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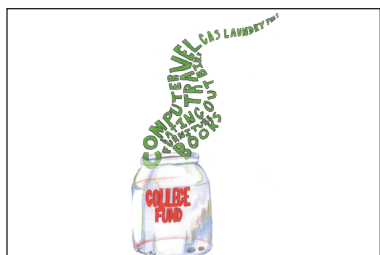
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## Possibility of VST extension poses serious questions

**Amy Brooks**  
Co-Editor in Chief

Although the Voluntary Student Transfer (VST) program is slated to end with the 2008-2009 school year, a decision by the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation (VICC) could extend the program five additional years.

The VICC board, which meets to make a decision in June, is comprised of one representative from each of the 15 St. Louis County school districts that participate in the program and the St. Louis Public School District. However, even if the VICC board approves the extension, it is then up to the individual school boards to make the decision for their district.

Clayton Superintendent Dr. Don Senti, Clayton's representative at the VICC board, believes the board will move to extend the program and that Clayton School District will also end up extending the program. Senti, who is also the current chairman of the VICC board, believes the community has shown strong support for the pro-

gram, leading him to vote for the proposal this June.

"This community values diversity and this matter has been substantiated over and over again by public opinion surveys and our school board's opinion," Senti said. "One of my goals is to find ways to maintain diversity. We have two new members on the school board but I feel confident that the majority of our board would expect me to vote yes."

According to Director of Communications Chris Tennill, the support for the VST program within the Clayton community has remained strong over the years. Tennill cited statistics from the district's surveys of the community, such as the most recent one, conducted in 2006, in which 76 percent of respondents said they supported the Board's 2004 decision to accept new VT students. Tennill believes the possibility of extending the program has grown more likely over the years.

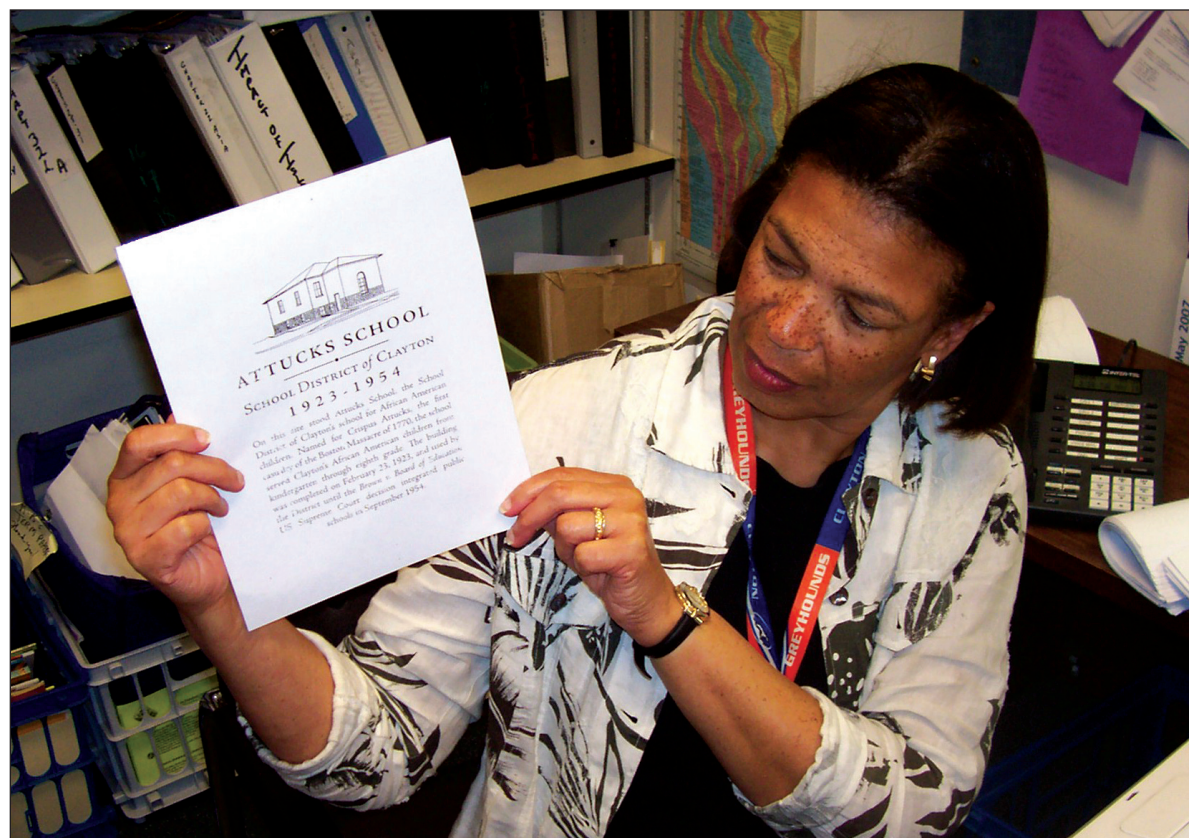
"If you would have asked me back in 2004 if we could have extended the program past 2009 I



Blair Klostermeier

A Voluntary Transfer Program student exits the bus one morning. The Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation could extend the program an additional five years. The decision determining the fate of the program is set for late June. Clayton Superintendent, Don Senti, is a member of the board making the decision.

VST EXTENSION, 5



Hyrum Shumway

History teacher and sponsor of club, the 4As Donna Rogers-Beard poses with a template of the plaque soon to be dedicated at the site of former segregated Attucks School located on the corner of Bonhomme and Hanley.

## Plaque dedication at site of former Attucks School offers awareness

**Jeremy Bleeke**  
Section Editor

For 31 years, up until the Brown v. Board of Education decision in 1954, African American students in Clayton attended Attucks School at the corner of Bonhomme and Hanley.

On May 17, the anniversary of the court decision, the African American Academic Achievers (4As) and sponsor Donna Rogers-Beard dedicated a plaque at the building's former location to remember and honor both the school and the part it played in Clayton's history.

Rogers-Beard, who teaches freshman and AP World History, stumbled across the fact that Clayton had an African American community while doing research on a separate topic in St. Louis history.

She has been fascinated ever since. Rogers-Beard met with Clayton Superintendent Don Senti and presented her proposal for commemorating the school.

"I was very excited," Senti said. "I arranged for them to see the Mayor the minute I heard about it. Mayor Uchitelle and his wife, Susan, are big supporters of integration generally and the Voluntary Student Transfer program in particular."

Although Rogers-Beard first conceived the project, the 4As were also enthusiastic, and contributed to its final realization.

"Officers of 4As met with Mayor Uchitelle; he was excited and gave his support," Rogers-Beard said. "I contacted a graduate of the Attucks school, who came and talked with the girls about her experiences growing up in Clayton. She, in turn, got us in touch with other graduates."

At a reception following Thursday's dedication ceremony, several graduates of Attucks school spoke about their experiences, and a power point on the history of the African American community was presented.

Although Rogers-Beard is still researching the exact details of the black community—a venture she hopes will become a long term project—she already knows a good deal about its history.

"There was a small black population in Clayton from its inception," Rogers-Beard said. "The black community was originally located from Brentwood to Hanley. There was a black church at 216 South

Brentwood. Black children in Clayton attended a segregated K-8 school, Attucks School. The school district paid their tuition, transportation, and lunch money to attend a black high school in the city or in Webster Groves."

Rogers-Beard emphasizes this last point in particular.

"At one time the bus took African American children out of their Clayton Community to segregated high schools," Rogers-Beard said. "Getting up early in the morning and having the 20 to 30 minute bus ride out of our community has long been the black experience in Clayton."

After the 1954 court decision declared segregation in schools unconstitutional, African American students were invited to attend the elementary, middle, and high schools at Clayton. By this point, however, the black community had been almost entirely eliminated by plans for urban renewal, as that section of the city would become Clayton's central business district. Despite the laws allowing integration, only three African American students joined the high school that year.

And even though 50 years have passed since Brown v. Board of Education, opportunities for truly equal education in America have still not been accomplished.

"We have come a very long ways in 50 years, but because housing is still largely segregated due, I think, to economic differences - so are the schools," Senti said. "Programs like the VT Program address that problem to some degree. But if people continue to live separately kids will continue to go to school separately."

Rogers-Beard agrees that more needs to be done to address the gap in educational opportunity.

"There should be more equitable funding of schools across the country," Rogers-Beard said. "The community, the city, the state where one lives still determines the education one may receive. Children, no matter what color, who are at or near the poverty line, need more money spent on their education than those whose parents can provide many enriching experiences."

In the end, Rogers-Beard hopes that the plaque will help to raise awareness of the history of the black population, something that the majority of Clayton residents don't know about.

## New Clayton Mayor brings experience, vision to the position

**Kelly Moffitt**  
Co-Editor in Chief

She may only have been in office for two weeks, but newly elected Mayor of Clayton, Linda Goldstein is already thinking big for the city of Clayton. For some stepping into the shoes of former Mayor Ben Uchitelle, shoes that are in the middle of the highly publicized Centene Corporation ordeal would be daunting. For Goldstein, the first woman to be mayor of Clayton, the trials and tribulations are the best part of the job.

"I was pretty informed about what I was getting into as mayor but I have to admit, it's a little more than I expected," Goldstein said. "I guess I had no idea what happens before it's all summarized in a meeting. It's very exciting; I enjoy the twists and turns this job throws at me. The best part is the challenge."

There are many aspects of her job that she is prepared to take on.

"The mayor's position is part time, basically a volunteer position," Goldstein said. "The Mayor and the Board have input and set direction, in conjunction with the city staff. We have a great mix of people, which is great because it is so im-

portant to have diversity of opinions. We all approach ideas from different perspectives it's wonderful because with many different inputs, you get a better solution. We have very lively discussions. We're really learning to work well together as a team.

There is no typical day as a mayor, you have to learn to do what is needed when it is needed."

Goldstein, however, is prepared for the job. She was an alderwoman for eight years prior to her election, is the General Manager of CI Select (a corporate interiors company), has served as the President of the Board of the Center of Clayton, and was the sole non-mayor member of the St. Louis County Municipal League.



courtesy of City Hall

**New Mayor, Linda Goldstein**, replaced Ben Uchitelle recently.

"I have been at this now for eight years, because I was an alderwoman before this, so I know the history of the position," Goldstein said. "Ben Uchitelle has a great legacy and he did a fabulous job, so it is exciting to be following in his footsteps. I've got a great group of mayoral support I can call on if I need help."

Goldstein does not believe she will do the job any differently because of her gender.

"It's interesting because I do know a lot of women mayors and there happen to be a lot of women mayors out there," Goldstein said. "It just has happened that Clayton has never had one. So if you asked me how I would be different because I am a woman,

I don't think I'm that different. We are elected because of our qualifications and our experience regardless of gender, so I don't think I'll do anything different than a man. It's just a nice distinction to be the first woman."

Twists and turns are almost imminent in the next months with the Centene debacle.

"The Centene project is critical to Clayton and it's possible that it

MAYOR, 5

“It's like everything else in life: if you don't stay with the times, you'll be outmoded. Clayton has to stay up with the world and evolve and grow. That's what living is all about.”

Linda Goldstein  
Mayor

# A HIGH-CALIBER ISSUE

As the details about the Virginia Tech shooting have been relayed in the news, citizens have wondered what the shooting illustrates about gun rights, gun control and the culture of America in general.

**Hyrum Shumway**  
Senior Managing Editor

Crime kills more people in the United States than all natural disasters combined.

On April 16, 2007, America witnessed the worst U.S. shooting rampage in history as Cho Seung-Hui massacred 32 students and faculty and then committed suicide at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University campus.

The shooting at Virginia Tech shows that the gun control measures that are in place are not effective," History Teacher Donna Rogers-Beard. "I think it says that it is entirely too easy to get weapons that can do massive damage in a short amount of time."

Supporters of the right to carry laws often give the defense that virtually anything can be considered a weapon if one has the intention.

"My reaction to the Virginia Tech Massacre is that there are always crazy people and whether it is a gun, a knife a baseball bat or a bicycle pump, they will try to endanger others," Pro Firearm Lobbyist Michael G. Meyer said. "Virginia Tech is a gun-free school, but if the people who run the school would be able to give people the right to carry concealed weapons on school grounds, it would be safer. The violence would have been stopped if someone with a concealed arm could be able to fight the Seung-Hui back. However, this was not the case. There was no armed security, and students were not able to defend themselves. The shooter knew it would be just like shooting fish in a barrel."

## CONCEALED ARMS

The government has made restrictions on where concealed arms can be taken and public buildings are one. Schools historically have been gun-free.

"The most asinine statement some people have made is that professors should be armed so that happenings like Virginia Tech wouldn't occur," Rogers-Beard said.

Of all the murders in the United States 66 percent of them were accomplished with a gun and not by hand or with another less effective device.

"I think if someone comes in with a knife or a revolver, they would have had a tough time doing the same damage semi-automatic, easy-to-conceal pistols are able to do," Rogers-Beard said.

Pistols are much less powerful than rifles, but are nonetheless highly effective for close range contact.

"Rifles, shotguns and pistols kill people," senior David Redick said. "Someone who is out to kill someone is out to kill someone. It doesn't matter how they kill them. They are both pretty easy to get."

At the Columbine High School shooting in 1999 both long-guns (shotguns and rifles) as well as pistols were used.

"I have a cousin who was at Columbine when it happened," senior David Redick said. "There were people shooting at him from the principal's office and there were bullets close to him. Since someone close to me was at the Columbine shooting, it means much more to me. I think we need to look at the culture of America; it is disturbing that 18-year-olds and 21-year-olds feel they need guns. I see no need for semi-automatic pistols or rifles."

## GUN CONTROL FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Whether or not some would like to see guns in the hands of young adults, the law is there and is unlikely to change soon.

"In Missouri we have a permit to acquire a firearm," Meyer said. "This is done at the police station and a background check is done. The background check checks different databases such as the FBI database. Once this check is done, which normally takes 10 business days, and if there are no problems with the background check, you are able to purchase a gun. You have to be at least 21. At 18 one is able to buy a rifle or shotgun (long-gun) without parental consent."

The risks of a young man owning a gun is far greater than any other age group: you are most likely to be murdered by an 18-year-old, secondly most likely to be killed by a 19-year-old, and thirdly by a 20-year-old. Most young men have an easy time passing any background check the state would throw at them as they are too young to have done anything major yet.

"My son bought a shotgun and a rifle when he turned 18," English Teacher Emily Grady said. "They are in a case locked upstairs on our highest floor. He can only shoot them in the country. I don't feel any sense of security from having guns in my house: if anything I feel less secure. I think they could be stolen and get into the wrong hands."

## MEDIA IMPACT

The media sometimes makes people feel that violence is acceptable and many clues came up that Cho Seung-Hui was deranged and people have a social duty to protect each other.

"When students are writing explicitly violent, disturbing, or anti-social material, there must be a counselor in connection with them to make sure they are not a danger to society or themselves," Rogers-Beard said. "With the potential that weapons have, the greater society has an obligation to embrace and monitor each other."

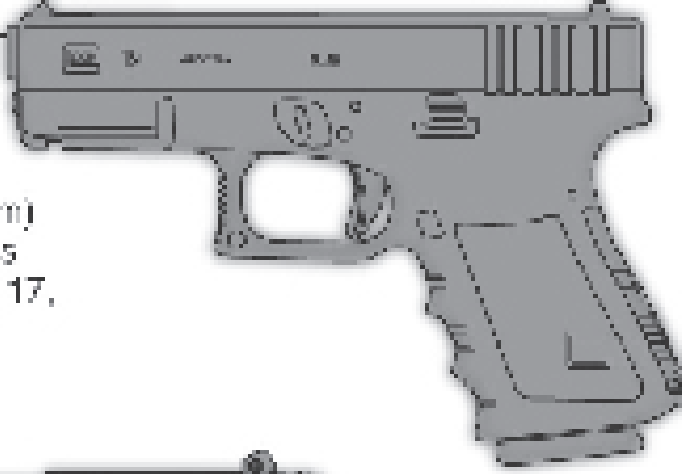
## IMPACT LOCALLY

## Easy to conceal

The two handguns found at the scene of Monday's Virginia Tech shootings are surprisingly small.

### Glock 19

Caliber 9mm  
Length 6.9 in. (17.5 cm)  
Height 5 in. (12.7 cm)  
Magazine 15 rounds standard; optionally 17, 19 or 33 rounds  
Origin Austria



### Walther P22

Caliber .22 Long Rifle  
Length 8.3 in. (21.1 cm)  
Height 4.5 in. (11.4 cm)  
Magazine 10 rounds  
Origin Germany

Source: Glock, #6109, U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing, #100,000,000, #100,000,000, #100,000,000, #100,000,000, #100,000,000  
Graphic: Angela Smith, Walla Walla

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MCT Campus

**New technology revolutionizes guns every few years.** Guns are smaller and more powerful than ever before. Some critics are concerned at the wide availability of arms, while supporters cite that smaller doesn't mean more dangerous. The Constitution guarantees the right to bear arms, arms like these have never been seen before.

When people are not monitored, the results can be devastating. Although the Virginia shooting may seem very distant, it still affected people at Clayton.

"I know two friends who go to Virginia Tech," Zhang said. "One of them was in the classroom when the gun shooting was going on. The teacher told my friend and two other boys to close the door. My friend saw Hui and then rapidly moved a desk at the door. They took a desk and pushed it up against it. The shooter unloaded two bullets at the door and one hit the podium and another ricocheted off into the classroom. The class was especially apprehensive because the lock was not very strong. There was a lot of blood in each classroom."

The results were devastating.

"Basically in each classroom everyone died," Zhang said. "His shooting techniques were pretty inaccurate and each person had at least three bullets in them. He ran out of ammunition and then decided to kill himself.

My friend didn't want to chase after him because they thought it was too dangerous. My other friend tried to run away from the scene and basically ran into where the shooter had just been. He actually ran right into it and saw the corpses lying in the hall. He was so emotional that he ran away."

It is easy to dismiss school shootings and say the people are crazy and move on. The harder question is how to help the situation so that it doesn't occur as often.

"I think it really comes down to parents," Redick said. "It is up to the parents to get into the kids heads, not in an obtrusive way, but to make sure they are not depressed."

Erik Jones

Junior

## GUN CONTROL

Some support a very conservative approach and claim that guns don't deserve to be in the common man.

"I think that guns should only be for government use like military and police," junior Vikram Chakavathy said. "I don't think that civilians should be able to own guns. If this isn't possible we could make it a much more rigorous process. It should be more expensive for civilians. If the guns are really expensive or the permit to own one is expensive, then people will think twice if they really want to invest that money to purchase a gun. Also it creates more revenue for the government."

Other students disagree entirely as they believe that gun control restricts the law-abiding citizens while criminals will always be able to find a gun.

"Banning or having excessive gun control is just as much of a bad idea as prohibition was, junior Erik Jones said. "There wouldn't be as many illegal transactions and the government would know who has a gun and what type. I actually have known people who

have owned guns illegally and then killed someone. One of my old coworkers got a hold of a gun illegally and shot the people who shot his brother and he is now in prison at age 16. It definitely happens and there is not much you can do about it. If there is a demand for an illegal item, people are going to get it."

Many feel that there should be a national gun policy so that it does not vary so much state by state.

"With the sophistication that we have there needs to be a national checklist and process for one to gain ownership to a gun," Rogers-Beard said. "This process would hopefully stop guys like Seung-Hui."

It is difficult to change national policy, and many are adamantly opposed to any more changes.

"I think gun control should always be at the state level," Meyer said. "If gun control changes to be at the Federal level than America would have somewhat of a police state. There are already enough gun control laws and no more gun control laws are needed. The problem is that they are not enforced."

Of all the arms that criminals used 80 percent were inherited or from the flea market and 12 percent were legally bought.

## ACQUIRING FIREARMS

"Maybe even if gun control does not work just like drug control, people who are responsible for selling guns on the black market should go to jail for the rest of their life," Rogers-Beard said. "If this happens, the message will get across and people will not do undercover dealings."

Many feel that the restrictions at gun shows or exhibitions are too lax as the state requires a background check of the sellers but not the buyers as long as they are buying a long gun.

A waiting period, however, is required for buying handguns. Gun supporters often illuminate that only 2 percent of all armed robberies consist of a gun from a gun show.

"I think that the gun show laws are completely ludicrous," Redick said. "I think it is crazy that you could purchase and receive a gun the same day. I honestly think that background checks are not enough. I honestly can say I see no clear solution."

Although some criminals buy guns off the black market the majority of Americans buy legally. The constitution gives the right to keep and bear arms. Some believe this to mean to be able to carry arms at anytime.

"The right to gun ownership is assuredly a constitutional individual right," Meyers said. "The last part says it shall not be infringed. To some extent it has been infringed, but, overall it has not. In 48 states you are able to carry a concealed weapon and you are able to purchase guns in every state. When the government takes away the right to carry guns, it endangers citizens as they are unable to defend themselves from government if it gets bad or from criminals."

The right to carry concealed arms is very controver-

sial.

While some feel that they are simply protecting themselves everywhere, others think that they are acting like ancient samurai walking around ready to kill if they see an issue.

"I do not think that there is ever a need to shoot another person," Grady said. "I think guns make conflict escalate too quickly. I do not think that individuals need to own guns to protect themselves. I would never use my son's guns against another human being."

## SECOND AMENDMENT

Far from being simply against the right to carry concealed arms many feel that the risk of guns is too great and guns in the modern day world are unnecessary.

"I know there are some people who support gun control as the basis of the second amendment," Rogers-Beard said. "Gun ownership is a constitutional right but we need to revisit it. What did the founding fathers mean by freedom of gun ownership? The guns of the 18th century were muskets and one shot derringers for frontiersmen. The second amendment needs to be revisited for the 21st century: for people with cell phones and high powered pistols. Also some claim that that guns are lawful for protection of home, property and self. The second amendment also protects us from tyranny but that is a Lexington and Concord type mentality. We have a police, F.B.I., C.I.A., and we are the government. If we as the people in order of to form a more perfect union build a government that is that bad it is too late to buy a gun. There needs to be gun control. We need to address why the second amendment is so important in our society. It seems almost archaic in our modern society."

## HUNTING AND AUTOMATICS

In America there is a fairly large hunter population and hunters want to be able to keep their hunting rifles and shotguns but often feel differently than other gun owners.

"I have been a hunter since I was five or six," senior Zach Miller said. "I think that hunters are much more careful than your average gun owner. In hunting a firearm is a piece of equipment. Before you are able to get a hunting license you have to pass a hunting education course which teaches you how to properly handle firearms safely. I think that some people who buy arms for protection are only are probably concerned about safety but also there are people who buy handguns for more dubious reasons."

Some firearms that are sanctioned by the government are ineffective for both hunting and protecting the home but are still legal like automatic arms.

"I have no problem with people who own fully automatic weapons," Meyer said. "I know that people cannot run around with them wherever they want and you have to have super special permits to obtain them. In order to buy a machine gun it starts around 7,000 dollars. Besides crimes rarely occur with automatic arms and the last time was ten years ago in California. If criminals have automatic arms it is only because they robbed an automatic weapons dealer."

It is extremely hard to come across a permit to own an automatic rifle, pistol or machine gun.

"Right now it is very difficult to get an automatic weapon unless you are affiliated with the military," junior Erik Jones said. "There is no way that someone can go out and buy an automatic weapon legally because it takes forever because there are so many background checks and it costs so much you have to be pretty dedicated to get one. And once you have one the government knows you have one and the keep checks on it."

Many people don't care that a few rare people have fully automatic weapons because the person is law abiding and has no intention of harm.

"I don't think we should prohibit people from buying automatic weapons as long as they are an upstanding citizen," junior Drew Lefkowitz said.

Even though automatic arms pose much danger to society, the current regulations are enough because there has been virtually no crime made with automatics. Still some people are against it by principle.

"I think that owning guns is a Constitutional right, but there should be some guns that the public is should be unable to obtain," junior Grace Thompson said. "This includes automatic weapons. I cannot think of a reasonable reason for one to own an automatic weapon except that it might be fun to some. I think that it is stupid that a weapon capable of so much damage is able to be in a civilian's hand."

Automatic weapons serve no purpose as they are too unwieldy to use in defense and are ridiculous to hunt with.

"It isn't even legal to hunt with an automatic weapon," Miller said. Even though a gun is capable of massive damage doesn't mean that it actually causes massive damage. The amount of criminals owning or using automatic weapons is virtually non-existent.

"I don't live in a 'what if' world and anti-gun people or 'gun haters' are constantly trying to scare the uneducated or uninformed people of what a gun could or may do," Meyer said.

It is important to know the dangers and benefits guns have and realize that the government can't fix everything.

"There is a lottery called life," Rogers-Beard said. "I don't know if you can make a society so safe that bad things do not happen." ☺

**There are already enough gun control laws and no more gun control laws are needed.**

Michael Meyers  
Pro Firearm Lobbyist



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# Disappearing honeybees threaten crop production

The disappearance may be due to radiation from cell phones, power lines and parasites like the varroa mite.

**Nava Kantor**  
Co-Editor in Chief

Albert Einstein is widely thought to have said: "If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would have only four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man."

Einstein's prediction may be tested in coming years. In more than 22 American states and in countries around the world, honeybees have been disappearing at an alarming rate, and no one knows why. This sudden drop in bees is threatening honey production and the pollination of more than one-third of America's crops.

"I would say this is the worst die-off that I've seen in my experience working with honey bees," said Maryann Frazier, a honeybee extension specialist at the Department of Entomology at Pennsylvania State University. "It may be the worst die-off that has ever occurred with honey bees since they've been introduced into the United States."

Called Colony Collapse Disorder, or CCD, this mysterious disappearance is characterized by hives that seem to have no problem, but in just a few weeks' time, the worker bees stop returning to the colony.

Brother Ken Jung, Waldron Community beekeeper, has not experienced devastating losses of his bees. He makes the trek from his home at Chaminade to tend to his hives, which are about 10 miles from Pacific, Missouri. The honey produced by his 16 hives comes mainly from clover and is sold on campus at Chaminade.

"I have not had any problems in regard to the diminishing colonies," Jung said. "Eastern Missouri seems to have been spared, thank the Lord. But I have heard of one Southern beekeeper that lost over one-fifth of his bees."

Jung thinks that one problem affecting the bees is new diseases.

"Bees have always had problems with diseases, and we give them medicines to prevent them," Jung said. "Maybe the meds have sort of scrambled their brains."

Another theory under consideration is radiation from mobile phones. Some researchers in Germany think that the radiation may be interfering with the navigation system of the bees, making them unable to return home from journeys to collect nectar. Previous studies have shown that bees behave differently around power lines. However, if cell phones are indeed the cause of the collapse of the bee colonies, the problem will be hard to solve because cell phones are so omnipresent.

Some experts think that the bees are under too much stress due to commercial pressures. Bees are being forced to shorten their off-season in order to be ready to pollinate certain crops earlier. This could have the effect of lowering their immunity to viruses.

Also under suspicion are certain pesticides that have been discovered to be poisonous to bees. Some researchers speculate that trace amounts of these chemicals could be interfering with the bees' navigation systems.

Parasites such as the varroa mite may also be causing the problem. This is unlikely, however; it would take a new, unique set of circumstances to prompt a



David M. Warren/Philadelphia Inquirer/MCT

**Honeybees**, like the one seen in this August 2, 2005 photograph, pollinate more than \$15 billion worth of U.S. crops, including Pennsylvania's apple harvest and New Jersey's cranberries and blueberries.

disappearance rate such as the current one.

A major negative effect of the disappearance of the bees is that many crops are dependent on bee pollination. According to Zac Browning, vice president of the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF), every third bite we consume is dependent on a honeybee to be pollinated. About 90 crops rely on honeybee pollination.

Major commercial crops, such as California almonds, are pollinated by millions of bees transported by their owners from all over the country. The almonds, along with other crops, are an important part of the local economy. Similar situations can be seen elsewhere in the country.

"There are now less and less bees able to go out to

California and pollinate the almond trees," Jung said.

Jung holds that this disappearance is not a new problem; beekeepers have experienced sharp losses in the past.

"My opinion is that it's not quite as big a problem people make it out to be, at least in our area," Jung said.

But crops in other areas of the country, whose bee populations have dropped 60 and 70 percent in some cases, may be in trouble.

According to the ABF, the number of managed honeybee colonies is already less than half of what it was 25 years ago. Beekeepers can ill afford these newly heavy losses. ☹

## Conference works to secure bright future for Iraq, Iran



**Roland Reimers**  
Senior Editor

After four years of American military involvement in the war on terror, it finally seems that international efforts to increase Iraq's political and social stability have led to a global willingness to improve peace and cooperation among Middle Eastern nations.

On May 3, more than 60 diplomats from around the world congregated in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt to discuss the future of the Iraqi government of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

"The political significance of having 60 countries [in Egypt], in what I think will be the first international agreement between Iraq and the world community in decades—I think itself is a moment of political significance quite apart from whatever economic [or] financial result it might entail," Deputy Treasury Secretary Robert M. Kimmitt said in a New York Times article.

The US participation in the talks comes as somewhat of a change from the foreign policy of the Bush administration in previous years. In the past, American officials have refused to engage in talks with countries whose behavior was not in line with US expectations.

Despite this break, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice stated that she felt a successful meeting had taken place.

"There were really three very important messages from this meeting," Rice said at a news conference posted on the State Department web site. "The first is that the Iraqi Government spoke to its own

responsibilities to foster national reconciliation and to create an Iraq for all Iraqis. The neighbors spoke to their desire to foster an environment in which that national reconciliation can take place, particularly taking their responsibilities concerning borders and concerning energy and noting that it is, of course, in their interest that Iraq be stable and secure.

"And third, the international community took its place along-

**“Only Iraqis can make the overtures and the compromises necessary to overcome their differences.”**

Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State

In addition, Rice was part of another breakthrough on the first day of the assembly when she met with Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moualem — the first such high-level encounter between the two countries in two years. However, this apparent progress is still marred by the fact that the US and Syria continue to hold opposing views over the is-

sues of Lebanon and Israel.

As for the discussion on Iraq, the session on May 3 focused on convincing the group of delegates to adopt a program of debt relief and financial aid for the struggling country. In return, the Iraqi government would pass reforms that would seek to improve Sunni involvement in the political process at hand and expand legal protection for Iraqi Sunnis and Kurds.

Even with the prospect of aid, critics of the convention's plan pointed out that the Maliki government would likely not start the required efforts of stabilization. Saudi foreign minister Prince Saud al-Faisal remained skeptical of the progress that has recently been proclaimed by various US officials in Iraq.

"We don't see anything happening in Iraq in implementation," Saud said in an interview reported in the New York Times. "Our American friends say there is improvement: improvement in violence, improvement in the level of understanding, improvement in disarming militias. But we don't see it."

On the American side, though, Secretary Rice has placed the re-

sponsibility for a stable Iraqi government squarely on the shoulders of its leaders.

"Only Iraqis can make the overtures and the compromises necessary to overcome their differences," Rice said. "Only the Iraqis can carry out the national agenda that they have established for themselves, that is, matters of the national oil law, of de-Baathification reform, of constitutional review, of holding of provincial elections — those are the things the Iraqis must do."

Yet, Rice also noted that international support remained a prominent factor in ensuring an eventual success in quelling sectarian violence and a peaceful Middle East.

"I hope that the Iraqi people recognize the extraordinary nature of this gathering and the degree to which the international community supports them in their struggle against terrorism and extremism and in their efforts to form a democratic basis for their political life," Rice said.

Although the direct outcome of the two-day meetings in Sharm el-Sheik seem minimal — with just two communiqués resulting from the debates — the long-term effects of such a cohesive international effort may form the basis for future improvements in relations between Western and Middle Eastern nations.

Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa said in an interview reported by Reuters that, "We are ready for this. We are ready to host Iraqi national reconciliation. Now is not the time to exchange accusations but is the time to work together." ☹

## High school free-write leads to controversy, arrest

**Sara Rangwala**  
Section Editor

Less than two weeks after the shooting at Virginia Tech, Cary-Grove High School senior Allen W. Lee was arrested in Chicago, charged with disorderly conduct.

The charge arose from "violent" content that he had included in a free-write assignment he had completed for a creative writing class. What had really worried authorities was the last sentence of the paper in which, according to Lee, he had joked that the teacher's method of teaching could lead to Cary-Grove's first school shooting. Among guidelines for the assignment were the instructions that students were not supposed to censor their work said Lee.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported that Lee's teacher, Nora Capron, became worried after she read Lee's paper and initiated a series of phone calls that led to the contacting of the police.

Lee was arrested the next morning but was released after paying a \$75 bond and is expected to appear in court on June 18. He is currently working with a tutor in an off-campus placement.

As a result of his arrest, Lee's contract with the Marine Corps has been retracted.

"You can never be overly cautious with any type of these situations," Cary Police Chief Ron Delelio was reported to have said in the Northwest Herald. However, many Clayton High School students disagree

with Delelio. Senior Lindsay Brown thought going to the police was an extreme solution.

"The content was debatable," Brown said. "But if there was a concern the first step should have been to have evaluated by a therapist."

Freshman Breia Jefferson thought the authorities should have dealt with the problem in a different manner.

"[His teacher] should have gotten in trouble for telling him to write that," she said. "He should have also gotten in trouble for making that joke, but not arrested."

She also disagreed with the Marine's reaction to the situation.

"I think they should not have discharged him because they didn't know the results," Jefferson said. She added, however, that their reactions did make some sense considering the Marines were probably looking out for the safety of others.

Junior Chris Motoki immediately saw connections between this case and recent shooting at Virginia Tech.

"They are going after [Lee] because he's Asian and the guy who shot up VT was Asian too," Motoki said.

Brown agreed saying, "I'm not sure it would have happened before V-Tech. There is a heightened awareness now and sensitivity levels have gone up."

Disorderly conduct, the charge Lee was given, was defined by McHenry County State's Attorney Louis

Bianchi, as an action that alarms or disturbs another to the point of provoking a breach of the peace.

However, homework like the essay Lee turned in would qualify as protected speech said the spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois Ed

Yohnka.

Motoki disagreed with the charge as well.

"My neighbors make loud noises," Motoki said. "But I don't discharge them from the marines for being screamers." ☹

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# Science curriculum proposal battles obstacles

**Jeremy Bleeke**  
Section Editor

Several times a week, students in Clayton's elementary schools leave class for instruction in music, art, Spanish or physical education. However, as early as the school year of 2008-2009, students in grades 3-5 could be leaving class for lessons in another field entirely: science.

If the proposal of the Science Curriculum Committee to the Board of Education comes to fruition, each of the elementary schools will have a dedicated specialist who will work in a lab setting to give students a more complete understanding of inquiry-based science.

The committee, which is headed by AP Chemistry teacher Nathan Peck, looked at various models for science instruction and concluded that having a specialist would be the most valuable. Indeed, most elementary schools in the area already use this method, leaving Clayton behind the trend.

At present, the conditions for science instruction in the Clayton elementary schools are far from ideal. Chemistry teacher Mike Howe is chair of the science department at CHS and is a member of the Science Curriculum Committee. He believes that a science specialist is vital for a proper science education.

"A normal classroom is not as good as having a science lab to do experiments in," Howe said. "This is the bottom line. Ideally, we would have a science teacher at the elementary schools like we have an art teacher or a music teacher. There would be a science teacher in a science lab; kids would come to the science lab and do experiments."

Currently, elementary school teachers receive tubs that have materials for teaching the various units in the science curriculum. These units, however, were developed in 1992 and are outdated in almost every grade level. Michael Wyession, a Clayton parent on the Science Curriculum Committee and a professor of Earth and Planetary Science at Washington University, believes that the system right now is ineffective and needs serious revision.

"These tubs...are woefully out of date," Wyession said. "The books are all wrong, though they've made some advances and gotten some new ones. The experiments, [are] so lame that the teachers don't bother using the tubs most of the time....There's no motivation for the teachers to stick to the curriculum and they end up doing something different."



**A dirty sink** in the chemistry lab in room 208 where AP Chemistry classes perform college level experiments. *Kate Rothman*

Howe expressed the same thought, saying that sometimes the tub comes back without being used, which implies that maybe some of the material is not getting taught.

In fact, the amount of time spent on science in the elementary schools is far below levels recommended by Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the National Science Teachers Association. According to Howe and Wyession, this is because science is a lower priority than reading and math, so it is bumped down to make more time for those areas.

"There's such an emphasis on reading, writing, and math that if something comes up—an assembly, a field trip—it always comes out of science time," Wyession said. "So the amount of time that science is being taught is about 40 percent of what is recommended by the state and other organizations. It's recommended to have between 150 to 200 minutes per week."

The amount of time being spent is inconsistent with the results of a recent survey where parents ranked each subject by how much time they felt should be spent on it. Literacy and Math were obviously first and second, with science coming in third. That does not correlate to how much science instruction is being received.

Furthermore, stronger science opportunities, such as the science fair, or Mad Science, are not even part of the science curriculum. The initiative of a national organization, Mad Science is a program conducted once a week after school. According to Wyession, it gives students the opportunity to do "cool" science, such as "playing around with liquid nitrogen" and doing experiments, which really capture students' attention.

Wyession also noted that having someone who is a specialist, and who has a deep interest in the subject that is being taught, is not only good for the students, but also for teachers, who already have to keep up with

ever-changing content and teaching methodology. "It's not fair to expect them to keep up on all fields of study, and content levels have gotten more advanced, particularly in science," Wyession said. "Science changes so rapidly, there's so much there, that for someone trained in elementary education to be able to know what the best techniques are for getting the best inquiry-based science education is just not fair."

Although the school board felt that the proposal was an excellent idea, there are still obstacles that have to be overcome and problems that have to be addressed. Obviously the issue of funding came up, as well as where the time for these science lessons would come from in an already-busy school day.

School board member Jane Klamer said that they have not yet reached a decision on how the district would pay for science laboratory installations in the elementary schools, since the proposal is still in early stages of planning and evaluation. Wyession believes that the issue of time is more pressing than money. The principals in particular voiced this concern.

"The response from the principals was 'Okay, who do I go to and say, 'I'm taking time away from you to give to science?'" Wyession said. "They don't want to do that. And there was even some discussion at the meeting about making school days longer or school years longer."

Beyond the elementary schools, the curriculum committee assessed the science facilities at both the middle and high schools as being in dire need of renovation.

"We need to gut this department and start again," Howe said, speaking about the science wing at CHS. "It doesn't have enough electrical circuits, so we can't use hot plates. We haven't used hot plates all year because they trip the circuit breakers, because there aren't enough electrical circuits in the room to handle the hot plates. And there's just not enough space."

Howe also mentioned rusting pipes, dripping faucets, old computers, and poor ventilation in his evaluation of the science rooms. He confirmed that an architecture firm has been hired to develop a renovation proposal for the middle school and the high school.

But whether it's revamping the facilities at CHS or building a lab for a science specialist at the elementary schools, Jane Klamer stated that the BOE will be taking the science committee's suggestions seriously.

Klamer said, "I think that Clayton students deserve the best science curriculum we can give them."



*Blair Klostermeier*

**Voluntary transfer students** enter the high school early in the morning after the long bus ride from the city.

## VST discussion continues

VST, 1

would have said no, but everything is in a constant state of flux and change," Tennill said. "Everyone is now excited for the possibility of the program's extension, but no one thought it was very likely at that time three years ago. It's gone from something unlikely three years ago to something that's more likely than not now."

Paul Fedchak, Clayton School District's Chief Financial Officer, believes that by the 2018 - 2019 school year, the total program revenue would be almost equivalent with or without the extension. The funding for the program extension would be equivalent to the funding Clayton School District is currently receiving, which amounts to approximately \$7,700 per student per year, considerably less than the \$13,400 per student per year charged tuition students. However, if this funding were to drop to an unacceptable level as determined by the school board, Clayton could stop accepting new students.

According to Fedchak, the gap in funding is made up by the benefits the over 450 - or 18% of the district's enrollment - bring to Clayton, by allowing for such things as smaller class sizes and wider class offerings.

"There is an ideal number of kids you want in the school to maintain classes and class sizes," Fedchak said. "Before we even had the VST program, the board developed the tuition program because they felt it was necessary to maintain the number of courses and small class sizes."

However, Fedchak believes it would be several years before any changes would be made.

"It's not undeniable that there is a way you can save budget dollars with fewer students, but it's difficult to say because there are certain breaking points when you have to cut class offerings and raise class sizes," Fedchak said. "Initially, there would be no reduction in

the first three or four years, but gradually the number of students would be reduced and we would start to have to make some adjustments."

However, some Clayton residents take issue with the VST program's extension because they believe the gap in funding will be filled with their tax money and Clayton's overall educational quality will suffer as a result of this diversion of funds.

"Based on what I know, I have concerns about tax payers paying for people who don't live in the district, that's my major reservation," a Clayton parent said. "If the VST program was paid for 100 percent by the state, that would be fine, but right now it's only paying about 50 percent of the cost. I don't want Clayton to have to cut back on its own programs because of this. What it comes down to is that I don't want my taxes to pay for non-resident kids."

Clayton resident J. Martin Rochester acknowledges that the program has its pros and cons, and believes a detailed discussion on the issue is needed.

"The VTS program has entailed tradeoffs," Rochester said. "On the one hand, it has added much needed, valuable cultural diversity to the Clayton school district and has helped many disadvantaged youngsters access quality education. On the other hand, one could ask at what cost academically, financially, and governance-wise? Clayton arguably has opened itself up to outside forces that are not entirely within our control, in terms of having more struggling students, uncertain reimbursement levels, and a degree of state intervention and undermining of local control. What is needed is an intellectually honest discussion of the pros and cons."

Senti is optimistic that the extension will pass, which will bring this issue back into the forefront as Clayton debates the issue once again, with the school board having the final say.

MAYOR, 1

it won't go through," Goldstein said. "If it doesn't, it would be unfortunate for Clayton. I'm hoping still that the court rules in favor of Centene or that the property owners and Centene will be able to come to an agreement."

She stands firm with the former Clayton board decision on the use of eminent domain.

"No one likes eminent domain abuse and for the most part our citizens understand that we didn't abuse the power," Goldstein said. "We wrote into the agreement that Centene must offer a fair amount to the businesses as a starting point and that eminent domain should be the economic development tool of last resort."

The key to getting through this issue, for Goldstein, is good communication. With a P.R. degree from the School of Communications at the University of Illinois and her experience during campaigning, Goldstein has learned how to do just that.

"Campaigning was great," Goldstein said. "Even though I was unopposed, I decided to do a whole campaign anyway because

I really wanted people to know I was qualified and to know what I stood for. I didn't ever want anyone to say, 'Who is She?' or 'How did she get elected?' I loved it because I really got to have conversations with our citizens. I had the luxury of listening to them and having a dialogue because I didn't have an opponent. I learned a lot and got to know a lot of people. I realized how many committed and talented citizens we have in this town."

To better hear the ideas of the town, Goldstein is already drawing up plans to get citizens involved.

"I want to keep up that kind of communication I had during my campaign with our residents," Goldstein said. "I don't know what form that will take; we have talked about maybe doing 'community coffees' or potentially more town hall

meetings. I think that our citizens have so much to offer in terms of ideas and input and I want to hear from them. And I also want them to hear from us, to know what we are doing."

She ran on a platform that covered issues like strengthening the Clayton's relationship with the School Board, alliances with envi-

ronmental groups like Great Rivers Greenway, and using Clayton to set an example for the rest of Missouri.

"I really value our relationship with the School District of Clayton," Goldstein said. "We've got a great, strong relationship. Together we can do things that individually we probably could not."

As well, she plans to continue the tradition of environmental awareness in the community. Clayton, which has recently implemented the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards for buildings, is branching out and leading the state by meeting 11 of the 12 Kyoto Protocols. Goldstein wishes to take part in more collaboration like this in the future.

The future is near for the new mayor who will be starting in on the detailed work of planning out the year for the city starting at the end of May.

"Our first priority is the strategic planning session so we can determine what our goals are," Goldstein said. "We have done team building and visioning. We'll be setting goals and getting citizens involved. Just getting everyone on the same page working towards a vibrant financially healthy wonderful place to work and live."

Goldstein hopes that the rest of Clayton is ready to move with her into this future.

"Change is hard, that is another reason to communicate with people," Goldstein said. "If people understand what is going on, they are not as resistant to change. It's like everything else in life: if you don't stay with the times, you'll be outmoded. Clayton has to stay up with the world and evolve and grow. That's what living is all about."

## Mold, mice and cockroaches distract CHS

**Rebecca Wall**  
Senior Managing Editor

In mid-March, the CHS Jazz Band returned from performing at the state high school basketball final, held in Columbia. The last game ended around 10 p.m., and the musicians returned at about 1 a.m. to find at least 10 cockroaches scurrying about the commons.

The notorious Room 2, as well as Room 6, stinks like a moldy locker room, distracting students and faculty alike.

"I have a two-year-old so I can and do deal with smelly things all the time," English teacher Matt Balossi said. "Room 2 has the worst smell ever."

Small rodents occupy departmental offices. Not only do the sci-

ence teachers hold yearly contests to see who can catch the most mice, but English teacher Katie Storms once found an unpleasant surprise on one of the English office's bookshelves while looking for a binder.

"There was a dead mouse sitting there," Storms said. "I shrieked, and then Mrs. Grady came out of her office, picked it up and threw it away."

While CHS has for the most part impeccable hygiene and a clean facade, there exists a somewhat seedy underworld of parasitic life. Despite the best efforts of CHS custodial staff, some problems remain. Both faculty and students are aware of the pest problems.

Senior Ryan Dubro is one such senior.

"I have seen several cockroaches

at CHS," Dubro said.

Although these problems exist all over the school, they are concentrated in the basement near the English office. This is the oldest area of CHS.

Storms has not only witnessed the dead mouse, but has taught in classrooms where students complain about cockroaches and other pests. She thinks that the biggest problem is students bringing food into and eating in the classroom.

"We have signs that say no food on classroom doors," Storms said. "But it's hard as a teacher to tell students they can't eat when they claim to have lab periods."

Storms and Balossi also believe that a major source of problems is the carpet, which is very old. Not only does the fetid flooring create

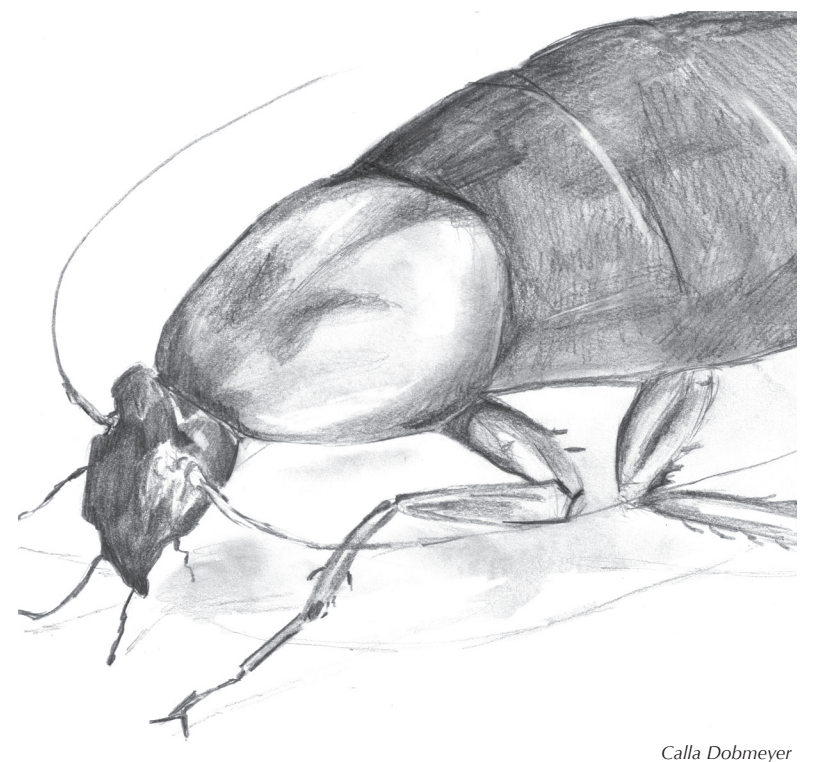
an ideal environment for rodents, but the carpet can often reek of mold.

Things are at the point for Balossi that he would like to switch rooms.

"It would be nice to be moved out," Balossi said. "The room condition is a distraction and sets a tone so that no one wants to be there."

However, Balossi suggested that he thinks the carpet is to be replaced over the summer, which will cause many improvements.

While CHS's mold, cockroach, and rodent problems are by no means dire, they can still serve to distract students and faculty. Improvements will continue to be made by the part of the custodians, who already do an admirable job of keeping CHS clean.



*Calla Dobmeyer*

# Galleria locks out youth to enhance security

Leah Eby  
Section Editor

As of April 20, 2007, the St. Louis Galleria, a popular weekend hangout for teenagers, has implemented parental guidance regulations in order to provide an enjoyable shopping experience. According to the informational pamphlet now available at all entrances to the mall, "the program is designed to encourage families to take advantage of a pleasant shopping environment."

The Parental Guidance Required (PGR) Program mandates that after 3 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, all visitors under the age of 17 must be accompanied by a parent or adult over the age of 21. Any unsupervised youth shopping prior to 3 p.m. on these days must either leave the mall at 3 p.m. or be immediately joined by an adult.

Many varieties of police and security officers regularly patrol the mall and will demand proof of age for children and their supervising adults. Those without proper identification will then be asked to leave the premises. As if this weren't enough, each adult may only accompany four youths.

In addition, "under-aged patrons of the Galleria Six Cinemas may enter via the mall entrance (1) between the Cheesecake Factory and Dillard's or (2) between Mark Shale and Restoration Hardware to receive a cinema wristband," states the PGR pamphlet. "The cinema wristband allows access for those 16 or under to travel through the mall, directly to and from the cinema only."

The hope of the Galleria staff is that the new policies will be regarded and respected as though they were the law.

"Guests who do not act responsibly or follow center policies may be asked to leave," stresses the PGR leaflet. "If they fail to or refuse to leave the property, they may be arrested and prosecuted for criminal trespass."

Coincidentally, this program followed a brawl that occurred the weekend of Nov. 11, 2006. The fight, which began on the basketball courts of the Center of Clayton and then migrated to all three floors of the Galleria, involved about 50 people in an estimated 25 fights. Neighboring police departments were called in

to aid the Richmond Heights officers and charges were filed against four adults and five juveniles.

A statement issued by the Galleria the following week expressed the concerns and assurances of the shopping center.

"The incident that occurred in our food court this weekend should not be a reflection of our commitment to the safety and well-being of the millions of shoppers that come to Saint Louis Galleria every year," the statement reads. "An apparent carry-over from another location, it was a rare and isolated incident that was quickly quelled with the help of the Richmond Heights Police Department and the Saint Louis Galleria public safety team."

The statement goes on to say that the incident began with only a few individuals but escalated and several others were taken into police custody for interfering with the police.

"Regardless, we are taking this incident seriously and with the help of the Richmond Heights police substation at the mall, as well as continued public safety tactics and measures, we are confident the Saint Louis Galleria will continue to be a pleasurable place to shop and dine," the statement says.

Though the newly imposed regulations may seem excessive, Jenny Koch, Marketing Manager at the St. Louis Galleria, believes that the PGR program has been successful in providing a comfortable, family-friendly shopping environment at the St. Louis Galleria.

"Feedback from our customers and retailers has been very positive in the first several weeks since the program was implemented," Koch said. "Our guests often thank us for providing them with a comfortable shopping environment on Friday and Saturday evenings."

Despite the reaction of the community, Clayton High School students and staff seem to think differently. Sophomore Hannah Slodounik, who has previously enjoyed shopping with friends on the weekends, is disappointed with the new policy.

"It will definitely affect how often I go to the mall because I enjoyed going during the times that are not permitted unless I'm with an adult," Slodounik said. "I think the policy is a little extreme."

Sophomore Meredith McCay agrees with Slodounik that the new rules may be too severe.

"I think the new policy is going a little too far," Mc-

**“Guests who do not act responsibly or follow center policies may be asked to leave. If they refuse to leave the property, they may be arrested.”**

PGR Leaflet



Scott Shapiro

The Galleria mall recently implemented a new set of rules that bans teenagers 16 years and younger after 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Those restricted may enter the mall with parent supervision; however, each adult can only supervise four people.

Cay said. "I guess it just doesn't seem fair that teenagers are being punished."

Even CHS principal Dr. Louis Losos believes that the policy is a bit excessive and thinks that it is neither beneficial nor useful.

"I think it's shortsighted and a knee-jerk reaction to events," Losos said, referring to the fight that erupted in the fall of 2006.

However, Koch said the new rules did not come as a direct response to the fight. Though she said that any disturbance in the shopping center would cause the staff to reevaluate mall policies, the regulations that were recently enacted were not a direct result of any particular incident.

In fact, mall management and General Growth Properties, the St. Louis Galleria's parent company, have been considering the new policy for quite some time. Similar parent escort programs have been put into practice in more than forty malls throughout the country, including malls in both Columbia and Jefferson City, MO.

"Policies of this type have been under review by General Growth Properties and St. Louis Galleria for some time," Koch said. "At the end of last year, we put new measures in place, including increased security and police presence, as well as proactively educating shoppers on our Code of Conduct. Due to feedback from the community, our shoppers, and retailers, we decided to take this additional step toward providing

the pleasant shopping environment they desire."

Since the implementation of the PGR Program, the atmosphere of the mall has changed. Instead of groups of teenage girls toting shopping bags and young boys eating noisily in the food court, one can now see a greater population of parents accompanied by strollers and the elderly shopping with their companions.

The change is especially noticed by restaurants, whose frequent customers used to be young friends out for dinner and a movie on weekend nights.

"The rules have caused us to lose a lot of business on Friday and Saturday nights," said senior Michael Franco, an host at the California Pizza Kitchen in the St. Louis Galleria. "Not as many people are coming into the restaurant and all the servers are losing money," Franco commented on last week's episode of GNN.

Koch, however, does not think that the rules will hurt business at the mall.

"At malls where similar programs have been implemented, retailers have enjoyed the positive effect on sales during the times that the policies are enforced," Koch said. "We anticipate the same here at the St. Louis Galleria."

Only time will tell the effects of the PGR program on the St. Louis Galleria. As of now, the program is intended to be a permanent installment at the Galleria. Koch said that by implementing the new policies, the mall staff is merely protecting the comfort and well-being of its shoppers, retailers, and employees. ☺

## Graduation plans excite students as they prepare to celebrate

Feng Shuang Stamme  
Section Editor

High school graduation is special time for the whole family. It is believed to be one of the biggest milestones in life. It is a celebration of the four hard years that the students and their family went through.

Many family friends will travel to St. Louis and attend the students' graduation ceremony. This year's graduation will be held on the evening of May 31, at 7:30 at Washington University Field House.

This year's student speakers are Rebecca Wall, Aaron Cannon and Yipeng Huang.

Wall is very excited about giving a speech at the ceremony.

"Until recently I had never thought I wanted to give a speech," Wall said. "Lately, though, I realized that I wanted commencement to be a meaningful event for me, and that I had some things that I wanted the opportunity to say."

Wall is especially excited to give a speech because her uncle is coming in from Houston, TX and her aunt is coming in from San Diego.

"I went to see my cousin Dan graduate in California several years ago and now my aunt is coming in to see me," Wall said. "I know it is a long way from the west coast so I want her trip to be worth her while."

However, when asked about the content of her speech, Wall said that anyone who wants to know should come and see it performed.

"I don't want to ruin the sur-

prise," Wall said.

The faculty readers who will be calling out students' names for diplomas are Matt Balossi, Crag Sucher, Claire Dickerson, Mike McGraw and Joe Gamlin.

Vice Principal Dan Gutchewsky is expecting around two thousand to twenty-five hundred people to attend the ceremony.

The ceremony will start with presenting the colors, which consist flags of the nations that the students come from. The ceremony will include messages from principal Louise Losos, student speakers,

**“Until recently I had never thought I wanted to give a speech. Lately, though, I realized that I wanted commencement to be a meaningful event for me, and that I had some things that I wanted the opportunity to say.”**

Rebecca Wall  
Senior

add a little music to the ceremony."

Other than the school event, many students are also planning different ways to celebrate this special event. Many people are having parties, taking trips to other countries and setting aside time to spend with the family.

Senior Ann Selvadurai is looking forward to the graduation ceremony; her whole family will be attending the special event. Selvadurai is also planning a senior trip with her close friends.

"For graduation, I'm going to Mexico with my friends Alyssa and Wenny," Selvadurai said. "We are going to visit Andrea. She was a student at Clayton for about five months and we have been in touch with her. She is coming back to St. Louis for graduation, and we are going to visit her home."

Selvadurai is hoping to improve her Spanish on this trip. She will go in the month of June and stay for about 18 days.

Other than special senior trips, other people are planning parties with friends and family. Senior Ashley Woodson is predicting that her family will probably throw a surprise party for her.

"I'm not sure yet. I know that my family and I traditionally go to the Lake of the Ozarks over the Memorial Day weekend," Woodson said. "So they might throw me a party down there."

Similar to Woodson, Senior Constance Akannam is also having a family party.

"I'm inviting a few people and my parents are having a party with some family friends," Akannam said.

Akannam is looking forward to graduating and getting gifts and money.

Senior James Sutherlin is celebrating his graduation by having a party and continuing his education.

"I'm going to Missouri Western University and study criminal justice and/or music," Sutherlin said. "I'm also having a party at the Cabanne House with my girlfriend."

For Senior Natalie Heintz, her family will probably have a graduation dinner after the ceremony at Washington University.

"My mom will probably take me out to eat," Heintz said. "We are going to have a graduation dinner, and I will get a cake like it's my birthday," Heintz said.

Heintz also plans to spend some time with friends before going to college.

Senior Roman Hamptli is looking forward to the graduation ceremony.

"I'm going to participate in Senior Send Off and other school related activities," Hamptli said. "I'm not going to any after parties. Maybe a night out to dinner with my family."

Senior Anna Goss is also throwing a party for her graduation.

"I'm going to have a graduation party with my close friends," Goss said. "I'm also going to be attending lots of other graduation parties hosted by my close friends."

Goss and her family are also having a graduation dinner. She is looking forward to receiving gifts for college, such as a laptop.

All seniors agree that commencement is a momentous occasion and urge those interested to come. ☺



### Graduation Details:

Everyone is invited to celebrate the graduation of the Class of 2008 on Thursday, May 31st 7:30 p.m. at the Washington University Field House.

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# Underage drinking becomes parent's responsibility

**Amy Brooks**  
Co-Editor in Chief

A new ordinance in Olivette – based off a similar Clayton ordinance from 1995 – which is designed to help reduce alcohol-related deaths may mean hefty fines or jail time for parents whose children have parties where alcohol is served – with or without the knowledge of their parents.

Olivette's ordinance includes a "Duty to supervise," section, which says: "It shall be unlawful for any person in control of a premises, to leave a premises when it is reasonably foreseeable that said premises may be used for a gathering at which alcoholic beverages or controlled substances may be in the possession of or consumed by minors."

The penalty for convicted parents could be up to \$1,000 in fines and/or 90 days in jail.

The Clayton ordinance is written in very similar language, however, the penalty is only a maximum of \$500 in fines, although jail time may be a possibility for repeat offenders, according to School Resource Officer Dan Hegger.

Olivette City Manager Michael McDonnell said, the ordinance is meant to be a last resort and will very rarely be enforced.

"The enforcement of the specific terms within the ordinance is going to be extremely rare," McDonnell said. "The circumstances that lead to enforcement in the ordinance are crafted in a very narrow way, and those circumstances that fit the exact way outlined in the ordinance are not going to happen every time and with every teenage party. The best thing that could possibly happen is that we never ever enforce this ordinance; we never want to enforce it. Ordinances like this are a last resort, adopted and used when all else fails."

However, it seems as if the Clayton ordinance has not been overly enforced, since many residents do not even know it exists.

Chemistry teacher and Clayton resident Nathan Peck was only aware of part of the ordinance, and did not know that if he was unaware of the party's existence he could still be fined.

"I feel responsible to some degree for the actions of

my kids, but on the other hand, as they become teenagers they start making their own decisions," Peck said. "Would a 17 year-old living in my house be able to do something illegal without my knowing? Sure, I'm not always home. I don't think it's reasonable to expect that."

In many cases, the law is meant to crack down on parents who willingly let their children have alcohol-fueled parties rather than those who are unaware of the problem and may even be out of town.

"A situation that's more extreme is when a party happens at an individual home and underage drinking occurs with the full consent, knowledge and support of the parents," McDonnell said. "This kind of ordinance is as intended if not more intended to address this type of situation than the parents who had no knowledge that a party was occurring. We are probably more sympathetic with parents who have no knowledge of a party than those who have knowledge and give their consent. For an adult to facilitate underage drinking for a group of young people is not only irresponsible for the young people, but for the community as a whole, especially if those young people get behind the wheel."

Hegger agrees that this extreme case of parental irresponsibility is often even more serious.

"What stemmed from the problem of unsupervised minors having parties where people were highly intoxicated was when parties occurred with adults on the premises allowing kids that aren't their own to consume alcohol," Hegger said.

Peck also agrees that it is a parent's responsibility to stop the illegal activity in this case.

"If a parent knows or reasonably knows or should know that there are illegal activities taking place in their house then they're responsible for doing something about it to stop it," Peck said.

Another section in Olivette's ordinance contains the same provisions that apply to rented rooms, which is designed to crack down on hotels renting rooms to teenagers.

The ordinance is partially in response to the death of Ladue student Charlie Glik on an Olivette road last summer.

"Anytime there is a potential for loss of life or the safety of the people in our community is at risk, we take it very seriously," McDowell said. "It's not theory, it's happened, and we do take it more seriously because of that. We're not reacting on the basis of what we think might happen, we're reacting to situations that have actually happened. I don't want to imply that it happens every night of the week, but it happens often enough. We hope that this provides sufficient deterrent to prevent another tragedy. Our prayer is that teenagers and parents take it seriously because we don't want to have that happen again. It happens way too often."

Olivette Police Chief Richard Knox agrees with the motivation behind the law, acknowledging the difficulty faced by a police officer who has to knock on a parent's door in the middle of the night to tell them something has happened.

"Every time I drive down Price Road I think of Charlie Glik and it's sad, something needs to be done," Knox said. "I take my hat off to Clayton and Ladue students for trying to increase the awareness, but we are taking further action to prevent another tragedy."

Olivette Council Member Jim Baer, who voted in favor of the proposal, also sees Charlie Glik's case as a reminder to the importance of such an ordinance.

"We don't want another incident like the tragedy with Charlie Glik," Baer said. "It was a terrible tragedy but maybe something good will come out of some-

thing very bad."

McDonnell believes that it is the city's duty to intervene on the behalf of the safety of its residents, even if it may be controversial.

"Our position on this is that the community has to have some kind of recourse to protect public safety when these types of things occur," McDonnell said. "It's not our intention to limit socializing and social activities between young people, but we are not going to endorse or support a social act for young people that is clearly illegal, especially when it is putting public safety at risk."

Baer echoes McDonnell's concern for the wide-ranging implications of teenagers' illegal actions.

"We have nothing against teens and nothing against parents but there is a long track record of parties getting out of hand with underage drinking and the police having to break the parties up," Baer said. "I don't think we should have our police forced into those situations. I don't blame any teenager for wanting to go to a party, especially in the summer when it may be hard to find other things to do, but teens are going to have to get creative to find something to do, to prove that they can have alcohol and drug free parties."

