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Clayton High School

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Volume 81, Issue 10

Clayton, MO 63105

May 14, 2010

Zoo, Science Center could charge admission fees

by Ken Zheng
Co-Editor in Chief

One of the many great things about St. Louis is its number of public attractions, most of which are free to tourists and residents alike. Missouri State Senator Joan Bray proposed a bill that will allow attractions within the Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District (ZMD) to charge an admission fee to non-district residents.

"Currently these institutions, which include the Zoo, Art Museum, Science Center and the History Museum, are not free; they are funded by property taxes that St. Louis City and County residents have been paying since 1971," Bray said. "The tax was levied in response to financial troubles that three of these institutions faced. Since that time many circumstances affecting the ZMD have changed. Two more institutions have been added to the district, the population of the city and county has significantly decreased and attendance at these institutions has steadily increased, in part due to their continual expansion and improvement."

Over the years these institutions have continued to offer a combination of public tax dollars, individual and corporate donations and grants to keep them functioning as top-tier entities.

"As the economy has declined, however, so has area philanthropy and revenue from declining property values," Bray said. "Providing these institutions with a mechanism that allows them to safeguard their financial security, at their discretion, makes sense."



The Zooline Railroad takes visitors around one of St. Louis' most popular sites for tourists and locals. The free ride that residents of St. Louis City and County currently enjoy at the Zoo and other attractions could come to an end if Senate Bill 903 passes.

For these reasons, Bray filed Senate Bill 903, which puts into law the ability for the ZMD institutions to charge an admission fee to non-St. Louis City and non-County residents.

"It is in no way a mandate," Bray said. "At the heart of this proposal lies preserving the quality of these institutions that are cherished by so many. Their excellence cannot be maintained unless they have an adequate source of

revenue, and should their income ever decline to such a level as to be insufficient I would like them to have a means to act against that. This proposal is not a mandate, but rather the creation of an option that leaves the decision to charge admission fees with each institution, where it belongs."

To charge an admission fee, the bill states that the board of a ZMD sub-district institution first has to vote to do

so, then they have to apply to the ZMD board, and finally the ZMD board votes on whether to approve the application from the subdistrict. Even after approval, a subdistrict institution has the authority through this bill to exempt anyone else from the fee of their choosing such as students and senior citizens.

While officials at the Zoo and Science Center declined to lengthy interviews, they both issued respective brief

statements.

"The St. Louis Zoo does not intend to charge admission," said Janet Powell, Director of Public Relations. "We are committed to remaining free to all, including non-residents of St. Louis and St. Louis County."

At this point, officials at the Science Center say that they are very unlikely to consider charging admission even if the bill passes.

"We are neither for nor against the bill's passage," said Science Center Spokesperson Beth McClure. "However, to even consider charging admission for non-residents, we would have to explore the possibility with the board and receive their input."

Bray's Legislative Aide Ellie Glenn gave further details regarding the bill's history.

"SB 903, the original bill, has only been heard in committee thus far and must go through many more steps before arriving on Governor Nixon's desk," Glenn said. "However, because Sen. Bray's amendment language was germane to both SB 580 in relation to local government and HB 2297 in relation to ZMD, it was able to be amended with a vote to the two bills."

If SB 580 passes, then the language goes into effect as soon as the Governor signs the bill because it has an emergency clause. HB 2297, however, does not contain an emergency clause so it would go into effect on the normal bill date, Aug. 28.

"I hold every piece of legislation I am proposing in the same regard and [I] hope to see them all passed," Bray said.

Trip to Memphis a source of cultural, historical education

by Laura Bleeker
Editor

Before the Civil Rights Act of 1964, America had failed to make good on its promise of equality to all citizens. African Americans had been discriminated against and segregated from whites, and in many parts of the country they were subordinate to whites.

The National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee pays homage to this part of our history.

Students in the US/World History II class were given the chance to go and see the National Civil Rights Museum and the Stax Museum of American Soul Music in Memphis. US/World History II teachers Mark Bayles, Paul Hoelscher and Rick Kordenbrock helped plan the trip.

The US/World History II class studies the civil rights movement in the classroom, and the teachers believed students would learn even more if they could visit museums on the topic and crucial sights that shaped the movement.

"It was really cool to see the National Civil Rights Museum after having studied the civil rights movement in class," sophomore Bianca Vannucci said.

The experience also allowed students to gain more knowledge than they otherwise would have by just sitting in the classroom.

"I feel that this trip was more in-depth than what we learned in class because we got to physically see things that happened fifty years ago," sophomore Kendal Freeman said. "And the way the museum was set up, it almost felt like you were there."

The National Civil Rights Museum and the vast amount of information it covers impressed many of the students and teachers.

"I think the museum itself was very educational because it covers a lot of African American history," Kordenbrock said. "The focus being the civil rights movement, it has so much information it's almost overwhelming."

The museum on civil rights was able to give the students a much more knowledge on the civil rights movement, but it also touched and moved them emotionally.

"[The Civil Rights Museum] was such a moving experience because you got to stand and look at the spot where Martin Luther King Jr. fell when he was shot, and you can

imagine back to that day," Kordenbrock said. "I mean, if you're not moved by that you're probably not human because that was a powerful experience."

The students were also able to visit the Stax Museum of American Soul Music and learn about the history of soul music. The small record studio changed the world of music, and it also changed the role of African Americans in music.

"It was really cool to see the Stax Museum because it was where so much music started," sophomore Isabella Jacobs said.

Although students loved the trip and the knowledge they gained from it, many felt that the 24-hour voyage was too short.

"Looking back at the trip now, it feels like I was on the bus the whole time," Jacobs said. "It was just so short. But it was still very fun."

Others felt that the trip should have incorporated more activities to further their experience.

"Maybe next year they can have another museum lined up because we finished early and got back really early," Freeman said.

Students believed a great part of the trip was the culture and style of Memphis that you can only learn about if there, and wanted even more time to understand it.

"I wish we got more time to walk around Memphis and get a feel for it on our own," Jacobs said.

The teachers planning the trip have already begun to think of ways to change the trip for next year. They hope to lengthen it and add more educational experiences.

"We may make it an additional day next year," Kordenbrock said. "And maybe go to Graceland."

Although students and teachers would make changes to the trip, they enjoyed it and believe it is a great trip and that students should continue to participate.

"More people should go next year," Vannucci said. "Because I think that if more people went it would be even better."

The trip was a great way to see an important part of our history's past and partake in it being remembered.

"It's a great out of town trip, and you get so much history," Kordenbrock said. "And you get the sense that you are somewhere where something really, really important happened - because you are."



Construction crews work on the other side of the wall that divides the quad. Unfortunately for students, the quad will not be available until the fall of 2011.

From the ground up

Staff and students will have to deal with disruption as crews work on the addition and other renovations.

by Noah Eby
Editor

Though students and teachers will have left for the tropical beaches, snow-capped mountains and air-conditioned family rooms of summer vacation, the CHS campus will be far from quiet in the coming months. Construction crews will be working to build the new

addition, which is supposed to be finished in time for the 2011 session of Summer Quest.

"This summer is going to be mostly focused on getting the addition steel up, getting the brick on under roof so we can start working on the interior finishes this fall and winter," said Mark Winschel, the Project Manager from S.M. Wilson & Co.

Winschel estimates that work at the high school is about 15 percent complete, while work at the elementary schools, which is scheduled to be finished by this fall, is about 40 percent complete. The bulk of the work will happen over the summer, once the steel starts to go up later this month. While there are only 15 to 25 workers on site at the high school currently, that number will begin to increase dramatically

in the coming months.

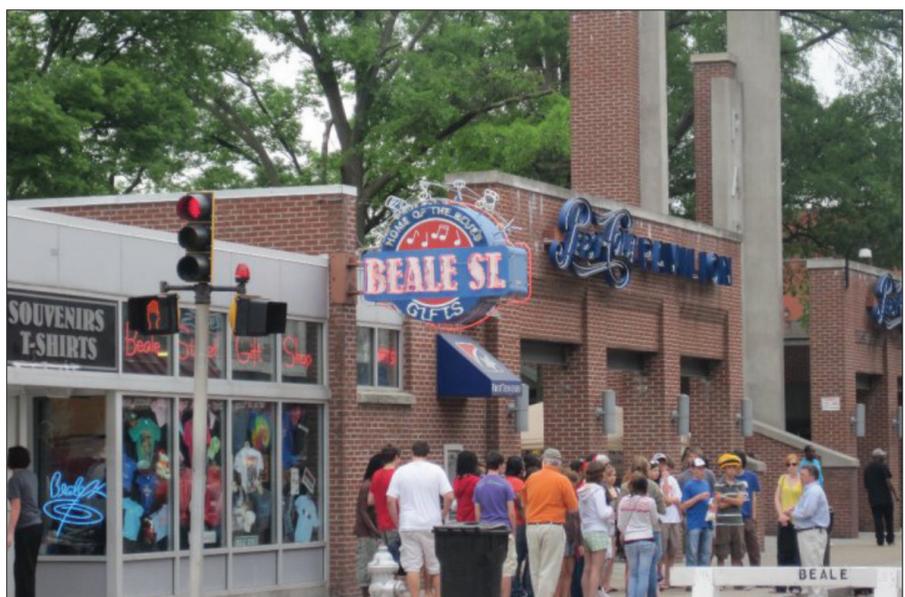
"Once the steel is up, that opens up a lot of work," Winschel said. "You can start working on the inside, you can start working on the outside. I'd say our peak at the high school is probably going to be later on this fall. We'll probably have close to a hundred guys here."

Winschel said that the project has gone smoothly for the most part, despite a problem early on involving the locating of utility lines under the cottage and tech building.

"A lot of times the utility information that we have on the plans doesn't match exactly what's shown in the field, so sometimes we'll hit water lines or hit sanitary lines that are in the way," Winschel said. "You

have to work and get those repaired, and that delays your schedule a little bit because you've got to get all that stuff out of the way before you can do your foundations and steel."

There have been some complaints from staff, which Winschel said is normal for a demolition project.



Students listen to their tour guide as they walk through Beale St. in Memphis. The two-day trip allowed participants to visit only the National Civil Rights Museum and the Stax Museum of American Soul Music, but the trip may be lengthened next year.

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Volcanic eruption disrupts air travel, delays numerous international flights

The Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland proved to be a surprising international disturbance, leaving airline passengers stranded and delayed worldwide.

by **Jocelyn Lee**
Editor

After being dormant for almost two hundred years, the Eyjafjallajökull volcano has awakened and aroused chaos in air travel around the globe. In fact, it caused the most disruption in international air travel since the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001.

First noticed because of the glowing red cloud above it, the volcano began to draw attention on March 20. However, lava activity and fire fountains subsided only days after beginning, and it seemed as if all activity had quieted down.

So, it came as a shock to many when on Wednesday, April 14, an explosion produced clouds of ash, which reached up to 11,000 meters high. Thousands of flights were canceled around Europe, due to the cloud drifting south and east of the eruption. The cloud contains silicate, a substance which can severely damage jet engines.

Because of its proximity to Eyjafjallajökull, Britain was one of the countries most affected by the ash cloud, and it closed its airspace soon after the eruption. According to the New York Times, spokeswoman for Britain's National Air Traffic Service, Deborah Seymour, said such extensive closing of British airspace is an extremely rare occurrence.

Paris also felt the effects, when its two main airports closed, along with

approximately 20 others in the country. Likewise, other major airports across Europe, including those in Germany and in Ireland, closed in the few days following the eruption.

Michael Peil was one of many whose flights were cancelled. As Associate Dean for International Programs at Washington University's School of Law, Peil was staying in Utrecht, a city about 30 miles south of Amsterdam, The Netherlands,

for a work conference. He was expected to depart on Sunday, April 18 for London, from where he would then fly to Chicago.

"On Wednesday night, I heard about the eruption at dinner, but we didn't think much about it," Peil said. "After all, how can a small volcano eruption in Iceland affect our flight?"

Peil soon learned that the Amsterdam airport was closed, as were many others across Europe.

"There were rumors all over the place," Peil said. "Every day, some peo-

ple said the airports would open the next day, while other people reminded us that the last time this volcano erupted, it lasted for over two years. By Saturday morning, it was clear to us that we weren't going home on Sunday."

Peil said that when he called American Airlines, the earliest flight he could get was the morning of Thursday, April 22, because so many people were rescheduling their flights.

Like Peil's flight, a great number of trans-Atlantic flights were canceled or delayed. Among the disrupted flights were those along the second busiest international route, the New York-London flight path.

On April 19, European officials announced that all European airspace was reopened above elevations of 20,000 feet, allowing a number of flights to resume. Iceland's main international airport also opened, since Iceland's airspace was affected little by the southward-blowing ash.

On April 20, Britain reopened all

of its airspace, six days since they had banned all flights. The country was one of the last to lift its ban.

In total, over 100,000 flights were grounded, the Associated Press said.

Peil arrived back in St. Louis Thursday afternoon, four days after he had originally planned to return. However, Peil, unlike some, was not especially affected by this delay.

Peil recalled that one of his colleagues had to be home in Portugal immediately, so his colleague took a train to Munich, Germany, where he tried to catch an airplane. Germany's airports were closed when he arrived, so he boarded another train to Milan, Italy, then to Rome after learning that Milan's airports were closed, too. He flew from Rome to Spain, and, finally, home to Portugal.

The effects of the closure of such a large amount of European airspace have been widespread. Millions of passengers around the world were delayed or stranded in airports, and the halt in air traffic cost the aviation industry nearly \$2 billion, according to the Associated Press. Debate over the handling of the situation soon unfolded.

"A lot of the discussions turned political, with some people blaming the national governments for overreacting and shutting down all the airports, and others blaming the greedy airlines for risking passengers' lives by trying to fly again, too soon," Peil said.



Helen Wiley

With the worst of the crisis over, European officials have begun seeking better methods of dealing with future airspace disruptions. Both Europe's air traffic agency and the European Union have been advocating for a unified European airspace, by creating a single regulatory body.

"The volcanic ash crisis that paralyzed European air transport for nearly a week made it crystal clear that the

Single European Sky is a critical missing link in Europe's infrastructure," the International Air Transport Association Director General Giovanni Bisignani said for the Associated Press.

Although volcanic eruptions are rare occurrences, similar air safety concerns apply in terrorism and health epidemic-related situations, so a coordinated response throughout Europe is a possible future solution. ☛

BP accepts responsibility for oil spill, seeks cleanup solution

by **Appi Sharma**
Reporter

More than a year ago, in February 2009, British Petroleum plc (BP) filed a plan for possible problems for its Deepwater Horizon oil rig. It concluded that problems would be unlikely, and, as stated in the plan, "due to the distance to shore (48 miles) and the response capabilities that would be implemented, no significant adverse impacts are expected."

Now, however, a significant adverse impact is exactly what the world has seen with the oil leak, which is set to become the largest ever in U.S. waters.

The Deepwater Horizon was an offshore drilling rig, which was collecting oil from the seabed, approximately 5,000 ft. underwater, for BP.

An explosion sunk the rig, killing 11 people, and also breaking the pipe. This leak is still releasing oil at an approximate rate of 5,000 barrels a day, which translates to be 2.5 gallons every second.

President Barack Obama has ordered a review of the event

and barred new offshore drilling licenses until this review has been completed, in order to prevent future disasters.

Currently, the U.S. government is focusing on dealing with the current disaster. The government held BP responsible for the spill and is forcing them to lead the clean up measures. BP accepted these terms and has pledged to try its best to clean the spill.

"We are taking full responsibility for the spill, and we will clean it up, and where people can present legitimate claims for damages we will honor them," BP CEO Tony Haward said. "We are going to be very, very aggressive in all of that."

BP, however, was not completely responsible. Although it was the main developer of the oil field, the Deepwater Horizon was leased to BP and also run by the oil company Transocean.

Even so, BP has indeed taken an aggressive role in cleaning up the oil slick. With the federal government's help, BP has tried using oil dispersants and other chemicals to recover the oil, but their effects have been limited.

The depth at which the oil is being collected means that

it is capable of mixing somewhat with the water to create a thick liquid that is harder to burn, or evaporate. Oil-consuming microbes also have a hard time getting rid of the substance. Thus, many of the common clean up methods are severely limited.

Efforts to try and close the leaks using remote controlled undersea vehicles have also failed.

BP engineers decided to try to funnel the leaking oil to the surface for collection, but the domes that were built to act as funnels were rendered useless when gas crystals formed on them, preventing them from sinking into the water.

Fortunately, BP has a plan B: drilling a relief well. This well would intersect the main oil well and allow BP to pump in liquids that would stop the leak. Although preparations have already been made, the process will take two to three months and cost \$1 billion.

This delay will significantly increase the consequences for the environment, as well as the economy that depends on the environment. Already, 400 species are threatened by the oil spill. The delay will allow the oil to spread even further, and

increase this threat.

The threat on the edible marine life is also a threat to the fishing and shrimping industries. Initial estimates predicted that the fishing industry alone would suffer a \$2.5 billion loss.

If the oil reaches the Florida coast, then the tourism industry could face costs of \$3 billion, because of the plethora of beaches that would need to be shut down. In preparation for this, staging areas have been set up on many susceptible beaches.

President Obama has committed to helping this crisis come to a close and acknowledges that it might take some time. But he is determined to keep supporting the relief efforts.

"I'm not going to rest -- and none of the gentlemen and women who are here are going to rest -- or be satisfied until the leak is stopped at the source, the oil on the Gulf is contained and cleaned up, and the people of this region are able to go back to their lives and their livelihoods," Obama said. ☛

Visit by Russian delegation provides chance for gaining new perspective

by **Sneha Viswanathan**
Editor

The visit by members of the Moscow School of Political Studies was a unique and informative opportunity to exchange information of interest to both the delegates and the CHS students and staff.

On April 28, CHS faculty, staff, and students were given the privilege of meeting with delegates from the Moscow School of Political Studies, which facilitates seminars about various social and political issues for professionals from Russia and around the world.

The delegation, which included heads of departments from various Russian universities, visited CHS and other sites in the St. Louis area to understand differences in local governance, education, and other cultural and political aspects of cities in America compared to those in Russia.

During the seminar at CHS, the delegates were interested in the range of the class size, the subjects that students study, and the prestige associated with teaching in the United States. In return, they answered students' questions about similar issues related to education.

In Russia, many schools have grades from first to eleventh, and the class size is usually between twenty and thirty students. A typical school week in Russia is six days, and some schools have two shifts during which students can attend classes.

Most secondary schools, which include eleventh and twelfth grade, have a single special focus, which is often math, physics or biology, and has a strong influence on students' future educational or career plans.

According to the delegates, students don't have much flexibility when choosing classes, and they don't have the same classes every day.

Unlike the American college application process, the Russian college application process is based on the requirement that students decide to pur-

sue a set field in advance. One of the translators said, "A university [in Russia] doesn't have a variety of things; it's a university of 'something'."

While there is no Russian equivalent of the standardized testing such as the SAT or the ACT, Russia recently started a system in which students have to pass a state exam in the required areas of Russian language and math in order to graduate from secondary school. Students may take an additional five subject tests in other subjects.

The subject exams which students choose to take depend on the focus of the college that students wish to attend. The result of this nationwide exam gives students the privilege to apply to a university. Russian students may be entitled to scholarships if they receive high scores on the exam, just as American students are.

Toward the middle of the discussion, the topic turned to politics. The delegates said that while United Russia is the ruling political party, three other major parties are the Liberal Democrats, the Social Party, and the Com-

munist Party, which still has a number of adherents.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the delegates have noticed a trend of young people planning their futures in economics and law because of significantly reduced government control in those areas.

The delegates shared similar perceptions of America. Some of the most frequently mentioned terms included "competition," "high level of economic development," "a very powerful military," and "mother of the global economic crisis."

The images the delegates held of American politicians are highly dependent on propaganda. During the 2008 election, most Russians received a stronger message from Obama.

Though the time allotted for the visit only allowed us to discuss two main topics, the visit by members of the Moscow School of Political Studies was a unique and informative opportunity to bring interesting information to both the delegates and the CHS students and staff. ☛



Caroline Stamp

Senior Madeline Docherty attends a discussion with visiting Moscow School delegates. The group of delegates visited CHS on April 28.

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Construction causes disruption but is worth the hassle

Construction
pg. 1

The sounds of jack-hammering and heavy machinery can be heard through the walls of the math wing, which has been a source of disruption for many teachers.

"It's tough because if it's loud and it's disruptive, it's not fair to kids to have class in there," said Math Department Chair David Kohmetscher. "But the difficulty is that we don't have space, that's one of the reasons we're building an addition; we don't have enough rooms to send people to.... We've got one of our overflow rooms as an art bay, so you take your math class from here down to the ceramics room – not the most efficient place to learn."

Winschel said that the noise level should be lessening soon as the demolition phase ends and crews start focusing on constructing the addition.

"We're going to get to the stage where we get the shell enclosed, masons are working – that's not a particularly loud activity – and then once the building's enclosed we're going to be working inside, so there's going to be a pretty good buffer from the addition to the existing building," Winschel said. "So I would say the disruption is probably going to go down in the near future."

Because the math wing already has Smart Boards in every room, a central office and other perks from the most recent construction project, it will not be gaining any new facilities from the addition. In fact, the largest math classroom will lose about a third of its floor space to

accommodate a hallway.

"We're not getting anything from this one, but we've been pretty lucky we got this area in the last construction," Kohmetscher said.

Health and P.E. teachers have also been affected by the construction, though not that of the new addition. Renovations to the Stuber facilities have forced the health teachers to move out of their office, and the same fate will soon come to Coach Samuel Horrell, who is scheduled to move to one of the learning annexes later this month. However, he said that the minor hassle of moving offices is outweighed by the positive changes that the construction will bring.

"I think the new facilities that we're going to be getting are going to be phenomenal for our classes and for our athletics," Horrell said. "So it's worth that little price of inconvenience that you have to pay."

The changes in store for Stuber will bring new rooms and capabilities that will greatly aid the athletics program.

"They're redoing the locker rooms upstairs, they're redoing them downstairs, and then on the girls' side they're actually putting an athletic training facility... where people can come in from outside and do rehab," Horrell said. "Our athletes are going to have access to all the rehab and all the high tech. equipment that's going to be in there."

Construction crews will continue to hammer and bang as they build and renovate, which will likely bring more disruptions to staff and students. Yet the end result, new buildings and facilities that will revitalize and modernize numerous classes, will surely be worth the price. As Horrell said, "You've got to give a little to get a little," and in this case, CHS is getting quite a lot. ☺



Lines from Robert Frost's "The Mending Wall" appear on the construction site barrier courtesy of English teachers Dave Jenkins and Katie Storms. The stanzas were put up in honor of National Poetry Month.



Jazz Band musicians play at a concert. Jazz Band is one of many zero hour classes at CHS in which students come to school early most days of the week to practice the music.

Despite hard work, band is still rewarding

by Kara Kratcha
Editor

Ah, band geeks. Known for their school tee-shirt style and stories of band camp, members of the band can hardly avoid the stereotype that their love for their instrument and music dominates just about every aspect of their lives. But with a more rigorous practice and competition schedule at CHS, do Clayton band kids still have positive attitudes about their fine art class?

Junior Wolfy Gaidas finds that the increased practice time is time consuming.

"Compared to last year, when we had night rehearsals not that often except for concerts and Solo and Small Ensemble, this year we had night rehearsals a lot more," Gaidas said. "We also had to miss a lot of school. We got behind in our classes, which made school a lot harder."

Freshman Jamal Whitehead agreed that band practice takes up a significant amount of time.

"I'm a percussionist," Whitehead said. "Not only do we have to do concerts, performances, competitions, but percussion has to do mandatory rehearsals after school. And then there's marching band."

Although junior Rae Warren called band a commitment, she thinks the class is well worth her effort.

"Not only is band an easy A, but colleges see that you are well-rounded and have taken a fine art," Warren said. "Also, from a biological standpoint, it builds dendrite connections,

which stimulate thought flow and help you come up with answers faster."

Junior Mimi Liu is equally excited about band.

"I'm pretty driven to participate in band," Liu said. "At times the commitment is a hassle, but I think the end result, like when we get a one at competition, is worth it."

Despite the time he has to take to participate in band, Whitehead also finds band rewarding.

"In the end, it's time well spent," Whitehead said. "When you start it feels like it's time wasted...But it's actually time well wasted because band builds up your skills and teaches you to be disciplined."

Warren sees improvement as a key component to the band experience.

"Pretty much no one in band is bad because everyone improves every year," Warren said. "Even if you're tenth chair you still get better with practice."

Even the large class size, normally viewed negatively, seems to be an advantage in band.

"Band is one of those classes where you're exposed to all grades," Liu said. "So it's a really good way to meet people outside of your class. And going to the class itself isn't stressful at all because you play music, which is relaxing."

Liu, demonstrating that time commitment is no detriment to passion for CHS band kinds, echoed the voices of her peers when she summed up her feelings about band quite succinctly.

"Band is awesome," she said. ☺

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PowerSchool: an asset or addiction for students?

by Meredith McMahon
Editor

I have found, like many CHS students, that I have an addiction – and a rather serious one at that. I cannot say it is one that is so often addressed like drug abuse or alcohol. No, it is an addicting, painful, and pleasuring experience that is reserved for the most grade obsessed students at our high school.

This addicting internet phenomenon is called PowerSchool.

I do admit. Especially after a large test I can check my grades every day, even several times a day seeking the reassurance of knowing my grade. PowerSchool has found its niche in CHS for the past eight years as a way of easy access to grades for students, parents, and teachers.

"We needed a student information system and we decided it was time to look for one that had more options to it," Assistant Principle Marci Pieper said. "PowerSchool worked with the Mac [computers] seamlessly. There were committees and lots of talk about which to go to, and along came PowerSchool. Along with PowerSchool came a parent portal. Teachers could go in look at grades and it was working really well."

When PowerSchool made its debut at CHS, there were quirks.

"We found that at the very beginning parents were on constantly and emailing teachers on updating grades," Pieper said. "There was that fear that once we opened it up to students and parents the focus wouldn't be so much on learning but on grades and becoming obsessive about it. . . It's a lot calmer now than it was when it first opened up."

Checking grades too often is a little much because PowerSchool policy says that teachers only have to update grades every two weeks, however for some, checking grades is more like a routine.

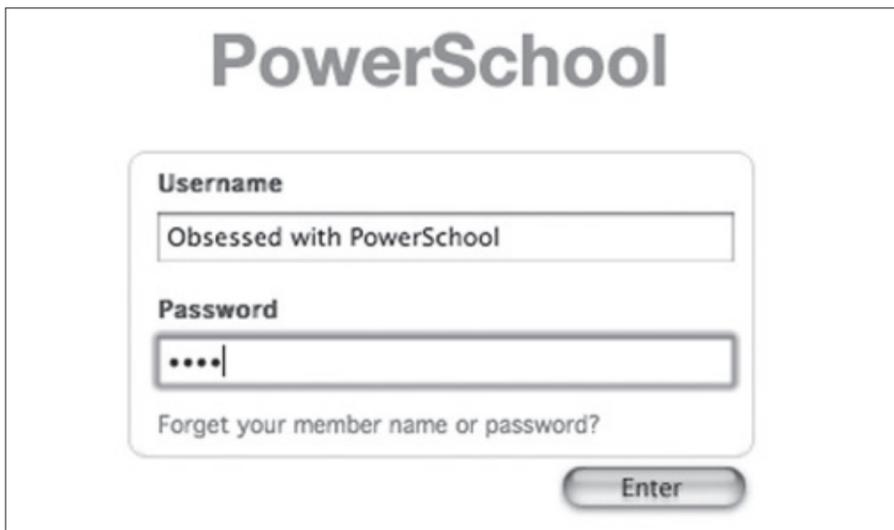
"[I check PowerSchool] every other day," freshman Rachel Han said.

Other students, like freshman Jack Klamer, checks his grades "every fortnight." Senior Hannah Klein didn't start checking PowerSchool until much later on.

"I didn't really start looking at PowerSchool until the beginning of my senior year, and maybe a little my junior year," Klein said. "I think it helped me stay on top of my grades and know which classes I could relax a little bit in and which ones I had to start working harder in."

According to English teacher Jennifer Sellenriek, some high school students obsess too often about grades.

"To a certain extent, I think high school students (and their parents and teachers) often fall into the trap of focusing on grades more than learning," Sellenriek said. "And the quick access to PowerSchool and the limits of the program,



<http://ps.clayton.k12.mo.us/public>

exasperate that reality."

