific innovation and technology has advanced, the interest in stem cell research has increased. Many people have seen it as a way to lead to break-through medical discoveries, such as finding ways to build replacement organs, to provide regenerative medicine for Alzheimer's disease and find a cure for Parkinson's disease.

Though stem cell research could lead to these medical discoveries, recognizing that innocent human life is being used in some of these experiments for such purposes, the question arises if it is ethical and moral to allow this area of research.

People have often debated when life begins for babies in the womb. Human life is a term used to show that there is a human presence, an individual on earth. People may consider embryonic research to be justified because they say the embryo was formed through in-vitro fertilization, and the donors are well informed of the tests done on the embryo.

Does not this embryo, though grown in scientific laboratory, still have a right to have the chance at something called life, where one can grow and develop? What is the difference between a human embryo grown in a lab in comparison to the embryo grown in a woman's womb? In the past month, President Obama has lifted the former limits for testing and funding of embryonic research. Many have seen this act as critical for America, so that it can continue to have an edge in scientific discovery and innovation.

Though embryonic stem cell research may help the advancement of medical science, there are other alternatives that could be used in stem cell research. Adult stem cells, also known as somatic stem cells, have also gained the interest of researchers in the last several years.

Likewise embryonic stem cells from the placentas of newborn infants are source for this material. According to the National Institute of Health, "adult blood-forming stem cells from bone marrow have been used in transplants for 30 years."

Somatic stem cell research has now advanced to the point where we know several places to find these stem cells, in places other than bone marrow.

In adults there are several places where stem cells are located, and several kinds of stem cells, from hematopoietic stem cells to neural stem cells, epithelial stem cells and skin stem cells. This shows how the advancement of stem cell research can be performed by using embryonic stem cells from placental sources or adult somatic cells.

When using adult stem cells, the donor can be notified and be aware of the choice that he or she is making. With embryonic stem cells, the baby is not even at a point where it can defend itself against its death by the harvesting

of its stem cells.

Though people may think that embryonic stem cell research should lead in stem cell research, because after all millions of stem cells can be created by using embryonic research, people do not want to accept that in the end, the embryo will have its life ended after all its stem cells have been harvested.

If there are alternatives to embryonic stem cell research, why do they not receive the attention they deserve?

Or is it out of convenience that people have explored and used embryonic stem cells in contrast to somatic stem cells?

In conclusion, stem cell research will allow much medical advancement, but the methodology that is used should be considered.

Though embryonic stem cell research will most undeniably continue to be done, the way in which it is done, and the realization that a human life like you and me is being used against its will, and that there are alternatives to embryonic stem cell research should be considered. Somatic stem cells or placental sourcing for embryonic stem cells should be used for the moral obligation to protect life.

This would help America be a leader in medical science without destroying life. ☹

# Quest for perfection an unhealthy illusion for hard-working high school students

It's that time of day again. The time everyone waits for. Fingers itch with anticipation, already imagining and playing out the goal. Homework is finished in record time. Half the answers are probably wrong, but that's okay. Plenty will be going over it again later, doing a double or even triple check to make sure no errors were made. Finally, the blessed moment has arrived. Eagerly, students grab bags and race towards... the computer to check Power School.

More and more students are feeling the pressure to attain perfection, especially with today's advanced technological state. Applications like Power School allow a student to view any grade with a mere click of a mouse, their triumphs and failures played out on the barrenness of a computer screen. And, more often than not, it is the failures that the students zero in on, berating themselves for tiny mistakes that cause minute fluctuations in their GPAs.

None of this is healthy. *None of it.* Students shouldn't have to feel the constant need to be perfect. Power School should not be the number one most visited site on someone's computer, and pulling all-nighters shouldn't be the norm. But they are. And it all ties back to the quest for perfection.

