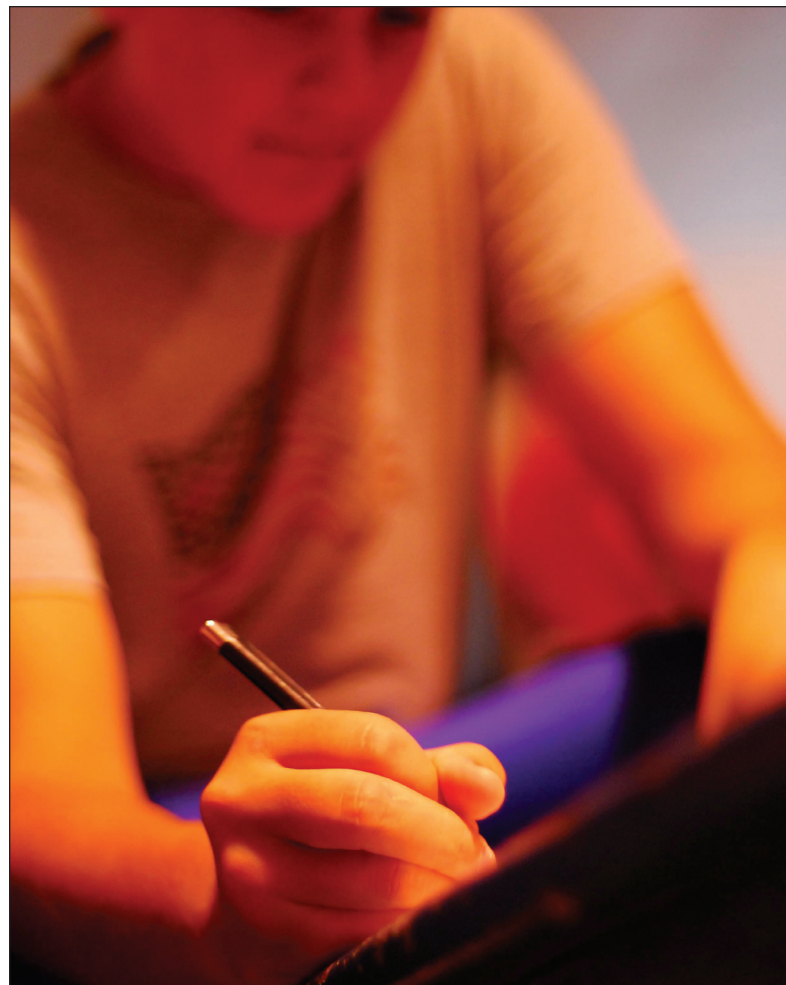


Globe

BLUEPRINT 4 TOMORROW:

Plans for a \$69 million remodeling of buildings in the district has taken critical steps forward.

page 6



Andrew Dowd

This spring, end-of-course exams will replace MAP testing for high school students in an effort to more directly link state expectations with classroom learning.

End-of-course exams replace MAP tests

This spring, students will take three state-administered exams in Algebra 1, English II, and Biology, counting for at least ten percent of the final grade

Leah Eby
Senior Managing Editor

This year, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will begin implementing end-of-course exams in ninth through twelfth grade. These tests will take the place of Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) testing for high school students in Missouri, and exams in Algebra I, English II, and Biology will be distributed during the 2008-2009 school year.

According to the DESE website, the purpose of these exams is to measure student achievement and progress toward "postsecondary readiness," identify students' strengths and weaknesses, outline expectations for all students to meet state and national "accountability requirements," and evaluate specific programs within Missouri schools.

Social Studies teacher and Academic Director Josh Meyers believes that the end-of-course exams also serve to meet the goals recognized by No Child Left Behind, a plan enacted by President Bush to increase the educational standards of the United States.

"In this high-stakes educational world in which we live, states are trying a variety of things in order to meet the over-arching goal established by No Child Left Behind," Meyers said. "It is an attempt to ensure that all students in the state exit identified courses with a minimum level of competency in those areas."

When end-of-course exams take the place of MAP testing for Missouri high school students, the difference in the test will be evident. According to CHS Principal Dr. Louise Losos, the state is attempting to answer the concerns of many schools of the lack of seriousness that many high school students have regarding the previous MAP tests.

"The biggest difference is that they will be tied directly to the state expectations for these courses, so there will be a more direct link to what goes on the classroom," Losos said.

Once the tests have been fully implemented into the Missouri high school curriculum, students in grades nine through twelve will be expected to take eight end-of-course exams prior to

graduation. This will include two assessments in each core area: math, science, English, and social studies. Each test will be composed of multiple choice and free response sections designed to be administered in two 55-minute class periods.

This spring, students at CHS will be taking the Algebra I, English II, and Biology exams if they have completed "a course or sequence of courses incorporating the content of the Course-Level Expectations (CLEs)," according to the DESE. Losos adds that CHS will be field testing a number of tests in other subjects as our students did last year in Biology.

One such field test will be in social studies, and Clayton School District History Coordinator Paul Hoelscher is participating in state-wide evaluations this month in Jefferson City to view the test and discuss how it relates to the Missouri standards for social studies.

After tests in Algebra I, English II, and Biology are distributed this spring, teachers will receive the free response sections of their students' tests in order to grade them based on their performance on the test. The Clayton School District is in the process of determining how much the tests will affect students' grades, and the DESE suggests that the end-of-course exams account for ten to 25 percent of the final grade.

"The major hole in the MAP tests is that schools are held accountable but the students are not," said Losos. "The result is that students don't generally give them the same attention and focus they give the ACT or their own tests. We need to find a way to make the students as accountable as the school."

Clayton School District Literacy Coordinator Jim Lockhart believes that grading state-wide tests is a positive step toward influencing students to take the tests seriously.

"Students will not take them seriously if they do not count," Lockhart said. "I am comfortable with ten percent because the exams are measuring learning that every student should master. The Missouri standards and the Grade Level Expectations for communication arts are reasonable standards and expectations."

Hoelscher agrees with Lockhart, but

Testing, 8

HIV case at Normandy spurs area awareness

Aaron Praiss
Senior Managing Editor

"In the entire St. Louis Metropolitan area, in 2007, data showed a general increase in STDs among teenagers," Director of Health for St. Louis County Dr. Dolores Gunn said.

More recently, through an investigation done by the St. Louis County Health Department, a student has been found to be HIV positive at Normandy High School.

"Recently, the St. Louis County Health Department has done an investigation at Normandy High School," Normandy High School Principal Carl B. Hudson said. "They found a student who has contracted the HIV virus, and potentially infected other students at the high school. The department gave us a range from one to possibly 50 other students who could have become infected."

The St. Louis County Health Department plays a very significant role in both investigating and preventing the spread of such communicable diseases as HIV/AIDS.

"The role of the St. Louis County Health Department is not only to monitor communicable diseases, but to investigate them," Gunn said. "Most importantly, though, is our role in educating and preventing communicable diseases in the community."

In the past month, a routine St. Louis County Health Department investigation led to an HIV positive student at Normandy High School.

"We were doing a routine investigation, and unfortunately, were led to Normandy High School," Gunn said. "When we find an individual who is HIV positive, we investigate both the source of infection and any contact they may have had with other individuals."

The investigation soon gained public attention and became a health issue throughout the St. Louis area.

"This investigation was a public health issue," Hudson said. "It had nothing to do with Normandy Administration. The investigation could have been at a grocery store, churches or even at another high school in the area. This in-



MCT Campus

A doctor conducts an HIV/AIDS test on a patient. Recently, a student at Normandy High School was found to be HIV positive.

vestigation just happened to be at Normandy High School, and one student was discovered to have the HIV virus."

Now that the St. Louis County Health Department has finished its investigation, they are offering confidential HIV testing, along with many other opportunities for education and aid in the community.

"As a result of the investigation, the St. Louis County Health Department gave an opportunity for confidential swab test for HIV on Wed. Oct. 22 and 23," Hudson said. "Students and staff were tested, and of about 1,240 students, 97 percent took the test. The St. Louis County Health Department has also made available all of its resources for students, staff and community at Normandy High School. For example, they are providing community forms and hosting class discussions."

Besides what the St. Louis County Health Department is doing to help out,

classes, teachers and students are getting involved in spreading and advocating HIV/AIDS safety.

"In classes, we gave students the opportunity to talk, discuss and write about the HIV virus and its impact," Hudson said. "Every class brought in the topic of HIV/AIDS, even in math and business courses. We embedded lessons about understanding the spread of diseases and how the diseases themselves are transferred."

However, there has also been a strong element of healthy decision-making and sexual safety in Physical Education and Health courses at Normandy before the investigation took place.

"Before this investigation, there were a lot of things we were doing in Physical Education classes," Hudson said. "Students were taught universal precautions

Normandy, 8



Andrew Dowd

The eastern portion of I-64 will soon be closing as construction crews hope to start the second half of the I-64 project before the start of the new year.

I-64 construction continues as eastern portion closes

Simone Bernstein
Editor

There might not be any tunnels on I-64, but there is partial light to the end of the re-construction project. Drivers will soon be able to see half way through the I-64 expansion.

Construction crews hope to start the second half of the I-64 project before the start of the new year. Crews are upgrading all of the pavement and rebuilding bridges and interchanges along a 10-mile stretch of I-64 between Spodee Road in St. Louis County and Kingshighway Boulevard in St. Louis City.

Crews are also building a bigger interchange at I-64 and I-170 and adding one lane in each direction between I-170 and Spodee. MoDOT estimates the entire I-64 project will be finished by July 31, 2010.

The closing of the east portion of I-64 will have a large impact on drivers in the St. Louis area. Although the project is extremely lengthy, the wider roads, overpasses and exits will create a safer highway system for the St. Louis metropolitan area.

"We haven't scheduled the completion of the first half and the start of the second half yet, but it will occur sometime in December," said Dan Galvin, Public Information Manager for Gateway Constructors. "The east half closes at the same time as the west half opens."

They are in the process of finishing the west half of the highway, from I-270 to I-170.

"We're in the process of pouring median and shoulder barriers and finishing some work on entrance and exit ramps at interchanges," Galvin said.

There are numerous challenges that come with a major construction project. Closing a major highway leads to traffic issues throughout the area.

"There have been two major challenges on the I-64 project," said Linda Wilson, Public Information Manager for MoDOT. "First, managing the traffic around a closed highway has been a great challenge. We addressed this by forming a partnership with St. Louis County and City. All three agencies have worked as a team to improve the alternate roads, adjust signal timings and make sure traffic could get around."

Some believe traffic will be worse when the second half of the highway closes.

"Driving around the east half will

1-64 construction, 8



4 Missouri elects governor and attorney general



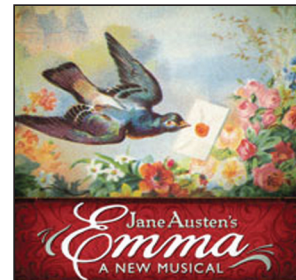
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Nuclear power agreement controversial, potentially beneficial

Noah Eby
Reporter

President George W. Bush signed into effect a nuclear agreement with India on Oct. 8, 2008, that puts an end to a thirty-year ban on U.S. nuclear trade with India. The deal was approved by Congress a week earlier on Oct. 1 and passed the Senate with a whopping 86 to 13 majority.

The U.S. had placed a moratorium on nuclear trade with the South-Asian country after it first tested a nuclear weapon in 1974, but is now lifting that suspension in what critics have called a "nonproliferation nightmare." Proponents, on the other hand, say the deal will help forge a strong alliance between the U.S. and India and would encourage India to accept safeguards on facilities it has previously not allowed to be inspected.

The pact will provide India with the opportunity to buy U.S. dual-use nuclear technology, including technology and materials that could be used to manufacture weapons-grade uranium and plutonium. Also, India would be able to import nuclear fuel for its reactors.

In exchange, India would have to allow the United Nations' nuclear watchdog group, the International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA), to inspect its civilian nuclear facilities.

However, India would be allowed to decide which of its reactors to classify as civilian. India will also place all future civilian nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards. Military facilities and nuclear fuel stockpiles that India has accumulated will be exempt from all inspections and safeguards.

India also agreed to prevent the spread of enrichment technology to countries that do not have it and support international non-proliferation efforts, and to allow U.S. companies to build civilian reactors in India.

Proponents of the deal say it is groundbreaking in that it finally allows inspections of Indian nuclear facilities, something the international nonproliferation community has long sought after. Teresta Schaffer, director of the South-Asia program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told the Washington Post that the deal "is part of making India a more durable and a more reliable nuclear partner."

Paul Hoelscher, an international politics teacher at Clayton High School, said that he thinks the agreement is a good move by the U.S. and that he sees the opportunity to watch over

India's nuclear program as valuable and important.

"My initial reaction was positive," Hoelscher said. "Any chance the U.S. can [get to] gain access to another country's nuclear technology, I feel like it provides us with more safety and greater control over the situation."

Supporters also cite India's voluntary reinstatement of IAEA restrictions on its Tarapur nuclear facility after they expired in 1993 as a clear example of India's trustworthiness and responsibility. The role of nuclear power as a relatively clean source of large amounts of power, as well as the prospect of greater exports helping to booster the volatile economy in the U.S., are two major selling points for the deal.

"The agreement holds the potential to strengthen the U.S. economy while fostering within India increased use of nuclear energy to cleanly provide the reliable electricity that is so vital in modern society," said Frank L. Bowman, President and CEO of the Nuclear Energy Institute, the policy organization of nuclear energy and technology industries.

Ted Rockwell, an engineer and nuclear power expert in Washington, D.C. also said the deal could help both India and the U.S.

"I hope the agreement can be fully implemented, because it could benefit both nations greatly," Rockwell said.

Opponents argue that there are not enough safeguards in the pact to prevent India from continuing to produce nuclear weapons. Though India has promised not to use nuclear fuel imported as part of the deal towards its nuclear weapons program, experts say New Delhi could use imported fuel for its civilian program and then use its scarce fuel stockpiles towards the production of nuclear weapons.

Opponents cite India's claims that it was using nuclear technologies for civilian purposes just prior to its first nuclear weapons test as an example of India's dishonesty when it comes to nuclear proliferation.

"There are no measures in this global partnership to restrain India's nuclear weapons program," states a Congressional Research Service (CRS) report on the deal. The CRS report goes on to state: "A significant question is how India, in the absence of full-scope safeguards, can provide adequate confidence that U.S. peaceful nuclear technology will not be diverted to nuclear weapons purposes."

Another objection to the agreement is that it does not require India to limit its fissile material production, while the U.S., France, Great Britain, Russia, and nearly all major nuclear

India and nuclear power

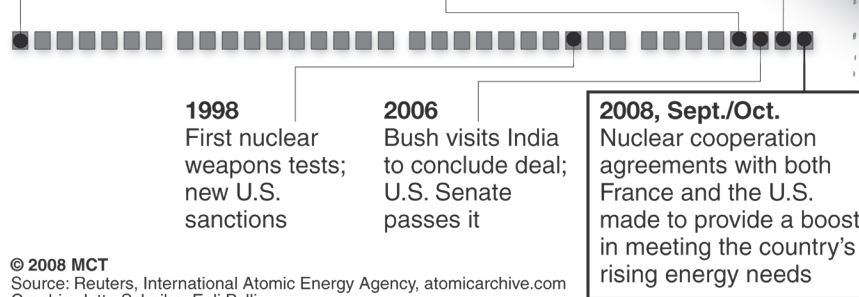
The U.S. Senate approved a controversial nuclear deal with India, clearing the way for the United States to export nuclear know-how to India after a ban lasting decades.

From sanctions to deal

1974
First Indian nuclear device tested, prompting U.S. sanctions

2005
Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and U.S. President George W. Bush agree on civilian nuclear cooperation deal

2007
Agreement is unveiled; Indian government crisis; Communists block deal



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Source: Reuters, International Atomic Energy Agency, atomicarchive.com
Graphic: Jutta Scheibe, Eeli Polli

Courtesy of MCT Campus

ar powers have done so.

Furthermore, critics argue that the pact does not do an adequate job of separating India's nuclear and civilian facilities.

In a statement, Daryl G. Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, a nonpartisan organization that promotes public understanding and support of effective arms control, said the agreement did not meet nonproliferation standards.

"The U.S.-Indian Agreement for Nuclear Cooperation is... a nonproliferation disaster. Contrary to the counterfactual claims of proponents and apologists, it does not bring India into the 'nonproliferation mainstream' and India's so-called separation plan is not credible from a nonproliferation perspective."

The deal also raises issues with the Hyde Act, a U.S. law passed in 2007 that regulates trade with India. The Act states that any nuclear deal reached with India must clearly state that the U.S. will suspend cooperation with India if it resumes nuclear testing.

Henry Sokolski, executive director of the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center, a nonprofit dedicated to improving awareness of nonproliferation issues, says that it is vague

whether the U.S.-India nuclear agreement complies with the Hyde Act.

"It is unclear in the text of the agreement that Congress approved that the U.S. has committed itself to suspend assistance," Sokolski said.

Another clause in the Hyde Act says that the U.S. cannot violate its pledge as a signatory of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) not to help any state that did not have nuclear weapons before 1967 acquire them or get more.

"That means that if there is any evidence that India is using nuclear fuel it imports from [the U.S.] to help it make more nuclear weapons per year than it was making prior to the agreement, the U.S. would have to suspend implementation of the deal," Sokolski said.

Despite Rockwell's saying that he thinks "people generally tend to have many unwarranted fears where nuclear matters are involved," Sokolski warned that this deal has a net negative value.

"In the grand scheme of things, the nuclear deal is a small plus for U.S.-Indian relations but a potentially large minus for preventing the spread of nuclear weapons capabilities," Sokolski said. ☺

Changing laws affect gay marriage across country

Caitlin Kropp
Reporter

The fight for homosexual equality has been a long and difficult path, but, as of late, homosexuals and their supporters have reason to smile. History was made on Oct. 10, when Connecticut recognized marriage equality for all homosexual couples.

On Oct. 10, the Connecticut Supreme Court made a ruling that same-sex couples have the constitutional right to marry. This ruling struck down the state's law that limited marriage to heterosexual couples only. A civil union law had been put in place, intending to give all the privileges of marriage to same-sex couples, but not marriage itself.

Instead, homosexual couples were allowed to have "civil unions", a broadly defined partnership that can be very different from marriage. During the ruling, the justices of the court determined that these laws were violating the constitutional guarantee of equal protection under the law.

"We conclude that... the segregation of heterosexual and homosexual couples into separate institutions constitutes a cognizable harm," Justice J. Palmer said in a case report of the ruling.

The case was brought to the attention of the court by eight homosexual couples who sued the Commissioner of Public Health for Connecticut, among others. These couples were denied marriage licenses in the town of Madison, CT, and claimed that the denial of marriage licenses deprived them of equal protection under the law.

The ruling, which cannot be appealed, was placed into af-

fect on Oct. 28, with considerable opposition. Already, talk has been circulating about people attempting to introduce a constitutional ban on gay and lesbian marriage.

"I disagree with today's State Supreme Court ruling but as Governor, I will uphold it," Governor M. Jodi Rell said in a press release issued Oct. 10. "I do not believe their [the Supreme Court's] voice reflects the majority of the people of Connecticut. However, I am also firmly convinced that attempts to reverse this decision - either legislatively or by amending the state Constitution - will not meet with success."

Connecticut is the second state to legalize gay and lesbian marriage, as the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled that same-sex marriages were legal in 2004. This ruling not only affects couples in Connecticut, but in other states as well.

Due to this ruling, doors have opened in other states that may introduce similar rulings on homosexual marriage. Particularly affected nearby is New York, where an executive order was recently issued that requires the government to recognize gay and lesbian marriages performed in other states.

Missouri stands on the other side of the spectrum. More conservative than the New England states, Missouri has already taken several steps that limit gay and lesbian marriage. In 2004, Missourians passed an amendment that barred homosexual marriage, defining marriage as existing only between a man and a woman. In addition, Missouri does not recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states.

Recently, California has enacted a ban on same-sex marriage. The ban, which was voted on on Nov. 5, won over 52 percent of the vote, enough to legalize the ban. In a May 2008 ruling, the California Supreme Court overturned the previous

ban on gay marriage. The state had been marrying homosexual couples since June 2008, a practice that has now ground to a halt in the state. With this ruling, California joins the now thirty states that have passed bans on same-sex marriage.

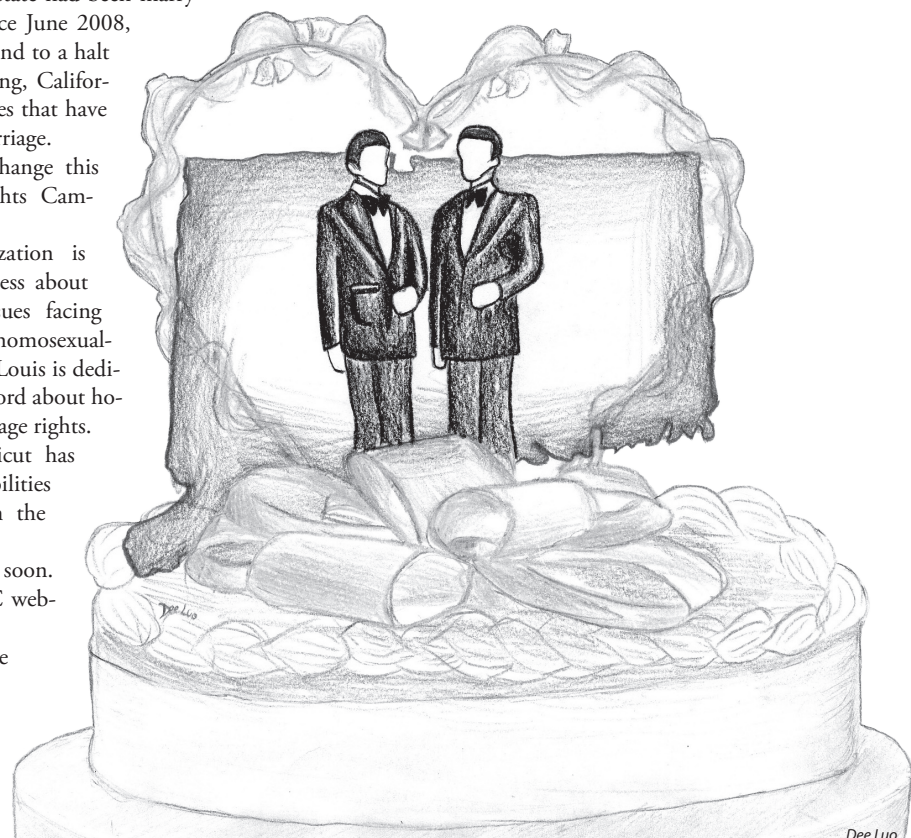
Currently working to change this feeling is the Human Rights Campaign.

This non-profit organization is dedicated to raising awareness about several of the pressing issues facing Americans today, including homosexuality. The HRC branch in St. Louis is dedicated to the spreading the word about homosexual equality and marriage rights.

The ruling in Connecticut has opened up millions of possibilities for homosexual equality in the future.

Change is coming, and soon. And, according to the HRC website, this is the year to win.

"Such a step reduces the discrimination, but falls far short of eliminating it," R. Dworkin, a prominent legal commentator said. "Same-sex marriage has a long way to go." ☺



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Obama's presidential win leads to mixed emotions

President-elect Barack Obama's historic win in this year's election created a medley of reactions among students and faculty, particularly in concern of what he can accomplish during his term in the Oval Office.

Ugochi Onyema
Senior Managing Editor

The landslide victory of Barack Obama as the first African-American President-Elect of the United States made history Nov. 4.

On a national scale, the significance of this election resonated among several generations of Americans who awaited proof of America's true identity as the land of opportunity—for all. At CHS, Obama's presidential win affected students and teachers alike.

Senior Nichole Burton, a supporter of Obama, had an emotional reaction as she watched the results of the election unfold that Tuesday night.

"Honestly, I cried," Burton said. "To think that 40 years ago, minorities were fighting to be treated with respect, and still are today, the fact that a person from a minority had become president-elect seemed like something that would never happen in my parents' lifetime, let alone my own lifetime. I was rooting for Obama initially because I felt that he would be a more qualified candidate for the presidency. I was for Obama before I found out that he was black. That was an added bonus for me."

Burton also agrees with the social and cultural change that this election brought to every American household.

"This win definitely means a lot," Burton said. "It means that America is finally beginning to accept people of all races and cultures. And I'm so glad we don't have another bland white guy as president."

Senior Kevin Lin was equally excited for Obama's victory, and was jubilant as he celebrated with his friends on Election Day.

"We were at a friend's house, watching the election on the big screen on CNN," Lin said. "And then the reporters announced Obama's win, and we began to scream. It was great, and we had a huge election party. I was really excited and now I am just wondering how Obama is going to do now that he's elected."

History teacher Donna Rogers-Beard believes that the win of Obama will lead to better moral, social and economical examples for American citizens.

"I voted for Obama. I think it was about time that we had a smart man running this country," Rogers-Beard said. "We needed someone of a new generation, someone who understood that the world is a global network—both economically and socially."

Rogers-Beard said she also supported him because she thought that he would bring in new blood and energize the country.

"I felt that we had too many young people who had become cynical and disillusioned, by not only the Bush administration but the Clinton years as well," Rogers-Beard said. "Barack Obama is a



President-elect Barack Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden wave to supporters after Obama gave his acceptance speech after it was announced he has won the presidential election at his Election Night Rally in Grant Park, Chicago, Illinois, November 4, 2008.

voice of inspiration that we have not had since John F. Kennedy's presidency and Robert Kennedy's uncompleted bid for presidency.

Obama's heritage was another reason for Rogers-Beard's support.

"I was so excited to see an African-American of his caliber, and I think that he's going to be able to serve as an inspiration for many African-Americans and people of color," Rogers-Beard said. "Now, people of color can realistically aspire to the highest offices in the land. But also, he and his wife and their daily comings-and-goings and interactions with their children will serve as an example to families that we have not seen since the Cosby Show. And I think for African-American youth, maybe they can start dressing for the White House, not the jailhouse."

However, not everyone at CHS was hoping for the outcome of the election. Senior Kelsey Haslett was a supporter of the Republican presidential ticket, which was comprised of presidential nominee John McCain and vice-presidential nominee Sarah Palin.

"Well, I couldn't vote, but I supported John McCain because I agreed more with his political viewpoints than I

did with Obama," Haslett said. "I really liked how McCain would have handled the economic problems and Iraq. I like that he's patriotic and ready to fight for the economy."

Haslett believes that the main downfall of McCain's campaign was Palin's persona.

"I personally think that the reason he lost was because of Sarah Palin," Haslett said. "I liked her, but the rest of America didn't. He lost a lot of votes because of her."

Rogers-Beard also believes that Palin's place on the Republican ticket was a significant detriment to McCain's presidential campaign.

"I think that the choice of Sarah Palin as a running mate was McCain's huge mistake, because up until that point, he had run on the platform that Obama was inexperienced, and then he picked someone that I thought, and the majority of the country thought, that was more inexperienced than Obama, and then McCain tried to sell her as a person who had administrative experience, when in reality she was in her first year as governor of a state that is not necessarily facing the same problems as the other 49," Rogers-Beard said. "And then tried to sell this

woman as the epitome of family values, when her no-sex education beliefs may have been reflected in her pregnant teenage daughter, and certainly, people had to be thinking, 'Why is the son of the governor of Alaska not going to college first then serving his country in the military?' And this is a woman who did not get the endorsement of her state's largest newspaper, while Barack Obama got the endorsement of the Chicago Tribune, which had been traditionally the Republican voice of Illinois. His next mistake is that he did not stick to a consistent message. Instead, he constantly attacked Obama and his policies, instead of trying to get the country to listen to his own policies. Also, he had to run against George Bush in 2000, which hurt him this time around. This was just not his time."

Lin believes that it was McCain's economical policies that led to his eventual failure.

"I was totally rooting for Obama because I was completely against McCain medical plan," Lin said. "Obama also wants to focus on economy and seeing as I am a part of a middle-class family and not an upper-class family, McCain's tax policy would really hurt my family. Most

of the American economy is based in the middle class, and if the middle class fails, then there will be a larger disparity of wealth between the lower class and the upper class."

Conversely, Haslett did not approve of Obama's policies, while remaining in accord with those of McCain. Although Haslett doesn't agree with Obama's policies, she hopes that he will be able to find a solution to the domestic economic crisis.

"Honestly, I just didn't like Obama's political viewpoints," Haslett said. "He is a great speaker, though. I really hope that he gets us out of economic crisis and I hope that he finds the right way to get us out of war."

Burton believes that the domestic economic crisis will improve once Obama takes his place in the White House.

"I hope that Obama will improve our economy, healthcare and jobs, as well as other issues," Burton said. "I think that everything will improve now that he's in office."

Lin also hopes that Obama can find a way to rectify the economic situation in the U.S, particularly because of the effect that the crisis could have on his future.

"Well, I don't want to live in an economy that's failing rapidly," Lin said. "I want to be able to live a good life, and you can't live a good life in the midst of a depression. There are so many problems in the United States. There is a lot of national debt and inflation, we've been in Iraq for six years. I hope that Obama can fix whatever's gone awry in this country. He has a very short time to accomplish something, but the great thing is that he's already started with his plans to improve the nation."

With the implementation of a new Commander-in-Chief comes a new set of dangers, and with Obama entering his term as the United States' first black president, Lin believes that Obama will face more threats than any previous president.

"I think that it's a great thing that a black person won the presidential election, but there are still a lot of racist people out there," Lin said. "I don't think that this win affects me as much as it affects blacks, even with the fact that I am from a minority."

Rogers-Beard believes that Obama faces many problems, which include meeting the impossibly high bar set by hopeful Americans and the media. Most significantly, Rogers-Beard believes that Obama's biggest problem may be dealing with the impatience of wary Americans who are hungry for change.

"I think that he's going to face the problem of getting us out of Iraq," Rogers-Beard said. "It's not going to be easy. He's going to face the growing influence of Iran and Iraq. I think he's going to face problems of how to combat the Taliban and find a source of manpower for that purpose. We are going to face and increasingly deepening crisis in Africa, as the crisis spills into East Africa, and the high expectations that quite a few Sub-Saharan nations have for the Obama administration." Rogers-Beard thinks that he's going to face an increasing pressure from Russia and problems from a domestic arena as well, in particular the problems with the economy.

"I hope that Obama plans to solve the [economic] crisis in a way in which people are made to work—particularly in jobs that are incorporated in an infrastructure of building projects," Rogers-Beard said. "He's got a lot of problems out there, but I think that he's up to the challenge, and he knew what he was walking into, or else he would have stayed out of the presidential race until 2012. But most of all, he is going to face the opposition of people who never wanted him as president and would do anything in his or her power to keep Obama out of office, but I think that there will be many Republican leaders who will cooperate because of McCain's and Bush's support of the change. I think that there is a lot of patience that is needed in order to see a significant change." ☺

HPV vaccination decreases risk of cervical cancer in young women

Preeti Viswanathan
Editor

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that approximately 12,000 women in the United States are annually diagnosed with cervical cancer, which is caused by the human papilloma virus (HPV). Teenagers are highly susceptible to contracting this virus, and pediatricians and doctors have been recommending the Gardasil HPV vaccine as a preventive measure for girls between the ages of 9 and 26 years of age.

Although it is relatively new, the Gardasil vaccine has been increasingly popular. Christine Jacobs, Associate Professor of Medicine at Saint Louis University Medical School and a medical practitioner, thinks that the number of young women receiving the vaccine has increased.