Senior Danny Steinberg agreed with Sellenriek.

"I think that the easy access does lead to more people being more concerned about what their grades on various assignments are rather than whether or not they have mastered the material," Steinberg said.

According to Pieper, PowerSchool has not led to grade obsession but is merely a way for kids to know their grades.

"Our kids aren't relaxed about grades," Pieper said. "We live in a school that's driven by academics while every other school I've been to has been driven by other things. Kids have been worried about grades since I've been here, which has been 15 years. Even before PowerSchool kids were wanting to know about their grades."

Still some students are more focused on grades than the information that they learned.

"The grade goes to what college you want to go to," freshman Mitchell Lazerus said.

Klamer also added that the grading system is built "to get the grade, but you get the information when you get the grade."

Sellenriek agreed with Lazerus.

"I work with a lot of students who really want to learn, who are curious readers and who want to become better writers, regardless of their grades," Sellenriek said. "On the other hand, there is a lot of focus on grades. A lot of this focus over grades is about college admittance, so it's not so

much about PowerSchool as the obsession over PowerSchool is a result."

Steinberg believes that PowerSchool definitely puts more pressure on him.

"[PowerSchool] puts more pressure on me than there otherwise would be for two reasons," Steinberg said. "One is that I can see my grades at will and so I want to work on them more and the other is that my parents can see them, and when teachers don't enter every thing right away the grades may be very inaccurate."

Other students find this easy access helpful.

"I really like the quick access," Klein said. "I think at Clayton grades usually accurately reflect how well a student learns the material, so if PowerSchool helps me stay on top of my grades, which it does, it is incentive for me to learn the material."

Sellenriek comments on how PowerSchool itself does not show as much as a student needs to know, and needs some tweaks.

"Feedback is an essential tool to learning," Sellenriek said. "Students need to know what they are doing well and what they have failed to master so that they know what to practice, what to study, and what to seek clarification on. A grade on PowerSchool does not necessarily give a student that information...A grade means very little in isolation."

Pieper attributes the PowerSchool "hobby" to how academically strung CHS is.



Jenna Carlie

Junior Grace Brumley works away in Independent Study Wardrobe, where students design and sew their own pieces of clothing.

Wardrobe offers creative outlet

by Maria Massad
Editor

Snip, snip, snip, go the scissors. Work, work, work, go the students.

The wardrobe classes offered at CHS present a different sort of atmosphere from a stereotypical high school class. Wardrobe I and II appeal to students who are interested in fashion, design, and sewing.

Wardrobe teacher Linda Williams says that the classes are project-oriented, filled with more demonstration than bookwork.

"Even though there is a great deal to learn in Wardrobe, we do start right away so there's that immediate result-seeing," Williams said. "We have computerized sewing machines, a cover machine (a hemming machine for knits), and an embroidery machine, so students have the capability of, for instance, starting their own business."

In Wardrobe I, students make a pillowcase, a canvas tote, a sampler packet, and a garment. For Wardrobe II, students must complete another, more difficult, sampler packet, a jacket with a collar and lining, and three other garments.

Wardrobe II is sophomore Caroline Kennard's favorite class because it allows her to explore her creativity while doing something she loves to do.

"I've been sewing since I was nine, and I really enjoy it," Kennard said. "I sew outside of class, too. I make dresses, bags, pretty much whatever I want. I get more practice in Wardrobe II, and the teacher makes sure that I'm doing things right. Currently in class, I am

making a trench coat with hot pink lining."

Former Wardrobe I student Alexa Stanley also enjoyed the class. In fact, she liked it so much that she has continued to sew.

"I really liked how Wardrobe is mostly hands-on and independent," Stanley said. "However, it was a bit laborious and can take forever making something. A typical day was basically immediately starting on the current project, and then working hard independently after that, unless you need help."

Knowing how to sew is not a prerequisite, however.

"I chose to take this class because I had always wanted to learn how to sew," Wardrobe I student Carol Clay said. "I really like how the class gives you choices for the garments you make; it gives them their own individuality. I really don't like the worksheets that are given though because then it seems as if it is like a regular class."

Senior Anna Copilevitz thinks that these classes become more interesting as time goes on.

"Students in Wardrobe I don't have as much freedom," Copilevitz said. "You have to learn terms and how to use machines. It can get boring. But in Wardrobe II, you get more freedom, since you are already familiar with the equipment and terms."

After Wardrobe II, students may continue learning how to sew in Independent Study (IS) Wardrobe.

"Independent Study works out fine, if I can get the students in the room with a class," Williams said. "There's a

lot to sewing, and it can take a while explaining things."

The IS Wardrobe students put in a great deal of work and time towards the fashion show.

"We've had three shows that have all been successful," Williams said. "It is a lot of work for these designers. You almost have to be a junior or senior to do the fashion show because of the experience needed as well as the necessity of driving."

This year, the wardrobe classes had to be moved to an annex, since the Cottage was torn down.

"There's no storage and more missing equipment," Williams said. "We bought tables to compensate for storage space. There's only one table to cut fabric on, and books that need to be available quickly aren't in convenient spots. I can't wait for the new building; it's going to be nice, spacious, and state-of-the-art."

Stanley thinks that working the annexes is hard because it is small.

"I didn't work in the Cottage last year, but working in the annexes is a little cramped," Stanley said. "The teacher is always rearranging the furniture so it will be easier to work in."

Kennard also agrees that less space creates problems.

"They're a lot less room to spread out in the annexes," Kennard said. "We had to get rid of a lot of stuff moving into them, so we also have less stuff to look at or use. There's always the struggle of finding enough room to store students' projects. I miss the Cottage, and I can't wait to move into the new wardrobe studio when it's completed." ☺

Sophomores look ahead to college

by Jake Lee
Editor

"Why do I have to be prepared for college?" sophomore Adam Ferguson said. "I'm only a sophomore in high school."

Like Ferguson, many other sophomores believe that college is far away. However, the college fair at the Center of Clayton, which invited students from Ladue, MICDS, and John Burroughs to learn more about 126 different colleges, made students realize that college is looming in the future.

"The college fair made me want to work harder because I realized college is coming up soon," sophomore Justin Campbell said.

After visiting the college fair, students are also preparing more to impress colleges in the future.

"To prepare for college, I'm working very hard and challenging my intellectual capacity to become the ideal student colleges are looking for," sophomore Drake Pinkston said.

Most students are glad that they attended the college fair because it helped them grasp more information on the different colleges.

"The college fair was really helpful because it allowed me to understand more things about each college," sophomore Petra Petermann said.

However, some students saw flaws in the college fair program.

"I have no idea what I'm looking for

so the college fair wasn't very helpful," sophomore Julia Grasse said. "I wish they took in account of the students who didn't really know much about what college they were going to. But next year will be a lot more helpful because I'll be looking for more specifics and I'll know more."

Sophomore Sydney Wright also thought that the college fair could have been improved.

"None of the colleges that I was looking for or was interested in were there," Wright said.

"The schools that were there were either too big or schools that I have never heard of."

Sophomore students realize that college is approaching, but they try to not stress about it and make the most of high school.

"I just want to enjoy high school life and try to worry about college later," Petermann said.

Sophomore Scott Floerke also agrees with Petermann.

"I'm not even worried about college because I think we need to first balance our studies and extracurricular activities in high school," Floerke said.

Though some students try to enjoy their high school lives, other students

"What I like about our kids is that the grades are there to get them where they want to be, to get them into the schools they need to get into," Pieper said. "What sets Clayton apart from other schools is that the kids here really love to learn. You know, they may not admit that to their friends. When you walk into the Commons or the library you always see a group of kids eating breakfast with a group of people, working on things. I've seen kids after ball games working on homework. That's just the way it is here, it's an academic school."

Most other schools also have "parent portals" to see their child's grades as well.

"It's better just to know that it's there and you can check it when you need to, but to go on everyday and check your grades is a little much," Pieper said.

Grading practices in general are never to be perfected.

"I've been teacher for a long time now, and I'm always reconsidering my grading practices," Sellenriek said. "It's not that easy. If a student's effort is evident in the quality of an assignment, then the grade represents that too. But, that's not always the case. A student might work very hard on an assignment but not have mastered the skills required. That's a difficult situation for student and the teacher. I think in an ideal situation, grades would only be rewarded at then end of a marking period. Students would have the time and space to explore and make mistakes and show their mastery of course objectives over time."

Steinberg agrees that some teachers may find it helpful to reconsider different grading techniques.

"Not being assessed until the end of the grading period should be an option that teachers could use or could bring up to their students as a possibility," Steinberg said. "It would be especially helpful in English and History classes where there is more room for growth and the classroom dynamic plays a bigger part in the material. That way, students would feel freer to contribute without worrying about repercussions grade-wise."

PowerSchool has a lot of things to offer, undoubtedly. Grades do matter – yes, colleges will still look at your GPA. But the question is, how well does PowerSchool – and grades in general – reflect your understanding of the concepts? CHS students must be prepared to keep in mind that what they learn counts just as highly as their grades to achieve a true academic excellence.

If students wish to understand and enjoy courses in college and be able to function outside of CHS in general, we should be placing our emphasis and time on learning, not grade grubbing.

So for those of you out there with this plague called "PowerSchool Addiction" you have been warned – be sure you check whether you actually showed that you learned the concepts first before arguing with your teacher for just those extra two points. ☺

Sophomores look ahead to college

are stressed out about college. "I'm stressed out because everything I do now affects what colleges I get into," sophomore Raihana Omri said.

Wright is also becoming stressed like Omri.

"I am really stressed out for college because there is a lot of competition in our grade to get into a good school," Wright said.

Some students are under stress from their parents pushing them to go to the best schools.

"My parents will be disappointed in me if I don't get into a top college," sophomore Ali Rangwala said.

Other parents are more supportive with their child's choice of college.

"My parents want me to be happy about where I want to go," sophomore

Emma Vierod said. "They are not going to push me to go to a specific school."

With college applications and standardized tests, such as the ACT and SAT, coming up next year, sophomores are sure to have colleges on their mind.

"There are days where I don't really care about colleges," Grasse said. "But some days it feels like colleges are approaching too soon." ☺

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Politics Club brings students together regardless of beliefs

Politics Club concludes a successful year with speakers, discussions, and donuts. It hopes to continue to incorporate different viewpoints and perspectives in their weekly meetings.

by Jake Bernstein
Editor

Clayton High School prides itself on the freedom given to students. One freedom, specifically, which is relayed to all incoming freshman, is that students have the ability to create any club they wish. However, even though a large number of clubs are created, only a few are sustained and even fewer meet on a weekly basis.

This year, two sophomores, Jonathan Shumway and Zach Praiss, teamed together to create a new club, Politics Club. The club has met nearly every Wednesday morning since the year began, even holding a few sessions on late start days.

"I know in the past there has been a Young Democrats Club," Shumway said. "However, we want to be open to everyone regardless of political beliefs. We also try to meet consistently."

Praiss agreed that the original mission of the club was to appeal to everyone so they could create a setting where all students felt comfortable.

"At the beginning, we didn't know where the club was going to go," Praiss said. "We started off making a name for ourselves by having donuts every meeting and playing a lot of board games, but then it just took off. Donuts are nevertheless fantastic and a great motivator."

Along with donuts, another important piece of the club is sponsor and much-loved history teacher Kurtis Werner.

"Mr. Werner is a great teacher, and just as important, a Politics Club icon," Praiss said. "He gave us a face to put on our first posters, and now he writes those creative announcements."

Werner gave the credit to the students.

"As of now, I have really just been a sponsor with a laissez-faire attitude for the club," Werner said. "Nearly all of the credit should be given to Praiss and Shumway for their interest in creating a club where students can relax and talk openly about hot topics in politics."

Shumway and Praiss plan each meeting to ensure there is material to discuss so members won't be wasting precious sleep.

"We choose different subjects based on current news," Shumway said. "In the past few weeks we have talked about nuclear policy with the recent nuclear summit and energy



St. Louis Tea Party Leader Bob Hennessy speaks to CHS students for Politics Club. The Tea Party campaigns for many issues, including smaller government and lower taxes, and it has grown in popularity since the 2008 election year.

with earth day."

Using Facebook, posters, and the school announcements as tools for publicity, Politics Club has gained a group of about 10 people who come regularly to the meetings. Shumway and Praiss have both been satisfied with the turnout, though Praiss mentioned that currently the club "really only targets sophomores."

"I know it gets harder and harder to wake up early as the year goes on, and we still have people coming," Shumway said.

Sophomore Maria Massad has attended most of the club

meetings.

"Politics Club has expanded my horizons on the political world," Massad said. "The club has helped me make educated decisions on things going on in Washington and has strengthened my own political beliefs."

The club has seen a huge transition from playing board games to drawing in big-name speakers to help members learn more about politics. Bill Hennessy, founder of the St. Louis Tea Party, which campaigns specifically for fewer taxes, spoke at the April 28 club meeting.

"He was the first speaker who considered himself a con-

servative, so he brought different ideas to CHS," Shumway said. "Even though many students were informed about the activities of the Tea-Party through the news, it was a unique experience to talk to a Party member face-to-face without media intervention."

Massad, who knew little about the Tea Party prior to the meeting, agreed that hearing Hennessy speak was a new experience.

"I thought he was a very good speaker to bring in," Massad said. "He was the first speaker to talk about something different, as he spoke about his ideology, not his job. He did however avoid answering controversial questions that could show a weakness in the Tea Party's logic."

Hennessy was a success and he offered to return to Politics Club to speak again.

In building off a speaker like Hennessy, Politics Club closed out 2010 with a bang. In addition, Politics Club is planning a movie night for a Friday night before the year comes to a close. Shumway offered up what he took from leading Politics Club this year.

"Individually, I learned a lot about being a leader," Shumway said. "I have found it very interesting to learn about other people's views and backgrounds with our open discussions. For those who plan to start a club, try to make it so the club applies to as many people as possible."

Praiss talked about one of the highlights of this year, bringing in six speakers.

"Because we can't bring in Obama yet, we talk a lot about local news and are able to get local speakers to come and share with us," Praiss said. "Next year, my personal goal is to look into getting bigger speakers to come to Politics Club."

Shumway also spoke of next year's goals, while Praiss offered a more long-term view.

"We want to become more involved in the community," Shumway said. "Another goal is to get more members to come on a consistent basis, and to appeal to incoming freshman. However, the main goal is still to inform people about politics in our country and the world so that we can be better prepared for the future."

"Many clubs probably that were here this year probably won't be here next year," Praiss said. "We don't want to see Politics Club die out. I want to be able to come back to CHS and see Politics Club still running." ☺



Freshmen Robbie Love and Emma Riley throwing passion into their performance of 'The Lord of the Flies' at the Night of Interp.

Night of Interp performances show students' talents, creativity

by Sarah Tait
Editor

Imagine being stared down by a performer on the stage while they spit the words, "Kill the pig! Cut his throat! Kill the pig! Bash him in!" Though this is certainly a unique experience, it can easily be found at the Night of Interp.

Senior Wilhelm von Schedl performed with Reader's Theatre at the Night of Interp.

"The cool thing about Reader's Theatre is that most of the focus is off-stage," Schedl said. "So during a performance, I like to choose one or two audience members to stare at and really focus on while I perform."

Reader's Theatre is responsible for only one of the many performances that are showcased at the Night of Interp. There were also other pieces performed by individuals or groups that work separate from Reader's Theatre.

This year, Reader's Theatre chose to perform an interpretation of Lord of the Flies, a novel by William Golding. Though the story is widely known, it wasn't an easy task to put together the performance. Freshman Robert Love played Roger in the piece.

"We began practicing around January, and since then we've practiced every morning," Love said.

The rigorous practice schedule, it turns out, was quite necessary to put together the piece. Often just the act of performing as a cohesive group was a difficulty.

"It was kind of awkward in the beginning when we first began to rehearse," sophomore Gabrielle Lachtrup, a member of the chorus in the performance, said. "I think the hardest part was being able to sync our voices together and getting to be familiar with everybody."

All members of Reader's Theatre would certainly agree that Lord of the Flies had a degree of difficulty, but some felt it lay more in the content of the story than the performance. "When we practiced, we didn't just recite lines but we also prepared for the intensity and complexity," Schedl said. "Having really complex characters is harder to do because you have to be believable."

Love also took measures to add depth to his role as the

novel's 'villain'.

"When I prepared, I thought about what it would be like to be a sadistic 11 year old kid who wants to vent out on society and capture that rage," Love said.

Despite the inherent difficulties of performing the piece, Reader's Theatre was able to do more than just master the piece, they excelled at it.

"I was blown away," audience member and English teacher Rebecca Taylor said. "All the performers were fantastic."

Sophomore Dan Piepert agrees that the Night of Interp was an impressive experience.

"I'd never been to that kind of a performance before, and I thought it was very entertaining," Piepert said.

The performers themselves even found that they enjoyed presenting the piece to an audience of their peers. "It was a lot more comforting to know people in the audience," Love said. "It was a nice change from districts."

Certain parts of the Lord of the Flies performance were inevitable favorites of both audience members and performers alike.

"I really enjoy performing the scene when everyone's hunting Ralph," Lachtrup said. "Our voices get very frantic and begin overlapping and the whole scene's not very scripted."

The resounding success of the Night of Interp was indicative of the success Reader's Theatre and other separate performances would go on to have at state.

Reader's Theatre did very well at state while stand out performances such as Emma Riley and Robert Love's The Bald Soprano is moving on to nationals.

"The whole night was a blast," Taylor said. "I really liked Ian and Jasmin's pieces, but all of the performances were very impressive."

Though audience members each had their own personal favorites, there was no denying the great talent and entertainment shown throughout all of the Night of Interp.

The performances not only enlightened audience members, but also gave performers a chance to practice and showcase their talents before presenting them to a more formal audience.

"Night of Interp was definitely a success," Schedl said. ☺

CHS celebrates another year of film

After last year, the Film Festival is becoming a new hit at CHS, displaying student acting and technology skills.

by Nate Townsend
Reporter

At 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 2, students, teachers, and family gathered in the auditorium anticipating the winner of the second annual Clayton High School film festival. With 18 entrees from students ranging from elementary to high school level, this year's festival brought a wide variety of films.

Awards were given out for the best of 14 categories including best score, best special effects, best original screenplay, and best of festival. The films were all judged in advanced by teachers and students and were screened in several different rooms in the high school on Sunday.

Junior Austin Von Dras took best of festival for the second year in a row with his action-adventure film, "The Program", where a man attempts to break free of his criminal past by joining the witness protection program. Austin's film uses a combination of good filming and skillful editing to awe the judges and the viewers.

"The Program" was my favorite," said senior viewer Hannah Klein. "Being a film class student myself, I was able to recognize many skillful techniques used in [Austin's] film."

"The Program" also landed Von Dras best cinematography for the second year in a row.

"My crew has been doing this for a really long time," explained Von Dras. "We put a lot of thought, work, and time into every project, particularly 'The Program'."

Von Dras plans to participate in next year's festival with a couple of different films.

Another film that received a lot of attention was senior Nick Van Almsick's "Another Day", a comedy featuring senior Charles Goodman about a nervous young man trying to build up enough courage to talk to a girl.

Van Almsick is also a CHS Film Festival veteran and last year took home the best drama award. This year, he received the awards for best comedy, best actor, and best editing.

"I was really happy and surprised," Van Almsick said. "It was really cool to take home two different awards for two different genres back to back."



A scene from 'The Program', by Junior Austin Von Dras. This film won the award for best cinematography in the festival.

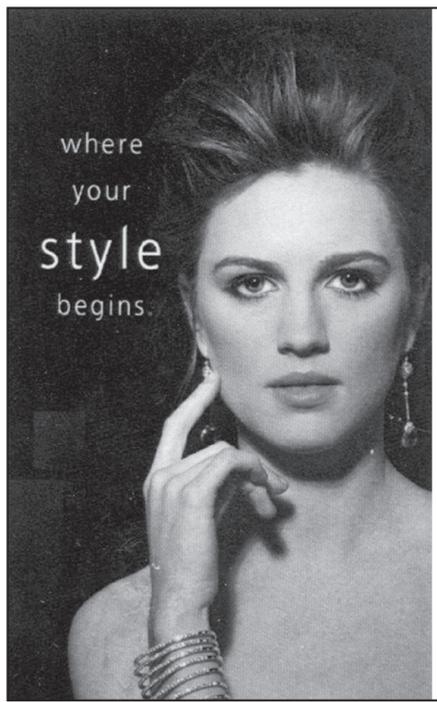
In senior Alex Grayson's film "Personal Target", Grayson made a continuation of his film from last year which won best original screenplay. With improved special effects and comical dialogue, Grayson went on to win best original screenplay for the second time in a row along with best special effects. The film is about a kid who takes down a secret intelligence agency with the help of a trained assassin.

A few years ago, technology specialist David Hoffman introduced the idea of a film festival and last year he made it a reality. Now in its second year, Hoffman organizes the event with the help of English teacher Katie Storms and a couple of students and teachers.

"A few years ago I visited a school in Washington that has an annual film festival," said Hoffman. "I knew that it would be something we could do."

As far as the future of the festival goes, Hoffman has much bigger plans for it.

"My hope is that we can have multiple schools participate," Hoffman said. "We could expand the festival and make it more than a one day thing." ☺



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HONANAMIS

Every summer, a group of St. Louis volunteers departs for Honduras, bringing with them a team of doctors, bags of pills, and a heart. Thanks to their efforts, one young girl's future has to possibility.

by Jackie Leong
Editor

In the span of two years, one child's life has been changed for the better—forever.

Yorlene Reyes, of Uracco, Honduras, recently underwent a 10-hour surgery that corrected her deformed spine due to severe scoliosis and kyphosis. Surgeons at St. Louis Children's Hospital removed five vertebrae and inserted steel rods to hold her up.

"When doctors saw her X-ray, they could not believe she wasn't paralyzed," Mary Gaertner said. "Her pulmonary functions were limited and all her organs were sort of squished together."

Gaertner, a nurse, goes on a medical mission along with other volunteers to Honduras every year through an organization called ProPapa. It was during one such mission that the volunteers found Yorlene.

"Yorlene's family lives in a village that is near the home of ProPapa's directors," Michelle Price, who was the first of the mission group to meet Yorlene, said. "I am not sure who found out about her situation, but ProPapa agreed to build her family a home. My family had been involved in caring for another child with spinal deformities so when I saw Yorlene's physical condition, I thought maybe we could help her, too."

Yorlene's problem was twofold: scoliosis causes lateral, or side-to-side, curvature of the spine, and kyphosis causes hunchbacks. Afflicted with severe cases of both, Yorlene's case would soon be made more astonishing when doctors found out that she was not only walking, but running around her village, behaving just like any normal child.

Price, who had gone to Honduras early to help with a youth construction group, called her mother, Marilyn Price—who coordinates mission trips with Gaertner—back in the U.S., asking her to make some calls about getting Yorlene help.

"There's a physician in New York who's affiliated with our organization," Gaertner said. "He's an orthopedic surgeon. When he went down [to Honduras] later that year, he evaluated Yorlene. It was then, that the process of getting her a visa to come to the states for treatment was begun."

But once Yorlene finally landed in New York under the care of host mother Lila Benitez, test results showed that her case was much more difficult than originally thought. After a year in New York, she was transferred to St. Louis, placed under the care of Dr. Lawrence Lenke.

"[Lenke] is a world-renowned spine surgeon," Gaertner said. "And we have him right here. He took her on at no charge, and the Children's Hospital pretty much ate the cost."

It was in St. Louis Children's Hospital that Yorlene's case commenced. She spent six weeks in halo traction, and then went in for a 10-hour surgery. Afterwards, she would spend a few more weeks in Shriners Hospital for physical therapy as well.

"They literally drilled holes in her head," Gaertner said. "Then they put this 'halo' on her head, and she was in traction, stretching out her spine, so when they went in to do surgery, it wouldn't be a major shock to pull her out of a position she's been in her whole life."

The shock wouldn't end in a physical sense. In her two years spent in the U.S., Yorlene would have to become used to not only a new life away from home, but also an entire way of living that was very different than what she knew in Honduras.

Adjusting from one world to another

Food, clothing, education and shelter, though easily found in the U.S., are not so near at hand in Yorlene's native Honduras. Suddenly whisked from her small village outside Uracco,

she found herself in an environment the likes of which she had never seen before.

"[Yorlene's] whole story is very sad," Gaertner said. "Her mother abandoned her. Poverty is very pervasive in Honduras, and in remote villages, and even in the cities, many lack electricity, and they live day-by-day."

Yorlene was living in a simple stick home with her grandmother and nine cousins at the time when she met Michelle Price, who was part of the St. Louis team helping to build the Reyes family a bigger and safer abode. The children quickly befriended the builders.

However, it soon became clear, especially during preparation to get her medical help, that Yorlene had no concept of time, with no understanding of weeks, days, or hours, or even age.

"She only knew here and now," Marilyn Price said. "Yorlene thought she would come to New York, have her surgery the next day and return to Honduras right after that."

According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Yorlene is 14 years old, but Gaertner estimates that she's closer to 10 years old than anything else. Her exact age is still uncertain.

Yorlene had also had little in the way of formal education. She attended middle school while living in New York, though she had had only had perhaps a year of school beforehand.

"Yorlene only had a second grade education," Marilyn Price said. "And it was very inconsistent. [In Honduras] she only went to school when she felt like it."

Her condition in itself, Gaertner speculates, is due to the scarcity of available medical care, and that Yorlene's condition worsened to the point that it was because, unlike children in the U.S., Yorlene's town in Honduras had no means for any kind of regular checkups for children. The annual medical missions that Gaertner attends in Honduras are attempts to mitigate this, at least for one small town a year.

Many people have some form of mild scoliosis, Gaertner said, but Yorlene didn't have a doctor who could catch it early on.

What most impacted Yorlene emotionally, however, was the food situation.

"She would call home every week," Gaertner said. "Her grandmother would say things like 'I haven't had a grain of rice to eat all week.'"

In the U.S., Yorlene found herself in a culture where getting food was as easy as walking to a supermarket. At only 40 pounds when she initially entered the U.S., Yorlene was malnourished, but gained 27 pounds during her stay.

However, homesickness, plus the knowledge that she had plenty to eat in the U.S. while her family suffered back home, took its toll on Yorlene.

"She was very angry and very lonely," Marilyn Price said. "She did not want to eat. She felt guilty knowing her family in Honduras had little or nothing to eat. She wanted Lila to wrap up her food and send it to Honduras."

Though she loved her sponsor family, Yorlene's wish was to go back to Honduras when she was done. According to the ProPapa website, Yorlene would often say, "Tell them to operate on me quickly."

Lila Benitez found it hard in the beginning to help a girl who really only wanted to go home.

"She was incredibly sad and frightened," Lila Benitez said. "She was a stranger in a strange land."

The alienation didn't last, however. Lila enrolled Yorlene in middle school, who found that she enjoyed riding the bus and

making friends.

"The community Yorlene lived in totally embraced her," Marilyn Price said. "She was learning English. She had friends in the neighborhood. Yorlene and her sponsor mom, Lila, were becoming very close. Although Lila's children are grown, they treat her like their little sister, even coming to St. Louis when she had her surgery."

Michelle Price agrees.

"I know at first Yorlene missed her family very much," Michelle Price said. "She was homesick. However, many people here 'adopted her' and made her part of their families."

Tanya Benitez, who initially alerted her mother Lila about Yorlene's situation, agrees.

"I remember the first time I took Yorlene into New York City and she had never seen a building in her life," Tanya Benitez said. "We got out the train station and she was just in awe of the amount of people there. I then told her to look up at one of the skyscrapers and she almost fell over in shock, her eyes and mouth wide—just the expression on her face was worthwhile."

The road to America

ProPapa Missions, America was established 15 years ago.

Beneath it runs the "Children to America" program, which takes care of one child at a time, making for a total of 15 children like Yorlene that it has helped. However, because the physician that works with ProPapa is stationed in New York, that is where the majority of those children were treated.

Gaertner and the Prices had taken care of another girl, called Maria Elena, two years prior to discovering Yorlene.

Because the girl had also had spine deformities—though, Gaertner said, not as bad as Yorlene's—Michelle Price recognized the condition.

The process of getting a child help is a difficult one, however, and not for the faint of heart. A specific process usually takes place, according to Marilyn Price, and can take up to a year to complete.

It begins with a help request.

