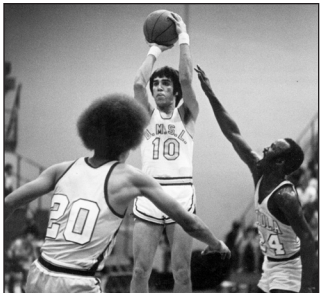




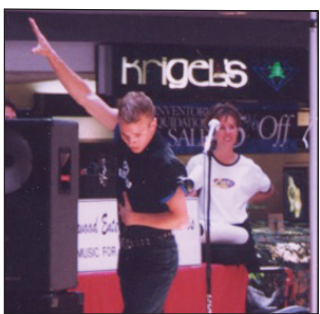
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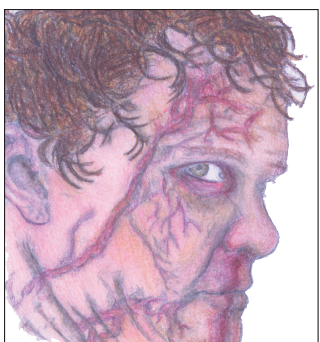
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the GLOBE

Clayton High School

1 Mark Twain Circle

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VOLUNTEERING, pg 6

“Volunteers make a positive difference in the lives of all the people they serve. They are touching the hearts and souls of a community that is not their own and become better for doing so.”

Sara Nelson

St. Louis Crisis Nursery Volunteer Coordinator



Superintendent-elect Mary Herrmann speaks at a Board of Education meeting on March 10. The same day, the district held a reception after her arrival.

District hires new superintendent

by Ken Zheng
Co-Editor in Chief

As Superintendent Don Senti nears his retirement at the end of his fifteenth year as the head of the Clayton school district, the search for his successor recently ended.

On March 8, the district announced the next superintendent: Dr. Mary Herrmann. Herrmann currently serves as superintendent of Winnetka Public Schools 36, a K-8 district of about 2,000 students just north of Chicago, Illinois.

“I think the districts are very similar in terms of demographics,” Herrmann said. “There are high expectations for student learning and community engagement to support the schools. Every constituent group is very involved in decision-making. Clayton shares similar characteristics with other high-performing school districts where I have had the privilege to work in a leadership role.”

She believes education is highly valued and well supported by both the Winnetka and Clayton communities.

“There is a both a deep commitment to serving all children well and a shared commitment with the community to focus on the development of the whole child,” Herrmann said. “It is an honor and privilege to be afforded the opportunity to serve the children and families in the Clayton community.”

Herrmann knows that there's a lot to adjust to when coming to a new school district.

“I think what I need to do when I come is get a sense of what's going on and listen a lot,” Herrmann said. “In doing that, you get a sense of the direction that would make sense in terms of moving towards the future.”

The superintendent reports to the Board of Education and has the responsibility of carrying out the policies of the Board.

“What I feel is important is that he or she should work in collaboration with all the constituent groups, to help shape the vision and move the district forward,” Herrmann said. “There are many things that the district is already working on, and I would help facilitate and influence those movements.”

One of the challenges that she faced in Winnetka was a philosophical one.

“[Winnetka is] a district that has been grounded in the work of John Dewey and progressive education,” Herrmann said. “As we as a country

have moved towards standardization like the No Child Left Behind Policy, there's been questioning within the community.”

One of the things that Herrmann looks forward to forming is a student advisory council that she would meet on a regular basis.

“I would hear from students and what some of their perspectives are on the issues. I do the same with parents and staff members. It's really important to gather a lot of information and get everyone's perspectives. Before trying to define a problem, it's important to understand what's happening. I'm very excited to be here, and I'm looking forward to it.”

The Board of Education greatly approves of Herrmann and is excited about the future of the district.

“Dr. Herrmann has the educational experience, leadership skills, integrity and vision to lead the School District of Clayton for many years in our pursuit of academic excellence for all students,” said Board of Education President Omri Praiss. “The Board has taken great care to select someone who will be the right fit for our school district and we are extremely excited to appoint Mary as Clayton's next superintendent.”

According to Senti, Herrmann brings lots of her past experience to the table. Senti suggested that Herrmann apply for the job.

“I knew her through an organization consisting of 100 superintendents around the country,” Senti said. “I hope she continues to work on the African American achievement gap; that's probably our biggest problem. We've done pretty well, but we still need to narrow that. She'll get to oversee all the building projects, and hopefully she'll get to see the new middle school.”

Herrmann is very hopeful that Prop W will pass.

“Certainly, I think people have expressed that there's a need and that it's been there for a long time,” Herrmann said. “There's a lot of desire to focus on the middle school and make it a really positive physical space.”

She believes that balancing work and play is very important good thing.

“I really enjoy spending time with my son, daughter and husband,” Herrmann said. “We enjoy outdoor activities like hiking, biking and marathon relays. We do a lot of things together, and I enjoy spending time with them more than anything.”

Meeting the candidates running for this year's Board of Education

Because Brad Bernstein, Susan Buse and Robert Kerr each have their respective strengths and experience on the Board, voters will have a difficult decision to make on April 6.

by Noah Eby
Editor

One year ago, Clayton residents witnessed firsthand that the phrase “every vote counts” is no joke when Prop S passed by a mere two votes. This spring, voters will once again have their voices heard in the local elections. Amongst other important issues on the April 6 ballot, including Prop W, is the election of members of the Board of Education.

Three candidates have filed for two vacant seats. Susan Buse and Robert Kerr, both one-term incumbents, seek to keep their current seats as Brad Bernstein, who served on the BOE from 1998-2007, hopes to regain a spot on the Board. Bernstein said that he has decided to run again because he has “a passion to do what's best for all students.”

“I believe I can really make a difference,” Bernstein said. “We have a strong district, yet we need to constantly identify areas of improvement and work with the entire Board and administration to bring positive change to meet the needs of all students.”

Buse and Kerr also stressed that it is necessary to keep moving forward and adapt to changing times and challenges. Buse, who received an AB from Washington University and a JD from the University of Virginia School of Law, has been involved in Clayton schools for 16 years. She has four children who have attended or are currently attending schools in the district and has worked on PTOs, curriculum committees and other organizations. She said that her in-depth involvement in Clayton schools distinguishes her from the other candidates.

“I think what makes me different from the other candidates is that I got to the Board because I had been inside our classrooms for so many years,” Buse said. “I have relationships that I think strengthen my ability to bring the community concerns and community goals to the board table.”

Kerr grew up in Clayton, attending Glenridge, Wydown and CHS, going on to Washington University as an undergrad and law student. He currently works at a law firm in Clayton. Kerr has two children attending Meramec and lives in Davis Place. He said that his past experience in Clayton schools acts as motivation for him to serve on the Board.

“I really feel like I got a lot out of attending Clayton schools, and they've benefited me throughout my whole life, and I just feel a very strong desire to give back,” Kerr said.

Kerr said that he is a pragmatic, results-oriented person who is able to agree to disagree and move on to tackle the next challenge, which he said is possibly the most important skill that a board member possesses. He also said that all of the candidates have records as board members and that his “speaks for itself.”

Though Bernstein has children in the Clayton schools, his background is different from that of the other two candidates since he is not an attorney. He said this is part of what makes him unique and a valuable asset to the Board.

“I did lead a path unlike the other candidates or even Board members,” Bernstein said. “I went to community college, I went to UMSL, I went to Washington University, I went to medical school, I was in the Marines, I was in the

Navy, I was on an aircraft carrier, I came back home, I was faculty at Washington University and now I'm the head of my own private practice anesthesia group. I really think I've walked the walk in environments like no other candidate.”

Buse said that her job as a board member is to tie community values and goals to education and make them realized in the classroom. Bernstein said that he looks at his role as to “engage in active listening, asking hard questions, working with my colleagues to set specific goals and objectives for our schools, teachers and curricula.”

As for issues that the Board will have to deal with in the upcoming three-year term, all three mentioned revisions to the math curriculum.

“[The math curriculum] has been a significant source of concern for at least

12 years” Bernstein said. “Specifically in math, we really have to balance concerns of parents and teachers to provide the best outcomes for our students. I'd like to see added emphasis on challenging kids in the middle, not just those in honors. Every student at Clayton should feel confident and prepared to pursue any career field they have an interest in.”

Buse said that she thinks the community has to “come to some sort of consensus on math” and that she hopes that the community can act together and move forward. She and Kerr also said that transitioning to the new superintendent would be an issue facing the district. Bernstein and Kerr named the nutrition program as an area for improvement. Bernstein said that he “has always felt strongly about a major reevaluation of the food service throughout the district.”

Yard signs have begun to pop up on front lawns and fliers have started to circulate, but the Buse campaign faces a unique challenge. Due to a clerical error, Susan Bradley will be listed on the ballot instead of Susan Buse.

“Unfortunately, with the mistake on the ballot, a lot of our campaigning is just to make sure that people are aware that I am on the ballot even though my wrong name is on the ballot,” Buse said. “And that's been a real problem for us, because name recognition is key, especially because my whole family is involved in our community.”

Buse said that she filled out all of the paperwork right and that it was too late by the time the mistake was noticed, despite the district's efforts to have it fixed.

“We discovered [the mistake] several weeks ago and Clayton, as it should have, went to court to get the Board of Elections to correct the ballot,” Buse said. “The amazing thing to me was that, even though this was February for an April election, the Board of Elections said that because of their technology, they couldn't fix the ballot.”

Voters can still vote for Susan Buse by checking Susan Bradley, and signs will be posted at voting locations to remind voters. Buse said that the incident can be a learning experience for new high school voters as they can see the importance of being informed on what is on a ballot. She said she hopes it is a “wake-up call” to the Board of Elections.

The April 6 election will determine which two of the three candidates have seats at the board table for the next three years, but one thing is clear: each of the candidates is experienced, committed to the future and success of Clayton students and eager to serve the community.



Susan Buse



Robert Kerr

Wydown teacher catches vandal

by Zach Praiss
Reporter

Catching criminals is not a part of a teacher's job description.

However, it's a different story for Lorie Madriz, a Spanish teacher at Wydown Middle School, who recently helped catch the person responsible for a burglary at Wydown.

Over Winter Break, a young man in his early twenties broke into Wydown by taking a rock and breaking a large window on the first floor.

Once inside Wydown, he trashed several offices, including the foreign language office, by knocking over bookshelves and throwing around papers. However, the school's security system was monitoring him the entire time.

“All the time, the video cameras were on watching him do all the damage,” Madriz said. “I felt pretty violated that someone would go rummaging through our office.”

Immediately after Winter Break, all the staff at Wydown, including Madriz, was shown the video camera stills of the man who was responsible for the burglary.

“At a faculty meeting, they showed us three pictures,” Madriz said. “So, immediately when I saw these pictures...I [realized] I've seen this guy before. I've pictured him behind a computer in a coffee shop though.”



Spanish teacher Lorie Madriz receives a commendation from the Clayton Police Department on Feb. 24 at the Board of Education meeting.

Thinking that she had actually seen the burglar before, Madriz explained her situation to Wydown principal Mary Ann Goldberg, explain that she had seen him but she wasn't sure if it had been at Kaldi's or Kayaks, but they just left it at that.

Approximately a month later, Madriz met up with her husband and daughter at Kaldi's, located across from Captain Elementary School, for a family dinner.

Criminal caught pg. 3

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Dr. Mary Herrmann's Administrative Background

*Total number of years involved in education

- 31 *Years as a School Counselor and Teacher (Monona, WI) (Janesville, WI)
- 8 *Years as a School Building Administrator (Grosse Pointe, MI) (Middleton, WI) (Appleton, WI)
- 2 *Years as a Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction (Winnetka, IL)
- 2 *Years as a Associate Superintendent of Schools (Barrington, IL)
- 10 *Years as a Superintendent of Schools (Winnetka, IL) (Barrington, IL)

Google threatens to leave China after censorship battle

by Philip Zhang
Reporter

In a dispute earlier this year, Google threatened to leave China unless Chinese regulators stopped censoring its search results.

This clash between the world's largest search engine and the world's fastest-growing market once again brought the issue of Internet censorship into broad daylight.

Internet censorship in China can be traced back to 1998, when the government initiated The Golden Shield Project. The system acts like a giant firewall, blocking websites containing social and political commentary that the government views as harmful to national stability.

Seven years later, in 2005, China's burgeoning economy brought Google to its door.

Aware of the control of information, Google introduced a limited version of its search engine to the consumers in China.

Despite Google's economic success, China's censorship policy was causing problems in other aspects. Google's business model was built around the free flow of information; thus, complying with censorship regulations was a violation to its core value.

This contradiction was hurting Google's image around the world.

With failures to reduce censorship, increasing competition with rival Chinese search engines, and recent cyber attacks on Gmail accounts, Google threatened to withdraw its entire business as the last hope for change.

"This is a superb showdown," CHS history teacher Paul Hoelscher said. "It brings up an interesting question of whether Google's capitalist business model will trump the Chinese government's attempt to keep censorship controls."

Last June, a study conducted by China Internet Network Information Center found that there were 338 million Internet users in China. This means that China has more Internet users than the entire population of the United States.

"Prior to the Internet, it was easier for government to control information," Hoelscher said. "Now, with such a large population, I don't know how China could keep censorship without spending an enormous amount of time and resources."

Difficulties to practicing censorship come not only from China's growing population but also from the growing number of foreign companies that are entering China.

"More and more companies entering China will depend upon the kind of free market capitalism that Google has," Hoelscher said. "Right now, there are probably a lot of companies that are cheering on Google to have success in this battle."

During the summer of 2006, Hoelscher spent three and a half weeks in China as part of an exchange program for history teachers.

"I heard how university students couldn't email or text certain things," Hoelscher said. "At the time I wasn't doing a lot of communication using Internet, so I wouldn't say censorship affected me as a tourist."

CHS history teacher Donna Rogers-Beard spent time in China through the same program in 2002.

"The feeling that I got from dealing with a limited number of people was that young people were far more interested in economic opportunities than they were in what the government was doing," Rogers-Beard said. "It's almost as if the government was a separate entity."

Indeed, the Chinese government plays a unique role in its society. This has made China an exception to many historical trends.

"Historians have this idea that following the growth of economic freedoms and the growth of the middle class, a country will also experience growing personal rights and



Mimi Liu

freedoms," Hoelscher said. "In some ways, China does not exactly follow this historical model."

Although going against the historical trend, China has not slowed down in its economic growth. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, China's fourth quarter GDP growth expanded at an annual rate of 10.7 percent.

In contrast, GDP in the United States grew at an annual rate of only 5.9 percent in the last quarter. However, the recent dispute with Google called China's censorship policies into question. Can China continue to get rich without becoming free?

"Depends on what you mean by rich," Hoelscher said. "In big cities that provide a lot of opportunities, people sure can. But there are a lot of rural people who are not making money like people in the big cities are."

The question also depends on China's relationship with

other countries. As the biggest importer of China's goods, the U.S. has great influence over China's economic growth as well as many other aspects.

"When China first opened up free trade, the Clintons believed that if we traded with China, the rights and freedoms will follow," Hoelscher said. "Now, obviously, trade has rapidly increased, but I don't know if that has had an effect on the rights and freedoms in China."

To some degrees, China's censorship policies are in opposition to the freedom of speech and the freedom of press stated in the United States' constitution.

Then, why have U.S. foreign policies been addressing so little about the censorship issues?

"We have developed very much interdependency," Rogers-Beard said. "The United States does not want to interfere and jeopardize a lot of the business relations."

"The U.S. attaching human rights issues to China can be pretty sensitive, partly because China has bought up so much of our debt," Hoelscher said. "That has driven a lot of our foreign policies as opposed to human rights or idealism."

In the past, before the case of Google, many foreign businesses were flourishing in China despite censorship policies.

"Businesses that don't involve freedom of speech mean that there isn't a bottom line that would hurt an emerging American market in China," Hoelscher said. "As a result, business grows."

"Now, with Google's dispute, you have a fascinating intersection of business and human rights issues: Google is a business that needs liberal capitalism, that requires the freedom of speech to have some of its business success," Hoelscher said.

Other than censorship's impact on businesses, there are also impacts on daily life in China.

CHS students who recently visited China experienced what censorship is like for Chinese citizens.

"The censorship in China definitely affected me," said junior Kuang Zong, who visited China last summer. "I had to find ways around censored websites like Facebook and Youtube."

Junior Mimi Liu visited China during winter break. She was able to notice some of the effects of censorship.

"When I was in China, I never saw anyone criticizing the government on the news and I never heard anyone directly going against the government," Liu said.

Some Chinese students are worried about potential negative consequences of censorship.

"Censorship will somewhat hurt China because it does not allow almost all the Chinese citizens to learn what is actually happening within their country," said senior Edward Du, who moved to the US from China when he was little. "The people then lose their freedom to access accurate information, and their voices on many issues, as a result, are limited."

Other students like Zong agree with Du and feel that censorship is hurting China and the world.

"I think censorship in China hurts its image to the world," Zong said.

Although many wish that censorship policies had never been established in China, these censoring regulations almost seem unavoidable when examining the recent history of China as a whole.

"I have a hard time suggesting that somehow all the rights and freedoms should come prior towards economic growth," Hoelscher said.

"When you look at China in the 50s and 60s, with such dire poverty, I can understand why a generation or two of students would be okay to live with censorship just to get to that basic financial situation, to get out of poverty," Hoelscher said. "It's easy for someone sitting in the comfort of a heated room with material success to say worry about freedom before worrying about money."

The clash between Google and China's Internet censorship reinforced some people's attitude toward and even evoked appreciation for the free flow of information.

"I think censorship should be minimal on the Internet because it's a great tool for learning and communicating with people," Zong said.

"If the Chinese citizens are granted access to the truth of the events and news that are happening in their country, then they will also have a voice in government's decision on certain issues," Du said.

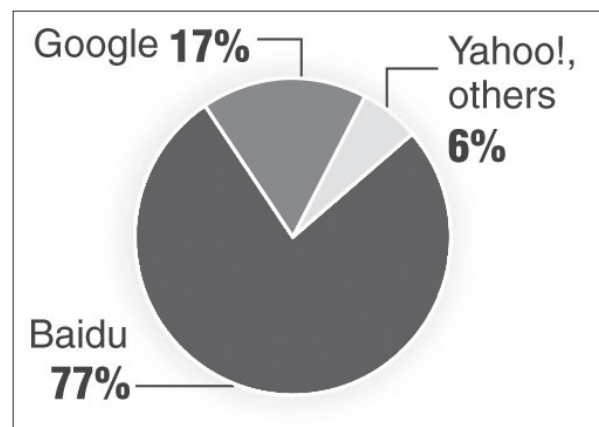
Persisting as an important policy for decades, censorship is unlikely to exit the Chinese society anytime soon. But

Google's dispute certainly highlights some of the differences in ideals in this fast-changing age of globalization.

