





ENGLISH CURRICULUM, pg 6

L Instead of memorizing material, we read and make inferences. We want you to learn to think. Learning to look at the creations around you helps you to become a good thinker. **Emily Grady** " English teacher

Clayton, MO 63105

1 Mark Twain Circle

Clayton finally receives swine flu vaccines



Youth Leadership St. Louis develops skills



Cross country team races at state meet



Organizations support abused children



by Ken Zheng Co-Editor in Chief

Vaccines for the swine flu are finally arriving at the Clayton school district. Though production of the vaccine is still far behind projections, specific target groups received the vaccines on Nov. 9 starting with the Family Center.

Clayton's Coordinating Nurse Dede Coughlin knows that even though the Department of Health is the starting point for the vaccine, they would be overwhelmed without delegating to the schools.

"In St. Louis County, it was decided that the primary attempt to immunize would be through the schools because there are the greatest number of kids there," Coughlin said.

"What the Department of Health sees at this time is that there will be certain days to have Community Pods with sites to offer the H1N1 vaccination to those in the community who meet the criteria."

The production of the vaccine has been slow since they thought that it could be produced as fast as the seasonal flu's vaccine is.

"The vaccines are grown in eggs, which is also why those allergic to eggs can't get that type of vaccine," Coughlin said. "Originally they thought we would have 120 million doses by Oct. 15, but by that date we only had 23 million. That's one of the biggest problems."

The live vaccine given in shots is grown in an egg-based formula.



A family registers at Maplewood High School for free H1N1 inoculation. The priority groups for vaccines include babies and children under 18 years old.

"There are two distinct vaccines, said Dr. Donald Kennedy, an infectious disease specialist at Saint Louis University. "One is a live virus which is grown and replicated. We take the virus and grow it in eggs, then inactivate the virus and take the surface proteins and concentrate it."

The final product is then ready to inject into people seeking the vaccine.

"The original predictions were based on the anticipated growth rate of this new virus in eggs," Kennedy said. "Basically production is far behind since this H1N1 vaccine doesn't grow as well as the old one."

What makes H1N1 a pandemic is that it's a new form, or a novel H1N1 virus. The reason it's different is that seasonal flu targets the very young and

old, but currently the biggest group being hit is the adolescent population. Some have underlying conditions, but they're otherwise healthy kids.

Despite the shortages, Coughlin still trusts the government and their distribution of the vaccine.

"The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) say, and I believe them, that every person in the United States who

wants to vaccinated, will be vaccinated," Coughlin said. "I'm concerned that we're not vaccinating people as fast as we need to, particularly people with asthma and similar conditions. My other concern is that seasonal flu is coming up. As I'm looking at kids during flu season, I won't be able to tell what kind of flu they have. Currently, all types of flu viruses are presumed to be H1N1. We have been led to believe that the initial vaccines will be flu mist, a nasal spray."

Nov. 18, 2009

This is a live vaccine that many people with underlying conditions won't be able to get. Last week, the Department of Health, due to the lack of vaccine, reprioritized how the district will vaccinate people.

The current priority groups for vaccinations are children ages six months to four years old, children ages five to 18 with medical conditions impacted by the H1N1, pregnant women, health care workers and those caring for infants under six months old.

The symptoms for normal influenza and the swine flu are very similar.

"Both type of the flu tend to cause have fevers, headaches, body aches and coughs," Coughlin said. "One of the things they see with H1N1 is that there are certain people having vomiting and diarrhea which you don't see with the regular flu. Other than that, they look pretty much the same."

> Swine flu vaccine pq. 3

DECArating the practical arts buildings

by Ken Zheng Co-Editor in Chief

The Cottage and Tech building will soon be torn down to make way for constructing a new wing at CHS. DECA chapter members Chelsea Hesterberg and Alex Butler went ahead with a plan to give the buildings one last good use before they are torn down.

Butler and Hesterberg planned the fundraiser "No Fine Vandalize" to use the walls of buildings to display student art and raise money. On Oct. 21, students who pay will be able to vandalize the buildings that will be torn down.

DECA sponsor and business teacher Marci Boland received the idea from Losos who heard about it from art teacher Cate Dolan.

"Dr. Losos came to us with the great idea of 'vandalizing' the Cottage and Tech building," Hesterberg said. "All the student art work will be hung up as pictures in the new tech building with their names next to the work."

The winner of the contest will receive a Visa Bucks card and the power to decide where to donate the proceeds. DECA chapter members will decide who the winner will be. Since the building teardowns were moved back to January, the student artwork will be displayed for a longer time.

"We definitely would have had more time to prepare had we known that before," Hesterberg said. "Now we will all just get to view the graffiti art for a longer period of time."

Participants will pay \$5 for each yard length of space that they want. The dimensional height is how tall the building is. Participants are supposed to bring their own spray paint.

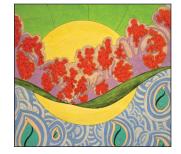
"The administrators have been very supportive," Hesterberg said, "considering Losos gave us the idea in the first place. Some staff members have even asked to participate."

Boland agrees with Hesterberg's assessment. "They have been very supportive and told us to go for it and have fun," Boland said. (?)





'Wild Things' a thrilling fairy tale 18



Staff Editorial: saving the arts in Missouri

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TOP LEFT: Senior Schuyler Longmore works on his industrial landscape. Due to the success of the first event, DECA plans to host it again. TOP RIGHT: Senior Anna Krane spray paints a cityscape over the blended colors. ABOVE: Senior Sonja Petermann admires her artwork that she worked on with Dustin Kessler.

ABOVE: This stretch of the highway is close to the Hanley road and Eager road intersection. The highway will soon be open for commute.

Highway project nears completion

The Interstate 64 construction will open Dec. 7, 2009, ahead of schedule and under budget.

by Simone Bernstein Senior Managing Editor

Verv few construction projects are finished early and arrive under budget. To the surprise of many citizens, the Interstate 64/Hwy. 40 construction project is \$11 million under budget and will be completed 24 days early.