Knox said that the police will not increase patrolling to find more of these parties, adding that, due to noise, a large number of cars parked in front of a house and complaints from neighbors, "We're not going out looking for parties, they usually find us before we find them."

However, McDonnell and Knox both agree that the most important element in keeping the community safe is something beyond the scope of the law: personal responsibility.

"As public servants and representatives of the community we can pass laws, take certain actions and encourage response, but in all honesty none of that takes the place of parental responsibility and responsibility on the part of the teenagers themselves," McDonnell said. "That's most important part of the equation and not anything you can make happen at the snap of a finger, that's not government's role, government's role is to deal with cases of irresponsibility but we can't make people responsible – that is a matter of personal character." ☺

“  
**Every time I drive down Price Road I think of Charlie Glik and it's sad, something needs to be done.**

**Richard Knox**  
Olivette Police Chief



Calla Dobbmeyer

**St. Louis University** has been the center of a controversy over revoking the charter to the student newspaper, the University News.

## SLU revoking student newspaper charter evokes fear of censorship

**Amy Brooks**  
Co-Editor in Chief

For the staff of St. Louis University's University News, the 2007-2008 school year may bring with it huge changes.

Until recently, the paper operated under a charter that the staff was quite content with.

"The newspaper operated normally and functioned pretty well for us, 07-08 University News editor-in-chief Katie Lewis said. "If anyone complained about how something was functioning, we worked to improve it ourselves."

During the last week of classes, the staff of the paper was told that they would be undergoing a charter change. Although Lewis was involved in the writing of the new charter, it was mostly worked on by the Vice President for Student Development, Kent Porterfield, Ed.D. and the Student Government Association President 2006-2007, Evan Krauss.

"We were told that the change was prompted by grammatical and typographical errors," Lewis said.

Lewis feels strongly that these errors will not be fixed with a new charter.

"The sole reason for errors in our newspaper is that there are not enough people to write and copy-edit, leaving the editors to pick up stories right before deadline," Lewis said. "Most of the time, we have to heavily copy-edit stories, since many of the writers don't have previous journalism or AP Style experience. There is not a journalism department to support us, and we've requested that a practicum is set up to train future writers and editors. SLU cannot have a better newspaper until we are offered the biggest and rarest asset: people."

According to Porterfield, the SLU administration thought that a new charter was necessary to improve the overall quality of the newspaper.

The most recent charter (as of 5/17) states that the SLU student press is a "student forum, free of censorship and advanced approval of its content. Student editors are free to develop their own editorial policies, content, programming and news coverage. Freedom of the press—print, online, and broadcast—is a basic right in a democratic society and is valuable in promoting the development of students as socially responsible persons."

Most of the controversy surrounding the new charter has arisen because of a certain change to it.

The University news has an Advisory Board that, according to the charter, "shall be responsible for providing advice and assistance to the staff of the university news."

The advisory board will be composed of ten members, with seven acting as voting members. The board will consist of: The dean of students; one student who is not a member of the University News' staff, selected by the newspaper production advisor; one student who is not an elected SGA representative, selected by the Student Government Association; two faculty members jointly selected by the Provost and Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate; two currently or formally employed media professionals in the St. Louis area; and three non-voting, ex-officio members: The University News' Editor-in-Chief, Student Media Coordinator and the Newspaper Production Advisor.

According to the charter, the Advisory board will oversee and approve the selection of an Editor-in-Chief.

Upon selection, The Vice-President for Student Development will have final approval of an Editor-in-Chief. The entire Editorial Board of the University News can also be dismissed or suspended from the positions they hold by the Vice President for Student Development.

The charter grants the Advisory board with far more power than they had before, despite the fact that many Advisory Board seat-holders were appointed by SLU administration.

Since the charter change was sprung on the staff of the University News, they have labored over the charter.

"We've forgone sleep, food, classes, friendships, and relationships to work on something that won't even affect most of us, as we will have graduated by the time most of the changes are in place," Lewis said. "We aren't taking this lightly."

Lewis has worked with Porterfield, as well as the new SGA president for next year, Andrew Clifton, on making positive changes to the charter to better the paper.

"The only way that the newspaper can be free and successful is if editors continue to have sole control over the editorial content and a practicum is set up," Lewis said. "Without the First Amendment and people to collaborate on the production, the newspaper—and, in turn, the students who produce it—will suffer." ☺



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# DECA competition proves both educational and fun

**Hannah Novack**  
Staff Reporter

Imagine an opportunity where you could get great business contacts, improve leadership skills, think on your feet, find ways to handle different situations and people, and have fun while doing it. That is just what DECA offers students the chance to do.

"DECA is an awesome club," DECA sponsor Marci Boland said. "It helps kids determine what they want to do and is well-known at universities and throughout the business world."

Clayton DECA students recently attended the International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida. From April 27 to May 2, CHS students competed against 13,000 other teens from the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Guam, Japan, and Germany. This was senior Jessica Jia's first year competing in DECA.

"I was really anxious before the first district competition because I had no idea what DECA was about and I hadn't studied," Jia said, "but somehow I managed to place second in my event [Marketing Management series]."

Jia continued her winning streak by advancing on to State competition and Internationals.

Every year, five to eight Clayton students qualify for Internationals, and this year was no exception with six students sent. A DECA competition is very unique compared to any other competition. There are more than 20 different events to choose from including written projects, and group and individual teams.

"For an individual series you need to take a multiple choice test and do two role plays," senior Jessica

Jia said.

Each part of the competition makes up one-third of a student's final score. The written test is 100 points and takes about 90 minutes.

"The schedule in Orlando was relaxed," junior Vikram Chakravarthy said. "Only three of the five days involve actual competition. The rest are just time to relax and meet people."

After landing in Orlando on Friday, Apr. 27, the team checked into the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort. There was a lot of free time because the competition didn't start until Sunday, so they went to theme parks! The team spent the second day at Universal Studios, and at night, a state and national meeting was held. The written test was taken on Sunday. Different divisions took their tests at different times.

Some students left early in the morning, and others left in the early afternoon. Jewett had his test around two.

"I feel nervous before every test because that is the weak point of both Ji and I," Jewett said.

On Monday, the role-play portion of the competition took place. In a role-play, a student is given a prompt about a business situation and twenty minutes to prepare. Next, the student is called in front of a judge and presents his or her ideas to the judge.

"For my two role-plays, the situations were to sell a cell phone to tweens by analyzing product features to bring out benefits," sophomore Mack Su said, "and to convince a potential client to hire me as his or her graphics designer."

Role-plays sound pretty intimidating, but sophomore Mack Su knows how to keep it cool.

"Right before a competition, I get very nervous, but once it starts, I just concentrate on the task at hand,"



Marci Boland

While attending the national DECA competition, senior Jessica Jia, junior Sam Jewett, sophomore Mack Su, and junior Vikram Chakravarthy enjoy a little down time.

Su said.

Junior Vikram Chakravarthy, who competed in had an out of the ordinary opportunity to participate in the election of international leaders of DECA and got to interview candidates. Vikram is also planning to run for the DECA Missouri Vice-President next year.

On Tuesday, overall finalists were announced. Finalists include the highest role-play scores, the top ten test scores, and the highest averages overall. Su was the first sophomore to place in the top 10 for the written test in his division of the Marketing Management Series (which consisted of about 200 to 225 other students).

That afternoon, Boland took the kids to visit a former student, Doug Holtzman, who is now the Number Three guy, and president of marketing, for the

baseball team, the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Students got to tour the stadium and get an inside look at the world of sports marketing.

"It was really interesting," Jia said. "I'd definitely consider pursuing a career in business and marketing."

All students enjoy the competition because of the format and relaxed environment.

"I miss Orlando," Chakravarthy said. "I really enjoyed the DECA competition and can't wait for next year."

The next time you see these business-savvy students, congratulate them on a job well done, because, like DECA says, they'll most likely be your bosses someday, and it never hurts to be on your boss' good side. ☺

# Music students hit high notes at state festival

**Aaron Prais**  
Section Editor

This year, many CHS orchestra and band members participated in the MSHSAA State Music Festival. The musical festival was held from April 26-28, and over 4,200 students from 381 schools played their hearts out.

"It was a fun experience," sophomore William Kass said. "I got a lot of valuable feedback on my playing and musicianship."

The competition was held at Mizzou University, like in previous years.

"It was a new experience," Kass said. "It was a lot less hectic than I expected. I had heard stories of hundreds of kids in one place, but I didn't experience that."

Many CHS students either played solos, a performance by themselves, or in ensembles. After passing the Districts round, back in March, they were allowed to play their pieces yet again. This time, the expectations were set higher, and the musicians played for new judges.

Although the expectations were set higher, CHS students still performed very well, scoring above average.

"This year CHS did very well," Orchestra Director Julie Hoffman said. "13 students received superior ratings, and four received excellent ratings. CHS did extremely well. And compared to previous years, we scored around the same."

"I'm satisfied with the score I got," Kass said. "The judging is different from judge to judge. You have to keep in mind what criteria they use."

"I think that students go to State for the evaluation process," Hoffman said. "At State, students are judged by college professors, who aren't as lenient. In going to State, students can get back great feedback. State also symbolizes a higher level."

Besides the bar having been raised, there were some other changes made as well.

"This year, they changed the rules," Hoffman said. "A soloist could look at music, and there were a lim-

ited number of students per accompanist. This created an accompanist shortage, and it became very difficult to find accompanists. And, the times weren't posted until the week before the event itself, which is frustrating."

Students also recognized the major changes, made for this year's State Solo and Small Ensemble Festival.

"This year was different," senior Abby Lawlor said. "This year they didn't enforce memorization. This made it more pleasant, yet the experience was pretty much the same as every other year. It's always well-run."

Not everyone thought that the festival was well-organized.

"I find it unnecessary for students to and teachers to have to run from building to building," Hoffman said. "It makes it difficult for me to see all of my students. I think that they could organize the event better."

Typically in the past, students would have to play their pieces by memory, or without the music in front of them. This used to create lots of stress, so the rule was eliminated for the solo performances.

"I think this year we were allowed to use music," junior Jack Callahan said. "This was definitely helpful when playing many solos. This took off a lot of stress."

The MSHSAA State Music Festival is somewhat of competition.

"I think that the competition is one-on-one," Lawlor said. "I don't think that they give out a certain number of ones. You are not competing against anyone else."

Other CHS musicians feel the same way.

"You're sort of going against your friend," sophomore Abby Williams said. "But it doesn't matter if your friend gets a one, and you don't. You're still happy with the score you got."

Now that the festival is over, students can finally relax a bit. ☺



courtesy of Madeline McMahon

Sophomore Madeline McMahon prepares for her performance at the State Solo and Ensemble competition.



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The Globe is self-funded for all publishing costs and offers advertising to all school-appropriate businesses. Ads range in size from business card to full page; prices vary. Please contact our office for more information. The Globe is distributed to students each month of the school year. We also offer bulk mailing subscriptions for \$20 a year and first-class subscriptions for \$30 a year. We find these options particularly useful for parents, for no amount of begging or friendly reminders can compel a high schooler to remember to bring home a copy.

We also remind students that as the Globe is a student publication, all compliments, opinions, complaints, warnings, threats, sabotage attempts, arrest warrants, and libel suits should be forwarded to the Globe Office (see contact info below), not the Superintendent's.

--the Globe editors

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# Restrictions on student writing serve as inappropriate response

The massacre of 32 innocents during at Virginia Technical Institute late last April was a shocking and distressing matter to all Americans.

Thoughts of 'Could that happen here?' and 'Are we next?' are still littering the minds of many of us still today. These thoughts are a normal human reaction to events such as these.

Unfortunately, our country has seen this type of shooting before; on April 20, 1999 at Columbine high school in Jefferson County, Colorado.

These stories leave the majority of the United States in question of how and why. Unfortunately, these questions turn into accusations that lead to rampages of an altogether different, but still distressing, sort.

After a frightening event such as those seen at Virginia Tech and Colombine, the American people tend to swing to a more fundamental need to crack down on anything that hints of a shooting or violence.

Unfortunately, the knee jerk reaction to repress anything suggesting of a Cho Seung-Hui, Eric Harris, or Dylan Klebold is often directed at student press and media.

Lately, the fall out from Virginia Tech on student press has been seen sweeping the country, reminiscent of the chaotic days following the Columbine incident.

Recently, the disturbing story of Allen Lee, a senior at Cary-Grove high school in Illinois, has made it

to national news.

Lee, a straight-A student who was planning on entering the Marine Corps, was arrested and removed from school on April 23 on charges of disorderly conduct for a "disturbing and ominous" piece of creative writing he wrote for a class.

The teacher, Nora Capron, who gave out the assignment of free-writing told the students to exaggerate and not censor anything that happened to make it from their minds to paper.

Lee happened to make references to "shooting everyone" and "having sex with dead bodies."

What he wrote was definitely stupid and our of place but the reaction to it was extremist and unnecessary.

Instead of referring him to a counselor or calling home to his parents, Capron decided to call the police instead.

Albeit it was a week after the Virginia Tech massacre and that the writings were out of proportion, the facts are these: Lee was told he would not be censored.

And he was, to the extreme. This is one example magnifying the many student speech cases popping up all over the country as we attempt grapple with the almost incomprehensible killing that was Virginia Tech.

Sadly, after most tragic events such as this, students are the first to

lose their rights.

It is a fact that after Columbine, backpacks were banned and "gothic" students were kept under close watch for violent and depressed "activities."

On a wider scale, after September 11, our country detained middle-eastern looking people for no reason but how they looked. And why?

Because we were scared. We are scared now. But we can't let our fear get in the way of our freedom.

Repressing students' right to write and express themselves freely is not the answer to preventing further tragedies like those mentioned above.

We must check our most base, knee-jerk, human reactions to frightening events by taking a step back and looking at what is wrong in the bigger picture.

Cho Seung-Hui had been identified as a "trouble" student for a long time before the shootings. However, no one took action and no one helped him get the help needed.

Instead of taking an antagonistic solution by repressing student rights, we should attempt to keep schools, students, and our country safe by helping those who need it through communication, not through unreasonable restrictions.

We should mourn the people who died at Virginia Tech and Columbine, not try to live out their memories by censoring those still living. ☹

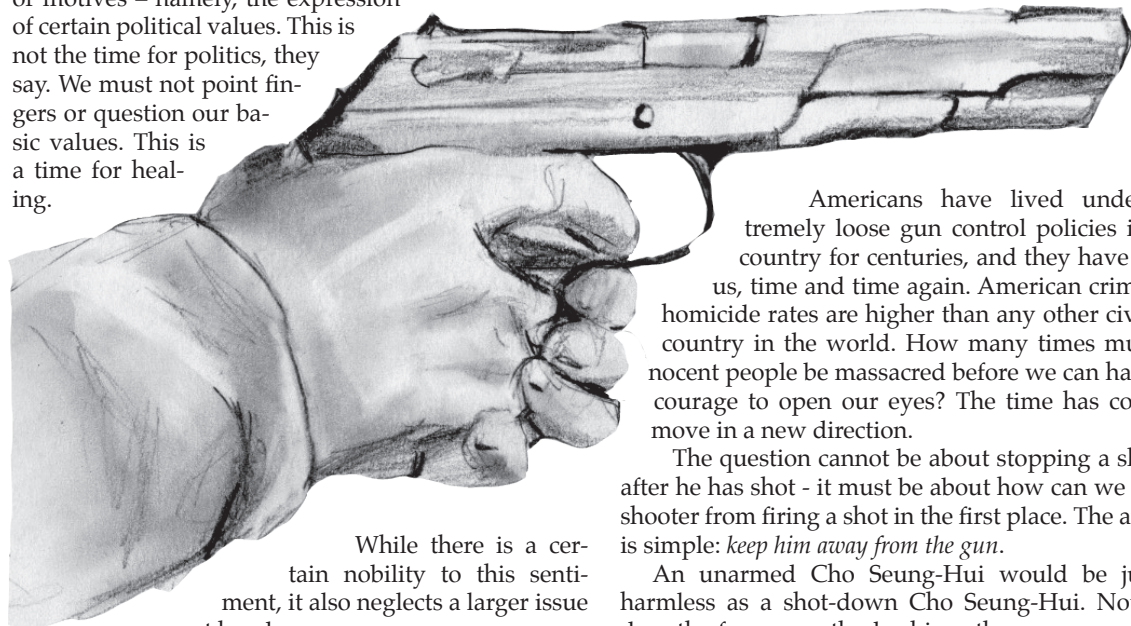
## StaffEditorial

Agree **91%**  
Disagree **9%**

# Gun control saves lives

It has been over a month since the deranged college senior Cho Seung-Hui shot down 32 people before committing suicide on the campus of Virginia Tech. But it will not soon leave the consciousness of the American people. In the same way that Kent State and Columbine have, Virginia Tech will continue to evoke painful memories, even after many years.

Holding on to this memory is not only fully understandable, but in a more difficult sense, very necessary. However, there are those who feel that the American media has used its coverage of Virginia Tech for ulterior motives - namely, the expression of certain political values. This is not the time for politics, they say. We must not point fingers or question our basic values. This is a time for healing.



While there is a certain nobility to this sentiment, it also neglects a larger issue at hand.

Yes, it may be unsettling to question our values about gun rights, and it may be downright painful to ask, "Could this have been avoided?" But our duty as Americans and our responsibility as human beings must compel us to do these things - regardless of how they may make us feel.

Not to do so would be an insult to the memory of the 33 who died that tragic Monday morning.

Virginia Tech is, like many universities, a gun-free zone. Guns, concealed or not, are forbidden on campus for anyone who is not a law-enforcement official. It is now agonizingly clear why such a law was enacted.

Cho Seung-Hui broke this law before he had even pulled the trigger. Had the gun-free zone remained truly gun-free, this tragedy could never have occurred.

Nonetheless, there are those who oppose gun-free zones. On May 8, conservative political cartoonist Bruce Tinsley's daily comic strip "Mallard Fillmore" summarized the general consensus about the Virginia Tech shootings amongst gun enthusiasts:

"It's already been three weeks since Virginia Tech became a textbook case for what it's like when bad guys are armed, and the good guys aren't."

Although such thinking sounds practical at first, it is ultimately naive and illogical. Had students been able to carry a weapon, Cho's path to destruction would simply have been made easier. How many of us are really willing to send a child to or actually sit in a classroom in which any or all students carry firearms?

Even if the students aren't armed, can we give a gun to a teacher? Arming classroom teachers (even provided that they are willing) provides no guarantee of students' protection from a maniac's bullets.

Tinsley's answer to this problem is clearly unachievable. In this situation, the solution to a gun cannot simply be more guns, as easy as it may be to jump to such a conclusion.

Those who support loose gun control laws also

argue that an increased number of guns will deter crime from happening in the first place. But people with extreme levels of fiery, misguided passion, like Cho Seung-Hui, will never be intimidated. There is no statistical evidence that increased levels of gun ownership reduces crime.

Concealed-carry gun laws like we currently have here in Missouri (and in Virginia, an NRA stronghold) have broadened gun-carrying rights to such an extent that common citizens become at risk, and may feel compelled to carry weapons they don't want.

Americans have lived under extremely loose gun control policies in this country for centuries, and they have failed us, time and time again. American crime and homicide rates are higher than any other civilized country in the world. How many times must innocent people be massacred before we can have the courage to open our eyes? The time has come to move in a new direction.

The question cannot be about stopping a shooter after he has shot - it must be about how can we stop a shooter from firing a shot in the first place. The answer is simple: *keep him away from the gun.*

An unarmed Cho Seung-Hui would be just as harmless as a shot-down Cho Seung-Hui. Not only does the former method achieve the same means, but it also does so in a much more safe, practical, reliable, and humane way.

This is not a partisan issue. It is not about pointing fingers. It has nothing to do with ulterior political motives. It is about saving lives.

Gun control does not necessarily constitute a violation of the Second Amendment. This widespread misconception is a result of relentless preaching from pro-gun ideologues, many of whom do have political motives. In fact, gun control has more to do with closing technical loopholes that allow guns to end up in the wrong hands. This includes a multitude of people.

Those with criminal records, for example, should clearly have restricted access to guns. Those with various mental instabilities, ranging from anger-management issues to clear-cut dementia, should also have restricted access to guns. And kids especially should be kept away from guns.

Sub-categories of gun abuse are often given too little attention as well. For example, there is the little-discussed issue of gun theft.

According to the Americans for Gun Safety Foundation - a non-profit, non-partisan organization, around 170,000 guns are stolen annually in the U.S. And an alarmingly small number of these cases are successfully prosecuted.

Michael Harrington is a representative for the Americans for Gun Safety Foundation. "The federal government needs a comprehensive strategy," Harrington said, "...to investigate, prosecute and eliminate the black market that supplies guns to criminals, drug dealers, gangs and kids."

This is what gun control truly means. It's not about trampling on Second-Amendment rights. It's about keeping people safe, and protecting their more important rights: their rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Let us not get caught up in the vague, expired ideology of the ancient past. Let us not lose focus on what is truly important. ☹

## StaffEditorial

Agree **91%**  
Disagree **9%**



# Letters to the Editor

## CHS alum says cheating doesn't pay

Dear Editor:

As a CHS student in the early 1960s, we were told that cheating and plagiarizing would not be tolerated and the culprit would be severely disciplined. Worse, we were told we were cheating ourselves. I didn't understand what any of this meant.

Certainly, cheating was unacceptable and not condoned. Students got reprimanded and were given "8th" hours or temporary suspensions. If there were flagrant infractions, the school involved our parents and we lost car or other privileges. But, I don't recall seeing students cuffed to stocks in the commons and being derided by passing teachers and students. I don't recall those who cheated or plagiarized being shunned by colleges, failing in business, or being ostracized by their community. The lack of severe, extended consequences, however, didn't make it right.

To sit in my ivory tower and profess that I never took a bite of the apple would be a bald-faced lie. I have not perished from my actions but I am continually reminiscent of my character flaw. I can't take back what I have done, though I long ago pledged myself to a more honest lifestyle. However, like a reformed smoker or substance abuse addict, the fear always looms that I may be overwhelmed by that urge and once again may pursue self-gain in an unbecoming and selfish way. When all is said and done, all that remains is your integrity and self-respect and by cheating, these are permanently scarred.

Some students, such as junior Katie Murray, display their cheating as if it were a badge of honor. They may laugh at what I have written just as I may have laughed had I read this when I was at CHS. Fine for now. They may someday have children and have to tell them that cheating is wrong. They will have to live with the life-long consequences of their actions. I wished I had understood this penalty then.

--Andy Rochman, CHS '64

## Student says thanks

Hello Students and Staff of Clayton High School,  
I would like to thank all of you from whom I received

cards, notes and letters of kindness in the Lipsey's Blessing Basket, for the "baseball theme" greeting card, and for your continued support during my bout with cancer.

As many of you all know, for the majority of this year school year, I've been in and out of school; particularly during the last three months.

Over four years ago, on February 14, 2003 (Valentine's Day), I was diagnosed with Leukemia.

Now I know that sounds a little ironic being diagnosed with cancer on Valentine's Day. But actually I look at that date as being more symbolic than anything else.

On that day when the doctor told my mother I had ultra high-risk Leukemia, then three weeks later of a genetic disorder due to missing chromosomes, and the dismal prognosis for survival, I became aware of God's love for me.

Wait, how can I say in the face of so much bad news concerning my life, that "I became aware of God's love for me"?

I can say this confidently because He gave me faith and strength to endure savage chemotherapy for four years and when there was nothing or no one else to rely on,

I could always rely on Him to ease my physical pain. When I prayed, I knew He would come through for me when I was in trouble.

A perfect example of this was my last stay in the hospital. The doctors were sure the Leukemia had spread to all of my major organs; however, when each test results came back, and there were many, there was no evidence of Leukemia in my body.

The battle isn't over yet, because I am still dealing with therapy-related conditions, but I'm sure God will bring me through those as well. Faith in God and in the power of His name gave me the endurance and stamina I needed to believe and to wait for His promise to heal me.

In conclusion, I would like to say if life should ever serve you a healthy portion of adversity, just look up to the God of all comfort, and He will sustain you.

Again, thank you all for your prayers and gifts of support for me and my family. God willing, I will be back to school completely healthy next year.

--Brian Lipsey

## Thumbs Up



- School Ending
- Noodles & Company
- Summer's Arrival
- Cinco de Mayo
- Pool Opening
- APs finished
- Chipotle comes soon

- Death of Josh Hancock
- AP English Summer Reading
- Humidity
- Seniors Leaving
- Sports Ending

## Thumbs down



## Corrections from April Issue

- pg. 18 picture with senior Andrew Davidson was junior Cameron Davis
- pg. 18 Steven Glynias is a junior
- There were several errors in caption concerning exact roles of people in the Student Run Musical



Kelly Moffitt

## Internet communications provide blogger with experience of fame

When I woke up on one recent Saturday morning to check out a new Chinese blog I started the night before, I was puzzled as I saw my page's visitor counts had shot up to a miraculous 4000 from the inconspicuous zero just 12 hours before. After looking out my window and seeing the usual big tree and some ordinary bunnies in my backyard instead of some gigantic, carnivorous plants with teeth or some angry, mutant squirrels, I realized that I wasn't dreaming.

My journey into the budding E-stardom took off on the previous Friday night when I got a sudden urge to practice writing in Chinese since my Chinese has gotten pretty rusty over the years. I signed up for an account on one of the most well-known Chinese blogging sites, which branched off one of the largest Chinese-language web portals, and started typing away.

Though it took me countless peeks into the dictionary, much brainpower, and several hours, I was pretty happy about having typed up a one page an entry filled with little squares of Chinese characters about a randomly selected topic on the comparison between Chinese and American college application process and on how I think that the American college ad-

mission process isn't any less selective than that in China (It's really starting to get on my nerves how so many Chinese parents think that basically if they can just ship their kids to America on a plane, their children will already have their feet inside the Ivy League gates).

So, I was flabbergasted when I saw how many clicks I had gotten the next morning when I thought I was the only person who even knew about the existence of my blog. It didn't take me long to realize that the titled link to my entry was pinned on top under the "Education" category on the main page of the website next to a few articles. The titled link to my entry was also pinned under the "Education" subcategory under the "Blog" category in big bold letters above small titled links to blog entries written by actual well-known Chinese education gurus.

By midnight on that Saturday, my visitor counts has already skyrocketed to 10,000 in one day, more than 10 times the number for average bloggers who have had their blogs for a year. On that day, un-

der the "Education" subcategory of the "Blog" main category, my entry was already ranked first in popularity for the day, fifth for the week, and tenth for the month. As I came across some comments from people who wanted to befriend me, I suppose I got a taste of Myspace founder, Tom Anderson's life, just a little though.

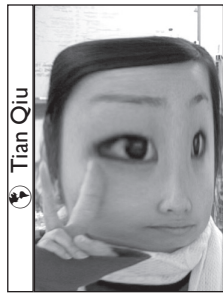
Though I had to delete some rude comments left under my entry from people who only wrote to disparage my Chinese (I did have my dad help me correct some run-on sentences and incorrect grammar as soon as I realized some embarrassing mistakes I had made in the original entry), leave irrelevant invectives from their potty mouths, and those who advertised porn, most of the comments from the first 24 hours of grand opening of my blog were decent.

However, from the first group of comments I received, more disagreed with the viewpoint expressed in my article. Not looking forward to being a lonely loser on my side of the issue, I sought a Chinese-speaking friend and asked her to be the devil's advocate and write

a comment in agreement with my viewpoint. I soon gave up on the request when she told me that she would only do it if she dictated her argument in English on the phone while I translated it into Chinese and sent the translation to her for her to paste under the comments. I wasn't ready to spend another tedious hour in translating thoughts or words into Chinese. To my relief, as more comments came in the next few days, I began to have a lot more support expressed in long paragraphs and nearly essays on my side of the issue.

On the fourth day, I decided to Google phrases from my entry just to see what I get. To my surprise, my entry was forwarded and posted as articles on some of the most well-known, largest education websites in China besides being reposted on various blogs.

After the fourth day, the website finally took off the link to my entry from the pinned area, though the link will still be accessible in the archives for at least two more months. Although my visitor counts have been slowing down, and I don't know when I will gather enough patience to sit down again to write another entry, but I'm satisfied to have memories of experiencing my very own 15 seconds of fame. ☺



Tian Qiu

## Mothers and fathers days inspire reflection

As various parents days approach, I have become a bit nostalgic in my pondering. I've thought of the good and the bad, the funny and the serious, the idiotic and the philosophical, the bratty and the angelic. All of these thoughts have been centered around my parents.

We blame parents for a lot of things in our lives, good and bad. Any way you slice it, we'll end up with some kind of gripe and dislike of them. Maybe that's why we're so ready to get away and go to college.

"They're micromanaging our lives!"

"I'm seventeen! Why are they allowed to tell me my curfew is 1 am?"

"I can't believe they think they can just go and search through my drawers!"

Here's the truth: the only reason they try to micromanage is because they want us meandering down the right path; they give us a curfew so we don't get hurt; and they were probably not searching through your drawers, they were probably just putting your clean shirts away.

We can fudge and slur our way around it, we can blame them all we want, and proclaim that we never want to end up like them but the truth is, they've given up a lot for us. Probably more than we'll ever know.

They've shielded us from their pain, they've put aside their own love, and they've come home at night and put that extra blanket on us when we're shivering under our covers.

They're our parents and no matter what they do, we're bound to end up with some grudge against them. It's our childish duty. It's the



From left to right: Kelly and her mom hiking in Colorado. Kelly and her dad backpacking in Yellowstone Park.



Kelly Moffitt

circle of life.

But anytime you just can't stand the way you're dad will not refrain from asking you all about your biology test and why you just looked a little bit stressed or you want to crack your mom's favorite vase because she has decided to ask for the gossip around school, remember this; we do incredibly annoying and stupid stuff everyday and they decide to hold their tongue because they know that someday, somehow we are going to learn.

As I get older, and maybe not as wise as I like to think, I realize more and more how much my parents have given up for me.

It's almost as if I put words to what I know they have done, the magic and beauty of their sacrifice will be less.

It starts with the little things. Like, once, when I was little, my mom slaved away making me pigs in blankets for dinner.

Unfortunately, I got whiff of their name and thinking that they were literally pigs, I refused to eat them.

Or how my dad decided to take me to Disney World as a treat and I

left with year-long cycle of Pirates of the Caribbean (the old school ride) nightmares.

And it ranges to the more philosophical.

My dad used to tell me personalized "princess" stories until I would fall asleep when I was younger.

I didn't realize how personalized they were at the time, and I also didn't realize how much else my dad could have been doing instead.

My mom read me books at night, every night, even on nights she had just gotten done with a 12 hour shift in the unit.

They may not know this, but these are the reasons I want to be writer.

And then it glances off into the infinite world of almost incomprehensible sacrifice. I'm not even going to try and describe this one. But suffice it to say that I can venture to guess my parents have done more for me than I can even think of or ever will be able to think of or guess at.

And on top of it all, it's the little things that always get me. Like that extra rushed flight home so they could get to my basketball game or the extra five minutes they don't have to read my articles or that delicious dinner that somehow ends

up on my plate every night. And somehow they manage to listen to my trials in tribulations without laughing or chiding or trying to tell me that in twenty years I won't even remember that person's name.

They work for us, they play for us, they live to help us live better.

Yet we still manage to forget how much they mean to us. I even think sometimes we complain about them just so we can. Just so we are normal.

So I guess I'm writing this for my parents, and for parents everywhere, just to let them know that we, as teens, are going into a period where it's going to seem like we just don't care anymore. And we're going to offend you and we're going to upset you with all those crazy decisions we make.