Sister Laurinda Mayer, a St. Louis native who joined ProPapa in Honduras after she felt the need to work in a third world country, coordinates the mission trips from the receiving end. It is she who is approached by a parent seeking help for their child.

When the medical mission team arrives in the village, Sr. Laurinda typically directs them to the child. The process of bringing the child to the U.S. begins if child cannot

be treated in Honduras and is afflicted with a life-threatening situation.

Such were the conditions that brought both Yorlene and Maria Elena, among others, to the States. Lab work, pictures, and x-rays are done in Honduras while the process of seeking a doctor and hospital that will treat the child—with no charge—commences.

"Usually a physician agrees on a 'first time visit only,'" Marilyn Price said. "That means they want to see the child first to make sure the child can actually be treated. Once the hospital and physician agree on that, the next step begins."

After a hospital is found, the legalities are then addressed. Sr. Laurinda accompanies the parent and their afflicted child to the Embassy in Honduras in order to obtain a Medical Visa.

Once the Embassy signals its approval (decisions take about one month), the child gets a passport as well.



TOP LEFT: Junior Colleen Kinsella, of Ursuline Academy in St. Louis, takes the blood pressure of a patient. Kinsella attended last year's medical and dental brigade. BOTTOM LEFT: A Honduran villager drives a load of crop down the mountain. Last year's mission spent one week in the remote mountain village of La Peña. RIGHT: A group of Hondurans wait for assistance outside a ProPapa nursing station. Most villagers had never been to a doctor before.



Photos courtesy of Aaron Praiss

MISSION

For Honduras,
and plenty of
been opened

The final stage is to find the child a U.S. sponsor to take care of them during their stay.

"The sponsor parent will house the child and take care of the child as if he or she were their own," Marilyn Price said. "They take them to all the hospital visits and see that they have everything they need. This is a huge commitment, since as in the case of Yorlene Reyes, the child might be there for over a year."

In Lila Benitez's case, becoming a host mother turned out to be much more than she bargained for—but in a good way. A retired nurse and fluent in Spanish, she became aware of Yorlene's situation when her daughter Tanya Benitez, a social worker, received an email seeking potential sponsor parents.

She decided to take on the challenge.

"Yorlene has thrived under her care," Gaertner said.

For the duration of time that Yorlene stays in the U.S., Lila Benitez has legal guardianship over her.

"As you can see, it is a difficult process that involves a lot of truly dedicated people," Marilyn Price said. "The end result is wonderful and so rewarding. A child, who otherwise might not have lived, is given a chance at a normal, healthy life."

The home stretch

The tail end of Yorlene's ordeal is almost ended; she has had a few weeks of rehabilitation at Shriners Hospital—which, according to Gaertner, does a large amount of spinal surgery—undergoing physical therapy, learning to use muscles she hadn't had to before, and regaining her altered sense of balance.

During traction alone, Gaertner estimates that Yorlene grew a couple inches—but after the surgery, her newly straightened spine made her quite a bit taller, enough to cause her to need new clothes, a bundle of which she recently sent up to New York, where Yorlene is currently living.

Though the whole ordeal was "exhausting," Gaertner said, Yorlene's rehabilitation "wasn't as bad as you might think."

The one question that stands now is the future—and how, or where, exactly, to let Yorlene go. She will spend more time in the U.S., perhaps until July, for a follow-up visit to Lenke. After that, little, if anything, is known. During Yorlene's stay in the States, Yorlene's grandmother died, prompting questions about her custody and future.

"We don't even know what's going to happen to her," Gaertner said. "Lila wants to adopt her...we won't abandon her, but we have to function within the legalities. She wants to go back to Honduras, but I don't know how she'll feel when she gets there."

Yorlene has three main options when she's cleared by Lenke to return home. The least desirable option, according to Gaertner, is for her to move in with her 18 year old cousin who has three children, and who lives a 30 minutes' walk from Yorlene's old house.

Secondly, she could stay in the U.S. with Lila as her foster parent, or thirdly, live in El Progreso, Honduras, with a friend of ProPapa Missions' founders.

"Lila is wonderful but Yorlene wants to return to Honduras so in my opinion, this [third choice] is the best option," Gaertner said. "She could catch up with her many missed years of education and attend a prestigious bilingual school there. If this happens, Marilyn and I are already planning to pay the tuition which makes this a very viable option."

Both Michelle Price and Gaertner, however, are unsure as to how Yorlene will go back to her old life of poverty now that she's had a taste of American life.

"After adjusting to cultural changes, the easiest part was probably enjoying the American way of life—toys, movies,



clothes," Michelle Price said. "A lot of times, it is hard for kids to go back to their former lives."

After just a couple of years, Yorlene will face the change between New York to Uracco once again... but this time, the other way around. However, wherever she goes, she will always carry with her a little of her life-changing stay, however short it may have been, in the U.S.

What is ProPapa?

For the past six years, Marilyn Price and Gaertner have jointly coordinated their yearly medical missions together, but it was Michelle Price who originally voiced the idea of mission work.

"I had wanted to do mission work in high school," Michelle Price said. "It didn't take much to get my mom to agree. I basically just brought it up a couple of times and she was on board."

Her source of motivation, she said, was the inequality she saw regarding the basic needs in the U.S., as opposed to those of the people living in Honduras.

"We have so much in the U.S.," Michelle Price said. "The poor here are rich compared to the poor in Honduras and other developing countries. There is no welfare, Medicaid, food pantry... no safety net at all. I wanted to give these people something, however small, to ease their lives. I wanted to help people who had no other option."

Such missions now being annual, they begin planning their next mission six months in advance.

"There are many aspects of the trip that need to be considered," Marilyn Price said. "I think the objectives of the mission trips Mary and I have coordinated over the last six years have been to reach those suffering from severe poverty to help alleviate their suffering. We look at each trip in terms of accomplishments and struggles and improve our efforts where needed. We try to enhance those that have succeeded well."

Though it has been difficult for her to go on the trips themselves since she graduated from college and began working, Michelle Price tries to stay involved any way she can.

"A lot of prep work goes into the trip," Michelle Price said. "I help with making medication labels, fundraising and other tasks. Volunteers are needed both in the US and in Honduras."

It is not uncommon to see young volunteers on medical teams as well—CHS students, as well as other high school students, have gone on the trips in the past and continue to do so.

Aaron Prais, a 2009 CHS alum, went on the St. Louis medical mission last year.

"I went to get more of a firsthand experience with medicine and patient care," Prais said. "It's a completely different experience than an hospital in the States, it's less organized. Besides that, it was also an excuse to go to a foreign country, which I love, and to speak Spanish."

The group that Prais went with split its two-week stay in Honduras between two different villages. Prais volunteered for registration for the first half, and assisted a pediatrician for the second.

"The second village, La Peña, was a mountain village," Prais said. "It was extremely remote; so remote that we had to take pickup trucks to get there and then hitchhike with village people up the mountain."

Most of the patients had never been to a doctor before. Prais saw conditions of varying degree, from infections to hydrocephalus, a condition in which a baby's head is formed too large due to the lack of folic acid while in the womb.

"You heard crazy stories about people walking 45 minutes to see the doctors," Prais said. "There was the case of one pa-



LEFT: Yorlene Reyes enjoys a day in the U.S. Many of the things that Americans experience every day, such as enough food to eat, clothes, even skyscrapers were a novel thing for a girl who had lived in a stick hut back in her home village of Uracco, Honduras. **ABOVE:** Yorlene in her 'halo traction'. For six weeks, doctors prepared her spine for drastic surgery by fitting her in a 'halo' head brace that, as shown, stretched her spine upright. Yorlene reportedly grew a few inches just from the traction. **BELOW:** Yorlene (second from left) with some of her cousins, in front of their hut in Honduras. Yorlene lived with her grandmother, whom she called "Mama", and cousins. A ProPapa builder's team was helping to build a new home for the family when Yorlene's condition was first recognized.

Photos courtesy of Mary Gaertner



tient who told the nurses that the rest of his family couldn't make it—one son was completely blind, another had issues with mobility. We made a house call instead."

The blind son turned out to have cataracts, and was referred to a hospital to get them removed. Before the patients left the

ProPapa clinics, they were given medicines, supplements, and basic hygienic supplies. The volunteers took great pains to stress proper use of all the supplies.

"I don't know how much stuck," Prais said, "but it was a good step in the right direction."

Gaertner's daughter, sophomore Zoe Keller is going on the mission this year.

"I love helping people in need and making a difference in the world," Keller said. "I have been involved with ProPapa since the sixth grade when my mom went to Honduras for the first time. She has been going every year since and I am finally old enough to go with her. My mom always comes home with so many incredible stories about Honduras so I think it will be a great experience."

Keller will be doing mostly registration work.

"I get to take down the personal information, blood pressures and weigh patients before they see the doctor, nurse or dentist," Keller said. "At the end of the day, I will be responsible for tallying up all the medical forms and counting how many adults vs. children were seen that day and how many patients went to the dentist. I was told that I have to be flexible because my assignment could change depending on if I'm needed somewhere else."

"We have so much in the U.S. The poor here are rich compared to the poor in Honduras and other developing countries... I wanted to give these people something, however small, to ease their lives."

Michelle Price
ProPapa volunteer



Girls' soccer finds mixed success with young team

by **Maddy Bullard**
Editor

The girls' soccer team has experienced some ups and downs throughout their season this spring. With a record of 8-9, the girls have continued to build on their team's talent and aspire to achieve their goals as the season draws to a close.

"We have been through a lot of trials, but I hope that they will make us much stronger next year and that we can pick up where we left off this season," junior wide midfielder Helen Wiley said.

This season has been full of triumphs and tough, hard-fought losses.

"I think that we have had ups and downs," junior midfielder Alison Bayly said. "There have been exciting goals and frustrating losses. All of the games have been really close this year."

The team's best moments have come when they work cohesively and put forth admirable effort during games.

"My favorite memory from the season so far was the Rosati-Kain game because we played with so much energy and everyone was clearly having a lot of fun," Bayly said.

Wiley agrees that, even with such a demanding season and an exhausting sport, soccer can be intense and fun at the same time.

"I think my favorite memories of soccer are always when we manage to have fun while playing the game," Wiley said.

The team has been led by junior captain Alison Bayly and senior captain Sonja Petermann.

The two have proved extremely valuable to this young, growing team. In fact, Petermann is the only senior on the team this year.

"This team is much younger than teams in the past have been," Bayly said.

Last year's graduating class left the team with many important spots to fill.

"In fact, half of the girls were seniors," Wiley said. "This year we have a very young team that is generally quiet but has a lot of developing talent."



Despite losing nine seniors last year, the girls' soccer team has experienced varied success this season with a record of 8-9.

This team has carried over some aspects from last year's team, which played in the district championship game, but has also developed a unique identity.

"I think that a lot of the culture of last year's team has tied over to this year but we still have a very different group of girls," Wiley said. "Last year's team was very vocal with many dominating personalities."

The girls remain confident and driven, even as the season's final games approach.

"I think that the team has developed quite a bit over the

course of the season, but that our real success will come when we outwork a team for an entire game," Wiley said.

The team also continues to set goals, which they hope to achieve by the end of this season.

"I think the team needs to work on communication and keeping up the intensity level in games," Wiley said.

One strength of this year's girls' soccer team is the versatility and talent of its athletes.

"Although we are a young team, we have a lot of depth in a lot of positions," Bayly said.

The team has relied on several strong talents to carry them through this season, including forwards Meg Sutter and Karley Woods, midfielder Alison Bayly, defenders Allison O'Neal and Katie Marvel, and goalie Bree Northern, among other skilled athletes.

"I think that there are a lot of great natural athletes on the team," Bayly said.

Fortunately, many of these players are juniors and sophomores, and will continue to play next year.

"With the exception of Sonja's leaving and a few new additions next year, the team will be comprised of a very similar group of people," Wiley said. "This has been a growing year for our team."

Bayly also cites the youth of the team as a potential asset, rather than a drawback.

"We are only losing one player, so hopefully our team will be able to grow even more as a unit," Bayly said. "It will only be to our advantage that we are keeping a similar team, because we are really improving together."

Several sophomores on the team have been particularly helpful, and have stepped up into significant roles as the season has progressed.

One example is sophomore Karley Woods, who stands out as a dominant force on the soccer field. Her ability to maneuver the ball and her inexhaustible energy have brought intensity and talent to the team.

"Everyone has their individual strengths on the team but Karley Woods is one of the strongest players on the team," Wiley said.

With this wide base of talent, the team is beginning to anticipate the end of the season, particularly district play.

"Most of the teams that we have played so far this year and that we will see again in districts are at a similar level," Bayly said.

However, the team is still focused on the present, and will continue to take a measured approach as the end of the season draws near.

"Right now we're concentrating on making it through the regular season by being successful in our final games," Wiley said. "We are really taking things one step at a time." ☺

Athlete of the Month

Maddy Bullard



"Maddy is one of my most solid players. I know I can count on her to move the ball down the field without giving up possession."
-Christina Perrino

LACROSSE

OFFENSE

Bullard shines during season

Junior Maddy Bullard leads the girls' lacrosse team with consistent play and experience.

by **Meredith Reddick**
Senior Managing Editor

Junior Maddy Bullard has been playing lacrosse for six years, and her skills on the field make it evident that she is no novice.

A member of Clayton varsity lacrosse for three years, Bullard continues to serve as a vital part of the team.

"Lacrosse is one of my favorite activities, not only because it's such a fun sport, but because of the other girls who play," Bullard said. "I've gotten to know some people who I didn't know before playing lacrosse."

Bullard's experience with lacrosse goes back to middle school club sports.

"I started playing lacrosse in sixth grade, and that kind of gave me an edge because I learned how to handle the ball a little bit," Bullard said. "A small group of us started playing together in middle school and it just sort of took off."

Since then, Bullard has enjoyed the challenges of the game.

"It's really hard at first, but it gets to be fun," Bullard said. "It's really fast-paced. That's what I like most about the game."

With 21 goals and 19 assists this season, Bullard indubitably plays an important role on the team.

"Maddy is one of my most solid players," coach Christina Perrino said. "I know I can count on her to move the ball down the field without giving up possession. She can protect the ball as defense double and triple team her, and consistently uses her left hand successfully."

In addition to scoring goals, however, Bullard considers supporting her teammates to be a top priority.

"She knows when it's best to pass to a teammate on of-

fense in order to have a better scoring opportunity," Perrino said.

Senior varsity lacrosse player Shelby Sternberg agrees that Bullard plays a key role in fostering team cooperation.

"She's really good at motivating the team and she has a really good spirit all the time," Sternberg said. "She's one of our strongest offensive players, but she also just makes the team experience more positive."

Bullard believes that her strengths include a "good game sense" and a focus on team cooperation.

"I'm not as much about getting my stats up," Bullard said. "I'm more about doing what's best for the team."

Perrino notes that Bullard consistently puts the team's needs ahead of her own, citing examples from Clayton's May 4 game against Kirkwood.

"Even though she was in total pain from an ankle injury early in the game, Maddy fought through the pain and stepped up to play in overtime," Perrino said. "Her efforts paid off, and I know it was only with her help that we were able to pull off the win."

According to Bullard, focusing on team cooperation has paid off for the team.

"I think we've played hard in all our games and we should be proud of our work," Bullard said. "I really hope to come out with a strong record this season."

She hopes to continue playing at the club level in college. But, for now, she still has another year with the Lady Hounds.

"This season has been one of our best, and I've been really happy with how I've played this season," Bullard said. "I hope my effort has added to the team's success this year." ☺



Seniors Orion Wilkinson and Nick Kirchoff, Varsity one-seed doubles team, practice with the long term goal of state in mind.

Boys' tennis benefits from leadership

by **Caroline Greenberg**
Reporter

The boys' varsity tennis team is doing a great job at beating their competitors and getting along during the spring season, as proved by their record of nine wins and four losses.

"Our team is really positive and great to be with," sophomore Jake Lee said. "It is a lot of fun to be with them and we always have a really good time."

Throughout the season the team has gotten along well and played to the best of their ability.

Any person that walks into a team meeting will see the three captains, seniors Orion Wilkinson, Nick Kirchoff, and Sam Blumenfeld taking control and giving great advice to their team.

"Everyone has known each other for two years so everyone knows their role on the team," Wilkinson said. "As a captain I make sure that everyone cheers on everyone else."

All captains will be lost at the end of the season along with Eddie Du, who is also a senior. Although they will be gone, they will not be forgotten for they have made a great impact on the team.

"It will be sad to not be with the team next year," Kirchoff said. "We may all be leaving, but we will never forget how we have been together these past years and will always be happy to reflect back on it."

Even though tennis is an individual sport, everyone on the team is important because one match could make the difference between winning and losing.

"It's important to cheer every guy since any of them could win the crucial match for us," Wilkinson said. "A lot of guys on the team have really stepped it up during important matches and really impressed everyone."

While the players have been having a great time, so have the coaches.

Suzy Luten and Rich Chapeaus are the head coaches of the team.

"I really have loved every minute of coaching these boys," Luten said. "I am really going to miss every single one of them. Each of them have really bonded and become a really close team."

Districts are the second week of May, and there is a strong possibility the boys' team could go to state.

"I am hoping the team will all go to state," Luten said. "I am really excited to see Kirchoff and Wilkinson get to go back again hopefully, and maybe seeing Jake Lee and Jack Holds get to go as individuals also."

Last year, Kirchoff and Wilkinson got third at state and this year they will hopefully be a force to reckon with once again.

"We have worked really hard for state," Kirchoff said. "We are ready to take it by storm this year and win. It is both of our senior years so we both have a really strong drive and we both know it is our last time. I know we are going to kill it."

State will be difficult to get to but the boys are up for the challenge.

The tennis team has had a strong season and will continue working their hardest and impressing everyone. ☺



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The Clayton High Jazz Band performs

Varsity track teams hopeful for district meet

by **Anat Gross**
Editor

The sound of the gun cracks the air, and they're off! On Sat. May 15, 2010 the boys' and girls' track and field teams will be competing at districts at 9 a.m. at MICDs. The season will end there for some, but it will just begin for others. This year's teams present some very hopeful outlooks for the district competition.

Boys' Track coach Kurtis Werner has high expectations for many of his athletes including both distance runners and sprinters.

"Our hope for districts for the distance team is to have one finisher make it to state this year," Werner said. "We're so young; we're kind of inexperienced in running the District level. I had Derrick Stone actually qualify for cross country for the state meet so that's what the distance team is. Now, sprinting we're a little bit different. We're a little more experienced with Don and Kameron Stewart in charge along with Alo Onwumere who was all state last year, 8th in the 400. We're looking to get several relay teams to state this year primarily the 4 X 200 meter and 4 X 100 meter teams."

Girls' Track coach Barry Ford shares Werner's hopes for districts, expecting at least a couple of their relay teams qualifying.

"My hope for the day is that we will be able to qualify at least three out of our four relay teams for the state meet," Ford said.

Freshman Oji Onwumere runs for the 4 X 100 meter, 4 X 200 meter, and 4 X 400 meter relay teams along with the open 400 meter race. She believes that

the teams will definitely qualify at the district meet and in order to prepare for these intense races Oji Onwumere has a fairly simply routine.

"I'm kind of nervous because I want to do my best, but I get over it and I just try and get through my race," Oji Onwumere said. "I usually try to listen to music, I warm up with it, and it just relaxes me."

Junior Kameron Stewart is a member of the boys' 4 X 100, 4 X 200, and 4 X 400 relay teams and has been running for the team for three years. He believes that the team "can compete in the 4 X 200, 4 X 400 and possibly the 4 X 100." He, along with Oji Onwumere, has his own routine to prepare for his races.

"I like to stretch out, stride, and just relax and get in my competing mode," Stewart said. "I'm just trying to stay relaxed as possible and to move as fast as possible."

The atmosphere of the day certainly adds to the pressure and excitement many of the runners feel. A vast number of schools from all over the area attend the competition.

"The meet and the atmosphere of the day are incredible," Werner said. "This year the meet is going to be held at MICDs. They have great resources so the meet is very sophisticated and if you make it in districts, you know you're on the line with the best runners in the region."

Werner is very confident in Senior Alo Onwumere's abilities and is certain he will make it past districts.

"Alo Onwumere will definitely go in the 400 meter race," Werner said. "He probably would in any other district go for the 200, but ours is absolutely stacked with Mcluer South Berkley,



Chris Moody

Senior Tommy Hummel is confident in the strength of the Varsity team and has gained confidence in team's ability as well as his own.

Golfers swing towards state

by **Sam Jacus**
Editor

To many people, golf is a game for the elderly or those willing to throw their time away, but for some students at Clayton High School golf is much more than that. Without scandals like Tiger Woods' adultery, golf would go unnoticed by those who are not true fans. At Clayton High School this is no different, except for the fact that there are no scandals or at least ones that have been leaked.

The golf team; however, should be making noise, for just as they were last year the team is in contention for a run at state.

"We lost a few key players from last year's team," senior Corbin Holtzman said. "We have a solid top five though, so hopefully we'll go to state as a team."

The top five for this year's team consists of players spread throughout the years, but has a concentration in the seniors. The players are senior Corbin Holtzman, senior Daniel Walsh, senior Eiton Kantor, sophomore Will Rosenfeld, and junior Will Hayes.

However, the team doesn't consist of merely five players. Many of the new additions to the team seem to be showing real promise.

"Chris Cho has a lot of potential and could make a big splash this year," senior Tommy Hummel said. "We also

have a decent amount of new players that have shown real dedication."

With all the new additions to the team, the Hounds are looking strong as a whole.

"Our team is strong overall," Hummel said.

One reason that the team is looking strong overall is because everyone on the team is looking forward to the chance to improve his game.

"I slowed my swing speed down so now I am hitting the ball with a lot more accuracy and confidence," Hummel said. "I hope to be able to shoot around 5 or 6 over par by the end of the season."

However, achieving such a goal such as Hummel's is easier said than done.

The team plays at Gateway National Golf Links in Belleville, Illinois, which for many spectators is a long drive. However, many of the CHS players like the course including those new to the sport.

"I really like where we play," freshman Josh Becker said. "The grounds are well kept and there is good staff there."

Hummel and Holtzman agree with Becker.

After all is said and done, the team hopes that they will be making news not with scandals but with their superior play in the future. Their high hopes have kept them motivated and looking forward to the fruits of their labor. ☺



Izzy Pratt

The Varsity Girls' track team has taken many strides this year to improve with the hopes of qualifying at the district meet

Jennings, and North County Tech. Those schools have some very fast runners so he probably won't get out in 200 but he has another chance in a relay team."

Ford is optimistic for the day and encourages athletes to "come mentally prepared as well as physically."

As a competitor and a coach Werner offers up his words of wisdom for aspiring runners and athletes:

"Track is not a very glamorous sport," Werner said. "It's a lot of hard work, but when you step up to that line mostly you know in your head you've done the right thing and it does pay off and when you go out and compete there's nothing like it." ☺

Words of Wisdom



"Runners if your doing a race when you get to the last 100 you've got to sprint it; you've got to make it all the way to the end and you'll do well."

Oji Onwumere
Freshman



"If you want to go fast, you have to practice fast."

Kameron Stewart
Junior

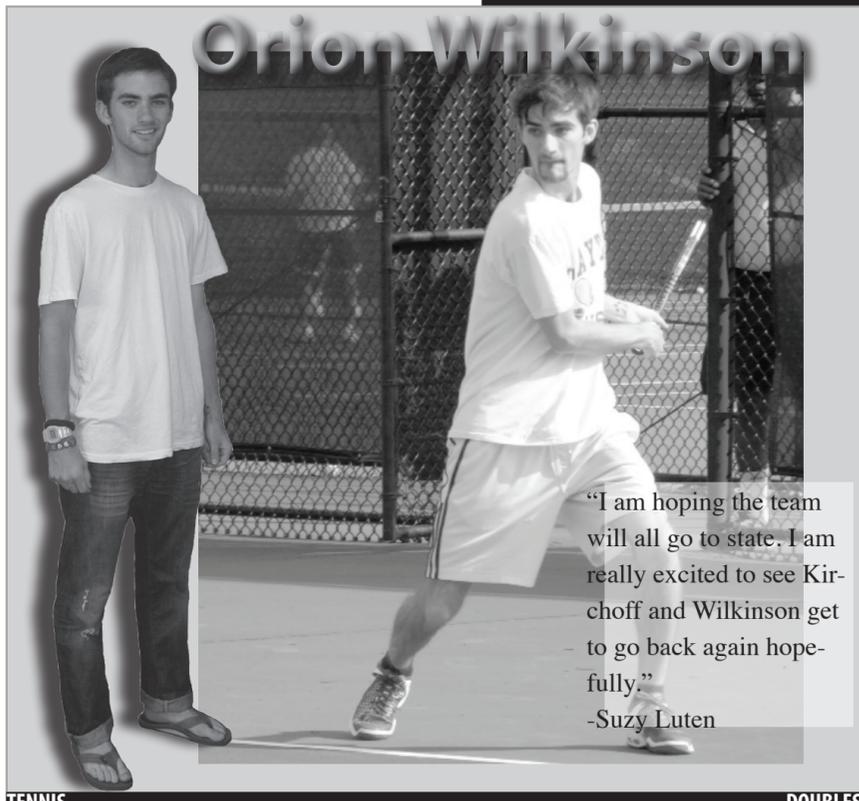
"Success is more than just a game. Work hard both in the classroom and on the field."

Don Stewart
Senior



Athlete of the Month

Orion Wilkinson



TENNIS

DOUBLES

"I am hoping the team will all go to state. I am really excited to see Kirchoff and Wilkinson get to go back again hopefully."

-Suzy Luten

Wilkinson in search of state title

The senior and partner Nick Kirchoff are among the area's top doubles seeds as they head towards state.

by **Evan Green**
Senior Sports Editor

Senior tennis number one Orion Wilkinson is out to finally win the big one this year. The last three years, Wilkinson has taken fourth, third, and second in the state doubles competition.

This season, the Wilkinson is paired with fellow classmate Nick Kirchoff as the team's top doubles seed. Thus far, the team pairing is 10-2.

"I've liked all my partners over the years because each of them had a different skill set that we were able to integrate into our games to win," Wilkinson said. "But Kirchoff gives the best high fives."

Freshman year, Wilkinson was paired with class of 2007 graduate Bohan Li and his sophomore year with another senior Dakin Sloss. The last two years though, he has built a strong relationship with Kirchoff.

"It's kind of like I'm the brains of the operation and Kirchoff is the brawn," Wilkinson said.

The senior duo has led the tennis Hounds to a team record of 9-3 thus far in the season and are looking to win a state title.

The tennis district playoffs start next week at John Burroughs where Wilkinson and Kirchoff will be the one seed.

"Fans are always welcome to come watch me and Kirchoff put on a show," Wilkinson said.

Wilkinson's best watch actually came against the John Burroughs number one.

"I ended up losing 6-4, 4-6, 10-6 in a super tie breaker but I hit a tweener on set point to win the first set which was nice," Wilkinson said.

Indeed Wilkinson will be looking to avenge that loss come district time. If he can bring his A game, he and Kirchoff should be able to do that with ease.

"I mean if my volleys and backhand are really going well during matches, it's going to be tough to stop me," Wilkinson said.

At the same time, he still knows that he has plenty to improve in his game.

"The day that my game is perfect is the day I will quit," Wilkinson said.

Wilkinson will look to better his already well-polished game at Cornell College in Iowa next season where he will be the team's number three as a freshman.

What the college coaches saw in Wilkinson is something most of Missouri high school tennis teams have been amazed by the last four years of his impressive high school career in which he has tallied around 90 wins.

"Orion has been a very good high school player and I'm sure he will do continue to beat at the college level," junior tennis player Simon Warchol said. "I really think that he will have an extremely good chance to win a state title this season."

If Wilkinson is able to finally break through at state this season, there is no doubt that he will go down as one of the best tennis players in Clayton High history. ☺

"The day that my game is perfect is the day I will quit."