Back in sixth grade, I experienced the madness of perfection, and I still have to deal with the repercussions. Middle school had started easily for me. All my assignments and tests had received shiny A pluses. At the time, I didn't even know what my GPA was, let alone care. I was living up to another standard: the Kropp Family Standard. Ever since Kindergarten,

this standard had been drilled into my head. *Kropp's are leaders. Kropp's do what is right, no matter what. Kropp's get nothing less than an A on a report card.* So far, I hadn't had any trouble with fulfilling these demands. I had always been a natural-born leader, and I was always extremely polite and nice, even to the point of painfulness. Grades were never a problem. It was something I simply didn't think about. A's were just a guarantee.

That is, until that fateful day in Spanish class. It was a simple quiz over animals, one that I had neglected to study for the night before. Why would I need to study? I would ace it anyway. I finished in record time, filling out my answers quickly and confidently. Several days later, I received the test back. Instead of the usual A marking my page, I found myself looking at the worst letter in the world: a B. *What?!* Frantically, I dug out my calculator, certain that there had been some error in the percentage calculation. To my chagrin, there wasn't. I had really received a B.

To say that I was upset was an understatement. My entire world shattered. I felt so ashamed. I had not followed the Kropp Family Standard. In my mind, I could see everything falling apart. All the sacrifices my parents had made, my mother's long working hours, my fathers doctorate, were wasted. I was doomed forever to work at a fast food restaurant, simply for getting a B on a Spanish test.

Over the next few years, perfection became my new goal. It didn't matter that the test didn't affect my solid A in Span-



Caitlin Kropp

# Senior reflects on anticipation and trials of college admissions process

"Congratulations! We are pleased to admit you..." and "After reviewing your application, we have unfortunately decided not to admit you..." Those lines sound familiar? Ah, yes. College decisions. The dreaded April 1 is fastly approaching.

Especially this time of year, I cannot log onto Facebook without witnessing a status like: "Patsy just got into Oxford! Go Class of 2013!" Or mindless chatter in the cafeteria: "Did you hear that Renaldo got rejected from the University of Guam? But like, Pepe got in? That is totally like, unfair. Pepe sucks at life." (Yeah, I know we don't have anyone named Patsy or Renaldo at our school. Names have been changed to protect the innocent, lucky, and college-bound.)

I admit, although this column is a somewhat stereotypical end-of-third-quarter-senior column venting about college, I can't seem to help myself. As it gets closer to April 1, I get more and more nervous.

Recently, I was rejected from two schools that I was 80 percent sure I would get into, and waitlisted at what was supposed to be my safety school. I tried to rationalize why I could have possibly gotten rejected or waitlisted. Having suffered through the process of completing 16 college applications, politely ask-

ing for teacher recommendations and embarking upon countless college interviews, I considered myself to be the college expert. In my mind, I was a shoo-in to all three of those schools! I have a good GPA, good test scores and am quite involved in the school, not to mention an African American woman (which, believe me, in the college admissions world, holds much significance).

After being rejected and waitlisted I felt cheated and also puzzled. Although none of the schools were by any means my top choice, I couldn't help but feel personally insulted. What was wrong with me?

Were my sleepless nights spent slaving away over math problems and author projects a joke? Were my years spent attempting to be athletic on the basketball court and soccer field in an effort to be "well-rounded," in vain?

After being waitlisted to my "safety," I was honestly livid inside. I vented to one of my best friends. I told him that I was going to write Tulane a reprimanding letter for letting go of the best thing that could possibly happen to them.

ish: I was a girl possessed. Every project, every worksheet was gone over with a fine tooth comb, looking for minute errors that were not part of the perfection plan. All too soon, the effects of this lifestyle started to take hold. I wasn't sleeping well. I had sudden urges to cry at the most mundane moments. I remember one day, after a particularly long play practice, I sat at the kitchen table and began to sob. How was I ever going to complete all the homework I had for English? I couldn't finish it all before bed; I was doomed. It took my mother seven tries and three cans of Diet Coke to finally calm me down enough to finish the assigned homework.

Even after these breakdowns became common, I still didn't recognize what it had done to me until years later. One day in eighth grade, I looked, really looked at myself in the mirror. I didn't like what I saw. There were dark circles under my eyes, and my hair was limp. My lip was bleeding, yet again, after worrying it for about an hour with my teeth. This new person scared me. I couldn't recognize myself. It was time for a change.