During the past two years, residents in the St. Louis area have found clever ways to arrive at their destinations with the closure of nine miles of I-64. The interstate section from McCausland to downtown St. Louis was officially named the Jack Buck Memorial Highway.

After months of construction, the east half of Interstate 64 from I-170 to Kingshighway will reopen nearly a month early on Dec. 7, 2009. The highway was originally scheduled to open on Dec. 31, 2009. The construction crews are now finishing the final sections of the highway.

"The project is nearing completion," said Dan Galvin, Public Information Manager of Gateway Constructors. "We have the entire mainline pavement in place and are now filling in the smaller pieces like shoulders, ramps and medians."

CHS math teacher Anne Etling had to change her route to work due to the closure of I-64.

"I live off of 44 and Vandeventer near Tower Grove Park," Etling said. "Before the Hwy. 40 construction, my route to work was pretty quick and simple. I

would take Vandeventer to 40 west to 170 north to Ladue Road. My commute was around 10 minutes. When Hwy. 40 closed from 170 to Kingshighway, I had to find a new route."

Due to the large number of traffic congestions, Etling had to find different travel routes for her morning and evening drives home.

"There are two different routes that I take," Etling said. "In the morning, I take Vandeventer to Forest Park Parkway straight into Clayton. It is a straightforward route, but Forest Park Parkway has several stoplights that slow the commute. It now takes me 15 to 20 minutes to get to work. In the afternoon Forest Park Parkway is very congested and it can take 30 plus minutes to get home from work. Sometimes I take Clayton Road to Hampton and cut over to Hwy. 44 to get home. I will be happy when Hwy. 40 reopens, and I will go back to my original route."

When completing the west half of the highway in 2008, the construction crews experienced numerous weather delays. Last year, rain and snow cost the construction crews about 45 works days. This year, weather has not posed a problem. Although crews have been lucky with the weather, there have been other difficulties during the construction of the east half of this large project.

> Highway completion pq. 4

MRSA a dangerous threat, but generally overhyped

NOV. 18, 2009 www.chsglobe.com

by Jacqueline Leong Editor

MRSA goes by many names. Besides being formally known as methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, it is also sometimes known as a "superbug"---and if that weren't enough, some say that it can be found not only in locker rooms or hospitals, but, unlike it was previously thought, in the kitchen as well.

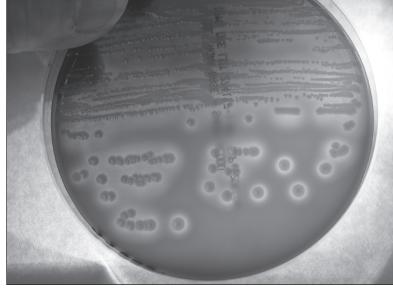
A July article in Prevention Magazine claimed that MRSA can now be found in food, specifically in your burger, chop, or tenderloin. According to the article, workers in meat processing plants began showing symptoms of MRSA infection. Research has found MRSA-tainted meat in not only the United States, but in Europe and Canada as well.

So should you be worried?

"I think the news media hypes [MRSA] up more than it should," said John Middleton, Associate Professor, Food Animal Medicine and Surgery at University of Missouri. "That said, I think people should be aware of it."

Unlike other strains of staph bacteria, MRSA, as its name suggests, is resistant to methicillin, or synthetic penicillin, among numerous other standard antibiotics. This makes it harder to treat MRSA infections without resorting to antibiotics, which are much more potent. Though it was once more of a hospital-acquired disease, MRSA has in recent years become more of a community-acquired disease. Its symptoms can include the formation of pustules and reddish bumps on the skin that resemble spider bites.

A study which Middleton helped to conduct found MRSA in households in both human and animal hosts. Approx-



areas surrounding the colonies indicate where MRSA is destroying red blood cells.

A lab sample of the infamous Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus. The white

mans had staph; 20 percent within this number were found to have MRSA. Of the sampled pets, 13 percent had staph, however 23 percent within this number were found to harbor MRSA.

Unlike Prevention, however, Middleton isn't sounding the alarm.

"We found the same identical strain [of MRSA] in a household pet and a person in four out of about 600 households," Middleton said. "Not infected, just colonized."

MRSA, Middleton said, is actually much more common in people than one might think. He estimates that perhaps one out of every four people in America is colonized with S. aureus (general staph), and about one in four of those people harbor MRSA.

"You could have MRSA right now, and not know it," Middleton said. "You

show any symptoms."

Another uncertain factor in the study was the issue of crosscontamination.

"We can detect MRSA in a dog or pig or horse or human," Middleton said. 'but we don't know who infected who. We think that MRSA mostly originates in people, but we can't be sure. There's only so much we can tell."

An exception to this rule is the discovery of a strain of MRSA, known as the ST398 strain, which originated in pigs and spread to humans.

Whatever the case or origin, Middleton agreed that MRSA has been found in food, in both meat and dairy products.

"The fact that we isolated [MRSA] in the food doesn't say where it came from," Middleton said. "But

said. "And if there was a pig colonized with MRSA whose pork became contaminated during slaughter, cooking would likely kill the bacteria. It's like drinking unpasteurized milk. It might be colonized with MRSA. The MRSA

not washing his hands.

contamination."

dies during pasteurization." Whether the MRSA entered your meat through a colonized pig or a sneezing meat handler, Middleton recommends one simple tip: wash your hands, especially after preparing or handling raw food.

That is to say, most MRSA found in food isn't really from the food itself.

It's from an infected worker carelessly

touching his nose-MRSA flourishes

in the nasal passages-during work, or

processing and handling," Middleton

"It does boil down to hygiene in

"It's not like walking into Jack in the Box and eating a hamburger and getting e-coli," Middleton said.