"It's certainly history unfolding," Hoelscher said. ☺

Google
in China
After three years, Google may halt its operations in China over a cyber attack and censorship.

Carr/MCT Campus



Carr/MCT Campus

President Obama and the First Lady aim to cut down obesity

by Chelsea Cousins
Editor

On Tuesday, Feb. 9, Obama formally introduced the Let's Move campaign, aiming to reduce obesity in the United States in all ages, beginning with our current generation.

Childhood obesity is a condition where excess body fat negatively affects a child's health and wellbeing. Due to the rising spread of obesity in children and its many adverse health effects, President Barack Obama refers to this new epidemic as "the most urgent health issue we face in our country."

"We all know the numbers," First Lady Michelle Obama said in an interview with ABC News. "I mean, one in three kids are overweight or obese, and we're spending \$150 billion a year treating obesity-related illnesses."

Although obesity isn't just an issue in America alone, Obama hopes to target the issue in tackling obesity - starting with children. While obesity can be covered from a variety of different angles, it's ultimately comes down to a debate on being 'overweight' versus 'obese.'

"Under the Center for Disease Control guidelines," CHS nurse Dede Coughlin said, "they give you a snapshot on whether or not you're healthy based on weight, height, and age."

Specifically, under their classifications, a person can be considered overweight if they're anywhere between the 85th and 94th percentile of their average body mass index (BMI); or obese if they're in the 95th percentile or higher.

After a recent wake-up call from her family's own pediatrician, Obama immediately took action in telling America that even her own children suffer from bad nutrition habits.

"Obesity is the result of two things that go together," Coughlin said. "Both eating the wrong kinds of foods, that include sugar and carbohydrates, and the reduction our country has seen as a whole in the amount of time spent on physical activities."

Coughlin also believes that childhood obesity is the result of both the parent and children's actions.

"I think when children are younger, their parents have full control over what they're eating," Coughlin said. "If parents don't eat right, then their children won't eat right. As they get older, though, kids have the ability to eat healthier, they just choose not to."

Obama admitted she was shocked to hear of her own children's body mass index, although she had previously felt she was taking the appropriate measures to ensure good ex-

ercise and eating habits.

"Eating right means there is only an intake of good calories," Coughlin said, "no empty calories."

Obama emphasizes that even these small changes can make a big difference.

Her efforts show her motivation to focus on what families, communities and the public and private sectors can do to help this recently termed epidemic.

Furthermore, the Obama administration hopes to fight and prevent future cases of obesity by teaming up with several government agencies, putting healthier food choices in schools, and assuring that children are getting enough exercise.

"A calorie is a calorie," Coughlin said. "Whether it's good or bad, this is what makes up our weight. We need good calories and Obama is trying to make sure that we get them in any ways we can."

In fact, as seen in most schools, students eat two meals a day: breakfast and lunch.

"We want students to have better lunch options to show them the right things to eat and give them those things to make them healthier," Coughlin said.

The first lady later adds, in the ABC interview that "President Obama also plans to reauthorize the Children Nutrition Act and is proposing a \$10 billion budget increase - \$1 billion a year for 10 years - to provide nutritious school lunches to those who qualify."

As for the communities and families dealing with the issue of obesity on a regular basis, Obama and his administration believe that to be successful, there must also be an increase in demand for healthier foods.

"To help prevent childhood obesity," Coughlin adds, "parents need to get their kids away from TV and videogames and outside - whether it be for walking, running, and even biking."

Coughlin gives her own facts on the raging issue of obesity in children.

"Since the 1960s, the average calorie intake of children has only increased by one percent, but the average amount of time spent exercising has dropped down 16 percent."

Still, while the president and our First Lady do their part, studies of child obesity are increasing and the fate of our future generations lay in the hands of not only the Federal Government, but in families and communities as well.

"About one-third of our children are overweight or obese," Obama said. "None of us want that for our country. It's time to get moving!" ☺



Olivier Douliery/Abaca Press/MCT

First Lady Michelle Obama speaks at an event to announce an ambitious national goal of solving the challenge of childhood obesity, Feb. 9, 2010 in Washington, D.C.

Mayor's new council gives youth a voice in the community

by Taylor Stone
Senior Arts Editor

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to participate in your local government? Have you ever dreamt of having a future career in politics? Are you simply looking for ways to make an addition to your glowing resume? If the answer was an enthusiastic "yes!" to each of these questions, search no more. A new addition to the Clayton community can surely satisfy each of these interests.

Plans have been unveiled for a Mayor's Youth Advisory Council in Clayton, an organization in collaboration between the City of Clayton and the Clayton School District. Its purpose is to encourage high-school students to become active participants in the local government and to encourage youth involvement. Applications for the position of a Council Member will be solicited between May 1 and May 31, with the positions being chosen in July.

Mayor Linda Goldstein pioneered the innovative organization, researching it and proposing it to the Clayton School District School Board as well as the Board of Alderman. She was inspired by the close relationship between the Clayton School District and the city of Clayton.

"It's something that I've wanted to do. I really value the partnership that the city and the school district have and the fact that they're very much dependent on each other for success. I wanted to do a collaborative effort with the school district for this project," Goldstein said.

Goldstein was also inspired by student involvement that she witnessed herself in the local government.

"When I was alderman of liaison on the environmental committee, I saw the involvement CHS students had on the smoking legislation. I was so impressed with their passion. A student group came to meetings, held signs, and was truly passionate about the city. It would be so great to engage more students in this way."

With Mayor Goldstein's inspiration in mind, both the Board of Alderman and the school board ironed out the details and organizational structure of the future MYAC.

"Students going into their junior or senior year in the fall of 2010 are eligible," Community Advisor Laura Stanton said. "Eight students and three alternates will be selected. Seniors will serve one year, but juniors will serve through graduation. The council is not limited to students who are interested in politics as a career—it is for anyone who has a curiosity about their local government and a willingness to be part of the dialogue."

To be sure, the MYAC will be advisory-only in nature and students will have the privilege of expressing their opinions by evaluating assigned issues and submitting recommendations to Mayor Goldstein and the Board of Alderman. The structure of the MYAC will demonstrate this promotion of youth expression and involvement in the government of Clayton.

"The council structure will mimic the city government," Stanton said. "Members will elect a Youth Mayor, Youth Mayor Pro Temp and Secretary; the rest will receive a spot on a city commission, so they will get a chance to see the in-



City of Clayton

ner workings of decision making on issues they care about, as well as develop relationships with the people on their commission."

Some of the city commissions that the MYAC will be involved with as ex-officio members are the Economic Development Advisory Council, the Ecology & Environmental Awareness Committee, the Board of Alderman, the Parks & Recreation Committee, the Chamber of Commerce, and the School Board Liaison.

Goldstein hopes that this structure will encourage members of the council to explore specific issues that correlate with their personal interests.

"With input from the commissions, I think the youth advisors group will find an issue that really sparks their interest," Goldstein said. "It's okay for the members not to have one right of the bat. If there is something that seems pertinent and interesting to them they can be involved with that

and study it further."

In addition to attending City of Clayton commission meetings, the council will meet quarterly as to discuss the progress on issues, as well as have guest speakers and tour various government facilities.

Alderman Alex Berger believes that such activities will be beneficial to the development of the members of the MYAC.

"I think that this will give hands-on information to students," Berger said. "The perspective of a high-school student is not one that is necessarily sought out. Here in this circumstance, that will be the case."

The involvement of the youth of Clayton viewed to be to the advantage of the city as an entity by the creators of the MYAC.

"One of the first things I learned when elected as mayor of Clayton is that I could study something and go into trying to make a decision on an issue with my point of view, but my

opinion often wasn't the right one," Goldstein said. "I have to take into consideration others ideas, as a collective decision is really the best decision."

Berger agrees that a collective decision based upon the voices of all involved is optimal.

"When we talk about what's happening in our community, it's not just for people of the age of 18," Berger said. "It's for everyone who works, lives, and comes to our city. That perspective is undeniably positive. If you're a 17 year old, why wouldn't we want to hear your opinion? We're responsive to any citizen and we consider people under the age of 18 to be citizens."

Sadly, the voice of youth has been largely absent from most of the political processes of the various levels of the U.S. government. The involvement of teens in politics has been notoriously touted as low. The MYAC will move to fix this societal issue.

"I think low turnout is a reflection of a population that believes nobody cares what they think," Stanton said. "While St. Louis as a metro area is large and unwieldy, Clayton is a small community—one that students can have a stake in. Their aldermen and committee members are their neighbors. These are not inaccessible people. And when kids realize they have access to the people making the decisions in this city, the possibilities of influence are exciting. Remember, the city is INVITING students to become part of the conversation."

Goldstein also points to a reason why some Clayton teens do not consider civic involvement as a priority.

"I think the main reason for low youth involvement in local government] is how busy you all are already," Goldstein said. "I know how it is to be studying and have volunteer activities, A.P. courses, and part time job. Time is certainly one element. I also think that sometimes it's hard to understand how to get involved- to go to meetings, and know when they are and what happens there."

With the encouragement of youth involvement in mind, the MYAC could benefit the city of Clayton and its citizens.

"I think that it will be wonderful for our city because of the input to the city and also to the students who are interested in leadership opportunities," Goldstein said. "It will benefit them as they apply to college, go into political science or public health, etc."

Berger also expresses his confidence in the improvements the council will bring to Clayton.

"This will be a great opportunity for the community," Berger said. "This is new, but has the potential to generate tremendous value of everyone who participates and the community. I'm really very positive about the council."

The mayor hopes the Youth Advisory Council will be an innovative organization that strives to bridge a connection between students and their government.

"I think that people who feel invested in their community tend to raise their own personal standards and treat their surroundings as something precious," Stanton said. "Youth of today are immersed in a virtual world of Facebook, Twitter and the internet. The MYAC will give them a chance to make a mark on their real world: their neighborhoods, their schools, their parks, and their urban center." ☺

Upperclassmen wish administration would give special parking accommodations

by Nick Van Almsick
Reporter

Parking has always been difficult for CHS students. This year it has become even more of a headache because many parking spots have been lost due to the ever-present construction. Student parking has been restricted to certain areas, and student cars are ticketed if they are parked in a non-student area.

"I really think that students should not be ticketed," senior Emily Rosen said. "There is so much construction happening, and we lost so many spots so it is really hard to find a space now."

The front of school has undergone many changes; in the beginning of the year many spots were designated to only people working in the administrative building. As the construction began those spots were opened to students, as

was the whole front circle. This proved to be too jumbled and disorganized so the "no parking signs" were reinstated.

"I understand why they put back the "no parking" signs," junior Ruthie Polinski said. "It was really was just a free for all and kind of dangerous with cars sticking out everywhere."

Initially, there had been some talk about changing the grassy area in the front circle into a temporary parking lot as the district had done during the earlier construction in the 1990s.

This relieved may of the parking problems caused by that construction, but that plan has been abandoned because of community opposition. Some students think that given the current scenario, where parking places have been greatly reduced, administrators should be more considerate of students' needs.

"There is a very simple solution to all of this," senior Charles Goodman said. "The front of school should be designated for seniors only and all of the no parking signs should be taken down."

As happens every spring, more sophomores get their licenses and begin driving, which further complicates the problem. Many upperclassmen believe that if younger drivers did not park in the front, parking would not be as difficult.

Some students believe a priority system should be created that would allow upperclassmen to have priority spots. Perhaps tags of a different color could distinguish the upperclassmen from the sophomores.

"I think that parking in the front should be all upperclassman," junior Jaclyn Poe said. "Juniors should be able

to park there but not sophomores because they are too inexperienced."

Some people find parking perfectly around the circle a struggle and students have taken notice.

"It really should just be senior parking," senior Anna Copilevitz said. "It's annoying when I drive by in the morning and see so many spots that could be created if people pulled up or backed up a little bit."

Ticketing has also become a problem for many students.

"I hate getting tickets," Rosen said. "I really try not to park illegally or wait too long in a spot but sometimes I am late because I cannot find a parking place."

With construction scheduled to last until at least the end of the 2011 school year, many students are valuing the spot over the seemingly inevitable ticket. ☺



Elizabeth Sikora

Students lack convenient parking spaces due to the ongoing construction near school.

A Student Perspective

Piano class provides enjoyment, practice

by Zach Praiss
Reporter

Everyday, I look forward to third hour.

It is my time to relax, leave the busy world of school behind, and play piano. It is when I forget about that math test or upcoming English paper and become engrossed in the piano. Taking the piano class offered at CHS has been the best decision I have made this school year.

During my freshman year, as I was adapting to the busy schedule of high school, I was unable to commit to practicing the piano everyday...and it showed. Throughout the year, I made little progress in pieces, and everything seemed to move in baby-steps.

My teacher, along with my parents, soon realized that I was not practicing enough. Yet, my teacher, Vera Parkin, never gave up on me and, as she has done for the past eight year, she gently encouraged and pushed me forward. Without her support, I may not still be playing the piano today.

Then, I came up with a novel idea - why not take piano at CHS? So, this year, I signed up for the class hoping that it



Courtesy of Zach Praiss

Sophomore Zach Praiss spends third period relaxing as he practices the piano in piano class.

would provide me with a 46-minute practice period. However, it has proven to be much more.

The class, taught by Ms. Fasman, has changed me as a pianist forever. I no longer see the period as a practice period, but rather, a meaningful and peaceful time for me to play the piano. Not only has the class taught me new scales and chords, but it has also taught me how to enjoy playing the piano.

Today, the period flies by as my fingers fly across the piano and I peacefully drift away from the rest of my hectic schedule. ☺

WMS teacher receives commendation for help in capturing burglar on loose

Criminal caught
pg.1

"I looked out of the bay window, and said 'Oh my gosh,' and my husband was like 'what's wrong,'" Madriz said. "And I said, 'It's the guy, the guy from school.'"

Madriz regrets how vague she was in her explanation as she bolted out of the coffee shop.

"I jumped up and ran out of the coffee shop without my coat, just ran," Madriz said. "It was an adrenaline rush. If I could just follow him, he's not going to get away with breaking in... If you decide to do really stupid things, you are going to pay for it."

Before she even knew it, Madriz was following the man, who was walking his dog. Yet, from the start, she was confident that it was actually the burglar.

"I was 100 percent certain it was him, I've never be so sure in my whole life," Madriz said. "The guy was wearing the same jacket he had worn when he broke in."

Realizing that she did not have her cell-phone, Madriz ran back to Kaldi's, picked up her phone, called 911, and gave them a description of the man and where he was walking.

"I got about two more blocks down and I had just giv-

en the whole description to 911...and the cell-phone went dead," Madriz said. At that point, she decided to stop following him and returned to Kaldi's where she hoped he would eventually return.

Discouraged after 10 minutes, Madriz gave up and left the coffee shop.

"So, I got in my car and I started driving back on Demun, and I passed him," Madriz said. Surprised and panicked, Madriz immediately looked around for a cop car. Fortunately, a police officer was close by and Madriz pointed out the man, who was arrested shortly afterwards.

When she returned home, she had received a message from the police thanking her for her help in finding the man responsible for the burglary at Wydown. In the end, the man admitted to the burglary, and was charged in the incident.

On February 24, Madriz was recognized by Thomas Byrne, the Chief of the Clayton Police, with a Citizen Accommodation Award at a Board of Education meeting for "her alert actions, which led to the arrest of the person responsible for a burglary at Wydown Middle School."

Byrne said, "Ms. Madriz's observation skills and her willingness to get involved in the arrest of the person...is deserving of this commendation." ☺

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Clayton residents continue to fight for dog park

by **Zachary Prais**
Reporter

It's a tail-wagging idea – to have a dog park in Clayton. Dogs and owners alike are excited and hopeful to soon see a dog park in Clayton as a renewed initiative is gaining support and making progress in turning the idea of a dog park in Clayton into a reality. However, they face several significant challenges and a history of unsuccessful attempts to have a dog park in Clayton.

"If you want to abide by the laws, then there is really no place in Clayton for you to safely run your pets and let them get out their energy," said Clayton resident Deb Dubin, who is helping lead the initiative for a dog park in Clayton. "So, that something a bunch of people would talk about as we walked our dogs... People would sort of say, 'gosh wouldn't it be great if we had a dog park.'"

Recently, Dubin along with Ben Uchitelle, the former mayor of Clayton, have begun pursuing the idea of having a dog park in Clayton.

"We decided to reinvigorate that group and to try and make it actually happen in the next little bit of time if we can," Dubin said.

However, the idea of a dog park in Clayton is over 10 years old and it has been unsuccessful several times in the past.

In 1998, there was a significant interest in officially turning Wydown Park, near the corner of Wydown Blvd. and Hanley Rd., into a dog park as residents were already taking their dogs to the small park. Clayton Mayor Linda Goldstein, who was an alderman at the time, recognized the benefits of having a dog park in Clayton.

"It was wonderful to watch people after work go and socialize with other people," Goldstein said. "It is a great way to bring the community together."

In the end, the dog park idea at Wydown Park was unsuccessful after neighbors disapproved the idea. However, Uchitelle still feels it would be a great addition to the City of Clayton.

"It's a socializing event that brings people together from all walks of life," Uchitelle said. "You could say 'heck, there is a dog park in University City, there is a dog park in Maplewood, but those are used by the residents of those communities... it would be nicer and better to have a dog park here in Clayton, for the people of Clayton.'"



Many St. Louis residents enjoy having a place to let their dogs run loose, Clayton residents hope to install a park similar to the Creve Coeur Dog Park.

Today, Dubin and Uchitelle have organized an initiative to once again push for a dog park. They have confirmed that over 130 families in Clayton would enjoy and benefit from a dog park.

Patty DeForrest, the Director of the Clayton Parks and Recreation, is excited and hopeful that the idea of a dog park turns into a reality as she realizes that "all the elected officials and the parks and recreation commission staff are very aware that is a large group of people who are interested in [a dog park]."

Despite the growing support, Alderman Judy Goodman explained that the City must be cautious in making sure that a dog park would be financially appropriate.

"I would very much enjoy it personally, but I think we

have to think broadly about the community and what's best for the community at large and how to fit it into our budget," Goodman said.

A dog park with the appropriate fencing, water fountains, benches, and landscaping could cost from \$50,000 - \$80,000. However, DeForrest explained that these expenses could be recovered through park memberships.

"People would pay to belong to the dog park," DeForrest said. "They would pay a yearly fee usually somewhere around \$20 to \$30, and those fees help maintain [the dog park]. So, it is not a drain on city resources."

Yet, Goldstein thinks that the City must be cautious in how money is invested in comparison with what are the priorities of the city.

"There is always a balance between the needs of the city

and the priorities," Goldstein said. "We have all kinds of great services, and great public safety, and great parks, but they all take money. So, it's really a balance of where do you invest your money and what is top priority for the city overall."