Slowly, I started to release my hold on the dream of perfection. I stopped having sleepless nights over projects, and I trained myself not to cry when I got less than an A plus on a quiz. I stopped checking Power School every five hours, eventually weaning myself until I forgot the password altogether. And, somehow, it got me to how I am today.

Now, when I look at my friends or the kids in my class, I feel a combination of worry and pity. These are the students who check Power School devotedly, who study for a small quiz for three hours. I want to laugh and cry when I look at them

"Dear Tulane," I narrated to my friend. "You think Hurricane Katrina was sucky, just wait until you experience Hurricane Fontasha. You'd better prep the levies; here she comes! Love, Fontasha."

Looking back, that wasn't really funny. It was extremely insensitive and self-centered. But, I couldn't seem to help it. My frustration and confusion about getting waitlisted was manifesting itself in anger. I still couldn't get the question out of my head: WHY WASN'T I GOOD ENOUGH?

One lunch period, the same friend I was venting to about Tulane oddly comforted me. As the usual chatter complaining about college, stressing about tests and worrying about grades started up, he turned to me and said: "You know what, all this stuff we're talking

about doesn't even really matter. If you really think about it, school, college and sports are meaningless. People in the world are a lot worse off than we are right now. As long as you've got your health and your family, everything's really fine."



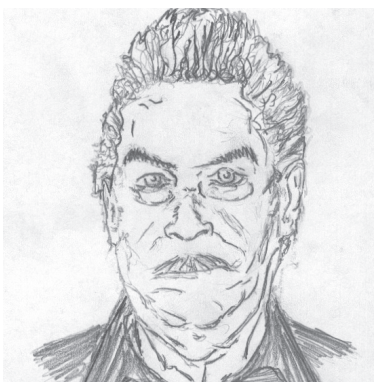
Fontasha Powell



## Sarah's Line of Infamy

All photos from MCT

### Josef Fritzl



Ali Sehzadeh

An Austrian electrical engineer, Fritzl incarcerated his own daughter for 24 years, and fathered seven of her children. He has admitted guilty to rape, incest, false imprisonment, coercion, slavery and the murder due to neglect of a young boy. It has been estimated that he raped his daughter 3000 times starting when he lured her down to the basement when she was 18. Coming into court with a blue ring-binder covering his face, this is one of the most despicable people on the face of this planet. I don't care what his lawyer says, this man truly is a monster.

## facebook

Recently it seems as if every single facebook status comes down to this: "I HATE THE NEW FACEBOOK!" The layout is so uniform, it is hard to find applications and games, and the status updates look like wall posts. I feel like a stalker every single time I open up my facebook page. It just makes me twitter.

## Pope Benedict XVI



The Pope recently visited Africa to visit AIDS victims. While there he decided to break the silence on the topic of condom usage by stating that condoms would only make the AIDS crisis worse. I just find it pathetic that he seems to value his religious dogma more than the lives of the 22 million infected people around him.

## AIG

They give bonuses of more than \$1 million to more than 73 employees, including 11 who no longer work for the company. The top recipient got \$6.4 million. It is just ridiculous that the Financial Products Division would do this even though they are primarily for the meltdown which led to the bailout and our tax-paying dollars. Around 12.5 percent of those who got the money left, and these guys got 20 percent of the money. I guess with a retention rate like that, who needs employment?

## Tucker Carlson

On CNN, Tucker Carlson blasted Jon Stewart for being a "partisan hack" after Stewart slammed Jim Cramer, a TV personality from *Mad Money*. Which is slightly hypocritical seeing as Carlson once participated on *Crossfire* as a Republican advocate...only somewhat partisan, isn't it? And the Daily Show, while fairly liberal, does mock both sides. Carlson also stated that the media are just wimps who are afraid to call Stewart a "pompous jerk." Well that is interesting because those are the exact words I think of when your name comes up...