Orion Wilkinson
Senior

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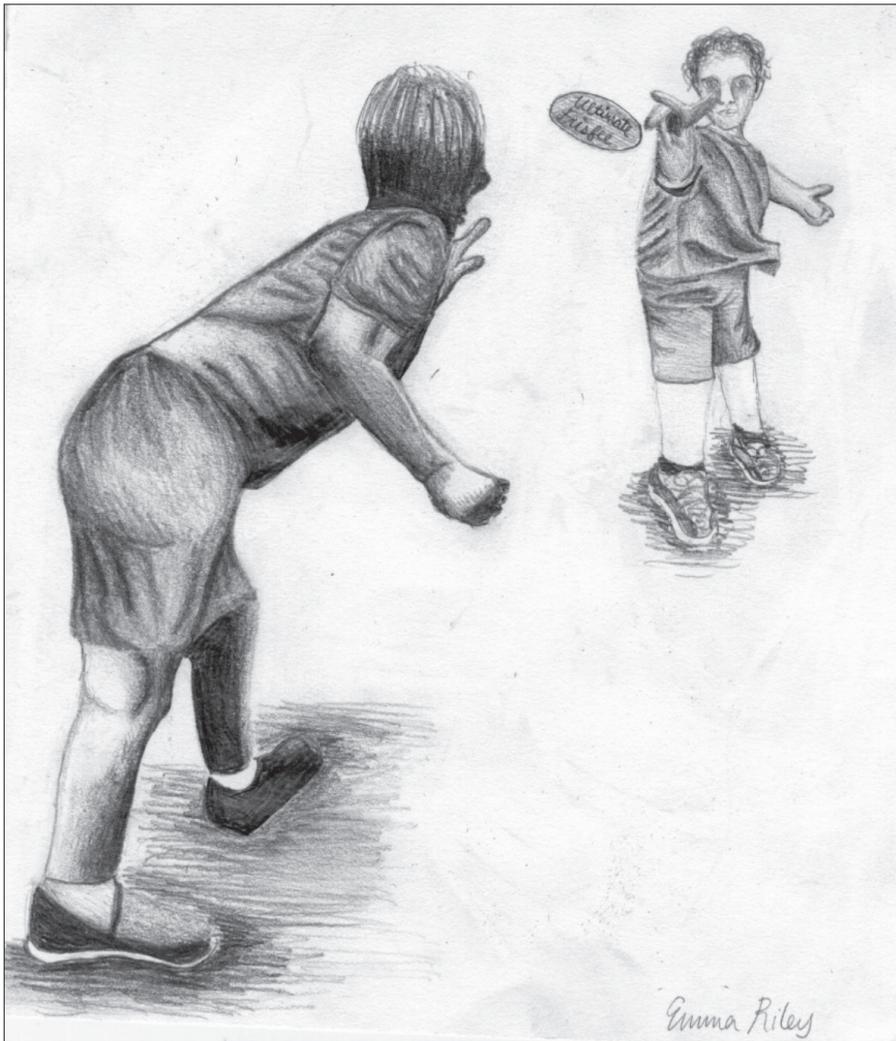
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Ultimate Frisbee rewards, is worth the hard work for players

by Jack Holds
Editor

Between blistering winds, torrential thunderstorms, and tornado warnings throughout the St. Louis region, the weather was beautiful the first weekend of May, which meant Ultimate Frisbee was on.

The 2010 Missouri State High School Championships were held in Cottleville at the "Soccer Pitch" sport complex, west of Clayton, on May 1 and 2.

For CHS Ultimate Frisbee players, this meant a 40-minute drive both ways and an exhausting day in the heat. CHS won the first game of the day against Ladue, a huge win for the team. It became clear over the next nine hours that one of the main reasons for the win was the energy everyone had in the morning, which began to evaporate as the sun came out.

"With how few subs we had, it was impressive that we beat Ladue," senior Jack Harned said. "We were super tired after a few games, and with five games throughout the day, it was tough to keep playing with strength."

Junior Scott Jeffrey, who had been at the state tournament all day, pointed out that hustling and hard work in the first game was a reasonable expectation but after that, with so few people, fatigue was inevitable.

"Each point exhausted half of our team and we didn't have fresh legs going out on the field while the other teams did," Jeffrey said. "Our team couldn't compete with that after the first game."

The next three games spanned five hours; with only 12 people, some trickling in and out, CHS players were fighting to keep up with the other teams. Said games were all lost, but that didn't mean people gave up. The team was there to have a good time, and that's exactly what they did in the fifth game of the day, as senior and team captain Julian Katz pointed out.

"As the team began to tire during the day, we focused more on having fun, which resulted in our hilarious antics against Marquette in the final game," Katz said, referring to the general fooling around and lack of defense.

In retrospect, with a few power bars and an extremely determined mind set, the team could have taken down

Marquette.

However, as Clayton Frisbee has shown over the years, the team is more about having a good time and enjoying the hysterically funny moments than vigorous, stubborn winning. That being said, one could argue that it's no wonder that hippies are famous for Frisbee, but senior Orion Wilkinson thinks otherwise.

"I think Ultimate sneaks under a lot of peoples' radars because they think it's just a bunch of stinky, lazy hippies," Wilkinson said. "It's actually very physically demanding and a great game on many levels."

Katz expanded this idea.

"Frisbee is a great sport because of the combination of athleticism, skill, and teamwork that is essential to any successful team," Katz said.

"I think Ultimate Frisbee sneaks under a lot of peoples' radar because they think it's just a bunch of stinky, lazy hippies. It's actually very physically demanding and a great game on many levels."

Orion Wilkinson
Senior water polo player

The entire team agrees that more people are definitely going to be necessary in the upcoming year. With many seniors leaving, including Katz, who has done a great deal of organizing to the benefit of everyone, even fewer people will be available and new recruits as well as current team members will need to step up their game to fill in for those who will be lost.

Senior Jacob Grady said that he has been to all the games and it is disappointing occasionally to see few people showing up and very little support from the freshman and sophomore classes.

"We definitely need more people to show up," Grady said. "When you have only three subs, people

just get tired fast."

Wilkinson reiterated this necessity for more people and the overall effect it has on the team.

"More people should play on the team because there's power in numbers," Wilkinson said. "If there are more subs, everyone plays better; they have time to rest and go back out on the field, ready to perform."

Although it is never too late to join the team, those considering Frisbee should look into the sport and CHS team, which will be in great need of support next year. It is easy to learn, enjoyable exercise, and a great way to get a wonderful tan every weekend.



The Ultimate Frisbee team consists of (from back to front) Julian Katz, Tom Haslam, Scott Jeffrey, Orion Wilkinson, Devon Westermeier, Jack Harned, Augie Turner, Jacob Grady, Caleb Grady, Dylan Schultz, Jack Holds, and Corbin Holtzman.

Rams take top pick in NFL draft

Football fanatics weigh in on the results of this yearly ritual that builds on dreams of players.

by Nick Van Almsick
Reporter

For some, it's the moment they have dreamed of since they were a kid. For others, it is a gut-wrenching three days filled with anticipation if they will hear their name called on the big stage. This is the National Football League (NFL) draft.

The draft took place over the course of three days at the end of April. For the first time since the draft aired on television, the first round of the draft was shown during prime time on April 22. Rounds two and three were shown the next day, and rounds four through seven were shown on Saturday.

Since the St. Louis Rams had the worst record the previous season (1-15), they were awarded the first pick in the draft. There was much discussion weeks before the draft about who the Rams should take with their top pick. It seemed like the Rams narrowed it down to two main players: quarterback Sam Bradford from Oklahoma, and defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh from Nebraska. It was a general consensus from all the draft analysts that Suh was the most talented player in the draft, but the Rams ended up taking Bradford because they felt they needed a franchise quarterback and thought Bradford could be that guy. Suh ended up getting picked next by the Detroit Lions.

Junior Joe Thomas agreed with the Rams pick.

"I am really glad the Rams decided to take Bradford," Thomas said. "Marc Bulger obviously isn't getting the job done, and the Rams need another guy to lead the team to a winning season."

However, senior Jordan Stern disagreed with the pick and thought that the Rams should have gone with talent over a position player.

"Suh was definitely the most talented player in the draft, and probably the most talented defensive tackle in any draft in the past five years," Stern said. "The Rams should have used their pick to take Suh in the first round, and then draft a quarterback in the second or third round."

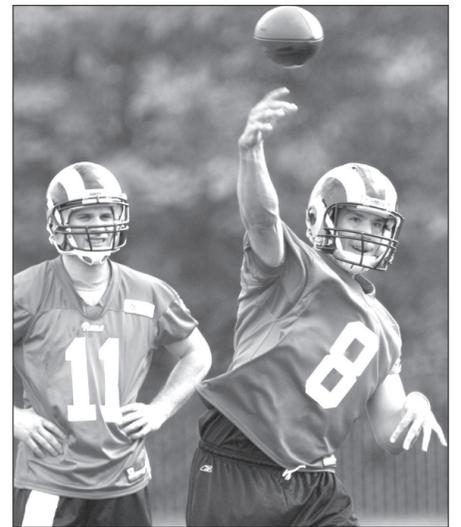
In the second and third rounds, the Rams decided to take an offensive tackle from Indiana and a cornerback from South Florida, respectively. Overall, the Rams got a draft grade of a B (according to cbsports.com) for all seven rounds.

"I think overall the Rams did a good job in the draft," Thomas said. "I would have liked to see the Rams try to take some more play-makers in the later rounds (instead of line-men), but overall I'm pleased with the results."

Like many drafts in years past, the 2010 draft had a few

"I'm really glad the Rams decided to take Bradford... The Rams need another guy to lead the team to a winning season."

Joe Thomas
Junior



Sam Bradford (8) runs through a drill during the minicamp for rookies at the St. Louis Rams' training facility in Earth City on April 30, 2010.

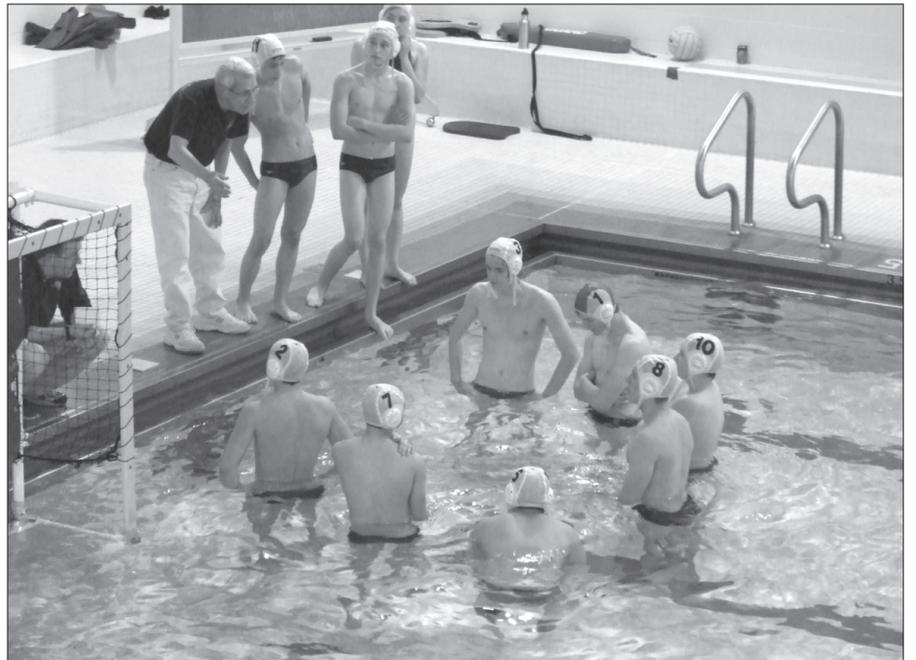
surprises. One of the biggest surprises was Florida quarterback Tim Tebow getting drafted in the first round by the Denver Broncos. Tebow showed a tremendous amount of talent in college, but many NFL scouts were concerned about how he would adapt in the NFL.

"I was shocked when I saw Tebow get drafted so early," Stern said. "I really thought he was going to get drafted in the second or maybe even the third round."

Another big surprise was Missouri wide receiver Danario Alexander not getting drafted at all. Alexander led the NCAA in receiving yards last year and was projected to go somewhere between the third and fifth round. He hurt his knee during the Senior Bowl, but he was still projected to get

drafted. "I could not believe Danario did not get drafted at all," Thomas said. "Even with a knee injury, I don't understand how you can lead all of college football in receiving yards and not get picked up by a team."

Overall, draft analysts thought that most teams did a good job with their picks. Every football fan is excited to see how these players will do in the NFL.



The CHS varsity water polo team discusses strategy with long-time coach Wally Lundt, who returned from retirement to coach the team.

Teamwork important for water polo

by Dylan Schultz
Editor

The CHS varsity water polo team is off to a respectable 8-10 start for its 2010 season. Leading the team in their quest for a successful district tournament showing are J.B. Garfinkel, Luke Madson, and Brett Downey.

Garfinkel has led the team in scoring with 81 goals already this season. He will be the team's key to success in postseason play for a conference, district or state title.

However, Garfinkel is far from the most important part of the team. He has a supporting cast of competent swimmers that aid him in his final season at CHS.

Six other players, male or female (as water polo is a coed sport), assist Garfinkel in the pool during a game. One of these six is sophomore Alex Yepez. Yepez starts for the team and enjoys his experience as a part of the water polo club.

"My favorite part about water polo is passing and shooting," Yepez said. "Proper combinations of these concepts make for memorable and beastly goals." Although offense may be a more enjoyable part of the game, a successful water polo team has both a relentless offense and a shutdown defense.

The CHS offense is an "umbrella" formation. There is a hole-man who

sits in front of the opposing team's goal. Two wings, one on each side of the pool, are apart from each other on either sides of the goal. Two drivers are also in position on the sides of the pool, ready to swiftly swim down towards the goal to receive the ball.

The wings can pass up to the hole-man or the drivers. If the drivers do not receive the ball, they return back towards the middle of the pool and essentially switch positions with the wings.

The team looks for a set, passing up to the hole-man, so he can shoot and, preferably, score.

The defense is much less organized, but still effective. Each guard simply swims with his opponent, man-to-man, to attempt to keep him from shooting, passing, or receiving a pass. It is essential that each defender guards one offensive player, otherwise somebody will become open to pose as a threat of scoring.

"The most difficult part about water polo is endurance," Yepez said. "A good water polo player must be able, more or less, to swim quickly for 20 minutes

straight. It is challenging to guard very fast offensive players and to get around quick defenders."

Teamwork is an important part to water polo as it is much more difficult to maneuver in water instead of on ground. The team aspect of the game was lacking at first to the Clayton club, but they have gotten better as the season moves along.

"The team is moderately successful because of the determination and hard work all team members put in, as well as the leadership and skill exhibited by our strongest players," Yepez said.

With the end of the school year approaching, Districts for all spring sports are not far off.

The water polo team hopes to immortalize themselves by putting a plaque up on the walls of CHS. Yepez has high aspirations for his team while looking towards the future.

"I think the team will do well in Districts because we have improved a lot since the beginning of the season," Yepez said. "We now go harder and cooperate better. These attributes will lead us to some success."

"The team is moderately successful because of the determination and hard work all team members put in."

Alex Yepez
Sophomore

FIFA World Cup set to kick off in June

by Jonathan Shumway
Editor

In a month and half, the biggest sports competition in the world will celebrate the world's favorite game: soccer.

The FIFA World Cup will be held in Cape Town, South Africa from June 11 to July 11.

The event is made up of 32 teams from throughout the world who will compete for the World Cup title.

Like the Olympics, this tournament is held every four years.

Soccer enthusiasts everywhere will commemorate this event as they cheer on their favorite team.

Sophomore Maamoun Hossayrami, avid soccer fan and Clayton varsity player, is eagerly anticipating the start of the games. He will be rooting for Spain.

"I see Spain going all the way," Hossayrami said. "My favorite club team is Barcelona, so I am a Spain fan. They have some talented players this year, so I feel that they are going to go far. One of the players is Xavi Hernandez, who holds the mid-field together well,

and hardly ever loses the ball.

There is also David Villa. He is so fast and a good striker. This allows him to score a lot of goals."

History Teacher Paul Hoelscher is attending the World Cup this year. He is excited about the coming games.

"I love football [soccer] and international travel so this is the big event that I try to get to every four years," Hoelscher said. "The energy from the World Cup is like nothing else. It is an amazing event."

Hoelscher is working for the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) during the games to promote a movie.

"I have a good friend who is releasing a film about football being played on Robben Island," Hoelscher said. "When political prisoners were sent to Robben Island for life, football kept them alive. This is the theme of the movie."

In recent months, security has become a concern because of violence surrounding the area where the World Cup is going to be held, and threats from Al Qaeda.

Al Qaeda has declared that it will bomb the United States-England match, which is being held on June 12.

Hoelscher will travel on, regardless of the threats.

"There will always be threats," Hoelscher said. "I think the country of South Africa is trying their best to make things safe for the entire month. The threat of violence is everywhere in the world and it has no effect on my travel. I've been robbed in 'peaceful' countries and found great tranquility in supposed 'violent' places."

Hoelscher will cherish the games, as they are being held in Africa for the first time.

"I've been to every World Cup since 1994, but this one is even more special," Hoelscher said. "Having lived in East Africa and traveled to South Africa several times in the mid-1990's at the end of apartheid, it is even more special."

In a recent survey conducted by the New York Times, 57 percent of respondents thought the U.S. was the underdog in the tournament.

"I think they have a fair draw," Hoelscher

said. "If they don't advance, it will be very disappointing, but anything can happen. That's why you go [watch]. The U.S. can't sustain enough consistent play to win the Cup, but it wouldn't surprise me if they defeat a good opponent and advance into the second or third round."

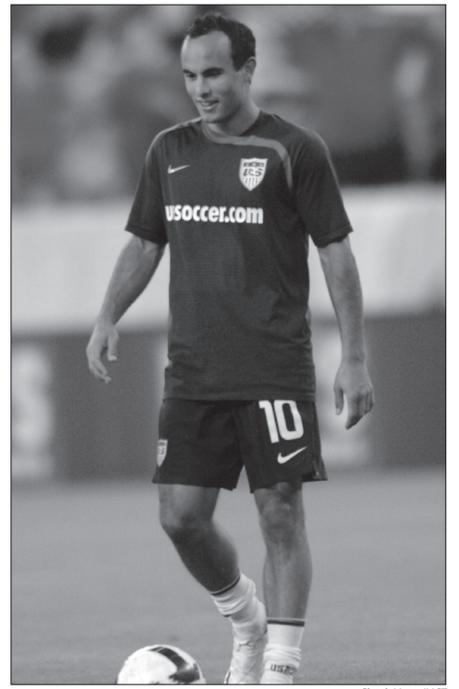
Although Hossayrami is cheering for Spain, he hopes that the United States team will perform skillfully.

"This year's U.S. football team is the best they have had in a while," Hossayrami said. "They beat Spain 2-0 in the Confederations Cup in 2009, and lost to Brazil in the final. They have a good chance this year."

The World Cup will carry on, even with the security concerns.

It is sure to be a momentous occasion, as it will be the first time, the World Cup is held in an African nation, a nation that was racially divided only two decades ago.

Although the world is brought together in different settings throughout the years, the world will indeed be united in the months of the World Cup as the world's best soccer teams play the world's greatest game. ☎



USA midfielder Landon Donovan warms up prior to a World Cup qualifying semi-final match against Cuba at RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C., Saturday, October 11, 2008.



St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Chris Carpenter pitches against the Cincinnati Reds at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, Missouri, Sunday, May 2, 2010. The Cardinals won 6-0.

Pujols, Rasmus, propel Redbirds to early season success

The Cardinals are off to a red hot start and soaring above the competition.

A strong supporting cast has the Cards hoping for playoff success.

by Alex Kasnetz
Reporter

There are certain things we can all depend on to happen.

Birds will fly south every winter, the sun will rise every morning, the St. Louis summer will be humid, the Chicago Cubs will not win the World Series, and Albert Pujols will carry the Cardinals lineup and will end up with a batting average over .300, over 100 runs batted in, and over 30 home runs.

Pujols is leading the Cardinals off to a great start, who with 17 wins and 8 losses, are atop the National League Central division. Pujols is second on the team in batting average, at .340, and first in home runs and runs batted in.

Pujols is aided this season by a mixture of old and new in the supporting cast.

Since the acquisition of outfielder Matt Holiday last year, opposing pitchers are being forced to give Albert better pitches to hit. And when they do walk Pujols, Holiday is more than capable of making them pay.

Third Baseman David Freese is the

most notable fresh face in the Birds lineup this year. In his first full year out of the minors Freese is off to a lightning quick start. Freese is the early leader in batting average for the Cards at .355 and is second only to Albert Pujols in runs batted in, with 16.

Freese has certainly been a key player in the Birds early success.

Another promising development of the 2010 baseball season has been the continued growth of outfielder Colby Rasmus, in his second year in the Major Leagues.

Rasmus showed potential last year and is doing more than living up to expectations this year. Rasmus leads the team in on base percentage at .422 and is second in home runs with six bombs already this season.

Defensively, the Cardinals are once again led by the consistent per-

formances of starting pitchers Adam Wainwright and Chris Carpenter. Carpenter and Wainwright have both picked up where they left off last season, when they were both top contenders for the Cy Young award.

They each have earned run averages (ERA) under three and four early wins.

Along with Wainwright and Carpenter, two new Cardinals starters are performing at all-star levels: Brad Penny and Jaime Garcia.

Penny, who was picked up last year from the San Francisco Giants, is off to a hot start with an ERA of 1.56 and a WHIP (walks + hits per innings pitched) of 1.18 to go along with a 3-1 record. Garcia, after making no Major League appearances last season, is leading the Cardinals with a 1.04 ERA in four starts this season.

The early weakness of the Cardinals

starting pitching is Kyle Loshe, who has a record of zero wins and one loss and an ERA over 5.

If the Cardinals have a weakness or uncertainty it will lie, like last year, in the bullpen. Closer Ryan Franklin is a perfect seven for seven so far in save opportunities. The Cardinals pitching will rely on the success of relievers like Jason Motte, Dennys Reyes, and Mitchell Boggs, who have pitched well so far but whose continued success is far from certain.

With a solid foundation and some key additions on both sides of the ball, the Cardinals are off to a great start at 17-8 and are once again atop the National League Central.

The Cardinals will need players like David Freese, Colby Rasmus, and Brad Penny to continue to play at a high level if they are to continue at this pace.

The Birds seem primed for another playoff run and hope to surpass last year's disappointing loss in the first round.

One thing is certain: with Albert Pujols batting third for your team, anything is possible. ☎



Izzy Fratt aggressively pursues the ball on offense. Fratt hopes to earn a starting spot on the field hockey team at Cornell University next year.

Sports shape futures for group of seniors

by Caroline Greenberg
Reporter

Seniors leaving Clayton are looking to utilize their talents at many competitive colleges in the fall.

Several students leaving Clayton are planning on playing sports in college, including Izzy Fratt, Orion Wilkinson, and Max Goldfarb.

"The coaches at Bates College called me after they saw me at a recruiting camp and I went to see the college afterwards, and I really loved it after I visited," Goldfarb said.

Goldfarb will be playing at Bates on its Division Three (D3) lacrosse team in the fall.

For some students, sports are a very large factor in determining which college they will attend.

"When I was deciding where I wanted to go, whether I could play lacrosse was a very strong part of my decision," Goldfarb said.

Wilkinson will be playing D3 tennis at Cornell College in the fall.

A large part of his decision centered on if he could play tennis at that school.

"I definitely feel like having the opportunity to play at Cornell helped me to like it more," Wilkinson said. "Being on a team gives you a chance to meet people right away who aren't freshmen, which will hopefully make the adjustment to college easier."

A coach can tell promising recruits that they will be on the team, but people still need to try out in the fall for the team.

"Since I was recruited, I have a spot on the team when I come in freshman year, but that is only if I stay in shape over the summer because girls will also try to walk onto the team for field hockey," Fratt said.

Wilkinson also was recruited, and was promised a position as the number three seed by his coach.

Securing playing time on a college sports team can be very difficult.

However, many students who pursue college sports have had the experience of playing all four years at their respective high schools and in other leagues to get them ready for college playing.

"I played on varsity all four years and also play club field hockey all year round," Fratt said. "Playing at Clayton helped me but also having the support from my club team really helped me to have a drive to play at college."

Goldfarb also played in other leagues to get himself ready for college.

"Lacrosse is on a different level on the East Coast and if you want to excel you have to go out and play to get better," Goldfarb said. "I did play in other leagues in the summer and fall other than playing at CHS."

Some schools will give students a sports scholarship while playing on their teams but on a D3 team, this is not an option. Ivy League schools are also not allowed to offer money to their athletes.

"At Bates they are not allowed to give out money because they are D3, but they do give academic scholarships if students qualify for them," Goldfarb said.

Some students may think having a sport to lean on will help to get them into a college, but Fratt is not so sure.

"Ivy League schools are based on academics and you are able to see this because they do not give out academic scholarships," Fratt said. "By doing this they keep their academic standards very high."

Goldfarb tells a different story.

"My grades and test scores were lower than the average scores so I know that having lacrosse helped me get in," Goldfarb said. "I may not know what will happen in the season next year, but being on the team is a great asset to have and I am very excited to be playing with them as I am sure many other students are excited about it too." ☎

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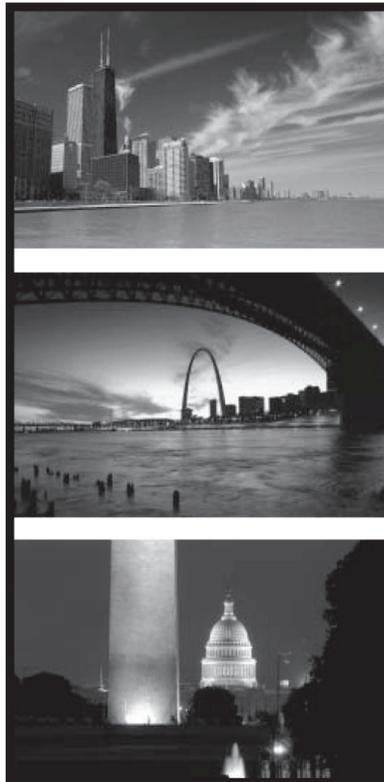
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Boys' LAX team finishes strong

by Jon Knoll
Reporter

The Clayton Boys' Lacrosse team got off to a fantastic start this season with a whopping 9-0 start. Led by captains Jordan Stern, Max Goldfarb, Drew Klein, and Josh Goldstein the Hounds ultimate goal is to win a state championship.

The Hounds started off the season on a good note defeating Webster Groves 9-6. It was a smooth ride from there improving their record to a perfect 9-0 before having to play defending Division II Missouri State Champs, Pembroke Hill.

On Friday April 23rd, the Hounds took to the road for a long road trip to Kansas City where they would enter a 3 game road trip against Blue Valley West, Pembroke Hill, and Northland. The Hounds won their first game against Blue Valley West 18-10.

It was an easy match but the true competition didn't start until the next day against Division II Missouri State Champs, Pembroke Hill High School. Pembroke Hill is one of the better teams of the Hounds schedule this season.

The Hounds lost that game dropping their record to 9-1 at the time. Following that match the Hounds played Northland and won with a strong 18-6

finish.

"We should've won all three of the games," Senior Captain Max Goldfarb said. "The Pembroke Hill loss hurt, especially since it was only by a goal. But we fought hard and I think we'll be better for it"

After a tough road trip the Hounds had a good week to prepare for their games against Hazelwood Central and O'Fallon, IL. The first game against Hazelwood West was an easy one winning the game 10-6. Five days later the hounds traveled to O'Fallon, IL to face the O'Fallon Panthers.

The game was between two of the top teams in the area so it was a marquee matchup between two schools from both sides of the river. Unfortunately the Hounds had trouble finding the back of the net putting a lost in the books. The final score was 16-2.

"It was a tough loss but were going to bounce back from it and win some big games," sophomore Jon Matheny said.

The Hounds have three more games, which they look to win all of to improve their playoff seeding against Columbia Rockbridge, Parkway Central and Ladue.

"We play Ladue May 14 at home. Hopefully we can get a lot of fans there," senior Max Goldfarb said. ☺



Caroline Stamp

The Lacrosse team has had a strong season due to the excellent play of several key players, such as seniors Max Goldfarb and junior WJosh Goldstein.

Girls' lacrosse ends with improvement

After the loss of several key seniors and adjusting to a new coach, the girls' lacrosse team is getting back to basics and building for the future.

by Sarah Blackwell
Reporter

This is a fresh start for the varsity girls' lacrosse team. The team has a winning record of 9-3, and a ranking of 12th in the district.

The team had a rough season last year, but they're on solid ground so far this season.

"Last season we didn't do so well," senior Shelby Sternberg said. "We lost some seniors, but this season we have lots of returning players."