Another issue for the dog park is finding a suitable location in the City of Clayton.

"The issue then and the issue now, is where to put it," Goodman said. "I think that continues to be the stumbling block is where would be the best place to put a dog park."

With previous unsuccessful attempts at having dog parks in parks with neighbors nearby, the new initiative is focusing on finding a location that has no adjacent neighbors. However, with little green space in Clayton, the initiative is looking for alternatives where they could possibly receive additional land for the dog park instead of using park space.

"I would encourage us to take a look at things that have not been considered," said Dubin. "If you only look at existing park lands, you would come up short in terms of what is needed for dogs."

Dubin and Uchitelle have recently been approached by Concordia Seminary, which is interested in discussing the possibility of having a dog park somewhere on its property.

"[Concordia] is interested in discussing the possibility with us, but we are nowhere near what you would call a done deal," Dubin said. "We're very preliminary in discussions and there are a lot of approvals that would have to happen but some people are very enthusiastic."

For the past several years, the City of Clayton has been leasing the long stretch of park space near Captain Elementary School from Concordia. If an agreement can be reached with Concordia and the City of Clayton, the dog park would likely be located in that area.

"I am optimistic that the Concordia space will work out," Uchitelle said. "If it does, if we get the green light, then there are all the activities and work to put that together: the fencing, the rules, the regulations, the maintenance... Our group is fully prepared to assist in meaningful ways in making this happen."

However, Goldstein is still cautious of being too optimistic for the dog park in Clayton.

"I've been down the dog park path a couple of times," Goldstein said. "So, I'm hoping that it works out, but we have to take it one step at a time." ☺



The architect's rendition of the new Shaw Park playground shows multiple angles of the new project that is designed to serve all ability kids.

Remodeled Shaw Park playgrounds meant to serve all Clayton children

by **Jack Holds**
Reporter

For those who love Shaw Park and all its blooming nature, and especially for those who don't yet, there's a new addition you're not going to want to miss.

Assuming everything goes according to plan, by July 4 the 14-year-old existing northern playground will be torn down and replaced by a new \$550,000 playground just north of the existing one. A garden is supposed to fill the space of the old playground but that part of the plan is not yet set in stone.

Over five years ago, the Parks and Recreation Department had discussed a new playground plan. The proposal became official two years ago; the project was worked into the budget, the funding was laid out, and it was all set for 2010. Since then it has been in the works.

Director of Parks and Recreation Patty DeForrest pointed out there were numerous reasons to build a new playground.

"We have some nice playgrounds but our playgrounds are all between 10-20 years old," DeForrest said. "While they're ADA compliant, they're not very inclusive; they needed to be upgraded."

To plan for the playground, Unlimited Play, a consultant, was hired by the Parks and Recreation Department. In addition, elementary school kids in the district were invited to planning sessions.

These sessions yielded close to 100 designs of playgrounds, all of which influenced the final plan of the play-

ground. The kids made sure there were swings, slides and stuff to climb on and through, while parents simply asked for shade, fences, and a soft surface to prevent injuries.

There was much hype in the media, and one source was KSDK, which said that the playground was for disabled kids, that statement was skewed. DeForrest straightened out the facts about the intended uses of the playground.

"The playground is all inclusive; everything is ramped so every kid can get to every component," DeForrest said. "The idea is not necessarily based around children with disabilities, it's based around the idea that all kids can play together. There won't be parts that some kids can get to that others cannot."

The hope for the Parks and Recreation Department is that construction will begin in March since the Board of Alderman recently approved the contract.

When spoken to near the end of February, DeForrest said the only step left in the process was to order the equipment; there were no legal issues to resolve.

The price tag of more than a \$5 million may worry some taxpayers but rest assured, two grants to the Parks and Recreation Department cover \$372,000. This leaves just over \$175,000

to the residents of Clayton, a good deal for a project of such great scale.

It may dawn on residents of Clayton and those who frequent the district that a great deal of construction has been taking place in Shaw Park. A master plan was completed in 2007 for the entire Parks and Recreation Department and currently the larger projects are being handled.

The roads were improved recently and there is major field renovation going on close to the tennis courts.

It may be good or bad news then, depending on how it's viewed, that several more improvements and renovations are planned as well. Beside the new playground, changes will be made to the running trails and more will come after they are completed. DeForrest had a bright outlook on the future Shaw Park.

"Hopefully within two to three years it'll all be done and it'll stay that way for 10 years," DeForrest said. "That's my hope."

The opening of the playground should take place in early July. When finished, the kids who helped design it will be invited to spend a day with their families in the park.

Of course, anyone is welcome. If you have plenty of free time in the summer, who knows? While designed for kids, even you may find yourself enjoying the new addition to Shaw Park this summer. ☺

“Hopefully within two to three years it’ll all be done and it’ll stay that way for 10 years, that’s my hope.”

Patty DeForrest
Director of Parks and Recreation

Tea Party protests Obama policies, big government under the Arch

by **Jack Holds**
Reporter

On a weekend day with a beautiful break in the dreary weather, the St. Louis Tea Party celebrated its one-year anniversary. At 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 27, roughly 800 men, women, and children gathered on the steps of the St. Louis Arch to show their support for the Tea Party movement.

The St. Louis Tea Party, inspired by the Tea Party movement across America, was created Feb. 22, 2009, when Bill Hennessy and Dana Loesch agreed to set up a rally in St. Louis at the same time the Nationwide Chicago Tea Party was being held in American cities on Feb. 27, 2009.

The St. Louis Tea Party is, like the Tea Party movement, focused on fiscal conservatism: in protest of government deficit spending, such as the 2008 bailouts and the 2009 stimulus package.

As they say on their website, "We believe in small government and dealing with the consequences of your own bad decisions. We utterly reject the notion that the most productive and responsible members of society owe a government-mandated handout to the less productive and irresponsible."

As the celebration Saturday began, the Star-Spangled Banner and Pledge of Allegiance mingled with city noises and the MC, John Burns, shouted through the megaphone, "A year ago we began a war on tyranny."

Following the introduction and a few warm-ups for the crowd, many speakers, including Michelle Moore, Stephanie Rubach, Jay Stewart, Jim Hofst, Gina Loudon, Dana Loesch, and Bill Hennessy, stood at the center of attention. They all shared some variant of insight on the current political standings in the United States.

Jim Stewart, an African American conservative, had a one-liner that stood out over some of the other political campaign promotions.

"Americans who are successful are the enemies," Stewart said.

Jim Hofst runs a website called "The Gateway Pundit," a nickname he commonly goes by. He had bold words for the audience that proved to excite them to the point of a U.S.A. chant.

"We're not going to back down and we're not going to be silent," Hofst said. "We will not allow our country to be redesigned, or transformed, or destroyed by these radicals."

Later, when Bill Hennessy spoke, the crowd was once again stirred to a fervor when he referenced the Health Care Summit that took place the Thursday before.

"Thank you for proving America still cares about its future," Hennessy said. "In a smart, maniacal way, Barack Obama showed us every way our government is wrong."

Although those who spoke to the crowd were the power that carried the rally on for an hour, the crowd was equally important, hooting, hollering, and cheering.

The signs and flags people carried included messages like "liberty not tyranny," "talk is cheap except when Congress does it," and "Obamunism: hand outs you can believe in." One truck drove past the Tea Party back-and-forth that read, "How's that Hope and Change working for you..." for over an hour.

One supporter at the Tea Party, Jim, was there to spread his message in addition to listen to the messages of the speakers. He carried a poster saying, "Reduce Military Spending by 50%."

"I'd like people to think about what I'm saying," Jim said. "I'm just trying to contribute to this movement in my own small way."

Another supporter, Craig Niehaus, who was at both last year's movement at the Arch and Kiener Plaza, gave a word of advice to the younger generation.

"The younger generation will be the people who will be paying for a lot of this; in a few years, they'll be getting jobs and who knows what their social security costs will be," Niehaus said. "Hey guys, look at each other, face the facts, and feel like you have to make some changes right now."

Remarkably, there were many different opinions about the number of people at the rally. As Jim Hofst had warned in his speech, there was some distortion in the media.

"These selfish radicals may lie about the numbers here today, they may lie about the numbers we had back in April, and they may lie about the hundreds of thousands who marched in Washington, D.C., last year," Hofst said.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat reported 500 at the rally while The Gateway Pundit reported 1,500. Both of course had reason to distort the numbers and to no surprise, KMOX reported 1,000 supporters at the rally, exactly in the middle of the Democratic and Republican reports. While it seemed there were close to 800 people, John Burns, the MC, said he thought there were about 2,000 throughout the hour.

Burns said that once students go to college, only one type of thinking is allowed.

He said the majority of students think alike, the majority of professors think alike, and if students are not part of the mainstream thinking, peer pressure will try to force people to believe it.

"Students need to have a commitment to intellectual honesty and to research all sides, especially the people who are outside the main stream, especially the people who aren't considered to be right," Burns said. "Listen to them because there's a chance they could really be right and the supposed majority is wrong." ☺

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Private Parties

The Clayton High Jazz Band performs

The halls are alive with the sound of music

by **Mary Blackwell**
Senior Features Editor

Two guest conductors, CHS and WMS band teachers, and about 100 middle school and high school level band members congregated on Feb. 26 for the first, and tentatively annual, district-wide Band Day.

"This is something we've been wanting to do for a while," band director Charles Blackmore said. "It was a success overall for several reasons."

President of C. Alan Publications, performer and music educator Cort McClaren traveled from North Carolina to aid the CHS and WMS bands.

Local composer, publisher and clinician Joseph Pappas also volunteered to work with the band. The total cost of the two composers' aid amounted to the cost of a few meals because C. Alan Publications covered McClaren's travel costs.

At the end of the day McClaren held a special session for five students interested in composition.

"He's a publisher so he was able to talk to them from the publisher perspective," Blackmore said. "He told them what to expect and what to do to get into that business if they're interested."

Junior percussionist Josh Fagin was one of the members of the smaller session.

"He spent about an hour with us and worked on our technique, style improvements on the songs we were performing and generally how to be a better musician," Fagin said.

"The percussionists got to work with Cort McClaren and the brass choirs got to work with Joe Pappas," senior flautist Caroline Stamp said. "Then we all got to come together as

a large group to work on sight reading with Joe Pappas, which was really helpful because he is the one that writes the sight reading music for large group festival, so it was a great way to prepare."

The Missouri State Band Festival, which took place on March 2 for the middle school musicians and the following day for the high school band was indicative of the Clayton band program's success.

"All the bands at middle school and high school this year all got ones," Blackmore said. "At the high school level the symphonic band got straight ones on everything including sight reading. So from all four judges they received ones."

On a scale from one to five, one is the highest score.

The bands are judged on the quality of their prepared pieces and at the high school level; they also participate in sight-reading.

Pappas is one of the composers for the site reading portion of the competition.

"We are a pretty strong band, but we hadn't done much serious sight reading until this competition," Stamp said. "Joe Pappas helped us prepare by talking to us about main points judges look for, and also we ran some exercises he composed to help us with rhythms."

McClaren was more helpful with the performance pieces.

"Cort McClaren worked with us on our two pieces of music for competition," Stamp said. "He listened to us play them once, and then he helped us work on the rough sections. He had some really good advice, and both guest directors helped us excel at festival."

Blackmore appreciated the opportunity to receive feedback from

an outside source.

"It gave me the opportunity to hear the band from a different perspective," Blackmore said. "In the performance aspect, we were all on the same page but they were able to say things in a different way that made sense to the students. So it gave them a new way, a new perspective to look at the music. And I think both are directly related to the success we had on Wednesday because it gave them a fresh look at the music."

The purpose of inviting the Wydown band was twofold. While the middle schoolers benefited from the professional instruction, they also got an introduction to band at CHS.

"Sometimes when you are involved in your own little world of 6th grade or 7th or 8th grade band that's all you see you don't really see what's at the end for you if you stay with the program for all those years," Blackmore said. "They not only got to hear the high school play, we arranged for them to be in small groups not only in front but from within the band. The idea was to really expose them to what they have to look forward to at the high school."

In the spring the music staff will review the year and evaluate, among other issues, the value of the experience. Blackmore predicts the staff will decide to plan a similar day for the following school year.

"I had several students come back to me Monday and remark how glad they were that we did it, that they got a lot out of it, and that it was worth their while," Blackmore said. "It was a good day and a lot of this work was done by Shenberger, Jennifer, the Wydown band director. She was very key in contacting folks so we could do this." ☺



Junior John Holland starred as Sweeney Todd in the recent CHS production of the play of the same name. Unfortunately, the final performance was hindered by power outages.

Naturally, the show must go on

by **Kara Kratcha**
Editor

Although the CHS Drama Guild's rendition of "Sweeney Todd" was supposed to be gloomy, the cast and crew did not anticipate performing half of the musical literally in the dark.

The Sunday matinee performance of this year's spring musical was plagued by power outages that first threatened cancellation, then moved the performance from the original 2 p.m. time to 7 p.m. This inconvenience, however, was not the end of the "Sweeney" cast's technological woes. Halfway through the late performance, the school's power went out again, leaving the auditorium without a sound system and many of its stage lights.

Junior John Holland, who played Sweeney Todd, found himself mid-song when his microphone shut off, leaving him to keep singing without it.

"My first reaction was to the big 'thump' heard over the speakers as they stopped working," Holland said. "Then, I thought, 'Oh crap, we have no sound, and we are at the highest and most inaudible place on the entire set.' A grim thing to think during a performance. I was definitely surprised and shocked that nature apparently hates Sweeney Todd, and will try to end it at all costs."

While Holland kept things running smoothly on stage despite his lack of microphone, Matthew Millett was working the sound booth.

"[The power outage] affected the sound people more, and the radio-mic things we use to communicate with the people backstage stopped working," Millett said. "So Lucy [Bowe] had to pull out her phone and text [the stage manager] Georgina [Kluser] to tell her what was going on and get John [Armstrong]."

Luckily, the power outage and intermission happened within minutes of each other. John Armstrong, Clayton's technical director, immediately went on stage to announce that the show would go on. Meanwhile, the backstage crew was working to make sure that everyone remained calm and that the actors would be heard by the audience.

"The camera that was on Mr. Blackmore did not have enough light to pick him up so the actors were not able to see him conducting, so we put a light on him," junior Marin Klostermeier said. "The backstage crew's primary job was to let the actors know what was going on and keep them calm.

The main change was that we had to keep everybody backstage silent because any noise could be heard in the audience without the volume of the mics to cover it up. Also the pit orchestra played extra soft so the actors could be heard and so that Mr. Blackmore could hear the cues."

Although the backstage crew had to stay busy to keep the show moving, the tech crew, without electricity to run their lights and sound, was left mostly jobless.

"John [Armstrong] pretty much just told us there was nothing we could do but sit back and enjoy the show," Millett said. "The rest of the intermission I was doing annotations for 'Black Boy.'"

The power outages that started with Sweeney Todd continued to plague CHS throughout the following week. It was discovered that a squirrel caused the power problems in CHS's electrical wiring system. Head janitor Neil Cerrato helped to deal with the power outages.

"He was fried when they found him," Cerrato said. "He was dead. Cooked. I think for some reason he was chewing on the wire a little bit at a time because the power went off three different times. The first time they just replaced the fuse. Then the second time the fuse went out they knew what to do, but they didn't know why the same problem happened again. Then the third time they saw a long burnt line on the wire, so they knew something was wrong. They took apart the wiring and found the squirrel!"

Despite obvious setbacks, the cast and crew of Sweeney Todd seemed satisfied with their final performance.

"My impression was that the cast was very proud of themselves for going through half a show with almost no power," Klostermeier said. "I too, was very proud of every single person involved. Everyone handled it like professionals, and all of the actors performed on stage like nothing had ever happened."

Holland agreed.

"It was unlike anything we had had to go through before," Holland said. "I certainly thought that through it all, everybody put in that extra effort to push ahead and finish the show with such a huge handicap, making the last show the best one since we had to make do with so little and finished out so great. I'm sure everybody (including me) thinks that they were cheated out of a full last show, but it was so great just being in such a versatile and resilient cast that the good outweighs the bad. Everything ended just the way it should end: with a funny and hectic bang." ☺



TOP: Mr. Cort McClaren directs a percussionist session during the district's first annual Band Day. BOTTOM LEFT: Clayton percussionists study the music prepared by the guest directors. BOTTOM RIGHT: McClaren directs the full ensemble.

Students' chemical romance

Students are able to flex their muscles in an Olympiad without the scars, bruises, or necessary passports for the winter games. However, the training for the competition was just as difficult.

by **Appi Sharma**
Editor

Weeks of preparation and out of school practices culminated on Friday, March 12, and Saturday, March 13, at the University of Missouri in St. Louis. No, this wasn't a sports game. This was the American Chemical Society's annual Chemistry Olympiad.

Many students from Clayton High School participated in this contest, which judges one's skills in chemistry. Students worked with science teachers before and after school to prepare for the test learning new material that had not been covered in class and also taking practice tests to get used to the format.

Although taking a test is not everyone's idea of fun, students found many benefits in participating in the test. To some, the incentive was simply to learn more about chemistry, and to get some

additional practice.

"I took the ACS test to get better at chemistry," sophomore Ali Rangwala said.

Sophomore Paul Lisker agreed. "I participated in ACS to continue learning about more complex topics of chemistry," Lisker said. "After all, the sciences are my favorite subjects in school."

Another incentive was the cash prize involved with the contest. Lisker felt that he had a fair chance of winning, especially because of the hard work he put in when practicing, and this added to his incentives for taking the test.

"There were some questions I encountered on the real test that were very similar to ones I'd practiced on before, undoubtedly giving me an advantage," Lisker said. "Having participated, I believe that I do have a chance [to win the prize]. Although I would have taken it even if there was no cash prize offered

to the winner."

However, even with practice, the test proved to be fairly difficult, for both Rangwala and Lisker. This difficulty came not because of time constraints, but rather the broad scope of the content.

Overall, the experience was a positive one for students.

Lisker felt that the practice made it much more enjoyable.

"Having had many practices before the test, taking the test was not a stressful activity -- I rather enjoyed it," Lisker said. "The time that I and the chemistry teachers put into this surely paid off."

For Rangwala, this test was more of a practice run. He plans to take it next year, as an AP Chemistry student, when he will be more prepared.

"I'll take the test again next year, when it will be easier for me, and I can replace my final exam grade with it," Rangwala said. "The test was worth-

while, since I'll be more experienced when I take it again."

Lisker also plans to take the test again next year, mainly because he really enjoyed the experience this year.

"The whole process of preparing for ACS and competing has endowed me with a depth of knowledge in topics of Chemistry that I would not explore until the AP class," Lisker said. "Additionally, I've had much fun through the whole experience, collaborating with other students to solve each problem."

Results of the contest will not be ready for several days, but students, especially Lisker, are really looking forward to seeing them.