"More and more women are getting the vaccine," Jacobs said. However, she does not believe that the vaccine encourages sexual activity among teenagers.

"It turns out, in fact, that any kind of protection against STD's or birth control provided to teenagers hasn't changed the amount of sexual activity they have, so as a physician I believe that there won't be a difference in sexual activity after the availability of Gardasil," Jacobs said. While the vaccine is currently available for young women, it is not available for men, and a new type of vaccine

specifically for men might have to be designed, because the current vaccine is not compatible with the antibodies in men's immune systems.

"When you give the vaccine, a woman makes IGG antibodies, and when a male is exposed to the HPV virus, he makes IGA antibodies against it. So for him to have circulating IGG antibodies would be useless," said Donna Robey, obstetrician-gynecologist at St. Mary's Hospital.

The current Gardasil vaccine is given in a series of three doses over a period of six months. It protects women against HPV-9, HPV-11, HPV-16, and HPV-18 of the virus. The HPV-9 and 11 are low-risk strains; they don't cause cancer.

"The worst high-risk ones are 16 and 18, and those are the main ones that it's targeted against, but there are several others that are low-risk, and the difference between high-risk and low-risk is that high-risk types are more likely to cause cervical cancer," Jacobs said.

There are also types of HPV that cause a pre-cancer of the cervix called dysplasia.

"The type 16 and 18 cause 70 percent of the dysplasia, and cancer of the cervix," Robey said.

When the Gardasil vaccine was first being developed, it was tested on healthy women who were observed for a period of time after receiving the vaccine for signs or changes from being exposed to



Courtney Banzer, 27, receives an HPV vaccine from Dana Varon at Harborview Women's Research clinic in Seattle, Washington. The vaccine is recommended by doctors as a preventative medication from cervical cancer caused by various strains of the human papilloma virus for women between the ages 9 and 26. The HPV virus can also cause a pre-cancer of the cervix.

the HPV. The women who had been given the vaccine were then compared to women who had not received the vaccine, and those who had been vaccinated had a lower rate of HPV-related problems.

"[The vaccine] was also tested on women who had been exposed to HPV, and the more exposure they had, the less chance that they got any kind of benefit from the vaccine," Jacobs said. "That's why it's recommended for younger

women."

While the company is working on improving the vaccine so that it protects against other strains of the virus, an improved version is not currently available on the market because it has not been FDA-approved.

"My understanding is that there is another vaccine in development that may cover more of the HPV virus types," Robey said.

According to Robey, the main major

side effect of the vaccine is a potential allergic reaction to the first dose and side effects similar to other vaccines, such as soreness in the vaccination site.

"When I asked the company if there had been any severe reactions to it, they said there had been no reported cases, and that there had been people who've had allergic reactions that were not life-threatening," Robey said.

Jacobs also said the vaccine's side effects were not particularly prominent or

severe.

"It is kind of painful, so it causes more young women to faint than with other vaccines," she said.

"Other than that just getting sore where you've had the shot is the only other adverse affect," she added.

Both Jacobs and Robey recommend the vaccine for teenagers.

"I offer it to every single one of my patients who is 26 years old or younger," Robey said. ☺

New face of Lambert begins to take shape

Nicholas Andriole
Editor

Travelers to Lambert-St. Louis International Airport will soon notice cosmetic and facility changes in the main terminal, which serves most of Lambert's major carriers except Southwest Airlines. The terminal was constructed in 1956 and has served Lambert throughout the busy years when the both now defunct TransWorld Airlines and Ozark Airlines operated major hubs.

However, over the years the airport's role in the St. Louis community has changed. In 2000, Lambert had enplanements totaling 30 million passengers.

Passenger numbers have fallen significantly to 15 million in 2007. The airport took the biggest hit in passenger enplanements in 2004, one year after American Airlines, Lambert's largest carrier trimmed its flight schedule from approximately 400 daily operations to 200 and transferred many remaining routes to its American Eagle and American Connection subsidiaries. American discontinued many popular routes, including the long standing route to London's Gatwick airport. In 2006, the airport completed a new \$1.1 billion runway project, which remains largely unused.

After many years of study, the airport has launched a \$105 million project known as The Airport Experience. "The airport experience began with the recognition that this is an aging facility and the airport experience program will address this by modernizing and restoring the pride in this airport," airport spokesperson Jeff Lea said.

Travelers appear to welcome the changes. Angel Ramos is a frequent traveler on American Airlines out of St. Louis and looks forward to the changes and believes the changes will address Lambert's current and future needs.

"The Lambert Experience addresses what Lambert lacks the most, modern appeal and efficiency," Ramos said. "Travelers will be happy if you give them a clean modern facility

and currently the airport has more than enough space to handle increased traffic if reinstated in the future." Prior to launching the airport experience, airport officials worked to install new carpeting throughout the C concourse, added fresh coats of paint, and recently added rocking chairs to the departure gate lounges throughout the terminal.

The airport is currently working on restoration of the upper level ticketing hall and operational components that will be visible to passengers later in the program. Now that the program is in full swing, Lea believes changes will be visible to passengers in January.

"The first phase includes restoration of the four historic domes which make

"...this is an aging facility and the airport experience program will address this by modernizing and restoring the pride in this airport.

Jeff Lea
Airport Spokesperson

up the main terminal which was completed in 1956," Lea said. "Right now, the second project is the replacement of the main terminal inbound baggage system. This includes six carousels, and two oversized luggage systems. Design work began this fall however changes will be visible to passengers in January when the carousels are replaced."

Additionally, the airport has worked with its concession handler, HMS Host to offer new dining options at Lambert. New restaurants include the recently opened Pasta House Company and other well-known St. Louis restaurants such as Fitz's, Mosaic, and Imo's Pizza. The airport is also opening Missouri Vineyards, a new concept which emphasizes local foods and wines along with Brioche Dorée, a French restaurant to be located in the ticketing hall.

"We're excited about the opportunity to bring more upscale and unique dining choices for local travelers and our visitors from outside the region," Airport Director Dick Hrabko said.

Later phases of the project also include refurbishment of the airport's dated concourses. "We are in the planning stages for the next project which includes the main terminal concourses A, B, and C," Lea said. "We are looking at projects to improve security checkpoints,



Above: Existing upperlevel ticketing hall in the main terminal at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport.

Below: Rendering of future renovated ticketing hall as projected by Lambert-St. Louis International Airport.

restrooms, shops, restaurant placement, ceiling, flooring, ticket counter, and other behind the scenes components that affect passengers experience. This will all add up to a much more modern facility for employees, passengers, and visitors."

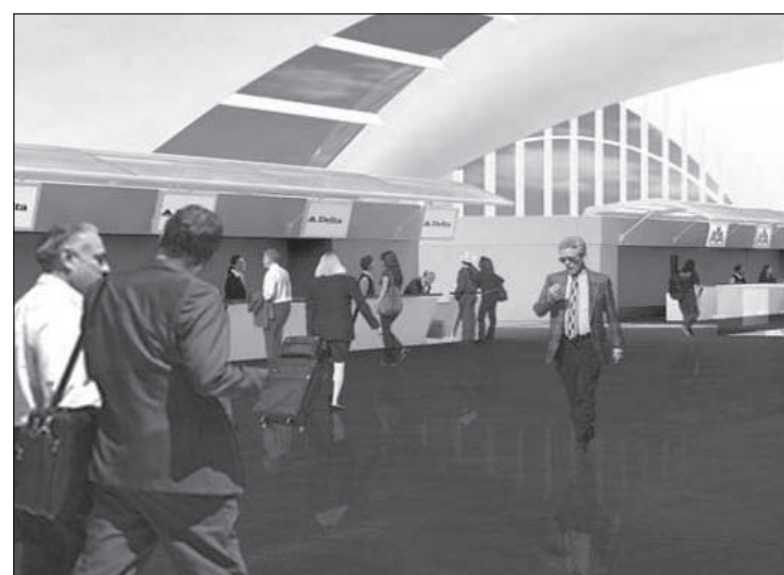
The renovations will work to modernize the airport's dated facilities. Airport officials have been working on an ongoing effort with its current and prospective airlines to add service to new destinations.

"We have a full time effort to pursue all domestic and international to add more cities, routes, and seats," Lea said.

While passenger numbers remain

down significantly compared to earlier this decade, passenger numbers have continued to rise since 2004. AirTran Airways launched service to Lambert in 2007, and Southwest Airlines continues to add cities and frequencies at Lambert. Airport officials hope that with modern facilities and adequate airspace, Lambert will be poised to serve the future needs of the St. Louis area.

"In spite of these volatile and uncertain times in the travel industry, we currently have the ability to begin the transformation of our historic facility while remaining fiscally responsible," Hrabko said. ☺



Lambert-St. Louis International Airport

Battered economy poses challenges for food pantries

Area food pantries have seen an increasing demand for services that is creating a growing gap in supply

Nicholas Andriole
Editor

Given the prevailing economic conditions, consumers have been forced to make lifestyle changes to their spending habits. However, with rising unemployment, rising food prices, and rising utility costs, some households have been forced to depend on the assistance of organizations.

Circle of Concern, located in Fenton, provides emergency and long-term assistance services to approximately 450 families each month throughout the West County area.

For the current year, Circle of Concern anticipates delivery of approximately 900,000 pounds of food including frozen and produce items.

Rising food costs have forced many individuals who previously did not rely on assistance from organizations such as Circle of Concern to turn to such organizations for help. This has placed the organization in a tricky situation as demand for their services continues to increase while their availability of resources is falling.

These conditions have forced Circle of Concern to reduce its allocation of food products to families. For example, families are currently provided eight cans of staples such as canned soups, corn or green beans. Previously, the organization was able to supply 12 cans weekly; however, supply levels can not accommodate this volume of items.

"The current conditions have been a double whammy," Glenn Koenen Circle of Concern Executive Director, said. "Our supplies are thinning out, and at the same time we've seen a 25 percent jump in people coming to us for food."

The larger St. Louis Area Foodbank has seen a 15 percent increase in their client base, 70 percent of which are first-time users of food banks.

Individuals such as Barbra Pellerito are seeking additional assistance from organizations. Pellerito was recently laid off and appreciates the services available



Tom Maxim

from Circle of Concern.

"Circle of Concern has helped me with food, clothes, and obtaining toys for my children, and they have also provided assistance with my house payment," Pellerito said. "During the holidays they'll provide additional assistance."

While there continues to be strong need for products and services from area

food pantries, donors remain committed to help feed the hungry.

"Our mission is to find food for the hungry," St. Louis Area Food Bank Public Relations Coordinator, Stanley Bray said. "We really haven't had any difficulty. Our corporate sponsors and our donors continue to provide food for us to feed the hungry. We have dedicated

donors and corporate sponsors who make sure we fulfill our mission of feeding the hungry."

Circle of Concern continues to receive consistent revenue from in-kind donations, however, increasing demand remains a concern.

"Our contributions are a little bit higher than last year," Koenen said. "We

are a couple percent ahead on donations however, there is a growing gap in supply."

The St. Louis Area Foodbank is significantly larger than Circle of Concern and serves 26 counties, including the City of St. Louis. Given its large service area, St. Louis Area Foodbank has recently been strained by rising fuel costs

as well.

"Gas prices have affected our services because we deliver mostly to rural areas," Bray said. "The number of people has been slightly overwhelming; however, we can still accommodate their needs."

While the current times have proven challenging, organizations hope to improve their overall efficiency and increase capacity to meet current and future needs of the community.

The St. Louis Area Foodbank relocated to a new facility in Earth City in June 2007 which has allowed for a 10 percent annual increase in distribution compared to the previous location. The Foodbank also prides itself in maintaining an efficient cost structure.

For every \$1 donated, approximately 97 cents goes straight to their clients, while the other 3 percent is used for overhead expenses. Additionally, the St. Louis Area Foodbank has also worked on building relationships with area businesses such as St. Louis Bread Company, Walmart, Sam's Club, Shop N' Save, and Kellogg's cereals.

Circle of Concern is in the midst of constructing a new facility which will allow them to increase their client base.

"We are in the process of building a new building," Koenen said. "We recently broke ground and our new building will be roughly two and half times our current size at a cost of \$1.1 million."

Meanwhile, Circle of Concern has made adaptations to operations at its current facility to meet their present needs.

"Our physical space is limited," Koenen said. "We have extended our hours by one hour each day to accommodate more families."

Although the current conditions for area food pantries are challenging, through planning and improving operations these organizations are poised to meet current and future needs of our community.

"Depending on organizations such as Circle of Concern humbles you yet reassures you that there are people there to help," Pellerito said. ☺



Clayton on the Park, the product of a joint project between Conrad Properties and Sunrise Senior Living, now includes 208 living units

Clayton on the Park now a renovated complex for seniors

After a multi-million dollar renovation, the new apartment building includes state-of-the-art facilities to accommodate the needs of its senior residents

Martha Burke
Reporter

As visitors step into Clayton on the Park's lobby, no odd stains or odd smells surround the building. Walking into the modern 24-story building, visitors are greeted with sleek furniture and a friendly staff.

The director of sales, Jenny Rupp, said that in the previous apartment/hotel complex the only existing furnishings were the fish tank, front desk, and a small coffee shop.

Now, the fish tank still stands but after undergoing a multi-million dollar restoration Clayton on the Park looks a lot different. The elegant surroundings include glass art, fireplaces and wood paneling along with a prominent spiral staircase down the center.

The space was once home to the half apartment-half residence complex owned by Concord Properties. The new Clayton on the Park is what Rupp calls a "joint venture" between Conrad Properties and Sunrise Senior Living.

"It was nothing bad," said Rupp. "Conrad had a very successful hotel and apartment complex."

Clayton on the Park combines elegance and charm without "the moans and groans," as Rupp said.

The previous residents of the apartments could have stayed, but knew that the cost of living would go up when the renovation began in October of last year. Although there is no minimum age among residents, the youngest resident is cur-

rently 78. The 208 units include studio, one, two, and three bedroom apartments.

The renovated building now hosts a fitness club, two world-class restaurants, a spa and salon, an art studio, a theatre and a library.

"It's not just the accommodations, it's the lifestyle enrichment program," Rupp said. "The third floor is really what we're selling."

Residents have many options on the third floor, like the art studio, where they can do several projects. They can also engage in a Wii bowling game. This is different from standard bingo games and is "an active, engaging approach," as Rupp said.

The third floor also contains the fitness area. Clayton on the Park provides on-staff health care, and is a liaison in helping residents in contacting doctors for medical conditions. There is also a private room for residents to meet with the doctors that come to visit.

The element of convenience plays a huge factor in the daily lives of residents as they can view the schedule of daily activities on a television screen in their fully equipped apartment.

After exiting the 360-degree veranda that is the third floor, visitors see a bistro and a casual restaurant. The patio that was located on a slab of concrete earlier is now an enclosed area with a beautiful wood floor.

Walking down the stairs, visitors are greeted with more smiling staff, and the serene atmosphere of Clayton on the Park is maintained by its residents.

Club encourages intercultural dialogue between CHS students

Mary Blackwell
Editor

Homosexuality, racism, and gender issues are all subjects that people shy away from. The newly formed Diversity Club plans to address these issues as they apply to CHS students.

"We're interested in basically anything that makes someone different and it's usually things that make people different that are sources of tension," junior Hannah Webber said. "Things like religion, gender, race, sexual orientation, ethnicity. We are trying to talk about stuff that doesn't usually get addressed [and] that causes tension."

The idea for Diversity Club came from CHS's racial dialogue, a two day workshop created to discuss race relations and its affect on achievement. The racial dialogue has been going on for the past five years, and a diverse group of students was chosen to participate.

"As a part of that workshop we also talk about all the issues around what we call the 'isms,'" faculty advisor and art teacher Russell Vanacek said. "Racism, sexism, homophobia and gay oppression-all the different forms of oppression and ways in which people are discriminated against for differences."

The Diversity Club has been in the making in past years, but it all came together this year. Its first meeting was Nov 5.

"A couple of students that have been involved with racial dialogue in the past couple of years have tried to start a group, and we initially called it S.U.R.E.," Vanacek said. "It was an acronym for Students United for Racial Equality. But they decided they wanted to change the name and revise the group this year to make it their own."

One of the areas in which lack of diversity is present at CHS is in the classroom.

"I moved to St. Louis from Chicago, and I encountered a lot of racial and economic divisions that I didn't feel nearly as much in Chicago," Webber said. "I take a lot of advanced classes and they are mostly white and Asian. I feel like it's very pronounced."

Racial divisions in the classroom are a national trend as well as a trend at CHS.

"One of the things that the administration and the community has been aware of for a long time is that there is a gap between the achievement of the black students and the white students," Vanacek said. "The gap has always been there and one of the things that I think is important to examine about why the gap exists is that it is a level playing field for every student that attends CHS? Is everybody prepared to meet the academic standards of this place on an equal footing? It seems by the numbers, like test scores and statistics, that that doesn't happen."

The gap in academic achievement is one of the challenges the diversity club plans to take on.

"I think the other thing is too, as a community that has high academic achievement, that the students get to be a part of ensuring that all students reach their potential," Vanacek said. "If some of the students are really, really good at math they can tutor students that aren't; set up a network of students for studying or mentors that can help with homework."

In addition to holding discussions about diversity, the Di-



versity Club is tentatively planning to sell t-shirts, hold a postage stamp design contest, watch movies, go to plays, go bowling and eat ethnic food.

"We currently have I think about twelve members which I think is not bad starting off but we'd really like people to join us," Webber said. "But we're going to work really hard to try to drum up interest and to get a lot of people to come. That's sort of the whole point of the club."

The three students taking leadership roles in the club are Webber, and seniors Abby Eisenburg and Leah Eby.

"The three students that came to me were white and Jewish and I think we need to talk to some of the Asians and the 'non-U.S.-ers' coming from other countries that go to school here," Vanacek said. "But that was one of my issues, that if we are going to be the Diversity Club we should probably model being diverse. That hasn't been solved but it's our plan to solve it."

In order to set an example of diversity, the Diversity Club plans to collaborate with the Black Student Union, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Jewish Student Union, and Gay Straight Alliance.

"So if there is an issue of say an Asian student that isn't a United States citizen, what are some of the cultural differences they are going to come up against and why is it hard to work it out?" Vanacek said. "We all need to understand why those issues are in place. And so I think there's an awareness and an education that needs to happen about diversity."

“We’re interested in basically anything that makes someone different and it’s usually things that make people different that are sources of tension.”
Hannah Webber
Junior

Diversity Club Mission Statement: “We are a voluntary student group that will work as an umbrella organization to work with all efforts at CHS to create a safe environment for students of different backgrounds- racial, ethnic, socio/economic. We want a diverse and aware learning environment that promotes and sustains support for student achievement in all areas at CHS.”

Objectives:

- Help facilitate dialogs in classrooms
- Organize diverse representation in extracurricular activities
- Provide opportunities to facilitate the formation of relationships across perceived barriers

Washington University in St. Louis

Department of Music Event Highlights: Fall 2008

Event information and complete listing: (314) 935-5566

November 24, 3:00 PM – Master Class: Orli Shaham, piano
E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall,
560 Music Center (at Trinity and Delmar)

December 7, 3:00 PM – Messiah Sing-Along
Graham Chapel, Danforth Campus

December 1, 7:00 PM – Jazz Combo Concert
Theater, 560 Music Center (at Trinity and Delmar)

December 8, 8:00 PM – Flute Choir
Graham Chapel, Danforth Campus

December 1, 8:00 PM – Student Recital
Graham Chapel, Danforth Campus

December 9, 8:00 PM – Chamber String Ensembles
Holmes Lounge, Ridgley Hall, Danforth Campus

December 3, 8:00 PM – Jazz Band
Danforth University Center Formal Lounge

December 11, 8:00 PM – Guitar Gala
Graham Chapel, Danforth Campus

December 5, 8:00 PM – Concert Choir
Graham Chapel, Danforth Campus

December 12 & 13, 8:00 PM – Opera Scenes
Karl Unrath Hall Lounge, Danforth Campus

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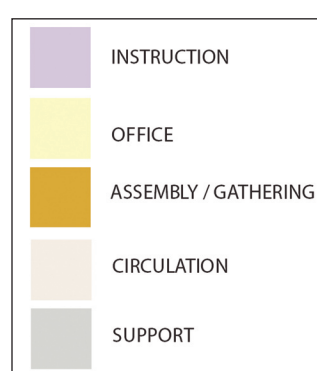
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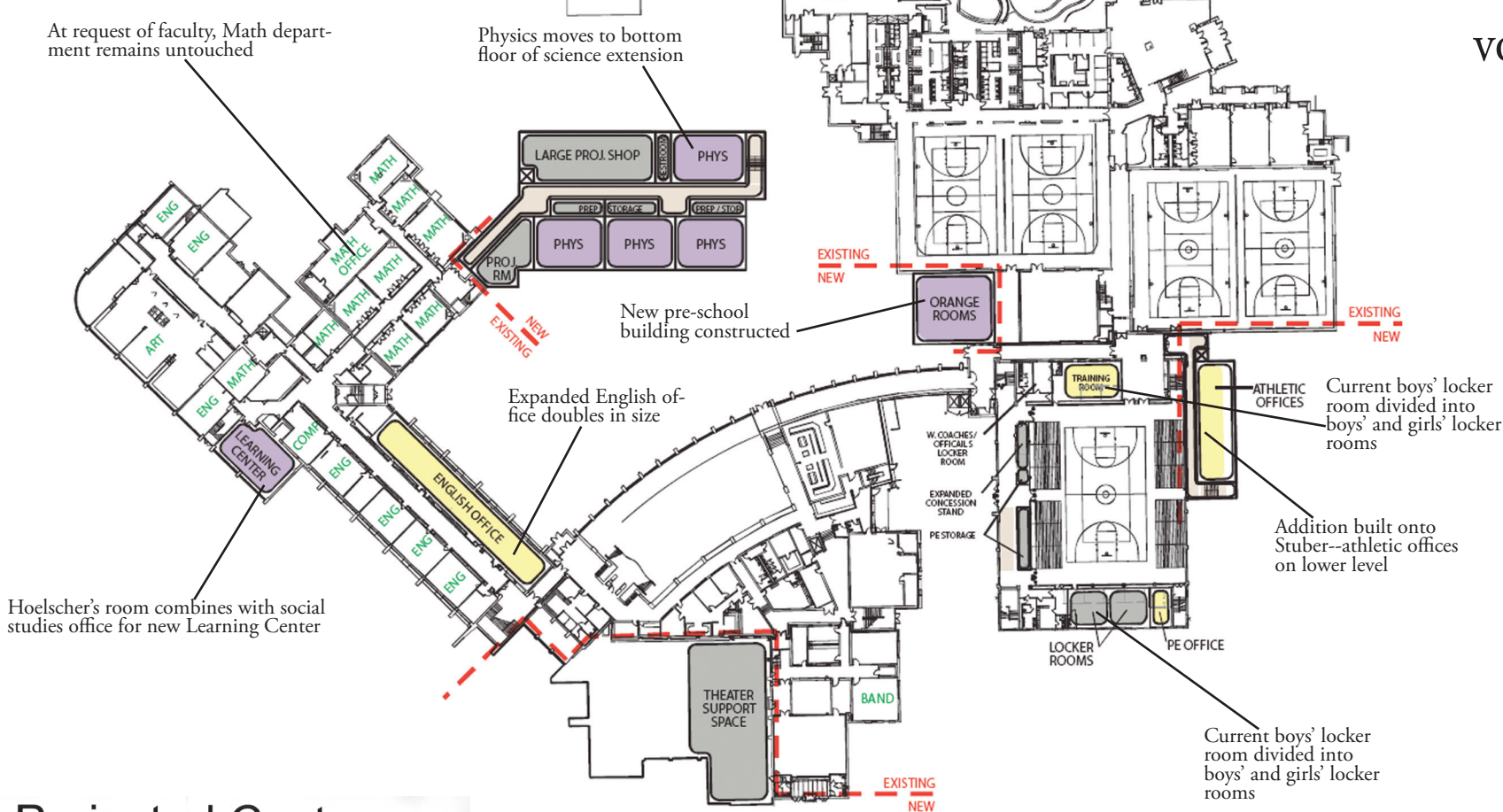
- 36.7 M**
The current estimated cost of renovating the high school.
- 19.61 M**
The current estimated cost of renovating the middle school.
- 68.61 M**
The estimated cost of the Blueprint for tomorrow renovations for the entire district.
- 238**
The tax increase in dollars per year for a \$500,000 house under the expected bond issue.
- 16,800**
Square feet of new science classroom space in the three floor proposal.
- 1,000**
Square feet of proposed space for the science office.
- 3,000**
Square feet of proposed space for the English office. The additional space will accommodate student conferences.
- 4,685**
Increase in square feet dedicated to science under the proposed three-story plan as opposed to the one story plan.
- 900**
Square feet of proposed space for the renovated trainer's office
- 2,800**
Square feet of proposed space broadcast news, newspaper, and yearbook.



'Blueprint' Moves Forward

Clayton's Blueprint 4 Tomorrow, a \$69 million plan to revamp every building in the district, is nearing the end of the general planning stage. If the plans are approved by the Board of Education, the community will vote in April on whether or not to pass a bond issue to fund the project. Here's what may be in store for CHS.

Lower Level



Building	Cost in 2010 dollars
Family Center	\$1.84M
Captain Elementary	\$3.81M
Glenridge Elementary	\$3.01M
Meramec Elementary	\$3.36M
WMS	\$19.61M
CHS	\$36.70M
Maintenance	\$1.84M
TOTAL	\$68.61M

In the case of science on the top floor, PROGRAM REASSIGNED TO LOWER AND MIDDLE LEVELS OF NEW ADDITION

RELOCATED PROGRAM	Count	Total Area
FACS space (replacement and additional, incl. storage)	2,400 sf	
Broadcast journalism space	2,800 sf	
One relocated computer lab	650 sf	
Relocated World Language Office	1,150 sf	
Relocated World Language Classrooms	5,245 sf	
Relocated World Language Lab	1,200 sf	
2 Business classrooms (@ 575 sf ea)	1,150 sf	
Total	14,595 sf	
Net Available	19,426 sf	
Unprogrammed	4,831 sf	

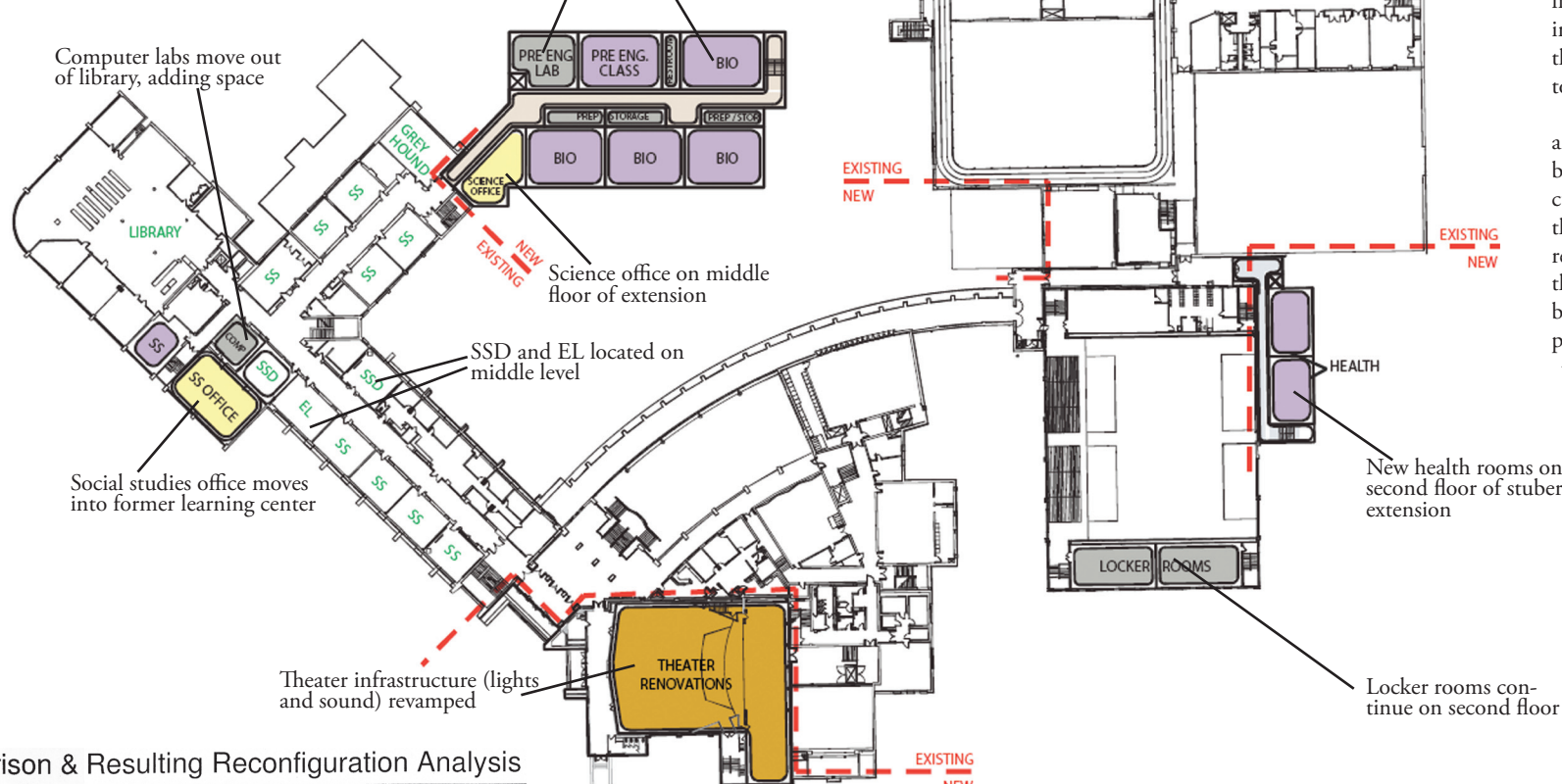
CLAYTON HIGH SCHOOL - Science Program Comparison & Resulting Reconfiguration Analysis

Room Name	Science on Three Floors		Expanded Science on One Floor	
	Occ.	NSF/unit	Count	Total Area
x Chemistry class lab	24	1,400 nsf	4	5,600 nsf
x Biology class lab	24	1,400 nsf	4	5,600 nsf
x Physics class lab	24	1,400 nsf	4	5,600 nsf
x Flexible class lab	24	1,400 nsf	1	1,400 nsf
x General use classroom	24	960 nsf	1	960 nsf
x Pre-Engineering/Robotics Lab	24	1,400 nsf	1	1,400 nsf
x Pre-Engineering classroom	24	960 nsf	1	960 nsf
x Large Projects Shop	28	2,000 nsf	1	2,000 nsf
x Chemistry prep room	330	nsf	3	990 nsf
x Biology prep room	330	nsf	3	990 nsf
x Physics prep room	330	nsf	3	990 nsf
x Project Rooms	1,000	nsf	2	2,000 nsf
x Large Project Commons Space	650	nsf	1	650 nsf
x Faculty Office	83	nsf	1	83 nsf
Subtotal		29,140 nsf		24,455 nsf
		44,931 gsf		37,623 gsf