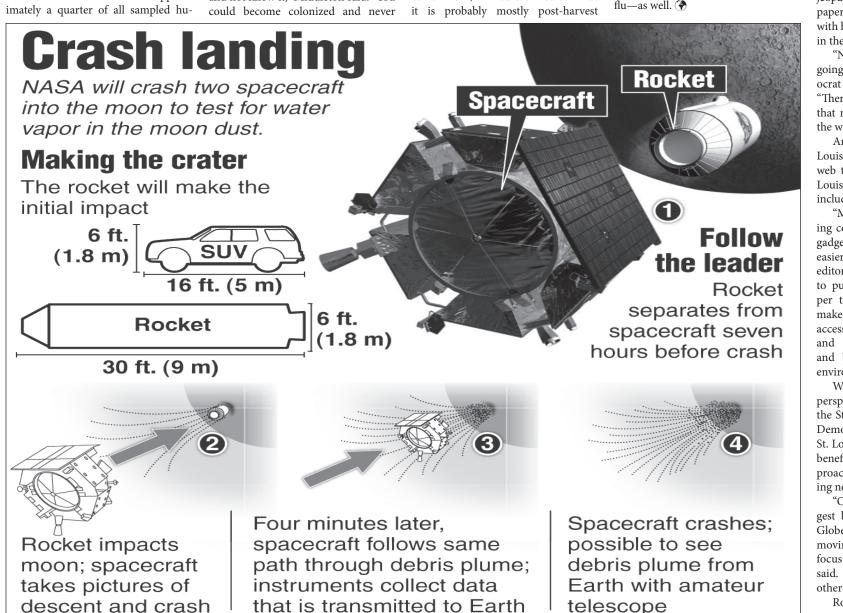
In addition, take note: the bacteria can enter the body through open skin. Avoid touching raw meat with a cut hand.

However, there are bigger things to worry about; the "superbug" label given to MRSA is mostly a media-given nickname, according to Middleton. Though it can be fatal, most people are only colonized, not infected.

"Worse than influenza?" he said. "Probably not. Compared to swine flu, it's likely less insignificant."

So the MRSA in your meat may not be as bad as they say—if you know the facts.

So do yourself a favor and wash your hands. It won't just save you from a potential MRSA infection, but scores of other infectious diseases—like swine flu—as well. ∢



St. Louis Globe-Democrat

34 Dears Of Public Service/Founded July 1, 1852 ,



The Globe-Democrat returns December 8, 2009

After a 23 year hiatus, the St. Louis Globe-Democrat will once again serve the people of St. Louis. The Globe-Democrat will provide St. Louis with a news and information portal unlike any other. It will utilize the latest technology to provide the best news experience utilizing all electronic formats.

In today's world, news has become abundant. You have many choices to discover what is happening in St. Louis. The new St. Louis Globe-Democrat will deliver your news with greater speed and depth. We pledge to be the number one digital source for breaking news and develop the reputation for being the first with the big stories. We will provide you with the opportunity to contribute and add personality to our coverage utilizing the latest technologies to deliver your news the way you want it.

In addition to news, the new St. Louis Globe-Democrat will provide thought provoking analysis, conversation nunity and trust. We will engage and inform you and stay with topics as they unfold. Our goal is to provide a

Several area journalists led by publisher Dan Rositano are preparing to launch an online version of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat at the web site above:www.globedemocrat.com. The launch is planned for Dec. 8, 2009.

Local newspaper moves to Web The St. Louis Globe-Democrat ceased printing, but will return with a new web-

site in addition to other online content as more people turn online for their news.

"We're also able to send news alerts

Whether a publication is spread

"We're putting information up al-

through e-mail, text messages, and

through print or on the web, its view-

ers aren't the only ones who are being

affected. Local writers and contributors

most immediately on our site, which

leaves less time for reflection," Weiss

said. "Also, a lot of bad information can

enter the public and writers have to be

also face pressures from the public.

Contributors to these publications

"Reporters definitely develop a

Although this is true for all newspa-

"As publisher, my main goal for our

pers, Weiss claims it's simply a different

site is to create the perfect balance be-

tween the best user experience and the

best advertising experience," Rositano

tance of ensuring that a newspaper

Rositano also explains the impor-

thicker skin because people are going

to criticize their work," Rositano said.

"They have to be more receptive."

way of doing business.

careful of that."

are also impacted in different ways.

even the iPhone," Rositano said.

by Chelsea Cousins Editor

On Tuesday, December 8, 2009, the St. Louis Globe-Democrat will resume serving the metro area as an online newspaper. It was first established in 1852 and has been running for more than 134 years. With newspapers in jeopardy of being unread, local newspapers are turning to this new trend with hopes of further informing people in the St. Louis area.

"Nowadays, most newspapers are going online," St. Louis Globe-Democrat publisher Dan Rositano said. "There's quite an abundance of news that makes more sense when seen on the web."

Another local newspaper, the St. Louis Beacon, depends solely on the web to spread its news across the St. Louis region. Their approach doesn't include a print publication.

"More and more people are requiring computers, cell phones, and other gadgets, which makes getting news easier," St. Louis Beacon contributing editor Dick Weiss said. "As opposed to putting information in a newspaper that arrives only once a day, it is known for its news rather than just makes news more

out there for generating revenue on a

focus on.

Publisher

Dan Rositano

website, and that's

what we want to

said.

distracting readers from the truth. Weiss says the Beacon's slogan, "News that matters," speaks to their philosophy With the Globe-Democrat's new website launch approaching, people are excited to see where the new format will take them next.

accessible, cheaper, and even greener and better for the environment."

C There's a market

Source: NASA

that is transmitted to Earth telescope Graphic: Melina Yingling

NASA moon mission uncovers water source

by Dylan Schultz Reporter

In a mission that took roughly a week in early October, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) tested the moon for any signs of water in an ingenious way.

By forming a crater near the southern pole and taking pictures, spectrometer readings, and other careful measurements, scientists hoped to discover the presence of water or ice on the moon.