"I'm very excited to see the results," Lisker said. "I'm very optimistic about how I did. I ran through many tests before taking the real one; therefore, I was quite prepared for the questions asked. I hope, and believe, that the results will reflect my effort." ☺

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Young volunteers gain unders

by **Simone Bernstein**
Senior Managing Editor

Most CHS students have walked past the homeless who are in need of basic essentials. Others watch news programs and develop a desire to travel and help in third world countries. Numerous teenagers at CHS choose to volunteer their time

at organizations in the St. Louis area or abroad.

"Volunteering gives teenagers a chance to positively impact the community, and as a result, feel good about themselves," senior Allie Lake said. "Volunteering can also help to provide awareness of what is going on in the world, outside of one's comfort bubble."

Often, a student's typical after-school hours are packed with homework, athletics and other extra-curricular activities. However, weekends and breaks from school throughout the year provide opportunities for teenagers to help out in the community.

A plethora of volunteer opportunities are available for teenagers in the St. Louis area.

Each volunteer opportunity provides a new experience for a student to gain sets of skills to help them succeed in the future. Volunteering is an opportunity that can provide students with a sense of fulfillment.

"Volunteering is never about our own personal benefit; however we do receive a benefit from doing it."

counselor Anthony Henderson said. "Volunteering is about giving back, not because we have to, but because we can. I believe that we all can."

Junior Mimi Liu volunteered last summer at a preschool. She developed new sets of skills and formed new friendships. She finds it extremely important for teenagers to find volunteer opportunities that fit their interests.

"My volunteer experience last summer was absolutely amazing," Liu said. "Despite my cynicism, I really enjoy helping younger kids. I developed bonds with all the kids in the preschool. In the process of taking care of the children, I also became friends with the other counselors."

Senior Hannah Klein also developed a set of new friends through her summer volunteer trip to Ghana, Africa. Her experience playing with orphans and painting hospitals contributed to her further interest in volunteering.

"This was a life changing experience which has encouraged me to continue volunteering at home," Klein said.

"Compared to students living in Clayton, these children at the orphanages have nothing, yet they are the happiest people I've met in my life. It's good to experience how other people live to

earn an appreciation for what you have. You gain satisfaction when helping others."

If a teenager is not required to find a paid job, recommends they spend time in high school volunteer opportunities. Klein believes a majority of citizens will choose to volunteer.

"All teenagers should contribute time as a volunteer," Klein said. "If you are in a financially safe situation, you should spend even more time volunteering than you would choose to work in a paid position."

Rather than going abroad, other CHS students gained essential skills through volunteer opportunities at other communities in the United States.

"Besides volunteering locally, I definitely felt an accomplishment from volunteering at two centers in Mobile, Alabama," junior Marin Klostermeier said. "I volunteered at a center for people living with HIV and spent time with adults with developmental disabilities."

Klostermeier found that volunteering helped her talents.

Since starting to volunteer, she has developed time management and organizational skills that have become all components of her lifestyle.

Over the past year, junior Dusty Kessler has volunteered at the Jewish Community Center with an autism program. Through this experience, which lasted six weeks, he developed a greater sense of patience.

"He was on the basketball team, but because of autism it was hard for him to understand the rules of the game. It was also hard for him to stay focused on the game. I was calmly on the bench when it was not his turn to play," Kessler said. "My job as a volunteer was to help maintain attention to the team, learn the rules, and guide him when he could play on the team."

Throughout the program, Kessler developed some noteworthy memories of playing basketball with the boy.

"I found the experience challenging," Kessler said. "When the boy and I got to know each other I felt like I was really helping him. One memorable experience was when the boy's mom told him it was time to go to practice, but he did not want to go to practice, but when his mom told him that I would be there to help him, he got excited to go to practice. His mom was extremely appreciative of my help. I learned to understand the importance of being a volunteer and to appreciate the opportunity to try to be a part of a team."

Some high school students debate whether a paid position is more beneficial than a paying job.

"If a teenager could find a paying job that was meaningful and fun, I would advise them to take it," Lake said. "Having experience in the work force is always helpful for the future. However, volunteering is often a more emotionally fulfilling activity."

Even though junior Cooper Minnis finds volunteering extremely beneficial for the community, he chose to work in a paid position at Cafe Manhattan in Clayton.

"I've done things in the community, but I choose to work for money at a local restaurant," Minnis said. "The results of a volunteer position are better for the community, but I have already gained many important interpersonal skills from my job."

Some students spend time volunteering to fill



Helen Wiley



Photos Courtesy of Hannah Klein



Courtesy of Marin Klostermeier

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le resumes. Junior Moriah Olschansky has a paid job, but is interested in getting involved in volunteering sometime in high school to improve her resume.

"In the future, I will most likely volunteer, but now I have a paid position as a counselor at the Missouri Athletic Club," Olschansky said. "If I volunteer later in high school, the main purpose will be to build a stronger resume for college. I would spend time volunteering with kids, but at the moment I am already being paid to do activities with them."

Besides adding volunteering to a resume, Henderson believes participation in service can provide important experiences for high school students who are leaving for college.

"Volunteering helps students that are going off to college in a number of ways," Henderson said. "They have the opportunity to witness the human condition first hand. I also believe that you get an understanding that we are not all created equal. For some, it's through volunteering that they get their direction for life."

Junior Erin Sternberg was volunteering weekly at a program at her church in University City. Kid's Place was a safe environment for kids to play.

Due to time constraints with other school activities, Sternberg had to cut back volunteering from three hours a week to a few times a month.

"When I volunteer with young kids, they are so happy to have older kids to play with," Sternberg said. "If someone is less fortunate than you, it is important to give up a little bit of your time to make their day better. Volunteering makes me slow down and try not to take things for granted. Knowing I made a small difference in another's life is pay enough."

Numerous studies display that helping others will improve a teenager's lifestyle. Teenagers who volunteer are more likely to perform better in school and avoid violence. Psychologists believe that further research is necessary to figure out whether people who are happy are more likely to volunteer or whether volunteering makes people feel happier. These researchers believe that either scenario will ultimately lead to a state of well-being.

"Research has demonstrated that being with others tends to make people feel good," said St. Louis Children's Hospital Clinical Psychologist Kimberly Sirl. "Volunteering might also foster personal happiness because we're spending time with others as well as being helpful. Being in a good mood seems to be contagious. People prefer to spend time with others who are typically in a good mood."

Klein also finds that volunteering helps teenagers develop a sense of belonging, satisfaction and accomplishment.

"Volunteering definitely makes me appreciate the opportunities that I have in my life," Klein said. "Volunteering can improve your mental health and give students a sense of accomplishment and a boost in self confidence."

When a student starts volunteering at a young age, they are more likely to continue throughout life.

"It's important for people to start volunteering when they are young to give them a better understanding of helping people," Klostermeier said. "These kids will learn that volunteering is a really good thing to do. Hopefully, this value will stay with them throughout their life."

Many local organizations are looking for youth volunteers for the summer. To get involved in volunteering, contact local organizations. As volunteers, teenagers can help contribute to make the community a better place to live and work.



Courtesy of Hannah Klein

Fair promotes youth service

by **Sneha Viswanathan**
Senior World Editor

Some teenagers see St. Louis as a city that provides meager community service opportunities for middle and high-school age students.

However, ample occasions for volunteering exist in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Organizations that support youth volunteering will come together at the first St. Louis Youth and Family Volunteer Fair, organized by the Magic House and St. Louis Volunteer, on Sunday, April 11, 2010 from 1-4 p.m.

According to CHS senior Simone Bernstein, founder of St. Louis Volunteer, the fair will showcase volunteer opportunities from a wide variety of organizations.

"It will be a great way to let St. Louis families, students, and youth learn about organizations, how they can volunteer and/or ways that they can donate to help support local causes," Bernstein said. "We will have over 20 organizations at the event that will promote volunteer opportunities for youth and families in the St. Louis community. We are trying to have youth volunteer members representing each organization at the fair."

Among the organizations that will participate in the fair is the St. Louis Crisis Nursery. The Crisis Nursery provides a temporary safe haven for children who are at risk of being abused or neglected.

Volunteers for the Crisis Nursery have several duties that mostly involve interaction with the children at the nursery. Young volunteers are able to foster their nurturing and interpersonal skills through their work.

"Volunteers assist our staff in caring for children, birth to age 11 who are at risk of abuse and neglect," said Sara Nelson, volunteer coordinator of St. Louis Crisis Nursery South. "[Duties include] holding, feeding and bathing babies; reading and playing games with the other children, and taking part in therapeutic activities."

The nursery has attracted a number of high school-age volunteers because it is known among area high schools for facilitating community service. Nelson said teenage volunteers are a boon to the organization because they are ready to help children in need.

"Volunteers, especially high school students, come prepared and work hard," Nelson said. "Volunteers make a

positive difference in the lives of all the people they serve. They are touching the hearts and souls of a community that is not their own and become better for doing so."

Another organization that requires volunteers to be heavily involved in reaching beyond the comfort of their own communities to help others is Kids Under Twenty-One (KUTO). KUTO provides a crisis helpline for young people in troublesome situations. Teenagers who call in are assisted by a peer volunteer who listens to the caller and provides advice and help based on the organization's available resources.

"We help train volunteers to one day work in counseling and social work and also to be the eyes and ears in their communities," KUTO program coordinator Kelly Ledbetter said. "They [the volunteers] enjoy helping people. Usually these calls are from other teens in the St. Louis area who are in situations of distress. Whether it's a gay or lesbian teenager who has been kicked out of their house, or someone overcoming some other adversity, the volunteers really, truly, take the time to listen and understand and provide the callers with resources for help. For example, if someone is running away from home, we provide them with the hotline for a shelter."

"The primary skill required of volunteers for KUTO is the ability to listen without judging. "Just having someone listen to them often helps teenagers cope with whatever they are going through," Ledbetter said. "It's a two-way street; before, the volunteers had taken things for granted, and now they know what other teenagers are going through and they really cherish what they have."

One of the organizations that will be at the fair, America Scores, aids students with athletic as well as educational goals. The organization has branches in 14 cities, and is partially a soccer league and partly a writer's workshop. It was founded on the premise that athletics, critical thinking, and creative expression require similar skills, so programs for both sports and writing are offered to underserved students in

urban areas.

"We want [our volunteers to be] younger people that kids can better relate to," volunteer coordinator Nora Doyle said. "The main things our volunteers do are refereeing, helping out with practices, helping grade and edit poems, and [working at] special events. We attract volunteers through a lot of social media, because it has become very popular: Facebook, Twitter, etc. We also go to colleges and have students come out and watch kids playing soccer. Watching urban 8- to 11-year-olds playing soccer is really a great thing to see."

The duality of America Scores has the potential to attract volunteers with a range of skills; despite its name, many volunteers are not necessarily athletic.

"A lot of organizations have one thing for volunteers to focus on," Doyle said. "Our organization allows volunteers to have a variety of opportunities. If you're not very athletic or good at soccer, you can help with the writing and service learning aspect. Our activities allow volunteers to do what they do best and focus on what they're good at."

Other non-profits that will participate in the fair concentrate on donations. One of these charities is Coat-A-Kid, Inc.

Coat-A-Kid donates coats, hats, and gloves to children in the St. Louis area who lack winter clothing. Tasks performed by volunteers could appeal to students who are interested in hands-on community service. Volunteers organize, sort, and pack clothing and sometimes help with delivery.

Among Coat-A-Kid's unique features are the leadership positions available to volunteers. The organization relies on proactive students for support from the community.

"Volunteers help raise funds for Coat-A-Kid by holding Cookies For Coats sales at their school or place of worship," president Betsey Beckmann said. "Volunteers can also hold new hat and glove drives or they can create their own fundraising ideas. Coat-A-Kid has discovered that word of mouth from our volunteers has been our best advertisement. We have a Kids' Advisory Board that helps promote us. Coat-A-

Kid allows its volunteers to come up with their own volunteer opportunities. If one has an idea, it can be presented to us and we will do our best to help bring it to fruition."

The communal atmosphere of Coat-A-Kid allows for a faster pace of work and is ideal for accommodating families or groups to volunteer together.

"Groups can socialize while they accomplish a great deal," Beckmann said.

Youth in Action St. Louis is an establishment that recruits area teenagers to serve a variety of different organizations. While Youth in Action (YIA) is not a charity by itself, it serves as a link between teenagers looking for service opportunities and organizations and charity programs in need of an extra helping hand. Members of Youth in Action, in grades 6 to 12, work in groups on large-scale community projects. One of YIA's recent projects was packing food for the international charity, Kids Against Hunger.

"Youth In Action has a ton of different activities that we do," executive director Keith Rawlings said. "We have made up Care Boxes for babies, hygiene boxes, and Operation Christmas Child boxes. We have also done trivia nights, garage sales, bake sales, car washes, Gift-Giving Tree, diaper drives, book drives, toy drives, Green Tree. We've helped Nurses for Newborns, Friends of Kids with Cancer, Room At The Inn, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and Kids Against Hunger just to name a few."

Since Youth in Action is structured specifically for middle and high school age volunteers, one of its strengths is its ability to bring together diverse individuals of the same age who can relate to one another.

"We have strong camaraderie with our members—we get to meet people from other schools, churches and groups and make friends with people we never would have met otherwise," Rawlings said. "It is amazing to see members from different parts of our community working together to help enrich and improve our community and the world around us."

The founders and leaders of many St. Louis non-profits acknowledge that volunteerism is the driving force of their institutions. Volunteering is especially important to teenagers because of the direct and indirect connections that it fosters, and its ability to strengthen an individual's bond with his or her community.

"Teens understand that what they do impacts kids in their own area—and that the recipients of what they do are kids," Beckmann said.



Top: Children play at the St. Louis Crisis Nursery. The Crisis Nursery provides shelter year-round for children at risk of being neglected. Bottom left: Teen volunteers participate in a bake sale for Youth in Action. Students frequently participate in bake sales and food drives at Youth in Action. Bottom right: Senior Hannah Klein cares for a toddler in Ghana, Africa. Klein donated time during the summer to help out at an orphanage. Far left: Klein's friends sing, dance, and drum. Far middle: Junior Marin Klostermeier celebrates with friends at the community center where she volunteered in Alabama. Far right: Klein formed a lasting bond with orphans in Ghana.



Courtesy of Youth in Action



Photos courtesy of St. Louis Crisis Nursery



Courtesy of Hannah Klein

Remembering Vietnam

Local veterans recall experience in Vietnam War

by Jonathan Shumway
Reporter

In America, an issue that continues to be analyzed and debated is the Vietnam War, a turbulent period that has remains unsettled in the American mind. Although the official end of the war was will be 35 years ago on April 30, this conflict continues to bring strong memories to its survivors, both those who were in combat, or endured the conflict and strife at home.

Clayton resident Bill Sitzer served throughout Vietnam during the war. He was stationed in Vietnam in 1971 and part of 1972, in Cam Rahn Bay, Phu Bai, Da Nang, and the demilitarized zone in Vietnam. He left after going to college in Washington, D.C., after already having strong-formed opinions about this military campaign.

"I was a college graduate in Washington, D.C., and had done a lot of reading about Vietnam," Sitzer said. "I believed it to be wrong, and was skeptical of a so-called domino theory."

Although the Vietnam War has been questioned throughout the years if it was the right choice, Richmond Heights resident Stefan Glynias feels that people need to understand the circumstances of the Vietnam War.

"I grew up with the threat of nuclear holocaust," Glynias said. "The Soviet Union warned on several incidents of its intention to bomb the West. In grade school, there were bomb raid drills in the event of a nuclear attack. I lived in a state of anxiety with the possibility of a devastating world war or nuclear war."

During this time, there was common feeling in America that Communism was a strong threat.

"There was this strong interest to combat Communism," Glynias said. "We were trying to fight a war against Communism on soil other than the United States, with no nuclear war."

Glynias tells how he had much uncertainty during time, not only concerning if got drafted, but if would lose his focus on his studies in law school, if he left for Vietnam.

"After graduating from college, there was a termination of deferments for people in graduate school, other than those in medical school," Glynias said. "I talked to the draft board and started law school. At first, I was in the ROTC, but was eventually released from the ROTC because a conflict arose between my classes at law school and for ROTC. I entered the Reserves for six years, spending one semester off for training, then working in the Reserves for one weekend every month, and two weeks of training camp every summer."

University City resident Repps Hudson also served in Vietnam. He served there in the years 1967 and 1968, after having dropped out of college.

He served as an infantry platoon leader in Lai Khe, Vietnam, a place about thirty miles away from Saigon. Hudson was one of the first journalists that went back to Vietnam after the war was over.

"I felt like we were never going to win even though we were the greatest military power in the world," Hudson said.

The time during the Vietnam War has often been remembered for its committed student demonstrations against the war and the peace movements.

"There were a lot of demonstrations against the war, and student movements all across the country," Sitzer said.

Glynias saw many these demonstration first hand, as he started law school in 1968 in San Francisco, California. He also attended the University of California at Berkeley for ROTC classes.

"There was this strong peace movement in San Francisco," Glynias said. "The campus (University of California at Berkeley) changed much in just a couple years. There was damage to retail stores that bordered the campus, and the doors to the naval ROTC building were burned off. There were certain rules that I had to abide by. I was not to enter a building if there was a demonstration. I was also not to wear a uniform on campus as people may find it provocative. The mood became militant and confrontational as the war went on."

Glynias regrets the attitudes of the time where blame was placed on the veterans of the conflict.

"It is a national tragedy that it became unpopular to support the troops," Glynias said. "The troops are an arm of the government who follow orders from others. America should have treated the soldiers with more loyalty."

When Sitzer got to Vietnam, he found it interesting to see the Vietnam people.

"It put a face on it," Sitzer said.

Hudson recalls the kind of fighters the North Vietnamese were.



University City resident Repps Hudson Holds up a snake he found while serving in Vietnam. He served there in the years 1967 and 1968, after having dropped out of college.

Photo courtesy of Repps Hudson

"The North Vietnamese were fighting for their country," Hudson said. "They were smart, capable, and very successful. They were basically trying to wear us out. They were more organized, and we could not have won. The North Vietnamese were very determined, and the South Vietnamese government was corrupt and did not have the support of the people."

During this time, North and South Vietnam were divided, with the North desiring Communism, a more dictatorial government, while the South chose democracy.

Eventually though, the North Vietnamese prevailed, and were able to conquer South Vietnam. The fall of Saigon is what people remember, as it demonstrated how the cause against Communism in Vietnam had been lost.

Sitzer remembers the time when Saigon fell in 1975, and the affect it had on America.

"The United States of America had never lost a war before so it was a sobering event in United States history," Sitzer said. "It brought humility to the American government. We were no longer invincible. It is like your football team always winning, and then losing."

Although Sitzer went to Vietnam with an established belief about Vietnam, he felt dissatisfied later with his decision to fight in Vietnam.