The team's loss of players may have had to do with their 5-11 record. In addition, the team had to get used to a new coach last season.

"This is our second year with our new coach," Sternberg said. "Last year was a transition season. This year we're more focused on our skills."

Coach Christina Perrino doesn't find the team's improvements surprising.

"With new programs like girls lacrosse, things always improve from year to year," Perrino said.

Senior Becca Swarm agrees. She thinks that this season has been an improvement.

"This season everyone has stepped it up, including our coach," Swarm said. "This year we know what to expect from each other."

Perrino agrees that the team has improved, and she sees improvement in herself as a coach as well.

"I'm always trying to better myself as a coach and learn from more veteran coaches in the area," Perrino said. "I've spent some time learning new drills and developing strategies and plays."

Perrino also sees this season as a successful start.

"We've really clicked this year," Perrino said. "We work together as a team through everything we do and I think the time we have spent getting to know one another has paid off. We're definitely having a lot of fun, and winning games caps everything off well."

This year the team has many returning players. According to Sternberg, 11 of the 18 players were on the team last year as well.

"I had many players return from last year, and they've all improved tremendously in just a year's time," Perrino said.

This among other things has contributed to this season's success.

"We have been doing really well," Swarm said. "Our record is 9-3. We have really come together as a team this year. Everyone has a great attitude and is willing to work hard."

This doesn't mean that the team doesn't have its problems.

"We're a second half team," Sternberg said. "We score a lot more in the second half than the first. The team needs to work on focus. And we need to play smart from the beginning."

Perrino thinks that the team should focus on improving their transitions.

"While we are doing a lot of things really well, there's always room for improvement," Perrino said. "While our offense and defense are solid when the ball is settled, we don't do as well as we'd like in the transitions to allow us to score quickly or stop the other team from driving right to goal."

Swarm agrees that the team has improvements to make.

"We really need to work on ground-ball pick ups," Swarm said. "We need to focus on the basics."

The team has played really well, but they've mostly played teams with a losing record. But this week, they played Parkway North, John Burroughs, Ner-

inx Hall, and St. Joseph's Academy. They won one game of the four. At the beginning of the week, Swarm was optimistic about these games.

"As long as we play our best, I think we will do well," Swarm said. "We may not beat them by ten but if we play our best and as hard as we can they will be great games."

She acknowledges the fact that rankings can be misleading, and that they can change quickly.

"The rankings should be taken with a grain of salt because anyone can have a bad day and lose or have a great game and win an upset," Swarm said.

Rankings aside, the team has been doing well this season, especially compared to last year.

"It's been a great season for girls' lacrosse," Perrino said. "Leaders have emerged and talented players have stepped up to ensure that the season is a success. With nine wins on the field so far, it's been great to see everything come together so well for the girls."

Senior night is May 10 at 5:30 p.m. at CHS. The game is CHS vs. Ladue.

*Stats from the St. Louis Post Dispatch ☺



Caroline Stamp

Top left: Monica Gierada vies to pass the ball. Top right: Clayton works to block a goal from Ladue. Bottom left: Coach Perrino motivates the girls' lacrosse team as they meet post-game. Bottom right: The girls lacrosse team fights in formation to score.



Elizabeth Sikora

Senior Charles Goodman steps up to the plate in a valiant attempt to defeat Ladue.

Athletes find strong team values in baseball

by Katherine Greeberg
Reporter

The boys' baseball team started off the season strong with many players returning from past years.

Alex Kasnetz has been a member of the CHS varsity baseball team for three years.

"There are a lot of seniors on the team this year," Kasnetz said. "The experience that have gotten over their past years is definitely helping our team."

Junior Jack Ellston agrees that the team has benefitted immensely from the help that the upperclassmen have been able to give to the younger members of the team. Craig Sucher has been the head varsity baseball coach at CHS for nine years and was the assistant coach for five years before that.

"This year we definitely have more depth as a team," Sucher said. "This year we had more competition for playing time on the team."

So far the baseball team's record has been 13-10, and the team is optimistic for the rest of its season.

"I am excited for the rest of our season," Ellston said. "I think that we have the chance to win state."

It is junior Trevor Mills first year on the Clayton baseball team.

"One thing that I have seen that is different about Clayton baseball from my old school is that people on the team cheer a lot," Mills said. "It helps to keep the team motivated."

Ellston also thinks that the cheering of the team helps players.

"I always play better when I know the team is behind me cheering," Ellston said. "Charles Goodman especially is great at motivating people."

Goodman works hard to make sure the team stays positive. "I am very vocal during games," Goodman said. "The team is very good about pumping each other up."

Although the team has many seniors this year, there are no designated captains.

"In the beginning of the year we tell everyone that they are a captain," Sucher said. "Instead of designating leaders we like for everyone to feel like they have a responsibility to lead the team and work hard. Naturally, throughout the season leaders emerge."

"The seniors on the team are very vocal," Ellston said. "They all are very good at encouraging people to stay focused and do their best."

Alex Kasnetz prides himself on the connections he has made on the baseball team.

"We are a very close team," Kasnetz said. "A lot of us have been playing together for years so we know how to encourage and keep people focused."

Ellston has seen some major differences this year on the varsity team versus his two previous years on the JV team.

"Everyone on the team really cares about winning and losing," Ellston said. Coach Sucher agrees that the team is very competitive.

"We have had a few setbacks: Graham Gold and Chase Haslett were out for a few weeks with arm injuries," Sucher said. "But things are coming together and people are playing well."

Although the baseball team is in a very tough district, people are optimistic for the end of their season.

"I know that we have the ability to do very well," Sucher said. "If people are on their game and hitting like I know they can we could go very far."

Kasnetz agrees with this statement.

"We are very excited about districts and hopefully we will do well and have a lot of success," said Kasnetz. ☺

CHS Hall of Fame

In honor of the CHS's 100th graduating class, a Clayton Alumni Hall of Fame has been created with the following inductees:

-Jack Taylor (1940): founder of Enterprise Rent-A-Car and World War II fighter pilot.

-Mary Ann Lee (1944): St. Louis community philanthropist.

-Dr. Robert Drews (1948): Professor Emeritus of Clinical Ophthalmology at Washington University School of Medicine.

-Lou Susman (1955): former senior partner at Thomas & Mitchell, former board member of the St. Louis Cardinals, and U.S. Ambassador.

-Bob Blumenthal (1965): Grammy winner for best album notes, winner of Lifetime Achievement Award from Jazz Journalists Association.

-Michael Eastman (1965): internationally-recognized contemporary visual artist and photographer.

-Rocco Landesman (1965): recipient of a Ph.D. in Dramatic Literature from Yale and successful Broadway producer, and chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.

-Ed Presberg (1967): reporter and editor for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat and a senior VP and senior partner at Fleishman-Hillard (posthumous inductee).

-Dr. Randy Sheman (1969): founded South California Chapter of Operation Smile and Professor and Chair of Plastic Surgery at the Keck School of Medicine at USC.

-Jim Turley (1973): chairman and CEO of Ernst and Young.

-Andy Cohen (1986): Bravo TV executive who created "Project Runway" and other programs.

of LIFE

www.chsglobe.com



ORGANIC FARMING, pg. 18

“Small-scale diversified farms - with a focus on real sustainability... are in fact the only way we will be able to grow enough healthy food to feed the world.”

John Finch
EarthDance Farms apprentice

May 14, 2010

Senti retires from superintendent position

by Ken Zheng
Co-Editor in Chief

As the Superintendent of the Clayton Schools, Don Senti is a very busy man, and it shows. During my half-hour interview with him, I noticed that he received six emails as his computer pinged to signal their arrivals.

Senti is currently 65 and has been a superintendent for a total of 21 years combined at Parkway and Clayton. While most students associate him with his ability to approve snow days, his typical day involves many meetings with various officials and discussing issues with the School Board.

“What I’ve been doing the last two years is spending a lot of time with architects,” Senti said. “After the Bond issues passed, we have to design the buildings and work out the details. The only kids I see very much are Globe reporters and the ones getting kicked out of school.”

Before he came to Clayton, he was the Superintendent of the Parkway District, which had 22,000 students.

“I had 2,500 employees at Parkway, more than there are students in Clayton,” Senti said. “At Parkway I was sort of a Public Relations guy, going from meeting to meeting. It was just a really huge operation. Moving to Clayton was wonderful. There’s only one high school instead of five, and one mayor instead of 11. I was really happy at Parkway, but when I got here it was really nice.”

Senti is glad that all the administrators here fit around a large table, while at Parkway he had to use a microphone to address them.

“It’s easier to get things done here,” Senti said. “To convince five high schools to do anything is very difficult. We also had a philosophy at Clayton that the district either had to be child-centered or data-driven. You had to be one or the other. I said that we had to be both because you can’t be more



Senti leaves a legacy of achievements and the construction projects he began as superintendent.

child-centered than wanting to know what makes kids tick. I think that over the years we’ve come to have a good balance of both and that’s something I’m very proud of.”

Before he came to the District, he believes that Clayton was too concerned with the affective domain, or only thinking of decisions in terms of motivating students to learn.

“There was nothing wrong with being [too focused on the affective domain],” Senti said. “Obviously Clayton has always been a very high quality district so this is all relative. I wanted to focus more on giving kids a diagnosis of what they needed to improve upon with the data.”

About five years into his tenure at Clayton, Senti worked out what is now known as the Kid Check Statement. He views this Kid Check State-

ment as Clayton’s mission statement: “We are responsible for student learning by knowing students well, valuing every child, and placing students at the center of every decision.”

“It looks simple,” Senti said, “but there are no qualifiers. The statement doesn’t just say ‘we’re responsible for the kids who want to learn.’ It doesn’t matter if the kid has a single-parent family or if they’re poor or wealthy. We assume responsibility for student learning, rather than teaching. We have to think about the kids first, and that’s really hard about this job.”

Senti acknowledges that sometimes the adults want to be first.

“For example, most kids think that all I do is decide whether we have snow days or not,” Senti said. “What you may have noticed is that the

School District has never been sent home early. The reason is student-centered since a lot of kids’ parents aren’t home. If we decide to send everyone home in the early afternoon, then a lot of students aren’t going to know what to do if they don’t regularly walk home or don’t have the keys to the house. Most of the staff would prefer to go home early, but the decision is based on the kids.”

While Senti is most proud of the Kid Check Statement, he realizes that most people will instead remember him for working with the Mayor to start the Center of Clayton among other construction projects.

“I’m particularly glad about the success of the Center,” Senti said, “because its existence proves that two governments, the school and city governments, can work together. We have 10,000 members to the Center and it has almost broken even in terms of cost and revenue. It’s really become part of the community. The mayor at the time was looking for a community center and we were looking to expand our athletic and fine arts facilities. The architect who designed the structure was the one who envisioned where it would go.”

Principal Louise Losos is agrees with Senti that the architectural additions to the district were some of his biggest accomplishments.

“Dr. Senti has been a visionary on two fronts,” Losos said. “The first is the community partnerships that he has championed the Center, Metro Theater among other structures. He has been the leading force in the St. Louis community in keeping the VST program alive and viable. Finally, under his leadership the High School has undergone one major renovation and one major addition [Prop S] and the District has begun the process

Senti retires
pg. 20

CULTURE SHOCK

International students at CHS adjust to cultural and academic changes in the English Language Program.

by Philip Zhang
Editor

Every year, CHS welcomes a number of new students from abroad. These international students can often be found studying in the English Language Program (ELP) classroom, where they improve their language skills and learn about the American culture. With their unique backgrounds and perspectives, international students incorporate cultures from all over the world into our student body, granting us a truly diverse campus.

Karen Hales-Mecham, the teacher of the EL program, has been working with 25 international students this year.

“It is especially interesting to take a look at the rich number of languages spoken by CHS students,” Hales-Mecham said. “Over the last few years, these languages have included: Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese, Korean, Arabic, French, German, Japanese, Italian, Vietnamese, Urdu, Hindi, Albanian, Hebrew, Hungarian, Icelandic, Igbo, Portuguese, Latvian, Thai, and Farsi.”

Among many of the differences that exist between these students’ native countries and the United States, the style of schooling is one of the biggest.

Junior YouRan Kim is from Seoul, South Korea. She moved to St. Louis two years ago.

“In South Korea, students don’t move from room to room between classes, the teachers move,” Kim said. “The classes are longer, and everyday we have different schedules.”

“Like Kim, sophomore Sung-Hyun Kwon, who goes by John Kwon in English, is also from Seoul.

“In math [in Korea], no calculators are allowed. You must use your brain,” Kwon said. “Every calculation must be done with paper and pencil.”

Both Kim and Kwon agree that students in Korea generally have more pressure.

“In Korea, students have tutors after school and there are many English, sciences, math academies that students attend after school,” Kim said. “So students go to schools during the day then they go to an academy and study until 10 o’clock at night.”

In Korea, the materials that Kim and Kwon learn in their classes are also different.

“Especially in science, we learn some from each field of science each year, like physics, chemistry, biology, and so on,” Kwon said. “Here, CHS students learn a specific area each year.”

Kwon said he likes the more talkative, active classes in U.S. schools. “Usually in Korea, students stay in their seats and take notes while the teacher just lectures,” Kwon said.

Similarly, Kim appreciates the fact that the mood in the class is freer and the relationship between students and teachers are closer.

Junior Xi Yu is from Shanghai, China and has been living in the United States for six months. He also sees many differences between his school in China and CHS.

“In my school we had a lot of work to do but the work has more to do with memorizing and practicing,” Yu said. “For example, every night we have maybe two hours of math homework.”

In China, every student has to take the high school entrance examination. The score on the test determines which high school one will attend. Similarly, the college entrance examination determines which college the student will attend. As a result, schools focus a lot of their attention on helping students to excel on these tests.

“The teachers in China teach you how to do the questions for the test,” said sophomore Gabby Tang, who moved to the U.S. three years ago.

The fact that such entrance examinations can only be taken once gives students more pressure.

“If you fail the test you will go to a polytechnic school,” Yu said. “The test is all that counts.”

Classes in many foreign countries are also much larger.

“In science classes in China, we don’t do labs very much,” Tang said. “There were about 60 students in my class in China.”

Tang also said that she likes the greater degree of freedom in U.S. schools. In China and South Korea, schools have their own requirements and courtesies.

“In Korea, we wear uniforms to school,” Kim said. “Girls cannot grow their hair long; it has to be above the shoulders.”

“If you go to school, it just looks like you are living in the ‘60s or ‘70s,” Kwon said. “I believe the style of the uniform

never changed.”

“In my school in China, when the teacher comes into the room, all the students stand up and bow to the teacher,” Yu said.

Halfway around the world from China and Korea is the native country of sophomore Joe Belec: Montreal, Canada.

“Classes were 75 minutes long and there was not as much homework in Canada,” said Belec, who moved to the U.S. one and a half years ago. “With longer class periods, we had time to do homework in class.”

Sophomore Jeremy Beaudette attended school in Montreal before moving to the U.S. three years ago. Hockey was a big part of Beaudette’s school, which has an ice rink located right on the campus.

“With longer class periods, we only had four periods per day,” Beaudette said. “Instead of A/B days, we had days one through nine, each day with classes in different orders.”

Both Belec and Beaudette think that the classes in CHS are harder than those in their old schools.

“The class periods are shorter so you have more classes, and you have to do everything every day,” Belec said.

Beaudette misses some aspects of his old school.

“The 75 minutes long lunch and the 20-minute breaks between classes were pretty fun,” Beaudette said.

The newest international student at CHS is Montazer AlQazzaz, who moved here from Baghdad, Iraq, one month ago.

“The biggest difference between school here and in Baghdad is that my English class in Baghdad focused only on grammar,” AlQazzaz said. “In Clayton, I am learning to speak English as well as learning about grammar.”

AlQazzaz also enjoys many activities that CHS sponsors, such as the Poetry Slam on April 28, where he read an Arabic poem about the beauty of the Tigris River.

In addition to the numerous differences that international students observe, they also see many similarities between schools in the U.S. and those in their native countries.

“Being sensitive about grades is the same,” Kwon said. “Students enjoy jokes and like to play, but they also take the time to study.”

Belec said that students in his old school also have open campus and can go out for lunch.

“The rules are pretty much the same,” Beaudette said. “If you don’t have really good grades, then you cannot play sports.”

Despite these similarities, international students face many challenges as they move into a totally new environment. Many of the students have had limited exposure to the English lan-



Montazer AlQazzaz and Sophomore Gabby Tang finish practicing writing skills in their EL class. The EL class has 25 international students enrolled.

guage before they moved to the United States.

“At first, it was hard to understand what the teacher was saying in class, and speaking English in class was hard,” Kim said. “I was always worrying if I ask something and others don’t understand me, then I’m wasting other students’ time.”

Kwon shares similar concerns regarding speaking English and says that it is harder to understand his friends when they are talking to each other.

“I didn’t look very intelligent at first because the teachers asked me hard questions, and I couldn’t answer them in English,” Belec said.

To ease the frustration of these non-native speakers, sometimes all it takes is a little bit of patience to repeat certain phrases, or a smile that makes them feel welcome.

Hopefully, this will help international students to be better accustomed to the school and to open up.

“It is hard to learn to be open,” Tang said. “It is hard to think about what we can say or cannot say.”

Luckily, the EL program assists the international students tremendously by providing both English language instructions and advices on how to engage academically and socially.

A major focus of my work with all students is the development of oral language skills – we know this is the foundation of English language literacy and necessary for both academic and social engagement,” Hales-Mecham said.

To the international students, the EL program has been very beneficial.

“At first, since I was in a class with other students who also didn’t know English, I was not as shy as I was with other people,” Beudette said.

Indeed, the EL classroom provides a safe space for students to practice speaking English.

“It is hard to learn to be open. It is hard to think about what we can say or cannot say.”

Gabby Tang
Sophomore

“This class has helped me because I don’t have much chance to speak English in other classes,” Yu said.

In addition, Hales-Mecham pointed out that the program also focuses on “the English reading and writing skills that are necessary for academic success in a rigorous college-prep high school like CHS.”

“We had conferences, and it helped me learn how to write good essays,” Kim said.

The EL program helps students academically in a variety of ways.

“The EL class gives us background on the book we read, so once we get to the book we can understand it better,” Beaudette said.

This year, the EL program worked with the World Languages and Cultures Department to plan the first annual CHS World Languages and Cultures Day, which provided all Clayton students an opportunity to share their international experiences with one another.

“It was a great success, and we look forward to this event again next September,” Hales-Mecham said.

The EL program also helps the international students in many other aspects, sponsoring evening seminars on college application process for international students, family picnics, and new international student orientation in the fall.

Hales-Mecham said that it is a privilege to get to know students and families from around the world and to support them as they join the CHS community.

“I am so impressed with the dedication and perseverance of these remarkable young people as they accept the challenges of living in a new country and adjust to the way we do high school in Clayton,” Hales-Mecham said. “They are the most courageous people I know. They inspire me.”

Whigs' album darker, edgier

by **Nina Oberman**
Co-Editor in Chief

The Whigs, a trio hailing from the same home town as R.E.M. (Athens, Georgia), have made noise during the past few years with the release of their first two albums "Give 'Em All A Big Fat Lip" (2006) and "Mission Control" (2008).

Rolling Stone named the young group one of the "Ten Artists to Watch," earning them opening slots with The Killers, Kings of Leon, and many more.

This year, the trio hasn't lost any momentum. Lead singer and guitarist Parker Gispert, bassist Tim Deaux and drummer Julian Dorio kicked off 2010 with the release of "In The Dark" and a national tour.

Although this album has the same pounding drums, grabbing hooks and memorable melodies that characterize the band's style, it has a strikingly different feel from their previous work. As the title suggests, it is dark.

While the focal tracks of "Mission Control", such as "Right Hand on My Heart" and "Like a Vibration", revolved around themes of promise and passion, many of the tracks on "In The Dark" peer into the more sinister side of human nature.

"I Don't Even Care About the One I Love" is a thrashing song, with sharp chords and rim shots that tie pointedly into the message: "There's a black heart inside of me." The lyrics are striking, but the song itself is simplistic in a chant-y sort of way.

One of my personal favorites on the album is the opening track, "Hundred/Million", which is essentially Parker Gispert's quest to form his own identity. The chorus declares "There's a hundred million people in my mind/ Which is me and which is not?"

His struggle is universal: how can we maintain who we are at our core without casting aside all influences? In modern society, and especially in the music industry, this ques-

tion holds even more weight.

One aspect of the album that I didn't love was the editing. The vocals feel over-produced, and I miss the raw, raspy quality of Gispert's voice on previous albums.

The closing track, "Naked" is absolutely one of the most memorable songs on the CD. The six-minute song begins with an eerie chant that progresses eventually into a powerful anthem. The song tells the story of some one who casts aside her metaphorical clothing to discover what she has been hiding from the outside world—the band is clearly having some kind of identity crisis here. The song, however, is original and poignant, closing with the fantastic line "I don't think I want my clothes back anymore."

The Whigs visited St. Louis on April 22 at The Gargoyle, Washington University's music venue. I was expecting the small basement performance space to be packed with students—especially for a band that had performed on The Late Show with David Letterman.

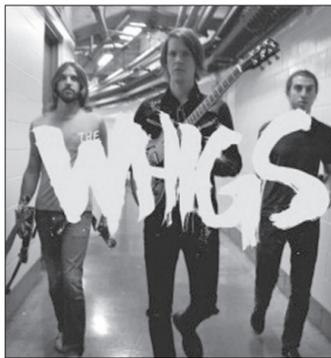
The turnout was unexpectedly low. The crowd wasn't tightly packed, and it should have been. Students should make time to see live

performances, especially when they are free.

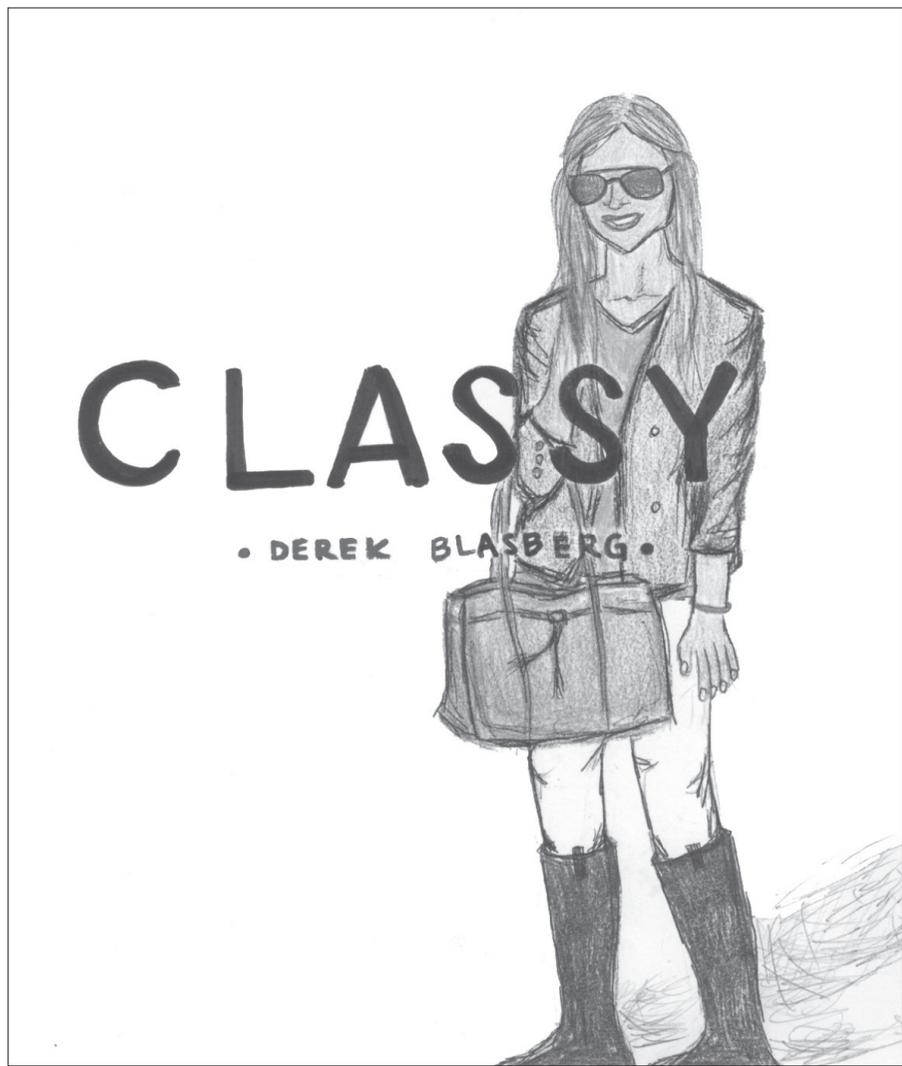
No matter what stresses or classes there are the next day, live music is an enriching and unwinding experience that young people should seek out—especially music of this caliber.

The Whigs nonetheless put their hearts into the show. They played songs from "In the Dark" as well as several other hits from "Mission Control" and "Give 'Em All A Big Fat Lip". The audience, while small, was energized.

Although "Mission Control" still holds its place as my favorite Whigs album, "In the Dark" shows a new side of the trio—one that is less melodically catchy, but just as interesting. ☺



www.thewhigs.com



Taylor Gold

'Classy' proves informative

Derek Blasberg makes being classy easy and fun with his new book that covers fashion, manners and anything that defines the "extremely modern lady".

by **Andrea Glik**
Reporter

Having or reflecting high standards of personal behavior. That is the dictionary definition of "classy". Everyone wants to have class, everyone tries to have class, but a lot of the time, especially in this day and age, the lines between classy and trashy are blurred.

Plus, it's not the '50's anymore; most girls don't know what to do with a salad fork or how short is too short of a skirt. But have no fear. All of these gray areas are about to be brighter than a newly bleached celebrity smile.

Derek Blasberg, editor of V magazine, Vogue blogger and a St. Louis native, has written a book to define the lines between class and trash. "Classy" is not just your typical manners guide. Although it includes basic information like how to set a table and write a thank you card, it also includes tons of modern day advice on topics like staying away from bad boys and not wearing Uggs in public.

Blasberg confronts a lot of important issues in a playful, funny way. He spends two articles poking fun at smoking and showing that no matter who is doing it, it's not classy. He also talks about alcohol and drugs, saying that a real lady doesn't drink to get drunk and there is nothing chic about cocaine.

He also points out the major issue of body image, which is so important because of his prominent role in the fashion industry, which is infamous for having weight issues.

The book is full of fun pictures of how to not dress at the airport, how to pose for a camera and what a thank you card

from Tom Ford looks like.

Towards the back of the book is a section on artists, books, and movies that every girl should be educated on. Each page has something fun to look at and funny to read, while still becoming a little more educated on modern class.

“Although it includes basic information like how to set a table and write a thank you card, it also includes tons of modern day advice on topics like staying away from bad boys and not wearing Uggs in public.”

Blasberg doesn't set strict guidelines for what's classy. He gives you permission to enjoy a bucket of chicken with champagne, just as long as you restrict drunken texts and photos you will regret the next day.

The main thing someone could take away from this book is that it's fun to be smart, sophisticated and sexy. It never pays to be slutty, rude and ignorant. "Classy" basically says this on every page but in a witty, informative way.

The problem is that "Classy" is more of a shiny book to flip through at Borders, instead of a book to refer to when putting together an outfit or planning a party. Also, everything that Blasberg says is helpful, but chances are if you really need the information he is offering,

you probably won't be buying a book by a New York fashion journalist.

However, Blasberg's advice can be totally trusted. Growing up in the Midwest, he was taught old-fashioned manners, but then moved to Manhattan and picked up the street-smarts of a New Yorker.

The two worlds, combined with the fact that he is best friends with the Olsen twins, sits front row at every fashion show and writes for almost all the major fashion magazines makes him the perfect person for the job of writing advice for "the extremely modern lady." ☺



Wannabe superheroes Kick-Ass (Aaron Johnson) and Hit-Girl (Chloe Moretz) fight crime in 'Kick-Ass', the latest movie to hit theaters.

'Kick-Ass' fails to impress, satisfy

by **Alex Grayson**
Reporter

When I first heard that there was a movie coming out called "Kick-Ass," I started to laugh. When I saw the film, I laughed even harder. Surprisingly, "Kick-Ass" was entertaining, action-packed, and heavily flawed.