NASA scientists decided to search at the moon's southern pole because it is in permanent shadow. The sunlight hasn't reached these areas for what is estimated to be billions of years. Due to the lack of atmosphere on the moon,

any small elements or compounds that are vaporized will simply float out into the vacuum of space. The ice at the South Pole does not have enough energy to evaporate in these "cold traps" and would remain on the moon.

According to the NASA website, the Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite (LCROSS) impacted the surface of the moon on Oct. 9, 113-days after launching on June 18.

The satellite covered the 5.6 million miles from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida to its final destination at the moon's permanently shadowed South Pole.

The data was collected by LCROSS from an impact made by an upper stage rocket that traveled with the satellite. The collision with the moon's surface created a large crater, tossing up debris and, just as scientists had hoped, ice.

The mission was a success. Centaur, the upper stage rocket attached to LCROSS, separated about 54,059 miles above the moon's surface. LCROSS collected data and pictures from Centaur's initial impact for four minutes before impacting the moon itself.

The event was broadcasted on television nationwide. Millions of Americans tuned in to watch history in the making. However, the launch didn't live up to some peoples' expectations.

"I thought it was pretty anticlimactic," CHS science teacher Gabriel de la Paz said. "It was mostly just a big cloud of dust."

The significance of the experiment lies in space exploration. Scientists would like to know if the moon could possibly sustain life. This would allow colonies to form easily without constant expensive transportations of basic goods such as food, water and oxygen.

In opposition to many who believe that the value of water on the moon would be great, de la Paz thinks that the efforts are unnecessary.

"The amount of energy to get stuff to the moon is probably more than the amount of energy we get from stuff from the moon," de la Paz said.

Scientists see the moon as a stepping-stone to explore the rest of the solar system. It would serve as a practice environment for explorers to use to learn how to work safely in harsh surroundings. From the moon, possibilities seem endless. 🕐

different With perspectives, both the St. Louis Globe-Democrat and the St. Louis Beacon see benefits in their approach to distributing news.

"One of the biggest benefits of the Globe-Democrat

moving to the website is that we can focus solely on the Internet," Rositano said. "We don't have to worry about other forms of publications."

Rositano has noticed other benefits prove to help both news consumers and the paper, as well.

"In the old days we used the printing press which cost millions of dollars. Now we're operating with laptops," Weiss said. "Newspaper websites are definitely easier to operate by putting information online."

While there are some newspapers that do both a website and print, the St. Louis Globe-Democrat hopes to cover other technology platforms as well. From prior experience in the printing world, this local newspaper is making a new move.

"There's market out there for generating revenue on the website, and that's what we want to focus on," Rositano said. "Our money comes right back to the site, which we then put towards the technology."

Rositano also points out that while there are people who like to get their news via print or television, there is also a fair amount of people who turn to other technologies.

"It was good quality journalism

before and will continue to be good quality journalism," Rositano said.

The trend of newspaper transitions from print to online has also been taken on by the CHS Globe, which developed a website new this year.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat, in addition to their website, is also wellknown on popular sites such as Facebook and Twitter. Furthermore, the development of online newspaper sites requires an open mind that keeps users in mind.

'Try to make it a place where people find something new everyday," Weiss said. "It's a good idea to mix long and short stories without having a lot of one kind."

Weiss believes that the key is to focus on people.

Although, in contrast to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, the St. Louis Beacon covers major topics such as health science, politics, environmental arts, they steer away from sports and news crime stories to keep other readers interested.

"I hope people at Clayton High School will give it a look," Weiss said, "We want to hear what you think of the stories." 🕐







Center of Clayton 50 Gay AVE St. Louis, MO 63105

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China and U.S. prepare for upcoming climate conference in Copenhagen

by Sneha Viswanathan Senior World Editor

Among policies tackling climate change, the Kyoto Protocol is the most recent, internationally encompassing treaty. According to the United Nations web site, The Kyoto Protocol was organized 12 years ago by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC), consisting of 192 parties, and signed by 37 countries and member nations of the European Union.

The protocol legally bound the signatories to lower greenhouse gas emission targets to assigned amounts within 2008-2012. One of the most controversial aspects of the Protocol was the U. S.'s refusal to ratify the treaty.

In December of this year, the U.S. and several other nations will once again be given the chance to cooperatively set lower carbon dioxide emission targets at the UN Climate Change

Conference in Copenhagen.

Like the Kyoto Protocol, this year's conference has been organized by the UNFCC. As a prelude to the final conference, international talks on a smaller scale have been taking place at various cities around the world, the most recent of which was in Barcelona.

The result of the smaller talks is an increasing concern among developing nations about the commitments of more developed nations to contribute funding for clean energy technology and reduce the effects of global warming in developing countries. This concern has been magnified between China and the U.S., two of the world's biggest economies.

With its increasing economic growth, China has seen rapid industrialization, which has resulted in more pollution. Coal is cheap and abundant in China, and is therefore burned to produce the majority of its electricity.

According to China's National Climate Change Programme, a national plan to address climate change written in 2007, "One of the main reasons for China's low energy efficiency and high greenhouse gas emission intensity is the backward technologies of energy production and utilization in China. On one hand, there are relatively large gaps between China and the developed countries in terms of technologies of energy exploitatio. On the other hand, out of date processes and technologies still occupy a relatively high proportion of China's key industries."

While China is attempting to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels, the switch to renewable energy will take a significant toll on its national economy.

Localized energy development will require more funding from the national government. According to China's National Climate Change Programme, "Remarkable disparity in economic development exists among different regions of China. In 2005, the per capita GDP of the eastern areas of China was U.S. \$2,877, while that of the western areas was only 39.5% of the former."

As a result, the Chinese government is looking to developed nations, including the U.S., to help foot the bill for the advancement of cleaner energy sources.

As America struggles to recover from a major economic recession and its legislative focus is centered on health care reform, U.S. Congress is reluctant to tackle the issue of climate change. President Obama is not ready to commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to a set target at an international agreement without the approval of Congress.

However, progress on a climate bill is hindered by strong partisanship. According to MSNBC, Republican Senators boycotted a recent committee debate over the Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee's bill to curb greenhouse gases.