"I was disappointed in myself for obeying the government to serve," Sitzer said. "I felt like I had given up some of my idealism. It took a long time to forgive myself. I was not proud of what I had done."

Sitzer tells how he has met several Vietnam veterans who believed that they were mistreated after the war, but he does not feel this way.

"I do not want to compete with what World War veterans did, of liberating of the camps in Europe and their fighting in the South Pacific," Sitzer said. "I would not have grown up in a free country. I feel very good about how World War veterans are treated."

Hudson had strong feelings about the war, even after the war had ended.

"I was quiet and extremely angry for years," Hudson said. "I had difficulties working in an environment with people who had not gone because they had found ways to avoid going to war." "I had more problems with these people than the demonstrators."

Hudson also remembers how difficult it was to come back to America after the war.

"There was no easy way to bring us back easily," Hudson said. "The hardest thing was coming home and adjusting

back to civilian life."

Hudson explains that although some people were able to lock up their experiences after the war, others reverted to drinking, or became drifters because many were very angry.

Sitzer feels that going to war in Vietnam was not the right choice.

"I always considered my time and the government's time in Vietnam, a waste," Sitzer said. "There was loss of life with no apparent reason. I feel that we were motivated by economic concerns, not political concerns. Vietnam has a complicated history, as it used to be French Indo-China, a French colony. Vietnam to me is an example of how colonization has had an impact in our history. If we would not have gone, it would not be any different, but rather fifty thousand (American) lives would not have been lost."

Although Sitzer disagrees with the Vietnam War, it has had a large influence on his life.

"I understand how horrible war can be," Sitzer said. "I also understand that what I endured is nothing in comparison to what others have endured."

Conversely, Hudson believes that the Vietnam had a profound and positive impact on his life.

"Most of the best things in my life have come because of my service in Vietnam," Hudson said. "I would not trade the experience. I was lucky that I survived. I feel fortunate. Without the G.I. Bill, I could not have afforded graduate school. I learned to write. I got my daughter who is half-Vietnamese and my son who is adopted from Vietnam."

Sitzer feels that the Vietnam War has taught us about our military.

"We (America) have taken precaution by having a strong military," Sitzer said. "We cannot have peace, if do not have something to enforce it. There is no magic formula, but we have to work piece by piece."

Hudson feels that in time, Vietnam will change towards a more democratic form of government, although Vietnam continues to be a single-part communist state.

"I have a lot of respect for Vietnam, even though I dislike its government," Hudson said. "I feel that Vietnam will eventually adapt more to the world."

The Vietnam War is still today a topic of much heated discussion and divided opinions.

Every individual has different stories of how the war affected him or her - whether they went, cheered, or protested at home.

None, however, remained unchanged by this turbulent time in America.

Although the end of the Vietnam War anniversary is almost 35 years ago, the impact of this national event will continue to unravel and be more understood, as the world continues on into the 21st century. ☺

Vietnam Day to inform, engage sophomores

by Ben Colagiovanni
Reporter

War with an undefined cause and an invisible enemy is hard to fathom, but that is exactly how Vietnam has been repeatedly characterized for the last four decades.

In an effort to define this important but elusive time in American history, on March 18, CHS sophomores will participate in Vietnam Day, which will feature guest speakers and a wide variety of lectures and demonstrations, called breakout sessions.

"This is our 6th annual event," CHS social studies teacher and Vietnam Day coordinator Josh Meyers said. "We did a World War II Day for two years and then realized that the kids really had a lot more knowledge about World War II than they did Vietnam. So we thought we would change our focus a little bit and make it a full blown program with breakout sessions."

Social studies teacher Rick Kordenbrock, who has been involved with Vietnam Day since the beginning of his tenure at CHS in 2007, feels that the shift in focus was a logical and pertinent one.

"The Vietnam War politicized a generation of Americans, and was extremely divisive," Kordenbrock said. "Since the war, our involvement in it has been repeatedly analyzed and agonized over, and it remains a very sore spot in our national psyche. So it makes sense that we would devote as much time and attention to it as we do."

The day's schedule will be formatted much like a typical school day with special presentations and breakout sessions taking the place of core classes and electives. Aside from an obligatory 1st period assembly showcasing the event's keynote speaker and a collective viewing of a movie during periods 4 and 5, the students will be in control of which activities they will participate in throughout the day, as they will be able to choose four breakout sessions to attend during periods 2, 3, 7, and 8.

"By allowing for student choice we're hoping that students really pick something they're interested in and that they have a 46 minute period to be able to delve into something in a little more detail than they would otherwise be able to during the school year," Meyers said.

Sophomore Freddy Barnes is eagerly anticipating the day's slate of activities.

"I am very excited because I think that we will get an in depth, well thought out look at the Vietnam War," Barnes said. "I would love to learn more about the military tactics that were used there."

There will be no shortage of options to select from, making it easier for students like Barnes to home in on a specific subject of interest. Topics of discussion will include guerilla warfare tactics, veterans' viewpoints, a study of Ho Chi Minh the controversial leader of North Vietnam, American P.O.W.s in the war, an analysis of protest music of the era, a session analyzing Muhammad Ali's refusal to serve in the war and much more. Students will even get the unique opportunity to sample Vietnamese fare during lunch.

While the day is intended to be fun, Vietnam War Veteran and Vietnam Day guest speaker John Pocsik hopes that students are reminded of the gravity of war.

"War is neither fun, nor a video game," Pocsik said. "When you hold somebody who is dying in your arms, and there is blood all over, war is not fun. War, like any kind of physical confrontation, should be a last resort."

The social studies department hopes that while the students are immersing themselves in the Vietnam experience they will be able to contextualize their newfound knowledge of the Vietnam War and come to appreciate its significant place in American history.

"I think the Vietnam War was largely if not solely responsible for the presidential demise of Lyndon Johnson, and played a major role in the ultimate failure of the Nixon presidency," Kordenbrock said.

Pocsik also wants the day to give students a way to gain a new perspective on Vietnam's place in American history and hopes that they will gain a realization that the rights all Americans enjoy are not free.

"I wish there were actually some kind of requirement that every kid, male and female alike, would have to serve [his or her country] for two years," Pocsik said. "You would have a choice of working as a civilian in a hospital or a home or a school or in the military. Everybody talks about 'my rights' but how do you pay for them?"

Barnes echoes this sentiment with his own meaning.

"I think that service is one of the most important things that any person, in any country, anywhere in the world can do," Barnes said.

However, despite this importance, beyond the zeal to serve, Pocsik offers a cautionary warning.

"If you're going to be called to do things that you would have never thought you would ever do, there should be a cause; it should be clearly defined, and it should be verified with yourself among others." ☺

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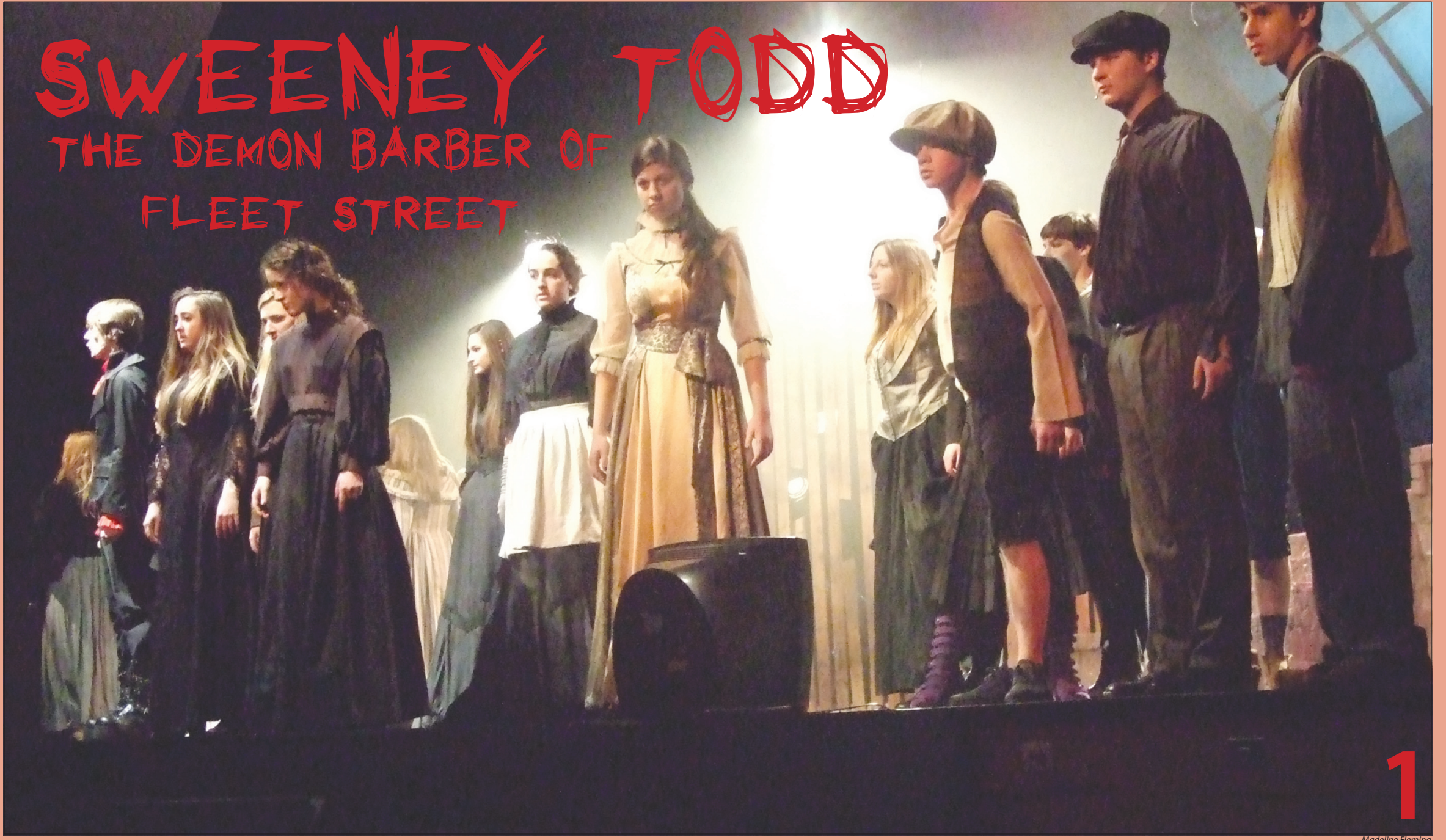
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1

Madeline Fleming



2

Caroline Stamp



3

Meng Wang

ATTEND THE TALE OF SWEENEY TODD...

1. The entire cast of Sweeney Todd take on demeaning faces for the gothic musical. 2. Senior Ryan Roth and junior John Holland act in a scene. Roth played the part of The Beadle, and Holland played the title role of Sweeney Todd. 3. Junior Ian Miller portrays Aldolfo Pirelli during the CHS Winter musical Sweeney Todd. Ian Miller also played the part of Tobias Ragg. 4. Senior Nick Oliveri and Freshman Robbie Love act in a scene, competing in a shaving contest against Sweeney Todd. Oliveri played the part of Pirelli and Tobias, switching parts each night with Miller. 5. Sophomore Fergus Inder and Senior Meredith Redick portray Anthony Hope and Johanna, respectively. Throughout the musical, Anthony is determined to save Johanna from her strict guardian, Judge Turpin, portrayed by Senior Eitan Kantor. 6. Miller plays the part of Tobias in a scene, along with the entire chorus. Miller and Oliveri took on the challenge of playing two every different roles.



4

Caroline Stamp



5

Caroline Stamp



6

Meng Wang

'Shutter Island' is well-acted, yet sometimes ambiguous

by Preeti Viswanathan
Senior Community Editor

It is not often that a movie audience sees the plot unfold through the eyes of a traumatized, delusional man who is confused about his own identity, but "Shutter Island" forces us to do so. The movie has multiple subplots mixing the main character's imagination with the reality of his situation. The main character himself has two identities – the one we see through most of the movie is Teddy Daniels (Leonardo DiCaprio).

The film opens with Daniels, a federal marshal, and his partner Chuck (Mark Ruffalo) traveling by ferry to Shutter Island, an island of the coast of Boston, to investigate the escape of Rachel Solando, one of the patients at the hospital.

In this scene, Ted tells Chuck that he was married but his wife Dolores was killed due to a fire in their apartment. The suspense in the movie builds up right away as the men enter the island and are asked to surrender their firearms, and a patrol officer points out the three wards, mentioning that Ward C is where the most dangerous patients are kept.

Ted and Chuck are introduced to Dr. Cawley (Ben Kingsley) and his assistant, Dr. Naehring, who both appear suspicious to Ted. The doctor informs them that Solando was transferred to the hospital after being convicted of drowning her three children, and that she constantly denied what she did by creating an imaginary world. When Ted hears this, he has a flashback of three dead children and of the Holocaust, where he and other American soldiers liberated the Dachau concentration camp.

As Ted and Chuck continue their investigation, they question other patients about Solando, but Ted also asks them if they have heard of a patient named Andrew Laedis. Ted later explains that Laedis was a maintenance worker in his apartment who set the fire that killed his wife. Throughout the investigation and the rest of the plot, Ted has recurrent flashbacks of his wife and imagines her coming to talk to him, and it is clear that he is traumatized. Ted also tells

Chuck about George Noyce, another patient he once knew who told him of horrible brain experiments that the doctors were performing on the patients at the island. Ted suddenly becomes determined to find out if this is true and expose the truth to the world. Meanwhile, the doctor tells Ted and Chuck that Solando has been found. At this point, the movie deviates from this subplot and transitions into Ted's complex and disturbed psyche. Ted goes into Ward C in search of Laedis, but finds Noyce, who tells him that the brain surgical experiments take place in the lighthouse, and that he thinks Laedis might be there.

In pursuit of the lighthouse, Ted finds a cave where he meets a woman who he thinks is the "real" Rachel Solando, who verifies Noyce's statements about the experiments that take place on the island. The woman explains that she was in fact a psychiatrist named Ethel Barton who was working on the island, but the doctors fabricated her story to pronounce her insane, and she was hiding out of fear that she would be taken to the lighthouse. Barton warns Ted that he will never be able to leave the island, and that the hospital staff have been slipping him sedatives so that they can convince him that he is insane.

Meanwhile, Ted can't find Chuck and suspects that the doctors might have taken him to the lighthouse. He wanders around the island and decides to go into the lighthouse, while seeing more haunting images of his wife's ghost. In a panic, he sets fire to the doctor's car. The end of the movie, which takes place in the lighthouse, reveals Ted's true identity. The audience is led through a series of explanations from Dr. Cawley and Chuck, who also turns out to be a different character than the one introduced at the beginning of the film. The last scene also delves in detail to Ted's actual past, bringing to light the disturbing truth behind Dolores' death. The audience also learns that some characters such as Rachel Solando were products of his imagination.

Set in the 1950s, the movie deals with the post-war trauma that many soldiers would have experienced. It was, overall, well directed with a very unique plot, and the acting



Leonardo DiCaprio stars in "Shutter Island" as a federal marshal sent to investigate the escape of a mental hospital patient, all the while having to face his own inner demons as well.

met my expectations. DiCaprio is perfect for both the roles he assumed, seamlessly transitioning from one to the other towards the end of the film, and Kingsley acted convincingly as an apparently suspicious doctor. However, there were definitely parts of the film that were ambiguous. It was difficult to distinguish, for instance, whether the scene with the psychiatrist in the cave was part of the main character's delusion.

The explanations in the final scene of the movie take place so rapidly that a viewer might not realize whether Cawley is deceiving "Ted" or telling him the truth.

The suspense in the movie leading up to the final scene can also greatly confuse viewers. After watching the film, it took me more than a few minutes to grasp which parts of the plot were from the actual character's point of view and which scenes depicted the reality. Though some scenes were unclear, they were deliberately vague to force the audience to consider the line between fiction and reality, and to show the torment that a psychiatric patient might experience. Given the complexity of the plot, viewers would probably benefit from watching the film more than once to understand it.



The recent Artists for Haiti rendition of "We Are the World" is one of many, like the live version sung by multiple artists (from left: Jennifer Hudson, Celine Dion, Smokey Robinson, Usher and Carrie Underwood) at the 2010 Grammys. Unlike the Grammys rendition, the new version is less cohesive and heartfelt.

Artists for Haiti create less polished take on 'We Are the World'

by Maria Massad
Reporter

"We are the world. We are the children. We are the ones who make a brighter day, so let's start giving. There's a choice we're making, we're saving our own lives. It's true, we'll make a better day, just you and me."

The chorus of the song "We Are the World" is powerful and perhaps the reason why the song was the fastest selling pop single of the '80s. Written by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie in 1985, it helped raise \$63 million to benefit African famine relief. Recently, the group Artists for Haiti re-released the song with a few changes in lyrics and beat to raise money for the Haitian earthquake victims.

As someone who has been involved in music for the past eight years, I think I have enough qualification to say that this remake of "We Are the World" lacks the charm, sophistication, and enthusiasm the original version has.

The United Support of Artists (USA) for Africa recorded the original version. This group was comprised of many well-known and still well-respected artists. In 1985, each artist added his or her own individuality to the song without being egotistical.

Some of the 1985 soloists included Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Billy Joel, Lionel Richie, Diana Ross, Ray Charles, Cyndi Lauper, Bruce Springsteen, Al Jarreau, Kenny Rogers, and Tina Turner.

These artists changed music and brought something special to the song. Springsteen added a hardcore rock sound while Ross's fresh voice supplemented the lyrics well. Charles and Wonder's spirit helped add some soul to "We Are the World." Lauper added a twist to the melody with her punk sound. And Jackson's refined voice brought soul to his usual pop-funk feel in the song, as well as his perfectionist attitude. The solos added to each other, and they were nicely juxtaposed.

On the door of the recording studio in 1985, someone hung a sign that said, "Please check your egos at the door." These artists were able to put away their egos for the recording sessions. The result? Astounding vocal quality, full of sophistication and charm, and warm chords.

I think these artists sounded truly awe-inspiring because they cared. Emotion poured from their words.

Some of the artists who sang "We Are the World: 25 for Haiti" performed very well. Celine Dion sang her solo with great amounts of feeling, as did Jennifer Hudson, Josh Groban, and Mary J. Blige. And, obviously, the old recording of Michael Jackson, which was included in the remake, brought lots of soul to the remake.

The solos of Blige, Dion, Groban, and Hudson were simply amazing because of their obvious emotion, both heard in the song and seen in the music video.

In the new music video, the original clips of Jackson were included. This was a satisfactory tribute to the late Jackson. His sister Janet Jackson sang "with" him during his rendition of the first chorus, which would have been a touching addition if people could hear her.

The other celebrities in the 2010 version performed average or less than average, because they just did not seem to care about the cause they were singing for.