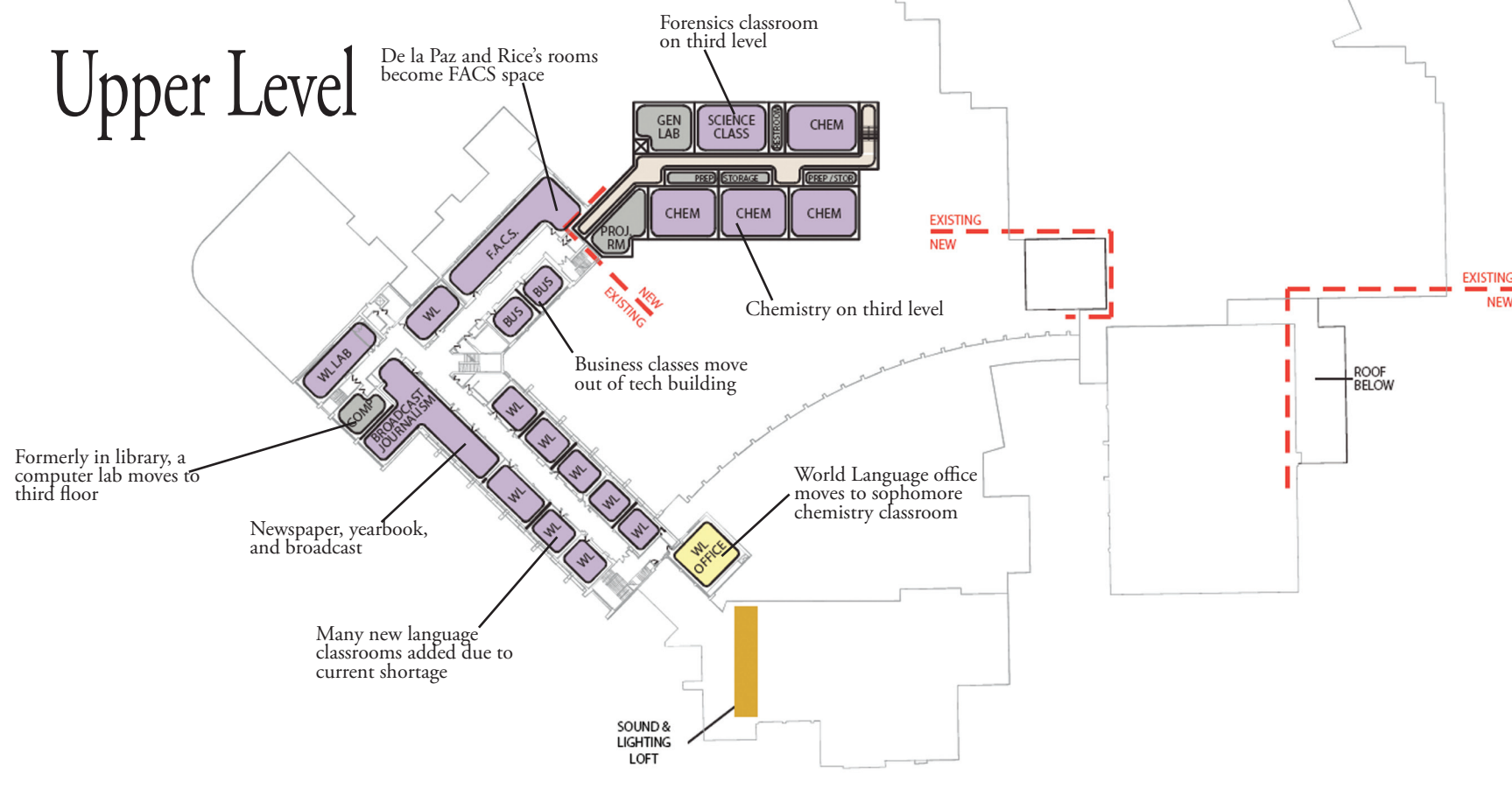
CLAYTON HIGH SCHOOL - Program Summary

NEW SPACE	RENOVATED SPACE
12 new science classrooms @ 1,400 ea	FACS space (replacement and additional, incl. storage)
Science prep/storage space	Broadcast journalism space
2 Project rooms (science, @ 1,000 ea)	Relocated Learning Center space
General flexible lab	Relocated computer labs
General classroom	Relocated Social Studies Office
Pre-engineering lab	Relocated Social Studies Classroom
Pre-engineering classroom	Relocated World Language Office
Large projects shop (science & pre-engineering)	Relocated World Language Classrooms
Science office	Relocated World Language Lab
Science commons	2 Business classrooms (@ 575 sf ea)
2 Health classrooms (@ 850 ea)	English department office
Athletics & PE office	Special School District
Relocated Orange Rooms (incl. EDCP office & general storage)	Locker room renovations
District Print Shop	Trainer room
Athletic storage	Conversion space for Stuber
Vehicle bay	PE Offices
District wide storage	PE Storage

Middle Level



Upper Level



Jeremy Bleeke
Editor-in-Chief

Several years ago the CHS science department approached the administration about a facilities upgrade. Now, after countless meetings, discussions and negotiations, that original proposal has grown to become the 'Blueprint 4 Tomorrow'—a district-wide plan which has recently taken several crucial steps toward fruition.

Over the past year, the architectural firm Christner—the same firm which drew up the plans for the Center—has been working on several proposals for CHS. Through a series of faculty, staff, and administrative meetings, a likely proposal has surfaced—"likely" because of concerns voiced by the science department, which will be addressed later in this article.

Chris Tennill, Director of Communications for the Clayton School District, says that since the current plans are just looking at available space and not infrastructure issues such as plumbing, lighting or circulation, they are still fairly flexible at this point.

"In terms of whether [CHS] is going to look exactly like [the plans] when it's all done, it's probably not," Tennill said. "The master plan is supposed to be like a living, fluid document—it's supposed to change and evolve."

That being said, the current proposal is still a relatively good indication of what the final plans will look like. Tennill said that the emphasis of the proposal was to accommodate the needs of the teachers and students. Although it includes several additions, the plans are not meant to accommodate an increase in enrollment.

"A lot of the things that we're looking at doing in this master plan are really focused on making our buildings fit the curriculum and programs that we have right now," Louise Losos, Principal

at the time, said. "The difficulty is that it's much harder to retrofit an existing classroom," Losos said. "And [the classrooms in the addition] are all 'right-sized,' so they're bigger, and we can't move the exterior wall so [the current classrooms] are not going to get bigger."

In the current plans, with science entirely in the extension, the world language department would be moved to the upper level of the building, gaining classrooms it desperately needs.

"Right now [world languages] only has four classrooms, and there's like nine or ten teachers," Losos said.

Sharing the space with world languages would be F.A.C.S. and Journalism. In the proposal, broadcast news, newspaper, and yearbook would all share one large room. F.A.C.S. would go into Rex Rice and Gabriel De la Paz's rooms.

Losos is currently uncertain what form the F.A.C.S. program will take in the future, and how the facilities will reflect that.

"This is an opportunity, I believe, to discuss the future of the program—where do we believe that program ought to be heading," Losos said. "Right now it's a traditional Home-Ed, with home cooking and sewing. Some schools are going the culinary route with their cooking programs, with pre-professional, restaurant-style kitchens. Or do we want to have a cooking component at all? I am not, by the way, looking to just cancel the FACS program. I'm not saying that's not a possibility, but I think it's more important to ask 'What will benefit our students most?'"

In addition to the main body of the school other facilities will also be undergoing renovation.

"The theater will get a gut rehab," Losos said. "It needs major improvements in the sound system, the lighting system, and the internal

workings of it, and there were plans to tear it down, or lift the roof—none of that's going to happen, but it gets what it absolutely needs, which is an upgrade in the interior workings of it."

At Stuber, the current plans include expanded locker room space, a two-story addition which will house athletic offices and health rooms, and an upgraded training room.

"Right now the trainer's room is under-sized and it's dilapidated, but more importantly it's kind of isolated," Losos said. "And our trainer, no matter what gender, is going to be working with athletes of the other gender, so what we did is we took this guy's locker room and my thinking is I'd like to put glass doors or something here, even though it goes out on the gym, so that we don't put our trainer in awkward positions."

Since the Tech building, which houses the preschool classrooms, would be torn down under the current proposal, the plans include a building alongside Stuber gym to make up this lost space.

With the plans in the stages of finalization, they will go to the Steering Committee for final approval before being sent to the Board of Education. If the Board votes for them then come April, Clayton voters will have to decide whether or not to support a bond issue to fund the plans.

Losos hopes that the community will pass the bond issue.

"Apparently our tax rate went down this year," Losos said. "But the amount it went down is almost the amount we're asking for in April, so to me that's a huge point to make, that it could actually be a net neutral proposition for voters. The timing just turned out to be poor for us in that regard. Beyond that, Clayton voters have never turned down a bond issue, and I hope this isn't the first time."

Should the plans pass, the district will put out a Request for Proposal to be taken up by competing architectural firms. A firm will be picked and, if all goes well, construction could begin as early as this summer. Again, this largely depends on which plan the school ultimately decides to go through with.

"If you're doing a three-story science building, then aside from tearing down the cottage and the industrial tech building, they can build this without really impacting what's going on in school," Tennill said. "The idea is that they get this done, and then everybody moves into the new building, and as soon as everyone's moved into the new building you go through and gut the rest. To do [science] on a single floor is not a summer time project."

Although the financial and logistical challenges are daunting, Losos believes that this is an exciting time for the high school, and the added space will be indisputably beneficial. However, in the midst of the clamor and excitement, she hopes that essence and soul of CHS won't get lost.

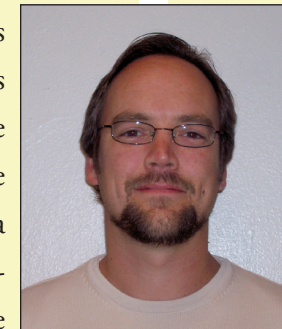
"The high school used to be [much smaller], and it had about 550 to 700 kids—very intimate," Losos said. "If a kid skipped class he couldn't go play basketball in Stuber. English teachers tell me that their offices used to be right along the pathway to the cafeteria, so if they needed a kid for a conference they could just stand outside and grab them... If we built this I would like to challenge the architects to figure out ways to retain the intimacy. I don't want us to become just a generic, biggish high school."

Teacher Perspectives

Pro

I like that all teachers are in one office, one contiguous set of offices, so that makes conferencing easier. It's difficult when we have all these satellite office locations, to have a sense of unity as a department, so we like that aspect a lot. We'd love to have classrooms dedicated to English, and from the looks of it there will be.

English



John Ryan

Con

I'm worried that the classrooms won't get updated on our level, and that would concern me. I mean these haven't been touched except for new tile, new paint, in decades. So we would feel a little bit left out if the rooms were not sufficiently renovated.

World Language



Teresa Schafer

I think that by getting bigger we might become more isolated. Back in the day the school was smaller—700 people or so—the cafeteria was smaller, the teachers had a lounge, and there was so much community, but now the bigger we get, the more isolated we might become unless the plan is designed to be more connected.

Everybody will have more space, and in general it will be a wonderful improvement to our school. Supposedly [foreign languages] will get double the rooms. Right now we have few foreign language classrooms for 11 teachers, but now we'll have supposedly eight, and we will have a bigger office.

Science



Mike Howe

I'm excited for some possible renovation; some of our labs were built before even I was born—that was a long time ago. Three floors would be brand new space for every classroom, so that's a plus, and it would be more efficient in terms of building the building and that's a plus.

I think we have a science community here at Clayton, which involves interaction between people. I think a one-floor model better supports interactions between faculty and students and makes science feel like more of a community. So that's a real plus for a one-floor model.

I think it will be nice for the CTE department to have renovated facilities since they work in the oldest building in the complex, and to be closer together than they are now, so we can actually communicate better. The journalism department definitely needs a bigger space and a studio.

Journalism



Nancy Freeman

On a personal level I have mixed feelings about getting rid of the cottage. While it's physically in need of a lot of repairs it has a certain emotional charm, and a lot of memories. I also don't really like the idea of being up on the top floor when we're here so late at night and sometimes on weekends for deadline.

Long-Overdue Justice

Investigative reporter Jerry Mitchell dedicated his career to the pursuit of justice. Mitchell, a 2006 Pulitzer Prize finalist, has helped to reopen Civil Rights era cases involving murderers who were let off without punishment.

Hannah Novack

Editor

Jerry Mitchell has become a household name in Ku Klux Klan circles. Mitchell will call some of the most reviled figures to arrange a catfish dinner with them. These men do not shy away from engaging in long conversations about race and the American society. And after the evening is over, Mitchell will proceed to have these men put in jail for some of the most heinous crimes ever committed.

Mr. Mitchell is an investigative reporter for the Clarion-Ledger in Jackson, Mississippi.

He attended graduate school for journalism at Ohio State University. Mitchell attributes the best piece of journalism advice he has ever received to an editor in Hot Springs, Texas at the beginning of his career.

"He said, 'Have you ever read 'All the President's Men?'" and I said, 'No,'" Mitchell said. "He said 'Read the book, but don't just read it like a regular reader, read it like a reporter, and study how they used attribution in their story.'"

After reading the book about the investigation into the Watergate Scandal by Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward, Mitchell said he was inspired to become an investigative reporter.

"[The book] showed me how to be an investigative reporter, because the toughest thing is you know what the truth is, but how do you attribute it?" Mitchell said.

When Mitchell joined the Clarion-Ledger staff in 1986, he covered court cases in Mississippi.

For the past two decades, Mitchell has been heavily involved in working to reopen cases that occurred during the 1960s Civil Rights Movement.

"I was pretty ignorant about the Civil Rights Movement until '89 when I saw the movie 'Mississippi Burning,'" Mitchell said. "It was really educational for me."

The film, based upon a true story, depicts an FBI investigation of the 1964 murders of three civil rights workers: Michael Schwerner, James Chaney and Andrew Goodman.

"After the movie was over, I had the whole film dissected for me," Mitchell said.

In January of 1989, his freshly peaked interest in the era became applicable when Mitchell got a glimpse of a few documents written by the Mississippi Sovereignty Commission. This commission was a segregationist spy agency that worked to dismantle the then-rising civil rights sentiments for integration and equal rights under the law. This spying commission was actually supported by the Mississippi state government and operated between 1956 and 1974. Except for a few papers, a 1977 mandate ordered that all other documents by the Commission be sealed from public record until 2027.

"I became fascinated by this Mississippi Sovereignty Commission because, for me, if someone says I can't have something, I want it about a thousand times more," Mitchell said. "So I gradually found sources that would leak more and more of these Sovereignty documents."

Through this method of research, Mitchell happened upon some incriminating documents concerning the case of Byron De La Beckwith.

On the night of June 12, 1963, civil rights leader and heavily involved member of the NAACP Medgar Evers was shot in the back outside his home in Jackson, Mississippi. The man lurking across the street, hidden amongst the bushes, aiming the gun was Byron De La Beckwith. In 1964, Beckwith, a staunch white supremacist and a participant in KKK acts of terror, was tried twice for the assassination of Evers. However, the cases, presented to all-white juries, both ended in mistrials.

Mitchell sat down for a six-hour interview with Beckwith, in person, in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

"It was really fascinating," Mitchell said. "I figured going into it that he wouldn't admit [to the murder of Evers], so I really was more interested in what made him a racist and what made him tick—it was a very interesting interview."

Mitchell recalls an interesting occurrence at the end of this interview.

"I'll never forget this," Mitchell said. "So after six hours, it had gotten dark, and [Beckwith] insisted on walking me to the car. So we get there and he blocks my way to the car and says: 'If you write positive things about white people, God will reward you. If you write negative things about white people, God will punish you, and if he doesn't punish you directly, several individuals will do it for him.'"

After tireless investigation, Mitchell wrote an expository story concerning the case. The article did not contain positive things about this particular white person, but what the article did contain was the truth.

"On October 1, 1989, I reported that at the same time of persecution for Beckwith, the Mississippi Sovereignty Commission was actually helping the defense," Mitchell said.

After the story concerning the new developments of the case went to print, the wife of Medgar Evers, Myrlie Evers, asked for the case to be reopened.

"And the cries just got louder and louder for the state to do something," Mitchell said.

In December 1990, Beckwith was indicted and in February of 1994, he was convicted for the murder of Medgar Evers and sentenced to life in prison at the age of 74.

Jerry Mitchell was portrayed in the 1996 film "Ghost of Mississippi," directed by Rob Reiner, which depicted the reopening of the Medgar Evers case.

Mitchell's next investigation concerned the bombing that killed civil rights activist Vernon Dahmer, a man who dedicated his life to registering people to vote. Ku Klux Klan members bombed the home of the Dahmer family on January 10, 1966. Vernon's wife and children escaped the burning house, but, unfortunately, Mr. Dahmer did not.

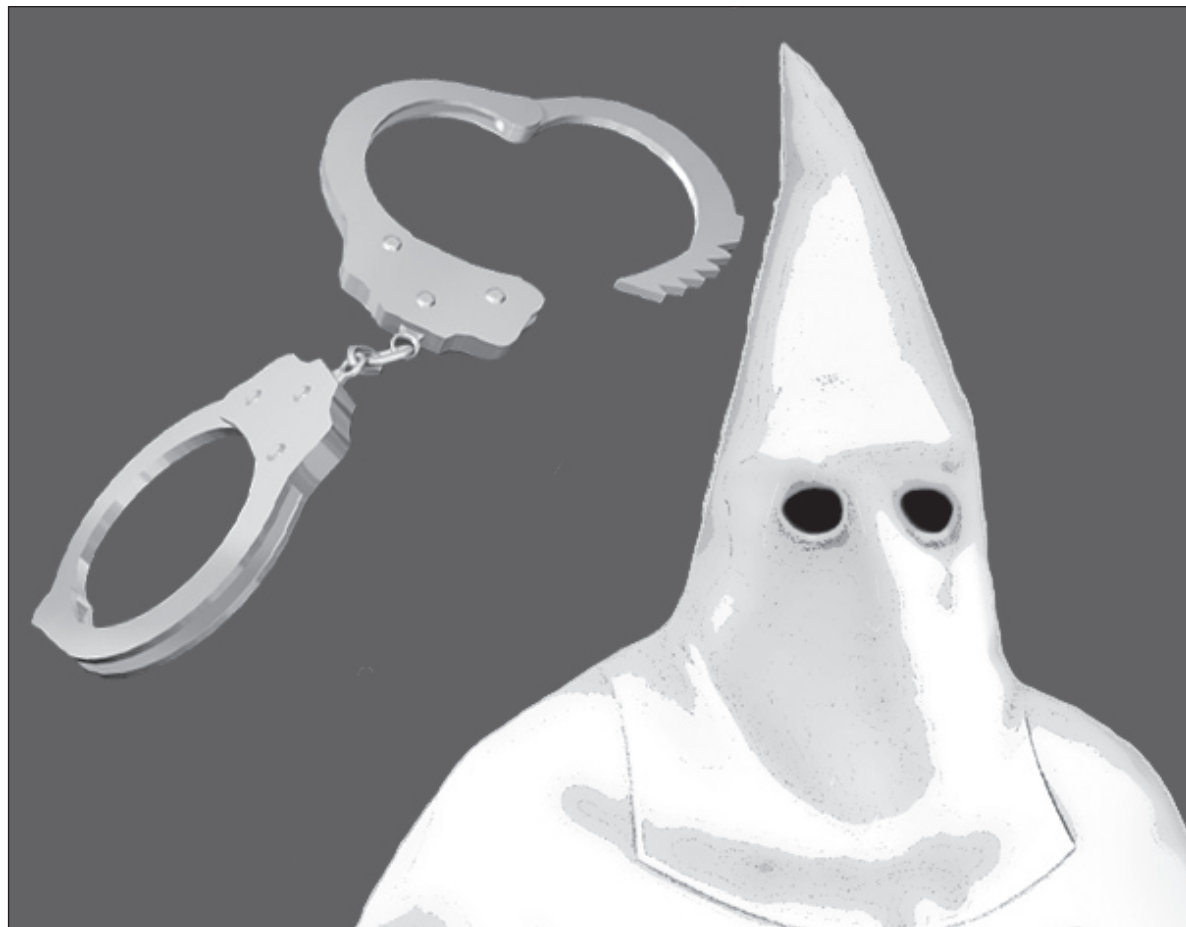
Billy Ray Pitts was one of the few men convicted for the murder of Vernon Dahmer. However, after Mitchell researched Pitts's case, he found that Pitts, despite a guilty verdict, had never served a single day in jail for his life sentence. When Mitchell delved deeper into the investigation to find out why this was so, he was told that Pitts was unable to serve because Pitts was in the witness protection program. Mitchell did not buy that explanation, which was soon disproved due to the fact that the witness protection program did not exist during the time of Pitts's conviction.

Interestingly enough, Mitchell found Billy Ray Pitts's contact information on Switchboard.com and immediately called him up to arrange an extended interview with another KKK member and murderer. Soon after, Pitts was sent to jail to carry out his sentence.

In the same case, Mitchell uncovered new information that contributed to the reopening of the case of a man named Sam Bowers. In the late 1960s, the accused Bowers, leader of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, went to trial four times because of information that he had ordered the Dahmer attack, but all four trials ended in mistrials.

In the spring of 1997, Mitchell received a call from a former-KKK member named Bob Stringer. Stringer told Mitchell that he had heard Sam Bowers give the order for the bombing.

Bowers was reprosecuted in 1998, convicted, and sentenced



MCT Campus/Carol Iskiwicz

to life in prison at the age of 74.

Mitchell was involved in another major case that occurred during the Civil Rights Movement.

On the Sunday morning of September 15, 1963, as congregants of the 16th Street Baptist Church assembled before services began, tragedy and violence struck. The Birmingham church that had been heavily involved in civil rights activism and one of the initiators of the entire Movement was bombed. The church bombing killed four girls, all 14 years of age or younger (Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley) and injured 22 others. The bombing sparked widespread outrage across the country against anti-integrationist acts of terrorism.

"I worked on the Birmingham case quite accidentally," Mitchell said. "I was researching the last living suspects."

One man's alibi caused suspicion in Mitchell's mind. Bobby Cherry claimed that on the night the Ku Klux Klan members planted the dynamite in the church he was at home watching wrestling on television.

"So I went and checked the TV records, and found there was no wrestling on TV that night," Mitchell said.

Mitchell's new critical piece of evidence contributed to the reopening of Cherry's case in 2000. Cherry was sentenced to life in prison in 2002 at the age of 72.

The reporter's most recent investigation involved the case depicted in the film that struck such a chord with Mitchell—the Mississippi Burning case.

Michael Schwerner, James Chaney and Andrew Goodman were active members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), a civil rights organization. The three young men were campaigning in Mississippi when their car was pulled over by the deputy sheriff of Neshoba County, MS, Cecil Price. Price took the three men to jail, and released them shortly after, around 10:30 p.m. Almost immediately after their release from jail, the activists encountered a group of angry KKK members intent on murdering them. Price, among other men involved in the murders, was sentenced to six years in prison, but no one was charged with murder.

Edgar Ray Killen, a Baptist minister who orchestrated the

murders, was one of three men whose trials ended in mistrials. Mitchell introduced new witness to the case and the Clarion-Ledger reported that Sam Bowers attempted to foil the case concerning Edgar Ray Killen.

Killen was found guilty for three counts of manslaughter in 2005 at 80 years old.

Mitchell has based his career on his belief that it is never too late for justice to be served because "these guys killed people and got away with it for a really, really long time."

But rarely do these men show remorse.

"No, none, zero [showed remorse]," Mitchell said, "with one exception. Pitts eventually ended up apologizing for Dahmer's murder and asked for his wife's forgiveness—and she forgave him. I was standing there when he did it."

Because Mitchell describes his method as "obsessive," he picks one case at a time to examine exhaustively.

"[You just have to] print what you got and hopefully inspire authorities to do something about it," Mitchell said.

His extreme dedication has proven successful time and time again. Another reason for his strong record of putting murderers away is his knowledge of the court system that originates from his first days at the Clarion-Ledger.

"I have to piece these cases back together again," Mitchell said. "I find rabbit trails and follow them, and then I have to turn around and ask 'Is more needed?' Because I covered courts for so many years, I know what you need legally for a case."

Mitchell has received much acclaim for his comprehensive work in the field of investigative reporting. He has received more than 20 national journalism awards, including, in 2006, being a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

Mitchell values his position as a journalist.

"We need investigative or watch dog reporting now more than ever," Mitchell said.

Mitchell describes his very fortuitous career of investigative reporting and the path he has traveled that has led him to where he is today.

"It was not a plan, it was all very accidental," Mitchell said. "It's like what Fannie Lou Hammer said: 'you don't choose what you do, it chooses you.'" ☺

State replaces
MAP tests with
mandatory
end-of-course
exams

Testing, 1

does caution that grading a test that does not relate to a course curriculum could be unfair to the students and teachers.

"If it's a good, valid, reliable test, then maybe attaching some point value towards a student's grade is a positive incentive for a student to take the test seriously," Hoelscher said. "However, if our teachers have not designed the test nor had any input in its grading, then it doesn't seem to connect to a grade in that teacher's course."

Until the end-of-course exams become fully implemented in Missouri high schools, teachers are left to wonder apprehensively whether or not the testing will effectively measure the course-level capabilities of students.

"I believe we are in a wait-and-see mode, trying to find our way through the new system," Losos said. "In the end, testing and state accountability standards are here to stay, and I know our students and teachers will shine no matter how they are tested." ☺

Situation at Normandy brings HIV to forefront of community consciousness

Normandy, 1

for life. Not only about HIV/AIDS, but also about what to do when someone cuts their finger while cooking or when someone gets a bloody nose."

At the same time, from an early age, students are exposed to health topics through community and group programs.

"We have always had a program from 4th grade through high school, now called All About Choices," Hudson said.

The program brings students together to discuss making healthy decisions. Last year, with Gear Up Inc. a group of freshmen held an entire session on sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and HIV. At Normandy High School, through designated programs and even curriculum, students have been exposed to such topics as HIV/AIDS."

For now, the St. Louis County Health Department will continue its investigation at Normandy High School.

"The St. Louis County Health De-

partment is continuing their investigation," Hudson said. "Whenever they find someone who has contracted the HIV virus they try to find out how that person could have contracted the virus, and who else could have been exposed. This is simply what the Health Department is doing at Normandy High School."

While the St. Louis Health Department wraps up its investigation, it is now time for the community to continue learning and advocating healthy sexual decision-making.

Normandy is an example of the rising numbers of Sexually Transmitted Diseases amongst adolescents within the past years.

"In general, we know that most cases of STDs are most prevalent amongst youth, 15-24, a large block being from 15-19," Gunn said. "The main STDs found amongst the youth are Gonorrhea and Chlamydia."

Hudson agrees, adding in the importance of education in preventing the spread of HIV and other STDs.

"According to recent statistics, STDs are on the rise with young adults," Hudson said. "This is a community issue that people need to be concerned and involved with."

More importantly though, I think a lot more needs to be done in terms of educating people about STDs and HIV. If I surveyed 100 people and asked them a narrow question about how a person can contract HIV, I think the results would show that education should be a top priority." ☺

Highway construction enters new phase, presents new challenges

I-64 Construction, 1

be a bit more challenging," Galvin said. "The roads in the city of St. Louis are more congested and narrower than on the west half."

Over the course of the year, some students have felt the challenges when trying to head towards areas like Creve Coeur.

"The highway construction makes it more difficult to get to rowing at Creve Coeur Lake everyday after school," junior Kate Neville said. "The traffic is especially awful when we come back home. This year we are using Page and Ladue instead of the highway."

Some students have found that they have to leave much earlier and listen to traffic reports while the western portion of the highway is closed.

"It makes it more difficult to get to my skating lessons," freshman Lian Law-

ton said. "I leave an hour earlier than I did before. Luckily, I will not be very affected by the closing of the eastern portion of the highway."

Parts of major roads like Big Bend and Hanley will be closed during the next year to rebuild bridges. Individuals are advised to find alternate routes to avoid those closed areas.

"We anticipate the worst traffic problems on some of the key east-west roads like Forest Park Parkway, Clayton and Manchester," Wilson said. "We are even more concerned about the north-south roads. During the east half construction, the main north-south roads that will be open will be Brentwood, McCausland and Kingshighway. Hanley will close immediately and then Big Bend will close June 1, 2009."

Difficulties also arose with coordinating such a large number of employees and finishing items in a specific time

frame.

"This project is the largest contract in MoDOT's history at about a half billion dollars," Wilson said. "We are building 10 miles, 12 interchanges, six overpasses and a new I-170 interchange in less than three years. There are anywhere from 300 to 400 people working on I-64 on any given day. The challenge is coordinating all this work like a giant puzzle so everything gets done on time and within budget. We are on time and on budget and more than half way through the three year contract."

Weather was also a major challenge during the first half of highway construction. Crews hope a large amount of snow and rain will stay away from the area next year so they can complete the job faster.

"The biggest challenge during the first half of the project was the weather," Galvin said. "We lost about 45 work days to

rain which really slowed us down. Fortunately we were able to catch up and will even finish early despite all that."

Motorists throughout the area should plan ahead and avoid congested areas during the early morning and evening. They also can use public transportation when heading east for work or sports games.

The fares for public transportation range in price depending on the amount of the time you will spend traveling and your age.

"We recommend motorists identify several alternate roads to use so they have options," Wilson said. "Also try to avoid driving in the peak rush times of 7:15 to 8:15 a.m. and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. MetroLink and MetroBus are also great options to get around this area."

The Metro Link anticipates more riders for sports games and concerts in the downtown area.

"The construction will not affect the number of Rams games I attend because I will use the MetroLink to bypass traffic," freshman Jonathan Knohl said. "There are many other benefits of using MetroLink."

Preparation and planning will ease the stress and traffic on the roads as people get used to the closing of the east portion of the highway.

Individuals are encouraged to use web sites and maps to find different ways to get to work.

Many television networks are advising drivers to be courteous and patient with others on the road.

"It is all about preparation and we are hoping eastbound motorists heed our warning and do that now to avoid major backups," Monica Adams, a Fox 2 News traffic reporter, said. "Westbound drivers behaved, only time will show us whether the eastbound motorists do as well." ☺

Wrapping up fall sports seasons

Fontasha Powell
Senior Managing Editor

VOLLEYBALL



With an 11-10 record and the first conference win Clayton has had in more than 20 years, the volleyball Hounds were proud of their season.

"Our post-season conference win was basically historical," Svrakic said. "We won our conference for the first time in, I don't know, 20 years? I was so proud of everyone and was honored to be a part of the team. It was so monumental."

Svrakic credits the team's season and Conference success to their loyal coaches and hardworking players.

"Our coaches were incredible, motivational and supportive," Svrakic said. "They taught us the mental way to succeed in volleyball, and I honestly don't think they could have done a better job. We all are in love with them."

This season nearly all of the starting

Volleyball Hounds line-up received athletic honors.

Senior Captain Kelsey Haslett stressed that everyone, not just starters contributed to the team.

"Honestly, everybody stepped it up," Haslett said. "Our non-starters did their part to encourage the team and never give up. Our starters always played with 100 percent."

CROSCOUNTRY



The cross country team ended its' season at State in Jefferson City this year, a feat the team had not accomplished in two years.

"We had one girl, Nicole Indovino go to State. It was certainly an improvement from last year, where we had none," said Senior Katie Poplawski.

Poplawski said that what made this year different from previous years is the

coaching staff and the amount of new runners.

"Last year all of the coaches were new, and this year, we had 2 of them returning," Poplawski said. "We also had a lot of freshmen participants, who made a difference. 2 of our best 3 runners were freshmen girls and we had a freshmen boy get a varsity letter as well."

Overall, Poplawski thought that the

season could be considered successful because of the district meet, where many runners ran their best times of the season.