Despite the boycott, Democratic senators voted to pass the bill out of committee so that it could be debated

on the Senate floor.

Republican congressmen are skeptical about the bill's true cost to taxpayers based on an analysis by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that they find unconvincing. Despite concerns about the impact of clean energy growth on the U.S. economy, some economists foresee positive effects from decreasing the nation's dependence on fossil fuels.

NOV. 18, 2009 www.chsglobe.com

In an interview with McKinsey Quarterly, McKinsey and Company's business journal, economist Nicholas Stern discussed the benefits of alternative energy growth to the U.S. economy.

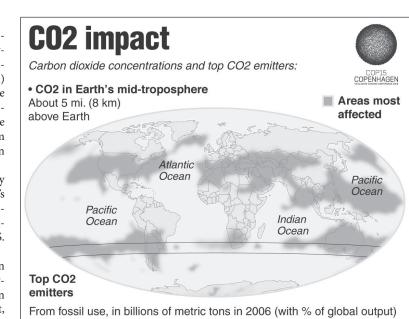
According to Stern, capitalizing on existing technology, such as energyefficient construction and insulation will save money, increase employment, and simultaneously stimulate both the economy and the growth of the green sector.

The U.S. has begun to take domestic initiatives to curb greenhouse gases. The American Clean Energy and Security Act passed by Congress in September provided funding for the growth of the renewable energy industry.

Regardless of domestic efforts in both China and the U.S. to promote energy efficiency, these countries will need to cooperate on an international level in order to commit to legally binding targets. Additionally, both countries plan to implement bilateral clean energy technology transfer with each other.

The U.S. and China, as well as other industrialized nations, face enormous pressure from the international community to bear the majority of responsibility for reducing global warming. In a press release from the climate conference in Barcelona, UNFCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer emphasized these expectations.

"I look to industrialized countries to raise their ambitions to meet the scale of the challenges we face," Boer said. "And I look to industrialized nations for clarity on the amount of short and long-term finance they will commit." (?)



6.0	© 2009 MCT Source: NASA,
5.9	Data acquired by the Atmospheric
1.7	Infrared Sounder, AIRS, during July
1.3	2008; Energy Information Administration
1.2	Graphic: Jutta Scheibe, Eeli Polli
	5.9 1.7 1.3

MCT Campus

Percent contribution to total renewable energy supply in 2007:

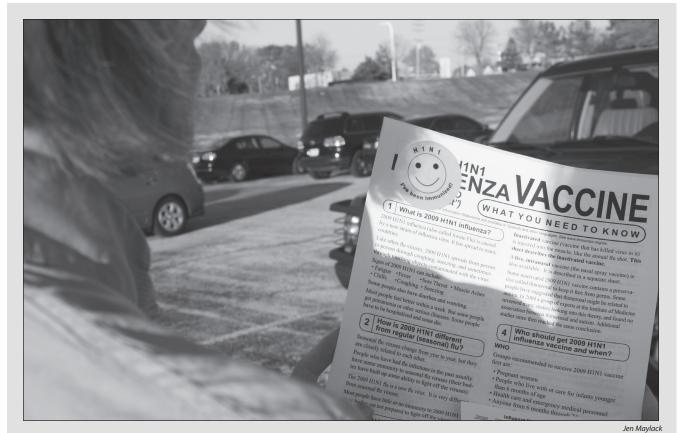
United States: 5.0%

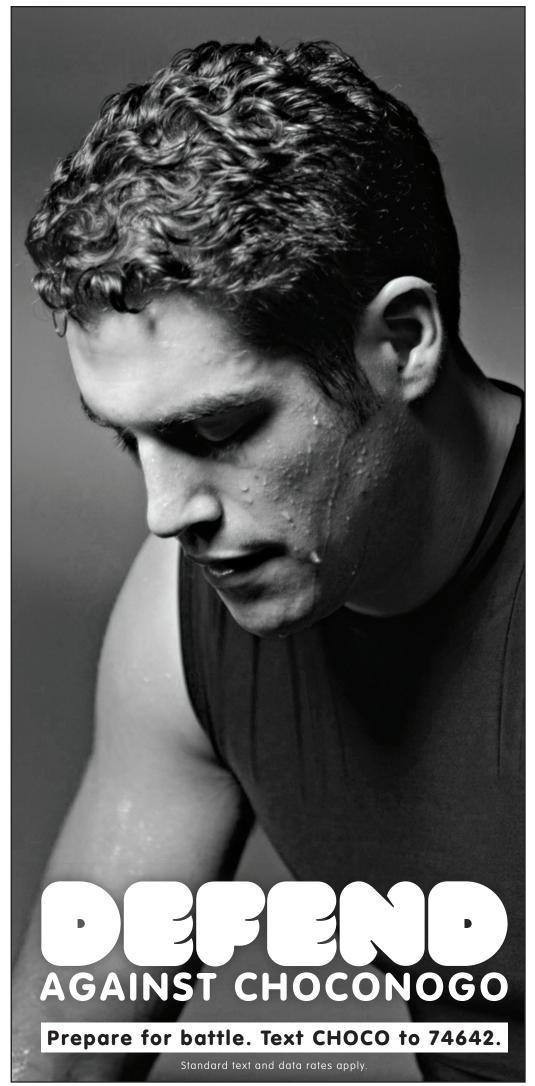
Canada: 16.9%

Mexico: 9.3%

Japan:3.1%

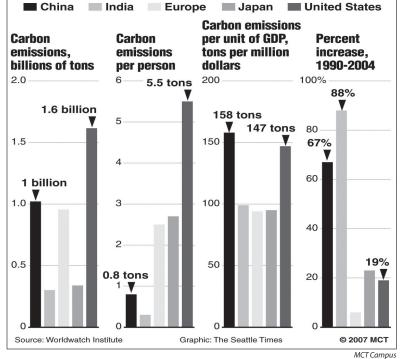
Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, http://www.oecd.org





Emissions: How China compares

China soon will overtake the U.S. as the world's largest producer of carbon emissions as economic growth surges in China and India.