The Interest page focuses on funny and interesting bits of pop culture. If you have any item you think is worthy, drop us an e-mail at [globe@clayton.k12.mo.us](mailto:globe@clayton.k12.mo.us) or come see us in the cottage. Photos, funnies, and favorite songs and websites are all welcome.



## "Dora the Explor" gets a makeover!

Dora is growing up. Nickelodeon wants the children's cartoon to grow up with its viewers. Now aimed at 10 year olds, Dora is all grown up...Will The Map still be her friend?

BEFORE:



MCT

AFTER:



Mattel/Nickelodeon

Website of the Month



MCT

xkcd.com

Xkcd.com is full of webcomics made by Russell Munroe, a contractor who worked with NASA. The comics range from poking fun at romance, math, language and are highly sarcastic. Most of the cartoons are stick figures. For a laugh, visit [xkcd.com](http://xkcd.com)!

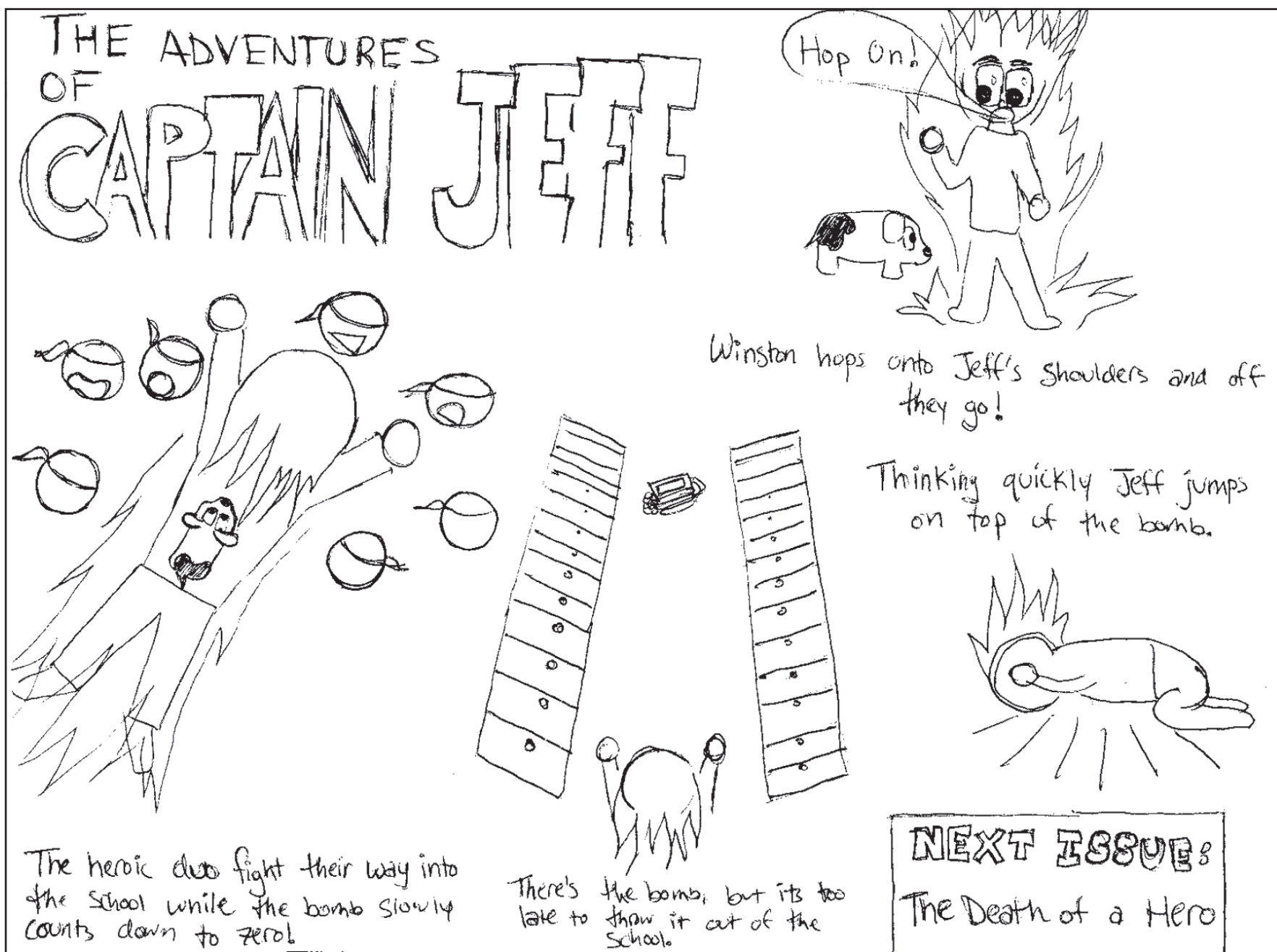
Environmental Tip of the Month



MCT

## Canvas Shopping Bags

Next time you visit the grocery store, bring a canvas shopping bag instead of using the offered plastic bags. This helps cut down the plastic and paper usage. Also, some stores offer a small discount for customers that bring a canvas shopping bag. If you do get plastic bags, try to reuse!