I'm sorry but at the same time I'm not because I am the child you helped me to become and I wouldn't be who I am without you. I know this. Just know that I will always love you and I will never forget what you have done for me. Every minute, of everyday, for every year of my entire life. I live a charmed life; I'm finally coming to realize this. Thank you for putting up with me until I finally learn to be who I am going to be. Thanks for helping me become that person. ☺

## Student questions his peers' actions

Each and every day I seem to always hear news about a gang fight in a family mall, teenage drunk driving, or a famed celebrity getting away with something bad simply because they are a celebrity. With each one of these incidences, I lose a little more hope for the future.

I can't help but wonder how our posterity will turn out. I'll be frank, kids these days worry me. Sure, past generations have had rough times too, such as the civil rights movement. However, a lot of those times were respectable and admirable in a way. What I hear and see many teens and pre-teens do is neither honorable nor deserving of respect.

I really hate to say this, but I find the modern generation to be rife with disrespect.

There are plenty of people my age who don't apply to this pattern, but these decent people aren't as noticeable as the impudent ones.

Unfortunately, I've become more and more disappointed with my age group as I've opened my eyes to the reality of the world around me.

It sickened me to see a 16-year-old girl standing in front of a Build-A-Bear, saying things like "Oh go f--- that b---!" as little kids walk into the store. Or how when I'm eating lunch and some kid walks up to me and says, with a perfectly serious tone, "Get the f--- out of my seat." Or when a peer tells a teacher to "f--- off." I can't help but shake my head in embarrassment at the notion that this is what represents my modern time.

I mean, if we as a generation keep acting this arrogant, what does this say to the impressionable of the next generation?

Frankly, I blame poor role models.

Take Paris Hilton for example. She's a famous-for-nothing socialite who shows up to court late, slanders gays and blacks, whines non-stop to the judge, could have killed pedestrians with her drunk

driving, and doesn't bother to make a valid case while demanding non-punishment. Yet, many pre-teens idolize her.

Why would someone who doesn't deserve the praise obtain so much of it? Why not look to those who are deemed worthy instead of those whose insolence knows no bounds? Whatever happened to admiring good parents, people wise beyond their years, local heroes like police officers, or the celebrities who have actually done something with their lives?

There is also the subject of music, particularly rap. Now before I go there, let me tell you I'm in no way racist and there is a lot of rap that I do like. However, when kids

are listening to songs with the words f---, n---, and b--- in every sentence and blasting it out their car windows, what does that say about our generation? Where is the dignity, the poise, I ask you? Don't get me wrong, I have no problem with sex and money being the topic of a song, but there is such a

thing as finesse. I don't mind cussing, as long as it's in the right place and at the right time. I don't mind derogatory jokes among friends, but there should be a balance. Unfortunately, we have screwed up this balance.

I am glad to say that I don't see too much of this in Clayton kids, but it's most certainly present. I mean take a moment to think of what you do, what we as a whole generation do.

How will we influence the next generation with what we are doing. It is inevitable, our actions will make a drastic reaction, and looking at where we are going, this reaction doesn't look pleasant. What will become of true morals? Respect? Taste? Dignity? To dwell on these ideas worries me. I'll end with this one question to all of you in this generation. What we have in life is fine and great, and I do enjoy some of the things I've brought to your attention, but are we using our influence properly? ☺

## NCLB jeopardizes American education

Opportunity is what Americans have always strived for. Every time we reach for new heights, opportunity flourishes, opening a door to new ideas and information. But standardized testing and the No Child Left Behind Act shuts this door of opportunity and locks it.

The worst thing a government can do is ruin students' future. Why should the government care? By the time our generation takes control of this country, the people ruining our lives right now will depend on us to solve the problems they created.

If they want us to solve all these problems, then our government needs to keep an education free of standardized testing. Standardized testing, and specifically

the NCLB Act does not show an accurate portrayal of schools. It causes teachers to teach to the test, rather than to teaching actual material.

I believe it is our turn to change for what is right. When you standardize something, you are making everything the same. That is mediocrity. And I know none of us are the same, we come from many different backgrounds.

Our government has a plan. An underfunded, misleading plan, but still a plan. Their plan is to have 100 percent of students passing every test by 2014. I know for a fact this can never come true. Even if the government gave triple the money to our schools, people would still skip the testing days because it does not affect them very much. Some students are truly not capable of passing them.

Let's say a school doesn't perform the way the state wants. After four years, there is a possible takeover by government officials. For example, our city schools are just now going through this. The government officials taking over have no idea what St. Louis city students really need.

The future of the educational

system is in our teachers, not in government officials who don't know anything about education, and who usually don't have educational degrees. Funding in failing schools should be kept and increased. How will cities ever improve if they are stripped of resources?

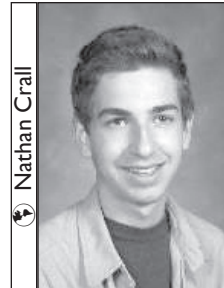
All this testing can cause us to forget many things that are important in life. And not just knowledge. Values too. Remember in Kindergarten all those things we learned, like how to share, show respect, and even basic discipline? All the time spent on these necessities is being traded for learning what to do on a test.

Imagine a typical teacher. They earn a modest amount of money. Why do they teach? To make a positive difference in student lives. Our government could take that away from teachers, and that would leave nothing for them or for students. Ask yourself what you liked in your favorite teachers. Did you like them because they raised your test scores?

To keep our American ideal, we need to preserve free education. Right now, standardized testing and our government are too harsh on our schools. It puts all the emphasis on the bad students and ignores the good students.

Standardized testing lowers American standards of a good education. It is inherent hypocrisy. Vote for a good president against these atrocities. Let's go to our principal, and not recognize standardized testing.

The best way to change America's future is to have an education free of standardized testing. To help solve all our crises, our government needs to put more money into education. This will come back around in the future when students all get jobs and revamp the economy. A free education is a big step forward. It re-opens the door of opportunity for all Americans. ☺



Nathan Crail



Sam Blumenfeld



Kelly Moffitt

# Enjoying home-cooked, diverse food is a pleasure

**Preeti Viswanathan**  
Staff Reporter

When I think about it, my friends, teachers, and peers have told me how delicious my lunches look, probably more often than they have said anything else to me in the commons.

Almost every day, someone will notice what I'm eating and will comment on how appetizing my home-cooked meal looks.

Usually if it is an Indian dish that they haven't seen before, I take the time to explain what it is and how it's made.

Often, I don't mind adding that my mother is one of the best cooks ever. This, by the way, is a factual,

unbiased statement and one of the reasons why I look forward to lunch every day.

The fact that my mom freshly cooks and packs me a scrumptious feast every day to eat during lunchtime is one of the many examples of her dedication as a mother and as a cook.

She cooks not only traditional Indian cuisine, but also specializes in Mediterranean and Italian dishes, such as richly flavored vegetable pizzas and wonderfully tasty pesto sauce.

Most of the common South Indian meals I regularly eat at home were taught to my mom by her mother, and she learned the cuisines of other cultures from cook-

books.

She also reinvented some of the recipes to make them her own, blending in her unique preparation techniques with just the right amount of spices to create delectable treats.

A perfect example of this is her exceptional potato pizza; potatoes roasted with a touch of olive oil on a pizza base which is just the right consistency, garnished with rosemary, sage, freshly ground pepper, and pieces of garlic, topped off with grated Italian cheese and crumbs of feta cheese. I absolutely love this dish.

The other pizzas she makes are also equally good, and they range in ingredients from eggplant to mozzarella and pesto.

But it's South Indian cuisine that my mother primarily specializes in. She makes a variety of vegetable curries, all seasoned with the perfect combination of spices (the more the spices, the better the flavor).

My personal favorites are the green beans curry and the cauliflower curry. The green beans curry consists of salted beans cooked with pieces of grated coconut. The cauliflower curry is also a side dish to rice - it is prepared simply by oven-roasting the cauliflower for just the right amount of time with salt, cumin seeds, and other spices.

The classic *rasam*, a popular south Indian tomato soup made very often for dinner, has steamed tomatoes cooked into a hot soup with spices and is usually served or mixed with rice.

Once again, I can surely say I've never tasted better *rasam* than the ones made in the kitchen of my home.

While so many people I know go to restaurants for gourmet food, I am lucky to find quality food at my own house thanks to my mom, who has always been and will be an amazing cook. I can only hope that I eventually acquire a similar talent for making excellent food without spending extra money on expensive restaurants. ☺



courtesy of Preeti Viswanathan

**Freshman Preeti Viswanathan** enjoys a potato pizza, one of the many exotic dishes her mother prepares her for lunch.

## Turks participate in misguided protests

Confusion over the true meaning of secularism fuels misunderstanding and disunity.

**Sara Rangwala**  
Section Editor

I feel as if many these days abuse this word and often use it in the wrong context. When you consider the clashes religion has with just about every other aspect of life, 'secular' is an important word to comprehend.

My understanding of a secularist, politically, is someone who supports separation of church and state. A secularist doesn't necessarily have to be an atheist;

many believe in God but not that religion should be a consideration of government affairs. BBC.com supports this definition when they say, "some secularists are actually believers in a faith. While they believe, they don't think that belief is a reason for special treatment".

I think this outlook on government is a sensible one when you consider how diverse countries have become.

The United States, for example, has a wide array of beliefs represented in their population. Making laws based on the doctrine of one religion wouldn't make sense because these laws would apply to multitudes, some of which have a separate system of beliefs.

In today's world, we hear a lot about Islamic states and extremely non-secular states like Saudi Arabia, but Turkey is probably the

only country that is well-known for about its extremely *non-secular* government.

However, while it may be true that they operate under a parliamentary republic, religion definitely plays a part in their decision making. Instead of promoting or protecting Islam, the religion representing more than 99% of the Turkish people, the Turkish government seems to be deliberately suppressing Islam.

In trying to prevent religion from having any effect on state affairs, the Turks have gone to an extreme and violated their separation of church and state ideal. Instead of using the state to promote religion they are using the government to eliminate suppress the religious beliefs of their citizens.

Any symbols of religion, including a head scarf, are not allowed in schools, or government buildings. The establishment of private religious schools is prohibited as well as religious schooling before a certain age. Political parties associating themselves with a certain religion are also banned. The state forms its decisions and its laws on the basis of a religious doctrine and has no right to boast the secularity it claims.

Turkey's goal has always been westernization. One of their main struggles right now is entering the European Union.

Westernization for them includes a democratic and secular



Mehmet Ozdemir/KRT

**U.S. President George W. Bush**, right, greets Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan as they attend the annual meeting of NATO leaders on Tuesday, February 22, 2005, in Brussels, Belgium.

government, which are the ideals of many western countries, and they have come remarkably close to having achieved them. But now, while trying to preserve these ideals, they are, in reality, straying from them.

The first article of the Turkish constitution is simply, "Turkey is a republic". In this form of government the people decide how and by whom the country is run.

In 2002, Turkey's Justice and Development Party (AK Party in Turkish), showed its popularity by winning the majority of the seats in Turkey's Parliament. Recently the AK Party put up a candidate, Abdullah Gul, for presidency.

The AK Party descended from a series of banned parties and is considered a conservative "moderately Islamic" party.

To the opposition, this means an Islamic fundamentalist party that stands in the way of Turkey achieving secularity. The amount of support opposing parties have



Chuck Kennedy/KRT

## Gas boycott fails in its original purpose but has the right spirit

**Yipeng Huang**  
Section Editor

"Don't pump gas on May 15, 2007."

Take economics, everyone. It lets you use fancy terms such as "inelastic demand" when you run into internet nonsense concerning gas prices.

Take, for example, the email circulating around concerning a national, day-long "gas-out," something that the creator of the email claims can drive down gas prices. A claim that is, of course, rubbish. A one-day gimmick in our gas consumption won't cause a single cent in change in gas prices and certainly won't send any "message" to oil companies.

Even Snopes.com is with me on this. Emails calling for gas boycotts have been circulating since 1999, and have failed every single time. At times, the gas prices even went up before and after the boycott days.

The truth is, our dependence on gas won't really change until we switch to more efficient cars and change our driving habits.

But beyond the economic naiveté and wishful thinking, we shouldn't bash the whole idea of having a gas boycott just yet. Even though the boycott failed miserably at its goals, and had the wrong idea altogether, the people who started the movement had the right spirit—that drivers can make a difference when we act together as consumers.

The consumers: the end-all, be-all source and reason for all things miserable and evil.

Any intelligent discussion about our oil crisis ulti-

mately puts a good deal of the blame on us, the consumers, the reason that people want oil in the first place.

A discussion concerning the ongoing Nigerian Oil Crisis in the AP Language classroom found that oil companies such as Royal Dutch Shell and Chevron-Texaco are major players in the bloody civil war going on in Nigeria. At that point, the class proceeded to conclude that the issue was out of hand because no international body had the power to regulate the industry. Sure, consumers might have a hand in bloody strikes and constant poverty afflicting the region, but surely it's impossible to convince consumers to change.

Or is it? Even the most stubborn drivers of gas-guzzling cars changed their habits during the 1970s price hikes. Slowly but surely, more people are looking into buying hybrids or choosing to not drive at all. Our willingness to fall for silly gimmicks such as gas boycotts is an indicator that we are finally fed up with the situation and are ready for change.

The central issue facing our generation—the one concerning our oil dependence, global warming, and skyrocketing energy demand due to our growing population—is one that is daunting but surmountable. We'll either come out of this crisis with a clean and sustainable world, or we come out in some kind of economic and ecological Armageddon world. With such a difficult task in our hands, it's hard to imagine changing our habits in time to avoid disaster, but it probably doesn't hurt to start with a little bit of wishful thinking and ignorance. ☺

## Mustard tickles student's taste buds

**Jim An**  
Section Editor

Mustard. The king of all condiments. Why is it so much better than ketchup or mayonnaise or relish? Well, I'm glad you asked.

Frankly, the greasy mutilated lard-like product that is mayonnaise should not even be considered a condiment. Anyone who considers it a dining pleasure to spread eggs beaten with soybean oil on their sandwich should have their taste buds checked out. And the only miracle about Miracle Whip is that people don't use it as a substitute for glue.

Mustard is not only fat free, but it actually tastes good. Some people really like ketchup, and hey, I say diff'rent strokes for diff'rent folks, but only if you like getting stroked in the mouth by a rusty nail, which tastes kind of like ketchup, coincidentally.

It's a mixture of vinegar and tomatoes (grated, mustard is a mixture of vinegar and mustard seed, but it is a better mixture!) that is pretty disgusting. I mean, it's like sweet and sour soup with a whole bunch of red cornstarch dumped in. Maybe you're into sweet and sour soup, but egg-drop soup is really much better.

Mustard has real flavor that doesn't make you think of coagulated blood at the sight of it. I reckon there's other popular condiments out there too, like barbecue sauce. Or steak sauce (I swear A1 is just watered down ketchup), but none of them can compare to the awesomeness of mustard. Is there

a steak sauce festival in Napa Valley every year? I don't think so.

And if Kansas City is good at something, well that tells you a lot about the competition. I do have to admit that Tabasco sauce is pretty darn good, but it doesn't have the nice texture that mustard has.

Anyway, clearly no other condiment has the versatility that mustard has. You can put mustard really on anything without wanting to throw up, like you would if you put ketchup on everything.

Mustard is the apex of that which tastes good and is good. Jesus even compares the mustard seed to faith in God. Now perhaps you're not a Christian, but the point is that mustard is amazing, a perfect amalgamation of flavor and goodness and a suitable companion to any dish under the sun.

Now that you have surely been convinced of the unquestionable greatness of mustard, you surely must be asking, well, what kind of mustard should I get? And that's a great question too, because mustard is a condiment of many colors and varieties.

While the mustard most are familiar with is the plain old yellow mustard, the true mustard connoisseur recognizes that it is diluted for general consumption, just the same way producers get rid of all the fun parts in violent movies, so they can get a PG-13 rating and subsequently make the movie about as fun to watch as elephant childbirth. Definitely do not get honey mustard; honey mustard is the mustard for girly-men. Really, great mustard is brown mustard -- preferably with horseradish. Put it on everything; you will not be disappointed. ☺

“Anyone who considers it a dining pleasure to spread eggs beaten with soybean oil on their sandwiches should have their taste buds checked out.”

# HIDDEN COLLEGE EXPENSES



As the cost of a higher education grows, so does the necessity for financial aid. For many students, price is the single most important factor in choosing a college.

**Rachel Harris**  
Co-Editor in Chief

College offers most students a chance for intellectual growth, a taste of independence and a new circle of friends, but nothing can spoil the experience more than the thought of the price tag. The cost of a higher education grows six to seven percent each year, making the average tuition at a public, four-year college top 6,000 dollars a year and nearly 23,000 dollars at a private institution. If that wasn't scary enough, applicants must further consider housing, transportation, supplies, and food. The list of expenses is endless and too much for some to shoulder.

However, a variety of programs exist to help students who lack the necessary financial resources or whose academic or other achievements qualify them for scholarships.

## SOME STATISTICS

"Aid is made available from grants, scholarships, loans, and part-time employment from federal, state, institutional and private sources," college counselor Claire Dickerson said. "Awards from these programs may be combined in an 'award package' to meet the cost of education. The types and amounts of aid award are determined by financial need, available funds, student classification, academic performance, and sometimes the timeliness of application."

Financial aid applies to a student's educationally related expenses. Educationally related expenses include tuition and fees, room and board, books, travel expenses, dependent care, study abroad, expenses related to a student's disability, personal expenses, and miscellaneous expenses are included in a college's final price tag.

"The money is awarded to a student based on financial need," Dickerson said. "Colleges award need-based financial aid in a financial aid package that may contain loans, grants, work-study money, or any money awarded to a student including merit-based scholarships."

A high proportion of CHS students receive some form of financial aid, but the information is kept confidential between the college and the family.

"Today, loans are the largest form of student aid, making up to 54% of the total aid awarded each year," Dickerson said. "Most students can expect to receive a loan as part of a financial aid package."

## JUST LOOKING

Before making any major decisions, students go through a shopping period in which they look around for their perfect school.

"I started looking at more prestigious schools at first," senior Becky Simington said. "Then I realized that I want to be a teacher, and a smaller school that is more focused on its education program might be better for me. That ideal changed my list drastically."

Other

students like Simington looked at various colleges and universities without considering their prices. At this point in their search, the atmosphere and academics were their main points for judging a school.

"I looked at small and medium schools," senior Zoe Liberman said. "I knew I didn't want to go to a big party school where sports and frats were all the rage. I also wanted to go somewhere with a strong science reputation."

Seniors Antoine Cathey and Christi Alexander did not narrow their searches based on cost. Cathey explored his different options based on the presence of a pre-med program while Alexander looked specifically at the people and the city.

"At first I didn't really look at the prices of different college because the whole money concept was still somewhat foreign to me," Simington said. "I never really thought about having to pay for school because it had never been an issue before. Then once I started narrowing down my list my parents decided to rain on my parade and started mentioning pricing of different schools. Apparently a college education is pretty expensive these days."

## APPLYING TO SCHOOLS

Come September, hordes of high school seniors send in their shiniest applications to various schools nation-wide and internationally. The months fly by and April finally arrives. Acceptance letters roll in and that means that it is time to pick a college.

"During application season I was just focused on getting accepted to the schools I was interested in," Simington said. "Once the acceptance letters started rolling in, I realized that each one came with a different financial aid package that could ultimately change my decision about that school."

Deciding on a college is not an easy decision. Simington was forced to really sit down and think about the costs of the various schools she had been accepted to.

"When it was finally time to sit down and pick the school I'd be attending next year I really started looking at the pricing," Simington said. "I had three schools I was most interested in, Saint Benedict's, Denison and Truman. Truman was automatically way less expensive so that naturally put it on the top of my parents' list. Ultimately, I decided on going to Truman because transportation was such a big part of my decision when thinking about cost of everything overall. I wanted to be able to come home as frequently as I wanted to see my sister, who is only 2. Although I'll be away at college, I want to be there for her growing up. The closest and fortunately cheapest school turned out to work best for me."

Liberman also had a fairly easy time deciding because her family put no financial restrictions on her decision. She says that she feels lucky not having to consider money in terms of her college choices.

"I did consider some stuff about the cost, especially since [my twin sister] Babe and I are going to college at the same time," Liberman said. "But my parents said that I shouldn't worry about it too much, so it wasn't a deciding factor on the schools I applied to. As time went on, though, I started to think a bit more about the cost because I got some really amazing scholarships to a couple of the schools I applied to, but my dad definitely stressed not basing any decision on scholarship money."

Sides on the other hand had to argue his way into applying to his top choice school.

"My parents wanted me to go to a less expensive school, but I had my heart set on American University, and they thought it wouldn't be worth the cost," Sides said. "We had few arguments over it, but in the end I won."

## APPLYING

Students applying for financial aid must file the appropriate school year's Fee Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> and all other school-required scholarship/financial aid applications by Feb. 1. Dickerson recommends consulting a

college counselor for advice regarding specific situations.

"I believe everyone who needs financial aid should apply," Dickerson said.

The Director of Student Financial Services at Washington University in St. Louis, Bill Witbrodt, agrees with Dickerson.

"Students who cannot afford the total cost of the university are encouraged to apply for need-based financial aid by completing either College Scholarship Service (CSS) PROFILE or Washington University's Family Financial Profile (FFP-EZ)," Witbrodt said. "Wash U. aggressively works with student and their families to make sure they have the financial resources to make enrollment possible and to graduate on time."

The majority of aid given to applicants nation-wide is based on their financial need, but at Wash. U., awarded based on merit, need, or a combination of the two. As an NCAA Division III school, Wash. U. does not award athletic scholarships unlike Division I schools.

"Financial aid at Wash U. is based on a student's 'need' derived from the total cost minus the family's expected contribution," Witbrodt said. "Often the 'need' amount is subsequently adjusted as the result of conversations with students and/or their parents about special family financial circumstances. About 60 percent of Wash. U.'s undergraduate student body receives some form of financial aid."

Sometimes applying for financial aid does not guarantee that a student will receive aid.

"I was considering applying for financial aid, but I talked to a guy at commerce bank who kind of specializes in college expenses and what not, and he said odds are I would get denied due to the fact I can pay for college," Sides said.

Often times, students do not receive the appropriate amount of financial aid that would allow them to attend a specific university or college. Not receiving enough aid sometimes means attending a particular college is prohibitive.

"[If a student does not receive enough aid], they can call the financial aid office and appeal, but they would need to be able to present new information in order to be most helpful," Blair said.

Witbrodt says that if a Wash. U. student feels that they do not have enough financial aid, they are encouraged to contact their personal financial aid counselor to make sure they have the financial resources they need to enroll or complete their Wash. U. education.

To avoid getting into this situation, Dickerson advises students to apply for scholarships and financial aid at each school and in their community. All seniors have access to a computer program called Naviance which allows them to search for scholarships available to them online.

"My strongest recommendations are to get organized, look for scholarship on the Naviance program available to all seniors, contact colleges of interest for special scholarship offer to the applicants, and make a note of all deadlines," Dickerson said.

## EXTRAS

The price for a top-notch education is on the rise every year, but this high price does not include various extra costs including additional clothing if a student is coming from another climate, supplies for decorating a student's dorm room, computer, summer on-campus pre-enrollment programs, and additional, specialized supplies.

"Hidden costs may be travel expenses, books, and miscellaneous expenses," Dickerson said.

College counselor Carolyn Blair adds that pizza on Friday nights may be a large cost that people don't consider as well. While pizza may raise the price of college considerably, travel expenses are the most common expenses not considered.

"I knew it was going to cost for flights, but I didn't realize how much it would cost to fly out to visit, and orientation, and then all the times I am going to come home for breaks," Alexander said.

Senior Zach Warner predicts that extra spending

money will be a big issue for him. Blair says that these extra costs can be the reason for a student to transfer to a less expensive institution.

"College almost seems like dealing with a bank, they nail you with charges left and right," Sides said. "And to top all off you need spending money. So I have to work all summer making near minimum wage to have a little cash for basic necessities. I know college is supposed to be one of the greatest times of your life, but you really have to fork out the dough, and chances are you'll be paying it off till you're fifty."

Sides knew that he would have to pay for part of his education himself, but was not expecting the enormous expense that he was forced shoulder.

"I knew I would have to pay for food and housing, but I didn't realize that it was going to be so expensive," Sides said. "Tuition was bad enough, but, oh man, I was not expecting to have to pay another 12 grand on top of it."

## IS IT TOO MUCH?

Even after saving, picking a school based on cost, and financial aid, the price tag is just too hefty. The price of schools even after all financial help can deter students from attending.

Simington was not deterred by the cost, but it did make her realize how important it is to consider the financial aspects of college planning.

"Prices for a few schools deterred me, like, George Washington University," Sides said. "The tuition was insanely high along with room and board. No thank you. But prices in general never deterred me, because from what time told, a college education is worth the cost."

CHS alumni Stephen Laux, a junior Pomona College in southern California, has incurred 15 to 20 thousand dollars in student loans over his college career thus far.

"I think about [the costs] a lot," Laux said. "I just realized that my school will defer interest as long as I'm studying somewhere. So that's good, but I basically chose my career [investment banker] as a result of the realization that I have to pay off my loans, and I want to do it as quick as possible."

Laux is not intimidated by his loans because he realizes that he has many options and will most likely be offered a fairly good job right out of college. If Laux studies elsewhere for a period of time, like at an American university abroad, he will not have to worry about paying off his loans until he is no longer attending school.

## AFFORDING COLLEGE

Without financial aid, many students would not be able to attend the school of their choice. Some would not be able to attend a school at all.

"Financial aid is a good way to get some help on universities and colleges that are starting to get very expensive and are just going to keep rising," Warner said."

Liberman agrees with Warner saying that financial aid is helpful in terms of families being able to afford college and kids getting good educations.

A college education is the new high school education. In years past, a high school education was all kids needed to get a good job in the work force, but this is not the case anymore. A college education is now the minimum requirement for most jobs.

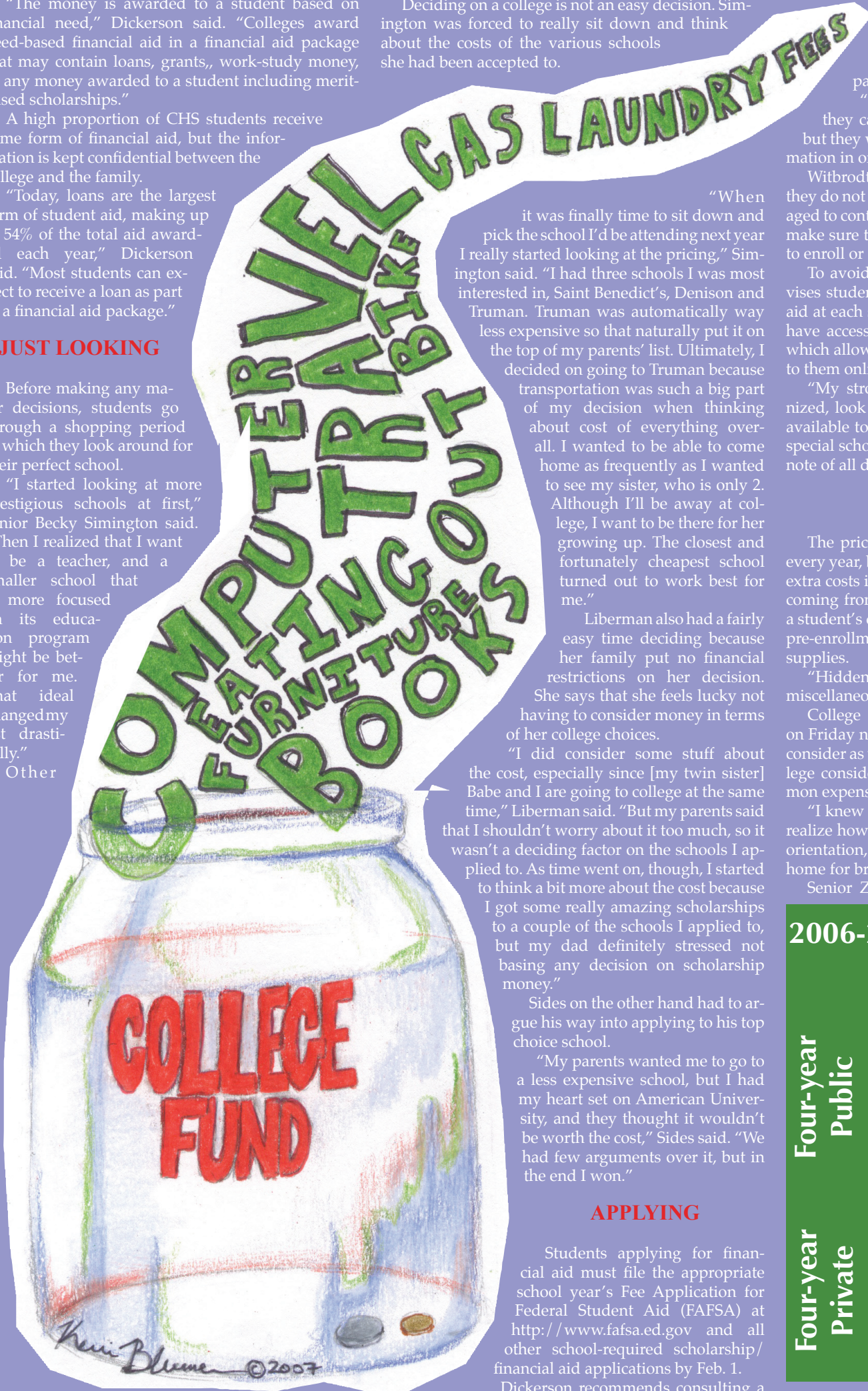
Dickerson says that over the span of their career, college graduates earn an average of one million dollars more than those with only a high school degree.

"A college education is so important these days, so since there is such a huge demand for it, it makes sense that the colleges are able to raise the prices and people are still willing to struggle to make the payments," Simington said. "I really think it's a pity though because not all areas are as well off as Clayton. There have got to be so many kids that really want to go to college and academically are successful enough for college to be an option, but financially, not able to make ends meet enough to attend." ❧

## 2006-2007 Increases in Tuition, Fees, Room, and Board

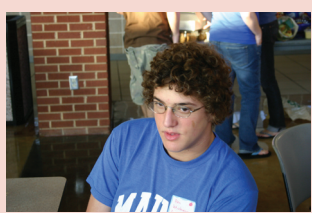
	Tuition and Fees	Room and Board	Total Charge	
Four-year Public	05-06	\$5,492	\$6,623	\$12,115
	06-07	\$5,836	\$6,960	\$12,796
Four-year Private	05-06	\$20,980	\$7,763	\$28,743
	06-07	\$22,218	\$8,149	\$30,367

Source: <http://www.collegeboard.com>



“I appreciate that I can come to my parents, no matter what trouble I’ve gotten myself into, and know that they won’t judge or be angry and they will just try to help me problem-solve my way out of it.”

-- Senior Becca Gutmann, page 19



## Senior reflects on four years of CHS sports

**Ben Weixlmann**  
Senior Editor

For my last column as a Clayton High School “Globe” staff member, I figured I would write about a compilation of events that have occurred during my career here.

As a freshman, Clayton football was in the center of a scandal regarding an illegal player. In what may very well have been the best Clayton High School football team ever, the team was forced to forfeit their undefeated season and was not allowed to play in the playoffs. Led by seniors Jon Williams, Michael Obratvits, and the player in question, Jairus Byrd, the Hounds dominated going 9-0 including a 38-7 thrashing of arch rival Ladue. The entire school was filled with sadness and anger at MSHAA’s decision to suspend Clayton football.