Assistant Coach Erin Sucher agreed. "Districts is where we hope our runners peak so I was incredibly proud of our performance there, it was the most competitive our kids had been all year," Sucher said.

TENNIS



Senior co-captains Alli Holt and Maya Fernandez thought that as a whole, the Varsity tennis team had a positive season.

Fernandez said that the post-season events went especially well.

"There were some really close matches," Holt said. "We ended up making it to State quarterfinals as a team in Kirks-

ville, MO so that was great!"

Holt thought that the Clayton's change in district was a bit of a challenge that the team was forced to overcome.

"The districts changed this year so we were moved into a much harder district," Holt said. "It was really frustrating."

Overall, Holt thought that her experience as a CHS tennis player and cap-

tain has taught her lessons that she will continue to use throughout her lifetime.

"The coaches kept us upbeat and emphasized the importance of just playing your best, not necessarily winning," Holt said. "Clayton tennis has taught me how to be a leader and to make sure everyone around me is having fun, because that's what really matters."

FOOTBALL



The football hounds ended the season with a solid record of 5-5.

"I thought we had a good, solid season," Senior captain, and Free Safety Hal Lewis said. "I thought that it was a nice season to end on as a senior. We all bonded well and a lot of the juniors did a good job. I'm confident that they will take care of the team next year."

Adam Banks, Lewis' co-captain and starting Quarterback, agreed. He thought that the Hounds' last game; a 47-12 victory over Jennings was an exceptionally sweet moment.

"We played well in the Jennings game," Banks said. "The offensive line dominated the whole game."

Lewis credits the team's success to

his strong co-captains Adam Banks and Jacob Waldman. "Adam is our 3-year Varsity starter and he is the heart and soul of our offense. And Jacob leads by example," Lewis said.

"My biggest memory will be that of my teammates," Banks said. "How they worked hard for me and put their bodies on the line for me. I love them."

SWIMMING



The boys swim team season can be considered a success. Independently, each swimmer improved his own personal record, the team bonded and one swimmer even qualified for state.

Senior captain Tom Maxim, whose co-captain was Paden Dubois, thought that although the team struggled during the regular season, the conference meet was phenomenal.

"We did really well at Conference," Maxim said. "Everyone on the team got his best time, and I dropped almost 4

seconds off my time."

Maxim thought that the biggest obstacle the team had to face was its' small size of only 10 swimmers.

"We struggled all year with low numbers," Maxim said. "We would often win individual races, but lose the overall meet because there weren't enough of us. But, we managed to fight through it."

Maxim also gives Dubois credit for the team's success.

"Paden was a solid contributor at meets," Maxim said. "We could always

count on him for wins in his events and he was one of the driving forces on the team. He was definitely a key to the team's success."

Wally Lundt, who founded Water Polo in the state of Missouri, has been coaching the team for a number of years. Maxim also believed that he can be credited for high rankings in Conference.

"Our coach is a really important figure in high school aquatics," Maxim said. "It was an amazing experience to work with him."

SOFTBALL



With a 9-9 record, the Softball hounds were able to wrap up the season with several key wins.

"I thought that it was a good season," Senior co-captain Shannon Harms said. "We bonded well, and the freshmen really stepped up and did a job. I hope that they can help take care of the team next year."

Harms thought the highlight of the season was the game against Brentwood, where the softball hounds were able to

come back and win 16-9.

Although they had no post-season playoffs or conference tournaments, Harms attributes the team's success to hard work and Senior Mary Barber.

"My co-captain, Mary, did a really great job this year," Harms said. "She made First Team All-Conference. She also had a really great batting season."

Harms said that the softball coaches were influential as well.

"Our coaches made sure to push us

during pre-season and encouraged meeting every player on the team."

Above all, Harms believed that her captain and playing experience on the CHS softball.

The team not only taught her personal things about herself, but also lessons that she believes will always be helpful.

"I learned how to open up to people that I didn't know before, and I learned to be leader," Harms said. "I'm confident that next year's team will be great."

FIELD HOCKEY



Although the field hockey team had a losing record, they managed to finish the season with a big win over Rosati-Kain. Because most schools in Missouri don't have field hockey teams, instead of a district tournament, the team goes directly to the state tournament

"We were seated in the middle of the total rankings for post season tournament," Wheelock said. "We won our first game against Rosati 4-1, but we lost our next game against Burroughs, the second seed, 3-2, and that was a hard

loss because the game was so close. At half time we were winning 2-1, but they ended up scoring on twice."

Wheelock said that age-wise, many other schools had an advantage. This year's varsity team boasted a fairly young roster.

"A lot of our players had never been on varsity before," Wheelock said. "There's a big jump in skill level, and game intensity from freshman, or even V, to varsity."

According to Wheelock, the new

head coach contributed positively towards the season.

"Our new coach, Mary Henry, a SLU player, really brought a lot to our team because she played field hockey recently," Wheelock said. "She brought us new ideas, like drills, that she used to use in practice."

More important than the number of wins and losses, Wheelock said being a part of the Clayton field hockey program has taught her how to handle adversity and become a better sport.



Courtesy of Michael Root

CHS hockey starts new season at Shaw Park Ice Rink. They will play outdoors January 24.

A new season at Shaw Park

Schuyler Longmore
Reporter

Loud chants, the crunch of ice and freezing cold winter are present in all rinks through St. Louis.

Hockey season is back. And Clayton will be playing outdoors at their home rink on January 24 at noon.

Fluctuating use and debates about the costs that come with keeping Shaw Park Ice Rink open in Clayton has caused the outdoor rink to be closed at certain times in the past couple years.

The Clayton hockey team is getting a chance to play at the rink this winter against rival Ladue.

"It should be fun," junior defenseman Sam Jacus said. "But difficult? No. Ladue sucks."

Optimism is high among the players and the coaches.

"I'm very excited for the game and I think it is going to be a wonderful event," said head coach Chris Wirtel.

The team is excited for the different setting, but also thinking about potential distractions like location, weather and fans. The game will be broadcast on Charter's high school sports program, which puts some pressure on the success of the event.

"It needs to be a one time a year gimmick," Wirtel said. "If it's kept once a year outside finals, then Mid States can get a lot of press and hopefully get broadcast on Charter."

The game's coverage is bringing some improvements to the rink.

"Mid States is planning on getting more bleachers and room for the players as well," Wirtel said. "This should be pretty well planned."

Weather can affect player's vision and abilities, but also make for a more exciting game.

"We used to play at Cahokia ice rink when I was younger," Jacus said. "It was foggy and cold. I couldn't even see the other side of the ice."

Weather affects vision, a very important part of hockey.

"Weather could have a factor," Wirtel

tel said. "Just look at Buffalo last year when it snowed and the players couldn't get a good shot off due to it."

Clayton isn't an NHL team, but similar distractions apply. Everyday nice weather could affect players too.

"Hopefully it's not sunny," Jacus said. "Overcast and snowing would be nice."

The ice and the glass around the rink can give off a terrible glare with too much sun, so cloudy weather could be a huge advantage.

Clayton hockey games draw a large number of fans.

"The first outdoor event here, added to the fact that we are playing Ladue, should make it the game of the year," Wirtel said.

The cheering will be more than ample.

"The fans are going to be disruptive, but that's a good thing because they will hassle the other team," said Jacus with a smile.

Anyone who's ever been to a Clayton hockey game know Clayton fans are usually an advantage to the Clayton team due to their loud antics and chanting, but this rink would place the fans right up against the glass. This could potentially cause focus problems for all players.

"It will be interesting to see how the guys react to the conditions and if they can stay focused with all that is going on around them," Wirtel said.

Outdoor hockey is a fun and different experience for most hockey players.

"Outdoor hockey is exciting and different," Jacus said. "You have to battle the elements."

The game shouldn't be too different from indoor hockey, but the Clayton team doesn't have any experience with playing outdoors as a team.

"I have never coached in an outdoor game. There just aren't enough outdoor rinks in the area," Wirtel said.

This hockey season should be exciting as the Clayton team dives into the new season. ☺

Key player helps end triumphant season

Evan Green
Editor

At the start of this season, junior running back/linebacker Don Stewart was starring on defense, compiling 37 tackles in the first five games, even though he missed a game due to injury.

While Stewart has always been both a running back and a linebacker, he had only five carries in the first five games. Slowly, but surely though, Stewart turned that around. The next two games of the season (against Imagine College Prep and Affton), Stewart carried the ball for 219 yards on just 26 carries, as well as five touchdowns, four of them rushing. Stewart also led the team in tackling in one of those games.

But what all of this meant for Stewart was that it was building up confidence and experience, both of which seemed to overflow in the Hounds' final game of the season against Jennings.

While the Hounds won 47-12 over the visiting Warriors, Stewart went for a career game, rushing for a whopping 241 yards on just 21 carries for a staggering average per carry of 11.5 yards. Throw in the facts that Stewart had four rushing touchdowns in the game, returned an interception 50 yards for a touchdown, and had seven total tackles, and you have

had yourself quite a game.

"I would have to say the Jennings game was my best of the season," Stewart said.

As the season went on, Stewart essentially completed a major transformation, and not just in games.

"As the season went on, I learned that the more effort you put in at practice and workouts, the better your results are during games," Stewart added.

By doing those things, Stewart became a better overall player.

“

As the season went on, I learned that the more effort you put in at practice and workouts, the better your results are during games.

Don Stewart
Junior

”

"I really improved on the little things, like watching film and studying the plays better," Stewart said.

By the end of the season, Stewart had amassed 562 rushing yards and 10 rushing touchdowns on 65 carries, all of this while only being the teams leading carrier in just three games.

All of this is quite remarkable especially when one considers that Stewart was also second on the team in total tackles with 83, and he tied for the team lead in interceptions. With such a great ending to the season, Stewart is looking for an encore next season.

"We are going to miss the class of 2009, but at the same time, we are going to try and surpass them as well," Stewart said. ☺

Athlete of the Month

Don Stewart



"At the beginning of the season, Don was limited because of his health (shoulder), but once he was healthy, he was able to display his ability on both sides of the ball."

--Coach Sam Horrell

BY THE NUMBERS

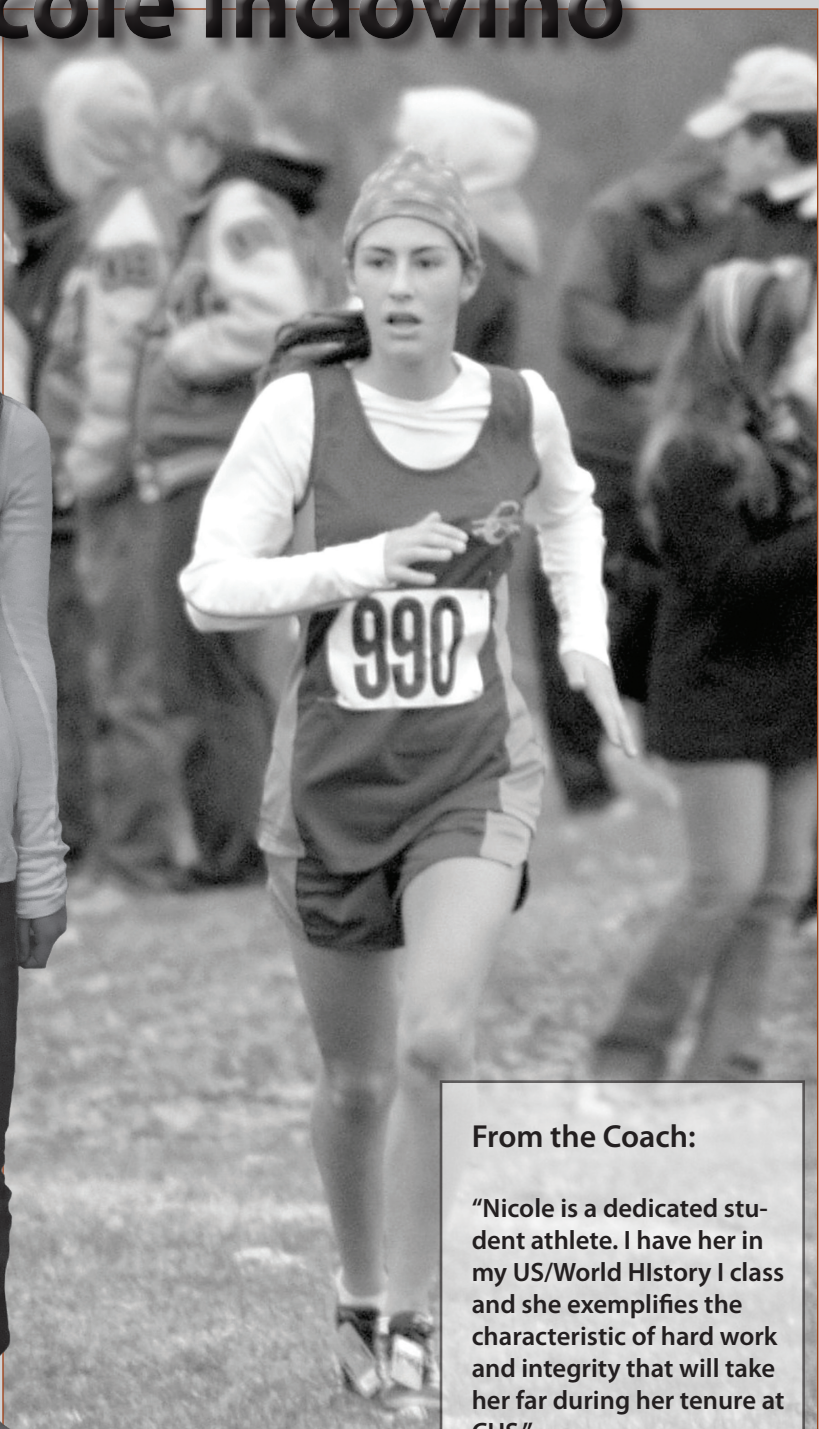
Total Points: 48	Total Rushing Yards: 463
Touchdowns: 8	Tackles: 34

FOOTBALL

RUNNING BACK/LINEBACKER

Athlete of the Month

Nicole Indovino



CROSS COUNTRY

FRESHMAN

From the Coach:

"Nicole is a dedicated student athlete. I have her in my US/World History I class and she exemplifies the characteristic of hard work and integrity that will take her far during her tenure at CHS."
—Coach Kurtis Werner

Freshman distance runner goes to state

Simone Bernstein
Editor

Freshman Nicole Indovino represented the CHS Cross Country team at the state meet in Jefferson City, MO. To qualify for the state meet, Indovino ran an impressive time at the District meet. She was the only CHS runner to qualify for state.

"Lots of hills," Indovino said. "That sums up the extremely difficult state course."

Coming into the season, Nicole had a few years experience running in races around the area.

"Nicole came into the season in better shape than most of the girls on the team," Cross Country Coach Kurtis Werner said. "Even though she was a freshman, she had the understanding of what it took to succeed with hard work at practice that resulted in progressively faster races throughout the season."

Besides her previous running experience, Indovino praises the coaches for teaching her techniques and running strategies to improve her five kilometer race.

"The coaches have taught me how to run a good race," Indovino said. "They taught me to run the second half of the race faster than the first."

Indovino continued to improve as the season progressed. Her time continued to decrease throughout the twelve weeks.

"Nicole rarely missed practice this year," Werner said. "Therefore, she was able to incorporate and build upon each week of our training schedule until she was running her fastest at the right time of the year."

Indovino has motivated the team to work harder and prepare for next year. The coaches hope to send a whole team to state in the next few years.

"Nicole's success encourages the team to work harder and possibly think

about attending state in the future," freshman Marguerite Daw said.

The seniors make up a large percentage of the varsity runners on the team. Runners like Indovino will need to encourage individuals to reduce their times to bring a whole team to state.

"We are losing a lot of our leadership on both the boys and girls squads," Werner said. "Therefore, we will rely on our numerous younger runners, such as Nicole, to step up to the challenge and take an active leadership role on our team. Many of the freshmen did just that this year on both squads. My goal for next year is to improve our conference race and advance a full team from districts to the state meet in Jefferson City, Missouri."

Senior runners believe she will help carry the team during the next few years.

"Nicole is really driven and will help lead the team to success," senior Dylan Cockson said.

Senior Captain Katie Poplawski has high hopes for Indovino's next three seasons on the team.

"Nicole is one of the best girl runners we have had in a few years," Poplawski said. "I'm sure she will keep improving her times."

Her dedication towards running also comes across during the school day in Werner's freshman history class.

"Nicole is a dedicated student athlete," Werner said. "I have her in my US/World History I class and she exemplifies the characteristics of hard work and integrity that will take her far during her tenure at CHS."

Indovino has a few personal and team wishes for the next few years.

"I hope to go back to state in the next three years individually, and as a team," Indovino said. "I also want to encourage more people to join cross country that are enthusiastic about running." ☺

Turf Tales



Evan Green

Dynasty becomes official

The dynasty became official on a cold, windy Friday night in early November.

While the entire season was one of great upsets, the favorites still prevailed.

No, I am not talking about a powerhouse high school sports team; I am talking about the legendary Team Warner Impact soccer team.

Last season, the team surprised many, upsetting the favored senior team that had stars Parker Rawdon and Scott Belsky. The team then went on to further shock the teacher team in the finals in a nail biter that finished 1-0.

That was last year though.

This year, the team came back with the same roster (with the exception of injured senior David Schlessman), and was as prepared as ever to repeat as champions.

The team boasted the six foot five inch senior Syd Warner manning the tiny goals, with senior soccer players Lisa and Tracy Einstein, Olivia Hayes, Diane Martin, and Geoff Mayer, as well as sophomore soccer players Beau Haydon and Will Hayes, and lastly, myself.

The team went through rugged preparation, practicing all of one time at the upper Gay Field.

"Our intense training really set us up for success this season," Warner joked.

In the team's first game on that fateful night, they started against Team Dye, which was comprised mostly of seniors. While the team did not play their best game, they squeaked out a 2-1 victory to advance to the semifinals.

The third game of the tournament provided the biggest upset of the night, as the junior team led by Alo Onwumere, Emil Thyssen, Matt Militello, and Charles Goodman beat the teacher team in a hard fought 1-0 match, in which Goodman provided several clutch saves to keep the win intact.

In the semifinals, Team Warner took on a team comprised mostly of football players. In the game, Team Warner quickly asserted itself as the superior team, taking the lead early and never looking back. The game was all in good fun as Team Warner stormed to a 7-0 victory.

On the opposite side of the bracket, the junior team was upset in penalty kicks by a freshman team.

This meant that the epic battle for the championship would not be against the teachers, or even the junior team, but a freshman team. It was to be a truly David vs. Goliath match-up.

Seniors vs. Freshmen. After witnessing the teachers roll to a fifth place finish, the junior team won the third place game, which left just the championship game to be played.

After all of the suspense in the building, the game got off to an inconspicuous start, with David somehow holding back Goliath, and the game seemed to be headed for a true turf tale.

The problem was, David had no rock, and Team Warner flooded the net, storming to five quick goals in the next seven minutes. It was obvious; the champions would soon become repeat champions. After surviving a total of about seven shots in the entire tournament, out scoring opponents 14-1 in three games, and winning 5-0 in the finals, the dynasty was complete.

For the seniors it was a fun run, but for the rest of us, we are already looking ahead to next year. ☺

Stick a fork in them: why an athlete's body gets tired

Tom Evashwick
Reporter

At the beginning of every workout, all athletes hope to have their own Rocky moment – training all day with limitless energy to reach their goal. Of course, the infamous "wall" has been met far more frequently when exercising.

So what causes the body to become tired, and why are some people able to exercise longer than others?

The production of lactate in muscles is what causes people to hit the wall and have to stop and take a break.

"I sometimes keep on [exercising]

once I get tired, but when I do it's just for short periods of time," sophomore Drew Klein said.

Through fermentation, much like the process of creating beer and other alcohol, lactic acid is turned into lactate.

When the body needs to create energy for exercise, sugars are broken down and energy is pulled from them. However, this process requires oxygen.

"The fermentation happens when there isn't enough oxygen being supplied," said chemistry and biology teacher Doug Verby. "If your uptake of oxygen is better, then you won't feel as

tired as quickly."

At the beginning of physical activity, the body doesn't breathe as hard, so oxygen can be used to break down the sugars. It is when there isn't a large enough supply of oxygen that muscles use their lactic acid to supply energy.

As energy is harvested from lactic acid, the amount of lactate in a certain volume (concentration) increases. As the concentration increases, the body becomes aware of the exhaustion and stinging caused by the lactate, which is why the body has to slow down and take a break.

"When I run my whole body just gets tired – I want to sleep all the time and I feel worn out all day," senior Alice Lehmann said.

Over a short period of time, the lactate, and the uncomfortable feelings associated with it, is converted back into a broken down sugar.

The only way to prevent this from occurring is to have established a long history of exercise. When doing a cardio workout, the heart strengthens. If the heart is stronger, then more oxygen can be delivered, so the fermentation process is delayed.

"Get in better shape so oxygen intake is better, then the acid won't build up as quickly," Verby said, "but there's always a limit."

The better shape the muscle is in, the greater its volume, so it has greater capacity for oxygen.

So if someone is in good shape, the muscle is able to take in more oxygen more quickly, and avoid converting lactic acid into lactate for a longer period of time.

Therefore, along with being fit, it literally takes heart to surpass the "wall." ☺

Personal Trainer

Feel the burn

Doing too many sit-ups or climbing a steep hill can make muscles burn; the reason has to do with the way the body uses energy.

What happens during intense exercise
Body does not get enough oxygen, switches to its emergency anaerobic ("without oxygen") mode

Burns as fuel
Glucose in blood; glycogen in muscles and liver

Waste product
Lactic acid

Medium intensity
Bloodstream removes lactic acid from muscles

High intensity
Lactic acid collects in muscles, causes burning pain, fatigue #1

Abdominal muscles

Lactic acid

© 2006 KRT Source: Team Oregon Running Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

What a Pair.

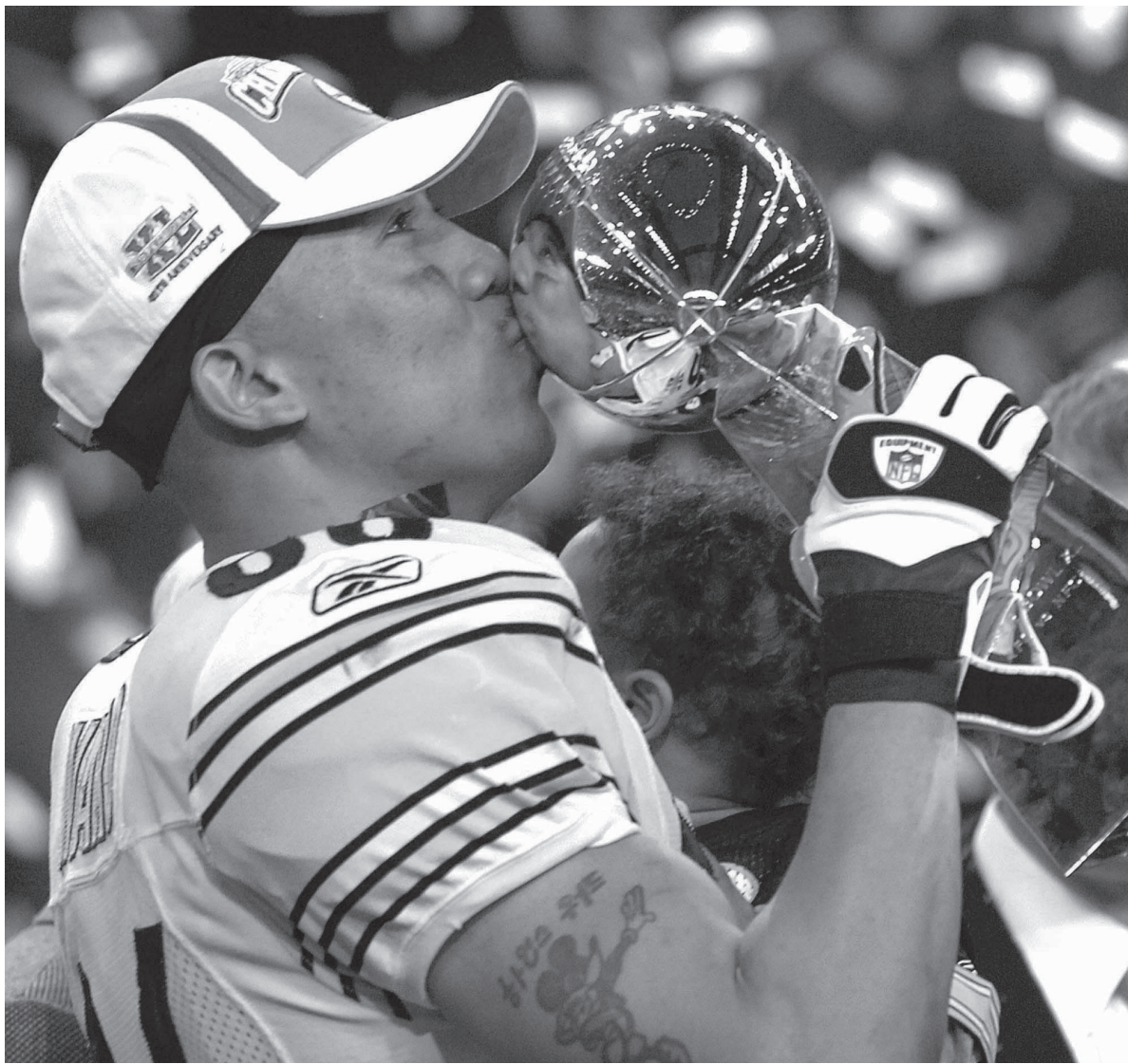
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Fantasy football addiction sweeps nation



MCT Campus

Fantasy football players draft NFL players of their choice, such as Pittsburgh Steelers' receiver Hines Ward (above), creating a dream team to compete against other teams in oftentimes fierce competition.

Schuyler Longmore
Reporter

Sunday surprises, Monday comebacks, and building up your weapons all week long. The fantasy football season is in effect, and it is back to upsets and last minute reversals on the fantasy gridiron that entertains so many across America.

In an addictive hobby dominated by males across this country, two fantasy teams made up of actual NFL players are pitted against each other with tallies on their yardage, touchdowns, completions, fumbles, interceptions, and other details in an addition, subtraction system of scoring. Scores are final Tuesday morning so players can check to see if they played their options right and benched the cold players accurately.

Fantasy football players vary on the amount of involvement they have with their teams. "Once a day on average, that's a pretty average amount," said Junior Emil Thyssen about checking on his team. Junior Thyssen has been participating in fantasy football leagues since freshman year, and has accumulated a pretty good grasp on the techniques required for good teams. A daily check on statistics and line-up is common for most fantasy footballers.

"I check about two times a week, on Saturday or Sunday morning to secure the line up and then on Mondays to pick up and drop players, and appropriate my line up," said Clayton biology teacher Doug Verby.

Fantasy Football becomes an instinct to some players, as they get into the rhythm of a regular fantasy week.

"If I'm watching a football game on TV and I see a stat line, I'll calculate the fantasy points," said Thyssen. "If it's a large number they did well."

Fantasy participants find themselves thinking with a fantasy football bias often following statistics and games irrelevant to their favorite teams.

"Tampa Bay and Green Bay I wouldn't usually care about, but with fantasy players on those teams, I start rooting one way or the other," Verby said.

Unexpected performances and mid season injuries keep the season exciting. "The biggest let downs were Ryan Grant, Lawrence Maroney, and Marques Colston," Thyssen said.

Injuries and complications with playing time can make the

most promising players unusable.

"I didn't have him, but Tom Brady was a big let down," said Thyssen.

Tom Brady was the highest scoring and most consistent fantasy player of the 2007 season, but a season-ending injury in his first game has left the reigning most valuable fantasy player unusable.

"Larry Johnson has been the biggest let down," said Verby. "He scored less than two points in his first couple weeks, then had an unexpected big game."

Unexpected big performances throughout the season leave players in agony after realizing they benched a player that could have given them the win.

"Brian Westbrook is a favorite because he catches and runs for tons of total yards, and also Marion Barber," Thyssen said.

Fantasy partakers have favorites for steady point gainers, like a lethal combination of successful runs and receptions, or a good running quarterback with passing yards as well. "Donovan McNabb is my favorite athlete," Verby said. "He passes and runs for touchdowns which equals more points."

Some players are so enthralled with fantasy football that it borders on addiction. Verby denies being that into the game — at least this year. "My team isn't that good," Verby said. "When I do well, I check way more often."

Some players have multiple teams, which are all followed sharply.

Thyssen is a player who recognizes his avid involvement in the game. "Yes, I'm addicted, not that addicted, but you know, my neck starts itching if I don't get to check it sometimes," Thyssen said.

Different people have different reasons for their love of fantasy football.

"I love simulation things," Thyssen said. "I like getting to feel like a head coach with these great athletes."

Fantasy football addiction runs rampant in young and old, because of football's existence as an important American pastime, and those who love the sport are bound to enjoy the feeling of winning by using the players that make their favorite teams as good as they are. With 15 to 18 million fantasy players in the United States, a fantasy addiction may be closer than you think. ☺

By the end of the season, the team really learned how to work together and maximize each other's strengths
Caitlin Plein
JV Field Hockey Coach

Players to Watch:
Karley Woods, Talia Sass

JV Record:
2-2-10

I was most impressed with the sportsmanship that the girls showed to competitors as well as each other.
Katelyn Eustis
JV Tennis Coach

Players to Watch:
Alison Goldfarb, Mimi Lui

I was highly impressed with their dedication at the junior varsity level to garner the training to advance to the varsity level.
Kurtis Werner
JV Cross Country Coach

Players to Watch:
Jake Bernstein, Sam Suter, Jenna Hayes and Maurgerite Daw

We just had a great time. The season got off to a great start and ended well.
Kyle Henke
JV Volleyball Coach

Players to Watch:
Taquera Walker, Erin Bax, Leigh Ryffel

JV Record:
15-0-10

Freshman and Junior Varsity

Fall Sports Wrap-Up

We enjoyed success that we haven't seen in years on the freshman level. We had a great time throughout the course of the season.
Micah Johnson
Freshman Soccer Coach

Freshman Record:
6-0-1

Players to Watch:
Brett Rapponotti, Tyler Ponder, Gabe Jacus, Caleb Grady

Certainly more wins than losses is positive. The kids worked hard and it was a pleasurable season despite some injuries.
Doug Bambini
JV Soccer Coach

JV Record:
5-6-6

Players to Watch:
Christian Wolfgram, Jacob Grady, Michael Takes, Sam Visser, David Goss, Sam Meyers

We started winning, and then we just kept and winning and winning. When you're working hard, and you're successful, it is really fun.
Barry Ford
JV Football Coach

JV Record:
7-1

Players to Watch:
Chase Haslett, Cameron Stewart, Gabe Nicolazzi, Brad Puricelli, Nick Kirchoff

Overall, it was a hard season. We had some outstanding individual performances, but the team just did not come together and gel as we would have liked.
Doug Verby
Freshman Football Coach

Freshman Record:
0-0-8

Players to Watch:
Luke Ulrich, Jerome Cooley, Gabe Wolf, Sam Fox

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Unveiling Islam

The similarities between Middle-Eastern Muslims and Americans exist beyond the superficial

Meredith Redick
Editor

In the past three decades, Americans have developed a new awareness of the region of the world widely known as the Middle East. Events like the 1986 Iran-Contra scandal, the Persian Gulf War, and, more recently, 9/11 and the war in Iraq, have expanded the boundaries of many Americans' consciences to include the faraway cities of the Arab world. The extent to which horizons have been broadened, however, is insufficient for most Americans to see the truth of the Middle East.