Specific groups of people especially vulnerable to infectious diseases received swine flu vaccines in Clayton starting on Nov. 9. Due to the shortage of vaccines, other students will have to take precautions and wait before they receive shots for swine flu.

Swine flu vaccines available in Clayton

Swine flu vaccine pg. 1

From a clinical perspective, there really is not way to look at a patient with flu symptoms to tell which type of flu.

"You can test for it and there are a number of tests," Kennedy said. "Some are much more specific. You can either culture the virus and get its gene structure or you can use genetic probes that test for a specific virus."

Senior Shelby Sternberg contracted the swine flu in early September. Sternberg has also gotten the normal flu.

"The swine flu was much more mild than what I thought it would be and even milder than the regular flu for me," Sternberg said. "When first diagnosed, I felt awful and stayed in bed the entire day. But after 15 hours of sleep, I just felt a little weak but fine overall."

She went to the doctor and they tested her by sticking a probe up her nose.

"I haven't gotten the vaccine yet, but I plan to in the future," Sternberg said. "I missed the later half of Wednesday and came back the next day when I felt a little better. On Friday though I went to the nurse during the day and had a fever. Then I stayed home the entire weekend. I stayed home Monday too even though I felt better."

Junior Scott Jeffrey stayed home for an entire week.

"I was extremely tired and had a fever of 104.4 degrees," Jeffrey said. "I was con-

gested. I also stayed home for a day after I was fever-free. It was very difficult to catch up and I had tests to make up in every one of my classes. I'm glad that I stayed home for the full period of time because I would rather have a week of more stressful school after coming back than being back and feeling terrible."

Treatment for the flu is a drug called Tamiflu. Tamiflu attempts to shorten the length and severity of the flu.

"The assumption is that you have a smaller chance to getting a bad consequence," Coughlin said. "The CDC is saying that if you have flu but don't have any dire symptoms that they don't want you to use Tamiflu because they're afraid that when the flu season comes full force that they won't have enough."

The flu is mainly spread through aerosolized solutions. It is a respiratory virus that infects the nose, throat and back of the lungs.

"When people sneeze, these particles go into the air and others breathe them in," Kennedy said. "You can also probably spread this by sneezing on your hand, touching someone else's hand and then they touch their nose. If after you sneeze into your hand and then wash or use hand sanitizer then the viruses would be reduced to a level that you wouldn't spread it."

Coughlin advises the school to take precautions to prevent spreading the virus.

"My best tip to prevent people from spreading this is a combination of hand

washing, covering your coughs and sneezes and keeping your social distance," Coughlin said. "The flu is spread through droplets and they recommend that you stay at least three feet apart. The huge part in this high school is that kids come to school sick. If you think you can't miss class, you can't imagine how many you're infecting when you come to school. The guideline is to remain to home until you're symptom free for at least 24 hours with the use of Tylenol."

The administrative team and Coughlin have developed a plan to minimize impact on students' education.

"Nurse Coughlin and I have developed a plan that we hope will minimize classroom disruptions," Principal Louise Losos said. "Having said that, there was no way around having some disruption occur. The health issue and safety of the students outweighs my educational concern. Mrs. Coughlin and the entire nursing staff of the District have done a fabulous job prioritizing the vaccines, and creating a plan that is workable and sensible. They are our guardian angels."

With typical seasonal flu vaccine, it takes two to four weeks for immune response and lasts about six to eight months.

"This virus will certainly change between now and spring," Kennedy said. "So nearly every year you need to change the vaccine because the virus has changed. This will force us to change the vaccine, which means you will need to get a new shot every year."

NOV. 18, 2009 Www.chsglobe.com Underclassman play combines talent, effort

by Payton Sciarratta Reporter

Rehearsals for the freshman-sophomore play "Snow Angel" began almost immediately after the fall play "Great Expectations."

"Snow Angel" is a story of a small group of teenagers on a snow day, who find a lost girl and attempt to help her find her way back home. Throughout the play, the main character, Eva meets each of the other characters and portrays each of them as they appear to others.

After the long process of auditions, the actors soon received their roles and began looking over the script.

The actors tended to show some mixed feelings about the show.

"It's really abstract," said freshman Eudora Olsen, who plays Frida. "We've done more show-tuney productions whereas this is more edgy; the audience has to think so it's new to me," freshman Eudora Olsen who plays Frida said.

Freshman Emma Riley, who plays the role of Eva, said she didn't originally like the play.

"After blocking it and seeing how it looks, and how we act together, I think it's

going to be really good. And we have a good director to pull it off."

This year's director for the freshman-sophomore play is Adam Florese.

"I love the director," Olsen said. "He's such a chill guy." Florese tends to make the rehearsals fun for students. Not

only that, but he has also helped to improve students' acting abilities as well "The quality of the blocking is so much better," Riley said.

"Beforehand [in middle school productions] it told me just where to go. Now I feel like I'm improving my acting abilities as well."

This director hasn't only helped to give the actors better

direction, but he has also helped them to develop a better understanding of their characters.

This was done by having each student bring in a song that best represented the character they would be playing, and then having them explain it to the group.

"The director helped us to get a better understanding of our characters," Riley said. "It really helped because we know our characters better and we know how to interpret them and say their lines."

Florese has a unique way of doing things when it comes to theatre. One of the rules for "Snow Angel" is that every

character must wear one costume piece of their own. They must also lend a costume piece to another character as well. The drama department puts on a

show meant to be mainly cast with freshmen and sophomores because it gives them the opportunity to receive larger roles. Even though this show is meant to be for mainly freshmen and sophomores, the upperclassmen tend to take part in it as well.

"In case they needed more people, we've always implemented upperclassmen into the underclassmen play because of the shortage of parts," junior John Holland, who plays the character Crank, said.