As a sophomore, however, the football team won the state championship that was supposed to be theirs the year before. With the motto “Truth 2005”, the Hounds barreled through the competition and brought CHS its first athletic state championship in nearly 45 years. I was fortunate enough to witness this moment of athletic greatness. This was an absolutely climatic occasion, as the game hung in the balance until the final second ticked away. The star of the then, Byrd, and star of now, Doug Williams, combined to make the tackle on what would have been the game-winning two point conversion. I can remember the atmosphere afterwards very vividly: our fans were full of elation and joy, while the Webb City fans were relegated to anguish and defeat. Clayton High School had finally been put on the map for something under than academics, and it felt great. Not only did the team win the state championship, but Byrd was named Player of the Year, and Coach Musick was awarded Coach of the Year for the state of Missouri. Along with these two, several players saw their names on All-State teams.

My sophomore year also saw senior Josh Goldstein claim the second of his two state championships, a feat that had never even been flirted with in Clayton history. Josh is now at Cornell playing in the number 4 singles slot.

As a junior, the Clayton boys’ basketball team won the district championship, a feat that had not been accomplished since 2000. Being part of that team made it extra special, feeling the worthwhile nature of our practices all year for that moment. Although we were eliminated by a buzzer-beater in the subsequent game, our season felt validated. In this moment, we felt the pain of Webb City: pain and anguish.

Also during my junior year Max Shapiro and Jon Pang followed in the successes of Goldstein with a second place finish in the state doubles championships. We tipped our hats to them and their great season, as they went undefeated in the regular season and represented CHS very well.

As a senior, CHS was once again fortunate enough to have a state champion: Keely Brooks. A diving phenomenon, Brooks had been placing in the top ten in the state throughout her career but had yet to get over the hill to claim the top spot on the platform. In a sport that is often misrepresented with much larger sports getting attention, Brooks was given her own day at CHS, something she will certainly cherish for the rest of her life.

For a sports fan, these are the type of events that make our high school lives fun and exciting. I wish all of you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

In the words of the wise Joe Gamlin, It’s an easy game. ☺

# Water polo season exceeds expectations

**Sophia Agapova**  
Senior Managing Editor

For many years in recent memory, water polo players at CHS have struggled to get the attention and recognition they deserve as well as to break through and take a place among the top teams in the area. This year’s team, however, with a record of 16-10, has marked a great improvement in CHS varsity water polo.

Coach Wally Lundt, who recently returned to coaching CHS water polo, has been impressed by the season.

“It’s been a fantastic season,” Lundt said. “The best since I left in the 80’s.”

This season’s team consists of seniors Jack Altman and Charlie Klein, juniors Paul Orland, Alex Philips, Kevin Johnson and Kerri Blumer, and sophomores Tom Maxim and Paden Dubois.

The players also recognize the great improvement of the water polo team.

Senior Jack Altman, whose senior year marks his fourth year on the team, has seen a great transformation from his previous seasons on the team.

“This season has been really good,” Altman said. “For my other three years on the team we have had poor records, winning no more than 5 games in any year.”

For junior Paul Orland, who was on the team for a third year, the team’s success has been a great feeling.

“It’s nice to be able to compete against other teams and try to win,” Orland said.

Altman attributes the great season to both the experience of many of the players and their teamwork.

“I think a lot of it is that we have a lot of experienced players who have been playing for three and four years,” Altman said. “We’ve also really bonded a lot of us are friends.”

According to Orland, Lundt’s coaching has also been crucial to the season’s success.

“He has a different perspective and offers insights that other coaches don’t have,” Orland said. “He is also strict as a coach which has been helpful for our improvement.”

The players this season have received recognition for their outstanding performance. Senior Jack Altman made the First All Conference Team and even set a scoring record.

“Jack set a new all time record for scoring with 120 goals, the largest number of goals scored by anyone in the league,” Lundt said.

Junior Alex Philips, who Lundt describes as an outstanding defensive player, made the Second All Conference team.

Junior Kevin Johnson, the team’s goalie, has also contributed greatly to the season’s success.

“He has really come along as a goalie and in his first year has done an outstanding job,”

Lundt said.

This season the teamwork and determination of the team has landed them in the district championship game of the Challenge Cup against Parkway North.

Before the game, the team was aware of the great challenge the game would present, but was optimistic.

“It’s going to be a tough game, but we have a chance to win,” Orland said.

The Challenge Cup was played on May 17 at Marquette High School.

“The game was back and forth,” Altman said. “We were up 6-4, then it was tied at 8-8 and they scored with a few seconds remaining.”

The final score was 8-10. Despite the team’s loss, this season’s performance has been very impressive. With only two seniors graduating, both Lundt and the players are optimistic about next season.

“I think we will be strong next year too,” Orland said. ☺

“**[Our Coach] has a different perspective and offers insights that other coaches don’t have. He’s is also a strict as a coach which has been helpful for our improvement.**

**Paul Orland**  
Junior



all photos by Blair Klostermeier

**Top:** Senior Jack Altman swims to assist the goalie, junior Kevin Johnson.. **Bottom Left:** Altman and junior Paul Orland assist one another in an attempt to score. **Bottom Right:** Zander Kanefield dribbles. The water polo team has seen a successful season with record of 16-10, better than any prior water polo season for the water Hounds.

# Varsity girls’ soccer scores successful season

**Evan Green**  
Staff Reporter

The Clayton High girls’ soccer team is having the season of their dreams.

The team has a record of 15 wins and 3 losses, to go along with their ranking of ninth in Missouri for small schools. The team has been led by star sophomore forward Olivia Hayes, who leads the area in goals, and seniors Alex Johnson and Rebecca Wall. Johnson, who holds the school’s record for assists in a career and in a season, has been a valuable captain. Wall has been a brick wall (no pun intended) in goal, and Hayes is always good for a goal or two a game. The team has had several impressive wins this season.

“Our best victory came over Rosati-Kain, but the team had the most fun beating Ladue,” varsity girls’ soccer coach Paul Hoelscher said.

Hayes completely agreed with Hoelscher about the 2-0 victory over Rosati.

“The best game for our team was definitely Rosati-Kain. Last year we had a really rough game against them, but this year we came out completely focused and moved the ball around really well,” Hayes said.

The team has done well and have mostly achieved the goals they set at the beginning of the season.

“We wanted to play hard for 80 minutes, play our system, and beat Ladue,” Hoelscher said.

The team has gathered several jaw-dropping individual and team statistics throughout the season.

For example, the team has not been shut out all season, while only allowing 14 goals all season in their 18 games. Senior goalie Rebecca Wall has nine shutouts, while Johnson has 17 assists and 35 points. Hayes has 27 goals and 62 points, including nine game-winning goals. Junior Sonya Gierada has contributed 15 goals and 39 points, to go along with four game-winning goals. While the four players’ stats jump off the page, the team’s success has been a total team effort.

The team is having an outstanding season, but they still have room to improve.

“We have to come out every game focused and ready to play, and if we get down a goal come right back and take it to the other team. We constantly talk about ending a game feeling like we left everything on the field. We just need to keep up that attitude in every game we play,” Hayes said.

Hoelscher also believes that the team needs to develop several aspects of their style of play.

“We need to be more physical our third of the field, and we need to be more nasty in the box,” Hoelscher added.

Even as the team continues its success, they have set new expectations for themselves.

“We just want to continue to be as competitive as we can, and maintain our hard play, as we as to keep playing our style of the game correctly,” Hoelscher said.

Before this story went to press, the team lost 2-1 in overtime to John Burroughs. Though their season has ended, this remains the best season in memory. ☺



Charlie Matthews/CLAMO

**Senior Alex Johnson** (left) fends off opposition during a varsity girls’ soccer game. The team’s record of 15-3 has led it to be ranked ninth in Missouri for small schools. Sophomore Olivia Hayes, junior Sonya Gierada and seniors Johnson and Rebecca Wall have emerged as leaders of the team.

“**We have come out to every game focused and ready to play...we constantly talk about ending a game feeling like we left everything on the field.**

**Olivia Hayes**  
Sophomore

## Student Perspective

## Chasing Aaron: controversial chase for baseball immortality

Michael Root  
Section Editor

April 8, 1974. The unforgettable picture of Henry "Hank" Aaron blasting his 715 home run off Dodgers pitcher Al Downing and trotting the bases, alongside two fans who ran onto the field, will forever be a great moment in sports to replay over and over again. This home run marked Aaron's amazing feat of breaking the great Babe Ruth's record for most career home runs. Aaron eventually went on to hit a total of 755 career home runs, which currently stands as the all-time Major League Baseball record. His record, however, is being chased by the San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds, who currently has 744 home runs.

Both Bonds and Aaron do have something in common with their chases for the record, which is that both chases are or were controversial. Aaron was facing prejudice and discrimination based on his race, having to overcome constant death threats in order to play the game and break the record.

Bonds, on the other hand, is solely responsible for his controversy over the use of steroids, which has been a topic of discussion in the MLB for the past few years, even reaching intervention by the federal government.

When analyzing Bonds' career batting statistics, one finds that prior to the 2000 season, Bonds only hit over 43 home runs in a single season once in his career, but during the 2000 season and the next consecutive five seasons, Bonds hit over 45 home runs, with his highest total of 73 coming in the 2001 season, which broke Mark McGwire's single-season home run record. What

brought on the sudden power surge late in Bonds' career when most players slow down as they get older? Well, that seems to be the question as many look towards steroids as the answer, but so far no charges have been brought against Bonds beyond speculation.

Bonds has also contributed to polarizing some baseball fans between pro- and anti-Bonds, even in his home town of San Francisco. Fans continue to boo, wave creative signs, and even throw syringes on the field at Bonds during games throughout the country in protest of his rumored off-field activities. Even old teammates of Bonds have openly discussed the steroids issue, going as far as linking him directly with steroid usage.

Personally, there is no question in my mind that Bonds has used, and possibly still uses, steroids. Beyond the numbers, the mere images of Bonds as he transformed from the scrawny outfielder on the Pittsburgh Pirates to the massive Giants power-hitter he is today with his gigantic upper body makes him stand out even more and overwhelmingly point towards steroids for the drastic results.

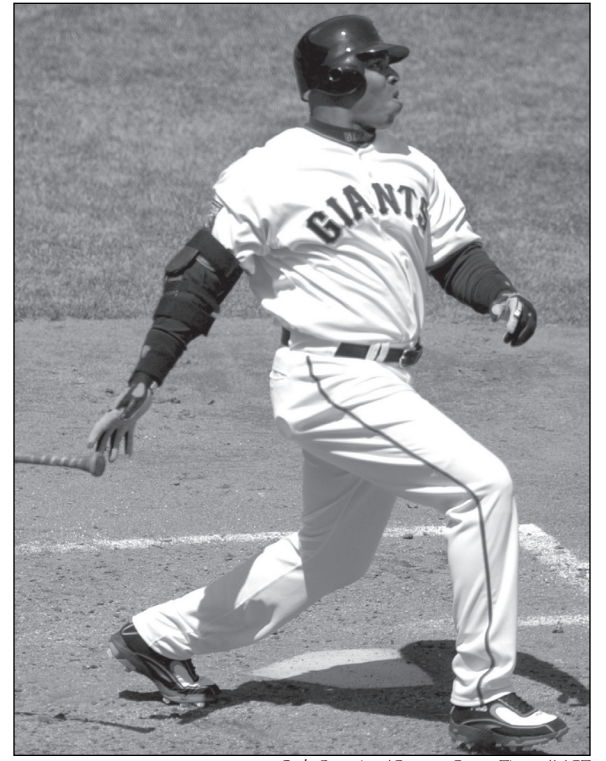
I also think it's funny how Bonds was 'injured' last season during most of the trials and investigations into the steroids issue. Other players have also had long term injuries once accused of steroid use like the New York Yankees' designated hitter Jason Giambi who apparently had a parasite, lost a considerable amount of muscle and weight, and went into an extremely long hitting slump upon return, all after his name appeared during the accusations of players. Bonds is just another example of a player trying to sneak under the radar for as long as possible, but unfortunately for him, chasing

once of the greatest records of all time brings its fair share of media attention and publicity that may eventually come back to haunt Bonds on the steroids issue.

So, as Bonds closes in on Aaron's record, the baseball world is shuddering at the possible repercussions and impact it may have on the game. If Bonds, now or in the future, tests positive for steroids or another performance enhancing drug prohibited from baseball, then the record he will most likely break will forever be tainted. The current Commissioner of Baseball, Bud Selig, also faces a tough decision, which is whether or not he will attend the game Bonds breaks the record and how to acknowledge the achievement in baseball. Other prominent figures in baseball, including Hall of Fame players and current players, also vary with their personal opinions on Bonds and his chase for Aaron's record, but no one can tell for sure until he actually breaks the record.

Chances are overwhelmingly good for Bonds that he will break the record, only needing 11 to tie and 12 to pass Aaron, but the legacy of Bonds has yet to be determined, with the possibility that the world, beyond Bonds himself, may never know for sure what he did or did not use to enhance his performance and tally the gaudy numbers we see before us as he chases one of the most remarkable records in the history of sports, with the possibility of bringing shame not only to himself, but to baseball forever.

If Bonds succeeds, and I do believe he will break the record this summer, barring any injuries, I think that the record books should have an asterisk by Bonds' name to indicate the ongoing investigation into his possible steroid use. If at some point in the future tests



Bob Pepping/Contra Costa Times/MCT

San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds watches his fourth inning solo home run clear the wall during their game against the Arizona Diamondbacks on Sunday, April 22, 2007. prove that he did in fact use steroids, then his name should be removed from the record books forever. ☹

## Youth shines through as tennis Hounds excel

Ben Weixlmann  
Section Editor

For years, Clayton High has had one of the premier tennis programs in the state. After the success of last year's squad, completing the regular season undefeated, this year's team had much lower expectations.

"We lost five out of our top six player from last year's team," senior Bohan Li said. "I played number two singles this year because most of our talent was gone. This was a rebuilding year for our program."

Junior number three singles player Dakin Sloss echoed Li's sentiment.

"We had to fix a lot of parts," Sloss said. "We did much better this season than expected. We beat Priory and Ladue, which are always good competition for us. This Saturday we play Burroughs to see if we move on to sectional play."

As the tennis Hounds move towards the state tournament, the number one doubles team of freshman Orion Wilkinson and Li have already qualified by winning districts.

"At the beginning of the season when I laid out my goals for myself and the team, I wanted to get to state as a team and to state in doubles," Li said. "I've done one of those and this Saturday I want to accomplish both tasks on the list."

"Coming into this season I wanted to improve my game," Sloss said. "I think I could have gone further in the district competition, but I really hope our team

gets to state, that would far exceed expectations for this year."

Tennis, while a team game, emphasizes the individual game.

"Even though we are competing as a team, in your singles match it is all about you versus him," Li said. "It's nice to cheer on your teammates in their matches, but we all have to do our own part."

With most of the leaders from last year's team gone, this year's Hounds had to turn to their seniors.

"Bohan, Zander [Kanefield], and Will [Eckley] were the leaders for our team this year," Sloss said. "When we lost so many integral players it was our seniors who had to step up, and they've done that very well this year."

One of the most impressive parts of the season was having a freshman step up and play number one singles.

"We lost Joey Nicolazzi last year, who went on to play Division I tennis," Li said. "There was a big hole at the top of our team and Orion has done a really respectable job of helping fill in for that gap."

Wilkinson and Li have filled the shoes of Max Shapiro and Jon Pang quite nicely on the doubles side, as they hope to contend for a state crown this year.

"I think we have a decent chance to win doubles this year," Li said. "Orion and I work well together, but there are a lot of good teams in it this year."

All of CHS wishes the Hounds best of luck on their trek to the state championships. ☹



Teddy Monson

Senior Bohan Li practices his backhand to prepare for the upcoming state tournament after winning district doubles with teammate freshman Orion Wilkinson.

## Athletes of the Month

## Sam Ryan follows in brothers' footsteps into the state tournament

Ben Weixlmann  
Section Editor

It is often difficult to follow in a sibling's success. Sophomore golfer Sam Ryan, however, has picked up right where his brother left off just two years ago: advancing to the state tournament.

"When I was a little kid, my dad and brother used to go golfing a lot," Ryan said. "I thought it was really fun and it looked like something I could like later on in life."

Not even Ryan would have seen himself at state this year.

"I played JV last year as a freshman," Ryan said. "I worked so much this summer to get good enough to play at the varsity level. I kept putting in hours on the course and I practiced a lot."

After finishing fifth on the team in scoring average during the regular season with a 45.4 nine-hole total, Ryan had the opportunity to play at Quail Creek in the district competition.

"I had played the course before, but I was still nervous because it was my first district competition," Ryan said. "Throughout the year I had been playing some really nice golf, so I had the hope that I could perform well and maybe get to state."

Indeed he did. Ryan shot an 18 hole total of 81, placing him in the top ten. He was then given the opportunity to play at the state competition.

"It was by far the best I have

played all season," Ryan said. "Right now, I haven't set any goals for state, I just want to go down and represent our school and my team."

The Hounds have played very well in dual matches this year, with wins over Burroughs, St. Dominics, DuBourg, Parkway North and Affton.

"We have a very young team this year," Ryan said. "We have two experienced seniors and a couple juniors, but otherwise we are packed with freshmen and sophomores."

Personally, Ryan believes that the youth will serve the team well in just a matter of years.

"When I am a senior I hope that we have a team that will contend for the district title with MICDS," Ryan said. "I believe that we have built a solid core of young talent that could put Clayton on the map."

The next step for Ryan and the Hounds is finishing their season strong with tough matches such as Whitfield on the schedule, as well as a difficult tournament.

"The two seniors, Kevin Smith and Jacob Fish, have helped us a lot in terms of leadership," Ryan said. "Next year it will be our turn to develop the younger players and play well."

As for if the younger Ryan will ever be as talented as the older is remained to be seen. However, one thing is sure: if Ryan plays up to his potential he should be a force to be reckoned with in Saint Louis for the next two seasons. ☹



Staff Photo



Staff Photo

## Tashara Earl's success on the new track propels her into districts

Ben Weixlmann  
Section Editor

New Track. New Team. New Person. That is how senior sprinter Tashara Earl looks at it. Earl got interested in track several years ago when her sister ran in high school. Both, however, were influenced by her mother years before.

"I got interested in doing the hurdles because my sister ran them in high school," Earl said. "She placed second in the state so I knew she could help me out on technique."

Earl has gone through three years of everyday grueling practices with coach Barry Ford that have shaped her into what she is this year.

"It is definitely a lot different this year," Earl said. "He doesn't work us nearly as hard as he did the other years because we have so many freshmen."

Along with her hurdle specialty, Earl runs in sprint relays such as the 400- and 800-meter relays, along with the duties of trying to help the team win.

Along with being one of the leaders on the team, Earl has some of the fast times in her respective events on the team.

"My goal coming into the season was just to run as hard as I could and train hard to be the best I could be," Earl said. "That includes trying to win races, but I mostly was going for good times. Being one of the oldest people on the team, I try

the best I can to give tips to people and just help them out on and off the track."

On May 12, Earl and her Greyhound teammates will see how they stack up against the rest of the district with those hopes of advancing to sectional competition. For many freshmen, it will be a harrowing experience, but for Earl, she has been there and done that before and has expectations to succeed.

"I hope I can run well enough to at least advance to sectionals, and then set my sights on the state meet," Earl said. "But this will be a very important meet for me, because it could be my last."

Earl feels sorry for her counterparts who will still be running for CHS next year. The intense work-outs that she had been used to in the past couple of years will be seen again.

"Next year is going to be really difficult for the whole team," Earl said. "It will only be the second year on the new track but I know Coach Ford is not going to play around next year at all."

She believes that the entire team has put a ton of effort into this year and although it has been difficult getting used to the new track, she thinks they have a bright future. As track has declined in participation in recent years, Earl hopes the young runners can do the job.

"With all of the young talent we have, having so many varsity runners with experience four years from now, we're going to be a really good team," Earl said. ☹



Senior John Buse defends an MICDS player. The Hounds lost 11-3, but they played many great games this year.

CLAMO Photo

## Boys' lacrosse finishes up a successful season

Phillip Levine  
Section Editor

The lacrosse season is over and the Clayton team has been able to accomplish many of their goals this year. Beating many top teams or having close games against nationally ranked teams, the lacrosse team has shown what they are truly made of.

The season started off well but as the season continued, many players got injured which contributed to a few losses toward the end of the season.

"We started off strong and played well with some elite teams in the first half of the season," senior captain Bob Maylack said. "By the end of the season there were some key injuries that really hampered us and the second half of the season ended up being a big let down."

Throughout the season, the team played some top-notch opponents who they were truly able to compete with.

"One of our biggest wins this year was against Columbia Hickman," junior Max Arpadi said. "They were ranked fifth in the state last year but we were able to mass a huge comeback in the fourth quarter."

The Hounds also won against teams such as Webster and Columbia Rockbridge. Although the team lost to MICDS, a top ranked team in the nation, they actually could compete and were not totally outplayed.

The coaching staff this year has contributed greatly to the success of this team bring back many faces from past years.

"We have a great coaching staff," senior John Buse said. "Lots of our coaches returned from last season and we also have lots of young coaches including a two-time all American and a current player at Lindenwood."

The lacrosse players all work together on the field and have to put their effort together, like a family, to

succeed.

"The lacrosse team is a definitely a strong family," Buse said. "During the season, everyone played for the guy next to him and not necessary for himself. We were a family and we definitely played like it."

At the end of the season, it is often tough for players to realize that their high school career of lacrosse is over. However, some players are able to continue to play in college. Bob Maylack is among the limited group of players who has the opportunity to play college lacrosse.

"I will be playing at the University of Miami-Ohio next year," Maylack said. "It was very sad that we had to play our last game as a team but we will always stay a family."

The lacrosse team finished off the year above 500 with eight wins and seven losses.

With a young team and an able and trained coaching staff, the team has a huge potential for years to come. ☺

# CHS alum returns to soccer program

Anya Veramakris  
Section Editor

Paul Hoelscher and Eric Gruenfelder have coached CHS varsity girls' soccer for the past six years. However, this year one of CHS's very own was added to the coaching staff.

CHS alum Florencia Luchini got the new coaching position.

"I suppose my technical job title is 'conditioning coach,' or even 'assistant coach,'" Luchini said. "Hoelscher brought me in as an addition to the staff to serve as a coach with emphasis on training and running because of my running background. I have run six marathons, so he thought this would be a good dynamic to add to the program."

Luchini graduated from CHS in 2003, playing center mid on the soccer team for four years and making captain her senior year.

"I remember having a great time during my soccer seasons at Clayton," Luchini said. "I loved the sport, the competition, the practices, everything. The great thing about team sports, too, is that you are with the same people everyday and it really enables you to grow close bonds with them...I loved those interactions."

While Florencia enjoyed being a part of the soccer atmosphere, she and other teammates saw some necessity for change within the program. The attitude of some of the players and the overall team vibe truly deteriorated her experience on the team.

"The only time I recall it not being as fun was my junior year on varsity," Luchini said. "The team chemistry definitely lacked due to issues with some senior girls. They were not inclusive and they were very cliquy, and it caused a lot of discrepancies for our team. But that's why my senior year was so great, because we totally did everything we could to rid the team of any of that nonsense. We treated juniors, sophomores, and freshmen that were on varsity with the same respect and kindness we would



Teddy Monson

Assistant Coach Flo Luchini sits on the sideline with varsity soccer players in a game. Luchini is specifically helps the girls with conditioning.

treat the other seniors with."

Luchini was brought into the program not only for her athletic ability, but also to continue just what she started her senior year, strengthening the team atmosphere and building team unity.

"My last year on the varsity team at Clayton was, as Hoelscher says, that start to the great relationship the team has with each other and with the coaches now," Luchini said. "He wanted to bring me in as a morale booster, a support for the girls, and I suppose just adding a fresh face."

Since spending time with girls in the soccer program, Luchini has already noticed a big change in team dynamic.

"Overall I notice a huge increase in skill level and intensity," Luchini said. "It's always awesome to see Clayton with winning records. I hope that the girls on the lower levels continue to work hard and put forth the best effort so that as the years progress, the teams can get better and better. Additionally, working on that whole idea of team unity is key to the success of the program. This is something we lacked a bit when I was at CHS, and I'm glad to see this is starting

to change."

Although Florencia was working on graduating this spring with majors in marketing, international business, and French from Washington University, she still thought it was important to find time to come back and become involved with the girls' soccer program one more time.

"I wanted to come back because, in all honesty, I really missed soccer," Luchini said. "I wanted to get involved again and I definitely wanted to help out as best as I could. My experience as a coach now has been so much fun and I am so glad that I had time to do it. I only hope to have positively helped or affected the players in one way or another, because that was certainly my goal before this all started. Whether that be making a player smile, laugh, be a better runner, or harder worker, whatever it is, I hope to have made some sort of an impact."

From Florencia Luchini's ambitious vision of a more unified soccer team her senior year in 2003, to her coaching in 2007, Luchini has made an undeniable impact on the girls' soccer program for years to come. ☺

## The Baseball Booster Club salutes the graduating seniors of the 2007 Varsity Baseball Team



B.J. Powell, Zach Miller, Dan Stamborski, Jonah Murov, Matt Horn, Alex Glaser, James Sutherlin, Charlie Matthews, Matt Pearson, Matt Becker (Missing Dan Jackoway)

# CONGRATULATIONS, GREYHOUNDS!

# Perks are plentiful for Google workers

**Gila Hoffman**  
Senior Managing Editor

Next time you go to the Google search engine to search for a new digital camera and you see the 270 million results that are found in 0.12 seconds, think about the 10,000 Google employees getting massages and eating roasted black bass with parsley pesto.

Google was recently named the number one company to work for by Fortune Magazine. So what is it exactly that makes the employees so eager to go to work everyday?

The answers are plentiful: free gourmet food, a hair salon, volleyball courts, oil changes for their cars, exercise classes; the list never ends. The only drawback is the 'Google 15' that many gain when they first join the company because of the endless amount of meals and snacks offered to employees.

According to Fortune Magazine, employees receive a \$5,000 subsidy for buying a hybrid car and a \$2,000 bonus for referring a new employee. Free flu shots, an on site car wash, the all expenses paid annual ski trip and unlimited sick days are all part of the wonderful benefits that Google has to offer for its employees.

New moms and dads are given up to \$500 for take-out food during the first four weeks that they are home with the new baby. Going back to work at Google after having a baby is simple with the Google Child Care Center. At the Mountain View headquarters, there is on site dry cleaning plus a coin-free laundry room.

The wonderful things for Google employees correlate to Google's successes. Two years ago Google stock was worth \$85, but now it is worth over \$483. In 2006 Google surpassed \$10 billion in sales.

Many of the interesting features of Google are created from the 20 percent time that engineers are allowed to spend on their own projects to help the company. Google News, Gmail and Google Finance are many of the aspects of Google that came from the 20 percent time.

"Look for us to continue exploring novel ideas in benefits, compensation, and culture," according to the Google Jobs web site. "Our goal is to build a company characterized not only by success and innovation, but also by the highest levels of integrity and fairness in our dealings with one another."

According to Google, from the list of the top 10 reasons to work at Google, number seven is a "Good company everywhere you look. Googlers range from

former neurosurgeons, CEOs, and U.S. puzzle champions to alligator wrestlers and former-Marines."

Some Googlers even came from Clayton. Deborah Singer, CHS class of '03, will be working for Google next year. Singer, who graduates from the University of Pennsylvania this spring, majored in history, with a concentration in intellectual history.

"Google did on-campus recruiting at Penn," Singer said. "They sent representatives to do interview and I gave them my resume and after they reviewed it they called me back for an interview. I heard back from them within a couple of days and they said they wanted to do a second round of interviewing in Mountain View and so they flew me out there and I did another series of interview, four or five, and then I heard back in around two weeks."

Singer will be working in the Global Communications and Public Affairs department, which is the smallest department at Google and does all of the PR for Google.

Singer was originally assigned to work at the Mountain View, California office, but recently Google opened up an office for Singer's department in New York.

"I'm not really sure about what I will be doing," Singer said. "The department is changing so quickly and I think they are just trying to find their niche within the company. I won't know more details about my job until I get there. The New York office handles more of the media arm of the communications department."

Even though Singer will not be working at the legendary Mountain View office, the New York Google hub has a lot of the features as the Mountain View one.

"In New York, Google actually occupies one of the largest buildings in Manhattan; it's part of the old port authority building and it takes up

a whole city block," Singer said. "It has the same sort of playground feel that you would have in Mountain View. They had free food for everyone and they say that every 'Googler' should have food within 150 feet of them. There are toys everywhere. When I was interviewing in Mountain View I saw engineers playing in the Lego room, building models of the Chrysler Building. It has a lot of the same stuff, but definitely more of a New York edge to it. In Mountain View the people are very informal and they wear jeans and flip flops to work, but in New York they are a lot more formal."

Jessica Marquardt, also from the class of '03, will be working for Google next year, as well. Marquardt, who

**“We hire great people and encourage them to make their dreams a reality. We believe in hard work, a fun atmosphere, and the sort of creativity that only comes about when talented people from diverse backgrounds.”**

Google Jobs  
website



Wenny Dong

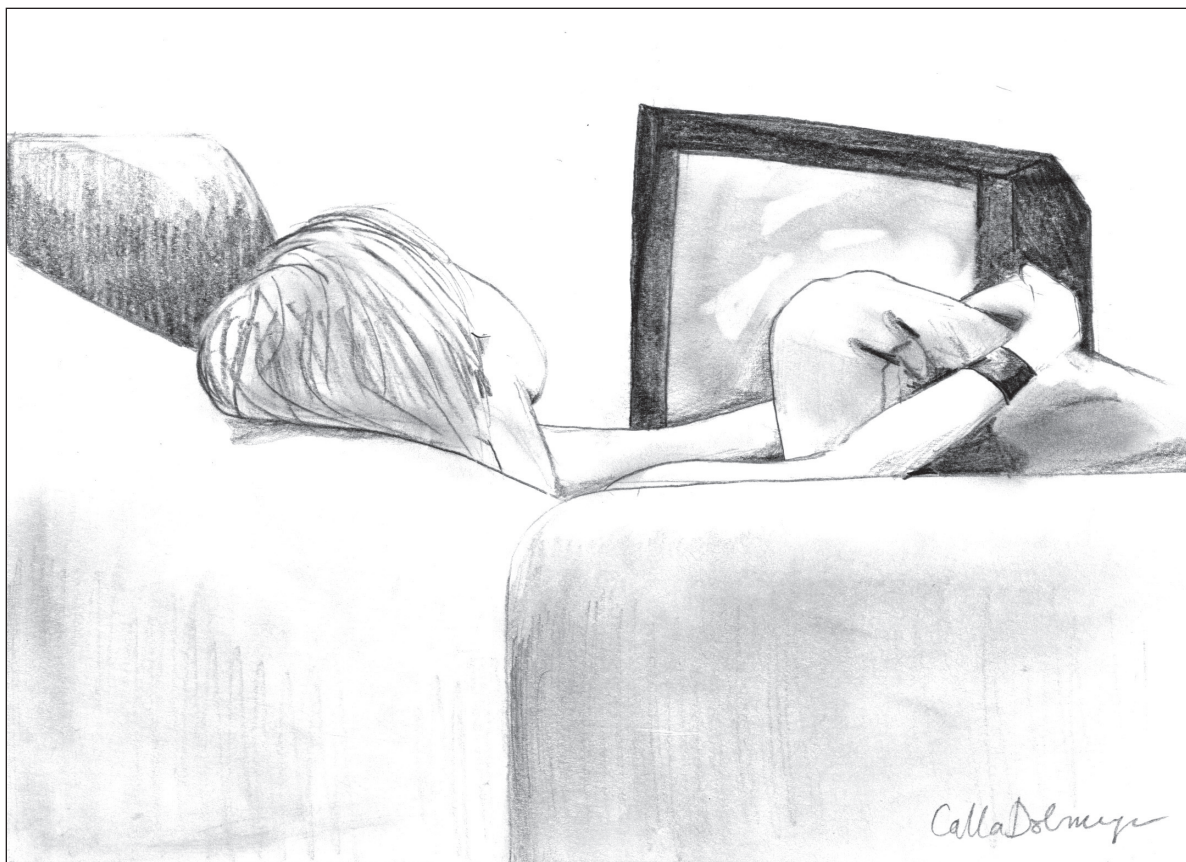
is graduating from Brown this year, is majoring in economics. She sent her resume to Google after she saw on Brown's career web site that they were hiring.