"Kick-Ass" stars a bunch of no-name actors and Nicolas Cage. Even several days after seeing the movie, I can't figure out what he was doing in it. I guess he needed money. Anyway, the story follows a typical comic-book geek with glasses (because all comic-book geeks wear glasses) named Dave Lizewski, played by Aaron Johnson, who always fantasized being a superhero.

His friends, played by Clark Duke from "Hot Tub Time Machine" and Evan Peters from the audition line, are questioning his beliefs. When Dave buys a superhero costume on eBay, his fantasy comes true and he becomes Kick-Ass. However, since this kid is a geek, he really doesn't have the full po-

tential of being a superhero. He later joins forces with Hit-Girl, played by the incredibly brave Chloe Moretz, to battle the forces of evil in their town.

The story also involves the Russian mob, the one kid from "Role Models," and Nicolas Cage dressing as Batman, but the plot pretty much stays consistent throughout. There aren't any big plot twists or real surprises, just typical teenage humor and incredibly violent and over-the-top action scenes.

Speaking of these scenes, a word of warning for any parents reading this: this movie is really sick. Not just because of all the blood, but mainly because of Hit-Girl. She is about 11 years old, and she is killing, cursing, and dismembering anybody that gets in her way. It's disturbing, but also mildly amusing, and it's good that this film is taking risks that don't dampen the experience.

While "Kick-Ass" is funny and shocking, there are many really big problems. The biggest problem is that I'm not sure exactly what the film is

trying to be. Is it a comedy? Is it an action film? Is it a love story? Many times throughout the film it changes mood, and goes from a teenage comedy to a teenage blood-fest and finally to a high school love story, and then back again. It's hard to tell what the film is, but thankfully it's decent enough to forget about.

Another major issue is the romance side of the story. The film tries way too hard to have a thought-provoking, lesson-learning love story that has nothing to do with the plot. The "love" interest, played by the beautiful Lyndsy Fonseca, is simply there for eye-candy and doesn't add to the drama. I won't give away what she is doing in the film, but I will warn you again: it's stupid.

Overall, "Kick-Ass" is, well, not quite what it's titled. It has its moments, but most of the time I just felt like I was watching "High School Musical," replacing the music with violence. For every step it takes forward, it takes another big step back, and places itself at just "meh." ☹



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Minutes of Fame

Would you rather play basketball with Obama or quidditch with Harry Potter?

Basketball with Obama mostly because I don't know what quidditch is.

If you were a wild animal, what would you be?

Definitely a gorilla; my Sociology students should know why.

Who would star in a movie about you?

I'd like it to be Daniel Day Lewis, but I'd settle for Will Ferrell.

Is the glass half empty or half full?

Half full because half empty is just too depressing.

Kordenbrock uses humor and life lessons to teach

by Mary Blackwell
Senior Features Editor

High school socialite, sports fan, ex-lawyer, and Subway regular Rick Kordenbrock finds his current position as a Clayton History teacher to be his most fulfilling job so far.

Although maybe second best to the JCCA where he met his future wife Lois Platt, who graduated from CHS in 1970. His wife was working as a social worker for older adults and hired him to drive a van of older Jewish adults to various appointments.

"It was a wonderful job," Kordenbrock said. "First I met my wife and second I met a lot of interesting people. I met some Holocaust survivors and other interesting individuals."

Kordenbrock and wife Lois now live in Ladue and all three of their sons graduated from Ladue High School.

"I think Ladue and Clayton are at a par with each other," Kordenbrock said.

Two of his sons followed his footsteps and graduated from University of Missouri- Columbia while his youngest son attends Kenyon College. In his college days Kordenbrock majored in political science and minored in economics and then went on to graduate from Mizzou's law school. He then practiced law for 24 years.

"Being a lawyer was great but it was very stressful and unrelenting," Kordenbrock said. "I met a lot of fabulous, interesting people. I didn't feel it was very fulfilling and I had done it long enough so I wanted to do something more meaningful."

So Kordenbrock decided to change

careers and received his teaching certificate at UMSL. Before joining the CHS staff, Kordenbrock taught for four years at Ritenour High School.

"I would like to teach as long as I possibly can," Kordenbrock said. "I love teaching. There's nothing else I want to do."

But Kordenbrock hasn't always been such an academic. He grew up in Crystal Lake, Illinois and during high school he "wasn't a particularly good student."

"I wasn't very interested in school," Kordenbrock said. "I was pretty social. I had a lot of friends."

Contributing to his lack of scholarly pursuit were the ladies and sports.

"I had one girl I thought I was madly in love with—or so I thought," Kordenbrock said. "I played basketball and baseball. That took up a lot of time."

Kordenbrock is well aware that the dating scene has changed since in high school days and he praises the more casual dating atmosphere of the day.

"It's a much better system," Kordenbrock said. "I think you get a broader perspective. We did a lot of guys and girls hanging out together and then you pair up. I know people who had a boyfriend or girlfriend and you never



History teacher Rick Kordenbrock found his passion for teaching in his second career.

saw them."

It is a well known fact that Kordenbrock walks to grab lunch at Subway almost everyday.

"Subway is convenient and I find it to be an escape; it's a routine."

Much of Kordenbrock's free time is spent reading nonfiction books, as is expected of a history teacher. He is also hooked on sports and though he doesn't play much anymore, he's still an avid fan.

His dedication to the Cardinals recently paid off as he was quoted in a New York Times article entitled, "McGwire Is Testing a Loyal Baseball Town." Kordenbrock met the Times reporter at a Passover Seder and a mutual friend of theirs recommended Kordenbrock as a good source for an opinion on McGwire.

"This is my only claim to minimal and fleeting fame." ☺

Freshman designs T-shirts

by Jake Bernstein
Editor

Sometime in the next few years, you will likely see a student wearing a "School Works" T-shirt. Freshman Sebastian Juhl started his own clothing line, titled School Works, in January of this year.

"I have always liked clothes and nice apparel," Juhl said. "Early this year, the idea just materialized."

The brand name might seem a bit confusing at first, as it wouldn't seem a teenager's T-shirt would praise school.

"School works, school seems like such a big waste of time, just a bunch of nothing being piled into your head," Juhl said. "However school really does help, it works."

This reasoning was literally drawn on paper and made into a T-shirt, his first design. The original shirt design shows a bunch of math equations being poured into a robot's head and the brand name School Works written across the shirt.

Freshman Michael Turner was one of Juhl's first customers. He bought the original shirt in blue.

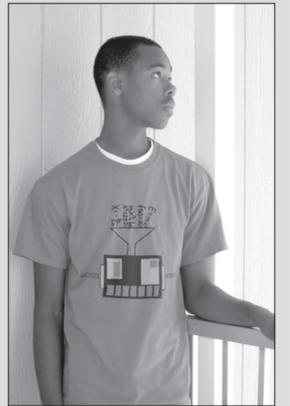
"It is pretty cool that a student can make a clothing line and sells their product," Turner said. "It was kind of expensive, but it's worth it to support a student. I wanted to be part of it."

Sophomore Connor Flood also bought the original shirt. "I like the shirt design a lot," Flood said. "It's cool how the name of the brand goes in one ear and out the other of the robot logo."

Turner and Flood both approved of the principle of School Works.

"The other reason I bought the shirt is that I do like the idea of school works," Turner said. "School clearly works for certain people, hopefully it works for me."

"School Works applies to all kids as it shows that in the end, you need



Freshman Michael Turner models a School Works shirt. He likes the shirts because "school works."

school to be successful in life," Flood said.

Juhl said the process of creating a shirt is simpler than it seems. First, he draws the design on paper, and then scans it into the computer. He then retouches the image using Adobe Illustrator. From there, he sends the design to the screen printer, and if it is approved, it is ready to be printed.

Juhl "hopes he can sell a few of the printed shirts." He is doing pretty well so far due to high demand; he is currently out of shirts. In order to sell shirts and gain publicity, Juhl created a website, www.schoolworks.bigcartel.com. There, one can choose one of two shirts, priced at \$30 each. The shirts are described as made from 2001 American Apparel Shirts. Both shirts have a "Coming Soon" status, as Juhl is soon going to order more shirts. Specifically, Juhl said that he hoped he would sell 100 shirts by the end of summer.

At that rate, it might be sooner than later that you see a CHS student bearing a School Works shirt. ☺

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Northcross's friendliness adds humor to students' days.

Cafeteria worker lightens hearts

by Payton Sciaratta
Reporter

Every day students come to school and walk through the lunch line, paying no attention to what is going on around them. However, the people who may go unnoticed in the commons have a special story about how they got here.

Alvin Northcross, the man who is most likely serving you fries every day, is the jokester in the kitchen. He is the one who always seems to make people laugh.

Although Northcross has had several other jobs, one being working in construction, he took cooking as his occupation because he has always had a passion for this field.

"I've always loved to cook," Northcross said. "Ever since I was a teeny tiny baby."

The training to get to where he is today wasn't so hard for Northcross. In fact, all it involved was a trip to an agency.

"I went to an agency to get this job, and they sent me here," Northcross said.

Northcross is always one of the first ones at school. He works from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., not only serving food but also cooking it and preparing it.

Northcross enjoys his job, cooking bacon, sausage, eggs and biscuits every single morning. However, every so often Northcross cooks his favorite food at work, omelets.

But he doesn't just cook at school. Northcross enjoys cooking at home as well, where his favorite thing to cook is lasagna.

Although cooking is one of his hobbies, Northcross has many others. Some of his favorite things to do when he isn't in the kitchen are watching movies, playing video games and riding his bike.

Northcross also has a family that he enjoys spending time with. Even though he is separated, he has three children whom he enjoys to bond with.

Northcross has been working in schools for five years now, but he has only been in the Clayton School District for two.

Northcross has only been here in Clayton for a short period of time. But it seems that he won't want to leave for a long time.

He is always able to find ways to make the day interesting. One day, for example, Northcross brought in a piece of paper and asked all of the students "Can a chicken swim?" Everyone's response to this was obviously no. When in fact the chicken can.

"We are supposed to be one of the smartest schools in the state, and you can't even tell me if a chicken can swim?" Northcross said in response.

Not only does Northcross just hand out fries, but he also finds ways to teach us random facts. He is one of the most interesting staff members that we have at Clayton, and Northcross says he doesn't plan on leaving us.

"I have fun every day, and I love cooking," he said. ☺

Laughter encourages positivity, reduces stress

by **Mary Blackwell**
Senior Features Editor

As I spoke gibberish to absolute strangers, mimicked a jack in the box, and threw imaginary milk on others, I couldn't help but think how ridiculous the members of the St. Louis Laughter Club and I would look to an outside observer. Led by Marlene Chertok, we all participated in one goofy activity after another, separated by intervals of the chant "Ho, ho, ha, ha, ha" and wrapped up the hour-long session with relaxing deep breathing.

"It's based on the contagious effect of laughter and the idea that motions affect emotions," Chertok said. "So the more you act happy the more your body begins to act positive with positive actions and eventually your mind kicks in. You start laughing with your body and then your mind soon follows."

Laughter yoga is a movement promoting laughter as means of obtaining better medical and psychological health. Dr. Madan Kataria, founder of laughter yoga, created the first laughing group in India in 1995.

Recipient of Dr. Kataria's Laughter Yoga Ambassador award in 2008, Chertok is a cancer survivor and the founder of the first laughter club in the St. Louis area. She first learned about the laughter yoga movement through the documentary, "The Laughter Club of India."

"I was recovering from breast cancer and was looking into other things I could do to improve my health for my own healing," Chertok said. "I became utterly fascinated by it and I tried laughing myself watching the movie and I could only laugh in a polite stuffed-in way. So I decided that as part of my own healing, I was going to work on my laughter to be able to do a big belly laugh again."

Intrigued by the research connecting laughter to improvements in the immune system and stress cortisol levels, Chertok decided to try laughter yoga in hopes of bettering her stress management and immune system while reducing the severity of her asthma.

"I kind of decided that if I was going to die, I was going to die laughing," Chertok said.

"I became obsessed with it, and we went to visit a laughter club in California on a vacation before I decided if I really wanted to do it. I was utterly charmed with the sweetness of what I saw with this community of people and how nice the laughter leaders were."

Chertok can now laugh on command, for no reason. But it wasn't always so easy for her.

"I had an Indian man who mentored me from California by phone," Chertok said. "We called them laughter phone



Sarah Blackwell

calls. He used to call me to check out my laugh. He would say, 'Better but you need to keep working on it.'"

Chertok stresses that laughter yoga should be practiced regularly because the results are not instantaneous.

"It was like slowly pulling the cork out of a bottle," Chertok said. "So when I see some people that come and they have a hard time, I am very understanding because it was hard for me. I had to force myself to do this."

There is now research to support the commonly heard truism: laughter is the best medicine. Laughter is an aerobic activity that exercises the lungs, facial muscles and diaphragm. It increases the number of natural killer cells, T cells and B cells of the immune system and stimulates the release of endorphins and serotonin.

Chertok testifies to the health benefits of laughter yoga. "I have had fewer colds the last two years and I get over them faster," Chertok said. "When I started doing laughter

yoga I used to cough and hack all the time but I don't do that anymore. Gradually, over time, my breathing has improved. I have not used an inhaler in over two years."

Laughter yoga is intended to enhance overall well-being, and Chertok has noticed a change in her attitude.

"I do feel more open and more loving and I'm much more open than I was before," Chertok said. "It's much more easy for me to open up to people and to reach out in a more loving way."

Chertok has been cancer free for seven and a half years now, but during her recovery she used laughter yoga to remove negative emotions. Badly burned at ages 12 and 28, Chertok also uses laughter to help release post-traumatic stress.

"Even if I feel a little sad or depressed sometimes I know how to laugh for five minutes now for no reason and it will disappear," Chertok said. "I can lift the veil of darkness and I

can feel great again."

Studies have proven the correlation between emotion and physical health.

"Psychological research has focused in on a field of study called Psychoneuroimmunology, and one of the things that comes out in the research is the effect that positive emotions can have on the body's own ability to heal and managing stress and illness," Chertok said. "Likewise, they know that stress and a lot negative emotions can be the underlying root of illness."

Chertok is a registered Nurse and has a degree in Anthropology. She leads the St. Louis Laughter Club every Sunday at the Eliot Unitarian Chapel in Kirkwood.

"It's so much more than building a business; it's about building a community," Chertok said. "I'm doing this primarily for my own healing. I certainly like to get paid; I try to cover my training. But if I had to rely on it as a business, it wouldn't be as fun anymore."

Aside from her weekly club, Chertok holds laughter yoga workshops in various settings.

"Some companies are using it to promote team building," Chertok said. "And my personal thought is that it has the potential of helping people release their stress in a positive way instead of a destructive way."

Melissa Lesniak, a member of the laughter club, enjoys the experience.

"I come here for the health benefits and to help myself deal with stress and work, and because it's fun," Lesniak said. "You get to be a kid again. I have a one-year-old at home and I try some of this at home and he loves it. I can't wait for him to be old enough to come here."

The laughing exercises are often childlike and wouldn't be out of place in a pre-school classroom. Although in laughter yoga everyone laughs together and attention is not called to the individual, Chertok often finds that her sessions are tougher when the participants are self-conscious adolescents or young adults.

"Play is important for emotional development," Chertok said. "Laughter yoga is about cultivating playfulness."

Chertok enjoys conducting laughter yoga sessions in new environments and recently brought her knowledge to teachers in the Parkway School District, hoping to reduce their stress levels.

Sunday May 2 was World Laughter Day, and Chertok's laughing club, along with clubs around the world, celebrated the joy of laughter.

"It's about making a choice to be positive no matter what stuff is thrown your way," Chertok said. "It's really important to have a place where you can laugh unconditionally." ☺

Tech companies battle

by **Nia Charrington**
Reporter

Apple, Microsoft, and Google are huge companies in the U.S. and worldwide. As leaders in their respective fields, these companies recently have been encroaching on each other's markets, which has resulted in a game of one-upmanship.

Apple is known for the consistency and ease of its popular hardware: iPhone, iPod, iPad. Microsoft is king of software development and third party applications, such as Word, Windows, Powerpoint. Google owns the Internet with its search engine and cloud-based applications, such as GoogleDocs.

While Apple and Google easily have the most popularity, they're not the richest of three companies. According to Fortune, Apple is 56th with an annual revenue of \$36 billion while Microsoft is ranked at 36th with an annual revenue nearing \$59 billion, Google comes in last of these three companies with a ranking of 102nd with an annual revenue of \$24 billion.

But what is the secret behind Apple's popularity? According to Fortune, Apple ranks first in customer satisfaction. And the happier the customers, the more popular the product will be.

"I think Apple is more popular," sophomore Kate Harrison said, "be-

cause it has a cleaner more high-end product."

A brand popularity Poll on TechCrunch ranks Google as the most popular brand above both Apple and Microsoft. So what makes Google such a popular brand? It's all about reliability and scope. According to NetMarketShare, Google accounts for 86.3 percent of the search engine market globally. It's no wonder that when Google's servers go down, even for less than hour, it makes headlines.

Now Microsoft isn't that popular, but it does have a small base of diehards, and a larger base of people who can't afford Apples or who don't care. So how is it then that Microsoft makes so much money?

For Microsoft, their success is all about scope and size. According to W3schools.com Microsoft accounts for 88.6 percent of the operating systems. And compare that to Apple's mere 6.5 percent, it suddenly becomes much easier to understand why Microsoft is so much wealthier.

In an attempt to increase revenue and beat Apple and Microsoft, Google has begun making a smartphone operating system, a feat previously dominated first by Microsoft, which has been providing smartphone operating systems with its Windows Mobile OS since 2000 and second by Apple, which

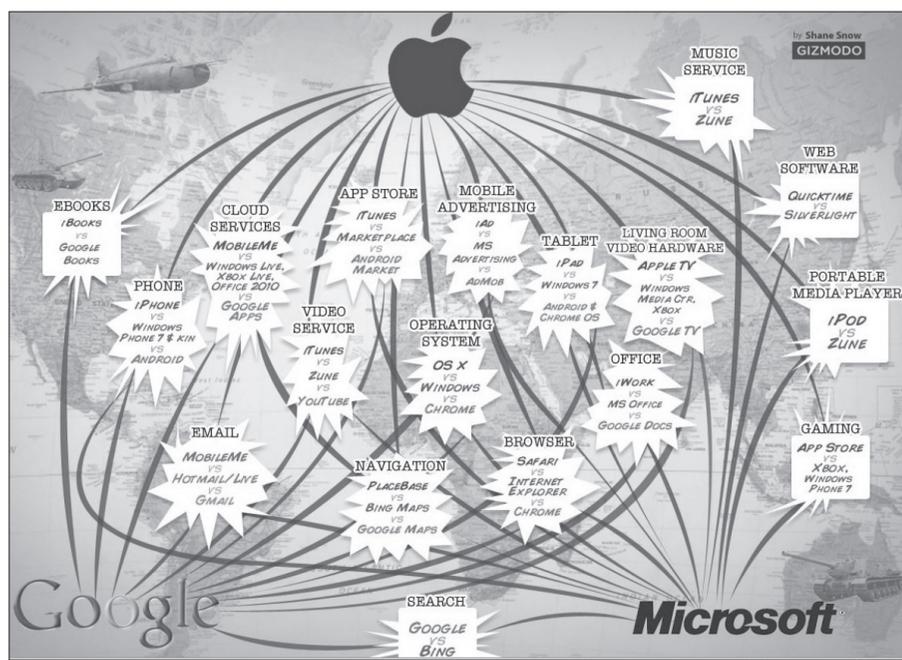
released its groundbreaking iPhone in 2007.

The smartphone industry is truly the field that has most benefited from the competition between these companies. Apple set a standard for smartphones that has caused many other smartphone manufacturers to step up their game. Whether it be faster processors, better cameras, or a more intuitive user interface, phone companies are doing whatever it takes to beat each other in this quickly growing field.

Android Froyo, iPhone OS 4, and the upcoming Windows Mobile 7 are each company's best effort to take control of the smartphone industry. Of the three companies, iPhone currently seems to be winning. According to Canalis, the iPhone accounts for 15 percent of the market while Microsoft accounts for 9 percent and Google a mere 5 percent.

"The iPhone is the best," said David Hoffman, the school's Educational Technologist, "It's an intuitive device that's fun and easy to use."

It seems that the overall simplicity of the iPhone's user interface is part of what makes it such a popular device. The Android user interface is more complex and relies on widgets, menus, and multiple off-screen buttons. The same is true for Windows Mobile. The iPhone's simplicity is perhaps why the phone has received more followers.



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For this round of comparison, Apple will have to sit on the sidelines, as Apple does not currently have its own search engine. So now for one of the most popular tech questions of last year: Which is better--Bing or Google?

"I think Google's the best. It's the one I'm more familiar with, and Bing seems like it's more for travel," sophomore Marguerite Daw said. "Google is

better for more random searches."

Compared to Google's main page, Bing seems like a far more polished website. Each day a new striking, and often beautiful, picture is displayed in the background of Bing's main page. The Bing website exudes a contemporary air with its sleek fonts and clean homepage.

On Google's homepage, there is white interrupted only by the search box, search buttons, and the Google logo with its famous multicolored lettering. The homepage is not at all as aesthetically pleasing as Bing's, and yet by far it's the one the public prefers.

Perhaps it's an understanding of what Google is capable of. Yes, it can perform the simplest of searches but it also provides an emailing service, an online document editor, a personal calendar, an RSS, and a video service (YouTube) just to name a few features.

Sophomore Allyson Sander said she felt Google was better because it was simple and easy and also preferred it because she had always used it.

Google has a great search engine, but which company has the best web browser? Apple has its Safari web browser, Google has developed the Chrome web browser, and Microsoft has its Internet Explorer.

Microsoft again shows its prowess, being the most-used browser globally. Internet Explorer holds a 53 percent usage share followed by Firefox with 32 percent and then finally Chrome and Safari with 8 percent and 5 percent.

Internet Explorer is the most used browser, but is it the best? A lot of people seem to think it's not. If one searches Internet Explorer compatibility issues, a plethora of user complaints and tech articles will show up. Safari has some of the same issues albeit far fewer than Internet Explorer's.

Chrome is the newest player in the

web browser market, but it's already acquiring quite a following. What Chrome boasts is speed. According to CNET.com, Google Chrome beats every other major web browser in a JavaScript speed test. The competition in these races didn't even come close to Google, which was 20 times faster than the browser in second place.

So which browser is the best? "Chrome, because it's generally faster than Internet Explorer or Safari," said junior Tyler Markham. "It's also cleaner in design."

Chrome might not be on top for long though. Microsoft is working on Internet Explorer 9 and Safari will continue to update so that Google will have to work to retain the fastest and cleanest web browser.

All three of these companies are extremely successful. Apple offers clean, sleek, and intuitive devices. Apple has become a company that exudes uniformity amongst a culture that's all about individuality, which is no small feat.

Google, which started as a simple search engine, has evolved into a huge company with its hand in just about every field imaginable. Despite Google's growth, it retains that small start-up business feel and never takes itself too seriously.

Microsoft offers an affordable option that is consistent. Microsoft once was the developer of all the new cutting edge technologies, but in recent years they have failed to produce anything amazing. However, Microsoft is perhaps back on the rise. Some of its rumored prototypes exude some of that old technological valor; the future for Microsoft looks good.

All of these companies are competing for the top spots in their field. Their competition will no doubt continue to produce cheaper and smarter technology for the public. ☺

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Courtesy of Marian Brickner

ABOVE: Photographer Marian Brickner brings attention to the endangered great ape, the Bonobo, through her photographs. LEFT: Brickner is able to capture more than just an insect in her picture of a praying mantis. She hopes that the world will change the way it sees itself through her art.

Photographer finds solace in art, beauty in nature

by Ben Colagiovanni
Reporter

Close your eyes and imagine a small child. Look at his eyes, dark, deep, and fleeting. Look at his hands, small, rigid, and pale. Look at his hair, brown, abundant and flowing in the wind.

Now, close your eyes and imagine you are looking at a praying mantis. What do you see?

For many, including myself, the answer, a long-bodied creature with large eyes, is far less riveting than the image of an innocent young boy.

However, when I looked at photographer Marian Brickner's picture of a praying mantis, I saw something I never imagined I would find in an insect: a soul.

Marian Brickner's mission in life is simple. She wants to change the way the world sees itself. And so far, armed with two cameras, a Nikon D200 and a Nikon D300, four lenses, and an unmatched combination of competitive

spirit, determination, and compassion, Marian Brickner has been successful at changing the perspectives of ordinary people every day, one photo at a time.

"The thing that I seem to want to illustrate in all of my images is that there is an individual who lives inside that body," Brickner said.

Brickner doesn't seem to care what form the body takes.

"It could be a praying mantis body, a person body, a dog body, a lemur body," Brickner said. "I don't seem to care. I want to show there's somebody there. That's just what I do."

Brickner's photos all tell a story, but her own story is no less compelling.

Thirteen years ago, Brickner came to the revelation that she wanted to try to stop people from killing each other.

She decided that through pictures, she could cause "an infinitesimally quick perception shift," in people which would prompt them to re-evaluate the value of life and remind them of the presence of a soul in every living

creature.

But Brickner, who had been a photographer for various local newspapers, knew that making her pictures good enough to serve as life-changing experiences would take some practice.

So, she took at least one photo every single day for the next six years, capturing images of anything she could find, until she finally felt she had adequately prepared herself to embark on her mission.

Now her focus shifted to the topic of what to photograph. Coincidentally, Brickner's answer came in the form of a revelation.

Brickner stumbled upon the book *Bonobo: The Forgotten Ape* and discovered a viable outlet for her passion.

"The photographer Franz Lanting, whose a fabulous nature photographer, and Frans de Waal, a primatologist, both of whom are Dutch, put this book out," Brickner said.

She now had a subject to photograph and a new competitor.

"I'm constantly competing with Franz Lanting," Brickner said.

The Bonobo is a great ape, endangered, found in the wild only in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. German anatomist Ernst Schwarz is credited with having identified the Bonobos as a separate species while studying skulls in the Tervuren museum in Belgium in 1928. Brickner bemoans the fact that "we rarely, rarely hear about the Bonobos" -- an oversight that Brickner continues to hope her photographs will help to correct.

Once she had acquired the appropriate equipment, Brickner began traveling to zoos across the country, without a sponsor and completely self-financed.

She soon decided that it would be best to write a children's book accompanied by her photographs. However, she realized that she couldn't continue to travel from zoo to zoo and needed to find a Bonobo she could follow.

Fortunately for Brickner, the Jack-

sonville Zoo provided her with the opportunity to photograph a young Bonobo named Lucy. Lucy has become Brickner's primary subject, one she has been following for the last seven years.

Her days in Jacksonville start at 8:30 a.m. and go until 4 p.m. with Brickner taking photos of Lucy and her family every minute she can. While she has produced some stunning photos, it is a quirky and controversial one that has given Brickner her biggest break yet.

Recently, Brickner captured Lexi, a sister of Lucy's, flossing her teeth. Brickner knew she had something special.

"This picture was unique," Brickner said. "No one in the world had it. That's nice for a photographer. So I wanted to sell it. I tried to sell it to dentists, dental associations, trade shows. No one wanted it."

It appeared to Brickner that all the groups were concerned about offending parents with suggestions of evolutionary connections between primates

and humans.

Despite the reticence, word got out that Brickner had the picture, inspiring a call from National Geographic Kids Magazine, which has a special page where animals are doing fun things.

They contacted Brickner and informed her that they were very interested in the picture which will appear in the upcoming National Geographic Kids Magazine.

With the recent release of her children's book *I'm Lucy: A Day in the Life of a Young Bonobo* and the upcoming appearance of one of her pictures in National Geographic Kids Magazine, Brickner is finally gaining access to a platform which will allow her to show everyone the true meaning of soul power.

So now, close your eyes and imagine a world where the value of life is held in the highest esteem and the presence of a soul in every living creature is recognized. With the ascension of Brickner's work, it may well be possible. ☺



Courtesy of EarthDance

ABOVE: EarthDance founder Molly Rockamann delights in her recent crop yield. More young farmers are working on small, organic farms across the country. They are striving for a more sustainable, environmentally-friendly way to produce food that will be able to feed the next generation.

RIGHT: A group of EarthDance interns learn the secrets of organic farming. EarthDance, which was founded in 2008, sells 75 types of fruits, vegetables and herbs, though they are not all available year-round.



Courtesy of EarthDance

Organic farming urbanizes agriculture

Young farmers introduce a more modern, planet-friendly and sustainable way of farming in the midst of the city.

by Dawn Androphy
Editor

The way we eat food and the way in which food is produced has drastically changed in the last few decades. The image people carry of an independent farmer growing crops on a small farm has become less and less of a reality.