In an effort to reach a new, younger audience, Miley Cyrus and the Jonas Brothers (with Nick Jonas singing a solo) were included in this new rendition. This was a mistake, in my opinion, as they didn't bring anything special to the table. Did they have something else on their minds? If that's the case, I guess they couldn't leave their own worries behind and record to help people that have more troubles

than the celebrities do. After all, the Haitians lived through a devastating earthquake. I give Justin Bieber, Cyrus, and the Jonas Brothers some credit for trying, but I think the song would have been better if they had poured emotion into the words, rather than just singing the lyrics.

And Fergie's random shout-out in the middle of the chorus – "Come on, lemme hear ya!" – seemed unnecessary. It just made me cringe. It seemed to break up the song. She is no Ray Charles, no matter what people tell her.

It seemed that she couldn't let go of her star status, and her unwanted two cents messed up the vocals.

Musically, several changes were made to the song to make it sound more "modern." The beat was changed to one that you hear on the radio every day. Well, "We Are the World" is not an everyday song. It is supposed to sound different. That's what makes it so great.

The artists also made it sound more "modern" by adding a rap in the middle of the song. Please excuse me while I go vomit. Really, people?

A rap in "We Are the World" is not okay. Random famous people rapping with their computerized voices is not my idea of a good addition to "We Are the World." The rappers' contribution was overall the worst addition to the new version, musically.

Today, most artists, except for the fair few, cannot put away their egos; it is an accepted part of society that everything revolves around them.

More music to benefit charity is truly wonderful, but Hollywood, please, next time, "check your egos by the door."

Thai eatery Basil Spice impresses

by Nina Oberman
Co-Editor in Chief

Clayton is notoriously known as a self-contained bubble, and the stereotype holds true when it comes to cuisine. Downtown Clayton has a vast selection of eateries—so vast that it is sometimes difficult to find a reason to venture outside of the bubble.

But making a trip beyond the neighborhood offers not only an exciting adventure in a new area of St. Louis, but also an authentic taste from a different corner of the world. This is precisely what I found at Basil Spice, a family owned Thai restaurant located at 3183 South Grand.

The neighborhood is populated enormously with immigrants who came to St. Louis in search of better economic opportunities, and Basil Spice just so happens to be situated across the street from the international grocery store, Jay International Food Co. From my table I watched the store lights glow behind strings of dried peppers, barrels of spices and bags of rice. Men and women bustled in and out as they sought out the flavors of their home countries.

The restaurant itself is comfortable yet artistic. Large columns reach to the top of two-story ceilings, while small white and blue tiles ordain the floor. Thai woodcarvings and silver castings line the walls. But perhaps nothing was as gorgeous as the food itself. The simple vegetable summer rolls were served with a carrot intricately cut into the shape of a flower. The vegetables were as vibrant as a rainbow and the peanut sauce a perfect blend of sweet and savory.

The traditional Thai soup, Tom Kha Gai, is made with a base of coconut milk. I was shocked when I swallowed my first spoonful. The texture is unbelievably rich, with a subtle tang of cilantro to complement the sweet coconut flavor. It is out of this world.

I tried two entrees: the Pad Thai and the Gang Kew Wahn, a green curry. For those afraid of spice, there is no need to worry. The kitchen will cook your dish to order with a spiciness level of your choice, on a scale of one to five. The Pad Thai is a normal version of the classic dish that is so popular here in the states—nothing surprising here.

But it was the curry that really got me. Not only are the spices impeccably mixed, but every single vegetable is fresh and delicious. The tofu is cooked just right and the colors, too, are perfectly combined. Golden yellows, bright greens and oranges mix with the soft lime of the curry and the white of the rice to create a painting on the plate. I almost didn't want to eat it.

Luckily, I saved room for dessert. The Khao Nuea, a steamed sweet sticky rice with coconut milk, was surprisingly delicious. Unlike rice pudding, this dessert is gummier and more compact. Served with vanilla ice cream and honey that hardens on the cold surface, this sweet was wonderfully original.

For those bored of the same old go-to Clayton restaurants, Basil Spice is a fantastic escapade the senses. But if Thai isn't your favorite, South Grand has something for everyone, from Ethiopian to Vietnamese to Italian.

So get out and taste the world. It's just down the road.

Lamenting Jane Austen's absence from school curriculum

I have always considered myself to be an avid fan and devoted lover of Jane Austen and her seven novels. I've spent many an afternoon throughout the years pouring through her works and some of my fondest memories have been while I read her novels.

Strangely, I can recall the exact cities and places I have been in while devouring Austen's many works. I remember spending many afternoons lying on the cool grass of a park in Cambridge, England plowing through "Mansfield Park." I can still remember the feel of the bleachers of a track in Kirkwood when I began to read "Sense and Sensibility" while waiting for my brother to finish his Track and Field practice. I think fondly back to the sensation of pure joy that I experienced when I opened a package sent from my grandmother in California that contained Austen's "Pride and Prejudice."

Why do I have such a devotion to Jane? I often ask this question of myself, considering the emotional response I experience while reading her works. I suppose it could be

because of the wit, the satire, and the attention to socioeconomic conflicts within the class structure of 18th and early 19th century England. The plots and characters, truly, have proved themselves to be timeless profound. This is evidenced by the slew of modern Austen adaptations in films: Clueless, Bridget Jones' Diary, and the many Masterpiece Theatre adaptations to name a few.

Personally, I feel a strong connection to the heroines of Austen's novels. I consider Lizzy Bennett, Elinor Dashwood, and Emma Woodhouse to be my close friends (that's not weird, right?). I sympathize with the struggles of Fanny Price and wish I could advise Marianne Dashwood against her immature decisions. Who they love, I love. Who acts against them, I hate with every fiber of my being.

I would like to shift my focus to a matter not related to my passion for everything Jane: The Clayton High School English Curriculum. It truly disappoints me that an Austen novel is not included in the curriculum. I do understand that some of her novels are included on various independent reading

assignment lists, but I wish to voice the opinion that that simply isn't good enough.

While I do enjoy reading Austen independently, many students will not be able to fully benefit from the material without deliberate and analytical lessons from the teacher. Let's face it—many teens in today's society simply cannot recognize the satirical commentary and wit of Austen's novels without some assistance. Without prior knowledge of the socioeconomic rigidity of the British class structure in her time, the blunt reality of Austen's prose cannot be understood in an optimum manner.

I find that I gain more understanding of a work of literature in a discussion-based, learning environment. With teachers pointing out vital passages, students voicing opinions on characterization, and lessons on stylistic elements and historical background of a text, a work and author can be fully and completely explored. Austen's novels deserve this depth of study and recognition at Clayton High School and deserve to be regarded as members of the Literary Canon.

I'm not trying to use the "feminist" tag as a scapegoat in my argument, but our curriculum simply does not include many female authors. Sure, I realize that men have tradition-

ally written the greatest novels in early years (what curriculum cannot include Homer, Shakespeare, and Hemingway?). Indeed, many of my favorite authors are male. However, I do think that the female perspective in literature should be explored more in our curriculum and Austen's novels would be the appropriate way to do so.

I believe that Jane Austen is not receiving the credit she deserves in our modern society. Many view her works as "chick-lit" simply because there have been commercially successful films concerning her life and works that have been targeted to a female audience. Her novels relate to both genders and many generations of people. Her intelligence, wit, and satirical commentary can surely be universally appreciated.

It's time that the novels of Jane Austen become the central focus for "Austenites." She should be appreciated for her literary merit rather than solely for her relatability to a modern, largely female audience. I really think that everyone can experience the same emotional response I feel if given instruction on her timeless wit and literary merit.

Adopting one of her novels in the CHS curriculum can be one step toward destroying past stereotypes and revealing a perspective that has not been traditionally explored.



Taylor Stone

Race exhibit reveals varied viewpoints, stereotypes

by Jocelyn Lee
Reporter

Are we so different? This is the question posed by the Missouri History Museum's temporary exhibit on race. Essentially, the exhibit explores the definition of race by presenting the visitor with a number of interactive displays and activities.

One of the first, and most interesting, displays is a map of the world, dotted with different colored lights. When the dial on the side of the map is slowly turned, the lights light up beginning in a small area in Africa, continuing throughout the continent, and then spreading to the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. The lights show the movement of the human population hundreds of thousands of years ago, while the different colors of lights represent genetic variety. Although the map doesn't continue to modern times, it is a fascinating reminder about origin and how, genetically, two people on different continents could be so similar, and two people living next door could be so different, even a long time ago.

Another part of the exhibit discusses skin pigmentation based on geographic location. It explains how and why humans in warmer climates developed darker skin and humans in cooler climates developed fairer skin. Next to the text, there is a digital skin color "collage" made up of a number of photographs of various people's skin. With the camera attached to the display, you can add your own skin tone to the collage.

In one corner of the room, a large photo of a diverse group of college students and their professor hangs on the wall. Each person wears a t-shirt, on which is a list of three different years and the way that person would have been categorized in an earlier U.S. Census. To see how the different categories of race reflected values of various time periods in U.S. history and how they evolved conjures up more questions. For the most part, we think we are objective in the way we identify a person's race, but what will that look like 50 years from now? It was only about that many years ago that "African American" was "Negro."

The exhibit addresses a great number of other race-related topics including white privilege, how "white" was invented, how multi-racial individuals of all ages identify themselves, and how significant race and racism is even in settings like the lunchroom at school. To explore this last topic, there is a video at the back of the exhibit room of individual interviews and group discussions with middle school and high school students of different ethnicities.

To the left of the video, some classroom desks are set up, on which are printed information regarding standardized testing in schools. The most striking piece of information is about a study done in the 1990s. A 30-minute test, with questions from the Graduate Record Examination in literature, was given to a group of white and African American undergraduate students. One half of the group was told that the test was measuring academic ability, while the other half was told that it was measuring how challenging verbal problems are solved.

The test results show that the African American students in the first half scored lower than the white students. However, in the second half of the group, the African Americans scored as well as the whites. The white students in both halves scored about the same. The text on the desk says that researchers hypothesized that a fear of confirming negative stereotypes about intellectual ability impaired the performance of the African American students.

In another area, discrimination by accents is covered. One can listen to recordings of people talking about themselves, and then choose from a selection of photos who is talking. Some of the results were surprising, and it makes the visitor confront his or her own stereotypes.

The exhibit, as a whole, is well laid out and designed. All of the typical, expected topics on race are there, but so are a number of other, more obscure and sometimes quirky, ones, like how people are similar to avocados. Rich with data, stories, photos, and hands-on activities, it is appealing to a diverse audience and thoroughly engaging. The exhibit will continue through April 4 and admission is \$6 for students and \$8 for adults. ☺



The exhibit, entitled "RACE: Are We So Different?" is being held at the Missouri History Museum until April 4. The exhibit provides an in-depth look at stereotypes and generalizations based on race, among other topics.



Van Gogh exhibit fails to live up to expectations

by Meredith McMahon
Reporter

"Van Gogh: Brush With Genius" was not exactly the work of genius that I had initially expected.

This ambitious film by filmmakers Francois Bertrand and Peter Knapp was well made and the close up, vivid shots of Van Gogh's paintings were highlights in the movie. The IMAX theater made the experience even better.

After hearing that this 45-minute film was a masterpiece, I was excited and ready to plunge into Van Gogh's life and uncover interesting facts that I had not known, and maybe even see some cool, close up paintings.

However, I received a first person narrative.

Yes, "Van Gogh" (voiced by Jacques Gambelin) dictated his life from the dead to his present audience. Perhaps this take should earn a point for creativity.

However, more dimensions could have been added to the film had it not been in first person. There was far too much repetition with the "I worked and I worked and I worked. Always alone."

Indeed, had the emphasis been on Van Gogh's life rather than on artwork, fame or impact he had on the art world the movie could have been much more than one-dimensional.

I noticed that filmmakers Francois Bertrand and Peter Knapp were not focused on Van Gogh's mental side, blowing off the entire ear incident, part of Van Gogh's legacy, by saying he merely snipped off a bit of his ear.

The film was fairly well focused on Van Gogh himself-- with the exception of random interludes.

Unfortunately, when watching an artistic movie with breathtakingly close shots of paintings, it's rather disruptive when random men filming a different documentary about Van Gogh, or some footage of a pretty French actress looking over old letters, interrupts the scene.

Perhaps director Francois Bertrand was aiming for a distraction from the beautiful paintings and European scenery. I was not.

Of course, the colors were spectacular and the shots beautiful. The incredible European architecture and long fields of golden grass were, of course, pretty, but they were not breathtaking.

The close up, intimate shots of Van Gogh's paintings were truly the highlight of the movie-- the thick, smeared and or-

nately colored paint was so much more incredible close up that it could take an entire minute to scan an area of a portrait, while in a museum you could briefly glance at it and walk away.

Highlight pieces included many of Van Gogh's portraits.

Fortunately, I was able to find much more inspiration and beauty in a piece of art surrounding me in an IMAX theater, rather than gazing upon it from the required three feet away in a museum.

Yes, "Van Gogh: Brush With Genius" is an inspirational film.

However, it's more enjoyable for those who are more seriously interested in painting or interested in Van Gogh himself. ☺

'Crazies' scares, surprises

by Alex Grayson
Reporter

Remember the 1974 George A. Romero film "The Crazies"? Me neither. Well, having never seen the original (mainly because it is nowhere to be found), I did not know how I would enjoy the remake. It turns out that "The Crazies" is one of the most exhilarating horror movies I have ever seen. And I've seen a lot.

Directed by Breck Eisner, "The Crazies" follows Sheriff David Dutton, played by the underrated Timothy Olyphant, who watches over the peaceful town of Ogden Marsh, Iowa. Since the population of Ogden Marsh is so small, pretty much everybody knows and respects each other. While the sheriff and his partner (played by Joe Anderson) watch a baseball game, one of the locals walks into the middle of the field with a shotgun, ready to shoot someone. The sheriff manages to kill the person and assumes he was drunk. After the coroner finds out that his BAC was 0.0, things start to go, well, crazy.

In fact, there is a poison in the water supply, but how the poison got there will only be revealed to those who see the film. I will tell you, though, that the source is a little far-fetched, but nevertheless interesting. The sheriff and his pregnant wife, played by the lovely Radha Mitchell, now have to find a way out of the city, not only because there are zombies on the loose, but because the military quarantined the town, fearing that the virus will spread. This

is where the film really kicks into high gear, since there are now two things the protagonists have to worry about.

"The Crazies" is both well acted and well directed, and is definitely scary. Olyphant does a great job as the hero, and it is a shame that he doesn't get that many good film roles. Radha Mitchell also does well as the pregnant wife, but the chemistry between her and Olyphant was a little weak. Eisner does an excellent job at creating tense and suspenseful moments, but is now a proven master at jump scares. This film is packed full of jump moments, and some of them will bounce you out of your seat. The cinematography

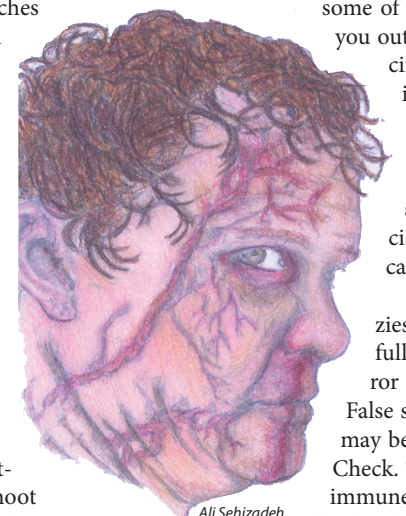
is also good for a horror film, and some set pieces are absolutely stunning, especially the terrifying car wash scene.

While "The Crazies" is fun, it is so full of typical horror movie clichés.

False scares where there may be a jump but isn't? Check. The protagonist is immune to the disease?

Check. What about the cocky partner who doesn't like to follow orders? You bet. However, these are used so regularly in movies today that it does not hurt the experience. Can't there be anything new anymore? It's a good thing the movie has strong characterization and plot because this horror film would have ended up like all the others: in the \$5 bargain bin.

Overall, "The Crazies" simply takes all of the usual horror movie formulas and presents them in a unique way, and it adds up to be a fun ride. It's scary, sometimes sad, and mostly silly, but that is what makes it worth watching. You'd be crazy to miss it. ☺



Alli Sehzadeh

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'Alice in Wonderland' enchants, beguiles

by Payton Sciarratta
Reporter

Walt Disney's "Alice in Wonderland" is back. Some of us may remember the original movie about a little girl who gets lost and has to face many creative characters. Others remember it by the rabbit that continuously said, "I'm late! I'm late! I'm late!"

Director Tim Burton has taken this original Disney film and turned it into something that is so much more creative and has given it more of a message. Along with the help of several of today's most popular actors, Burton has turned this movie into something that really draws the viewers' attention.

The original "Alice in Wonderland" was a story of a girl who fell into a rabbit hole and ended up in a place called Wonderland. While being in this imaginative place, Alice had encounters with several very strange characters. Not only did she meet new people, but she also had to figure out how to face the queen without being beheaded.

However, the new "Alice in Wonderland" is something that is so much more complex.

In this movie, Alice (Mia Wasikowska) is 19 years old. She must be married by the age of 20; otherwise she will become an old maid. At her engagement party, after everyone is pressuring her to accept the proposal of a suitor she does not love, Alice runs away and falls into the rabbit hole.

When she first reaches what is now known as Wonderland, everything is the same, well almost. She shrinks and then she grows. On the other hand, right when she walks through the door, she meets a majority of the characters, Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum, the blue caterpillar, the Cheshire cat.

Many of the characters, such as the Rabbit and the Mad Hatter (Johnny Depp) have suffered a notable decline from their original state, under the long and terrifying rule of the Red Queen (Helen Bonham Carter).

The great debate is whether THIS Alice is THE Alice, their champion who is supposed to destroy the jabberwocky, the Red Queen's dragon-like monster and free them all from her power.

Alice does go to the tea party. In the original movie, it was a really big, very popular and important scene. However, in the newer version the tea party was a quick scene, and it focused on hiding Alice from the Red Queen's guards.

The ending shows the biggest difference between the two movies. In the original, the Cheshire cat plays a joke on the Queen of Hearts and blames it on Alice where the Queen then orders "Off with her head."

In the newer version of the film, Alice has to decide if she can really be the champion and slay the Red Queen's jabberwocky to get the crown from the Red Queen back to the White Queen.

In the original, Alice wakes up from this dream and re-



Mimi Liu

turns to a normal life, but in the new movie Wonderland was a real place.

As the Mad Hatter, Depp shows his versatility because in "Sweeney Todd" (also directed by Tim Burton), Depp was a dark killer whereas in "Alice in Wonderland", he plays a much lighter character. Despite his jibberish talk and seeming carefree nature, the Hatter helps Alice find out what her true nature is, even when she is afraid to face the truth of who she is.