"A lot of my friends in the computer science department were applying and I sort of jokingly said, 'Well I can apply too!' even though I've never taken a computer science course," Marquardt said. "Oddly enough, I'm the only one of my friends that actually chose to work at Google after all. Most of my CS friends will be working at similar companies in the Bay Area, so I'm glad we'll all be near by each other."

Marquardt will be a compensation analyst in the Human Resources department in Mountain View.

Marquardt is also very excited about the various benefits that Googlers enjoy.

"As far as benefits, I hear there are some pretty exciting ones," Marquardt said. "I plan on living in the city and so I look forward to taking the Google shuttle to work. The shuttle means I don't need to have a car and I can do work on the bus's wireless internet connection while I commute. Also, I plan on joining the swing dancing team." Both Singer and Marquardt are unsure of their plans for the future.



Calla Dobbmeyer

## Television shows are fun pastimes for CHS students, but can be distracting

**Katharine Greenberg**  
Staff Reporter

Most students say that on average they watch about 10 hours a week, depending on their workload.

But what is the pull that makes those students be sure that every week at a certain time they are sitting in front of their TV sets?

"I'm definitely addicted to 'Lost'" freshman Jennifer Golden said. "It is so suspenseful and I always want to know what is going to happen next."

When talking to numerous Clayton students "Lost" was a show that was mentioned as a favorite multiple times. Other favorite shows included Scrubs, Entourage, American Idol, America's Next Top Model, Grey's Anatomy and Cardinal baseball games.

"I have to watch 'American Idol' every week because it's really inspiring watching an ordinary per-

son achieve their biggest dream." When people can identify and have something in common with the characters in the show they are watching, they become increasingly more involved in the character's journey.

"I love watching the contestants grow and change as the show goes on."

For some people TV is a huge distraction, but for some people it can be a motivation. Many popular shows start later in the evening and some kids use watching TV as a reward for when they are finished with their schoolwork.

Sophomore Taylor Obata, another "Lost" fan, considers it a distraction.

"Even if my homework isn't finished, I will drop what I'm doing and watch 'Lost,'" Obata said. "I don't care if it distracts me from my homework because I usually do my homework at school anyway."

Even teachers have their TV ad-

dictions. Yearbook and Broadcast teacher Christine Strahan doesn't like to miss either "The Bachelor" or "Grey's Anatomy."

"I usually have Monday nights free to watch 'The Bachelor,' so I seldom miss it," Strahan said. "I'll even go on the message boards to check it out—I'm that much of a dork."

Strahan admits that she doesn't always catch "Grey's Anatomy" during its normal time slot, but she tries to catch up with it online before someone else tells her what happened in the episode.

"I watch 'America's Next Top Model' and 'Law and Order,'" Sophomore Kate Wheelock said. "When I watch them, it's a distraction, but I don't watch it every night."

Television shows have been an important pastime for people since it has been invented and it not only can be a fun hobby but also a motivation. ☺

## Hard work needed for CHS soloists

**Mary Blackwell**  
Staff Reporter

Clayton High school students have won the chance to solo in prestigious Alton and Clayton Orchestras two years in a row now. This year cellist Melanie Goldstein, a junior at CHS, soloed with the Clayton Symphony and the year before that, with the Alton Symphony. Junior and cellist John McAfee achieved the reverse, he soloed with Alton this year and the Clayton Symphony last year.

"When you play with an orchestra like that, it's for me at least, very high pressure," Goldstein said. "So you yourself have to make sure that you stay really steady and clear and make sure you're in tune with the orchestra."

To get to the level of these musicians takes a lot of hard work and dedication. Both are members of the CHS symphonic orchestra, the

St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra, and the preparatory program at the Webster University Music School.

McAfee practices daily somewhere between three to five hours and has been playing since fifth grade. Goldstein reports that it varies from day to day, but she aims for at least four hours a day. She started at an early age when those around her noticed her musical gift.

"People came to us and said you have a really musical child," Maxine Goldstein, Melanie's mother, said. "We don't play any music or read music or anything so music didn't mean anything to us." "But people came to us and said your child's really musical, you need to go over to the community music school and ask them what to do."

Many great musicians start at a very early age. Webster Community Music School starts students

out with cardboard violins as early as age four. But, in contrast, some great musicians started later in life.

"Dr. Suzuki began at 18 years old and Itzhak Perlman began at eight," Orchestra Teacher Julie Hoffman said. "It all depends on your interest in moving forward to the next level."

Both Goldstein and McAfee see music in their future in college.

"I hope to study music at a university or conservatory," McAfee said. "Then hopefully I will get a position performing in an orchestra or perhaps teaching."

Clearly, musical ability impacts many different aspects of life.

"Musicians are an interesting people," Hoffman said. "Usually, you will find that students who are dedicated to music want to do well in many things. They have a level of expectation and commitment that is high and are very disciplined." ☺

## Looking ahead to college?

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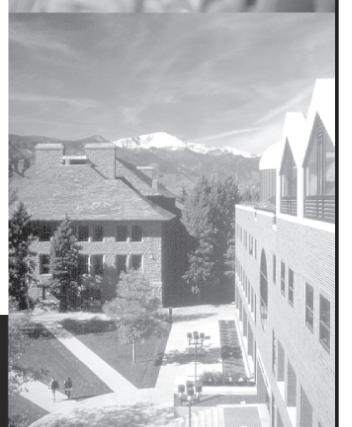
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# Math teacher departs for adventure

Math teacher Anne Etling will soon be leaving CHS in order to teach in Milan; however, she plans to return for the 2009-2010 school year.

**Nick Andriole**  
Staff Reporter

A familiar face of the math department at CHS will be making a departure at the end of this year.

CHS math teacher Anne Etling will be taking a two-year leave of absence, as she will be teaching math in Italy.

Etling currently teaches Honors Geometry and Integrated II classes.

She also serves as the STUGO sponsor, cross country coach, women's diving coach and coordinates other CHS events such as the annual Arts Fair and dances throughout the year.

"I will be teaching at the American School of Milan, in Milan, Italy," Etling said. "I decided about a year ago that I wanted to teach internationally for a few reasons. I wanted to challenge myself and learn new things."

As a native St. Louisan, Etling would like to move outside her comfort zone by living in a different place and learning about other cultures.

Etling enjoyed recent travels to Europe as well as Tanzania for volunteer work two summers ago.

She stresses that she has the intention of returning to CHS in the 2009-2010 school year.

While Etling feels that her time overseas will be beneficial, she will miss many of her co-workers and the environment CHS provides.

"I will miss the people that I work with," Etling said. "I work with some great people in the math department, I've learned a lot from them and I have a lot of fun with them."

Etling is also sad to be leaving her students.

"The second thing I'll miss is the students and what the students bring to the school. I think that the school offers a lot of freedom to the students and that's what makes the experience unique."



Abbie Minton

**CHS math teacher** Anne Etling teaches Integrated Math II to students. Back row (left to right): Hayley Rosenblum, Bri Sachar, J.B. and Alex Hill. Front row (left to right): Hannah Klein and Rebekkah Johnson.

Although Etling's co-workers wish her well, she will surely be missed.

"I am very happy that Ms. Etling has the chance to

teach abroad, but I'm very sad that she will not be here next year and I wish her all the best," math department secretary Michelle Hudson said.

Math department chair and math teacher Curtis James agrees.

"I will miss her energy and the zest she brings to her classroom and how she has become an integral part of the school community," James said. "She is very professional, she works very hard, she is dedicated to her students and she's a great person to know."

Etling's students certainly agree with the staff. In addition, they are pleased that she has been presented with the option of broadening her horizons by teaching in Italy.

"I think it's a good opportunity for her and she's a great teacher," sophomore Kylyn Walker said. "Getting to go somewhere else to teach other students the stuff she teaches us will be great for her."

Walker has enjoyed learning from Etling. "I like that she explains and really breaks down math to me in a different way than all my other teachers have," Walker. "She's a really nice person, so I'll miss her personality."

Sophomore Morgan Johnson agrees with Walker. "I think that it's a really cool opportunity because she's a really cool teacher," Johnson said. "I'll also miss her because she's my favorite teacher."

School administrators are seeking a qualified applicant to fill Etling's spot.

"We are currently in the process of a search for her replacement," CHS Assistant Principal Dan Gutchewsky said. "We are looking for a candidate who is well-versed in mathematics content and can relate well to students. The candidate needs to be an excellent communicator and should be able to connect with a variety of students."

Overall Etling, her colleagues and students agree the trip will be beneficial for her.

"I'm excited to learn a new language, I'm excited to learn about a different culture, I'm excited to learn from students who are from all over the world, and I'm excited to learn a new curriculum," Etling said. ☺

## German trip offers chance to learn language, culture

**Ken Zheng**  
Staff Reporter

Imagine going to another country, over a thousand miles away, to stay with a foreign family and live their life, eat their food and learn their language and culture.

CHS students in the German exchange program hosted students from Germany and 25 of those hosts plan to go to Germany during summer break.

The exchange program will last for a total of four weeks, one to travel, and the three remaining to experience German life with their host families.

The program has existed since 1993, when CHS was paired with a similar school in Tauberbischofsheim, Germany. Back July 7, they will be visiting places such as Bamberg, Munich, Strasbourg (France), Rothenburg and Tauberbischofsheim. They will be staying with their host families and going to school in Tauberbischofsheim while there.

German teacher Glenn Cody, who is also the district coordinator of World Languages, will be going with the American students on their part of the trip.

"I think the main purpose of the exchange is to increase international understanding," Cody said, "by allowing student from Germany to understand American lifestyle and for us to learn their lifestyle, as well for English students to understand German. That's the biggest thing: for both sides to increase their language skills. It is so much more than a tour of one city after another. It's actually living with the family and experiencing the lifestyle."

Cody will be retiring at the end of the school year, but he said he hopes Frau Petermann will continue the program.

"I know there are interests on both sides to continue it," Cody said. "It's amazing to see the students using their German to order food, talk with friends, to go shopping or whatever they need to use it for and to see the shock in their eyes as they see a wonderful art museum or just the beauty of the countryside."

Cody is glad that the district allows students to do this exchange.

"It's a very valuable experience," Cody said. "I guess we have about 150 students that have gone over to Germany in total by now. It's the high point of what I do as a teacher because I can actually see students using what I have taught them."

Both sides enjoyed the German students' stay at St. Louis and other parts of America.

Sophomore Eva Kaiser from Tauberbischofsheim stayed with freshman Si Wen.

"It was very much fun to be in America," Kaiser said. "It was so interesting to get to know a very different country. Si is very nice and I really liked him. The program gives you the chance to get to know a very interesting country."

Kaiser said she really liked Si and the chances the program offered.

"I would like to take it again, because it was lots of fun," Kaiser said. "I would recommend it to others. It's very interesting. I miss my exchange buddy, my exchange family and America!"

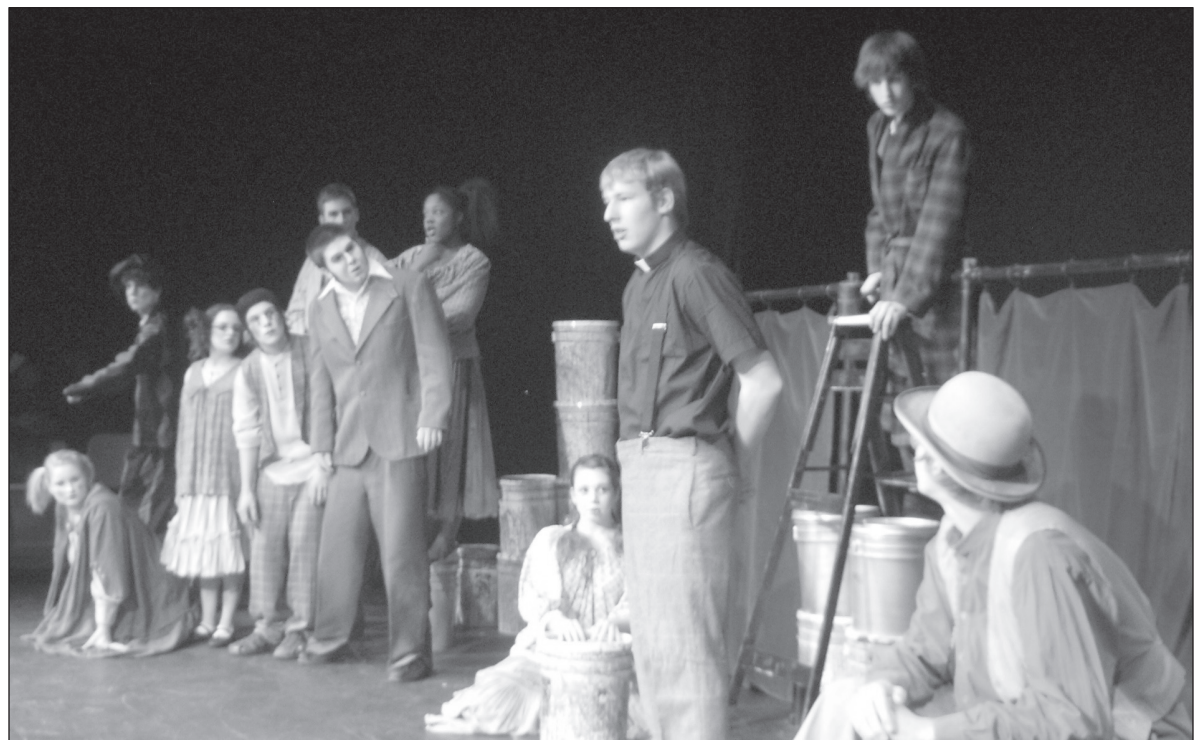
Freshman Si Wen hosted Kaiser and greatly enjoyed her stay in America partly because she greatly helped him with all his German homework.

"It was nice to have somebody else in the house because I'm an only child," Wen said. "Her English is definitely better than my German. She's been learning English for about six years. She was a very polite guest and was a vegetarian."

Wen thinks the program is good despite the cost. "The program costs about \$ 2,000, so it's a bit expensive but I would definitely recommend it to others because it's a wonderful experience," Wen said.

Sophomore Sarah Schmiedel from Dittigheim, whose buddy was Anna Hall, had a lot of fun although there were many different things.

"It was interesting to see and learn about these differences," Schmiedel said. "I really liked Anna and I miss her! She's so nice! I certainly would like to take it again and I certainly would recommend it to others! It was so great." ☺



Blair Klostermeier

**The cast of the original play "And Carl Laughed"** (senior Mary von der Heydt, senior Andrew Davidson, freshman Hannah Klein, junior Jack Callahan, sophomore Nathan Crall, sophomore Mariah Smith, senior David Redick, sophomore Susie Wirthlin, senior Dan Dowd, senior Stevie Pohlman, and junior Alex Phillips) continue to prepare for the Fringe Festival in Scotland this summer.

## Drama department prepares plays for festival in Scotland

**Meredith Redick**  
Staff Reporter

The cast of the original play "And Carl Laughed" is in the final months of preparation for its international debut at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. Participating students have been working with CHS drama teacher Kelley Ryan and former CHS teacher Nick Otten to bring the public the powerful story of St. Louis priest Carl Kabat.

The play focuses on Kabat's fight to end poverty and the existence of nuclear missiles. Kabat is known for dressing up as a clown and protesting the production of nuclear missiles. He has been in and out of jail throughout his life and is currently imprisoned. The play focuses on Kabat's fight to end poverty and the existence of nuclear missiles.

The significance of And Carl Laughed is unique as well as powerful. "The message of the show is that one very special and dedicated person can make a difference in the world simply by sticking to their cause," senior Mary von Der Heydt. "It is more important to be faithful than fruitful."

"And Carl Laughed" has been performed several times this year in St. Louis, but the performances in Edinburgh will be the real unveiling of the students' and teachers' hard work.

"The cast is so smart," said Ryan. "Everyone adds so much. The show is phenomenal and the cast is why it's phenomenal."

Ryan believes that the music incorporated into the show especially enhances the ideas.

David Redick and Jack Callahan are amazing artists and musicians and the music really glues the show together."

Although the performance isn't technically a musical, cast member David Redick has created 4 songs to move the show along—using everything from professionally written lyrics to the actual words of Carl Kabat.

Although there have been multiple performances, the script is still being tweaked.

"Changes are possible up until we get on the plane to Scotland," said senior Stephen Pohlman. "It's never finished."

The show was supposed to be performed in Vien-

na, Austria, as well as in Edinburgh but the plans fell through.

"We had two groups interested in bringing us in to Vienna and the thing that stopped us from coming is timing," Ryan said.

However, the cast is not subdued. In fact, members of the production have made the decision to include CHS's recently performed Student Run Musical, "The Adventures of Average Man and Normal Boy," in their performances at the Fringe Festival.

"After the SRM came together, I thought it was phenomenal," Ryan said. "I really think both shows we're bringing are going to be eaten up by the Fringe audience."

"The Adventures of Average Man and Normal Boy," which was written by Redick and senior Percy Olsen and directed by Pohlman, was performed this April in the CHS Black Box theater.

"I'd say the idea of 'Adventures' is that even great dreams can be blinded by the flash of a camera," Redick said.

Changes will be made to the script, set, and cast of "Adventures" to make the production viable.

"For the most part, we just need to tighten up some loose ends, and we have to make the show engaging for an international audience," Olsen said. "In other words, cut out the American pop-culture references."

As for casting, several roles will have to be re-assigned.

"Instead of directing, I'll be in the ensemble, David Redick will play Damian's part, and the other replacements are undecided," Pohlman said. "Most of the leads are already going to Scotland, so it won't be tough at all. We'll vamp up the script and make it extra awesome, of course."

Sophomore Susie Wirthlin is also optimistic.

"As for the set, we didn't really have one to begin with, so I think it'll be okay. As for music, we have some of the pit, but we'll probably use recorded accompaniment," Wirthlin said.

While both shows are original and will have the same cast, "The Adventures of Average Man and Normal Boy" and "And Carl Laughed" are very different.

Even with plenty of work to do, the cast is excited for the chance to perform at the festival.

"I'm really excited and the entire experience is going to be amazing," junior Cameron Davis said. ☺



photo courtesy of Elaine Faddis

**While visiting the U.S.:** German exchange student Larissa Rohm attended Prom with juniors Jon Goodfellow, Elaine Faddis (her host), Katie Borges and Cody Kessler. Faddis will visit Rohm in Germany this summer.

# Various staff members depart CHS

**Feng-Shuang Stamme**  
Section Editor

As with the graduation class of 2007 moving on from CHS, a couple of staff members are also leaving the Clayton School District.

Librarian Cindy Menkhous (Ms. Menkhous declined to be interviewed), math teacher Michael McGraw, counselors Claire Dickerson and Steve Urbach are all saying goodbye.

McGraw has been teaching for the Clayton School District for 33 years. He has decided that it is time for a change at the end of this school year.

McGraw plans to do a lot of traveling. He will be mostly doing his favorite activities, such as mountain biking, backpacking and seeing outdoor areas.

The plan is to stay mainly in the United States and travel to western and eastern parts of the country.

"I like the Rocky Mountains and Smoky Mountains, and I want to go up to the Northeast, especially Maine," McGraw said.

McGraw is also planning to travel with a good friend who is also a retired teacher from Brentwood.

Although McGraw will be doing what he loves, there are still things he will miss.

"I will miss the math department, the wonderful group of people," McGraw said.

He also notes that he will miss the students and the school.

"I will miss being around students who make me

feel young," McGraw said. "Also, just the Clayton community, the buildings; it is just a great facility."

McGraw's new plans will have some advantages and disadvantages. But he feels it is time to do something for himself.

"I will be able to do a lot of things when I'm still young," McGraw said. "I want to go out and do the things I like to do while I still can."

Claire Dickerson, director of CHS Student Services and College Counselor will also be saying goodbye. She has been with the school district for 20 years.

Her plan next year is different from that of McGraw; she has decided to take a new position at a local private high school.

"I will serve as a college counselor at Villa Duchesne High School, working with 40 young women," Dickerson said.

Although Dickerson is sad about leaving CHS, she is also looking forward to new adventures in her upcoming position.

"My new position will be different with more programming associated with college counseling and no department chairperson responsibilities," Dickerson said.

Dickerson has said that she already feels comfortable in the community of her new position.

"The Villa Duchesne community has been extremely welcoming," she said.

Villa Duchesne is an all girls private school. It has a smaller student body than Clayton, and Dickerson will be able to spend more time with each student. It will be a fresh and new experience. However, Dickerson

will certainly miss the atmosphere and the people in Clayton.

"I have already gotten to know some of my current juniors well, and I hate to miss out on helping them with the process, although I know they are in excellent hands," Dickerson said.

In the end, Dickerson points out a bright note.

"I have known many families as friends in the Clayton community, but people are only a phone call away," Dickerson said.

Steve Urbach has been a counselor for the Clayton freshmen and sophomores for the past four years. Starting next year, he will be starting a new life in Asheville, North Carolina.

"I'll be doing a little part time college teaching, and a whole lot of recreational activities," Urbach said.

Urbach has been involved in the education system for 32 years, and he feels it will be difficult to keep that fast paced work schedule that he is so used to leading.

"The challenge is to keep some order and structure in life," Urbach said. "I'm going to be formulating my own goals, and it will be a challenge to meet these new goals."

Although Urbach is looking forward to his new life, he is sad about leaving Clayton.

"I will miss the kids. It is great to work with them. I'm crazy about the kids," Urbach said. "Their enthusiasm is contagious, their challenges keep me on my toe. It's very fulfilling to work here. It is a good feeling to have accomplished something, and the kids help you feel that way."

Currently, Urbach is working on his new book, "Career Blue Print." It is a career path guide for high school students through adults. Urbach is finished with his first draft and he hopes to publish the book at the end of this year.

**"I will miss being around students who make me feel young. Also, just the Clayton community."**

**Michael McGraw**  
Math Teacher



Blair Klostermeir



Dakin Sloss



Dakin Sloss

From left to right, math teacher Michael McGraw, guidance counselor Steve Urbach and college counselor Claire Dickerson. They are retiring after long careers in the School District of Clayton. McGraw has taught for 33 years, Urbach and Dickerson have been counselors for 20 and 32 years respectively. Their presence will be missed.

# Teacher orchestrates musical programs

**Ijeoma Onyema**  
Staff Reporter

Throughout CHS, teachers often go above and beyond in their classes using their teaching skills to connect with the students, and giving it them with a positive attitude every day. Orchestra teacher Julie Hoffman (née Miller) does all this and more with her students.

Hoffman has been working in the Clayton School District for 11 years, using the Suzuki method to teach grades 4-5 and teaching various pieces of music to grades 9-12 in Chamber and Symphonic Orchestra.

"I chose to come here because the previous orchestra director was retiring, and Clayton called me up and convinced me to work here," Hoffman said.

Before Clayton, Hoffman worked in the Rockwood Summit District as the orchestra director.

"The difference between Rockwood Summit and Clayton are the size of both orchestras; however, [at Clayton] there was more of an opportunity to work with more intense students with a district that - by a greater scale - supplied the orchestra with its needs," Hoffman said.

Throughout the earlier stages her life, she was connected to the music world.

"I joined orchestra in the sixth grade," said Hoffman. "I was serious about music, but it was not until

senior year when colleges started to offer me to go to their schools on full music scholarships. During high school, I was an athlete, planning to go to college on a sports scholarship. Although I always loved music, I never thought of having a career in music. However, every time I was put in front of children, I realized more and more that doing this [directing orchestras] would make life an adventure."

This summer, Hoffman will be playing in a skilled quartet as a professional violinist, along with teaching and planning for upcoming orchestra events.

"I am still planning the orchestra trip to Europe and what we will be playing for the POPS concert (which is on Nov. 8-9)," Hoffman said.

Even now as the school year ends, Hoffman is still enjoying every moment here at CHS.

"What I like about Clayton High is that the students here enjoy having high standards, and that is because the school influences the students to," Hoffman said. "Even though they have busy schedules, the students always come to class with smiles on their faces and make me laugh at least once a day."

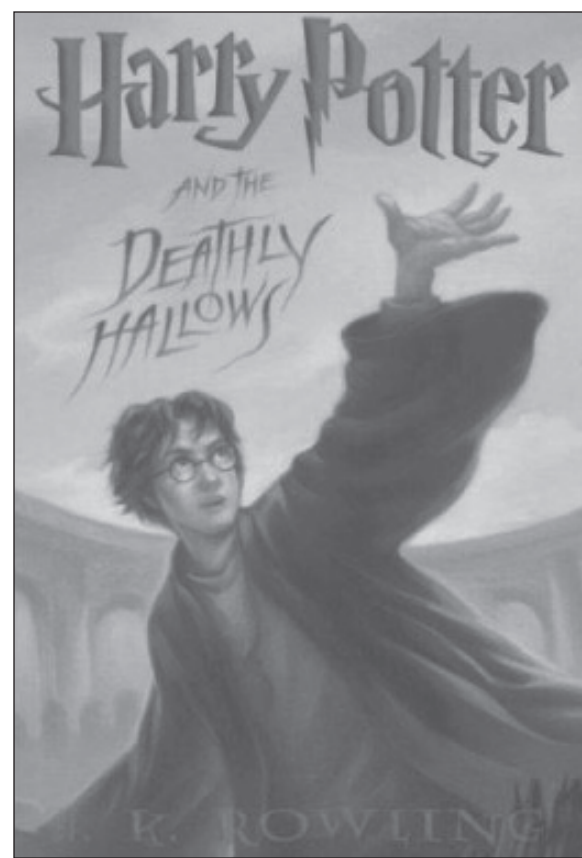
Hoffman has enjoyed working at CHS, and will hopefully continue to work here for many years to come.

"Everyday, as we make music, we grow, and I can walk away feeling that we accomplished something," Hoffman said.



Teddy Monson

Orchestra teacher Julie Hoffman works with students to share knowledge of a variety of instruments.



courtesy of amazon.com

# Harry Potter craze continues

**Carol Iskiwitch**  
Section Editor

"On the dull, gray Tuesday our story starts, there was nothing about the cloudy sky outside to suggest that strange and mysterious things would soon be happening all over the country." And so the Harry Potter craze began.

The release of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" 10 years ago started a worldwide obsession with the young wizard, his faithful sidekicks Ron and Hermione and the magical setting of Hogwarts.

Although the Harry Potter club stopped after last year, there is no shortage of Potter mania at CHS.

"I love Harry Potter," sophomore Caitlin Blatt said.

Senior Bohan Li agreed.

"I have been a fan of Harry Potter since the beginning of time," Li said. "The fourth book, 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire,' is my favorite because it has lots of action in it. I like the part where the champions are in the water with the mermaids and also the part where they are fighting the dragons."

Although Harry Potter has a huge fan base spanning generations and continents, there are many who have a strong disliking for the series. Sophomore Julia Hartel is one of those non-fans.

"I used to think the Harry Potter series was good," Hartel said. "But when I was in the middle of reading the last book, someone ruined the ending for me. I didn't even bother to finish the book. So although Harry had nothing to do with it, I no longer am a fan."

Hartel seems to be the oddball in a school full of Potter fans, including sophomore Alice Lehmann.

"I love Harry Potter and how easy it is to get into," Lehmann said. "It's pretty much the most fun series I have ever read. My favorite book is the fourth. I love Fred and George moments throughout the series."

While Lehmann plans to be in her bed reading the seventh and last book, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," when it comes out July 21, needless to say, Hartel does not plan to read it, nor does she plan to see the new movie.

"Why bother watching the movie?" Hartel asked. "You already know what is going to happen, and it is annoying how much they leave out from the book."

For those who are interested in the movies, the film version of the fifth Harry Potter book, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," is directed by David Yates, new to the Harry Potter franchise. Michael Goldenberg, also new to the franchise, is the screenwriter.

Even more exciting, for most fans, is the seventh book, which is the last in the series. The suspense author J.K. Rowling has been building up is intense. Speculations are wild, with one of the biggest questions being who will die.

"I think Harry will die," Blatt said.

Senior Marie-Sophie Ritter, a big Harry Potter fan, has no real predictions for the seventh book.

"I don't really know what will happen," Ritter said. "But I would like to see Ron and Hermione get together. In any case, I know the book will be intense, and I think I will cry at the end because the series is over."

Avid Harry Potter fans cannot wait until July.

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# The impact of high school at home

✪ **Mia Harlan**  
Section Editor

High School can affect students' relationships with their parents in several ways. Students have experienced some events that strained positive relationships, while other events can add to already strong relationships. Either way, most students feel that they can go to their parents for anything and appreciate their relationships.

"I appreciate that I can come to my parents, no matter what trouble I've gotten myself into, and know they won't judge or be angry and they will just try to help me problem-solve my way out of it," senior Becca Gutmann said.

Trust is also an important issue for students and parents.

"I really do feel comfortable with [my parents and my] relationship. I feel lucky that they trust me so much and give me so much independence. It makes my life much easier," senior Eric Einstein said. "I trust my parents with everything. I can talk to them about anything - as friends or as parents."

Parents' trust can help students in many ways, including even more positive relationships.

"I have a pretty good relationship with my parents, they trust me and know that I will typically make good decisions," Freshman Gabby Inder said.

"I am very independent and that is probably because of the trust my parents have in me. This has grown as I've gotten older. I would say that the trust they have in me grows every day that I don't abuse their trust," Einstein said.

Of course, some students have noticed that their parents lack trust in them, for several reasons.

"I think my parents' trust in me depends on what the situation is," junior Kathryn James said. "If I was to get into trouble, they trust that I would come to them for help, which I would. The one thing that they don't seem to trust me about is what I am doing on the weekends. If I tell them that I am going to someone's house or something, they always seem to doubt that I am telling the truth. I think that their trust in my ability to balance my life has grown as I've grown up."

Being in high school has affected James's relationship with her parents.

"My relationship with my parents has changed throughout high school mostly in that they trust me more than they used to," James said. "They used to always call me and make sure they knew where I was, even after school, not just on the weekends, but more recently they have become more laid back and just expect me to follow my curfew."

High school has also put some strain on James's parents trust in her in a few ways.

"[My parents'] trust in me to make good decisions on the weekends has gone down since high school, especially this past year, since all of my friends can drive and we are not necessarily going to be in the same place for a whole night as we had in the past," James said. "As I've grown older and my friends have gotten into trouble or gotten suspended from dances their trust in me seems to go down a little."

Inder also noticed that her parents worry about her differently now that she is in high school.

"Entering high school has just made my parents a lot more concerned about things such as drugs and alcohol because they remember when they were my age

While some students feel that high school has put a strain on relationships with their parents, others believe it has had a positive effect.



**Sophomore Leigh Tait** (third from left) in London with her family during spring break. Tait says that since entering high school, her relationship with her parents has gotten rockier due to increased expectations.

and so they are a lot more strict about where I go and if parents are going to be there," Inder said.

Sophomore Leigh Tait has noticed a difference in her relationship with her parents now that she is in high school.

"Since I began high school, our relationship has gotten rockier because of their increased expectations for me in classes, and the increased difficulty I have in meeting their expectations as my classes got harder," Tait said.

Other students have realized that age is a big factor in parents' trust in their children.

"I think my parents probably trust me more now that I am 18 and a senior. I don't have as strict of a curfew and we joke around about the family 'rules,'" Senior Zoe Liberman said.

"My parents trust me, but definitely not to the extent that they did when I was younger," Tait said. "Now they feel like they have to double check many of the things that I tell them and sometimes they question if I'm telling them the truth"

Sophomore Susie Wirthlin agrees.