However, with many critics of these farming methods saying that this way of producing food is not keeping the future welfare of the planet in mind, small, local, organic farms like EarthDance Farms in Ferguson, MO, and Slow Rocket Urban Farm in South City have been popping up across the country.

EarthDance Farms, a not-for-profit organic farm, has been farming and apprenticing aspiring organic farmers since 2008.

"The average current age for farmers in the U.S. is 57 years old and going up," 2010 EarthDance apprentice John Finch said. "If we want to be able to provide for the food needs of our communities and citizens we need to bring that age down and train more folks in sustainable farming techniques and get them out and running their own farms."

In addition to EarthDance's goal of creating a new generation of organic farmers who can contribute to the community, they also look to the future in the way that they run their farm.

"Small-scale diversified farms - with a focus on real sustainability (such as reducing off-farm inputs like oil-based fertilizers and pesticides and tractor fuel, and selling and distributing as locally as possible) - are in fact the only way we will be able to grow enough healthy food to feed the world," Finch said. "The current methods we use to produce most of our food are unsustainable beyond the next generation or two."

Founding Director of EarthDance Molly Rockamann hopes to contribute to the community, as well as the planet, with her work at EarthDance.

"Many long-time residents of Ferguson have special memories of buying produce there from the time they were small, or even of picking berries on the farm for summertime work as a teenager," Rockamann said. "The Ferguson community has been very supportive of our efforts to not only keep the farm in production, but also to use it as an educational farm to train more beginner farmers and to teach the community the value of local food and organic farming practices."

EarthDance sells 75 varieties of vegetables, herbs, and fruits at the Ferguson and Maplewood Farmers' Markets. However, despite the wide variety of plants EarthDance offers, most of the varieties of the plants are not available year-round.

"The only downside to local farming is related to the limitations on what can be grown in an area due to seasonality and its climate," Finch said. "If you want fresh blueberries or asparagus in St. Louis outside their natural growing seasons you will wind up buying stuff shipped in from farms in Chile with all the drawbacks that amount of transportation incurs. Our local Missouri tomatoes in July or August are amazing but you won't find fresh local tomatoes in January. Finally, we grow great apples on both sides of the Mississippi but if you want an orange it won't be from nearby."

Despite this drawback, local organic farms save the fuel needed to transport food from halfway around the world and provide many other environmental benefits.

According to the Soil Association, a charitable organization that promotes local, organic farming produces less dangerous waste.

Artificial nitrogen fertilizer, which is commonly used in nonorganic farms but banned in organic farms, is created using fossil fuels.

Considering that the average industrially-produced apple may have been sprayed up to 16 times with 30 different chemicals, the plants produced by local, sustainable farms like EarthDance differentiate themselves with a more planet-friendly approach. ☺

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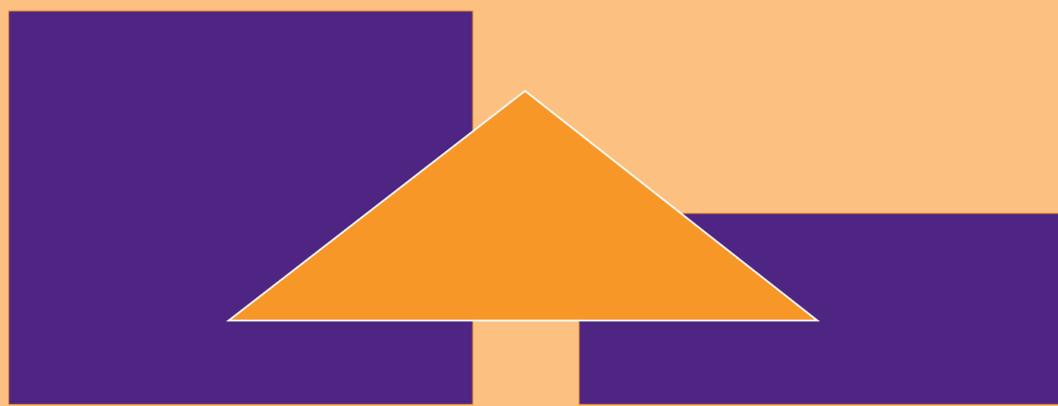
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Break the routine

Some students plan to use summer break as an opportunity to get out of their usual ruts, explore new countries and do community service.

by **Hannah Callahan**
Editor

Rectangles of sunlight seep in through classroom blinds. Summer waits just out of reach. You can see it in students' faces, lost in golden-glazed daydreams, or expressions of sleepless anguish, awaiting graduation and the end of APs. The future hangs over our heads, heavy like our backpacks.

This summer many CHS students look forward to volunteer opportunities, academic programs and trips abroad.

Junior Justin Elliot plans on going to Israel with a Jewish youth movement for six weeks.

"The first week," Elliot said, "I'm traveling to Eastern Europe to see some of the concentration camps from the Holocaust, and then I'm going to Israel."

Additionally, Elliot said he's volunteering at a one-week away camp for kids with cancer, called "Camp Rainbow," doing leadership training for his position as the President of the Regional Youth Organization, working as an instructor at Summer Quest, and volunteering at a sports camp for kids with disabilities during his two weeks home in St. Louis.

Like Elliot, Junior Elle Jacobs also plans to travel abroad.

"I'm going to Peru for a medical mission in the beginning of July," Jacobs said, "and I might go to Italy with my family at the end of July, and I also might go to Italy to visit my friend. Two years ago I went to Peru to work in an orphanage, and now I'm really excited to go back and see all of the girls again."

In June, Junior Helen Wiley plans to travel to Nicaragua with her father.

"I'm going down to a pretty rural part of Nicaragua for about three- or four-week period to work on my Spanish," Wiley said. "In the mornings, I'll probably do private tutoring to work on grammar. In the afternoons, I'll go to the afternoon shifts of a public high school. It's something I've always talked about doing."

While Jacobs, Wiley and Elliot

plan on keeping busy this summer with their opportunities abroad, Elliot says his summer will be both fun and productive.

"When my whole calendar for the summer came together," Elliot said, "I was a little daunted by how little downtime I'll have, but it's not like it's school. I'll be enjoying the things I do this summer. So although I don't have a lot of days in which I don't have anything scheduled, the things I'm doing are enjoyable and relaxing."

Wiley said she is also looking forward to her productive summer, in which she hopes to expand her understanding of Spanish, despite the future deficiency of hot showers.

"I've gotten grammar from Spanish class for years," Wiley said, "but I'm excited about really getting my fluency down. I'll have no choice but to speak Spanish. It'll be a very different experience, and one that I'm sure will change my life."

Elliot said he is "looking forward to expanding my Jewish identity as I go to Israel, and performing a lot of community service for Camp Rainbow, and, you know, enjoying my time off from school, although I'm bounded by the author project for AP Lit."

Junior Andrea Glik is attending an academic program at New York University for seven weeks, during which she will earn two college credits.

"I'm taking Art History, and a class called 'New York as inspiration,'" Glik said. "I'm looking forward to exploring Art History to see if it's something I want to major in, as well as taking the class 'New York as Inspiration,' to learn about all of the people who've used New York as inspiration, as the class title implies. You basically just get to journal for three hours, and then conference your work. It's what I'll do anyways, I'll just be getting college credit for it."

Like Glik, Junior Lily Gage plans on focusing on her academic pursuits--scientific research-- this summer, in addition to a plethora of other activities.

"I'm doing a summer school program with Mr. Collis in the 'Tetons,'" Gage said. "He's taking four students to do cricket research. We are going to



Photos courtesy of Allison Goldfarb



Like junior Allison Goldfarb's trip to Thailand last summer that took her through some amazing geography (such as the jungle above), as well as giving her the opportunity to work with people in small villages, many trips over the summer will combine sightseeing with service.

Goldfarb used a program called Rustic Pathways, a program that sends teenagers, college students and groups on trips to foreign countries for community service, gap years in college, or tourism. Goldfarb chose an intensive community service program in northwest Thailand.

"If I go halfway around the world, I don't want to stay in a hotel with a bunch of Americans," Goldfarb said.

look at different ecosystems and look at some national parks there, for about two weeks."

Both Gage and Glik look forward to expanding their productive summers.

"In the long run," Gage said, "I'm definitely interested in scientific issues and helping with different environmental issues."

Gage said she also plans on going to Copenhagen after the Tetons, where she will stay with family friends and volunteer at a summer camp at an international school, as well as co-directing her mother's children's musical, performed each year at Meramec.

Glik said she may also be working part time at PR events while in New York.

"I'm just really excited about getting a taste of college," Glik said. "A lot of people go to college in New York and get distracted. This summer I'll learn how to balance schoolwork, classes, internships, and my social life. If I get this down, college, college will be easy."

It's clear that even after the school year comes to a close and St. Louis' humidity rises to almost unbearable extremes, CHS students will keep themselves busy with unique learning opportunities. ☺

Senti most proud of Kid Check

Senti retires
pg. 13

of building a brand new middle school. The last two were accomplished in some of the worst economic times in this country since the Depression."

Senti is known for being in favor of the Voluntary Student Transfer Program.

"The program is beneficial for kids that come from the city," Senti said. "It's also good for our students to have a diverse educational environment. I think if you weighed the positives and the negatives of the program, the positives would shine through."

The District surveyed all the residents in Clayton and found that two out of three residents really like the program. Back in 1983 when it started, either the district joined the program or was wiped out.

The judge mandated that districts choose between those two choices and many districts "volunteered." In 1999, none of the districts were forced to stay and Ladue was the only one that dropped out at that time.

"[VTS] is supposed to 'end' in 2014," Senti said. "That means we wouldn't be taking new kids. Our Board of Education will eventually have to make that decision."

Senti has been a huge proponent of student rights in the press during his tenure at Clayton. If a professional newspaper, such as the Post-Dispatch, ran a story against one of its financial supporters, the story could be censored.

"It's very unusual for student papers where the administrators don't review it [for content] before it is published," Senti said. "We passed a policy entrusting the responsible staff members of the Globe. Some of the articles [the Globe] writes are critical of the school, and I believe it's good to have some dissenting voices."

The Missouri teachers' retirement system is so good that once he retires, he would make more than he currently is. However, Senti has other motivations for retiring.

"That's not the main reason," Senti said. "The main reason is so I can do some other things while I'm healthy and able. I would like to be able to do something that's a little less demanding."

Once he retires, Senti plans to keep working on educational issues like improving urban schools and continuing to work on the Mayor's charter school committee.

"My main problem would be, not staying more busy than I already am now because I'm a compulsive volunteer," Senti said. "I'm going to read the newspapers in the afternoon instead of the morning like now and watch the sunset as often as I can."

As Senti leaves, Losos knows that Dr. Mary Hermann, his successor, will have large shoes to fill.

"Taking over after a very successful, long-serving superintendent is difficult enough," Losos said. "I think the trickiest issue facing Dr. Hermann is the current Math Curriculum review. Beyond that, I believe that most difficulties are inherent in her position."

Senti believes Hermann has had the experiences needed to be a great superintendent at Clayton, including being an elementary and high school principal and superintendent at a much larger district.

"She's used to meeting with a school board pretty much like ours," Senti said. "They have high expectations for their own students and school. I think she's going to be superb."

Losos deeply appreciates Senti's many contributions to the district and the greater St. Louis area.

"It's hackneyed but he truly sees things as they might be and asks why not, rather than thinking of reasons not to do it," Losos said. "I appreciate and respect Dr. Senti tremendously. He has been a rock to lean on and to learn from. We will miss his steady influence and his vast experience in St. Louis Education. I think we often don't appreciate what we have until it is gone."

As his final message to the district, Senti believes that while he has made many steps in the right direction, the work is far from done.

"Clayton is one of the best public school districts in the country," Senti said. "Our graduates attend the best universities. Frankly a Clayton School District diploma is worth more than most districts."

Senti said that is a result of a world-class education.

"The reason for our success is an incredible combination of academic rigor and sensitive, caring teachers - the head and the heart," Senti said. "What is best for every student is the filter through which decisions are made. The challenge, a daunting one, is to continue to improve, day in and day out, year in and year out. Although Clayton Schools are outstanding, good enough can never be good enough." ☺

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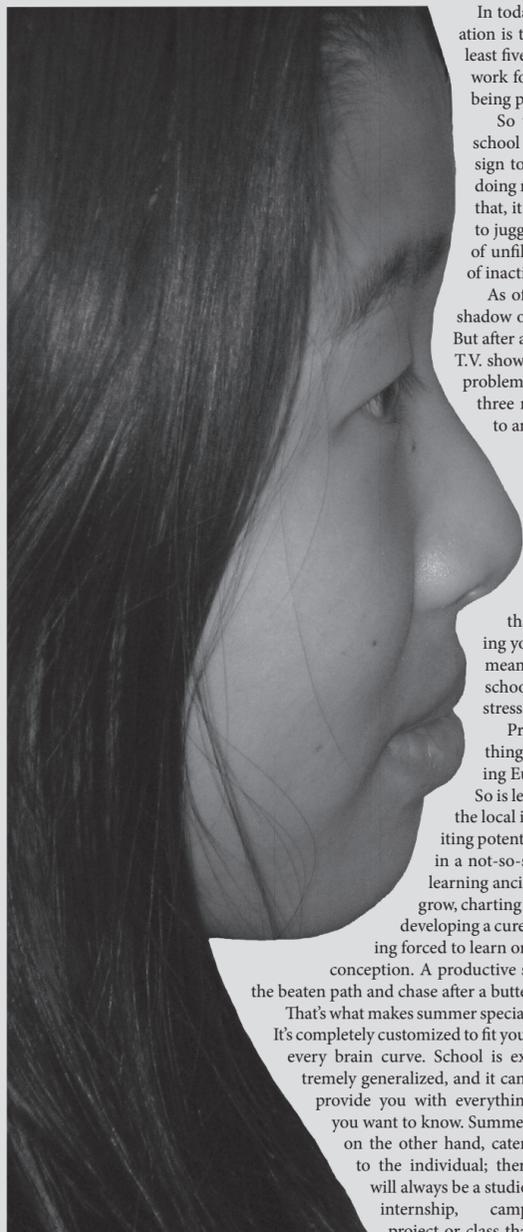


Butting Heads: How to spend summer

A time to learn or a time to let your hair hang down?

Summer break is for students to expand their education in ways the structure of school does not allow

by **Dee Luo**
Editor



In today's world of over-stimulation, prolonged relaxation is the equivalent of boredom. Students manage at least five courses, extra-curricular activities, and homework for 181 days out of the year. They are constantly being pushed to work, think and learn.

So when summer rolls around, and the stress of school disappears for three months, we take this as a sign to sit back and do absolutely nothing. And sure, doing nothing is fine for a day, a week at most, but after that, it becomes a routine of boredom. We are so used to juggling multiple activities that the sudden expanse of unfilled time puts our brains into a gigantic slump of inactivity.

As of now, with AP tests and finals draping a black shadow on free time, inactivity sounds pretty appealing. But after a couple days sitting on a couch watching reality T.V. shows, your brain, which is used to solving complex problems on a day to day basis, will turn into goo. Does three months of complete boredom sound appealing to anyone?

No.

Instead of giving your brain the opportunity to become a mushy pile of fried ketchup, accept the gift of the American educational system.

Summer is the gift; it is an opportunity to branch out from the required material the educational system requires you to learn, and spend time participating in something that might change your perspective on life. Using your summer "productively" does not necessarily mean enrolling in math classes and going to summer school. Being productive doesn't mean putting more stress and pressure on yourself.

Productivity merely means engaging in something, anything, that generates positive action. Touring Europe learning about architecture is productive. So is learning to cook Jamaican cuisine, getting a job at the local ice cream place, taking a belly dancing class, visiting potential colleges, organizing a service project, writing in a not-so-secret journal, shadowing your local politician, learning ancient Greek, building a hovercraft, watching grass grow, charting the constellations, hiking the Appalachian Trail, developing a cure for cancer, etc. The label that productivity is being forced to learn or do something useful against your will is a misconception. A productive summer lets you do what you want; to veer off the beaten path and chase after a butterfly, if you choose to pursue Lepidopteroology.

That's what makes summer special.

It's completely customized to fit your every brain curve. School is extremely generalized, and it can't provide you with everything you want to know. Summer, on the other hand, caters to the individual; there will always be a studio, internship, camp, project or class that specializes in "it,"

whether "it" is tap dancing, neuroscience or anything in-between.

And you never know who you might meet during your productive summer. Participating in activities will allow you to meet more people with similar interests than sitting on a couch, all alone, with only the pixels that form the shape of a human body to keep you company. Don't sit around watching potential opportunities pass by.

If you have to, create opportunities. On a family vacation to the beach, instead of laying on a towel increasing your chances for skin cancer, learn to surf or study the beach ecosystem. In the middle of nowhere, find a landmark and learn its history. While stuck at home, go on Wikipedia and absorb random trivia facts about starving artists. In case of no internet access, exercise your body by walking to the library, and your mind by reading these amazing things called books. The point is, if there is a will to be productive, there is a way to achieve productivity.

So don't waste three precious months recuperating from the stress school has caused. Yes, rest is very important, but isn't doing something enjoyable also relaxing? Not only will you have furthered your knowledge in something you enjoy, but you will be proud that you accomplished something and used your time wisely. As an added benefit, it will be easier to transition into the next school year because your brain was absorbing new information over the summer, not slowly melting out of your ears. And you can amaze your teachers on the vast store of general knowledge you acquired about the migratory patterns of the Monarch butterfly.

Knowledge is always valued, no matter the subject. Learning can be relaxing and incredibly interesting, depending upon the subject. Productivity is the act of learning knowledge. Relaxing for months on end, on the other hand, is an invitation for boredom to creep up and liquefy your brain.

We have conditioned our brains to be active, so take the gift of three months to volunteer, get a job, develop a new hobby and extend your (informal) education. Find something that inspires you and just be productive! ☺

Students should bask in the summer sun and embrace this break as an amazing opportunity to do nothing

by **Bianca Vannucci**
Reporter

There is such a thing as philosophical laziness. The idea dates back to Socrates and Plato, who believed that free time could allow one to develop his or her own thoughts. In modern times, however, productivity is valued more than creativity.

In school you are given deadlines and due dates and the idea is that you will be able to come up with a finished product by a set date. Many teachers value your ability to turn in your work on time, which doesn't really encourage you taking the time to think about what you are working on.

This is the structure of our school system, and it is unlikely that it will be changed any time soon. What matters is how you spend the free time you are given, for example, summer break.

Many summer programs available are structure similarly to a school day, and thus you can spend your summers they way you spend the rest of the year. These classes are deemed beneficial and productive. As productive as taking a break?

Good students, the ones who are likely candidates for productive summer programs, are pressured all year long. The reason you are offered for the chance to do something "meaningful" during the summer is because of the hard work you have put in during the year, and exactly the reason you should not be pushing yourself in the summer.

When is the last time you were able to start and finish a book you were interested in, not because it was assigned, but simply because you thought you could enjoy it? Your curriculum is meant to structure your reading, among other things, so that you may learn a few basic things you are supposed to learn, but at one time or another, you ought to be able to do what you enjoy.

Often times, it's not the school system that stifles your summer, but rather the student inside of you. You feel that as if you must follow a set course and that you must do so as quickly as possible.

But there is no rush. There is nothing wrong with taking your time, getting off the path, doing what you like to do. Taking the summer to think about what you please. There is nothing shameful in sleeping late, lying by the pool, or hanging out with your friends. Basically, let your brain charge.

There is of course the argument that most teenagers left alone for a whole summer would wander onto unnecessary thoughts and activities. But shouldn't you be allowed to see what you can come up with on your own? When you are allowed to take your time, and just "watch the clouds", what can you come up with? Chances are nobody has ever allowed you to find out.

Some concerned parents or teachers might point out that since these are the years before college we should be getting all the experience we can get. This is certainly a valid argument, but is the school year not already doing that? You are being put on the right course all year, stray during the summer.

Especially because in a few years your lives will become that much more hectic it's important to take the time now, while your brain is at the height of its development, to take care of your mental health. You got six hours of sleep per night for the last nine months. Take the chance to recover. Go outside and get some sun. Take care of yourself. Come September you will be glad.

I'm not encouraging a whole summer spent in your room complaining of boredom. After a stressful year, there will probably be a gradual change to emptier schedules.

But if you've been going to the same camp since you were little, don't think that you have to stop now just because college is coming up. If at all possible don't spend your whole summer working. Though there are apparent benefits to productivity, in the long run the mental benefits of taking some time off will show.

It'd be nice to find a sense of balance. To be able to slow down the pace, not to let yourself get caught up in programs to put on your

transcript, but rather to take up a hobby. Travel, if you get the chance. Having a lazy summer requires luck and support on your parents' part, but if you have the opportunity, don't turn it down. There's many people who don't have this opportunity; in a few years you probably won't either. Take it now.

As you get older you'll see how little time there is, and how important it is to take as much as of it as you need to grow at your own pace. ☺



Emma Riley

Liberal arts school offers character, intimate setting

Show me what I'm going to leave behind the next four years. I want to experience all of St. Louis before trading in the city on August 18 for a small college town in Western New York.

When departing St. Louis, I'll be trading in my pair of tall chestnut colored Uggs for a hefty pair of waterproof snow boots.

Thick down comforters will now take the place of my thin fleece blankets that keep me warm in St. Louis. But one of the biggest changes is that I'll be trading in a city with cultural activities for a small town with a Walmart and movie theater.

Applying to colleges, I perused a handful with big names. I took the tours, talked with the students, and read

the glossy brochures for each school on my list. But I was an uninformed high school student who was just beginning the college process, basing my decisions solely on a school's ranking in the Barron's College Book Guide and US News annual guide.

I spent plenty of money purchasing these huge books at Borders and lots of time reading the information while zoning out on the coach. After perusing the contents page by page, I realized that a prestigious university was not for me.

So, I've chosen to attend St. Bonaventure University, which is situated in a town of 14,500 people. This will be my second home for the next four years. Pull out your map. It's a small school

with about 1900 students in Olean,

New York. Buffalo is about a two hour drive from campus. No direct flights and I still haven't found a convenient way to travel in the winter. Some people beg their parents to bring a car to school, but I simply refuse to learn how to drive on ice covered streets.

Even my meal options around this town are small. No Taylor Stone, unfortunately there isn't a Starbucks in town for me

to grab a morning coffee or scrumptious piece of pumpkin bread. On my journeys home to St. Louis, I'll take advantage of my heavily missed Starbucks runs. Without my favorite Panera Bread greek salad and tomato soup, I'm bound to live off Vanilla Crisp Powerbars for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Nine months of the year students at St. Bonaventure are trapped inside school buildings to shield themselves from the

frigid cold. At St. Bonaventure, I'll have lots of snow, but rarely a snow day. I'll surely miss those evening calls from Chris Tennill announcing a snow day due to the frigid cold temperatures or small amounts of snow on the ground.

Maybe I'll call St. Louis home again after completing my undergraduate and graduate education in other cities in the United States. St. Louis has so much to offer and seems to be the perfect size.

How lucky we are as a city to have three professional sports teams, a huge park that hosts one of the largest outdoor theaters in the world, four distinct seasons, headquarters for major corporations, the tallest fountain in the world and two Whole Foods. We are

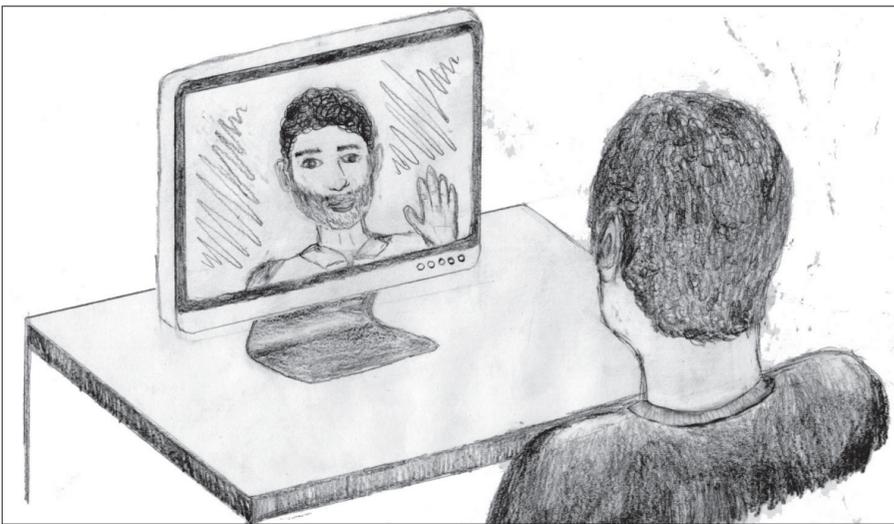
the fifteen minute city. Almost all our attractions are situated less than fifteen minutes away from our homes. Just look at all the parents of current Clayton students who graduated from Clayton High School. On my block, over 12 parents graduated from Clayton. They all returned to Clayton after college to raise a family.

While my dad prefers that I attend Washington University or another school on my list, I've decided to take the more obscure route the next four years. So help me double the population of students from Missouri at St. Bonaventure. All you need is a few more layers of clothing. So, watch out underclassmen, I'm ready to recruit you for St. Bonaventure next year. ☺

UP IN THE AIR



SIMONE BERNSTEIN



Nina Oberman

Technology will save the world

Modern technology allows global relationships to form, even as some dismiss the new forms of communication as meaningless.

One moment I am having a face-to-face conversation with my father, the next I am having a video chat with a friend half way across the world while I am texting the kid who sits next to me in math class answering a question.

Our generation has been given a unique communication opportunity like never before. From Facebook and video chat, to cell phones and twitter, our generation is faced with a myriad of opportunities to instantly communicate with people from across the globe every day. Just 20 years ago this idea was almost unfathomable, yet today it is more than reality, it is the way we live our lives.

Keeping in touch with friends, no matter how far away they are, has become a routine part of a high school student's life. However, this new age of communication seems to be looked down upon by the generations above us.

I've heard that our generation, although we communicate often, communicates with others only on a superficial level. We don't find true happiness from our relationships; instead we only come out with smiley faces made of colons and parenthesis.

My own mother has mentioned to

me in a disappointing tone that I never correspond with friends through mail. I see my friends' parents heckling over their text and Facebook crazed teens as if the apocalypse has come. And of course, I all too often overhear the prized: "Do you even talk to your friends in real life?"



Justin Elliot

I've written this column to assure everyone that Facebook will not cause the apocalypse but actually may cause quite the contrary.

To the bystander, it may come across that the communication channels of today's world are impersonal and meaningless. I have to concede that in comparison to the days of the laborious processes of handwritten letters and post stamps you have to lick, calling the operator to reach an international friend, or simply waiting to tell a story for months until you see someone in person, it looks as if the teens of today are just taking the easy way out. But that is just the point exactly.

Communicating in today's world is infinitely easier than it used to be. Just 100 years ago what we can now do in the click of a button would have taken months to achieve. Yes, one Facebook wall post may not carry the mean-

ing of a one-page letter written with a quill pen, but friendships and relationships can truly grow and prosper through communicating with these new technologies.

Furthermore, relationships that could have never been kindled in the past are now easier than ever.

The statement "until we meet again" has real merit in the modern world. There is no excuse to not keep in touch with even those most distant friends.

As it stands, modern technology has changed the way we communicate. In the near future I believe this technology will save the world.

I have never traveled to the continent of Africa, but I have spoken face to face with high school students from Mozambique. This is just as an example of how the global community is interconnected like never before. With this new interconnectedness, these technologies will revolutionize the world as this generation begins to see the similarities in our distant friends from every corner of the world.

It will be our generation that will love those who live on the other side of the world as we do our neighbors. It will be our generation that will see the stupidity in war because we will understand the similarities of our enemies and the foolishness of our disputes. It will be our generation that will use Facebook and text messaging to save the world:)

Flight home teaches life lesson

A fellow passenger on a flight home from a college visit shares personal experience and offers advice.

"You interested in banging that girl across the aisle?" Keith asked.

"What?" I was shocked for I hadn't known him for more than five minutes. I had also never seen this girl in my entire life.

"I can tell you're interested in her. You're shy? It's fine, I'll get you two introduced."

I hurriedly tried to block her from his point of view. "No, it's fine. Really," I stammered, "I already have a girlfr."

"Hi there, what's your name?" Keith said in his gruff voice.