Since upperclassmen are allowed to audition and because this year specifically all the auditions were done together, the freshmen were a little tense about them. Riley explained that this was only her second time having callbacks and for her it was a little frightening.

"It was a little nerve-racking because you get experiences with other actors in callbacks and there's more competition," Riley said.

The actors have gone through the long drawn out process of auditions, and are in the process of surviving the hard work of rehearsals. They hope that they get a good crowd to come and see the play. Tickets are five dollars, and the show will take place on Nov. 20 and 21. 🕐





Freshman and sophomores rehearse for the upcoming play "Snow Angel," which will be performed in the Black Box Theater.

Halloween Dance successful, meets students' expectations

by Alex Kasnetz Reporter

Two years ago, when the Clayton High School student government started selling tickets to its annual Halloween dance, so few students at Clayton bought tickets that the dance had to be canceled. Prior to that the Halloween dance was a favorite among students. Now, two years removed from that major setback, the dance appears to have returned in a big way.

This year, over 300 students at CHS bought tickets for the Halloween dance. The commons was crowded with baseball, basketball and even ping pong players, hillbillies, ghouls, goblins, and even a boy band. All the major festivities were observed and students in general have reacted favorably to this year's dance.

"The Halloween dance was pretty awesome this year," senior Brad Buse said.

Although some students were disappointed the dance couldn't return to the auditorium, where it was held last year, the setup and decorations of the commons put on by StuGo

many students preferred last year's dance because of its location in the auditorium.

"I think last year was more fun, but that's because I liked the dance in the auditorium," Rosen said.

The dance's timing also ran into other unforeseen obstacles. A football game was scheduled for the afternoon after the dance, but it was moved to the night of the dance, meaning no football players had the chance to attend. Also, field hockey district playoffs were the following day, prompting some of those players to leave early.

"Football had a game, and field hockey had districts the next day so students either did not go or did not stay long which made the amount of people smaller, and I think it could have been fun if more people were there," Rosen said.

There were also some very minor complaints from students surrounding the music selection. "The music was okay, but they didn't have all the songs

I requested, including 'Birdwalk," senior Charles Goodman said. Despite minor complaints and obstacles, this year's Hal-

We've done more show-tuney productions whereas this is more edgy; the audience has to think so it's new to me.

> **Eudora Olsen** Freshman



The new Hanley Road overpass is part of the I-64 construction project scheduled to open Dec.7, 2009, three weeks ahead of schedule.

Construction of I-64 nears completion ahead of time

have to pay atten-

get used to where

these new exits are

to get to the roads

you want to go to.

Community Relations

Linda Wilson

Manager

tion to the signs and

Highway completion pg. 1

"A challenge on the east half of the project has been the coordination of all the various work and coordinating with the utility companies to relocate their utilities," I-64 Community Relations Manager Linda Wilson said. "Overall, the biggest challenge is simply the amount of work to accomplish in such a short time frame."

During the past two years of construction, the closing of I-64 has impacted many area businesses, such as Hi-Fi Fo-Fum, located off Big Bend Boulevard in Richmond Heights. This small company, which specializes in audio and video systems, has noticed a drastic decrease in business due to construction on the Big Bend overpass.

"When they closed the first half it cost us about 25 percent of our business because a lot of our customers came from the West County and Chesterfield area," said Anthony Dollar, Vice President of Hi-Fi Fo-Fum. "When they closed the other half it took another 30 percent and the West County customers have yet to come back as it seems in their mind they still can't get here. Then they demolished and

closed the Big Bend overpass which is right at our store and that has cost us around another 10 to 15 percent of our business. Now we have Ameren UE trucks surrounding our store and tearing up the roads."

Once the entire highway is completely reopened, travelers should expect the traffic volumes to substantially increase.

"The west half of I-64 that has been open to traffic this year is not full of traffic yet," Wilson said. "The traffic volumes are 60 to 80 percent of what was using I-64 before we started the construction project. Once the entire 10 miles is back open to traffic, we expect the traffic volumes to increase back to what they were before the construction began."

The Missouri Department of Transportation expects drivers will need time to get used to the interchanges.

"Almost every interchange is different now than it used to be," Wilson said. "For example, the interchange at Big Bend will have access in all directions. Before the construction, you could only get on and off the highway for one direction. The biggest change is the I-170 interchange and the exit ramps for Hanley and Brentwood. Motorists going eastbound I-64 will have one exit to go to either Brentwood or Hanley. Also, going westbound motorists will have one exit for Hanley and Brentwood. As a driver, you will have to pay attention to the

signs and get used to where these new exits are to get to the roads you want to **C** As a driver, you will go to."

> Due to the inefficient traffic flow on the highway before the construction, many interchanges have been replaced to manage the traffic flow.

"We are confident that traffic will flow much better than it ever did before," Galvin said. We have eliminated the inefficient cloverleaf interchanges and replaced them with the more up to date single point interchanges, and constructed a freeway to freeway interchange at I-170. So I expect the difference will be noticeable right away."

On Dec. 6 there will be a public celebration between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. before the opening of the highway to traffic.

The St. Louis Track Club will offer a five kilometer run and the Big Shark Bicycle Company will offer a cycling time trial early Sunday morning. After the celebration, the construction crews will work overnight to complete the highway before 5 a.m. on Dec. 7.

"People will be able to come out before traffic is on the road and walk or ride a bike on the highway," Wilson said. "Last year, we had 20,000 people do this on the west half before we opened it to traffic. This year, we expect even more people. Information about the event will be posted on the project website at www.thenewi64.org."

It is always great news when a project is completed below budget and earlier than expected. With the early opening of I-64, St. Louis receives an early holiday present. 🕐

appear to have been a hit.

"I really liked the decorations, with all the neon graffiti. I also liked how it was cut up into two dark rooms," Buse said.

"The best part was the way StuGo set up the commons," senior Emily Rosen said. "I liked how on one side were all the tables and then there was a big tarp separating the tables from the dance floor."