"We have certain stereotypes about people we don't know," Washington University Professor John Bowen said.

Bowen, a professor of sociocultural anthropology, has spent years in Indonesia studying Islam.

One of the principal issues surrounding American ideas about the Middle East is religion. While the Middle East includes the majority of the Arab world, a significant minority of Middle Easterners are non-Muslim. In addition to assuming that all Middle Easterners are Muslim, many Americans believe that all Muslims are religious fanatics.

"Most people think that Muslims are directed by religion all the time, that their lives are dominated by religion, so they're fanatical," Bowen said.

Islam is widely considered to be a more involved religion than many sects of Judaism and Christianity because it encompasses an entire lifestyle for many Muslims.

"If you think about most Americans, though, they have strong Christian beliefs, and some of them are intolerant," Bowen said. "But most of them aren't. The same goes for Muslims. Most people aren't any more driven by Islam than they are by Christianity."

Bowen discounts the idea that Islam is by nature a violent religion.

"You can find passages in the Koran that say to kill lots of people," Bowen said. "You can find that in the Hebrew Bible, too."

According to the Islamic tradition, the Koran is a transcript of God's word as dictated to the prophet Muhammad. Followers of Muhammad must adhere to five basic principles of Islam, known as the Five Pillars. Although the Muslim tradition differs from Jewish and Christian traditions, the Koran itself is similar to other primary religious texts.

"What matters is what people take from it," Bowen said. "There are huge debates between Muslims just like in Christianity. People draw from the words what they need. They can find some sort of justification for it all."

The conflict of interest between the Middle East and America, then, is not rooted in religion. Bowen believes that hostility towards the United States is not directly related to Muslim zealotry in the Middle East.

"If you were to survey Muslims throughout the world, many of them would say the United States is a danger to the world," Bowen said. "If you were to survey Europeans throughout the world, many of them would also say the United States is a danger to the world."

Bowen believes that many areas of the world are hesitant to agree with American actions because the U.S. is not a neutral party in the conflicts in the Middle East, and because the U.S. government systematically supports Israel.

"Our reckless use of military is another factor, and some people still remember the coup in Iran in the 1950's that the United States was involved in," Bowen said.

The American stereotype of the Middle Easterner, however, is a person that seeks to damage America because of its capitalism and democracy. The recent hysteria in America about terrorism is rooted in primarily false information.

"I think that the most prominent stereotype is that anyone from the Middle East or even looks like they're from the Middle East is automatically assumed to be a terrorist," junior Ellen Spann said. "Which is really unfair because not everyone who looks German is considered to be a Nazi."

Senior Meredith Mccay agrees. "I think it is a shame that because of their actions, a minority of Middle Easterners and Muslims, the whole group is seen in a negative light."

According to Bowen, vague rumors about terrorism have started a wave of problems across America. The stereotype of



A couple holds a simple wooden cross and an English / Assyrian New Testament as a reminder of their escape from religious persecution in Iraq.

MCT campus

a terrorist includes religious fanaticism and an arbitrary hatred of democracy; in reality, the political motives of this violent minority are a principal force in terrorism.

"A lot of their anger is against their own governments," Bowen said. "They have these very corrupt governments, that keep the wealth for themselves, and the United States props up these governments."

The U.S. has supported dictatorships throughout history, including violent or corrupt regimes like Chile's Augusto Pinochet and Indonesia's Suharto.

"The U.S. has many times done things that violate international laws," Bowen said.

The terrorist stereotype can be further debunked by examination of the US's experiences with terrorists.

"The countries that produced the 9/11 terrorists were from Saudi Arabia and Egypt," Bowen said. "They were not from Iraq and Iran."

In fact, Saudi Arabia, a nation that exercises friendly relations with the US, is a center of Muslim extremism. The Koran acts as a national constitution, because the country is governed by Muslim common law (shar'ia). Additionally, the dominant form of Islam that is practiced in Saudi Arabia is Wahhabism—a radically conservative branch of Islam that has supported violence against non-

Muslims. Osama bin Laden is a notorious Wahhabi.

Terrorism is only one aspect of the negative Middle Eastern stereotype. Women's rights in Muslim or Islam-oriented nations have been an issue for Americans who pride themselves on bringing about equal gender rights in America. The stereotypical Muslim woman wears a headscarf, or a hijab, and covers herself from head to toe.

"In some countries there is a strong tradition still of women not having the same freedoms in public as men—in terms of clothing, etcetera," Bowen said. "Of course, we find that in southern Italy there is also a strong tradition that women, especially older women, should be covered. So it doesn't always concern Islam."

The dress code in Muslim countries is not necessarily an indicator of political and social privileges.

"It's important to know that women are often engaged in economic and political activity in these nations," Bowen said. "It's also important to remember that westerners do not set the standard for gender equality."

He believes that the lag in social change is not as significant as many Americans think.

"Women in Iran have plenty of rights, like in America," Bowen said. "They can go to the courts to get a divorce if their husbands are treating them badly, and they do. They can vote. They can do many things that women in the 1940's [in America] couldn't do."

The final struggle against the Middle East is in technology. While countries like the United Arab Emirates are rising economically with the use of technology, most Middle Eastern countries remain behind.

"In terms of giving people everything they need—transportation, infrastructure—it's the northern European countries like Scandinavia that are doing it really well," Bowen said. "After that comes western Europe and North America. And it's true that the mass of Asia and Latin America have less."

Problems in infrastructure, then, are not limited to the Middle East but affect nations around the world. The dense culture of countries like Iraq and Iran, too, is a valuable example of living history that cannot be found in America.

"Where I lived, in Aceh, there was a stream, and there were rice fields, and that was that," Bowen said. "But their culture was rich."

The immense power of the Middle East could be unified with the US, but not before citizens from both sides of the world can reconcile their differences.

"I think the question is, 'how can we learn to appreciate what is universally human?'" Bowen said. "In some dimension or another, we're all very similar." ☺

“ I think the question is, 'how can we learn to appreciate what is universally human?' ”
John Bowen
Washington University
Professor

THE FIVE PILLARS

1. Belief in Allah

"There is no true God except Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah."

2. Daily prayers

Muslims pray five times a day facing the holy city of Mecca.

3. Fasting

During the month of Ramadan, Muslims abstain from eating, drinking, and sexual relations during daylight.

4. Charity

Muslims are encouraged to help the poor.

5. Pilgrimage

All Muslims who are capable must journey to Mecca to pay tribute to Allah.



All Sehzadeh

Life

CHS FALL PLAY

"Anon(ymous)," this year's fall play, explores broad themes of family and acceptance while recreating the epic "Odyssey" in modern settings.

page 24



Water Wars

The film "FLOW: For Love of Water" depicts the scarcity of water in global communities.

Ken Zheng
Editor

There are some things in this world that humans don't even think about "owning." Owning a pencil, or maybe a car, but what about water? The essential part of our survival that is already scarce in parts of the world and becoming rarer in others. A documentary to complement Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth", "FLOW: For Love of Water" explores the world's current fight for water.

Directed by Irena Salina, the film focuses on the privatization of water rights. The documentary has won numerous awards, including the Best Documentary at the United Nations Association Film Festival.

Most Americans don't think about what comes out of the tap when they turn it on. To most of the world, water is a commodity and the spoils of a battle fought across the globe.

Water profiteering is at the center of a global healthcare crisis that kills more people than AIDS. The film shows grim images of third world countries that we as a nation ignore because most people want problems like that to disappear.

One of the most striking parts of the film was the investigation on the health benefits of drinking bottled water. The verdict, you guessed it: in general, bottled water is more contaminated than filtered tap water. Yet, water companies still make billions of dollars every year so the average customer can buy a bottle of low-quality water.

Even ignoring the landfills that are filling up with plastic bottles, why pay for a product of lower quality? What's even more alarming is the current lack of regulations on bottled water industries.



Instead of worrying about oil, water wars will be the next big battle. Now, instead of worrying about how to feed our cars, we ourselves are at risk.

Even though tap water is more available than bottled water, many countries find it difficult to gain access to either. Solutions in those countries are creating sources of clean water, but still need more widespread usability for more people.

Ultraviolet water sanitation devices are being used in places such as Africa and can provide entire

villages with drinking water.

Since water is one of the cornerstones of life on this planet, many experts have nicknamed it "blue gold." Instead of worrying about oil, water wars will be the next big battle; because now, instead of worrying about how to feed our cars, we ourselves are at risk.

Water is the world's third largest industry, valued at 400 billion dollars. The water industry is smaller than the oil and electricity industry, though still rising fast. The companies that control the flow of water will control us.

The point that FLOW makes of water being a vital and precious resource to humans resounds throughout the film loud and clear. Though the film does have its share of "apocalypse pending" moments, the cinematography is generally very vivid and enlightening.

The issues are portrayed in a view that sides heavily with humanity and often shows the dirty undersides of large organizations such as the World Trade Organization. The film also bashes large water companies such as Coca-Cola and Nestle for thoughtlessly taking water that they can afford from those who need it more.

Overall, FLOW is a great film to draw motivation from. The planet's resources are limited and every human will need their share when the time comes. The question now is if we have enough. The film comes out on DVD on Dec. 9.

RIGHT: Art teacher Cate Dolan behind her desk during her third period class. BELOW: One of Dolan's works. BELOW RIGHT: A detail of Dolan's art that also comes from printmaking.



Scott Shapiro



Photos Courtesy of Cate Dolan



Photo courtesy of SLIFF

TOP: "Power of the Game," directed by Michael Apte is a special highlight of the Film Festival that examines the social impact of soccer.

St. Louis Film Festival thrives

With more than 260 films, the St. Louis Film Festival has become a growing tradition with better quality films.

Jessica Lefton
Reporter

The Saint Louis International Film Festival is celebrating its 17th year, and everyone is invited. SLIFF, which began in 1992 with only 25 films, has grown immensely, and now is shown on six screens over a period of 11 days.

Artistic director Chris Clark has worked with the festival for ten years.

"We have over 260 films this year, from 38 countries," Clark said. "We've grown a lot larger in stature."

This appears to be true, as the festival is now considered one of the highest profile international film festivals in the Midwest, and is expected to have a high viewer turnout again this year.

Senior Caitlin Bladt attended the festival last year.

"I heard about the festival through 88.1 KDHX," Bladt said. "I saw a Korean movie called Daisy. I absolutely loved it."

Changes to the festival this year include a new film format.

"This year, only 30 percent of the movies are on film. The rest are digital or on DVD" Clark said. "This provides better quality, and is easier for the filmmakers."

Certain things, however, will remain the same. The festival holds to its mission to promote the art of cinema and to expand the variety and availability of cinema experiences. Also important to SLIFF is the commitment to diversity, by showing films that address issues of

age, race, ethnicity, and sexual identity.

Festival films are from a variety of topics, as well as a wide range of countries, including Italy, Mexico, Thailand, France, and Argentina, among others. Previous years have included films by award-winning directors Pedro Almodóvar, and Bill Condon. In addition, SLIFF also boasts a number of locally produced films, including "Humboldt County," which was produced by Ladue graduates.

When asked if she was attending the festival this year, Bladt gave a convincing "Heck yes!", and would recommend the experience to other CHS students.

"It's a great way to be exposed to different movies and kinds of cinema," Bladt said. "When so many mainstream movies fall into three categories -crappy-sappy-love stories, sequels, and super hero movies- it's just a nice change to be able to see interesting new movies that are so fresh and unique."

For CHS students, Clark recommends "Front Runners," a documentary on student elections in New York City.

"It's the brainiacs of the brainiacs," says Clark, "Even though they are high school students, it mirrors a real election. It's very entertaining."

The festival runs from Nov. 13 to 23, with movies at the Tivoli, St. Louis Art Museum, Plaza Frontenac, and Webster University.

"You don't have to be a film scholar, or belong to a film club to enjoy these movies," Clark said. "I challenge everyone to try something different."



Photos by Meng Wang



TOP: One of Tivoli's showing rooms which will be one of the theaters showing the Film Festival's selection. MIDDLE: The display for the Film Festival in front of the Tivoli. BOTTOM: The St. Louis Art Museum, which is another location that will be playing selections from the Film Festival.

Cate Dolan brings passion for art to CHS

Caroline Kennard
Reporter

Art teacher Cate Dolan hasn't always taught high school, but she has often been a teacher.

Dolan has taught adult teacher workshops at Denson College, non-integrated schools, and neighborhood school for little children.

"I've taught just about every level," Dolan said.

Dolan has not always been a teacher. She has also worked as a waitress and

loved it. She worked as a clerk in a store in college and as an editorial assistant for a movie magazine in New York City.

Dolan said that the craziest thing she has ever done was work for a movie magazine. She went to the first press conference with Twiggy and interviewed Jim Backus, who played Mr. McGoo.

She also went to the set of the first "Shaft" movie where she met the main star, Richard Roundtree and Gordon Parks, the director.

"I've always loved the rush of New York City and the energy of it," Dolan said.

Dolan lived in a small town of 350 people when she was a child.

"The best gift of living in a small city was learning how to appreciate and deal with a variety of people," Dolan said.

Dolan's hobbies include walking in the park, spending time in the outdoors, doing anything with crafts, cooking, hiking and watching movies.

She loves the number of talented students and teachers at Clayton High School. She also loves that there is an active student program at Clayton, very good facilities, independent minded students and diversity. She is also very grateful that the arts are taken seriously at Clayton.

"There are so many good people

willing to help and collaborate and willing to try new things," Dolan said.

At Clayton, she teaches two sections of Digital Arts 1, one section of Digital Art Studio and serves as the visual art coordinator. The visual art coordinator deals with administration work, helping to set the art curriculum across the district.

She loves it when her students say they can't do a piece of artwork and then discover they can.

"It's amazing how sophisticatedly my students think about art," Dolan said.

Dolan is a printmaker. It is her favorite type of art. Her basement is a printmaker studio with a large etching press that she built in grad school. Her prints are usually abstract.

"I have historically made mostly large collagraph prints using hand drawn and painted marks and textures," Dolan said.

For a number of years she has been interested in the possibilities technology has to offer her in expanding her work.

"I have been working for some time to translate the vocabulary of marks I have used for many years into digital marks," Dolan said. "This past summer I took part in a wonderful workshop in digital art making at the Frogman's Press at the University of South Dakota. These new prints are the first steps on a new path for my work."

News Briefs

At the Capital

Five CHS students spent a day in Jefferson City to participate in the Governor's Humanities Award Tea at the Governor's mansion. Junior Chi Zeng, and freshmen Dee Luo, Zach Praiss, Xiaoya Wu and Benjamin Goldsmith took part due to their outstanding performance in National History Day.

Food Drive

The annual Tri-M food drive runs till the 26th of November. The donated cans will go to feed the hungry in St. Louis. The orchestra, choir and band will be competing for a free period awarded to the group with the most cans. Please donate non-perishables.

Gateway to the Best

The Fall National High School Journalism Convention took place during the weekend of Nov. 15. The the national JEA/NSPA convention was hosted by local officer Nancy Freeman. The Globe took 5th place in the Best of Show newspapers of 17+ pages contest, and the WORKS took 6th place in Best of Show for literary magazines. Also, in the write off competitions:

Aaron Praiss won an honorable mention in Newspaper layout.

Mary Backwell won an honorable mention in Copywriting/Captions for sports.

Meredith Redick won an excellent in review writing and.

Carol Iskiwitch won a medal for superior in copy editing/headline and caption writing.

Swimming Triumph

Congratulations to Paden Dubois for placing 19th out of 49 swimmers at the boys state swimming meet.

Trivia Night

The Class of 2010 raised \$2000 at a trivia night on Nov. 1 for this year's Prom.



Courtesy of Lambert St. Louis-International Airport

Experts give tips on how to save energy

Apoorva Sharma
Reporter

Temperatures are dropping. The trees are slowly turning bare. You feel a little chilly, and walk over to the thermostat to turn it up. But then you remember — gas prices are high. Warnings of global warming also enter your mind. You are unsure of what decision to make.

With these issues in mind, many companies who provide energy have published various methods of lowering energy consumption. These methods range from changing the lighting system in homes to the landscaping design of homes.

The most obvious solution to conserve energy is to turn down the thermostat, and wear warmer clothes instead. According to AmerenUE, "You can save 2-3 percent on your heating costs for each degree you are able to lower your thermostat."

The company also recommends times where the thermostat can be lowered without sacrificing comfort.

"When entertaining in your home, turn down the thermostat a degree or two before your guests arrive," Ameren reported. "The additional body heat will make up the difference."

It also went on to say that keeping humidity at adequate levels will help compensate for the low temperatures. Ameren said that water heaters should be kept at a temperature no more than 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

Another area where energy can easily be conserved is that of appliances. Ways to help cut down on this area which accounts for 34 percent of the average energy bill include unplugging electronics when they aren't being used.

"Many electronic appliances are using power even when they are off," Ameren said. "Examples of phantom loads include CD and DVD players, microwave ovens, alarm clocks, computers, printers and televisions. Any appliance or charging device that has a cube shaped transformer on the end of its cord is creating a phantom load."

Another appliance that uses a lot of energy is the dryer. Laclede Gas presented a solution that also helps increase comfort, as well as decrease the use of a dryer.

"Consider line-drying clothing inside during the winter-time," Laclede Gas suggested. "You will add humidity to your home, which can make you more comfortable, and use less gas."

Both Laclede Gas and AmerenUE recommended methods of being energy efficient in the kitchen. One of the methods suggested was minimizing the use of appliances such as the oven and dishwasher.

"[When using the oven], plan to bake several dishes at the same temperature when possible," Laclede Gas said.

"Toaster ovens, microwaves and counter-top grills use less energy and create less heat than a full-sized oven," AmerenUE said. "Use these appliances when you need to prepare small portions of food. A microwave oven will use about half the energy as a conventional oven."

Lighting homes can also have a high energy consumption. However, it is not hard to increase efficiency of these appliances. In addition to turning off all lights that are not being used, people can change the light bulbs themselves. Compact fluorescent light bulbs are energy-friendly as well.

"Use compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) in place of comparable incandescent bulbs," Ameren said. "This replacement will help save about 50 percent on your lighting costs. CFLs require only one-fourth the energy and will last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs."

Even though the main methods of conserving energy are minimizing heating and appliance use, energy consumption can also be lowered through good landscaping.

"Plant shrubs, bushes and vines next to your home to create dead air spaces that will help insulate the exterior walls in summer and winter," AmerenUE advised. "Make sure to leave at least one foot of space between the wall and the fully mature plant. Also, planting evergreens on the north side of your house can provide shelter against cold winds and can lower your heating bill."

From lowering thermostats, to landscaping differently, there are many ways people can lower their energy consumption. Especially during the winter season, saving energy can be tough. However, with these methods, people can lower their bill at home, having lasting, positive impact on the environment.

“Frugal is the new green. I think people are going to be proud to be green or proud to be frugal.”
Audrey Guskey
Professor of Marketing

Rising cost of airfare causes stress during holiday season

Jackie Leong
Reporter

Just as Target is stocked with twinkling lights, radio station 101.1 is perpetual caroling, and storefronts are promoting wintry themes, many are switching their mindsets to the holidays. And if it that all wasn't stressful enough, consumers now have another place around which to stretch their wallets: air travel.

As the economy slows, the amount of air traffic lessens. Responding to this development, and in tandem with falling oil prices, airlines have begun to cut holiday fares. Still, last minute holiday travelers should be flexible about travel times to get the most for their money.

"I believe that this year will be a pricier year," said Judy Meyer, Travel Counselor of AAA Travel, "and basically for that purpose fewer people will [travel]."

All things considered, the "low" holiday prices for this year are still higher than those of last year. Though airline prices during the holiday season have traditionally been higher, a fluctuating economy and the weak dollar have airline prices changing regularly, with airlines scrambling to keep up.

"For some of my relatives, traveling is not in their budget anymore," said Debra Wiens, who teaches World/US I and American Government. "So I'm paying for their travel up here. I'm paying to see my relatives."

Commodities, such as bag fees, are becoming ever pricier. However, in the end, the cost of travel depends upon two things: the traveler's financial means, and the cost of fuel. As long as the latter continues to influence air traffic, Meyer believes, people are subject to paying more.

"One big change in our industry is that everyone is putting out a disclaimer," Meyer said, "and that disclaimer reads very clearly that if you do not pay and purchase at the same time, in full, then there is no guarantee of price—the price is subject to increase until paid in full.... It used to be that you had a steadfast cost, you paid a \$200 deposit and it was locked in on that price until 30 days before departure—so the big difference is that you're subject to change and increase where you never had that before."

However high airline prices may be, Meyer is still seeing people travel, but nonetheless, travel itself is different than it used to be: A day or so lost in order to catch a few connections, for example, is more common today. She observed that direct flights are quicker, but are harder on the pocketbook. There is a balance that one has to observe nowadays—a day lost on either end of one's vacation would perhaps save money, but would reduce the vacation time. Many prefer this option, viewing it as the lesser of two evils.

“We’re still seeing people buy, but what they’re buying is different. They’re doing less Europe, and a lot more packages that include everything so that their cost is paid when they leave.”

Judy Meyer
AAA Travel Counselor

"The trend that we are seeing is that people are pricing earlier now, to see if they can even afford to go," Meyer says. "We're still seeing people buy, but what they're buying is different. They're doing less Europe, and a lot more packages that include everything so that their cost is paid when they leave. So that would be considered in our business an all-inclusive package and includes airfare, or source of transportation, all your meals, drinks, and activities, so that when they're gone, they have no more cost to pay other than souvenirs."

However, Meyer sees the holiday season as a different story for those living away from their hometowns.

"People just want to go home," she said. Holidays are all about the family—thus, people are going to do whatever it takes to get there, since they most likely have food and lodgings with family.

Families traveling for the holidays, however, have a different story to tell.

"It's the plane tickets," said freshman Lian Lawton, "and the baggage. It's getting too expensive to travel as a family.... We sometimes travel to New York to visit my grandmother, but now the prices too high for my dad, my mom, and me to all go. Now, it's just my dad."

Meyer also notes that schedules are also a huge factor. Prime-time flights may be expensive, but what with restrictive agendas, those times may be the only options for most people. Retirees, on the other hand, are able to get the best deals as they have more flexibility.

As AAA projects as far as three years in the future in order to calculate prospective prices, Meyer estimates that spring break airfare, for instance, is predicted to skyrocket in price.

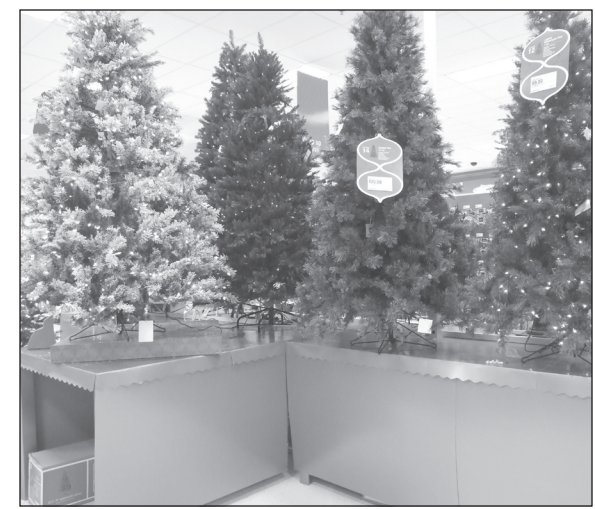
"But people will go," she said, "because of how their schedules work out."

She has also found that more people are driving to vacation spots instead of flying there. Or, she notes, that travelers will find that going to Europe is cheapest in January, February, and March. Alternatively, as an unusual substitute, cruises are "practically being given away"—until December 15, which is when the holiday season starts to kick in. All in all, travel is not beyond reach; other choices are always available. All that is needed, if possible, is a bit of flexibility.

"I still believe that American people are fascinated by other parts of the world," Meyer said. "[The] seasoned traveler... [is] still going to go.... They're just going to do it differently."



Holiday decorations and Christmas trees are already on sale at Target, however, sales are projected to slow this holiday season.



Nichole Burton

Consumers to cut down on holiday shopping

Bianca Vannucci
Reporter

Most leaves are still green, some have turned orange, a few have started to fall. The temperature is nice and cool. Kids have settled into the school year, and 101.1 is playing holiday music.

In fact, many businesses have started the holiday season earlier and Santa Claus are already hanging up at Walgreens and many stores have started to sell holiday-themed products. Consumers are being lured into buying more. Businesses are taking away the jolliness, and have finally showed that the Holidays really are all about getting consumers in the spirit to buy more.

Every year kids eagerly anticipate the first holiday-related commercial, usually from Macy's or Wal-Mart, and their anticipation is usually fulfilled around the last days of November or early December. This year, some people didn't even have time to think about the holidays before snow and reindeers were popping up on TV.

According to the Pittsburgh Business Times, local shopping chains are working hard to entice shoppers, not only with decorations, but also with sales.

"Frugal is the new green," said Au-

drey Guskey, associate professor of marketing at Duquesne University. "I think people are going to be proud to be cheap or proud to be frugal."

According to The National Retail Federation, the world's largest retail trade association, this year US consumers will spend an average of \$832.36 on holiday shopping. This is a 1.9 percent increase over last year, the smallest increase in planned consumer spending since the poll has been created.

During times of economic crisis, bigger chains suffer more than small businesses and so many big businesses or chains are slashing prices. However, according to a recent Nielsen survey, 35% of US households are planning on spending less this year than they did in 2007. Maybe creating the right atmosphere isn't enough to convince buyers. It seems to be the case for Kathy Woods, a parent.

"I am going to change my spending," Woods said. "I won't be buying as many gifts as I usually do. We're still going to have our dinner, and we are going to follow tradition, but I'm going to change the amount of gifts."

Freshman Erin Butler disagrees. "I'm going to do the same thing I've done every single year," Butler said. "I would say all the decorations stores are putting up are probably going to convince me to buy more in the long run."

If anything, the decorations are at least getting people to think about the holidays.

"The decorations definitely make me think more about the holiday season and what I'm going to buy for people," sophomore Sarah McAfee said. "But I haven't shopped yet."

Another parent, Mary Keller, is making many changes this holiday season.

"I'm sure I'm going to be much more aware of my spending during this holiday season," Keller said. "And all the store's early decoration kind of make me

angry. They will absolutely not lure me into buying more. Actually I'm getting tired of it."

Another aspect of this economy crisis, which is affecting the holidays, is travel. American Airlines has been sending emails putting flights from here to half way across the world on ridiculous sales, but many people are staying in town for the holidays.

"I'm definitely going to think twice about taking a vacation this year, which we sometimes do, but I'm not so sure this year," Keller said.

Senior Josh Milbrandt usually takes a trip during the holidays and this year is no exception.

"We prepaid for it before everything went down the drain," Milbrandt said.

Many families are struggling though. "We're still doing our regular family get together but we're already worrying about money," McAfee said. "We're seriously cutting back on buying gifts, and are putting a lot of effort into flying my brother home for Christmas from Dallas."

Also according to the Nielsen poll, consumers are expected to focus more on "value-oriented retailers" this year, not luxury items. This means that shoppers will be shopping more practically, and not spend nearly as much money on items that are more expensive.

"The 2008 holiday season will be challenging for many U.S. chains, but discounters and wholesalers will have a relatively good season as consumers focus on basics and value," said ICSC Chief Economist Michael Niemira according to the Austin Business Journal.

The economic crisis has changed people's traditions, leading them to spend less, which leads people to spend even less. It's a vicious cycle, so maybe we should be getting more gifts this holiday season, but, it seems that this induced holiday atmosphere by businesses, are just making things worse.

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Weighted grades: *Despite a change several years ago, some students wish for boost of weighted GPAs*

Dawn Androphy
Reporter

Even amidst a controversial political season, one seemingly trivial topic remains a constant fixation of some CHS students: weighted grades.

The subject of weighted grades has always been a heated subject among both students and staff members.

The system essentially raises the worth of an AP/Honors course by one GPA point. For example, an A in 'Geometry' would be worth 4.0 and an A in 'Honors Geometry' would be worth 5.0.

Students who take AP and Honors courses will often argue that more work is required to sustain an A in these classes. However, students who don't enroll in these sorts of courses will argue that a weighted grade system puts them at an unfair disadvantage.

Five years ago, CHS removed the variation of a weighted grade system by offering an H grade for students participating in challenging courses.

"The decision was made by both the administration and a counseling committee, and it was in the best interest of the students," college counselor Chat Leonard said. "Philosophically, it just made more sense."

Many students enrolled in Honors or AP courses are particularly in favor of the system because they feel it would benefit their transcripts.

"Weighted grades would be cool," sophomore Marquise Griffin said. "They would definitely give me an advantage."

Implementing weighted grades at the Clayton would also only affect class rank minimally.

Two years ago, Principal Louise Losos personally studied the effects of a hypothetical weighted grade system on that year's graduating class. This had little influence on the decile



Wen Zhang

rankings.

"What I found was that there might have been one kid who moved from the 1st to the second, about two who moved from the second to the third," Losos said. "It didn't seem to make too

much of a difference in our decile ranking system."

But could Clayton's system discourage students from taking on a more difficult course load for fear of putting a dent in their GPA?

Both Leonard and Losos don't believe that this is a significant occurrence and that not challenging oneself ends up handicapping the student later on.

In some cases, such a decision might even lower students' potential ACT scores if they choose not to challenge themselves with difficult courses.

"I think there's the occasional kid that would decide to get an A in regular as opposed to a B or B+ in honors," Losos said. "But, colleges know the difference. Not only that, but the impact of challenging yourself intellectually pays off in the long run, as well."

Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Washington University in Saint Louis Nanette Tarbouni also believes that weighted grades have no effect on college admission.

"We do not recalculate GPAs," Tarbouni said. "Rather, we consider each student and their high school record within the context of the high school itself."

The subject of weighted grades also brings into question what classes would be weighted.

"We have a lot of talented musicians who are in band or orchestra for four years of high school," Losos said. "Bands don't typically have weights, so are we saying that arts courses are less valuable than Honors Freshman English? Because that is what weights imply." Sophomore Alison Bayly agrees with that sentiment.

"Just because someone is on the honors track, doesn't mean that they are not trying as hard and they should be equally rewarded for their hard work," Bayly said. "It just isn't fair."

In the end however, Tarbouni doesn't expect that it doesn't matter what GPA system CHS uses.

"We take time to understand the curriculum offered," Tarbouni said. "The system the school uses, and the rigor of coursework and grades when evaluating each application individually." ☺

Sleep patterns for high school students affect academic performance

Chelsea Cousins
Reporter

Students at Clayton High School strive to do their best for the better. At Clayton High School, the pressure is on and students are showing the effect that homework is having on their hectic lives. Are students at Clayton High School being worked too hard?

"The atmosphere at Clayton is very laid back and it's evident that students are working to their best ability," senior Alana Miles said, "I see people all the time in the library skipping classes trying to get things done."

It's important to the students to get their work done no matter what the circumstances.

When asked if students thought they received more homework than necessary, the responses varied.

"The homework load is bearable most of the time however, when big assignments and tests from different classes fall on the same day, it gets to be too much," sophomore Kyleigh Smith said.

Students generally spend anywhere from one to four hours doing homework "unless they have a paper or project, in which then they can be up from the time they get home after school to eleven or twelve at night," Smith adds.

Lack of sleep plays a huge role in how students at Clayton High School perform.

"You can walk in any classroom and find students who sleep in class, struggle to pay attention, and don't complete

their homework because of having up to only five hours of sleep," Miles said.