"I think [my parents] trust me a lot. Last year, they didn't trust me because I was a freshman, but now that I'm older, I can actually tell them where I'm going to be and what I'll be doing and they're okay with most of it," she said.

Wirthlin feels like her relationship with her parents is really strong to the point where her parents can think of her as an adult.

"My relationship with my parents is pretty cool; they're really open and relatable," Wirthlin said. "My parents see me as an adult who makes her own decisions. I'm much more independent than I was freshman year, and I know that I can call on my parents when I need them and they won't judge me."

Despite feeling almost like friends, Wirthlin's parents do have rules and sometimes she notices that they can be a bit strict at times, but overall they tend to understand her needs and wants.

"I feel very comfortable with my relationship with my parents," Wirthlin said. "They're not even like typical parents a lot, more like older friends who help me through life. One part that bothers me is when they do act strict; it's usually for little mundane things that don't matter. But I really appreciate the fact that they don't obsess over every single detail of my life. They know that I'm in high school, that I'm going to make my own decisions, and if they try to force anything on me, they know that I'll reject it. I love how my parents know me as a person, not just as their child, and I love how I can see them as actual people, not just my guardians."

Other students have noticed that they seem like friends with their parents, and that they can talk to their parents about most of their life.

"My parents and I have a great relationship," Einstein said. "They trust me a lot and actually we are probably more friends than you would think of a parent-child relationship, but it works well for us. Our relationship has gotten stronger through High school. Trust has grown between us as I've gotten older, so I have more freedom and can talk to them about anything. I talk to my parents about daily life. I tell them if I have issues or concerns and ask for their advice. The way that I view it is that they have had much longer lives than I and that I should take advantage of their experience and use it to help me in my life."

Liberman has similar feelings about her parents.

"I always talk to my parents," Liberman said. We usually have dinner together when my mom is in town and talk about the normal dinner table things such as

the day at school/ whatever. We also go out to coffee every weekend morning and talk. I basically discuss everything with my parents. The only things I keep from them are my friends' secrets."

James does not disclose her friends' lives with her parents either.

"I don't usually talk to my parents about what is happening in my life, unless they ask," James said. "I tell them about school events, like club meetings, games, dances, etc. but I don't usually tell them about my friends and our personal lives."

Gutmann talks to her parents about her life on a regular basis, but she also does not tell her parents everything.

"Although I feel comfortable discussing most things with my parents, there are definitely things I hide from them, and they know that I have private things I don't share with them but they also know that if it was something important I would tell them," Gutmann said.

Tait is selective about what talks about with her parents as well.

"I'm pretty open with my parents about the academic side of my life, but I don't really talk about my social life with them very much," Tait said. "Usually, I discuss that part of my life with my friends." Senior Rachel Dickens's life has changed in several ways throughout high school, but she has always been able to talk to her mom about her problems.

"Overall, I'd say that my relationship with my parents is fairly healthy," Dickens said. "I feel especially comfortable telling my mom about things that would generally be considered 'awkward subjects.' In that respect, I see my mom - and my step-dad, on certain occasions - as someone who I can talk to regardless of how embarrassing or confidential my situation may be."

Dickens's parents divorced when she was very young; however, it affected her all throughout high school.

"My mom has been remarried to my stepfather for a number of years," Dickens said. "I used to see my dad pretty frequently, but I began living with my mom full-time during my sophomore year. The change in my living arrangement, I guess you could say, happened pretty abruptly, but it's all worked out really well. Aside from that, my actual relationship with my parents has remained pretty consistent throughout the past few years."

Another experience that Rachel had during high school, that not most high school students deal with, was the birth of her sister.

"My relationship with my parents, or rather, my family situation in general, was greatly affected when my sister was born during my freshman year," Dickens said. "At first, it felt kind of awkward having such a young sibling, but I've definitely adjusted to it, and it's actually made my family more closely knit." Overall, Dickens appreciates her relationship with her parents and thinks that it has gotten stronger over the years.

"I definitely feel comfortable with my relationship with my parents," Dickens said. "I feel like I don't have much to hide from them, which I definitely couldn't say with much confidence at the beginning of high school. Even though they're pretty laid back, they still get 'weird' about things occasionally, which I suppose is a natural part of parenting." ☺

\*names have been changed to protect anonymity

## Graduating students prepare for travel abroad

✪ **Nava Kantor**  
Co-Editor in Chief

✪ **Ugochi Onyema**  
Section Editor

As this school year comes to an end, this year's seniors are moving on to greener pastures outside of the Clayton bubble.

Senior Melanie Holland, who is planning to attend Taylor University, said that she is anticipating a sense of freedom and independence.

"I'm most looking forward to the independence and figuring out stuff away from home," Holland said. "I'm just looking forward to growing up away from home."

Senior Jaci Rifkin, who is planning to attend the University of Pennsylvania, said that she is anticipating moving to a large city and taking college classes.

"I'm looking forward to college courses that really suit my interests as opposed to world history or math," Rifkin said.

Holland said that she would miss all of her friends and worried about not keeping touch with her friends, while Rifkin said that she will miss the small class size here at CHS.

"CHS has a very small number of students for a public school, so I'll miss the intimacy," Rifkin said. "It's nice to be able to recognize everyone. I'll also miss the staff because I've had some really interesting teachers here."

Holland said that the thing about CHS that she will miss the least is the stress.

"I won't really miss the stress of everything here," Holland said. "Especially the academic stress. This year was the hardest academically for me, and I wanted to make the most of it, so I just kept the right mind set throughout the year. Hopefully the academic stress will be gone in college."

However, some adventurous seniors are looking forward to unconventional alternatives to head-

ing directly to college.

Senior Tess Shapiro is looking for a different college experience than one she could find in the US. She will be attending an American school in Rome, Italy.

"I've always been interested in languages, and I was planning on going abroad in high school, but I never did," senior Tess Shapiro said. "I didn't want the traditional college experience, but I still wanted an American college experience."

Senior Dini Schuman will also be living and studying abroad in Israel after she graduates CHS. Schuman applied to college on time and was accepted to Stern College in New York City. She will be able to transfer her credits from her year abroad and enter as a regular sophomore.

"It was pretty much assumed that I would go to Israel," Schuman said. "A lot of my friends are going and all of my sisters went. It will be nice to do some Judaic studies after going to a public high school."

For Schuman, the application process for her study abroad experience was a challenge.

"The application process was difficult," Schuman said. "It was also hard to decide between different schools in Jerusalem and other cities. I was looking for a school with the right level of intensity in education and religious beliefs."

Although she will be spending an entire year in a foreign country, Schuman isn't worried.

"I don't feel too nervous because I know many people who are also studying in Israel next year," Schuman said. "I lived in Israel for six years, and a lot of my family is there."

Schuman is excited to get out of St. Louis and meet new people from all over the globe, it will be hard to leave home for a year.

"It might be difficult to adjust to living in a new country and to leave my old one behind," Schuman said. "I only get to come back once during the whole year."

Studying abroad is not the only



**Senior Dini Schuman** poses for a picture at the Dead Sea. Schuman lived in Israel for six years, and will be returning to study abroad next fall.

alternative to going straight into college in the fall. Senior Timothy Driskell will be leaving in June for an Army boot camp to participate in basic training.

"I'll be in for at least four years as a medic," Driskell said. "I may take a few classes while I'm there, as well."

Driskell's decision was rooted in family history of being active in the military.

"It's sort of a family tradition," Driskell said. "A lot of my relatives of my father's side have been in the military."

A life-changing commitment like entering the military required some serious consideration on Driskell's part.

"I finally signed up in February, after flipping back and forth all year," Driskell said. "I think it's a good decision, and I don't think I'll regret it."

After his first few years, Driskell is uncertain where he will end up. Several options will be available for

him.

"I'm not 100 percent sure what I'll do when I get out of the army," Driskell said. "I'll either go to school and become a doctor, or I'll remain in the army and have a career as a medic."

Driskell hasn't run into any problems yet, but he is nonetheless slightly nervous.

"A lot of things could happen," Driskell said. "A new war could start and I could get deployed to a different country. And I have to leave my family and my girlfriend here. I'm excited to be able to follow my dream to be able to work in the medical field. But I'm not so excited for all the physical labor."

Junior Grace Thompson is a year younger than the graduating class of 2007, but she, too, will be leaving CHS next year for an experience abroad.

After she takes a correspondence course and a few summer school classes, Thompson will have fulfilled CHS graduation require-

ments.

The program in which Thompson will be participating is called the American Field Service (AFS), a foreign-exchange program. She will be living and studying in Switzerland.

"I've always wanted to live in a French-speaking country with a home-stay program," Thompson said. "It was a minor setback that going to France didn't work out, but I'm excited to be going to Switzerland."

Having studied French during her time at CHS, living in a German-speaking area will be a challenge for Thompson.

"Not knowing German at all is a little scary, because I'm going to have to learn it from scratch when I arrive," Thompson said. "I'm starting school pretty much right away, and I'm going to a German-speaking high school."

Thompson has already applied to schools and will have their decisions before she leaves for Switzer-

land.

"I plan to go to art school when I return to the states," Thompson said. "Most schools that I'm looking at are either lenient about application times or have rolling admissions, so it shouldn't be a problem. I want to go to the Savannah College of Art and Design."

Thompson is looking forward to taking a year's break from the traditional high school experience.

"I think it will be a good transition from high school to college," Thompson said. "I'll have my host family there to support me if I need them, but I'll get used to being away from my real family."

Living with a Swiss family will allow Thompson to completely immerse herself in a new culture.

"I'm looking forward to living as a Swiss person with a volunteer family for a year, and being able to attend local high schools," Thompson said. "It's an opportunity to experience a different country and a different language." ☺



# Teens lie to doctors about habits

Siobhan Jones  
Graphics Editor

"My mom was sitting right there. So when the doctor asked if I've ever used drugs before, of course I said no."

This is the testimony of Tammy Michaels\*, a sophomore at Clayton High School who has been lying about her occasional usage of marijuana and alcohol to her doctor since she was thirteen.

Other students at CHS say that lying to their doctors is a common thing.

"I lie about drugs and alcohol, obviously," senior Nicki Gerry\* said. "It's not really a medical question, so why should they know?"

Nicki said she does not trust the patient-doctor confidentiality rule of thumb. She, and other students like her, don't believe that doctors would keep secrets that involve breaking laws, like underage drinking.

"My doctor would probably just tell my parents," Gerry said.

Other students say that their parents know that they drink, but they don't want to tell their doctor.

"My parents have known that I drink since freshman year," senior Harry Jacobs\* said. "But my doctor would probably do something about it."

In a recent online survey taken by webmd.com, seventeen percent of those surveyed lied about sex, sixteen percent lied about how much alcohol they drink, and 12 percent lied about recreational drug use. But this survey was of adults only, and probably not a reliable indicator of teenage lying. Arthur Caplan, Ph.D., was one

of the doctors interviewed for the webmd.com survey. A medical ethicist, he said that he could see how it might make sense to lie to your doctor.

"Alcohol or drug use you may be embarrassed about, you may not want to fess up, but you may want to tell the truth about something so important to your health," Caplan said.

Of the sixteen students spoken to at CHS about lying to doctors, twelve said they had lied to their doctors. Of these twelve, all of them cited drugs and/or alcohol as something they lied about.

"When my doctor asked me if I have ever tried marijuana, my mom was sitting in the room with me," freshman Rich Hackerman\* said. "Maybe if she hadn't been right there, I would've told the truth and said yes."

Hackerman said that most students still go to physical check-ups and other appointments with their parents. Because they often answer questions in front of their parents, they are careful about telling their doctors things their parents don't know.

"And that goes for anything, not just bad things that you don't want your parents to know about," Hackerman said. "Even if you've just joined a soccer club, you don't want to surprise your parents. I guess moms feel like if the doctor finds out that they don't know even the tiniest thing about you, the doctor will think they are a bad parent, so they get embarrassed, and, later, angry at you."

Other students said that they had been questioned by their doctors privately, but had still lied.

"I go to my doctor by myself, but I'm not going to tell her about any bad stuff I do because I don't want to be judged," Jacobs said.

Other students expressed similar justifications.

"I have already made up my mind about drinking and drug use," sophomore Frederick Smith said. "My doctor's opinion isn't going to alter that. They would just try and make me feel bad."

Despite the high rate of lying among teenagers, few considered their actions to be wrong.

"I don't feel bad about lying to my doctor, no," Gerry said. "I guess I'm just—well, I don't really know why."

Of the 12 students spoken to, nine expressed anxiety or worry over their decision.

"I'm not worried about it now," Smith said. "I just hope it doesn't come back to me. I don't want to get some incurable disease in two years and figure out that I could've avoided it if I had told."

Other students agreed.

"My doctor's pretty smart," Hackerman said. "But I'm stuck in a limbo, because while I wish they could monitor my body off the one hundred percent truth, I couldn't just tell him that I've tried alcohol."

Others didn't seem to really consider their doctor's opinion valuable.

"I know the risks of drug use because I've had to take health class for a few years," junior Garth Sinas\* said. "I'm not saying I'm smarter than my doctor or anything like that, but I can figure it out on my own. If I'm close to dying, I guess I'll tell."



While most students may find these testimonies comparable to their own experiences, some people may find such deceit quite shocking. But Sinas doesn't think that it makes him a bad person.

"I'm not a liar," Sinas said. "It's

just that sometimes, sitting in the doctor's office, I have to stretch the truth."

Gerry agrees with Sinas that lying is acceptable.

"I don't think this makes me a bad person," Gerry said. "But I

conceal things from my doctor."

Does this mean that CHS is full of two-faced liars? Gerry doesn't think so.

"I don't usually lie, and I never lie to, like, my friends," Gerry said. "But doctors are different." ☺



Alan Soloman/Chicago Tribune/mct

Rome's Colosseum continues to draw visitors as it has since its completion by the Emperor Domitian in the 1st Century A.D. The Colosseum is one of many historic sites that sophomore Jeremy Bleeke will see this summer on his trip to Italy.

# Students anticipate exciting summer plans

Ellie Bullard  
Section Editor

The summer is one of the best times of the year to go to an amazing place on vacation. Many Clayton High School students plan to do just that this coming summer. The destinations range from Mexico to London to Italy.

The students' plans vary from going on their trips with a small group, with friends or alone. Some plan to go somewhere to volunteer, some plan to learn more about the culture of the place they are visiting, and some just want to have fun. No matter the nature of the trip, all students are very excited.

Sophomore Sarah Horn plans on volunteering in Honduras over the summer.

"I am going to Honduras, specifically in the departments of Valle and Choluteca, which are on the southern coast of Honduras," Horn said.

Senior Alyssa Hartel is also going south of the border, but to Mexico with her friends.

"I'm going to Mexico this summer to visit my friend, Andrea, who lives there," Hartel said. "I'm going with three other people from Clayton too; Wenny Dong, Yvonne Lauke, and Ann Selvadurai. We'll be there for 19 days and we're visiting Mexico City, Queretaro, a few beaches and maybe some Mayan ruins."

Some students are even taking trips to Europe, some to perform and some to learn more about European cultures.

"I'm going to Springfield for the Missouri fine arts academy, London and Edinburgh to perform in the Fringe Festival, and New Orleans to drop my sister off at college in Tulane," sophomore Susie Wirthlin said.

Sophomore Jeremy Bleeke is also going to Europe. "I'm going to be in Rome and Florence for a little over two weeks with a program through Duke University," Bleeke said. "It's a small group of kids, and we

will be looking at the rise of the Italian city-state, and Classical Italian civilization in general."

Although most students are going on these trips to have fun, they are also going to learn more about the cultures of other countries.

Horn is partially going to volunteer in Honduras to brush up on her Spanish over the summer.

"I am personally going because I love Spanish, both as a language and a culture, and I love to volunteer, so the two together should be amazing," Horn said. "I think this is a way to expand beyond my comfort zone of Clayton and just see more of the world."

Although student may want to improve their speaking skills, exploring the culture of the different countries is also important. Hartel wants to try her hand at salsa dancing when she goes to Mexico.

"I can't wait and go salsa dancing," Hartel said. "I'm really bad, but I'll be with my friends, so we'll have fun. And I want to improve my Spanish, because I'm kind of shy when it comes to speaking."

Bleeke, who is going to Italy, plans to learn more about Italian culture, and is looking forward to eating Italian food.

"I love places that have history, and personality, and character which is different than in America," Bleeke said. "Italy has always fascinated me, mostly because it is so rich in culture and history. Basically, I just find the Italian outlook on life to be very refreshing. And Italian food rocks."

Wirthlin is excited not only to experience English culture, but to enhance her acting techniques while in London.

"I'm so excited to go to Europe because I've never been there before," Wirthlin said. "We're doing a lot of cool activities like seeing a show on the West End, a Shakespeare workshop at the globe theatre, and performing at the fringe, which is going to be amazing."

All in all, the trips that students have planned for the coming summer sound amazing, and hopefully will provide the students with many different learning experiences. ☺

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**I am going because I love Spanish, both as a language and a culture, and I love to volunteer.**

Sarah Horn  
Sophomore

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# Amy Winehouse's sophomore effort illustrates second wave of British invasion

☛ **Maddie Harned**  
Section Editor

In the sea of billboard's top 40 album sales, there is a refreshingly raw and retro album that stands out from the rest.

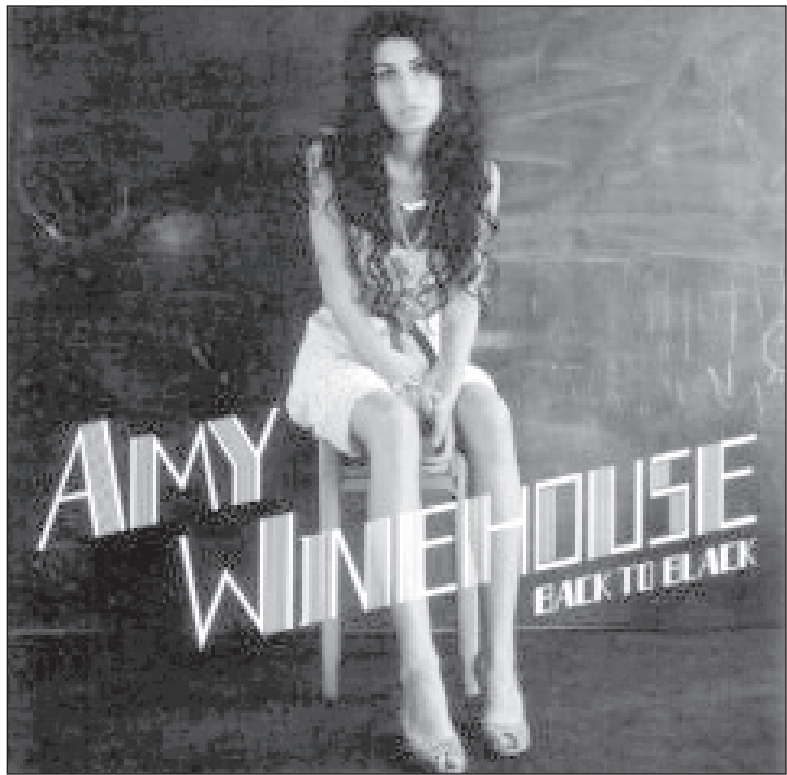
Nestled right between Fergie and MIMS is Amy Winehouse's sophomore effort *Back to Black*, a confident second album that is both commercial and poppy as well as jazzy and uniquely nostalgic.

Soak in the soulful vocals, reminiscent of Janis Joplin. Enjoy the brazen lyrics and dangerously catchy beats because once you listen to the first three tracks of *Back to Black*, you'll be hooked.

The chorus of the album's first single "Rehab", set to blazing horns and funky strings, is catchy enough to become cemented into your brain for a week after the first listen. You'll find yourself lying wide awake in bed, trying to sleep but only able to sing "Rehab's" addictive chorus, "They tried to make me go to rehab / I said no, no, no".

With Winehouse's recent surge of publicity filled with stories of debauched gigs, dramatic weight loss and alcohol-induced erratic behavior, "Rehab's" confrontational approach to the bad press is a clever first single. "Rehab" is one of many songs with obvious references to drugs and alcohol.

Skeptics would say that Winehouse's sudden flood of press was a cheap publicity stunt to garner at-



Amy Winehouse's sophomore CD *Back to Black* sold a total of 70,784 copies in the UK, blasting Winehouse into pop music super stardom

attention to *Back to Black*. However, even if the opportunistically timed media is a big PR act, *Back to Black* is just too good to need it.

Winehouse's soulful and powerful vocals make every song her own. Her Motown and R&B sound is somehow fresh. On "Me and Mr. Jones" and "Wake Up Alone" the band sounds like Otis Redding's backup band.

The old school references return

in "You Know I'm No Good". With a classy soul feel and brilliant horn work, Winehouse's smoky purrs and growls shine. The song is Motown gone bad, but bad in a very good way.

Winehouse's uniquely captivating vocals stand out through most of the album, but in "Just Friends" and the aching "Love Is a Losing Game" she proves that she can produce mature lyrics that are equally

as captivating as her voice, "Over futile odds / and laughed at by the Gods / and now the final frame / love is a losing game." Supposedly written while broken-hearted, the two songs are showcases for Winehouse's vocal and lyrical strengths. It is quite amazing to realize that Winehouse is only 23 years old, though her commanding voice sounds like it is coming from a woman twice her age, not to mention twice her size.

But don't get too emotional now, because she can still swear (and drink) like a pirate too. "Me and Mr. Jones" could almost be an old soul hit from the late 1950s, with big band swing and a rock-solid beat, until Winehouse coos the quite marvelous opening line of "what kind of fuckery is this? / you made me miss the Slick Rick gig".

The exuberant "Tears Dry Up on Their Own" is another highlight, marrying a glorious rush of a chorus with Winehouse's husky vocals.

Compared to the slick Scott Storch-produced albums and club-friendly predicable pop CDs dominating Billboard's top 40 album sales, Winehouse's retro *Back to Black* is an unabashed hangover looming over the airbrushed pop music scene. If the Supremes got wasted and recorded an album, it would sound like *Back to Black*. Overall, it is a superb sophomore CD, and one of the best albums of 2007. ☺

# Joss Stone proves her heartfelt, soulful sounds need no introduction in new CD

☛ **Sarah Horn**  
Section Editor

On the front of Joss Stone's latest CD cover is a women's bare back, with long, red curly hair running down it and her back is painted with images of peace signs, hearts, and swirls. This, more than anything, represents Joss Stone: funky, original, a bit out there, and yet admired.

Joss Stone, British soul-singing sensation, is back and better than ever. In her third album, "Introducing Joss Stone", Stone brings back some of her old, melodic, slow singing and pairs it with a new side of her: funky, fun, fast and highly original.

To me it is so great to finally find a versatile singer who can truly connect with the audience. I am not only inspired to get up and dance by fast, fun songs like "Headturner", but I am also enthused to see the return of the slow, tuneful ballads, such as "Snakes and Ladders" from her second album, that turned me into a Joss Stone fan three years

ago. The CD starts off with her old sound with the song "Girl They Won't Believe It" where Joss' sultry, pleasing voice croons about reaching her dream of being a singer and experiencing a connection with her music.

The next track is an upbeat, fun song named "Headturner" which speaks to girls about not putting up with men's nonsense. The chorus is: "Headturner yeah/Soul burner/Ya gonna watch me walk, then watch me walk/Headturner yeah/Are you a slow learner/Come and take my hand/Cause I'll find another man." The lyrics show how women shouldn't have to wait for men to take the hint and make the move, and above all that women are worth it. The rest of the CD includes chart topper "Tell Me 'Bout It" and the beautiful song "What Were We Thinking," which encounters the painful break up Stone had with her boyfriend.

The best part of this new CD is that it is by far the most personal of her three CDs and it incorpo-

rates two distinct, funky styles that keep listeners from getting bored. Her voice is very soulful, but never pitchy, and the sound is innovative, and her songs truly speak to women about independence, especially from men. Recently, on her website [www.jossstone.com](http://www.jossstone.com), Joss Stone herself described the CD as "truly me. That's why I'm calling it Introducing Joss Stone. These are my words, and this is who I am as an artist".

The CD has enjoyed much success in the U.S., debuting as number two on the U.S. Billboard 200, which is the highest debut for a British singer, even surpassing new British singer Amy Winehouse. Worldwide the album is a huge success, appearing in the Top 10 in more than 15 countries.

Single "Tell Me 'Bout It" peaked at number 28 on the UK Billboard and number 83 on the US Billboard Charts.

While the CD features other artists such as Common, the lyrics are all written, or at the very least co-written, by Joss Stone herself.

Stone has progressed much

since her first CD, "The Soul Sessions". "The Soul Sessions" was released in 2003 and it did make the Top 40 albums on the US Billboard 200 chart and number five on the UK Albums Chart and it did enjoy much success.

Her second CD, "Mind, Body and Soul", was met with even more success, launching her into stardom and celebrity status in the states. Stone made appearances on Oprah and her song "You Had Me" was very popular, along with "Right to be Wrong".

Altogether Stone has exceeded expectations and produced a third album that is as good as, and perhaps better, than her past albums.

Unfortunately Joss Stone's new tour does not reach St. Louis, but she will be in Chicago on May 30. For more information on other tour dates, visit her website.

Altogether Joss Stone is just the fresh, funky, talented and driven artist that the music industry needs and craves, and her fun CD includes the modern style, with an original twist. ☺

# Sly and the Family Stone's cool, eclectic R&B sound stands the test of a long time

☛ **Matt Muslin**  
Staff Reporter

If you want a profile of a great talent whose whole career was ruined by the most typical of rock n' roll's sicknesses, look no further. Hard to believe, Sly Stallone is a person that constructed one of the most peculiar albums in pop history: "There's a Riot goin' on".

The last time Sly appeared in the public eye was in a bizarre 2006 Grammy Awards performance, where Sly appeared with a blond Mohawk. Sly left the stage before the song ended, exited the building on a motorcycle he parked outside, and then was arrested later that night on drug possession.

Sly used to be a genius producer, one unmarried among the foils and follies of the music biz. Sly and the Family Stone were a shining, golden troop of musicians that promoted love and peace. Their angelic and pompous virtuosity made them one of the highlights of Woodstock.

However, after moving to the Los Angeles area in fall 1969, Sly Stone and his bandmates became heavy drug users. As the members became increasingly focused on drug use and partying (Sly Stone carried a violin case filled with illegal drugs wherever he went), recording slowed significantly.

Sly ditched the recording sessions with the Family Stone and worked on "Riot" mostly alone

in a studio that he had been especially built for himself. "The Record Plant" studio included a bed and a wireless microphone system, and Sly would often simply lay down in the bed and record his vocals.

"There's a Riot goin' On" was a retreat to a compressed sound, reflecting the general feeling of lost hope and crushed dreams that prevailed for many people during the 1970s. It was a scary time, with the Kent state shootings and a new government that already was looking pretty terrible, it didn't seem like anyone in America felt that could contribute or try to make a difference anymore. The 1960's hippie revolution failed and it looked as if the US was entering a faceless generation. The title of the album was an answer to the title of Marvin Gaye's 1971 album "What's Goin' On". "Riot" was stripped of its former utopian flash and bang, while all the tracks dealt with Sly's interior world as opposed to the exterior, social world, which was to a great extent the previous focus of his songwriting.

The sleeve of the CD was a stark contrast to those preceding it. In place of the usual band photograph front cover there was instead a close up of an altered American flag with its blue field replaced with black and the five-pointed stars hijacked by nine-pointed suns. Sly painstakingly worked everything into it with an exhaustive amount of overdubbing to make it embroidery of life. It was the only way to progress from the big selling commercial success "Stand!" arrangements blast triumphantly, loose guitar rhythms that weave and bob against metronomic drum machine rhythms in electrojuju pulses. Sly felt that the rhythm box, if used the way it was designed, made unrealistic sounds, and resorted to holding down five buttons, running the tape, then re-winding, holding down a different set of five buttons, and overdubbing. Sly also replaced the former Family Stone tradition of shared vocals with his own and they seemed to emanate not from his head so much as his entire body, the range

of which bottlenecked into the lowest lung rung, peaking in a shrieking, pained psychosexual register. Sly's hazy vocals throughout the record, created from being up against the microphone as though he was trying to make out with it were an attempt to make his voice sound willful and committed, but he sounds physically tired. The "peace, love and togetherness" that had embroiled the themes of The Family's first albums had been replaced by cold feelings of regret and terror that had been caused by terrible times with drugs, and now resembled a group made of old drunks outside an aged jazz club, at least when they show up. With "There's A Riot Going On's" entry of the opening track "Luv N' Height" Sly gallops astride his funky steed flanked by muted horns. Looping and overwrought snare and egg whisks to the hi-hat erupt as accents of horns, keyboards and ensemble vocalizing dance all around.

"Just Like A Baby" is the simplest and eeriest of side one. The double-tracked drumming, Sly's frighteningly ingrown vocals and his spidery, overdubbed clavinet accents are at the fore of the mix, yet, Sly still embellishes the charm to care for anything without becoming too much to handle. Sly cradles the song like mother and her child. An ominous organ drone hangs way in the background only to disappear with the next phrase and reappear towards the end.

## Reflections on high school through lens of "Sounding Off"

It's hard to believe that this is my last ever edition of "Sounding Off."

I know it's rough for you, lovely reader, but stifle your tears. I am confident that your life will still have meaning in a post "Sounding Off" world.

At the end of two years I look back and really feel that writing my monthly music themed have been my favorite part of working on "The Globe," and perhaps one of my favorite parts of high school.

I guess it makes sense, now at the end of it all, that I think I want to end my column writing years (unless, of course my college newspaper needs a music columnist) with a reflection upon some of the best and worst episodes in the history of "Sounding Off."

It was never my plan to write a standing column. In fact, before "Sounding Off" I had only written one column ever. My forte was more writing stories about urgent news such as "Bowing Club is fun." The column I had written had nothing at all to do with music, rather dealt with what I perceived as political closed-mindedness against conservatives at CHS in the wake of the 2004 presidential election. In short, there was little to suggest in my journalistic history that I would become a columnist.

However, for the last issue of the year during my sophomore year, I decided to again write a column. At that time, the spring of 2005, I was absolutely obsessed with "Indie" music. In fact, there was a never acknowledged but always felt competition between me and my friends to be the best "hipster Indie aficionado."

Out of this current sprung the first ever "Sounding Off." It ended up being fairly good, so my journalism teacher suggested that I consider writing a column monthly the following year.

Everything else you, if you judiciously read my column (as I am sure you do, right), already know.

Writing my column has been, in many ways a challenge for me. I am in awe of "real" columnists who have to write three or four columns per week. If I did not have free reign and the ability to basically write about whatever I wanted, I would be toast and quickly run out of material. Sure, "Sounding Off" is a music column, in theory, but I have frequently stretched this categorization with columns about topics such as how Michael Jackson looks like an anime character, and therefore is popular in Japan.

The end of "Sounding Off" coincides with the end of another thing that has been very important, and played a large role during my high school career. Last night was my last band concert. The last jazz band concert was over a week ago.

Right now, trust me, and no offense Mr. Blackmore, I am ecstatic. With band out of the way, I can sleep until 10:30 am every day. Besides, I need a break from the hard labor of moving my trombone slide.

At the same time, it seems weird to me to imagine a life without active participation in music. When I go to school next year, there is no guarantee that I will be even able to perform in ensembles like band. Last night's concert could well be my last one ever. That is scary, in a way, not because I love band concerts but because for so long music has been a passive yet constant part of my life, and soon I will have to actively seek opportunities to play.

Maybe I won't even want to perform. I might find myself engrossed in studying or other activities, and playing trombone will be the furthest thing from my mind. However, I find that somewhat hard to believe, considering how I have invested 90 minutes a day for the last four years in band class.

I guess my observations about Sounding Off and band, that being that pretty soon they won't be a part of my routine anymore, are true of pretty much everything. I am so used to getting up and going to school that I do not need to think; I could probably find my way around CHS with my eyes closed. I freely admit that this routine has gotten pretty blasé; I am ecstatic to be graduating and so ready to get out of here.