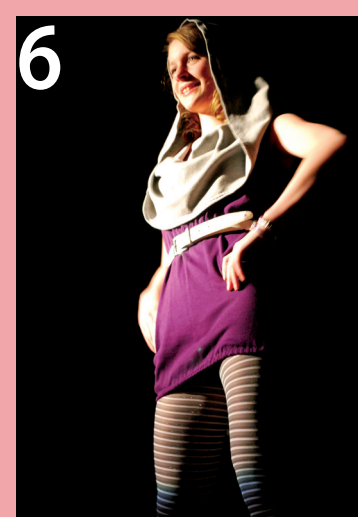
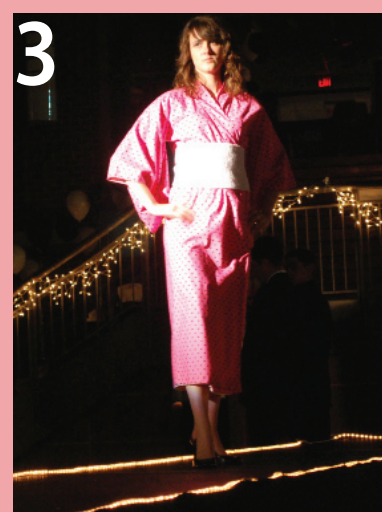
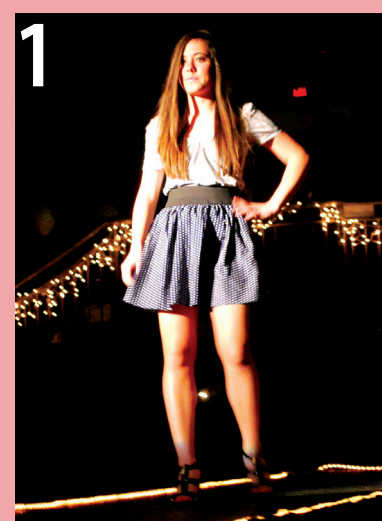




Most of them members of Mrs. Linda William's wardrobe class, CHS students created all of the designs shown in this spring's fashion show. (above left) Leah Staenberg and Anna Copilevitz do last minute touch-ups before the show. (Above right) Anna Copilevitz, Emily Derfler, Simone Lenoir, and Grace Brumley pose after their hard work all year to create the designs shown in the Mar. 14 show. Proceeds benefited Neurofibromatosis and the CHS Practical Arts Department. Other designers included Brianna Williams and Rachael Oetting.



All photos by Molly Brandt



As the designers put the finishing touches on their pieces, models got ready by picking out their makeup and shoes and students made hors d'oeuvres (Above from upper left, clockwise: Klio Coppotelli, Samantha Dulle, Mariah Hatcher, below: Constance Nevels).



- Models:
1. Abygail Dulle
  2. Shelby Sternberg
  3. Chelsea Embree
  4. Jen Golden
  5. Monica Gierada
  6. Moira MacDougal
  7. Grace Brumley
  8. Anna Copilevitz
  9. Taylor Pasley