Clayton High School is a popular working environment, however many students become stuck in the grip of procrastination. Students are often caught up in other activities that distract them from finishing their work.

"Teenagers are expected to get at least 7 to 10 hours of sleep per night," school nurse Dede Coughlin said, "By losing that sleep it puts students at risk for getting sick because their immune system goes down."

Students at Clayton High School understand the importance of doing the work provided to them. Whether it be too much or too little, the assignments students receive are given for a reason.

"The bottom line is you have to get the homework done," Coughlin said, "however, that doesn't mean staying up until 11 pm to actually get it done."

As a result, many students see the excessive amounts of homework as the key to their academic future. Conclusively, staying up to get homework done is common among students.

"Homework is definitely worth doing, no matter how much time is spent on it, because it makes up a big part of your grade and by not doing the work it affects how you perform on tests and quizzes," Smith said.

Although not doing homework effects how student perform in school, there are more consequences when students aren't getting enough sleep. ☺

Local teen band finds success at area venues

Excitement over their first CD and a feature on a local radio station has members of Pinkleaf hopeful about the future.



Freshman Henry Zimmerman's band, Pinkleaf, recently recorded their first CD, shown above. They are hopeful it will bring even more success.

David Rhodes
Reporter

Henry Zimmerman, a freshman at Clayton, along with his band, Pinkleaf, is the climbing ladder of the St. Louis music scene. Excitement over their

The band consists of guitarist Zimmerman and three other freshman who attend John Burroughs, vocalist and bassist Ian Fletcher, vocalist and guitarist Adam Jacobson, and drummer Colman Jin.

Pinkleaf recently participated in the "Battle for Pointfest", the music competition, at Pop's in Sauget, Illinois.

This competition is to determine which local alternative bands will play in Pointfest.

"It was a great show," Zimmerman said. "There were a lot of people there. It was at Pop's so it was a big stage and good P.A. and lots of good bands."

It's something fun to do, and it's my future... It is pretty amazing to hear your band on a C.D. and for it to actually sound good.

Henry Zimmerman
Member of Pinkleaf

Zimmerman started playing electric guitar at age 10, but was given an acoustic when he was two years old. Henry plays an "Olympic White" E.S.P. electric guitar.

Although Zimmerman says that he doesn't have a mentor, he attends Dave Simon's Rock School for lessons.

"It's something fun to do, and it's my future," Zimmerman said.

Although the members in Pinkleaf are all either 14 or 15, such record companies have contacted them as Epitaph, who signed the popular alternative band Motion City Soundtrack.

"Then they found out we were 14 and 15," Zimmerman said.

Pinkleaf was also recently featured live on the alternative rock station, The Point, and interested students can listen

to a few of their tracks on their Myspace, www.myspace.com/pinkleaf.

Zimmerman and Pinkleaf recently recorded an E.P album.

"It was done in four 10-hour blocks of time, and cost a bunch, but it was totally worth it," Zimmerman said. "It is pretty amazing to hear your band on a CD., and for it to actually sound good."

Pinkleaf plays anywhere from one to four shows a month, and regularly plays at the local underground venue, The Creepy Crawl, but have been known to play around the St. Louis area.

Zimmerman said he is definitely giving serious thought to creating a career out of his talent.

Henry aspires to be the next great rock idol, along with Pinkleaf.

Zimmerman and his band plan to tour California this summer, although he does not believe each of the band members' parents fully support this effort.

Zimmerman is especially proud of the radio spot the band had.

"The radio spot was definitely awesome, but I think the tour that we're going on this summer will be the best," Zimmerman said. ☺

Student stress has multiple signs

Grace Cohen
Reporter

Stress can be a serious issue, especially with a heavy academic load and end of semester finals lurking around the corner. CHS student were surveyed in March of 2007 about their stress levels. They were asked how much stress they had felt in the past 30 days.

Seven percent of surveyed students reported experiencing an extreme unmanageable amount, 38 percent reported experiencing a lot, 36 percent reported experiencing a moderate, manageable amount, 14 percent reported experiencing very little and five percent reported experiencing no stress.

The stress being felt can present itself in many ways. "Short term symptoms may be irritability, easily moved to tears," Counselor Alice Morrison said. "More significant symptoms of distress include headaches, stomach aches, sweating, diarrhea, sleeplessness, increased heart rate and rapid breathing."

What has not been clear until recent studies is that there are long term effects of stress.

"Recent evidence indicates that the physical changes associated with stress may contribute to the leading causes of death - heart disease and cancer," health teacher Melissa Hobick said.

"Stress can affect the blood cells that help you fight off infection so you are more likely to get colds and other diseases," Hobick said.

Stress can also lead to many unhealthy habits and addictions.

"Many addictions are linked to a stressful lifestyle, such as overeating, smoking, drinking, and drug abuse," Hobick said. "These are used as an escape or a temporary way of switching off - but they do not address the underlying problem."

The main sources of stress can vary as this survey from March of 2007 demonstrates.

When students were asked to mark all the sources that

caused their stress their responses were fairly similar.

83 percent of students surveyed checked classes and schoolwork as a source of stress, 33 percent reported extracurricular activities and sports, 46 percent reported family relationships, demands or problems, 41 percent reported interactions with friends and 31 percent reported boyfriend-girlfriend relationships, demands or problems.

Like anything, stress is okay in moderation. A reasonable amount of stress provides a drive to do better.

"Stress is not necessarily bad, it actually can be the thing that motivates you," Morrison said. "Without stress, life would be boring and seem meaningless."

A few ways to prevent stress from getting out of control is removing yourself from the stressor. Which can be friends at the time of finals.

"Remove yourself from people you know who are freaking out," Morrison said.

Try to put things in perspective, chances are they're larger than they seem.

Morrison said, "Develop an internal talk, is it overblown? It is not life or death."

Stay balanced.

"Distract yourself, shift away from the stressor to get perspective," Morrison said.

Freshman Emily Erlich said, "Usually I take a break and relax by putting on some music and taking a nap, it helps."

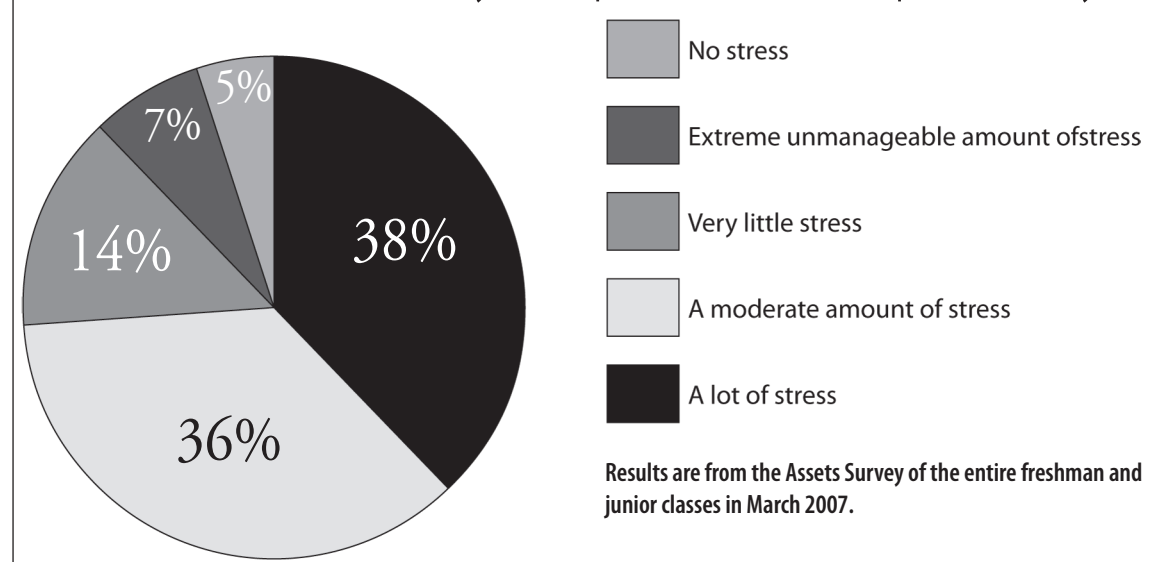
Make your outlook a positive one.

"If you create the worst scenario you'll be in trouble, train your brain not to do that," Morrison said.

While it's very important to find ways to deal with stress, everyone has their own way of coping. Whether it's getting organized, watching a favorite movie or taking a walk in the park, everyone has to find a way that works for them.

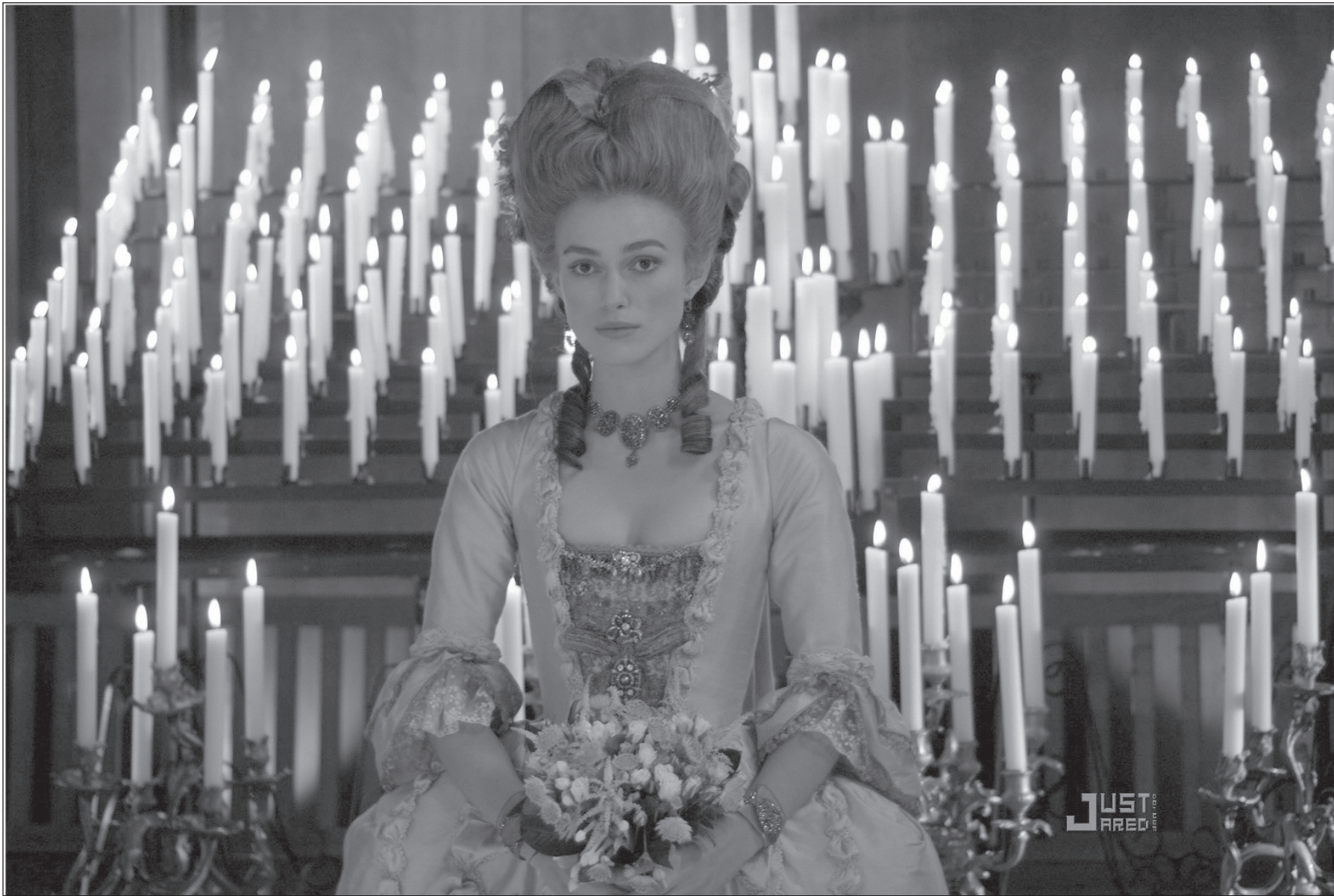
Lastly it's important to recall what Morrison said, "Stress builds and builds like a volcano don't let it erupt." ☺

How much stress have you experienced in the past 30 days?



**Pinkleaf's next show is Dec. 5
at the Blue Bird on Olive.**





'The Duchess': elaborate historic entertainment

Katherine Greenberg
Reporter

The *Duchess*, directed by Saul Dibb, is a heart wrenching portrayal of a woman trapped. Georgiana Spencer (Keira Knightley) is given an arranged marriage that does not prove to be a good match. She marries the Duke of Devonshire (Ralph Fiennes) and the marriage is not an easy one.

The Duke takes on many mistresses, including Georgiana's best friend, Bess. The film would be very depressing if not for the addition of Charles Grey portrayed by Dominic Cooper. Georgiana begins to look elsewhere for comfort as her marriage with the Duke begins to crumble before her very eyes. Charles Grey is the perfect distraction for Georgiana's hardships, including both her marital troubles and piling debts. However, she eventually must choose between her children and family, or her love with Charles. This film could make even the least romantic of people heartsick because of this emotional struggle.

This film shines with beautiful and elaborate costume designing. During her era, the Duchess of Devonshire was notorious for creating trends with elaborate hats, headdresses, and dresses.

The novel that the movie was adapted from the historical novel "Georgiana: Duchess of Devonshire," written by Amanda

Foreman. The book was a number one bestseller in England, and a bestseller for many weeks in the United States. It has been translated into several languages including French, German, Italian, Danish, Portuguese, and Spanish. The book won the Whitbread Prize for Best Biography in 1999.

This movie is for people who enjoy romantic comedies but also can deal with realism, sorrow, and hardship. The film is a portrayal of people making tough decisions and doing what they think is right, regardless of the consequences, during a time of severe political strain and social conflict.

While the scenery, decorations and costumes are beautiful and may make people long to live during the 18th century, women will not want to go back in time when watching the film. Watching Georgiana being ordered around by her unloving husband will make women appreciate how much times have changed. The Duke carries on numerous affairs; even letting his mistress live in his household, but when Georgiana takes a lover she is harshly sent away from her children.

While the film seems completely upsetting there are still some humorous and lighthearted moments.

The beginning of the film chronicles Georgiana's rise in stature and Knightley plays her with grace and spunk. She is fun to watch and easy to root for.

The film is entertaining but seems to drag towards the end.



Above, Keira Knightley stars in *The Duchess* as Georgiana Spencer on her wedding day. Her marriage to the Duke of Devonshire (Ralph Fiennes) proved to be loveless and restraining. Below, Spencer campaigns for Charles Grey (Dominic Cooper), her lover and consolation through her husband's unfaithfulness. *The Duchess of Devonshire* was known for her trendy fashion sense, and the movie is full of beautiful costumes and scenery.

Imperfections make Steak n' Shake a timeless favorite

Across the room sits a mullet-clad man in denim cutoffs. In the adjacent table sits a group of business suit wearing 30-somethings. Taking up an entire three tables is a teeming troop of cheerleaders. Most certainly, only a Steak n' Shake restaurant could bring together such a diverse group of people.

Founded in 1934 in Normal, Illinois there definitely is nothing normal, mediocre or banal about Steak n' Shake.

Sure, the hamburger buns have the tendency to be a tad bit stale, but who's afraid of a little aging? And yes, cleanliness is not always commonplace, but I prefer to consider the slight contamination as giving Steak n' Shake a rustic edge.

Ultimately, the combination of friendly service, deliciously unhealthy fast food and beyond refreshing milkshakes make Steak n' Shake the perfect place to eat.

Just classy enough to warrant needing to get out of pajamas to go to, there always is a reason to go on a trip to Steak n' Shake. Weddings, graduation, after a rough day at work or even after getting released from prison, literally any occasion can be celebrated with Steak n' Shake.

What makes the restaurant so amazing is the wide range of employees. At any given Steak n' Shake there usually are three different types of waiters. There's the spatula-waving eccentric, who will take your order then proceed to stick around the table for a conversation on anything ranging from government conspiracies to fashion trends.

Then there's the apathetic malcontent. He doesn't want to be working right now and he surely will let you know. A side of attitude comes free of charge with this type of Steak n' Shake server.

Last but certainly not least is the seasoned employee. A veteran of Steak n' Shake servitude, they can read you the menu forwards and backwards. Essentially, this type of employee always is the MVP of their particular Steak n' Shake.

A more predictable aspect of Steak n' Shake is the food itself. The burgers, distinctly thin and cooked to perfection, a steakburger can change your life for the better.

Possibly my infatuation with the deliciousness of Steak n' Shake is borderline unhealthy, but in a world where diet crazes and fat free foods are hot items I proudly enjoy my fat-filled, grease saturated burger. Indeed, nothing hits the spot like a bacon and cheese steakburger and a Reeses peanut butter cup shake.

Twisted novel intrigues

Caroline Stamp
Reporter

Going to the circus is filled with amazing trapeze acts, funny clowns, exotic animals, and lots of cotton candy. But "Water for Elephants," by Sara Gruen, takes the reader into a darker story about the circus, full of sex, murder, and scandal.

The book twists together the lives of Jacob and Marlena into a story that is impossible to put down.

Jacob had just suffered a terrible loss, and not knowing what to do, he runs away with the circus. But as he jumps onto the train, he realizes that he has gotten into a lot more than he has bargained for.

The circus he joins in the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth, lead by vicious ring master, Uncle Al.

As Jacob is getting settled into his new life as a circus worker, Marlena, one of the performers, catches his eye. In an effort to get to know her and be with her, he crosses paths with her husband August.

August and Jacob work closely together, training a helplessly confused Elephant named Rosie. During their time spend together they become close enemies, as they are both fighting for Marlena.

This book also tells the story of Jacob when he is much older, living in a nursing home. His family hardly comes to visit, and he is not happy living in the nursing home.

One day, Ringling Brothers Circus comes to town, and it floods him with memories of his past life.

The book transitions between the stories of old Jacob and young Jacob chapter by chapter. Because of the way the author transitions between the stories, it gives the book more depth and suspense, making the reader want to read on to get to the next chapter of the story of young Jacob.

Photos sprinkled throughout the book of old circus photos set a scene of what this circus might have been like and also give the reader a very vivid picture.

The author, Sara Gruen, has written two books previous to "Water for Elephants." Both of these novels were about horses, and writing "Water for Elephants" was a step outside the box, required a lot of research and was a huge success. "Water for Elephants" is a New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Wall Street Journal, and USA Today Bestseller.

With a mystifying prologue and intriguing story, "Water for Elephants" will keep you guessing until the very last page of the book.



Maddie Harned

Mia Rosa offers excellent dining

New Italian restaurant serves traditional Venetian cicchetti in an open atmosphere

Laura Bleeker
Reporter

Venice has always been my favorite city. No place in the world is quite like Venice, and no place ever will be. The views, the architecture and the history are all fascinating, but perhaps my favorite part of Venice is the food.

A new restaurant located in The Grove called Mia Rosa immediately caught my eye when I saw the words "Venice" next to it. The new restaurant may not have gondolas bumping up against a dock outside or the Mediterranean Sea surrounding it, but the food served there stood up to my Venetian standards.

Mia Rosa serves something called cicchetti, which are much like an Italian version of tapas. Cicchetti are small portions of food and you can get many of these dishes instead of a large entrée. In Venice, people go from bar to bar eating cicchetti.

The first thing I noticed when I stepped into Mia Rosa was the smell. It smelled new, like new wood and freshly painted walls. The walls were a rich chocolate color and all were covered in bright, colorful canvas paintings. Every one of the paintings in the three rooms of the restaurant was done by the artist Fern Taylor. They ranged from sunflowers in spring to leaves changing colors in the fall.

The first room had about five tables and a bar. This was the only smoking area in the restaurant, and the little smoke that was coming from it was not noticeable in the other rooms because of the good air ventilation.

The second room had about 10 tables, all of which were comfortably spaced out and private. The rooms were made casual by the butcher paper on the tables and by the concrete floors, but still nice from the table cloths underneath and the dim candles around the room.

The third room was much like the second, except for one very cool addition. It included an open window that allowed you to look into the kitchen to see the chefs at work. This made the room feel both more open and comfortable.

On one side of the restaurant were enormous plate glass windows, giving it an open, chic and simple look.

After talking to our waiter Ed, I found that the restaurant

was not just new, it was really new. It had opened only 10 weeks earlier. The space was empty when they bought it, but before that it had been a pharmacy and a barbecue restaurant.

The chef, Phillip Noe, is both the chef and the owner of the restaurant. He named Mia Rosa after his mother Rose. The food is typical of a northern, coastal Italian. They serve a lot of fish and vegetables and not as much pasta as other Italian restaurants.

The very first thing to come to the table was olive rolls fresh out of the oven, served with olive oil and cracked pepper. We decided to order five cicchetti to try as many of the dishes as possible and experience what the restaurant is famous for.

The first dish we had was a bruschetta of the day. It was not the normal bruschetta of tomatoes on crunchy, toasty bread. Instead, it was a light bread, grilled and topped with artichokes and gorgonzola. We also had flatbread with salsiccia and sweet onion. It was much like a pizza, but it had no red sauce or mozzarella cheese and was very light.

The more serious cicchetti came next. These included a very generous portion of osso bucco cooked perfectly and very tender, an amarene braised duck with polenta, and monk fish wrapped in prosciutto with a side of Israeli couscous.

Everything was perfect both in size and flavor. Even though



the dishes were very simple, they were extremely well executed.

After the dinner, we were still able to look at the dessert menu, wondering if anything could surpass the wonderful meal we had just eaten. We ordered chocolate flour-less cake, a tiramisu and a blueberry panna cotta. The chocolate cake was as expected very dense, but very well rounded in all of the ingredients and a nice sized portion. The tiramisu was not how it is typically prepared, but instead was made of a very fresh cream and lady fingers in a cup as more of a pudding. The panna cotta was not what I would have called a panna cotta, but it was still good. It did not have much of a gelatin texture, but instead was much firmer.

Overall, the restaurant was very good and will definitely become a big hit for both younger and older people. The food is outstanding and the feel of the place is almost as satisfactory.

'Changeling' lacks closure but promises commendable acting

Elle Bullard
Senior Editor

Clint Eastwood may never top his masterpiece "Million Dollar Baby," but continues to consistently produce films that are both intriguing and well-done. "Changeling," a film about a missing child case in Los Angeles in the 1920s, is no exception. Starring Angelina Jolie as Christine Collins, the mother of the missing boy, Walter, "Changeling" simultaneously engrosses and showcases Jolie's talent.

Christine lives a modest life alone with her son, Walter, at the beginning of the film. After coming home from work to find her son missing, Christine immediately calls the police for help. A few months later, Christine is informed that her son has been found. She rushes to meet him at the train station only to discover that the boy who is returned to her is not, in fact, her son.

When Christine insists that the boy is not her son, she is only met with resistance from the Los Angeles Police Department. Refusing to admit his mistake, Captain J.J. Jones, played by Jeffrey Donovan, insists that Christine is incorrect. Christine continues to protest, and with the encouragement of anti-LAPD Reverend Gustav Briegleb, goes to the press with her complaints. Seeing this as a threat, Jones claims Christine is insane, and sends her to a psychiatric ward, places which were at that time extremely hostile.

As the story unfolds, cop Lester Ybarra (Michael Kelly) unknowingly

stumbles upon the site of the Wineville Chicken Coop Murders. Once captured for assaulting Ybarra, teenager Sanford Clark (Eddie Alderson) confesses to partaking in the murder of more than 20 children with mastermind Gordon Northcott (Jason Butler Harner). Sanford recognizes Walter Collins as one of the boys that he and Northcott brought back to their farm. Christine is released from the psychiatric ward and continues her battle against the LAPD, ending in two court cases, one against the LAPD, and the other against Northcott, the killer himself.

The film is filled with emotional performances, most notably from Jolie, but also in the confession from Alderson and Harner's performance. Jolie has a remarkable capacity to sink into hysterics whenever necessary, and creates a depth of personality difficult to create in any character. Northcott's hanging is especially gripping; Harner does an outstanding job conveying the Northcott's creepy mental instability.

Although the film is on the surface merely a story of a mother and her missing child, it is more a criticism of the LAPD and treatment of women in the 1920s. The limited situation of women is obvious in "Changeling," especially in Christine's experience in the psych ward and in the LAPD's ability to dismiss Christine's complaints. The LAPD's corruption and inefficiency are clear in their substitution of another boy for Walter Collins to bolster its plummeting reputation in Los Angeles.

However, "Changeling" provides a very black and white view of the issues at stake. It is clear exactly who the bad guys are and why they should be punished. And they are punished; by the end of the film Jones and the LAPD police chief are demoted and fired, and Northcott is hanged. Nevertheless, the end of the movie is not satisfying because the audience never gets what it is promised at the beginning—that is, closure on Walter Collins' kidnapping. By the end of the movie, the audience still does not know whether Walter is dead or alive. For a movie that plays like a very drawn out Law & Order episode, it lacks conclusion. This one flaw is, unfortunately, uncorrectable because the real Walter was never found, dead or alive.

Although the opening credits boast that it is a true story, this movie does seem unrealistic. Some of the characters are so flatly unyielding and unsympathetic that they seemed unreal, merely foils used to highlight Jolie's performance. A particular scene comes to mind when questioning the authenticity of the film—the scene where Christine goes to visit Northcott because he claims he will confess to the killing of her child. When she arrives Northcott informs Christine that he is not ready to confess. This, obviously, frustrates Christine, so much so that she physically assaults Northcott, pushing him up against the wall and yelling in his face forcefully. This seemed a product of either Eastwood's or Jolie's imaginations; it's doubtful that any woman would think to do that in the



Captain J.J. Jones (Jeffrey Donovan) walks worried mother Christine Collins (Angelina Jolie) through a sea of reporters in the provocative drama from director Clint Eastwood, "Changeling." (Universal Studios/MCT)

1920s. Of course, all films are going to be prone to dramatization, and this film in particular is sometimes stranger than fiction.

There were a couple factual issues with the story. The full story of the Wineville murders was not actually covered in the film—the real story involves Northcott's grandmother and

incest—but the basic idea was there. Also, Christine was only let out of the psychiatric ward when the boy substituted for Walter Collins confessed that he was not actually Walter (this means that Rev. Briegleb and his buddies probably didn't barge into the ward to set Christine free).

Overall, "Changeling" brought a

great performance by Angelina Jolie and other supporting actors. Although it was perhaps too long and seemed a little inaccurate, the film accomplishes the goal of unmasking corruption in the LAPD and the role of women in the 1920s. "Changeling" does an outstanding job of drawing in the audience—that's why it's such an interesting movie to watch. ☺

Oliver Stone's controversial 'W.' accurately portrays Bush's character and presidency

Nina Oberman
Editor

The 43rd President of the United States is recognized more widely by his quotes in farcical bookstore paraphernalia than by phrases in any of his speeches. According to CNN, historians will most likely use the word "incompetent" to label his presidency.

Oliver Stone's biographic film "W." paints an empathetic portrait of this man, who now receives support from a mere 27 percent of Americans.

Stone and his writer Stan Weiser render the current president as a tragic hero, a man with a prominent name but a clear tragic flaw: his own ambition.

Growing up in his brother Jeb's shadow, Bush struggles to assert his place in the world and begins his political climb to confirm his own capabilities.

In a memorable scene, George H.W. Bush, played astutely by James Cromwell, reprimands his son for careless decisions at college.

"You disappointment me, junior," he says. "Deeply disappointment me."

This disappointment is what drives W. to run for office, and to define his presidency as his father didn't: by a full invasion of Iraq. Stone thus boils the past eight years down to an intense Oedipal conflict, oversimplifying a history that is much more complex.

Similarly hyperbolic, Vice President Dick Cheney (Richard Dreyfuss) is represented as a complete and utter villain. In a cabinet meeting, he once says, "Control Iran, control Eurasia, control the World." His jingoistic zeal has certainly never been this intense, and its exaggeration provides no valuable insight into recent history.

While the characters may be extreme, the acting in "W."

is commendable. Actor Josh Brolin's scintillating portrayal of George W. Bush encapsulates the president's goofy mannerisms and simplistic worldview. His character's insincere repetition of the desire to spread freedom everywhere only negates this message, revealing his naïve view of good and evil. Hokey hospital visits to war veterans emphasize this insincerity: he passes out t-shirts to wounded soldiers as they lie on hospital beds, and assures them that their service was valuable.

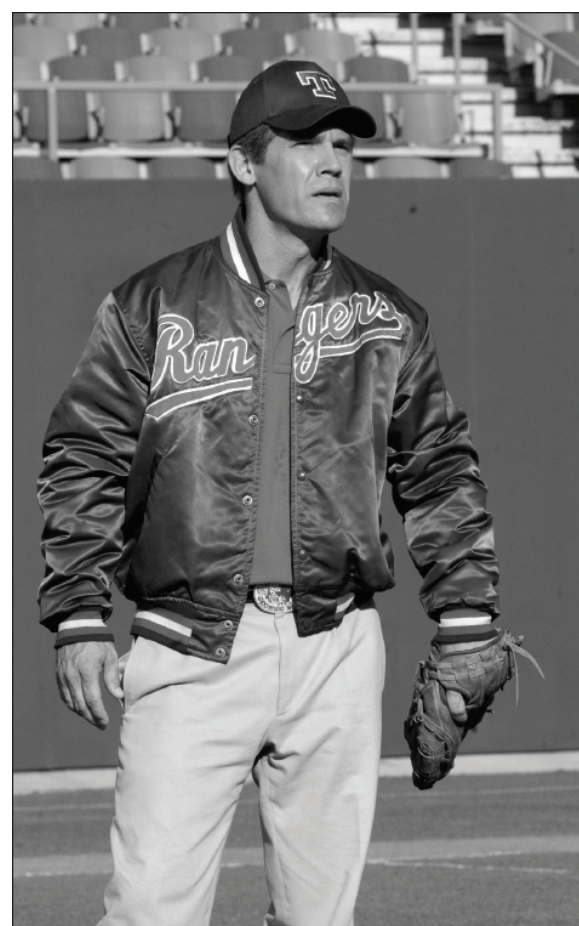
Yet Brolin's genius is especially apparent in his ability to convey Bush's dreams of being a baseball coach as equivalent to his dreams of becoming president. He seems to view life as a game, with clear rules, straightforward strategies, and arch-rivals. Stone reinforces this message by cleverly playing the "Robin Hood" theme as Bush and his cabinets stroll through the fields on his Texas ranch.

Overall, the film points to Bush's family name as the only catalyst for his political career. Stone asserts that Bush may never have heard God's voice calling him to the presidency were it not for his name. Similarly, he may never have declared war in Iraq if his father had done it first.

"W." successfully creates a detailed sketch of a still-evolving history, but fails to go as far as it could. One late scene depicts Bushes Sr. and Jr. preparing to duke it out in the Oval Office. If carried out, the fight could have been memorably audacious, tackling the movie's central theme. However, Bush awakens to find it was only a dream.

While "W." may have been marketed as a satire, the film is more tragedy than comedy. One cannot forget that Bush's careless antics as a young man were real, however ridiculous they may be.

Although lackluster for viewers looking for a laugh, this film will awaken feelings of sympathy in anyone who watches open-mindedly. A pivotal closing scene depicts one of the



Josh Brolin stars as George W. Bush in "W." The biopic was generally praised by critics after its release on Oct. 17.

president's press conferences, during which he is frustratingly unable to point out his own mistakes. The audience is left with the same intense feelings of vexation that Bush has as he storms up to his room.