All the same, I am conscientious of the changes that are about the really alter much of my life. Right now the differences seem abstract, but in a few weeks I will no longer be a high school student. In a few months I will, for the first time, no longer live in St. Louis. And, in a few years, I will for the first time in my memory no longer be a student at all.

But now is definitely not the time to get all melancholy. I couldn't get teary eyed if I tried.

I'm just excited.

So, thanks for being with me the last two years, readers. I have enjoyed writing my column and have always hoped that when you read it, you would laugh, think, or most preferably, do both. I am fortunate to have had an outlet for my musings and ideas, and will miss writing here more than you know, and perhaps even more than I now suspect. ☺



Rebecca Wall

"Time" is a stand out track, the electronic amp and tape hiss builds at the end, like watching electric meteors implode on the side of the celestial ocean of Sly's mind. "Space Cowboy" is what would be happening if the listener would be able to look inside the astronaut's mind, psychosis. Sly his yodeling his mind out over robotic drumbeats and sounds like a groggy frog at the same time. He yodels over and over again, distorting the microphone and then the crazy cowboy stops, abruptly cutting off song in its tracks. "Thank you for taking me to Africa", a harrowing re-recording of "Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Again)", is the jam that closes the album. Our space friend seems to be broken down and is now dis-

solute to himself. He has drifted to an empty funky aurora. Voices drift and jump in and out of the mix randomly, and the track drifts away. Ground out for over seven minutes with an excruciatingly dragging, lead-booted tempo that bore little resemblance to the original, even though the lyrics remained the same, it does not ring half as triumphantly as it had two years earlier on their last single. Even after repeated listens, it is impossible to catch their comings and goings. And still this sucker-punched crusher staggering on its last legs funk dirge continues to grind itself down at the same unchanging pace for 7 minutes and 14 seconds until that cumulative trauma known as "There's A Riot Goin' On" finally ends. ☺

# Ramones continue to dazzle new generation



courtesy of amazon.com

**Maddie Harned**  
Section Editor

In the ever-changing world of music there are few constants. What is once considered old and dated will one day become retro. One-hit wonders will always come and go with every passing year. And the Ramones will always acquire a slew of fresh fans from each new generation.

They sang about sniffing glue, teenage boredom and something called a blitzkrieg bop, and some say that the Ramones are the definitive punk band.

Arguably, they are the most successful of the genre, remaining

popular with music fans for over three decades. Long-term success, as experienced by the Ramones, is especially rare among fellow 1970s punk bands who seemed to disappear at the turn of the decade along with pet rocks, disco and bell bottoms.

"The Ramones appeal to young people because of their unconventional yet catchy style of music," sophomore Josh Oberman said. "They're a lot easier to get into than other punk bands."

Sophomore Jacob Goldsmith's introduction to the Ramones was close to home.

"I was introduced to the Ramones by Daniel Shore and my

mother," Goldsmith said.

Many fans became familiar with the Ramones from listening to other 1970s punk bands.

"I started getting really involved with new music in 8th grade, and I had a friend that listened to a lot of punk so he gave me some," sophomore Ben Piepert said. "Then I got the anthology."

Oberman also found the Ramones through listening to other punk rock bands.

"I was introduced to the Ramones through listening to the Sex Pistols, Buzzcocks and other British punk rock," Oberman said. "My favorite song of theirs is 'I'm Against it' because it captures the anti-ev-

erything essence of punk rock."

In recent years the Ramones have garnered much more attention to their music (as well as criticism) for using their songs in commercials ranging from cell phones to car rentals.

Senior Bohan Li first heard of the band while watching a commercial on TV.

"I heard Blitzkrieg Bop a while ago on a cell phone ad and I really liked the song," Li said. "I did a little research on iTunes and found out the band from the commercial was the Ramones. I guess I've been a fan ever since."

Appearing on T-shirts, coffee mugs, posters and even having

whole comic books devoted to them. The band's clever marketing also won them over new fans, even after they retired from writing and producing new music together in the 1990s.

"I was introduced to the Ramones through a friend's t-shirt in middle school," sophomore Caitlin Blatt said. "It was one of those grey ones that looks like the presidential seal with 'hey ho, lets go' on it. I thought it was just about the coolest shirt ever and wanted to know what it meant so I found out."

Behind their leather jackets, ripped jeans and frenzied three-chord guitar riffs, the Ramones aggressive lyrics and outlook appeals

to fans from the new millennium just as strongly as it first did three decades ago.

"The Ramones are still popular today because they were new and inventive back when they first started and now still that kind of music is hip and cool," Goldsmith said.

Their songs were often less than three minutes long, but some believe those quick, frantically paced minutes were the key to the Ramones' long-standing success.

"They were something new, and a first at what they did," Piepert said. "They had some songs that just never go away. Plus who doesn't love them?"

## Subdued energy in new Wilco album debatable

**Joe Evers**  
Staff Reporter

Wilco's new album "Sky Blue Sky" brings an unexpected change in style for Wilco fans. In contrast to their most recent albums "Kicking Television: Live in Chicago," "A Ghost is Born," and "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot," this album has very few sound effects and very little excess noise. It is a stripped down record with beautiful instrumentals, melodies and lyrics. However, this is often boring.

The album's first single, "Impossibly Germany," is without doubt the album's best track. It has a slow beat, a pretty guitar riff and great lyrics, a spot where Wilco has been weak in the past. The song quickly turns into a guitar solo from the new Wilco member Nels Cline.

Cline is the saving grace off this track and the entire album. His guitar playing lifts the song from mediocrity and makes it awe inspiring. This is one of those rare songs that gets better every time you listen

to it, each time you discover new subtleties in the lyrics and guitar that make you want to listen again and again. While this is a beautiful song, it is not nearly as good as past Wilco singles.

"Walken," is one of the few energetic songs on the album. It has ragtime piano line and powerful vocals from Wilco's creativemastermind Jeff Tweedy. This is all accompanied by powerful guitar from Cline. The song also features one of the album's best solos, with both Nels Cline and Jeff Tweedy playing.

While this song may be entertaining and fun to listen to, it is perhaps the only song with this quality.

Overall, this is a solid album. However, one can't listen to it straight through without falling

asleep. The songs are melodic and beautiful but they often lack substance. In addition, this album is nowhere near the level of greatness from their previous albums.

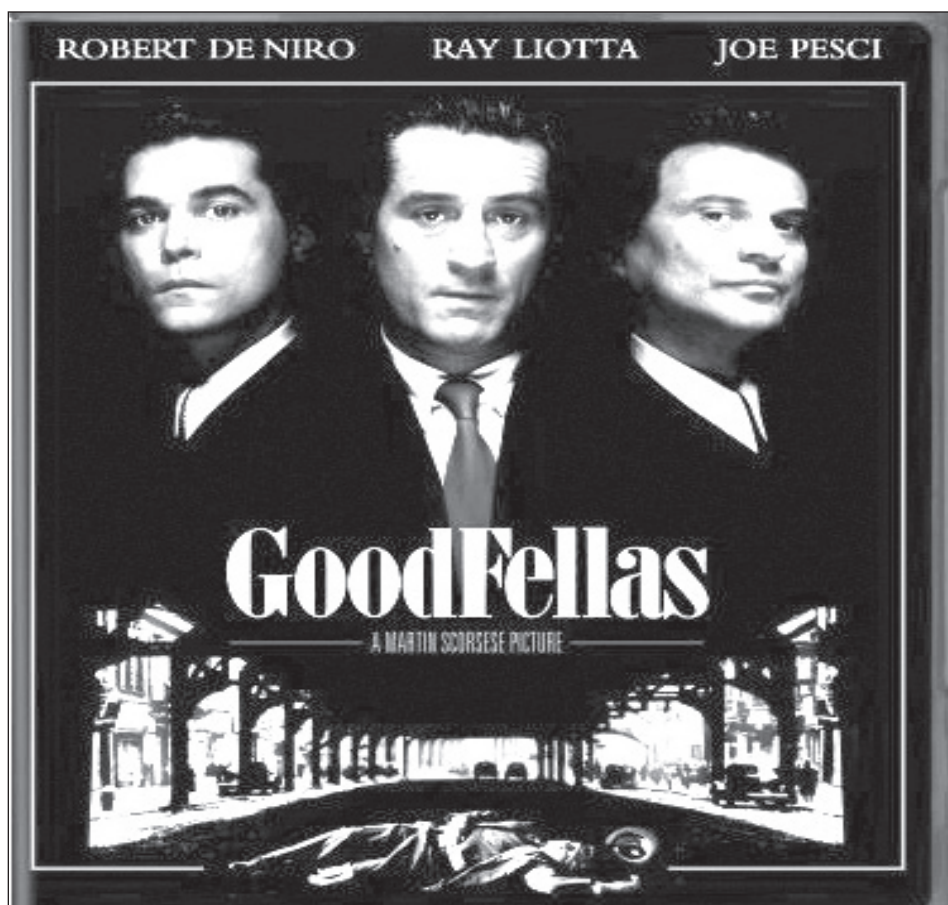
This is definitely an album of brilliant subtleties. One that has to be listened to over and over again to be fully appreciated. Pluses of this album include beautiful melodies, great lyrics and stellar guitar playing. On the negative side, the songs are often boring and not very fun to listen to. If you're a hardcore Wilco fan this album will by no means disappoint you, but if you're a new listener this is probably not the best album to pick up.

**His guitar playing lifts the song from mediocrity and makes it awe inspiring.**

**Martin Scorsese's "Goodfellas"**

came out in 1990. The film was based on Nicholas Pileggi's book, "Wiseguy," describing the true story of a mob informer named Henry Hill. The film was nominated for many Academy Awards such as best picture, best director, best adapted screenplay, best film editing, best actress in a supporting role and best actor in a supporting role.

While the film did not win best picture, Joe Pesci won best actor in a supporting role for his contribution.



courtesy of amazon.com

## 'Goodfellas' the mob-film godfather

**Percy Olsen**  
Staff Reporter

Jimmy, Henry and Tommy cruise down an old country road. The night is black, the noise of their car's busted engine can't slice the darkness. And then, a thump, from behind, from inside the trunk. The boys pull over and lift open the lid. Some poor sap who said the wrong sort of things to the wrong sort of guys chokes on his own puddle of blood.

Tommy wields his ma's butcher's knife and stabs the man until his heart finally stops its thumping.

"As far back as I can remember, I always wanted to be a gangster," Henry Hill reflects as he slams the trunk close.

You'll get caught up in the moments. The life of a gangster is stuck in automatic, and moments always influence outside their assumed significance. Moments lead to happiness, death and, most importantly, cash. Just remember, a gangster, or a mobster, or whatever you want to call him, is always gunning for cash and the power that comes with it.

While mobsters' money has built real-world powerhouses, movies on their types continue to mystify audiences. From "The Godfather" to "The Departed," the mafia has been in countless theatres throughout the years, giving us all a level of entertainment we can't refuse.

Let's start with my least favorite movie involving the mob: "Smokin' Aces." Advertisements knocked this onto my radar by promising fantastic action scenes melded with legitimate plot turns and some heart, on the side. What came out was a plateau for the fantastic Jeremy Piven to romp around in, and little to nothing else. It's a perfect example of what happens when the mob becomes less important than the story itself, when a force of overwhelming power is sanctioned to a few short scenes. You'll leave "Smokin' Aces" wishing there was more to it. Still, the mob will scamper along on all fours every now and then, receiving beatings as it slowly falls apart. Quentin Tarantino has made a

career off mob complications. "Kill Bill" had Beatrix Kiddo fend off the Japanese mafia's army of 88, not to embarrass the organization or to point out its flaws, but to get Kiddo in the right state of mind necessary for murdering her former friend.

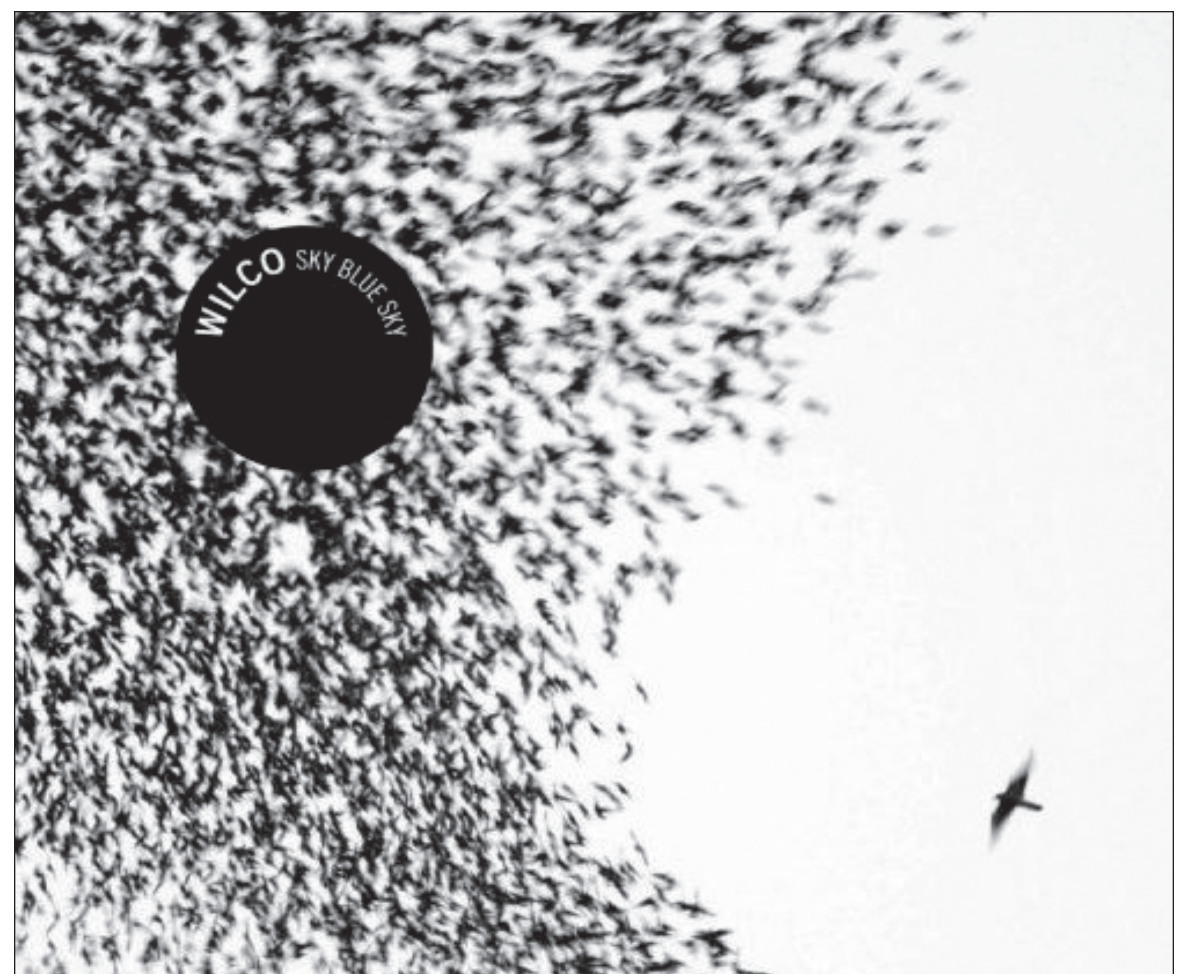
Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction" follows Vincent and Jules along their eventful, out of order tasks, all of which are run by the omnipotent Marsellus Wallace. Wallace has the distinction of holding so tight a grip on his understudies, and in turn the audience, that there may be no line in cinema as oft-quoted as the immortal, "I'ma get medieval on your ass."

In the end, you have to hark back to the beginning. In other words, the greatest mobster film is Martin Scorsese's "Goodfellas." New viewers may be infatuated with "The Departed," but make no mistake, DiCaprio and Damon are mere toddlers when compared to Ray Liotta and Robert DeNiro. Do not think for a second that "The Departed" is a bad flick. It just has the disservice of being directed by the most prestigious director of our generation, and is haunted by the memory of his stellar past works.

"Goodfellas" lets its mafia characters out of their cages, and they play it up like tykes in a sandbox. The movie keeps a brisk pace, slows down at all the right times, but never when a wiseguy changes his suit.

A wiseguy is a normal guy almost always. But there's always a moment, a moment where everything changes, when its apparent that he's not just hanging up his coat, that there's a pistol under that fabric and the wiseguy is angling to pull the trigger. It's haunting, the balance the wiseguy has to follow. If he edges too far towards the family, he ends up in a trunk. "Goodfellas" shows Henry Hill's struggle with finding his true self in a world filled with phonies.

A movie about the mafia must have the poised, mild-mannered, heartless soul of a mobster. It remains one of the few genres that can be called upon to deliver pure entertainment, intellectually and through our stimuli and in experiencing it, you will certainly find your quintessential film.



courtesy of amazon.com

"Sky Blue Sky" was released May 15, 2007 and is the sixth studio album released by Wilco. The first single from the album is titled "Impossible Germany." Other songs featured on the album are "Walken," "Hate It Here" and "Either Way."

# 'Spider-Man 3' blends emotion, comedy, action in a tasteful way

**Dakin Sloss**  
Senior Managing Editor

Intense action sequences, dazzling visual effects, generally amusing comedy, touching romance and powerful messages combine to form a quality conclusion to the Spider-Man trilogy.

Director/Writer Sam Raimi sets the stage for Spider-Man 3 by beginning with clips and photos from the previous two installments intermingled with the credits. These flashbacks draw fans in and lay the groundwork for the exciting plot that is about to unfold. While Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire), Spider-Man's alter ego, and Mary Jane Watson (Kirsten Dunst) get cozy in a spider web, a mysterious meteor arrives nearby unnoticed. From the smoking rock emerges a black gooey substance that gets on the back of Peter's bike as he drives away with MJ. The parasite later attaches to Peter, as Spider-Man, symbolizing a transformation in both characters. Spider-Man becomes obsessed with revenge on Uncle Ben's killer as his suit turns from red to black and the parasite consumes him. The infection of the parasite does not begin Peter's conversion to an arrogant and selfish egomaniac, but instead adds to his inner battle between good and evil.

Not only does Spider-Man struggle within himself, he faces a variety of new enemies. Uncle Ben's killer (Thomas Haden Church) becomes the Sandman in a particle physics accident. Peter's best friend, Harry Osborn (James Franco), believes that Peter/Spider-Man killed his father and Harry, guided by illusions of his dead father, assumes the role of the Green Goblin in his mission to avenge his father. Also, Peter's rival photographer, Eddie Brock (Topher Grace), undermines Peter at the Daily Bugle. Once Spider-Man has freed himself of the parasite and it takes Eddie over, Eddie becomes a serious threat to Spider-Man as Venom.

Peter and MJ's relationship serves as a third source of conflict. Peter begins the film with the intention of proposing to MJ, however as MJ struggles with her acting career and Peter becomes more self-absorbed, their relationship takes a turn for the worse. Furthermore, MJ is jealous of Peter's attractive blonde lab partner, Gwen Stacy, (Bryce Dallas Howard) whose life he saves as Spider-Man. He even kisses her during a parade in his honor further exacerbating the tension between him and MJ. The romantic conflict plays a central role in the film.

Raimi manages to interweave all of the aforementioned plots into a coherent progression that entertains



**Tobey Maguire stars** as "Spider-Man" in Columbia Pictures, "Spider-Man 3." The film shattered box-office records bringing in \$247,287,180 as of May 15th. This amount was unprecedented for a comic book flick.

audiences. Although there are a huge variety of competing plots, Raimi successfully develops all of the story lines and creates a unified movie. Raimi creates believable situations to temporarily remove different threats to Spider-Man, such as Harry's concussion and Sandman's dissolution in the sewer. Without Raimi's brilliance, the film could not have achieved balance between its various elements.

Spider-Man 3 incorporates more than just thrilling plots: the film contains the most comedy of the trilogy. Maguire, as the cocky Peter, provides a humorous performance including bold tangoing, a peculiar

new hairdo and winking at random girls along the street. The film also possesses some smaller characters for more comic relief. Bruce Campbell is hilarious as the Maître d' at the restaurant where Peter intends to propose. Maguire repeatedly accidentally signals for Campbell to deliver the champagne with the ring and then must call Campbell and the team of waiters off to avoid ruining the surprise. Topher Grace as Eddie serves as another source of comedy as he ignores his girlfriend and singled-mindedly focuses on capturing Spider-Man on camera. The most hilarious character is J.K. Simmons as the owner of the Daily Bugle. His

interactions with his secretary are some of the funniest moments in the movie.

The films actors are for the most part quality, switching from comedy to drama to romance fluidly. Maguire shines as a comedian and action-hero, but seems slightly corny at times with MJ. Dunst as MJ is perhaps the weakest of the cast. She has clearly mastered the damsel in distress screams and also sings well in her play. However, she comes across at times as insincere. She fails to convincingly portray her love for Peter. Despite corny love scenes, she does manage to show her anger and hurt as Peter brushes her aside various times.

The villains really step up to make the most of their roles. Franco excels in his portrayal of Harry, making his anguish, desire for revenge and eventual turn believable. The character is a challenge, because he constantly changes and Franco keeps up with all the hurdles. He scares as the bad guy and touches the heart as a good guy. Church has very few lines and rarely assumes the human form, normally floating around as sand; however, he creates a character with clear motivations. He makes mistakes and despite his role as the bad guy, he, like Harry, is not actually a bad guy. Instead of doing evil for revenge, the Sandman attempts to steal money to save his daughter. Both Franco and Church nail the position of a good guy doing bad things.

The most evil villain is Grace's Venom. Even before the suit infects him, he prays for revenge against Peter for getting the photographer position on the Daily Bugle. After transforming into a bat-like, evil Spider-Man he becomes even worse. In terms of acting, he does not deliver the best performance of the cast; however, he holds his own. He has a variety of humorous snippets throughout, but he does not play the bad guy as well as he could. As Venom he remains the sneaky, backstabbing creep he was, but fails to inspire true fear.

Overall, Spider-Man 3 concludes the trilogy well. It is perhaps not as good as the second installment; however, it is not a disappointment, avoiding the fate of many recent trilogies. Spider-Man 3 at its core contains two basic elements, entertainment and education. The action, comedy and romance engage audiences, but there is also something more. The film is not just a meaningless action flick; it illustrates a significant message. Spider-Man 3 is a story of revenge and forgiveness, telling viewers that revenge destroys the person seeking it, more than the person receiving it. All in all the movie is both rewarding and entertaining. ☺

# 'Sopranos' offers deal you cannot refuse

**Jon Igielnik**  
Staff Reporter

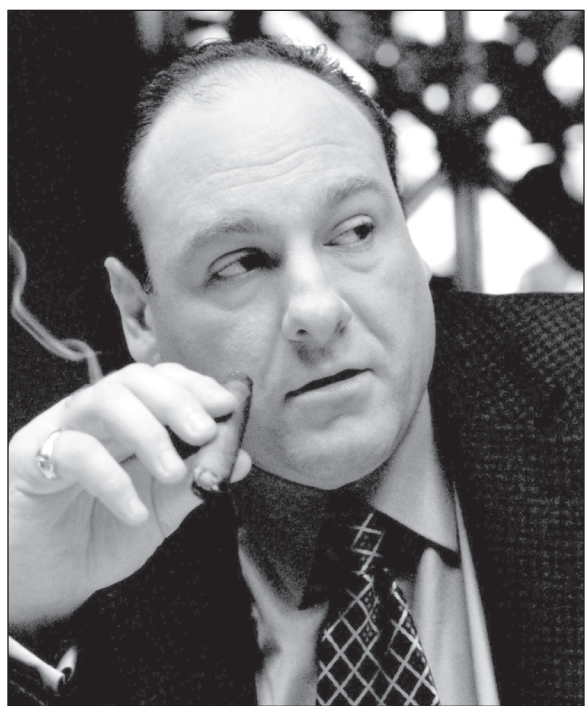
I've watched them since Tony's first panic attack, since his first meeting with the shrink, since the first time they took a body to the back room of the deli for "processing," since that grim day out on the boat when Tony had to kill big Puss, since the first playing of its iconic theme song, and its memorable line "you've got yourself a gun" I have been a fan of "The Sopranos" and after one great episode after the next for six solid seasons, America's favorite mob show is finally about to be sleeping with the fishes.

"The Sopranos" is, in my humble opinion, one of the best shows of all time. David Chase, the executive producer, creator and writer of the show expertly, and with the freedom of HBO, shows us about the complex inner workings of New Jersey mob boss Tony Soprano's life. We see him deal with his "business," his friends and his family, all along dealing with his anxiety problems encountered throughout the series, which he copes with by going to a psychiatrist and occasionally taking medication.

The amazing complexity of the show, with its extraordinary long story arcs and brilliantly intertwining characters and story lines is supported not only by brilliant writing, beautiful direction and great music choices, but also by an absolutely fabulous cast led by James Gandolfini, with terrific supporting parts played by Edie Falco (as Tony's wife Carmela), Michael Imperioli (as Tony's cousin Christopher) and Lorraine Bracco (as Tony's shrink, Dr. Jennifer Melfi.) among many, others.

Over the life of the show, Tony has had to deal with killing two of his best friends, (and-spoiler- another close person to Tony very recently) many of his men being killed by other mobs and fights with other mobs, and family troubles, such as in season five, when he split up with his wife. The stories are so compelling and mesmerizing that it is hard to take your eyes off the screen, and even after a full, commercial-free, actual hour of television, I found myself craving more week after week.

As a series, "The Sopranos" embodies what most



**James Gandolfini plays** Tony Soprano on "The Sopranos." The show is currently in its final season.

networks have lost over the years and are only recently beginning to get back. The show is edgy, dramatic, well written, and even funny at the right parts, and I think that the big networks can learn something from this show. The writing is top of the line, some of the best on TV. The characters have so much depth, and their interactions with each other and the way they all connect to the story is unbelievable.

"The Sopranos" more than almost any other show I have ever seen, truly allows the viewer to feel connected to the plight of the characters and their personal and moral dilemmas, and so far, the majority of the shows that are able to do that on all of television are on premium cable networks, and in my opinion, it shouldn't be that way. In this, a very low public medium, I am personally calling for the television networks to reform.

If you have not seen "The Sopranos" before, and you get HBO, watch it (and if you have Charter On-Demand, watch there) if you don't have HBO, rent it, but whatever your situation, find a way to see this show from the first episode to the last, because it defiantly doesn't disappoint. If you are a fan of the show, or have seen a few episodes here or there, start watching the new episodes on Sunday from 8:00 to 9:00 PM (and, if you like that, stick around for "Entourage" from 9:00 to 9:30,) there are only three left, and the tension is building up for something amazing when the show reaches its end. As fan of this show since it began, I appreciate everything that this show has brought to the television world, and I thank everyone behind the making of the show for giving us such brilliance for six seasons. "The Sopranos" shouldn't be overlooked after it is over, it should be cherished, so I urge you to see it, and if you need a compelling reason to watch, the Soprano family will make you an offer you can't refuse. ☺

# 'Georgia Rule' offers inspiring performances yet corny plot

**Katie Weiss**  
Senior Managing Editor

There are two kinds of people in this world- those who worship the ground that Lindsay Lohan walks on and those who would prefer two hours of unadulterated torture rather than sit through one of her classically bubble gum films. During the past year, Lindsay Lohan has been the subject of non stop media scrutiny. Whether it has been over Lohan's eating habits, partying or family problems, the media has been relentless towards the 20 year old star. So when Lohan's most recent film, "Georgia Rule" hit theaters on May 11<sup>th</sup>, the film seemed to be getting more press for its lead actress than the film itself. The commercials featured the marks of a typical Lohan movie, including a love interest and a dysfunctional family. Which is why when I entered the theater to go see the movie, I felt a sense of dread akin to the one I felt right before getting my wisdom teeth pulled.

The film opens with a scene between Lohan and Felicity Huffman who plays Lohan's mother. Lohan is walking beside the car as Huffman tries to persuade Lohan to get back in and drive with her the rest of the way to Idaho. The scene while entertaining bears a striking resemblance to the opening scene between Natalie Portman and Susan Sarandon in the 1999 film, "Anywhere but Here," however, it manages to get its point across as well as lead Lohan to have her first encounter with her future love interest, Harlan, played by Garret Hedlund. Eventually Lohan finds her way to her grandmother's house, taking just long enough for the audience to be beaten over the head with the fact that Lohan's character is a slightly disturbed and remarkably obnoxious 18 year girl who isn't afraid to push the boundaries. The next 35 minutes of the movie drag on as Lohan gets left in Idaho with her supposedly

strict Grandmother (who actually becomes the only likable character in the film) with the intention of being straightened out by the morally righteous town in Idaho.

Fonda's character of the grandmother is a spunky and energized older woman who only seems to have one rule, never use the lord's name in vain. Fonda comically sticks a bar of soap in any and all people who break this rule. Other than that one oddity, the grandmother is a completely lovable and multidimensional character. Fonda's portrayal of the grandmother brings a much needed energy into the film and creates a great foil for both Huffman and Lohan to work off of.

The movie finally begins to pick up after a confrontation between Lohan and her boss played by Dermot Mulroney where Lohan admits to being repeatedly raped by her stepfather. It is at this point when the movie transforms from a one sided movie to a film with multiple layers.

After Lohan's confession, all the characters begin to unravel and the feelings that were once shoved aside by the grandmother, mother and daughter are all placed on the table. Huffman's character of the mother is a tragic story of a lost woman who was never able to salvage the damage that was done in her childhood and has a result been struggling to find the love that was missing from her upbringing in both alcohol and a doomed marriage. Huffman's portrayal of the character is dead on. Huffman is able to combine both heart and emotion to a character that would

normally be written off as a cruel and cold hearted mother.

However, while both Huffman and Fonda's talent was evident in the film, it was Lohan who gave the most remarkable and unexpected performance. Following a slew of films in which Lohan has played very likable and single sided characters; Lohan's portrayal of a disturbed and seemingly heartless young woman was nothing if not impressive. Lohan was faced with multiple scenes where her character's actions would make the audience grit their teeth, but Lohan took on the role full heartedly and not afraid to be hated. Lohan was able to flawlessly depict the darker side of human nature. This role is

as to why the media became fascinated with Lohan in the first place. The end of the movie is a shameful attempt to leave audiences satisfied when in fact, the film has the opposite result. However, while the movie started out stale and ended with a

reminder

thud, "Georgia Rule" is a captivating and relatable film that shows that you can go home again.

While the film does have its flaws including a corny story line between Lohan and a country Mormon whom Lohan corrupts, overall the films is a dark tale that reflects the talent of a trio of Hollywood actresses'. The largest fault of the film is the marketing of the movie as a just another teen drama centered on Lindsay Lohan. If "Georgia Rule" does nothing else for you, it will remind you why Lohan is still getting movie deals. ☺

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# Sun Sets Over Class of 2007's High School Career



staff photo



Abbie Minton



Abbie Minton



Rebecca Singer



Abbie Minton



Steven Glynnis



Rebecca Singer

**Clockwise from top left:** Peppers King Candidates pose for picture on dress-up day with the girls who dressed them up. Seniors in Rocketry club at rocket launch during Junior year. Senior Christine Ford helps a buddy string a bracelet at Arts Fair. Seniors crowd Homecoming float dressed as their theme, construction workers. Seniors David Reddick, Melanie Holland, Becky Simmington, and Aaron Canon at practice for CHS production, "Grease." Seniors (clockwise from top right) Stacey Lawrence, Mary vonderHeydt, Chela Colvin, Hannah Yanko, Taylor Grigg, and D'Shay Westbrook pose from a group photo while volunteering at sixth grade camp as counselors. Seniors rush the field after their win of the Golden Greyhound at Homecoming this year.



cutouts courtesy of outgoing seniors