Anne Hathaway as the White Queen, who has been banished by the Red Queen. She also makes together, these actors are able to capture the movie and make it the popular film it is now.

"Alice in Wonderland" is not the average movie. There are many things included that do not make a whole lot of sense, but this is one thing that makes the movie what it is. One example would be the smiling cat, which can disappear

and return as just a head. Another example would be the way these characters speak.

"If I had a world of my own, everything would be nonsense," says Alice. "Nothing would be what it is, because everything would be what it isn't. And contrary wise, what is, it wouldn't be. And what it wouldn't be, it would. You see?"

Even though Wonderland isn't nonsense, as Alice would put it, it leads her to be "Curiouser and curiouser."

One of the main differences between these two films is that the characters in the new film don't talk as if they would have in the original. A lot of the famous quotes were left out. One example would be a quote from Alice to the Cheshire cat.

"I've often seen a cat without a grin; but a grin without a cat? It's the most curious thing I ever saw in all my life."

In the original film, the viewer didn't really meet any of the people that Alice new before she went to Wonderland,

but in the newer film we seem to meet the characters in Wonderland because they are reflected through the people that Alice really knows.

The mother of the man Alice is supposed to be getting married to reflects the Red Queen. Alice knows a set of twins in real life that seem to reflect Tweedledee and Tweedledum.

An interesting thing to note about the White Queen is that she is always holding her arms in the shape of a W.

In both of the movies though, through her adventure, Alice makes lifelong friends where she then promises she will return.

This movie brought in an estimated \$116 million on its opening weekend, and \$41 million its opening day.

You can follow Alice in her adventure to Wonderland, through this movie in 3D. Anyone who enjoys old Disney movies is certain to love this one. ☺

Greek gods clash in new adventure film

'Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief' centers upon the struggle of a seemingly ordinary boy who actually is the son of Poseidon.

by Caitlin Kropp
Reporter

For those among us who simply cannot wait for the next installment of Harry Potter movie series, myself included, a saving grace may have just dawned on the horizon. Sadly, this does not include a new book, or, better yet, some small movie type tribute to the legendary series. It actually has nothing to do with Harry Potter at all, except for an eerily similar plot line.

A trio of teens races across the country to recover a lost item, stop an ancient evil, and, potentially, save the world... It's Harry Potter in a nutshell. Except this one includes Greek gods, sword fighting, and guys in extraordinarily furry pants.

The newest tween flick to hit the scene, "Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief" premiered on Feb. 12. Directed by Christopher Columbus, formerly of the Harry Potter series (the similarities strike again), the movie uses modern technology to bring ancient myths to life. Although the plot is a bit overworked (and completely rewritten from the book, in most parts), the flick is an enjoyable one, especially for younger children.

The movie begins with young Percy Jackson, a dyslexic teenager who has a very special secret, one that even he does not know about. After being attacked by his substitute-teacher-turned-Harpy, the truth is revealed: Percy is a demigod, the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, the Greek god of the Sea. It sounds like a good enough deal, until monsters start attacking left and right, and he is whisked away to Camp Half-Blood, a training camp where other young demigods practice fighting monsters and the defending the world. Just normal teenage activities.

After making friends with the satyr, Grover, and Annabeth, the daughter of Athena, the trio sets out on a cross country road trip to recover a set of missing pearls that Percy can use to save his mother, who has been taken hostage by Hades. Along the way, our intrepid gang battles Medusa, a Hydra (which is somehow composed of night-

shift janitors...) and other nasty beasties. The end, of course, features an epic showdown between good and evil, the inevitable plot twist, and the restoration of balance in the world. The end.

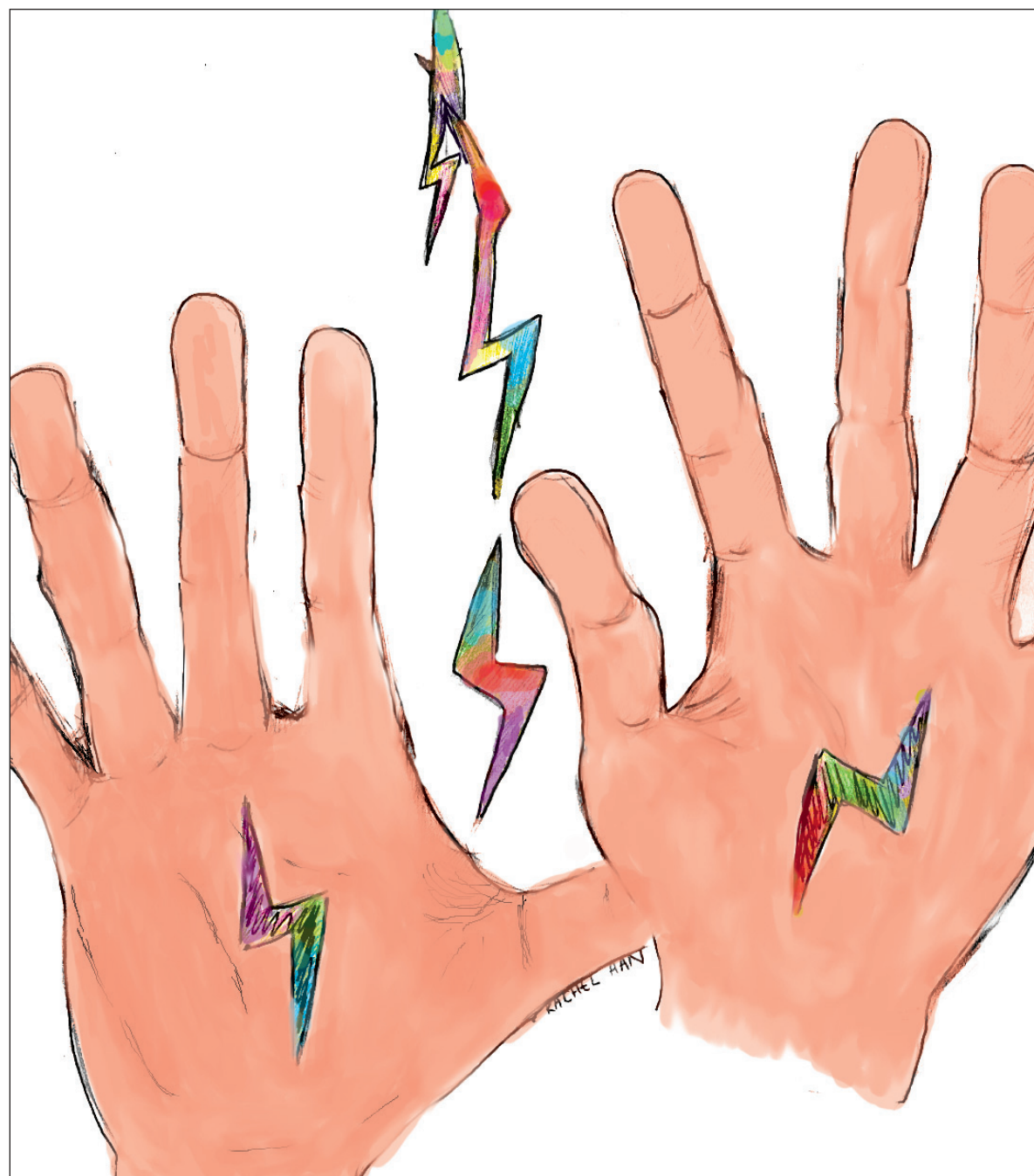
This, of course, is coming across as incredibly cynical, and it should, at least from my perspective. Frankly, this movie aggravates me to no end. Sure, sure, it's a fine family flick, a little action adventure that could live up to the Harry Potter franchise (that, by the way, is a very shaky "could"). But, the truth is, the experience is a lot different for those who actually know the story. Like me, for instance.

And this is where my inner geek comes out. Because I've read every single one of the Percy Jackson books (there are five, by the way). Every. Single. One. I've been reading them since they first came out in 2005, and will probably continue to do so as the story progresses. So, for one who is intimately familiar with the books, I can say that I am sufficiently disappointed, and, yes, aggravated with the movie adaptation of the series.

First of all, the only elements in the movie that are even remotely close to the book are the names of the characters. To me, it seems as if the script writers simply took the book off the shelf, looked at the cover and the blurb at the back, and said "Okay! Let's make this into a movie. Script time!" The backgrounds of the characters are altered, starting with their ages and working its way up (the main characters are actually 12 in the first book).

The rules of the Gods are altered, the quest is changed, and the monsters are different. And, of course, they completely throw away the single most important antagonist in the entire series (hint: his name is spelled K-R-O-N-O-S... for those of you who are still lost, I recommend brushing up on your Greek history).

They even go beyond, tampering with the actual myths themselves, suiting them to fit the plot line of the story. Yes, I know that the movie is set in modern times, but I don't care how modern it is. Persephone does not live with Hades during the summer. Sum-



Rachel Han

mer is when she's with her mother, and that's why the summer is good and warm and everything. That's why there are seasons, according to the Greeks. Someone should have gotten their facts straight.

This is coming across as slightly rant-ish, but I have one more thing to add before I stop. "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" has been hailed as a potential Harry Potter, correct? Well, is it too much to ask that the "next Harry Potter" be shown a little more respect, please? I'm fairly certain that the Harry Potter movies stay pretty close to the original books: why couldn't it have been so for Percy Jackson? Yes, yes, I know that there is artistic license, but that only applies for so much. Making an entirely new plot and slapping the same title on top of it in the hopes of passing it off as the movie adaptation isn't artistic license, it's a sham. The book had so many great scenes that could have made a wonderful movie. I, for one, would have thoroughly enjoyed watching Percy fight the Echidna

and fall from the top of the St. Louis Arch in living color. Just saying.

Beyond the scope of the plot, the acting was fairly decent, though a little bland. The actors who portray the main characters often have long, boring conversations, ones that don't sound very convincing, especially when they're supposed to be coming from the mouths of teenagers.

The ages of the actors, also, can be called into question, as they are all in their twenties, attempting to portray teenagers. The mixture just doesn't fit, along with creating potential problems for sequels. (Stay tuned for next summer's blockbuster, "Percy Jackson and the Olympians: Battle for the Senior Center").

But still, overall the movie was decent. Those without knowledge of the book series will come to find an enjoyable family action flick. It's fast, exciting, and funny, with the beloved mix of normal people and mythological situations. Who ever knew Greek myths could be so much fun? ☺

British film disappoints

by Bianca Vannucci
Reporter

Sometimes a movie serves its purpose in showing life as it really is, without the fabricated happy endings. On some occasions a movie can make an audience grateful for what they have. "Fish Tank" is not that kind of movie.

Mia, played by Katie Jarvis, is 15 years old. She lives in a poor neighborhood in a terrible family situation. Her mother, played by Kierston Wareing is abusive and unloving, her nine-year-old sister, Tyler, played by Rebecca Griffiths, smokes to relieve tension.

Mia has an outlet too. Her only dream is to become a dancer, though she is not particularly good at it. Her life seems bad enough, until her mother gets a new boyfriend, Connor, played by Michael Fassbender. Then he makes it worse.

The title of the movie "Fish Tank" is a metaphor for Mia's life. She is stuck between four walls and she is not getting out. There is not one smidge of hope in the two hours and two minutes it takes to get through this.

This film contains animal abuse, child abuse, substance abuse, kidnapping, stealing, vandalizing and fighting. It seems grim scenes were haphazardly thrown in simply to make this movie's sad point: Life's not nice, and then you die.

"Fish Tank" is unrated and perhaps it was simply not aimed at the high school maturity level, but anyone who enjoys a reversal of the situation will be disappointed.

There were a few positives about this movie. It got good reviews for its originality, the way certain scenes were slowed down almost painful gave the desired disturbing effect, and Jarvis really does fit the role of the troubled teenager.

However, no matter how modern or "realistic" this movie might be, when the viewer leaves, the main character and everyone around her is left in the same awful situation as viewers originally found them.

At no point in the movie is any emotion but sheer anger shown, which is quite disturbing to view. It makes the characters two-dimensional, almost stereotyping them. Never do Mia or her mother say a kind word to each other through perhaps it was necessary to see someone break out.

With so little variation in emotion, it is impossible to leave the theatre without feeling completely dissatisfied. It seems sometimes being unpleasant can be used to say something. However, if there is nothing important to say, then it comes down to how many bad clichés can fit into one movie. ☹

Fun Facts about 'The Lightning Thief'

1. The film made a worldwide total of \$202,770,631 after 31 days of release

2. The series has been on the New York Times Best Seller list for children's books for 138 weeks.

3. The series consists of five books, as well as spin-off titles such as 'The Demigod Files' and 'Demigods and Monsters'.

Academy Awards bring joy

My parents often tell me that I was born into the wrong decade. That really, despite my love for nanotechnology, I should be living in the 1920s. And I have to admit that I sometimes agree with them.

While most of my friends count down the days until Christmas morning or the day they can get their license or Spring Break in Mexico, I count down the days until the Academy Awards. It is the one big event of the year where the entire evening is reserved for evening gowns, limousines and most importantly, a red carpet.

For now though, I have to be content to watch this incredible show on a television screen in my living room, but the excitement and anxiety still translates through to me.

It is a time where all the rich and famous come together to flaunt their good looks and expensive clothes. Where a woman can wear \$2.5 million dollars of Tiffany jewels and still be taken seriously, where a man can wear Armani and not be made fun of.

It is a time where you can pretend to be from an F. Scott Fitzgerald novel, and act the stereotypical Hollywood glamorous.

It is a time where dreams come true, and history is made. Where lives are changed and thousands of people inspired. The Academy Awards celebrates and acknowledges an art that has touched many people all over the country and world.

My dad prints out ballots each year so we can predict the winners. I start my research as early as possible.

My goal? To watch every movie nominated for a major award.

You have to read the reviews, find out the favorites, and most importantly know what the Academy likes. Your own opinion can have no effect on your ballot predictions. This in itself is an art that takes time to master.

The six major categories, Best Motion Picture, Best Director, Best Actress, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actress and Best Supporting Actor, are all worth two points on a ballot.

While all other categories are only worth one. But it's always the smaller categories like Sound Editing and Sound Mixing that can make or break your score.

The Academy Awards are the perfect mix of competition and entertainment. The hosts give comedic relief to a somewhat tense crowd, and the dramatic sealed envelopes create an addictive apprehension that pulls you in.

Every year when I watch the Academy Awards, I dream of sometime being there myself.

But it's not because of the fancy dresses, or the beautifully decorated Kodak Theater, or even the famous red carpet.

It is because I want to experience that overwhelming energy of anticipation and excitement that has been there for decades.

I want to experience the feeling of being a part of something so much bigger than me, and know that just one performance or movie can affect so many people. ☺



Laura Bleeke



Neil Patrick Harris performers at the 82nd annual Academy Awards at the Kodak Theater in Hollywood, California on Sunday March 7, 2010. Robert Gauthier / Los Angeles Times / MTC

Students need to respect surroundings

Chicken wing bones, the last thing I expected to see as I walked into school and headed towards the doors of the Center. However, on the bench and on the floor next to the door lay chicken wing bones. A trash can was only a couple of feet to my left.

I was repulsed, seeing the half eaten wings lying on the floor. On the other hand, I was not surprised to find trash lying on the ground. You can't go through a day without walking by a piece of trash.

Seeing garbage on the floor is typical, but it shouldn't be. It is not difficult to take a couple extra steps and place your wrappers, bottles, or chicken bones into a trash can.

There are six or more trash cans you can choose from, in the commons alone, and it takes less than a minute to throw your trash away. There is absolutely no excuse for leaving used napkins, half eaten French fries, or any piece of leftover food on the table.

Perhaps it is easier to just get up and walk away from the table, knowing that someone will be there to pick up after you. Even so, it is rude and quite honestly disgusting.

If you have ever had the experience of cleaning up after someone else, then you know it is not a fun thing to do. It is even more annoying when the person you are picking up after was more than capable of throwing away their own mess. So why then, is it acceptable to leave the garbage from your lunch on the table?



Anat Gross

The answer is simply that it is not reasonable to leave your trash, fully expecting someone else to pick up after you. Thankfully, our school is cleaned each day; otherwise you might find the leftovers from yesterday's lunch still on the floor.

Not only is leaving trash on the

table lazy and revolting, it is disrespectful, both to the rest of the student body—particularly those who have lunch after you -- and the custodial staff who cleans up the mess you have left behind. There are trash cans stationed throughout the school, in every classroom, and even outside the building, because it is the student's responsibility to throw his or her trash away.

There is no basis for a student to leave his or her trash lying around, not just because it takes 30 seconds to place it in the trash, though that should be reason enough, but because this is our school we are trashing. Yes, doing homework and waking up early is a pain, but why should we make the process any more difficult by making our school an unclean place to be?

The solution to avoiding half eaten chicken wings on the floor is simple: throw away your trash and encourage the people you eat with to do the same. If we all take those extra steps and toss our food in the trash then perhaps we won't find ourselves stepping on a French fry from the previous hour's lunch. ☺



Anat Gross

Living through divorce causes stress, leads to understanding

The first piece of guidance I got about divorce was from a good family friend: "There is nothing special about divorce. The only difference is that you have two tooth brushes, two bedrooms and your parents aren't married anymore."

With this ideal in mind, the beginning of my parents' divorce three years ago came fairly easily to me.

The scene was somber. My parents were crying, one of my brothers was sobbing over speakerphone from Boston, while the other was weeping over Skype from London. I was just standing in there as if nothing had fazed me as my parents announced their divorce.

My family was worried that I was hiding my emotions about the divorce or that I was afraid to express my feelings, but it wasn't that.

When I heard of my parents' divorce, it wasn't a surprise to me. It's hard to say if it is my keen ability to tell the future or if it was the endless fights between my parents that cued me in, but I had known for a long time that my parent weren't meant to be together.

Since my parents had been divorced in my mind for years, in the beginning I insisted that even through litigation, moving houses and finding my role in a new family dynamic that my parents' divorce had left me untouched and unaffected. I wasn't focused on trying to get them back together or going through any type of emotional break down, I was just ready to move on.

However, as I continued to ignore my parents' divorce and the adversities it had placed in front of me, it began to take over my life.

My thoughts were consistently engrossed in contemplating how I was to navigate dinner without hearing a rant from one of my parents or how I would evenly split my weekend so both of my parents would see me. My school nights were

increasingly spent fighting with my parents and less focused on my studies.

I was exposed to an unending feud between my parents and there seemed no way out. I had hit rock bottom and my parents' divorce had permeated every part of my life. My grades began to plummet, I was anxious around my friends – I had morphed into a different person.

However, I began to realize that even though I may have accepted my parents' divorce I needed to understand the implications and the difficulties it had placed in front of me.

As I began to work out my own personal problems and my parents realized the burden they placed in my life things started to look better. And then finally my parents' litigation wound to a close and life started to calm down.