In both the film and reality, one thing is undoubtedly accurate: Bush's attempts at comedy are sadly serious, and his attempts at earnestness are unfortunately comedic. ☹

'Emma: The Musical' exciting reenactment of novel

Taylor Stone
Editor

Match-making! Laughter! Romance! Witty banter! "Jane Austen's Emma: The Musical" is practically bursting at the seams with these aspects and more, in a fashion that Ms. Austen herself would approve of.

The whimsical two-act musical first premiered in 2007 at TheatreWorks in Palo Alto, where it broke every box office record in the theatre's 38-year history. It enjoyed its St. Louis debut during the fall season at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, where crowds flocked to see the must-see performance of the season. Paul Gordon, who was nominated for a 2000 Tony award for composing the music and lyrics to the Broadway musical "Jane Eyre," provides the book, music and lyrics for "Emma". The Director, Robert Kelley, also directed "Jane Eyre" and created the theatre in which "Emma" premiered.

The musical, based on the beloved novel by Jane Austen, centers its story on high-society members dwelling in Highbury, just south of London, in 1815. The heroine, Emma Woodhouse, a self-proclaimed matchmaker, boasts of her purpose to pair up single inhabitants of Highbury she believes are perfect for one another, yet fails to understand her own heart.

After marrying off her governess to the agreeable Mr. Weston, Emma turns her attention to her poor, yet charming friend Harriet. She successfully eschews Harriet's obvious preference for the farmer Robert Martin (who Emma initially deems as unworthy of Harriet), and instead persuades her toward the crude clergyman Mr. Elton.

All the while, Harriet sets up a seemingly perfect match for herself and the cheery Londoner Frank Churchill, the Mr. Weston's son. However, Emma ignores her lively, flirtatious

relationship with the "confirmed bachelor" and family friend George Knightley, which leads to several complications in Emma's life and circle of friends.

I would call myself "Janeite", a term first used in 1894 by literary scholar George Saintsbury which comes to be both an insult and one of honor, depending on the situation.

To other Jane Austen lovers like me, it is certainly a positive title.

In short, having read each of Ms. Austen's six novels, my chief concern when entering the theatre was how the book was going to be skewed during the transition into not only a staged performance, but one with (God forbid) songs in it.

To my pleasant, and not-so-much surprise as relief, the musical altogether was wonderfully charming and entertaining. With the plot of the actual book being altogether light and comical, it would not be difficult for its musical to cross the line from amusing to ridiculous when dealing with certain characters, especially if their experiences are expressed musically.

However, the quirky plot and bold characterization were projected brilliantly on stage, and it felt Jane's words came alive not only through scenery and costume, but also through movement, dialogue and song.

One of the highlights was the performance of Lianne Marie Dobbs in the title role. She exhibited likeability and bold charm, but still retained the mood of Austen's own words in regard to Emma, "I'm going to take a heroine whom no one but myself will much like." Dobbs allowed the appropriate amount of appeal to her character without sacrificing the audience's ability to become frustrated with her pettiness and confusion.

Another notable performance was that of Timothy Gulan

as George Knightley, who successfully portrayed the vibrancy of the Emma-Knightley relationship, and delivered some of the most memorably hilarious lines in the entire performance. The way he delivered sarcasm was both blatant and witty. Gulan and Dobbs demonstrated true chemistry on stage—whether they were arguing or professing love.

Other memorable performances were that of Dani Marcus as the easily confused but sweet-natured Harriet and Richert Easley as Mr. Woodhouse, readily deploring marriage as "inconvenient" and complaining of non-existent "drafts".

One of the characterizations that did not succeed was that of Robert Martin—who was portrayed as somewhat of a buffoon in the musical, but was expressed in the book as being respectable and polite. Perhaps the director wished to add a more comical flavor to the character, but considering the story in itself has ample comical aspects, it was unnecessary.

The songs altogether were enjoyable and were delivered in a way that captured the audience and immersed them in the emotions and mindsets of characters, a trait that is often absent in most adaptations of Ms. Austen's works. Gulan impressively sang the title song "Emma" with emotional power and talent, and the chamber group delivered the music with polish and style. However, most of the songs were quite light, and therefore not as memorable.

The costume design, created by Fumiko Bielfeldt was simple—with no full changes in costume between scenes—but additions or subtractions of jackets, coats, shawls, and hats to indicate change in scene. This worked well, allowing the mood to be changed without sacrificing stage time. The costumes also match the respective social classes represented, true to 19th century style.

All in all, "Emma" was charming and whimsical, demonstrating the mood and characterization of the novel in a revolutionary, entertaining way. It contained wonderful performances that were more memorable than the songs. Janeites would certainly agree that Austen herself would laugh at Knightley's sarcastic comment to Emma, "I sometimes like to dazzle you." Indeed, not only Mr. Knightley dazzled the audience, but the entire production did as well. ☺

'High School Musical 3' delivers new music

Payton Sciaratta
Reporter

"High School Musical 3: Senior Year" came out in theaters on Oct. 24. The main characters Troy Bolton (Zac Efron), Gabriella Montez (Vanessa Hudgens), Sharpay Evans (Ashley Tisdale), Chad Danforth (Corbin Bleu), Ryan Evans (Lucas Grabeel), and Taylor McKessie (Monique Coleman) are back and better than ever.

In this movie, these Disney Channel stars are faced with the final basketball game of the season, the final senior musical, graduation, relationships, prom, and college. Gabriella has to face a choice that may affect the rest of her life; she gets an offer to be in a freshman honor program at a college that is one thousand miles away from where she is attending high school. She keeps this secret from Troy, her boyfriend, and only tells her best friend Taylor. Troy eventually hears about the news and a conflict arises between the couple.

Meanwhile, Sharpay Evans is given the opportunity to become good friends with a sophomore, Jemma McKenzie Brown, who is a British transfer student. This student spreads the news about Gabriella, and eventually turns her back on Sharpay.

Also in this movie, the teen stars are faced with the problem of which college to go to. Troy must choose between basketball and acting. And only one student may attend the prestigious Juilliard College, but four students qualify.

Lastly, the students are faced with prom, the one thing girls looked forward to the moment they got into high school, and the one thing guys dread when the moment comes. This musical is entertaining for the whole family to enjoy.

On Oct. 24, the opening night, "High School Musical 3: Senior Year" made \$16.9 million. It has made a total of \$42 million so far, since the movie has been released in theatres. And the revenue is still increasing.

This film also contains phenomenal music. There are three full cast numbers which are "Now or Never," "We're all in this together (Reprise)," and "High School Musical."

There is also a number in which Sharpay is trying to convince Ryan that the spring musical is all about them, and that they are going to be famous on Broadway. This song is called "I Want it All."

Next, there is a song called "Right Here, Right Now." Troy and Gabriella sing this and it is about the everlasting love they share. In the song "Can I have this Dance," Gabriella tries to teach Troy how to waltz for their prom.

There is also a song that takes place in a junk yard, where Troy and Chad are reminiscing about their childhood, thinking of all the good times they had together, and how they will soon be separated when college finally comes around. This song is called "The Boys are Back."

Gabriella sings a song later in the movie in which she is singing that she just has to walk away from everything and forget that she is leaving to go to college, and she will be missing the musical, prom, and graduation. This song is called "Walk Away." In response to "Walk Away," Troy sings the song "Scream." This song is where Troy expresses his feelings about how he wants to choose his college and nobody is going to make that decision for him.

Throughout the movie, the cast is trying to put on a spring musical that shows how they have grown throughout high school, and they reenact their prom and graduation. This song is called "Senior Year Spring Musical." In another song called "Just Wanna Be With You," Ryan asks a girl to prom.

The next song sung in the movie is called "A Night To Remember." This song is played right after Chad asks Taylor to prom, and everyone begins to panic because the boys don't know what to wear and the girls are loving the fact that prom is finally here.

While the first movie only had 7.7 million viewers in America, the third one has been a record breaker.

Because High School Musical has been such a big success over the past few years, there may be a High School Musical 4: College Years, or a fourth installment of the movie in which the three new characters introduced in the third movie play the main characters. However, whether they make the movie or not, Efron and Hudgens only agreed to do three movies, so they will most likely not be in the fourth film. ☹

Confessions from inside the den

The once conventional trend of older men courting younger women has now shifted to older women, or “cougars”, dating younger men.

Rachel Nevels
Reporter

We see it everyday, all over the media: Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher, Jennifer Aniston and John Mayer, Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon. The number of older women dating younger men is growing; for years it has been acceptable for older men to date younger women, but now it has become more common to see women dating younger men. It is now even apparent in the halls of Clayton High School.

The term “cougar” originated in Vancouver, British Columbia, as a put-down for older women who would go to bars and go home with whoever was left at the end of the night.

But now, it's more positive edge to the definition, now describing women usually in their thirties and forties, who are financially stable, mentally independent and looking for a younger man to have fun with.

But even more recently, the term has been used more loosely for any woman older than her partner. One local example is junior Devonte Bell and his girlfriend, who is a senior. They have been dating exclusively and though she is two years Bell's senior, both are quite liberal on their views about age disparity in relationships.

“I think older women dating younger men is okay, men have been doing it for years,” junior Devonte Bell said.

Although it has become acceptable for older men to date younger women, it has been a slow transition to the acceptance of the opposite.

“I mean, my girlfriend is older than me, and at first my family thought it was weird, because they were used to me dating younger girls,” Bell said, “but my family loves and accepts her, and our age difference isn't ever an issue [with them].”



Sophomore Ruthie Polinsky embraces her boyfriend senior Matt Haslam. Older men dating younger women has been a societal norm for many years; however, older women dating younger men has become a popular trend throughout the school.

Some women think that older guys are more motivated and willing to work hard towards the relationship, while others look at it the opposite side of the spectrum. They think of their younger counterparts simply as someone to have fun with.

Senior Morgan Johnson has been dating junior Claude Keaton, who is a year younger than she is, for nearly two years.

“I've never dated anyone older than me, but I have dated

guys my same age and my boyfriend is much more mature,” Johnson said. “Sometimes it is apparent that he's younger than I am, but our relationship is much more stronger than anyone I've ever had [a relationship with]. We've gotten negative comments about it, but not from anyone that mattered.”

As one ages and becomes more mature, age differences over three years don't seem as peculiar as it does in high school. Psychology teacher David Aiello doubts that long-term relationships would be possible for many high school couples.

“A senior and a freshman, maybe even a sophomore, would seem to have too many obstacles to overcome to really have a successful, long-term relationship,” Aiello said. “The life experiences of a senior are so different from those of a ninth or tenth grader. The physical and emotional maturity levels are so different, especially if it is a senior girl and a freshman or sophomore boy.”

When it comes to women dating younger men in general, Aiello sees that times are changing.

“In the past 50 years, women have slowly, but very thoroughly, been knocking down whatever walls of discrimination are still standing,” Aiello said. “This idea of dating whomever you wanted is probably just an extension of women doing what they want and not worrying too much about what society wants from them.”

Aiello said that dealing with women in their early forties and fifties dating men in their mid to late twenties to early thirties, the woman is the one in charge.

“Power is the ultimate aphrodisiac,” Aiello said. “A younger man is also more vibrant, energetic, exciting, and much more physically attractive. In other words, women are dating younger men for exactly the same reasons men have been dating younger women for centuries.”

Vegetarians find alternative to standard Thanksgiving meals

Maddy Bullard
Reporter

Thanksgiving turkey—a staple menu item present at all holiday feasts. Or is it? Certainly not for vegetarians at CHS, who have widely varying Thanksgiving Day menus and preferences for their celebratory banquets. Sophomore Elle Jacobs has been a vegetarian for a while now.

“I usually eat mashed potatoes and peas and cranberry sauce,” Jacobs said. “Those are my favorites.”

But other vegetarians prefer foods a bit further from the norm. Sophomores Zoe and Klio Coppotelli often eat spaghetti, pickles, spinach balls, and Brussels sprouts on Thanksgiving.

“I eat mashed potatoes, with vegetarian gravy that has no meat in it, and a lot of spaghetti,”

Zoe Coppotelli said. “Also we get apple pie, and pumpkin pie.”

“[We eat] spaghetti, and fried eggplant, and that's really good,” Klio Coppotelli said.

In fact, Klio Coppotelli is very open-minded about Thanksgiving foods.

“I like them all,” Klio Coppotelli said. “It's all good food.”

The Coppotellis have been raised about food.

“When I was little my parents raised me as a vegetarian,” Klio Coppotelli said. “I think it affects how I grew up, and what I think about eating and stuff. I didn't know anything different, so I think it affects how I normally think about people eating meat.”

Although she doesn't eat classic Thanksgiving turkey, Jacobs can still appreciate the value of Thanksgiving.

“Yeah, I like Thanksgiving because it

brings the family together,” Jacobs said.

Klio Coppotelli agrees with Jacobs, that Thanksgiving is about more than just the cuisine.

“I like Thanksgiving because it's fun,” Klio Coppotelli said. “I get to see all my family, and then I get to hear weird stories my grandparents tell. And then I get to hang out with my cousins, so that's fun.”

Overall, Jacobs and the Coppotellis all enjoy being vegetarians.

“I think it's good, but there's some pros and cons that you have to weigh against it,” Zoe Coppotelli said.

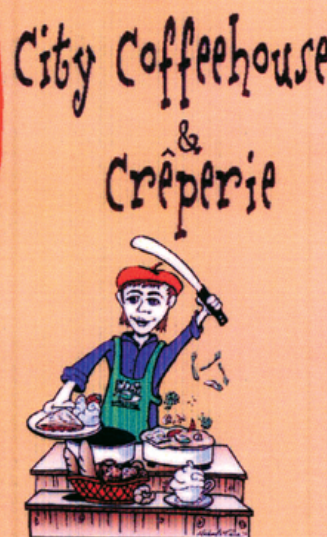
Despite others' testimonies to the value of meat, Jacobs is satisfied with being a vegetarian.

“Everyone wonders why I am [a vegetarian] because they say I'm missing out on meat, but I don't feel like I'm missing out on anything,” Jacobs said.



Helen Wiley

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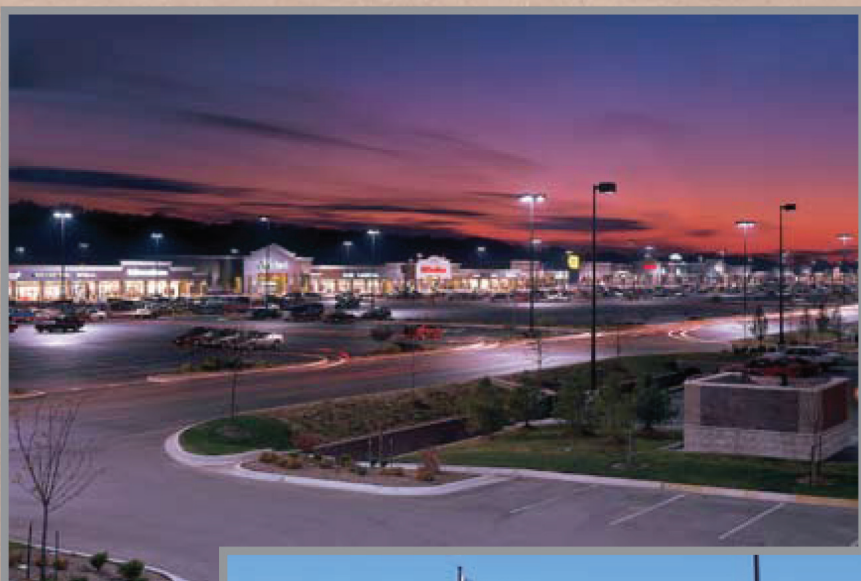


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Blueprint 4 Tomorrow costly but necessary

In the coming months, Clayton voters will be asked to approve a bond issue to cover funding for the Blueprint 4 Tomorrow, a district-wide facility upgrade with an estimated price tag of \$69 million.

Although the project is costly, it is crucial that the Clayton community understand its necessity. Supporting the Blueprint 4 Tomorrow is in the best interest of the district's students, teachers, and administrators.

Of the proposed \$69 million, over half would go toward renovating the high school. The money would predominantly be spent on the construction of a three-story extension to house the science department. This renovation is both highly necessary and long overdue.

It should be remembered that the dismal state of the science facilities was what kick-started the entire Blueprint 4 Tomorrow process. Due to space constraints, some science classes at CHS are taught out of the department in ill-equipped rooms, limiting the ability of the teacher to perform necessary demonstrations or experiments on a daily basis.

Of the existing science labs, many are relics of the 1950s, with rusting pipes and dripping faucets. A facilities overhaul is vital to the continued efficacy of the department.

Problems with science are central concerns elsewhere in the district. In the elementary schools, science is taught out of a tub—a system with self-evident constraints. In light of this, the possibility of specified science classrooms in those schools is being explored.

At Wydown, space is the primary issue. Some teachers last year had to share room space or even teach in the hallways. In a district that replaces practically all of its computers annually, it is absurd that there would be teachers without classrooms.

The bottom line is that the effect of good facilities can be felt on every rung of the educational ladder. A faculty whose rooms accommodate their needs will be more effective in teaching the necessary material. Teachers who are satisfied with the resources available to them will maintain better relationships with the administration. And students in an optimal environment will certainly get the most out of their classes.

Clayton's teachers are the best, but even the best can be limited by weak facilities. If implemented, the Blueprint 4 Tomorrow will allow teachers who already get outstanding results to do even more.

The time to make this vision a reality is approaching. After confirmation by the Blueprint 4 Tomorrow Steering Committee, the plans go to the School Board to be discussed and finalized. The Board will then decide on the ballot language for the bond issue, and the community will vote on whether or not to fund the project.

If nothing else, an investment in a school is an investment in the future. It is important to listen when teachers say that their needs are not being met, and now is one of those times. And while the cost of the Blueprint 4 Tomorrow may be daunting, Clayton's teachers and students are worth it. ☺

Staff Editorial

Agree **98%**
Disagree **2%**



The cottage will be replaced with a new structure in the future. Blueprint 4 Tomorrow involves a high price, but also many new and great opportunities for students and staff.

Middlebury unveils Quidditch recruiting program

Quidditch is known the world over as the magical sport invented by J.K. Rowling in her best-selling Harry Potter series. The game, which has captivated readers of all ages, is played hundreds of feet in the air on flying broomsticks, and ends only when one team's seeker catches the elusive "golden snitch."

In 2005, students at Middlebury College in Vermont invented a modified version of the sport for non-magical fans. Like its magical counterpart, "Muggle Quidditch" is played between two teams of seven, with three Chasers, one Keeper, two Beaters, and one Seeker on each side (plus one cross country runner who dresses in yellow and plays the snitch.)

In 2007, Middlebury and the fledgling Vassar team duked it out at the first annual Muggle Quidditch World Cup. Since then, the Intercollegiate Quidditch Association has grown wildly in popularity. 180 colleges, including Oberlin, Princeton, Tulane, and McGill now have registered teams.

This year, in a controversial move, Middlebury announced that it will begin an active athletic recruitment program for potential players on its Muggle Quidditch team.

"Middlebury has always put excellence first, both in the classroom and on the playing field," Dean of Admissions Robert Claggett said. "We take Muggle Quidditch very seriously here—we're out to win."

Since few high schools have well-established Muggle Quidditch programs, recruiters will be looking to draw from

several other sports in their selections.

"We try to find parallels between the skills required for Muggle Quidditch and those required in other disciplines," recruiting official Doug Abernathy said. "We look to baseball and tennis for beaters, soccer and basketball for chasers and keepers, and cross country for seekers."

Jeff Davidson, captain of the Parkway Central cross country team, hopes to Seek next year at Middlebury. He was flown out to Vermont near the end of October.

"Basically they just had me run a couple of marathons," Davidson said. "It was pretty chill."

Despite student enthusiasm, the Muggle Quidditch recruitment program has been met with indignation and disbelief from some of the faculty.

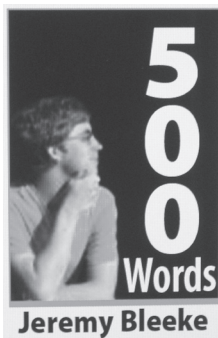
"I went to Oxford for this?" asked one professor who wished to remain anonymous. "I have no problem with Muggle Quidditch as an intramural sport, but college is about learning, it's not about hitting things with bats."

Others disagree. Sunhee Choi, a professor of Chemistry, believes that actively seeking out Quidditch talent will foster diversity and promote a range of interests on campus.

"Middlebury has always valued things that have been somewhat out of the mainstream," Choi said. "This fits in perfectly with the Middlebury attitude."

Although he is working with the faculty to address their concerns with the program, Claggett thinks that they will come around.

"I don't understand what all the fuss



A Middlebury Chaser triumphantly hurls the Quaffle through a hoop at a match.

is about," Claggett said. "Our faculty is exceptionally bright, and I'm sure they'll eventually figure out why bringing in top Muggle Quidditch players is a pri-

Student weighs in on offensive statement

As I look back on the results of this year's election it seems that the election came down to one thing, and it wasn't the economy.

With Barack Obama's landslide victory, although it was due to his leadership skills, many Americans may believe that his election may be a sign of America's triumph over prejudice.

I completely agree that electing an African American to presidency is a big step for Americans, given just over 50 years ago African Americans weren't even allowed to choose where they could sit on the bus. However this election as a whole, if anything, was one big step backwards for accepting people for who they are.

In California proposition 8 is expected to pass this election, thus defining marriage only between a man and a woman. The passage of this amendment is a huge loss, not only for gays in California, but to gays across the globe.

Personally, I believe this is a devastat-

ing loss for all Americans.

In the land of the free and the home of the brave, in the 21st century, we are still passing laws based on intolerance?

Am I the only one that sees the prejudice in these laws? A completely drunk man and a just as drunk woman that don't even know each others' name can go to a drive through chapel in Las Vegas and within ten minutes they can now call each other husband and wife.

But for two committed, loving people of the same sex to get married, is illegal in almost every single state in the country.

I don't care what you believe in; don't you see the hypocrisy in this?

Nonetheless, I understand that not only are most of the students at this high school not old enough to vote, but none of us voted in the California election. But the passage of this amendment in California and similar laws in other states is the cause of intolerance.

Many students at this high school are not making a stance against this injustice, and many of us are even promoting it, through the phrase "that's so gay."

It is almost impossible anymore to get through a conversation among friends without someone using this phrase. And nine times out ten they weren't trying to describe something that is "homosexual" or "carefree," the two accepted definitions of the word.

Using the phrase "that's so gay" as a synonym for stupid is obviously grammatically incorrect, but is also extremely offensive. Openly Gay people actually attend this high school. Not to mention closeted gays, and people that are related or friends with gay people also attend this high school.

It is impossible for someone that is not in one of these roles to understand how hurtful misusing the phrase "that's so gay" can be; so just don't say it.

How would you feel if suddenly one day the one characteristic that defines you most suddenly became the new phrase that you described everything you hate with?

ority. I mean who wouldn't want a star Chaser in their sociology class? I personally think that it would be a dream come true." ☺

"That's so Christian," "that's so Straight," or "that's so Asian," became the new line students used to describe failing tests and detention.

Maybe you're the type that wouldn't care, but I think it would get on most peoples nerves. So why do some people think it is okay to do this to gay people?

And finally, "gay" is the phrase that homosexuals have chosen to identify with. And to try and change the definition is only humiliating for them.

Just as words like Moron and Retarded, which at one time word respectable medical terms for people that have a learning disability, are now politically incorrect because of their misuse. Doctors and specialist are forced to use words like "mentally challenged" and "special."

Don't make homosexuals identify with a new word because you can't find a better word for stupid.

So, Clayton High School, I know you didn't vote against gay marriage, but some of you are only fueling the injustice. So don't say "that's so gay," because the only person you are making look dumb is yourself. ☺



Canvassing enlightens, provides inspiration

One Saturday morning a few weeks ago, I languidly lay outside, reading about Ken Kesey and day-glo in the Electric Kool Aid Acid Test. My dad opened the front door. "Do you want to volunteer at the Obama headquarters?" he asked. "Yeah, let's go."

The sky is blue behind gaunt branches losing their leaves. An empty inflatable pool rests in a backyard; an abandoned TV left outside displays racecars driving around a track; last night's Halloween decorations somberly hang—"I don't want another f---n' republican," a man says in a subdued Southern accent.

My father and I, standing at his door, are canvassing in Overland, Missouri for Barack Obama. Overland is small town of mostly white, working class people; a microcosm of vinyl siding and deteriorating wooden steps.

After canvassing, my father and I learned that most residents in Overland are voting for Obama. But has the American dream been deferred? Inside houses covered by "beware of dog" signs, and cracked paint, citizens have settled for less, for a different American dream than their parents.

In fact, many residents here are not swayed by the politics of either candidate. They feel unaccounted for, and left out, like the last kid chosen to be on your kickball team.

Walking down deserted streets, my father and I continued to another house on our list. We stood in a driveway, with flyers in our hands, waiting as a dark green minivan pulled in. Obama signs covered their lawn, and the sun's honest rays conspicuously outlined pumpkins with wilting faces.

"Sorry to bother you," my father said, "but we just want to make sure you vote on Tuesday."

Two women stepped out of the car, a daughter and her mother. The mother, wearing a mint green hat and large brown sunglasses, spoke vehemently about the power of prayer. "It doesn't matter who wins," she said, "God will decide what

happens." Her middle-aged daughter looked disenchanted; she called Obama "demonic."

To these women, both African-American, the election seems insignificant. Problems in their lives, the daughter admitted that she doesn't have health insurance, are unaffected by politicians, who seem to be only intangible figures on the TV. While my dad tried to convince the daughter, her mother furtively pulled me aside; she spoke quietly.

"I had 21 children, and my sister had 24. I'm 84 now, and I'm still alive," she said. I looked at her incredulously and bewildered as she continued to speak of sewers, snakes, and, um, pie.

My father and I, smiling, walked away, wishing them good luck. Soon after, we had our faith restored. As we knocked on the door of apartment 6B, we were greeted by two ardent Obama supporters.

"Of course I'm voting for Obama!" a woman ebulliently smiled. "This is what democracy is all about," my dad kept saying, "talking to real people." That's right. I spent my day in Overland, an area most Clayton students have never been to, an area of old cars and deteriorating houses, a deferred American dream.

We live in a nation of consumerism. I'm guilty of spending my parent's money on superfluous items, sometimes things I don't even really want. I beseech my mom to let me use her credit card, and I need everything right now. However, clothes, CDs, books, shoes, and my iPod, the results of my egotism, sit on my bedroom floor, untouched. After being in Overland, I know how fortunate I am.

My dad and I arrived at the Obama headquarters in St. Louis again, after three hours and 99 houses. We were greeted by inspirational chaos. Regardless of who wins this historic election, I know that I did something. ☺



Hannah Callahan

Debate fosters confidence, new friendships

Globe

A kid facing the walls, talking loudly to himself in multiple voices, each voice in a different pitch. Two partners, leaping and hopping over each other, excitedly. Another kid, pacing up and down the hallway with a stopwatch, whispering about alternative energy at the rate of 350 words per minute.

No, you didn't just walk into an insane asylum; you've walked into the world of high school Speech, Debate and Interpretation. And I am one of those kids. In fact, I'm the one pacing with the stopwatch, whispering feverishly to myself at the speed of light.

I'm not going to lie. My first debate tournament, I was petrified. I was thoroughly terrified at the thought of being surrounded by so many, well, LOSERS. It seemed as if I could not escape lame-oes. They were crowded in the cafeteria, the hallways, the stairwell, practicing, practicing, PRACTICING. I was ticked off at the fact that, literally, around every corner I turned, I just HAD to see some random schizo kid dressed in a suit and tie, ORATING to himself.

But I had to admit; they all seemed to be pros. The easy, convincing manner with which a humorous interpret kid switched voices, the speed-reading of policy debaters and the confidence of Public Forum debaters secretly impressed me. And I found that in a matter of hours, those people were not so lame. And I soon became one of them, and loved every minute of it.

I found that I quickly adjusted to the debate lingo. You never "debate" a team, rather the term "hit" is used. Rather than saying, "We just debated Ladue's A team," it's shortened to: "We just hit Ladue-A." "PuF" pronounced (Puff) is an abbreviation for Public Forum, and "DA" stands for disadvantage, "T" for topicality, and "K" for Kritik- a special ethical argument.

Debate is composed of strategy and reason. When you learn that your opponent's first speaker is bad at linking arguments, you learn to attack her links in round, and when you find out that the second speaker can't control his anger under pressure, during the cross-examination, you subtly push his buttons so that he'll lose it in front of the judge.

Getting to know people from other schools is also a great perk. However, the way in which we know them is indeed quite odd. Rather than knowing people by their given names, you learn to recognize them by their school, code, and case.

Tournament after tournament, we hit the same people, so after awhile, we know that Pattonville A runs a Nuclear Energy affirmative case, and Ladue C

runs R&P. We can chat and laugh once the debate is over. My partner has a strict "no fraternizing with the opponents" rule.

Still, we debaters are indeed dedicated. Not only do we spend more than 5 hours on Friday nights, but we also spend the entire day on Saturday, in a stuffy school, living off of cold pizza. We debate (and orate) for hours on end, until we are physically and mentally drained. That leaves Sunday for homework and no room for a social life. I have no friends apart from the team. (Kidding.)

We also voluntarily do academic work. It's not uncommon to stop by the I-Mac lab or Room 2 after school the weeks approaching a tournament to find most of the debate team, typing, filing and timing our hearts out. PuF-ers have to write a new case each month, and policy debate requires a typed 14-page case and perpetual gathering and updating our evidence. Because policy debate keeps the same topic all year, it's not uncommon to accumulate 6 or 7 tubs throughout the year about the topic. My upper body strength has definitely increased significantly as a result of lifting and pushing heavy policy debate tubs.

Fundamentally, every point on which you argue or read, you retain knowledge. I find that I can still spew random statistics and facts about the economic state of Sub-Saharan Africa, and I can explain in detail the fragility of US/China relations and weigh the advantages and disadvantages of soft power vs. hard power.

Despite the hard work and stamina required, I have had more fun at debate tournaments than I have ever had at any single event in my whole life. Although I enjoy laughing at duo interpretation, humorous interpretation and a silly Student Congress speech, policy debate is definitely the most fun.

The best thing about policy is that we advocate the weighing of long-term impacts. Thus, every action taken by any party, ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS leads to global thermo-nuclear war. An example: "If the United States stops exporting coal from Australia, their economy will collapse, and because Japan's economy depends on the economy of Australia, Japan will spontaneously rearm and nuke the US, which WILL, I repeat, WILL lead to GLOBAL thermo-nuclear WAR."

If you don't find that funny, funny, the wild assertions that we get to make.

For instance, someone might argue that if we decrease global warming, we will go into an Ice Age. A policy-esque retort to such an assertion during round would be: "It has been proven that Strad-



Clockwise from top: Powell and fellow debaters pose at Sonic in Kansas City. Varsity debate team bonds at dinner at Red Robin in Kansas City. Powell and her partner, Kathleen Naccarrato, pose with their first place trophy and Policy Debate tubs in Kansas City.

ivarius violins are of such high quality because they were crafted from trees that grew during the medieval mini ice age. As a result, if an ice age DOES occur, the WORLD WILL experience a burst of creation of high quality, beautiful violins that will lead to a cultural awakening." Okay, you probably still don't think that's funny.

Ah, and of course it's always fun to laugh when someone slips up or fumbles a word. For instance, during a PuF round, I was told that a debater accidentally said that the United States must increase Nuclear PANTS, as opposed to Nuclear PLANTS.