"Vera."

"Oh that's exotic, I like that," he said. "And you are?" he said, indicating me.

I hesitated and introduced myself. In the dusky ambient light, I was practically incandescent. She thankfully had a guy traveling with her and turned back to converse with him excitedly.

He leaned in towards me, gave a chuckle and said "Too bad. It looks like she's already interested in that guy. I like her though; she has spunk."

Keith is 51.

"So what business did you have in Philadelphia?" he asked, completely ignoring the previous incident. By this time, we were ascending into the clear skies.

I told him I was heading home from Duke University and the school was a great fit overall.

"Don't sugarcoat it," he said in a low growl. "Go on, tell me what you really thought—what was your name again?"

He gave the impression of a grandfather who knew a lot about how the world worked, and knew that he knew it. He cursed readily and was blunt with his statements, but I could see that he believed every word of what he was saying for he spoke loudly and with conviction. So loudly, in fact, that many people on the plane turned and stared at us.

I found out that he worked as a market salesman and told him that I was going into medicine. Initially, I thought he was being an ass, but he didn't give a damn what I thought.

"These people around us probably want to cart me off in handcuffs, but I don't care," Keith said with a shrug. "You seem like you're interested, and I hope I'm not boring you."

Before I could agree with his statement, a flight stewardess gave him an overly sweet "Do you want anything to drink, sir?"

Keith asked for a shot of vodka.

"We don't serve alcohol to those who are already drunk," she responded, her voice becoming even more saccharine.

"Yes ma'am," he said, murmuring an insult that I couldn't catch. Ignoring her, he went on to say to me "You're a total brainiac, aren't you? Just looking at you, I can tell. So analytical and number-oriented. I mean, you go through school and just learn all the crap that they feed you. Not once do you hunker down and say 'what if this isn't right?' Not once do you walk into a room and declare what you're really thinking. People might not like you if you did that, but they will respect you."

I nodded, taking a sip of my concentrate orange juice.

"Doctors these days, they don't know how to deal with people anymore," he went on. "You said you were thinking of becoming a doctor, right? Well, let me tell you, so many of them are too number-oriented. I don't want to know the statistics when there are lives on the line. I want to be taken

care of by a compassionate human being. I want to know that my loved ones are getting the same treatment."

His face took on a somber appearance for the first time during our conversation.

"While I was surfing in Maui, I got a phone call," he said quietly. "I got a phone call about how my dad had a heart aneurysm and I left straight away. When I saw him, he was hooked up to all these respirators. The doctors called me out, and told me I had to make a decision about whether to cut my father's legs or not. I'm the oldest son."

He swallowed with a loud gulp and took a deep breath to steady himself.

"The blood wasn't going to his legs, and the doc said 'if you don't do this, there won't be enough to keep his core alive.' These guys were as cold as ice. I told him 'if it's going to keep him alive, cut them off.' I flew back just feeling empty. There was no sympathy. Doctors know the science, the anatomy and physiology, but you guys don't know the emotional side."

"I'm sorry for your loss," I said simply, trying to put as much emotion as I could muster into those few words.

After a few moments of quiet, he abruptly began, "I think it's the worst thing to go into your grave and not have asked any questions. That's just a vapid life. Live it up, make a difference in other people's lives and enjoy yourself. That's why I wanted you to talk to Vera over there. You never know when your time

will be up."

Following his reminder of my inaction, we sat in silence, and I took the chance to slip away to the restroom, praying no turbulence would hit while I was relieving myself. The flight attendant who refused to serve Keith alcohol was near the restroom and asked me if I wanted to switch to another seat. I pondered the issue and told her I was fine and that she would know if I changed my mind.

When I came back, I decided to take a chance and start the conversation.

"You know, I've never taken an aspirin or Tylenol in my life."

"Are you crapping me?" He gave a throaty laugh. "I've done everything there is to do out there, growing up in the 70s. If you can keep your body and mind clean, then don't let anyone give you crap about it. You can go out and get messed up any day of the week, but people like me can't turn back the clock."

I agreed wholly with him, and we chatted on and off for the better part of the next hour before he finally said he had said all he could think of.

"I'm not really done, but I think I'm just bugging you now," he said, coughing a few times. He stared out at the sunset and closed his eyes, a wry smile forming on his lips.

I didn't wake him for the rest of the flight.

As I was getting off the plane, the same flight attendant looked at me with a glimmer in her eyes, saying "You should get a medal or something for enduring him."

I smiled back at her in polite agreeability and coughed out a quiet "thanks" before stepping into the humid St. Louis air.

Keith was right. I needed to take chances. I needed to become a doctor who is concerned with patients instead of diseases, using my knowledge to comfort and care for people, not just counting and calculating statistics. In his words, I needed "to just grow a pair, look the world in the eye and put myself out there."

Rowing difficult, but well worth it

Rowing is a very interesting sport. The premise is very simple to understand. It's a racing sport, so whoever finishes first wins. But it's all the things that go into a seemingly simple sport that make it so interesting.

To understand rowing you have to understand the anatomy of the boat. Rowing boats are long and skinny. Rowers sit one behind the other on seats that slide so that you use your legs to row. In sweep rowing every person has one oar and the sides on which the oars are on switch with every seat from port to starboard, as opposed to sculling in which each person has two oars. Boats can come in singles, one person rowing, doubles, two people rowing, fours, and eights.

Proper technique is important to rowing and achieved through various ways: good posture, forward body angle and slow recovery. These are the technical things about rowing, but really rowing is about strength of mind and body.

When people see my blistered hands and hear the horror stories of catching crabs (not actual crabs like the animals) and whatnot, they wonder if I must be crazy for loving a sport so obviously painful. Rowing is all about opposites; unity and contrast, calm and crazy, comfort and pain, beauty and unpleasantness. For example, standing on shore looking at a boat racing in perfect unison is beautiful. The catch, the beginning of the stroke, and the finish, the end of stroke, are synchronized moving the boat with precision and accuracy. Being in the boat, however, is a different story.

If the winds are blowing and the water is choppy the boat will typically be un-set which means it's tipping from side to side. This causes rowers to exert more force on their oars in an attempt to keep the boat set. They also run the risk of bruising or breaking their fingers when they're at the catch if the boat suddenly tilts to one side smashing their fingers between their oar and the gunnel, outside rim, of the boat. Inside the boat their legs and arms might be tired, but these sort of things aren't endemic only to rowing but to most sports in general.

What's not characteristic of any other sport is more that rowers run the risk of their foot structures coming undone, their seats falling off the slides, catching a crab which means their oars just slammed back into their faces at an extremely fast speed and they're basically lying in the lap of the person behind them, among other mishaps.

Okay, that last description was a worse-case scenario, a common one among novice rowers but still a worse-case scenario, that would of course not look very good at all, even from the shore.

The Hoover Regatta in Columbus, Ohio, was a rowing competition that had the full array of scenarios. Some of our



Courtesy of Nia Charrington

Sophomores Nia Charrington (4th from top), Laura Bleeke (5th from top), and Katherine Nachbar (bottom) row for the Saint Louis Rowing Club at the St. Louis Gateway Regatta.

teams did very well, while others were virtually lapped on a one-way course. My boat was squarely in the middle of these scenarios. Before we raced, we ended up sitting in the freezing cold on the water for an hour before we raced because the races were so backed up. When we finally raced our hands were so cold we had trouble gripping the oars and on top of that the boat was un-set. We placed fourth in our heat one spot away from a bronze medal.

Now this may seem bad, but it's really not. I mean I wasn't exactly grinning as all these things happened. I know, however, that I would do it all over again exactly as it was simply out of love for the sport. As I was saying before it is a beautiful sport from the shore, and though I still hold to the fact that it's a lot grittier inside the boat, there's a certain peace in rowing.

Creve Coeur Lake where the St. Louis Rowing Club practices and the various lakes we row at for regattas are serene and calming. There's peace in following the movements of the boat and being part of something so unified. After you've rowed for a while, you can tell when your boat has given up or when your boat has picked it up just based on how your oar moves through the water. It's the feeling of being part of something bigger than yourself in a really tangible way.



Nia Charrington

People need to take more responsibility before global problems can be solved

It all seems to be about who is to blame and who is to fix the mess.

The dishes are dirty and it's the weekend. Everyone is home: my brother, my mom, and me. My brother walks out of the kitchen and says, "Someone needs to wash the dishes."

His keen word choice implies that "someone" other than himself must get her hands dirty. Someone else has to solve the problem everyone faces, and to me it seems that this is the way our society treats many of the problems of the world.

We recognize that there is a problem, yet more often than not we do nothing to create a solution. It happens every single day. We see the ads advocating for a greener household, requesting donations to help save the starving children, displaying the horrors of animal abuse, or a variety of other issues which plague our country and our world.

Yet, how many of us can say that we have acted to promote change? Sure, there are some who can, but no one can honestly say that they have helped every cause that they find important. And no, this is no self-righteous rant. I, too, have been exposed to the problems our planet faces, and I, too, have done nothing.

If we continue to act in such a manner, assuming that someone else will fix the problem, nothing will be accomplished. If such a vast majority of the population continues to act passively, these issues will only grow to even greater proportions.

It is not a lack of knowledge that has caused such a small involvement, but rather it is this feeling of powerlessness and the idea that someone else will do what needs to be done.

However, we have the power to create change. It does not take a masters



Mimi Liu

degree or a position of power to begin a campaign to solve the devastating problems we face today.

Besides, what makes any of us less capable of promoting change? Yes, it may be more difficult to find a starting point, but with a worthy cause it can be done.

Large programs must begin somewhere. It is a long path towards change, but the steps must be taken.

We've learned, researched, discussed, and have countless times been exposed to the horrible

condition our nation is in. We have become the generation which will supposedly inherit our parent's mess.

The responsibility has been passed on along with the consequences of the actions of past generations. Thus, we cannot continue to act in ignorance.

There is no reason for us to continue to stand by expecting someone else to clean up the mess.

It is time for each of us to stop standing by, watching as our world continues to take its plight.

We can make a difference, we can be the ones who stop saying that "someone else" should promote a change in the world and become the "someone else" who everyone seems to be depending on.



Anat Gross

10 things I learned at CHS

Over the past four years, I've been flooded with equations, facts and homework. I've learned a lot. I can explain the Theory of Special Relativity as well as the Bay of Pigs.

Naturally, however, I've learned much more than what can be learned from books.

With that thought comes my own top ten list of the most important things that I've learned during my time here at Clayton. No, I have no diving catches or celebrity guest readers, just words on a page...

10. Hockey games are worth the drive... and the absurd hours. I admit, I was initially a doubter. I didn't think that watching average high school hockey could be a great time. I was way off. It's true, driving half an hour south to watch a game against Ladue that starts at 10:30 p.m. doesn't make a lot of sense. When being obnoxious and throwing temper tantrums is considered being well-behaved, missing that event would be purely juvenile.

9. Finding that outlet is important. That's ambiguous, I know, but that's the point. At some point in our high school careers, there have been or will be times when stress takes on another meaning. For juniors, it is the authors' project. For seniors, it is that dead period between New Year's Eve and April 1. Being stressed out over school is never fun, which is exactly why we need something to do - a stress release. Some of us bury ourselves in music, others spar. Whatever it may be, finding a commitment to something other than schoolwork is being assigned to you right now.

8. Go out to lunch. I don't think much needs to be said about this one.

7. Staying up late on weeknights is not worth it under any circumstances. I cannot count how many times I've stayed up to watch the end of the Cardi-

nals' game or started a movie as "background noise" (read procrastination) at 10 p.m., but I know I regret it every single time. I know we can all find the episodes of "Lost" and "The Office" on the internet, so get that extra hour or two of beauty sleep. First hour always is never as bad when you go to bed earlier. Sure, I occasionally take some flak for going to bed at ten, but being even slightly coherent before 10:30 a.m. is always a plus.

6. How not to act like a freshman. I've realized those seemingly tiny things I used to do back four years ago. I walked and stood on the left side of the hallway, I would yell jokes across the commons. Never again. I think you all know what I'm talking about. It's nothing big, just an accumulation of habits we thankfully all outgrow.

5. Don't mess with the librarians. Ever. Trust me, they aren't kidding when they warn you to shut your mouth. I'm averaging about 1.25 kick-outs per year, and I'm definitely not the type to be obnoxious. The first one was for explaining a chem. lab, and I'm pretty sure I just got in the way of the librarian's wrath that time. The second was for yelling across the desks for someone to grab me a pencil, and I admit that one was definitely deserved. My third, fourth and fifth were literally all for "being too loud" when I told someone to be quiet. I haven't been back to the library since that last one. I'm worried that the smack of my flip flops will be me booted.

4. Have school pride. After all, Clayton is the one thing that brings us together. We can find that except of the friends at other schools and the former classmates with whom we still keep in touch. But all-in-all, so many of our relationships depend on what goes on in the hallways of Clayton High School

and in the streets of Clayton city. I promise, no school exists that is going to be absolutely perfect, and ours is no exception. But once we stop focusing in on those imperfections and homing in on the bad, we all admit that there is plenty good. Wear the blue and gold proudly.

3. Mr. Rice is scary smart. We all hear the rumors about how intense AP Physics is, and I can vouch that the rumors are true. But what you never hear about is man behind the machine. What he can create out of a Dollar Store run is unbelievable. Don't understand something? he'll make some contraption on the spot. Think quantum mechanics are un-understandable? he'll prove you wrong. Don't want to do the work? you're on your own there, but be prepared to be impressed nonetheless. Just don't ask him about centrifugal force.

2. How to react when you fall down the stairs in the middle of the commons. I'm pretty sure I set a record earlier this year by being the only person to ever fall down the same set of stairs twice in two steps. The first fall had the packed commons chuckling, and the second brought side pains. Sure, I can blame my falls to the rain or to the fact that I was hurrying to eat my lunch. But the fact is that I wiped out. Badly. Twice. And in a continuation of #6, I laughed it off. In twenty years I can hold my head high and say that I made the whole school cry of laughter at once. Not many people can say that.

1. Stop. Take a breath and enjoy the best four years of our lives. Of course, high school isn't always going to be the idyllic ride for which we all hope and dream, but chances are that the good times will outweigh the bad. My piece of advice: ride those highs, for those are the times that will define our experiences here. I know they did for me.

With this I'll take a break and say that the past four years have been great, and the memories I made with all of you will last my life.

Adieu, Clayton. ☘



Tom Evashwick



Mimi Liu

Gratitude for press freedom as superintendent departs

Student press rights are a freedom that many students at CHS have come to take for granted. To many students, it is not shocking when they see an editorial criticizing the Clayton School District or an article covering an event that might be considered embarrassing for the school. However, one would be pressed to find these sorts of articles in a great number of student publications nationwide.

At Clayton, thanks in great part to retiring Superintendent Don Senti, we have the right to express our views and opinions in a public forum, without censorship and prior review. Therefore, just as Senti has helped to bring the Globe the right to criticize the administration and write any serious article about school controversies in print, now is the time to use our press rights to compliment Senti's wonderful defense of student press rights.

Since Senti supported a student measure to create a new set of guidelines for school publications, Clayton High School has had one of the least restrictive student journalism policies in the country among schools in states without legal protection. Prior to this amendment, it would have been entirely possible for a student article to be removed from the Globe if an administrator had deemed the article a distraction.

For some people, Senti's decision to support student press rights was

too liberal, too permissive, and would bring chaos to Clayton. Because Senti, supportive teachers, and strong willed students worked to develop and pass the policy we have today, the Globe staff has been able to prove these critics wrong by publishing articles that are sometimes critical without being slanderous.

After Senti's work to pass this measure, the Missouri Interscholastic Press Association awarded him the honor of Administrator of the Year in 2002.

Freedom of the press is essential for fostering an environment in which students feel that they are able to express themselves by actually publishing a meaningful publication, and not just a collection of pre-approved fluff pieces.

These rights do not just extend to student publications, but, in fact, encompass all of the ways that CHS students express themselves. We have staged productions of controversial musicals in the drama department and protested District decisions without being punished.

When Don Senti leaves the District at the close of this school year, he will leave behind a legacy of student press freedoms and student expression through print journalism. Hopefully, Mary Herrmann will continue in Don Senti's tradition of supporting CHS journalism and freedom of expression for all students. ☘

AGREE 98%
DISAGREE 2%

STAFF EDITORIAL

Leaving Clayton, lacking lament

I decided to write this final column based off my actual stream of consciousness:

Well, it's finally here—

I can't believe it's the end—

There are some who'll say I can't believe it's all over. I can say that about my friends, but...as I sit here writing this mediocre piece of crap, I really wonder on how I feel about Clayton High. I'll admit—though this may sound corny—I will always remember Clayton High School. But, mind you, that doesn't necessarily have a positive connotation.

I hated a lot of things here: the petty drama, those obnoxious types who thought they had the right to judge others, doing poorly in a class this year while juggling all the other problems with which adolescents struggle. Man, did Disney really weave a whimsical one out of HSM3, or what? But I liked a lot of things too: lying in that mound of dirt and rubble that was once the Quad underneath the clear skies, running around the school late at night grâce à Globe or orchestra concerts, doing anything but actual work in the library with friends.

I'm even questioning ever returning. Throughout my high school career, I've seen myself as that neo-wallflower that likes to jump out and surprise you when you least expect it. What I'm saying is most of you don't know me, so would it even matter if I came back? Do you even hear me now? What is Clayton High School, the institution where I got my education or something else with a deeper meaning? I don't know if I should answer now, or answer when I get my diploma, for I'm sure the answers will

be different.

Despite what the media says, being the "underdog" doesn't always mean you'll win. And that's the thing about all of us seniors; this fall (or winter or whenever you start), we'll all be underdogs. Some of us will rise to the top, some of us will stay at rock bottom, and some will just chill in the middle. I just hope that while were there, we're doing something that makes life worthwhile.

I was talking to my older sister last winter about graduation. She told me that everyone will be sad sometime, and for me, I'd be hit with that sadness hard once those caps start soaring in the air. At first, I could see myself getting emotional, but now, I'm confident that I won't feel sad at all, though I won't feel elated. It's all just a process that'll happen over and over again; I mean, this is a school. I was assured when I once dreamt of the four grades, all lined up on a stairwell that's hanging in the air.

The seniors, being on the last step, are pushed off by a light wind, floating to their future destinations as the other grades look on and progress up another step. As we all float on, some cry, some glance back solemnly, but I never looked back. And I will never look back. I will remember the good times, take the lessons from the bad, and use the wisdom of my teachers and fellow peers to guide myself. But I will never look back.

How many days... until Prom... until Graduation Day... until Move-In Day...

Yes, it's best to leave the Globe, Clayton High School, St. Louis, whatever it is, at that. ☘

Ijeoma Onyema



Rain-Down-Action!!

Center celebrates 10 years of body, community building

On May 1, the Center of Clayton celebrated its tenth anniversary. All day there was free entry into the Center, along with free classes, organized activities, discounts, snacks, and prizes. It was the perfect occasion for all of us to reflect on the key role that the Center of Clayton plays in all of our lives.

In 2000, the Center of Clayton was built based on an incredible partnership between the City of Clayton and the School District of Clayton. Since then, the Center has been serving both Clayton residents and CHS students in a unique joint-use facility.

The Center offers a vast selection of beautiful amenities, including extensive fitness equipment, an indoor running track, two indoor pools, a rock climbing wall and several gymnasiums, for both its members and CHS students. In addition, the Center has meeting rooms, a nursery service, a Subway restaurant, and a St. Louis Regional OASIS facility. It is truly a one-of-a-kind facility.

Today, the Center boasts over 4,000 members who actively take advantage of its facilities. Members, including Clayton residents, non-residents, and

people who work in Clayton, are often found working out at the Center before or after their job to exercise and take a break from their busy workday.

Likewise, students use the Center throughout the school day whether it is during a P.E. class or just to shoot hoops during their lunch periods. Also, many of the indoor CHS sports teams utilize the convenient space that the Center has to offer.

Over the past two years on the boys' swimming team, I have come to appreciate the Center's spacious, clean indoor competition pool and boys' locker rooms. At away meets, I am reminded of just how grateful I should be for the pool and facilities that we had at the Center.

Although I did not play a winter sport, I often found myself at the Center after school either continuing to swim or working out with friends. I would run around the track, use the treadmills, attempt to lift weights, and play two-on-two.

Those days working out at the Center, I always had fun and left feeling refreshed. Similarly, freshman year, I enjoyed working out with my brother and

looked forward to our intense workout sessions.

Not only have I worked out with my brother and other friends in the Center, but on occasion, I have also run into my grandparents power walking around the track. Ever since they moved to St. Louis several years ago, they have fallen in love with the Center, going at least twice a day to workout. My family actually jokes that my grandparents live in the Center of Clayton. Any day of the week, you can usually find my grandfather using a treadmill and my grandmother walking around the track or reading her iPad in the lobby. The Center is unique in that it is a place where high school students workout alongside other members of the community.

Recently, a student teacher visited one of my classes and posed the question of what defines our high school to several students and me. One student responded by explaining the school's open campus policy and also the Center of Clayton. Ultimately, I also believe that the Center is one of the defining aspects of CHS, since it is a place where students are allowed free access anytime during the school day with just their lunch card.

Furthermore, the Center has lived up to its name, as it has truly become the center of the City of Clayton. It's a gathering place for members of the



Izzy Fratt

Senior Chelsea Granberry uses the treadmill. Students work out alongside community residents and teachers at the Center of Clayton.

community, both young and old. On the tenth anniversary of the Center, we should step back and admire how amazing of a facility lies in the backyard of CHS - a facility with numerous

amenities where people of all ages exercise in a unique joint-use environment. We should be thankful that we have access everyday, anytime to this beautiful facility. ☘

the GLOBE

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The Globe is self-funded for all publishing costs and offers advertising to all school-appropriate businesses. Please contact our office for more information. The Globe is distributed to students each month of the school year. We also offer bulk mailing subscriptions for \$20 a year and first-class subscriptions for \$30 a year.

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Unsigned staff editorials will appear only on the designated opinion page and shall represent a majority opinion of the staff. A by-lined editorial reflects only the view of the writer. The views expressed on the editorial page do not necessarily reflect the views of any of the faculty, the administration or the board of education.

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All letters to the editor must be signed when submitted to the editorial staff. The paper reserves the right to edit letters for length and repetition. Publication of letters is subject to the laws of libel, obscenity, incitement and copyright.

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Winner of MIPA All-Missouri, NSPA All-American with four marks of distinction, Quill and Scroll Gallup Award, CSPA Silver Crown (2004), Pacemaker winner (2003), inducted into NSPA Hall of Fame Member in 2006.



SRM

This year's production of 'The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee' brought the Student Run Musical to a whole new level.

by Ken Zheng
Co-Editor in Chief

It's doubtful that there are many musicals in existence that contain songs named "I Love My Dictionary" alongside "My Unfortunate Erection." This year's Student Run Musical, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," once again showcases the directing, singing and acting talent at CHS.

The plot revolves around a spelling bee, as the title would suggest. While stereotypically a boring event, the creators William Finn and Rachel Sheinkin more than make up for the lack of excitement with quirky and highly amusing characters. Another unique aspect of the musical is that four audience members are asked to join the cast in the spelling bee at the beginning of the show.

The musical follows the events of the Bee while developing a backstory for each of the six main spellers. The Bee is set in the fictional Putnam Valley Middle School where six contestants and four audience members compete for glory and the prize money of \$200.

The musical is designed so that all the audience members are eliminated before the intermission. After each audience member misses the word, the cast sings a song to him or her while senior Ellen Spann, the comfort counselor, escorts the impromptu speller back into his or her seat.

Senior Nick Oliveri directed the show and found the experience thoroughly enjoyable.

"Surprisingly, there were not many [problems], and the cast really respected my direction and listened very well to everything I told them," Oliveri said.

Oliveri previously directed a charity show at CHS and also has experience in professional theaters. Junior Ian Miller was the musical director and found balancing a part in the play, conducting and playing piano in the pit a difficult, but fascinating balance.

"I personally really enjoyed directing a pit for the first time," Miller said. "I didn't necessarily always know what I was doing but it was extremely fun and rewarding. Casting for the show was an arduous process that involved a lot of mind-bending and sleep-deprivation, and inevitably leads to hurt feelings and guilt."

Spring is also the time that the Cappies, a high school theater critics and awards program, visits CHS.

"While our Cappies reviews for our Student Run Musical productions have always been great, this year they were particularly phenomenal," Oliveri said. "This year's show was amazing, we got great reviews by all of the audience members, and the audience was laughing the whole time."

There were 10 Cappies critics at the show during the Friday night performance.

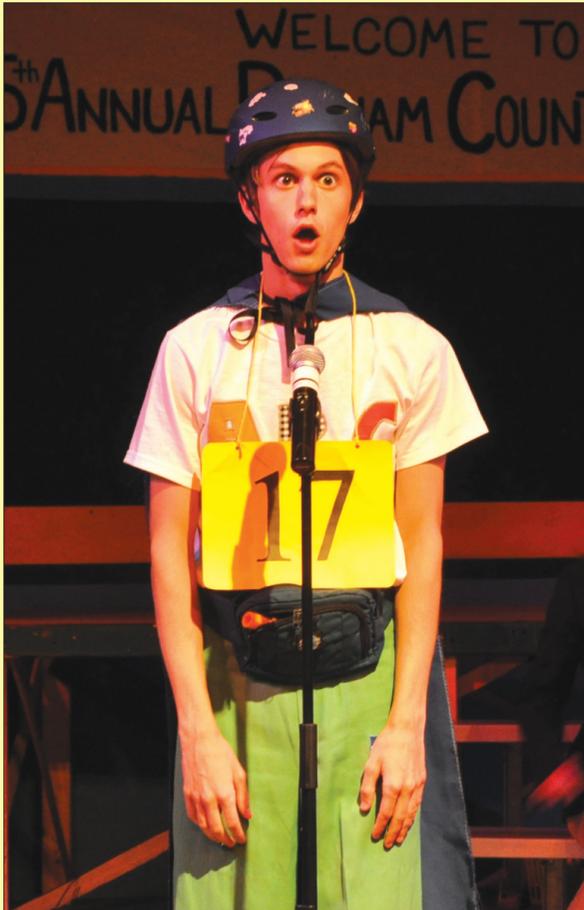
"Outstanding. Definition: much more than one might expect of a high school production. Use in a sentence: Clayton High School's production of 'The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee' was O-U-T-S-T-A-N-D-I-N-G!" wrote Samantha Rodgers of Eureka High School.

The critics were impressed by the amazing quality of a purely student-run production, praising the characterizations of the entire cast, the musical supplements of the pit orchestra and the superior skills displayed by the creators of the costume, set and sound crews.

Connen Tinen of Eureka High School wrote, "All of the quirky, yet lovable, spellers sung and interacted with an incredible energy and precision that produced magnificent chemistry and beautiful harmonies that took this production to the winner's circle."

Miller was extremely pleased with the number of Cappies nominations this year. There were 27 in total with 17 for "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" and 10 for "Great Expectations" from Fall of 2009. He was also impressed by their favorable reviews.

"The Cappies reviews are not just positive; they are absolutely glowing," Miller said. "There is not a single negative criticism, and they highlight all parts of the production. I think the musical exceeded my wildest expectations. There is always that moment of extreme uncertainty after the last dress rehearsal, where the show is just on the cusp of greatness. We all proved ourselves with this production." 🌟



Photos by Tom Haslam



TOP: Ruthie Polinsky demonstrates her flexibility as Marcy Park, a character who was Asian in the original production. During her song "I Speak Six Languages," she laments her inability to enjoy the victories that her many talents earn her. Emily Gudmestad sits on a bench in the background. Gudmestad and Polinsky switched roles for every other night of the performance in order to foster a mentoring relationship. **ABOVE LEFT:** John Holland gives the audience his "trance" look that he used during spelling. His character, ordinarily spacey and inattentive, speaks with a deep voice once he steps up to the microphone. **ABOVE:** Fergus Inder gains a unique and disconcerting demeanor when he steps in to the shoes of his character, William Barfee. Inder's memorable nasally accent and "Magic Foot" caused much laughter in the audience and ultimately led him to win the Bee. **LEFT:** Meredith Redick timidly spells a word as Olive Ostrovsky, a girl whose dad is working late and whose mom is in India. Growing up lonely, she grew to love the word in her dictionary. Cappies critics found Redick's performance in the "I Love You Song" particularly soulful and lyrical.