As I look back on the process it was more than stressful for everyone in my family. Living in a family amidst a divorce is like walking through a war zone. There are times of calm, there are times of battle and any one misstep can trigger a massive explosion.

However, I can't say living with my parents married was much better. In truth, it may have been a war zone during the divorce but it was all worth it. Not only is everyone in my family in a better place because of the divorce but also, at least for myself, I have gained a greater understanding of myself and the true meaning of what it means to be "family."

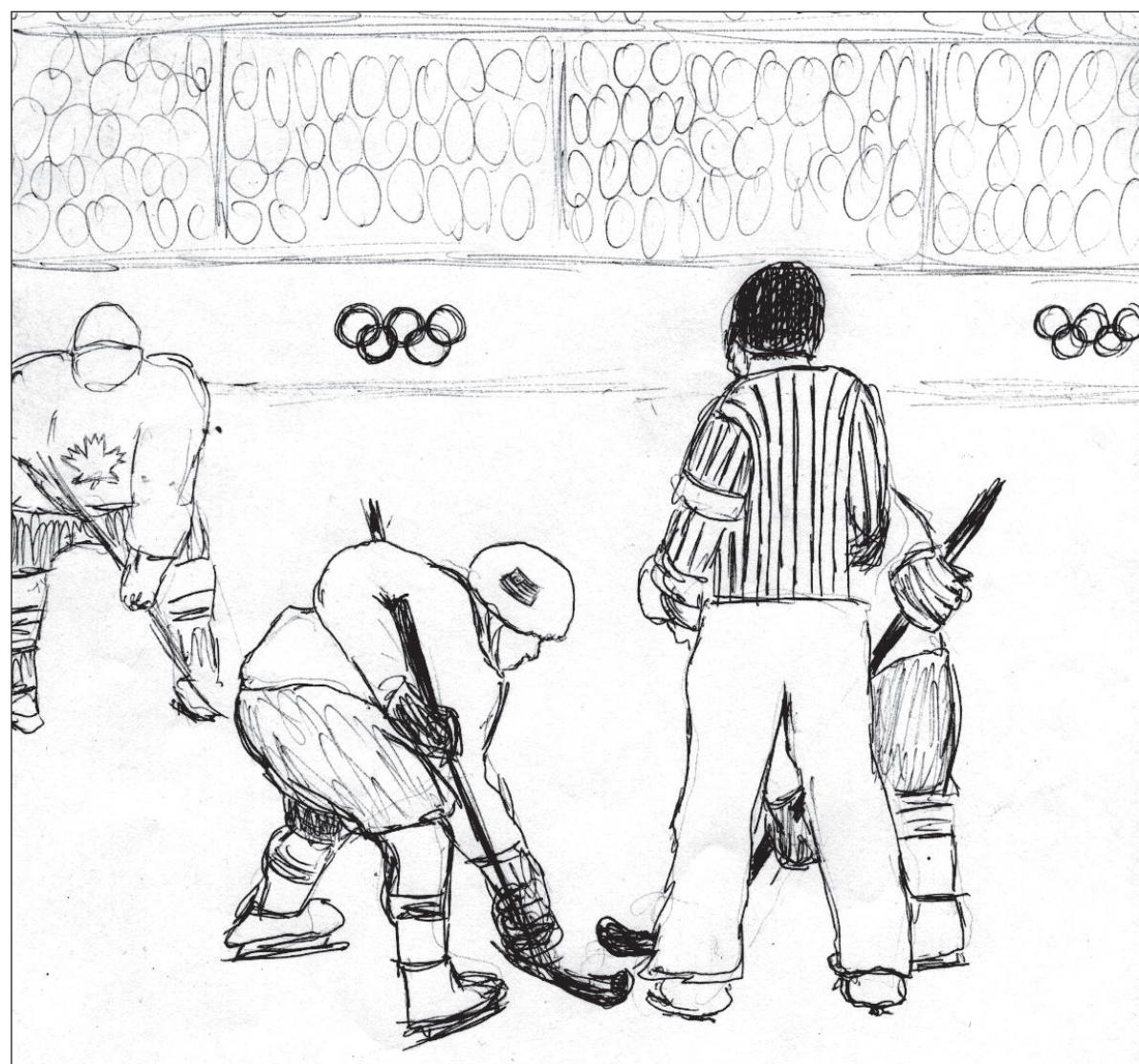
As all of my family continues to charter into the unknown world of divorce I continue to learn and surprise myself a long way.

However, the most important thing I learned from the divorce I knew all along: a divorce in a family is chaotic, but eventually life goes on, just with two toothbrushes. ☺



Justin Elliot

Watching Winter Olympics incites awe, motivates



Sonja Petermann

The Olympics, an event that was the zenith of conversation a couple weeks ago, has been pushed into the distant past. No one really cares that Lysacek made history by winning men's skating gold, or that Kemkers' coaching mistake cost Switzerland a gold. In fact, I don't even care.

No, when I think about the Olympics, I don't recall the medal count, or who won this and that, or who was supposed to win something and failed. Instead, I remember the amazing perseverance and motivation those athletes had.

I agree that the whole cliché of 'Olympians must be role models' is a lot of idolization spewed out by the media, but every exaggeration starts with a seed of truth.

Those snowboarders and skaters and skiers and curlers and hockey players and lugers have a sense of motivation and determination that really is something spectacular.

With the lack of those two attributes currently plaguing even simple tasks, such as finishing a lab report, I watched the Olympics with complete jealousy.

The fact that some athletes would spend another four years trying to be the best at one solitary sport was unbelievable to a mind that couldn't commit to a homework assignment for more than 50 minutes.

Why were these people able to stick with one sport, even after failing a thousand times, and still be able to continue training with some sort of enjoyment?

Some athletes had gone to the Olympics three times, 12 consecutive years, and still they came back, even when they had already won gold. That amount of time and that amount of persistence just boggled my mind.

I would sit in front of the television, listening to the NBC commentators talk about how much dedication and hard work so and so put in to get to this moment, and it got to a point where I didn't even care if the particular athlete actually placed in finals or not; I would be too busy staring at the screen, at the little person crouched on top of a foggy white hill or somewhere, trying to telepathically steal their determination.

Each time one of the "Go World, Visa" commercials came on, I would actually listen and try to figure out the secret to such amazing perseverance. And, this is going to sound very lame, but I started doing homework in front of the television, not so I could catch every moment of the Olympics, but because I really believed that being in the television presence of these individuals might possibly motivate me to finish homework and stop procrastinating.

Now, I see the obvious logical fallacy in my whole "homework in front

of the TV actually boosts productivity" theory, but that just shows how obsessive I became.

Well, it's been two weeks and I have yet to figure out how those amazing athletes, who are indeed in the same species as I am, are able to push back the curtain of procrastination and frustration to become the best in the world at just one thing.

Maybe I'll never be able to dedicate myself to one task at one time, and with a world that prides itself on the ability of multi-tasking,

I might never be able to capture the same single-minded perseverance of those Olympic athletes.

But the Olympics left me with a shining example of determination, motivation and persistence that I can

always look back upon and wonder at their incredible mind set.

Although I have not managed to grasp the exact lesson I was supposed to learn from that example (which translates to: I still procrastinate), this Winter Olympics in Vancouver left an impression of awe and yearning for the ability to apply my mind to something so wholeheartedly.

And that's as good a start for a teenager trying to find the inner power to resist procrastinating as any. ☺



Dee Luo

Butting Heads: Vegetarianism

Eat meat, but eat it right, with a view to health, environment

by **Nia Charrington**
Reporter

My parents became vegetarians in college, so when I was born they raised me as a vegetarian. Yes, this is still the meat eating side of the argument; No, the irony is not lost on me. I have been a vegetarian my whole life. Being a vegetarian isn't something that I chose as a child just something that I was. Thus, I can represent this side of the argument with proven facts and hopefully educate you as much as I've educated myself on the topic.

Unlike most vegetarians I don't really feel for the plight of farm animals, I hold a more circle-of-life viewpoint, as indicated by the fact that I still eat fish, eggs, and dairy products sometimes. I am a vegetarian, I just don't know why.

Growing up a vegetarian is a lot like growing up with a stamp on your forehead that reads "I think I'm better than you". For reasons unknown, when my vegetarianism arose in conversation meat eaters automatically felt the need defend their carnivorous and annoyingly say, "I can't imagine never eating meat are you sure you don't want some?" And I never said yes partly out of pride and partly out of obedience to my parents.

That's not to say I've never eaten meat before, albeit mostly through restaurant slip ups. When I have eaten meat, honestly, it has always makes me a little sick. I assume though this because my body is not used to eating meat, but I'm sure I could acclimate myself to meat if I took the time.

A common misconception about vegetarians is that because they are inherently healthy eaters. Being a vegetarian however doesn't actually indicate that you are healthy, only that you don't eat meat. In college while my father was first trying out being a vegetarian he ate pizza for almost every meal. Being healthy has more to do with eating right and less to do with being a vegetarian.

Meat holds many keys to a healthy diet and vegetarians are constantly trying to find substitutes to fill its place. Meat has a great deal of protein, amino acids that will catalyze important functions within your body. These proteins can increase physical strength and promote a better immune system.

Meat is also high in minerals like Iron. Which is essential for creating hemoglobin which allows you to carry oxygen with ease. Meat also has zinc to promote a high metabolism and selenium to break down chemicals.

It also contains important vitamins that support good vision, a healthy nervous system and strong bones and teeth. Meat also contains natural fats like palmitoleic acid and linoleic acid which have been shown to stave off cancer and viruses.

Many vegetarians, especially new vegetarians, don't get enough minerals and important nutrients to sustain a healthy lifestyle. Vegetarians often can fall prey to iron deficiency anemia. This can cause decreased appetite, head ache, irritability, and other symptoms.

But for all the benefits of meat, the way in which most meats are manufactured can outweigh the benefits. This is why it is important to eat animals from farms that grass-fed their animals. Eating healthy organic meat is the key to a successful diet. Unfortunately, the problem for most families is affording this type of meat.

Places that sell grass-fed meat, like Whole Foods, are far more expensive than other meats. Families that eat meat often can't afford to sustain the way they eat meat with the grass-fed alternative. This brings me to the importance of portion sizes. According to the American Meat Institute, per capita, Americans consume about 220 pounds of meat per year. However, according to Michelle Cook a diet expert and author, 50-60 pounds of meat per year is a far healthier amount to consume.

If families can agree to cut down on meat consumption they will be more easily able to afford grass-fed meat allowing them to benefit from the meat they consume. Families will become healthier, cutting down on trips to the doctor or medicine. On healthy diets people are more vibrant and less tired, able to do more. With a healthy meat diet you can reach the epitome of health that many vegetarians cannot due to lack of access to the nutrients found in meats.

So the question is now will I still be a vegetarian. Given all the benefits of eating meat and the bodily well being it would present. I would say yes. Yes I am still going to be a vegetarian. But less for health benefits and more for the fact that I can identify with it. I'll stay a vegetarian out of comfort and the connection that it provides to family. But, for those who don't feel the life time connection to vegetarianism that I do, the healthy choice seems clear. Eat meat, but eat it right. ☺

Eating little or no meat is good for body, soul, emotions, the earth

by **Hannah Callahan**
Reporter

In 8th grade, I declared my vegetarianism.

I should mention, however, that my newly-found do-gooding was only after a brief stint at age seven when I developed a pig obsession, and refused to eat pork. (Or any meat for that matter.) I couldn't imagine eating anything cute and/or with eyes.

That was the year it occurred to me that the slice of pork on my plate was made of a pig. A once living, breathing pig! I couldn't imagine.

After all, the only "real-life" pigs I'd ever seen were in the 1995 movie "Babe" (followed, of course, by "Babe: Pig in the City"), in which they could animatronically talk, make jokes, laugh, aspire to be sheep dogs, and follow their dreams!

Sigh.

I watched the movie every night for two weeks, and would simply proclaim each time my worried mother offered me pork chops: "I refuse! Pigs are my friends!"

Eventually, however—much to my 7-year-old dismay—the spools of film inside the VHS tape tangled into a spidery mess, or, more likely, my parents hid it from me, and thus my thoughtless vegetarianism faded into carnivorous childhood memories at McDonalds.

Only years later did I realize how uneducated my decision to become a vegetarian was.

Yes, I was only seven, but I mean, the cruelly murdered animals on my plate were never cute, much less able to talk or laugh or follow their dreams. In his dubbed, animatronic kid-voice, Babe had never mentioned that America's meat comes from corporations—which make up 99 percent of the meat industry—rather than family farms, or that the animals are designed to be slaughtered in adolescence.

In reading the newly released, intensely researched book "Eating Animals" by one of my favorite authors, Jonathan Safran Foer, I've since learned that a pig (or what he likes to call "genetic mutant") for instance, is slaughtered at 250 pounds. But with the antibiotics, growth-promoting hormones, appetite-stimulants, and pesticides that these "mutants" are fed, they would exceed 800 pounds if kept alive. Facts like these, however, are just the tip of the iceberg in America's growing slaughterhouse corporations, just as the pork chops on our plates remind us, perhaps reluctantly, of the deeper, nightmarish stories behind them.

Chances are you've heard of PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), and most likely scoffed at their controversial, albeit attention-worthy statements, such as "Animals are people too!"

However, I believe that it is as important to remember that animals are not the same as humans—though humans are animals—as it is to remember that they nevertheless deserve rights.

Indeed, this point seems to be supported by Orwell's "Animal Farm," in which he wrote, "All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others." Additionally, as Safran Foer reminds us, "Humans are the only animals that have children on purpose, keep in touch (or don't), care about birthdays, waste and lose time, brush their teeth, feel nostalgia, scrub stains... whisper, fear themselves, interpret dreams... and can choose not to eat something for reasons of conscience."

Simply stated, we are not them.

While PETA sometimes focuses more on outlandish claims than their accuracy, the cause behind the claims reminds us of the means by which meat arrived on our plates, and as importantly, the means' consequences.

For instance, in another of their many campaigns, PETA referred to fish as "sea puppies" and "sea kittens."

Yes, this seems absurd, eye-roll-inspiring, or maybe even makes you say "aww."

However, it does remind us of a kind of animal hierarchy.

What continues to puzzle me, and as Safran Foer points out, is how as a society, we value the welfare of the animals we do not eat more than the animals we eat. Perhaps this is because we give our pets sentiment-heavy human names, while referring to our food by species. (I acknowledge that it would be creepy to name the steak on your plate Nicolas or something.)

It may be natural to eat meat; however, in today's America, meat is not natural.

But you know all of this.

So if not for the sadistically slaughtered animals' sake, stop eating meat—or just eat less of it—for your own or for the environment's.

First of all, know that labels like "cage-free," "free-range," "fresh," "organic," and arguably even "kosher," are complete bushwa. They cost more, perhaps make you feel a little bit better about yourself, but mean little to nothing at all.

In Stephen Colbert's interview with Safran Foer about his novel, Colbert jokes that he always imagined "free-range" to mean that "the chickens get up in the morning and run over fields of flowers."

However, "free-range" means that chickens raised for meat must have mere "access to outdoors," an essentially meaningless regulation when taken literally.

As Safran Foer explains, "Imagine a shed containing 30,000 chickens, with a small door at one end that opens to a five-by-five dirt patch—and the door is closed all but occasionally."

"Cage-free" all-too-simply means, without cages.

"Organic" means more than the other labels, but still less than you would expect. The label requires that animals must be raised on organic feed, be traced throughout their life cycle, not be fed antibiotics or growth hormones, and promises the doomed "access to outdoors." While organic foods are generally safer, have a better health value, and smaller ecological footprint, they are not by any means more humane.

According to Safran Foer, "you can call your turkey organic and torture it daily."

Following USDA regulations, or lack thereof, "pathogen-infested, feces-splattered chicken can technically be fresh, cage-free, and free-range, and sold in the supermarket legally."

When I told my family in 8th grade that I'd become a vegetarian, it was as uneducated of a decision as the one I'd made at seven years old. I had only seen a PETA video that I thought had horrified me to the point of never eating meat again.

I remember my uncle, 60-something and a vociferous conservative, telling me, his words leaking this wise condescension: "I went through that phase in my twenties." At the time I refused to believe that my vegetarianism would be a mere phase.

Now to my 17-year-old dismay, my uncle was right. My vegetarianism has lasted for four years on and off, as a kind of perpetual and sometimes interrupted battle between those PETA images, reason, convenience, and conscience. (The most memorable renouncement of my vegetarianism was taking a bite of disgusting but oh-so-satisfying chocolate-covered bacon bits.)

I am not naïve enough to believe that I have convinced anyone of becoming a vegetarian.

All I'm saying is that it is important to remember where the food on your plate came from.

Now that you know, or perhaps always knew, the tip of the meaty, tortured, metaphorical iceberg, make a change, and stop supporting major meat corporations that amorally and unsanitarily torture animals for our benefit, and in doing so harm our health, and contribute to global warming. ☺



The boys' varsity basketball team beat the Westminster Wildcats in the district semifinal game on Feb. 24 in Stuber Gym. Senior guard Devonte Bell hit a game winning jumwper with two seconds left in the game to break a 48-48 tie and give the Hounds the eventual win.

In that game, the team battled back from an early deficit before pulling out the close win. Bell and junior guard Ahmad Smith both finished with a team-high 13 points.

In the district finals, the Hounds were not quite as fortunate. After quickly falling behind by as much as 15 points against MICDS, the Hounds fought back and took the lead with three minutes to go in the game. Eventually though, the team was not able to pull out the win before what was surely the largest crowd at Stuber Gym all season.

MICDS hit their free throws late and won 62-58, advancing to the sectional round. Bell and junior guard Christian Thomas each had 22 points in a losing cause. Bell seemed to will the team back into the game with three big three-pointers, but the Hounds were not able to make the key play late in the game.

Both games brought packed crowds to the Clayton gym, crowds that were hoping to see the Hounds make a state playoff run. That will just have to wait till next year.

"It's good that the attitude at Clayton is now that rather than be content with making the district title game, we expect to go much further," Head Coach Ryan Luhning said. "That's an attitude that will be key in being successful in the near future."

By Evan Green



LEFT: Senior Devonte Bell sprints down the court on his way to the basket. ABOVE: Head Coach Ryan Luhning speaks passionately to his team during a time out. BELOW: Junior Christian Thomas guards his opponent as an MICDS player approaches.

Photos by Caroline Stamp, Izzy Fratt and Christine Stricker

Nothing But Net



ABOVE: Junior Christian Thomas jumps over his Pattonville opponent as he heads for the basket. RIGHT: Sophomore Charlie Harned blocks a shot by an MICDS player during the championship game. BELOW: The Clayton Crazyes rile up the home crowd at the Clayton vs. Ladue game, which took place at Fontbonne College. LEFT: Junior Christian Thomas finishes a perfectly executed freethrow during the championship game.