Once during a round, I accidentally said "scientific," however, rather than stopping, I continued saying, "yes, ohmygosh, I can't believe I just said scientific, however, continuing on with the im-

pacts of my argument..." which perhaps that moment so much funnier.

The underclassmen are another humorous aspect of debate. The sophomore boys always keep me laughing with their superficial scrutiny and inappropriate remarks.

One sophomore boy requests that the team refer to him as "Pimp Daddy." Once in a restaurant, the same nameless sophomore boy was elaborating on his very, ahem, personal issues. Not knowing that the waitress was right next to him, he kept talking until the other 4 people at our table went deathly quiet and gave him THE LOOK. Needless to say, we tipped the waitress at least 50 percent.

Still, hanging out aimlessly at a Sonic Burger in Kansas City in between rounds, loudly singing Happy Birthday at a restaurant to a freshman when it's

not his actual birthday, winning trophies together, and sometimes losing together, makes us, the debate team, a family.

I love everything about debate. I love the crazy times, the laughter, and jokes I have with the team. I love bonding, making new friends and learning.

On a more serious note, not only does debate enable me to become a more courageous public speaker, it allows me to become increasingly confident with my intellectual abilities.

Additionally, debate has and continues to and show me that intense inter-school competition is not limited to a volleyball court or soccer pitch. I've learned dueling with words IS a sport.

In sum, debate teaches me how to do numerous, extraordinarily significant things: To think. To reason. To believe in myself. To Win. ☺



Letter to the Editor

Diehard Cards fan complains about report card

Dear Editor,
Never have I taken the time to write to you regarding the Globe but Tom Evashwick's "Cardinals Report Card" in the October 22 issue, could not have been more naïve. I understand that the heading "One Student's Perspective" suggests that it's the opinion of the writer but I can't get over how ignorant his analysis seems to be.

I don't even know where to start. I don't know how one can think that Albert Pujols couldn't earn an A+ for this season. Not only was he second in the majors in hitting but was in the top 10 for nearly every offensive category imaginable. Not to mention he battled a severe elbow problem since spring training and missed 15 games during the regular season.

Another thing I wish to call attention to is Tom's analysis of the infield. His middle infield sections suggest that Aaron Miles and Cesar Izturis were the entire show in the middle infield. Yes they were the starters, but Adam Kennedy played in 115 games and hit .280, .17 better than Izturis. He also failed to mention how the middle infield boosted with the acquisition of Felipe Lopez. Lopez hit .385 since joining the Cardinals on August 5, which made him an everyday starter down the stretch.

On the bright side, his analysis of the outfield and Catcher Yadier Molina were pretty accurate.

However, nothing pained me more than his thoughts on the starting pitching. Minor errors were present: Mark Mulder and Chris Carpenter did NOT miss the entire season, and Adam Wainwright was NOT a converted starter because he had been a starter all through his career except in the 2006 season. However, those weren't my main concern. His C rating of the starting pitch-

ing could not be more off. Kyle Lohse, Todd Wellemeyer, and Braden Loper all had career-highs in wins and Lohse and Wellemeyer had career lows in ERA. Adam Wainwright also went 11-3 in only 20 starts after being out with injury. Dealing with injuries, Dave Duncan (who was not mentioned once in the article) could not have done a better job under the given circumstances. On top of that, the Cardinals's bullpen blew 32 saves! Their bullpen also had the least number of holds of any team with over 30 save opportunities. If you turn half of the blown saves around, the Cardinals are in first place in the NL Central and go to the playoffs. How can you criticize the starting pitching and say that their records are sub-par when the bullpen can't hold or close a ballgame? The bullpen was responsible for the pitching problems, not the starters.

My final criticism of the article is the rating given to Manager Tony La Russa. How can you rate La Russa an A when the Cardinals finished fourth in their division? Not only that, but the Cards were in second just 4.5 games back of the first place Cubs at the All-Star break. How can La Russa be in "a prime position to win manager of the year" when his team performs sub-par in the second half of the season? Also, La Russa was not responsible for the trades involving Rolan and Edmonds. Former GM Walt Jocketty and current GM Moze-liak were the masterminds behind those deals.

All in all, I don't mean to be too critical, I just felt it was necessary to speak up and let the voice of a true diehard Cardinals fan be heard. Thank you for taking the time to read my complaint. ☺

Max Freedman
CHS Senior

The Globe is a public forum. As such, we welcome the voices of all. We accept letters to the editor provided they are signed; under very few circumstances will we publish an anonymous letter. Due to space constraints, we reserve the right to edit submitted material.

"Hit a Jew Day" sparks controversy

Recently, several students at Parkway West Middle School were suspended for their role in an offensive "spirit day." Many students previously organized an unofficial spirit week at the school which consisted of "Hug a Friend Day" and "Hit a Tall Person Day." Unfortunately, a few students decided to designate one day "Hit a Jew Day."

Originally, the Jewish students were "tapped" by their peers, and it really wasn't a big deal, but at least one person was slapped. Angry parents heard about the special day and complained stating they were "horrified," "saddened," and "insulted." Principal, Linda Lelonek, invited the National Anti-Defamation League to meet with school officials and students to find a way to prevent an incident like this from occurring again.

I personally feel the school and Jewish parents overreacted. "Hit a Jew Day" was not designed to personally victimize Jewish students. No one complained after students at Parkway West engaged in "Hit a Tall Person Day," and no attempts were made to stop the unofficial spirit week. All of a sudden with "Hit a Jew Day," the principal decided to take action.

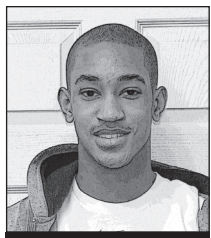
The principal should have stopped the spirit week sooner to prevent it from escalating, but she truly went overboard with trying to hire a national equality group to talk to students about the issue.

The "spirit day" most likely did not stem from anti-Semitism, but were meant to be friendly teasing among peers. Suspensions were not needed for the students who were mainly involved.

I believe the principal issued these suspensions as a way to make an example of the children, and hopefully end the "offensive" spirit days. She could have easily sat the involved students down together and discussed alternative consequences.

I have been asked several times how would I feel if it were "Hit a Black Person Day." I would have to consider the motivations of those proclaiming the day. If they had always been my friends and if the hitting was just "tapping" like at Parkway West, I wouldn't feel seriously targeted like the Jewish students at Parkway West did. I would not expect Dr. Losos to call in a racial equality group or suspend the "harassing students." I believe the Jewish community at Parkway West overreacted to a minor event.

The media also over-reacted to this story, making it a topic of debate on talk shows and the subject of multiple news stories. The coverage made the incident more influential than it needed to be. Middle school students were just behaving immaturely, which is what can be expected from kids that age. If this had taken place at a high school or had been a pattern of more serious anti-Semitism, then punishment might be in order, but not under these circumstances. ☺



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Please contact our office for more information. The Globe is distributed to students each month of the school year. We also offer bulk mailing subscriptions for \$20 a year and first-class subscriptions for \$30 a year.

We also remind students that as the Globe is a student publication, all compliments, opinions, complaints, and suggestions are welcomed and should be forwarded to the Globe Office.

-- Your Globe Editors

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Winner of MIPA All-Missouri, Quill and Scroll Gallup Award, CSPS Silver Crown, Pacemaker winner (2003), NSPA Hall of Fame Member

Incident in Guatemala causes fear, but also insight

The concrete was warm, baked from the hot July sun. I sat with my chin in my hand, waiting.

I was in Guatemala City, about to travel to the San Lucas Toliman mission on Lake Atitlan. Already we had encountered a bump on the road. Our driver was not at the airport yet. So there we waited, my mom trying to connect to the mission on a cell phone borrowed from a cab driver, me sitting on the concrete, trying to stay calm, sweating in the Guatemala sun.

Finally a driver arrived to take us to San Lucas. We piled in the back of his van, sticking to the worn-out leather seats. Driving in Guatemala City, I soon learned, was something like driving with a bunch of high school kids—the stop signs and speed limits don't really apply.

I watched the city speed by my grimy window, the torn billboards for cell phone companies, the colorful chicken buses, packed to bursting with people. The city seemed sprawling to me, as if downtown St. Louis had been spread out and painted in a rainbow of vibrant colors.

My mom asked the driver how many people lived in the city. "Sixty million!" he said emphatically. My mom raised her eyebrows and smiled at me. "Wow, that's bigger than I thought!"

We arrived in San Lucas. The streets were paved with cobblestones, uneven and bumpy. The buildings were small, varying in color and style. Their roofs were flat, and dogs trotted around on top of them, barking at unwary volunteers and townspeople as they passed. We caught a glimpse of the market in the center of town, bustling and crowded. Vendors sold vegetables, meats, tourist



Maddy Bullard

souvenirs, even clothes in their open-air stalls.

Once we got to the mission, we were told where we would be staying. We lugged our bags a few blocks away to a skinny but tall pink building, enclosed with a wrought-iron gate. We opened it carefully and walked inside. A man with a large gun was sitting inside. He waved genially. He was our guard, we later discovered. A Guatemalan woman came over, smiling, and led us to our room. It was small, very small, with two beds and a tiny bathroom the size of a small closet.

On Saturday, we decided to explore a bit. We arranged for a hike up one of the small mountains near the mission with a guide. The parish priest, Father Greg, warned us not to climb the volcano on the other side of the mission. Not only did it take all day to hike to the summit, but there had been groups who had been assaulted by thieves recently. We gasped sympathetically but brushed this off—of course it wouldn't happen to us.

We met our guides, an old, stooped man with wrinkles in the corners of his eyes and a machete in his hand, and a younger man who would follow behind us.

The mountain seemed small, looking out at it from the mission, but we soon found that its appearance was deceiving. The hiking path was not well-trod; loose rocks and dirt made us lose our footing frequently. The steepness of the path increased as we hiked, and we could glimpse Lake Atitlan through the tree branches and bushes. The view was breathtaking. Occasionally, we passed Guatemalans—young boys, old

women—carrying bundles of sticks and wood on their backs. We let them pass by squeezing to one side of the path, while attempting to keep our footing.

After a dizzying ascent up the mountain, we reached the top. We sat down by the road and took a well-deserved rest. After taking a few deep breaths and gulps of water, we were ready to go.

We took a different route down the mountain than we had taken up it. This was even more steep than the route up. We had to carefully place each foot in front of the last to avoid toppling over. Occasionally, someone did slip, and they grabbed everything within reach—tree branches, rocks, fellow hikers' arms—to avoid complete collapse.

We had only climbed about a quarter of the way down the mountain when there was some commotion behind us.

At first I was confused. Another villager carrying wood. Just let them pass, what's the big deal? Then I heard the guide hurrying the hikers behind me. Go, go, go, he said. I kept looking back, trying to see what was going on, getting a crick in my neck. My mom was ahead of me, and I could see the concern behind her eyes as she peered around my shoulder, trying to catch a glimpse. As the path got steeper and steeper, we kept going faster and faster, trying to stay on our feet.

Then I heard someone say, "He's got a gun!"

This time when I looked, I saw. It was a man dressed in all black, with a ski mask on, the kind robbers wear in movies. Only his eyes, narrowed and dark, peered out at us. My eyes slid to his hip, where he was holding a small black gun.

That's when I got scared. I turned my mom around, shoving her to get moving.

"Come on, they're not kidding.



Maddy Bullard

On her trip to Guatemala this summer, Maddy Bullard was able to see both the beautiful and intense aspects of the country.

Mom, he has a gun."

We started moving at lightning speed. I never thought I could run that fast, much less down a rocky mountain in sweltering heat. I kept hearing cries of "Andale, andale! Go, go, run faster!" We ran and ran, seeming to fly down the mountain in our panic and fear. I kept looking back, but all I could see were the scared faces of my fellow hikers. I couldn't believe this was happening to me.

We got about three-fourths of the way down the mountain, when our guide said the thief was gone. I breathed

a steadying sigh of relief. We finished our hike, shaken and laughing, a bit nervously, at our fiasco.

When we got back to the mission, Father Gary told us that it had been a thief, probably looking to steal our digital cameras and cell phones. Luckily, one of our guides had pretended to call the mission, which had scared the thief off. My mom and I went back to our room that night, thankful for the guard with the gun waiting just outside our door.

I think a lot of things affected me on my trip to Guatemala this summer. Seeing the poverty of the townspeople,

learning about the country of Guatemala and its beautiful culture, meeting new people at the mission and spending time with my mom.

But more than all of that, my hike up the mountain made me realize how precious life really is. It may be true that I probably wouldn't have gotten killed that day, even if things had played out differently. All the same, when I saw that gun I had a moment of clarity, and I saw how much I have to be thankful for. It was one of the few times I have been in true danger, and I think it changed how I value life. ☺

Ballet demands skill, athleticism

"Are you playing any sports this year, or are you still just doing ballet?" This is a question that I have been bombarded with more than ever this year by friends, parents, and various others who know this common fact about me. However, lately I've started to notice that this seemingly harmless question is bothering me more and more.

Now, the immediate response that comes to my mind is, "Yes — is there something wrong with 'just doing ballet'?" Of course, I don't voice this reply, but it bugs me that these people don't consider ballet, or dance in general, to be the equal of soccer, cross country, or softball — the sports that most teenage girls my age are involved in.

Ballet is by far the most underappreciated and underestimated physical activity. This is due in great part to the fact that it is considered a very feminine art form. People who have not been exposed to the dance world often automatically associate ballet with fairies, princesses, and little girls in pink twirling around to classical music.

Ask any professional dancer what they think of when you say "ballet," and I guarantee they will give you a very different answer. What people often do not realize is that one of the goals of ballet, especially classical ballet, is to make the performance appear easy and effortless. That is why the most famous ballerinas are usually the ones known for flying through the air with ease and performing incredibly demanding choreography while demonstrating remarkable musicality and conveying the emotional aspect of the ballet to the audience. I believe it is difficult for people who haven't had dance training to truly appreciate what goes on in a ballet.

In addition to being an art form, ballet is an extremely demanding physical activity. I recently read about a study done in the 1970s on which sports were the most demanding in terms of strength, agility, speed, and energy used. About 61 sports were studied, and as one might expect, professional foot-

ball topped the list. However, what probably surprised many was that professional ballet ranked as the second most demanding sport.

Both female and male professional ballet dancers must be exceptionally strong, flexible, and fairly slim to be successful. The difference is professional ballet dancers develop muscles that are leaner and often stronger than other professional athletes, but are required for the grace and wide range of movement that is essential for them to perform choreography well. Technical and physical perfection is the foundation for the beauty and musicality that ballet dancers demonstrate, and many people don't realize and recognize this connection between the physical aspect and the artistic aspect.

Stereotypes are, I think, one of the main things that keep people away from this incredible art form. First of all, the majority of people who do ballet are female, and "female" is many times associated with weakness. I often find that males who do ballet are called gay, which is sometimes associated with weakness as well. Let me tell you though, that male dancers are the farthest thing from weak. They have to be able to lift female dancers easily and perform very high jumps. Ballet dancers, or the good ones, at least, must have a very high level of physical power and, might I add, a very high tolerance for pain and injury. So yes, I do have the same respect, if not more, for the male dancer, than the football star.

Among the things that impress me the most about professional ballet dancers is the level of self-discipline they achieve and the amount of determination and perseverance they have. This willingness to push themselves to the limit for their passion never ceases to amaze me and I wish that they would receive the recognition they deserve. Now I can only hope that the next time you talk to a dancer, you will truly appreciate the physical demands and artistry of ballet when he or she answers you, "Yes, I am still dancing." ☺



Jocelyn Lee



Meredith McMahon

CHS students work hard for school, themselves

You know who you are. You find yourself checking Powerschool more often than you check the time of day, you survive off of caffeinated soda and the occasional bitter coffee, and you cram extracurriculars into your day amidst the monstrous amount of homework that seems to consume every night. Sometimes it seems like the you're so busy, you can't even remember why you do all of this.

Yes, there is a goal to look forward to, but college can seem a long way off.

For me especially, as an uncertain and once distant future threatens to engulf me, I'm wondering whether the college process has been worth all of the sweat and tears it takes just to get that perfect transcript and resume.

Call me crazy. I've worked for four years with the nebulous goal of attending a decent university as my driving motive, but after applying, I wonder

what my true motive is.

Do I really average five hours of sleep a night just so I can buy a sweatshirt with one of my favorite school's crests printed across the chest? Is that what I study for?

Fortunately, I've decided that I don't work hard for clothing's sake. Unfortunately, my true motives aren't always much better than that.

Although I've always loved the extracurricular activities I do, I haven't always loved the whole "grade" thing. My parents are big believers in the "do your best" type of attitude, and nowadays, I feel silly for thinking in middle school that this translated into "get A+'s or else!"

At first, I worked to merit good grades because I felt it was expected of me. Good grades seemed like an unwritten requirement for being a good kid, and it was a requirement that I strictly

adhered to.

But after a while, it dawned on me that my parents didn't really care all that much. But a lot of my friends had parents who seemed to care about such things, and I would do homework for hours just to feel like I was keeping up with them.

My motives thus far? Parental expectation and keeping up with the Joneses'. Perhaps the sweatshirt would have been a more noble cause.

Yet by the time I got to high school, good grades were an expectation of my own.

And now I arrive at the reason behind the sleepless nights of so many students who, in this age of increased college enrollment and grade inflation, work harder than ever to keep that 4.0 GPA in all four of their AP classes.

Good grades are a habit. More than that, they're an addiction. They're part of how I identify myself, as a student and as a person.

I know. We Powerschool addicts are

all pathetic in this. But the reward, if truly self-satisfying, is worth the agony.

We've all been told since we were children that a college diploma can ensure a better job, and thus a better future overall. We've all been aware, subconsciously or consciously, of our parents' logic that hard work equals good grades equals college equals money in the long run equals a better chance at happiness.

But after nearly four years in high school, the quest to achieve has become something more personal than a means to secure future happiness — it is a way for me to challenge myself and to be challenged by the achievements of my classmates, something to work for and celebrate by myself and with my peers. The pressure to achieve that I have placed upon myself is ultimately fueled by whatever accomplishments I have already attained.

Thus, achievement is certainly a cycle. It is ongoing and exhausting, but in the long run and day to day it does bring a kind of happiness. ☺

Life goes on despite lack of role models

"Grandpa has decided to move to Maryland," my dad told me solemnly last summer in the hot days of late July. I had been preparing for the departure of my brother to college but this news came as a shock. It was an unexpected change in my life.

This has been a year of turbulent change for me. My very independent grandpa suffered a stroke in April. This brought immense upheavals in our house since he had previously been independent in all of his activities of day-to-day life.

Though completely blind since WWII, he has lived, traveled, joked and wrestled with us even at 87 years of age. The stroke changed everything. He couldn't walk, feed himself, remember names of family members, and had a complete dependence on us. It was terrifying to see how rapidly he declined. No aspect of his life was unchanged. As his life changed, our family adapted.

As each day passed, it seemed that he did not have that much time left. He lost interest in all activities and sometimes he didn't seem to recognize me. Right as this was occurring, the trip to Jekyll Island came up. I was faced with the difficult decision.

After lots of discussion, I decided to go because I could do nothing more to help him by staying at his side. And also, he would have told me to go if he had had the capability to talk. While on the trip, I wondered how if he would survive the week I was gone. He is my grandpa, but also one my best friends. He is a good guy and also just a fun guy to have around.

As May stretched into June, a caravan of family members came and visited us. Some came for a day, some for a week. They cried, and told stories about him in a wistful, mournful sort of way sitting beside him. They couldn't get enough and when they would go home they would be organizing another pilgrimage to see Grandpa again.

Slowly something changed. With each of their visits he seemed to get better. It was small progress—but there it was nonetheless progress each day. His appetite improved and he began to tell jokes again. My grandpa was returning to me and his family a little bit more each day.

As July ended, my Grandpa was faced with a decision. Should he stay in St. Louis or go to live with his daughter in Maryland who had invited him to move in with her small family? "Why would he want to leave me, leave us?" I thought. It was puzzling. My grandpa lived with me for 6 years—why would he want to live somewhere else?



Courtesy of the Shumway Family

Jonathon Shumway relaxes with his Grandfather and brother Hyrum.

The fateful decision was made. I was shocked—he moved! Boxes were packed and before I knew it he was gone to Maryland. It is hard now he is gone. It has been different not hearing his puns, the loud audio from the radio, and the violin and harmonica playing that would fill the house some evenings.

Not only has my grandpa left this year, but my brother Hyrum has as well. He is attending college in Utah at BYU. It is amazing to think that he is actually gone, since he was an ever-present friend. I had known all summer that that he would leave, but it was still an adjustment.

I had never known anything different. He was always there for me. He had always given me his advice and confided in me.

Throughout my childhood, he was the guy that I played ball with, the guy who bought me candy when we passed a gas station, and overall a great friend and brother to me. He has always been there for me when I needed him. He has given me the confidence to continue on even when times get hard. I am glad that I can call him my brother and that I've had the opportunity to live with him, side by side, for the first 15 years of my life.

I am so grateful for the influence that both my brother and my grandfather have brought into my life. It's been difficult to cope with their absence, but my thoughts now turn to enjoying the present moments, relishing the past yet continuing to move forward to the future.

Though both my grandpa and brother do not live with me anymore, life goes on. I can always recall the good moments from the past.

As times change there will be more moments of joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain. I can embrace the change and live everyday fully. My life goal is to make sure I live as fully and with as much nobility as grandfather has, and to live up to reputation of my older brother. They are both powerful and compelling role models, so hopefully I can live up to them, even as hard as it may be. ☺



Jonathan Shumway

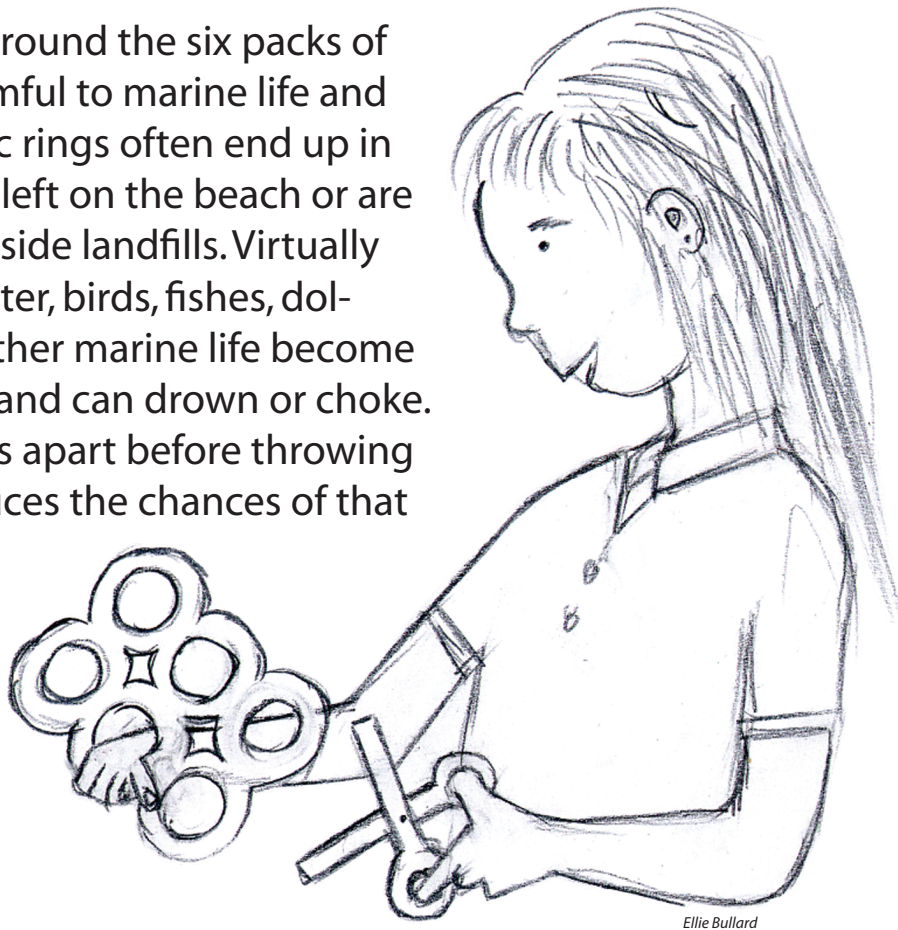


Zimbio.com

Zimbio.com is a website that allows you to become the editor of your own magazine or newspaper. You can even include your own blogs as a source for articles.

Environmental Tip of the Month: Cutting Rings

The plastic rings around the six packs of soda are very harmful to marine life and birds. These plastic rings often end up in oceans if they are left on the beach or are blown in from seaside landfills. Virtually invisible in the water, birds, fishes, dolphins, seals and other marine life become stuck in the rings and can drown or choke. If you cut the rings apart before throwing them away it reduces the chances of that happening.



Ellie Bullard



Playlist
1. Spaghetti Streetwalkers by Speechwriters LLC
2. Rat is Dead (Rage) by CSS
3. Pinch Me by The Bare-naked Ladies
4. Hey Now Girl by Phantom Planet
5. Roll to Me by Del Amitri

Sarah Horn's Line of Infamy

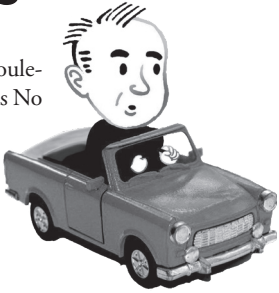
Hannah Montana



A singing Hannah Montana birthday balloon ran into a power line, frightening birds and causing a power outage of the Jose De Diego Middle School in Miami, Florida. This is a clear sign that no balloon should sing Hannah Montana tunes. Ever. Or maybe that Hannah Montana should never sing...

Slow Drivers

I know that on Wydown Boulevard the speed limit is enforced as No Tolerance at 30. But, believe it or not, you can actually go 30. Please, do not drive 20 down Wydown. I will tailgate you, pressure you to pull over, and then pass you.



HELLO
my name is

Scott Ginsberg

He wears a nametag telling everybody his name is Scott, and he wrote a book about why this makes him "approachable". However, when approached he is pompous and rude in my experience. So, I am sorry that you have to waste a huge number of trees to make a new nametag every day in a vain attempt to make friends (since apparently your personality is so rotten you are incapable of successful human interaction).

Lindsay Lohan



In an interview with Maria Menounos from "Access Hollywood", Lohan celebrated the fact that America elected a "colored" president. For someone praising change in our country, isn't it kind of pathetic to use old-fashioned, racist terms?

All photos from MCT



The Adventures
of
CAPTAIN JEFF

Jeff gets up from a blow, that could have felled an elephant, as if he merely tripped.

When Jeff got to school he beheld a strange sight

Jeff felt a rush of blood to his head as he lifted the nearest scruffy pillager off the ground

SCHOOL

The school had been attacked by PIRATES!

Who is Your Captain?

I AM!

To Be Continued...

Jacob Goldsmith



Above: Senior Patrick Cunningham as Pascal, resisting the persuasion of Zyclo, played by junior Peter Brody.
Right: The various voices of the cast cry out to Anon, a modern-day Odysseus. Each character has his or her own story that resurfaces throughout the play.



Photos by Nichole Burton



Top: Senior Carolina Tejada, junior Meng Wong, and sophomore Ruthie Polinsky portray factory workers under a tyrannical overseer.
Bottom: Sophomore Kuang Zong struggles to remember the goddess of his dreams, as senior Puhan Zhao guides him in his quest.

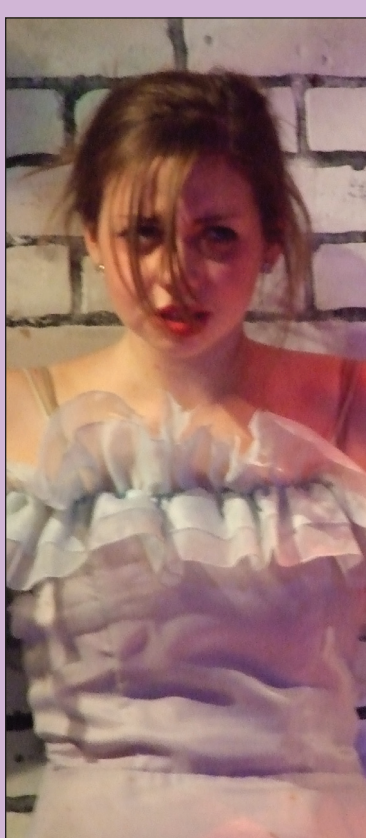
Individual stories offer meaning



“Anon represents the outsider, and he also symbolizes the struggle that everyone has to go through in order to find acceptance, but at the same time maintain their identity.”
Kuang Zong
Sophomore



“Nemesani shows the bond between family, and to me that’s one of the most important parts of a person’s life.”
Mariah Smith
Senior



“Calista represents all of the materialism in developed countries and how people can be so ignorant about immigrants.”
Susie Wirthlin
Senior

Where I come from...

CHS’s fall play “Anon(ymous)” blends ancient and modern elements in a contemporary Odyssey that demonstrates the universal search for home.

Carol Iskiwitch
Chief Copy Editor

CHS students, especially younger ones, who attend performances of this year’s fall play, Anon(ymous), should find something naggingly familiar about the show’s plot. This is because the play, written by Naomi Iizuka, is a modern-day retelling of Homer’s “The Odyssey,” required reading for CHS freshmen.

The curricular connection is among the reasons drama teacher Kelley Ryan chose the play. She also loved the script.

“I thought that the script was really accessible for high school students because the main character is high school age,” Ryan said.

Sophomore Ian Miller, a member of the ensemble, is a fan of the play choice.

“I think Anon(ymous) is a really ambitious choice,” Miller said. “But we can do it justice. The costumes are creative and add to the abstract aspect of the show. The light cues and the sound are really complicated, but they’re done well. And we have the critical dramatic

core.”

The process of putting the show together was not an especially easy one for several reasons.

“It’s a really difficult script because it is episodic,” Ryan said. “Also, it is performed in the round [with the audience surrounding the stage area,] so staging is a challenge. But John Armstrong did an amazing job having the set ready on the first day of rehearsal, which was invaluable.”

As far as the actors go, this performance has pulled together a quite diverse group.

“I feel like there is more of a variety of voices than in the past,” Ryan said. “There are a lot more new kids who haven’t performed before, groups of kids whose voices have not been heard.”

There is also a lot of diversity among the characters in the play, a fact that sophomore Sarah McAfee, who plays Serza, the modern version of Circe from “The Odyssey,” enjoys.

“This play incorporates lots of types of people,” McAfee said. “There is a large cast, so there is room for a lot of

people to work together.”

Many of the characters are parallels of those in the classic novel, but they are modernized versions. For example, the Cyclops is present in the form of a one-eyed butcher, and Serza, the equivalent of Circe, is a bartender.

The protagonist, Anon, played by sophomore Kuang Zong, is the playwright’s modern interpretation of Odysseus. Anon is an immigrant in an unsaid country.

“Anon is a survivor like Odysseus,” Zong said. “He symbolizes the outsider trying to find his own identity.”

Zong said that he was able to draw on his own experiences to perform the role.

“I can definitely identify with Anon, having been born in another country,” Zong said.

Ryan hopes that all show participants and audiences alike will gain an appreciation for what it means to come to a new culture.

“I hope that people get a better understanding of people who come to the United States and the challenges they face,” Ryan said. ☺

Upcoming Performances

Fall Play: Anon(ymous)

Friday, Nov. 21 7 pm

Saturday, Nov. 22 7 pm

Sunday, Nov. 23 2 pm

Winter Musical: Peter Pan

February 19-22

Student-Run Musical: Urinetown

Mid-April