Despite positive reactions to the set up in the commons,

loween dance appears to have been deemed a success. The success of this dance and the relative success of the homecoming dance points to the fact that the dances at Clayton High may be making a comeback.

Clayton dances have gone through a transformation with the implementation of more supervision and obviously the use of breathalyzers. However, the popularity of the dances currently seems to be returning to normalcy. 🕐

The Y.E.S. office is open for business

Attention parents, residents and students of the Clayton community, the Youth Employment Service office (Y.E.S.) is ready to help you. Whether you are a student looking for a job or a resident looking to get the job done!

This service connects Clayton residents with high school students interested in employment. Jobs like part-time office work, house sitting, yard work or pet walking are perfect for the YES office.

How does it work?

For Residents and Parents:

Just call this phone number (314-854-6619) and record your employment information: description of the job; hours required; pay rate and contact information.

The YES office coordinator will contact you to confirm the job and then it will be posted on the YES webpage. Interested students will contact you and your job is as good as done!

For students:

The YES webpage is located on the Clayton High School website and can be found by looking under the Student Directory. Check the sidebar for any new job postings. Click on the job you are interested in and you will see information about the job and a phone number to call. After that, make the call, and get the job!

NOV. 18, 2009 Www.chsglobe.com Mathletes take new competition by storm

As the math club expands its competition, it hopes to expand the size of the club.

by Ben Colagiovanni Reporter

The Clayton High School math team is on a roll. And they want you to notice. They don't just want you to glance at the "A-B-C's of Clayton High" section in the Principal's newsletter and casually observe that in their latest victory the mathletes finished 135 points ahead of the second place team.

Rather, they want you to understand that this is not simply an ordinary after school activity for kids with a propensity for numbers. This is a movement.

Adorning the wall of Stuber Gymnasium are the plaques and banners recognizing the conference and state championships of CHS' varsity sports teams.

However, in the last few years, the math team has been quietly making a case for a trophy hall of its own.

"I can't remember a year in my four years doing Math Club that we haven't qualified for state and that we haven't taken first in at least half of our competitions," math club co-sponsor Kurt Kleinberg said.

You don't need a calculator to comprehend that that's a lot of hardware.

The team is going to even greater lengths this year to add to their collection, driving 3 hours to a tournament in the Ozarks in

early November (don't worry, they won 1st place there too) a healthy part of teambuilding and serves to enhance our and competing in three times as many competitions.

While the success is startling, there is a great amount of depth to the success of the club, which can be hard to grasp when the team makes winning look so easy. However, all it takes is one Sunday afternoon to begin to see the bigger picture.

"We have meetings once every other week on Sundays at 3pm. at CHS," mathlete Becca Steinberg said. "At our meetings, we generally go over interesting and complicated problems, as well as recurring themes that tend to appear in contests. And of course, there is always pie!"

With a group of 10 to 12 students, the slices go quickly, but for those who are still hungry, there's plenty left to devour during the rest of the week in the form of the competition. As is readily apparent from their success and their attitude, this is one team with a healthy appetite.

"My goal and the team's goal is pretty much the same," Steinberg said. "To win."

In order to stay sharp in all areas of math, the math club participates in a variety of competitions.

"There's mainly three," mathlete Shuyang Li said. "The Greater Plains Math League, which is ongoing, having several competitions throughout the school year culminating

in districts, state, and finally regional championship; the Olympiad competitions (such as American Mathematics Contests and American Invitational Mathematics Examination); and your standard stay-30-minutes-after-Club that we haven't school series of competitions." So, what is it that has made the

math team so successful? The answer lies in a combination of competition and camaraderie.

"Many of the people on the team are extremely competitive and work hard to improve their skills and understanding in order to beat other teams, or, all too often, people within the team," Mathlete Ikshu Neithalath said. "This internal competition is

overall performance without letting anyone's abilities remain stagnant."

Li concurs.

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a year in my four

years doing Math

qualified for state

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taken first in half of

our competitons.

Math club co-sponsor

Kurt Kleinberg

"I think the most rewarding aspect of being on the team is getting the opportunity to work at something that's useful to you while working alongside those who are smarter than you," Li said.

Despite their many triumphs, the team has not lost sight of their sponsors, whom they deeply appreciate.

"Mr. Rust and Mr. Kleinberg are both extremely dedicated to math club and volunteer untold hours to coach us, discuss strategies, and search out and drive us to competitions," Li said.



Courtesy of Michael Ru Charlie Beard, Shuyang Li, Richard Millet, Ikshu Neithalath, Ricky Qian and Sagar Yadama pose with their trophies after a recent competition.

As satisfying as the victories are, the true joy for these students is basic.

"Our core members quite simply take joy in the pure fun of doing mathematics," Neithalath said.

The team is now looking to build on the foundation of their passion and success.

"We're actually hosting a competition at the high school this year in January for the first time," Kleinberg said.

Neithalath feels that this could be a major stepping-stone for the club.

"Hosting a Greater Plains Math League competition at CHS marks an important development in the role of the math club. Hopefully, this competition can become an annual event."

So, with their string of victories, upcoming tournament, and effervescent enthusiasm, you'd expect the math team to be relishing in its present successes. However, they are still looking for ways to improve.

"I'd like to see a larger team and more people interested in math," Li said. "I'd also prefer if the math team got more recognition for the efforts that its constituents put into it as well as all the successes it garners and will continue to garner."

Of course, there is always another challenge waiting to be mastered.

"Going to regionals last year was pretty cool," Charlie Beard said. "We barely lost to Iowa home schools, and we're going to beat them this year."

All in all, Kleinberg is pleased with the general upward trend of his club.

"I think the interest is higher, the intensity is higher," he says, "and the overall quality is getting better as the years go on and that's exciting." (?)

Honors class placement causes issues of different learning speeds

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sometimes we're

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override.'

Emily Grady

English teacher



The division begins in elementary and middle school with so-called "extensions" classes, which offer faster pace and more in-depth applications than what the other students receive. Once students reach the high school, three of their four core classes become tiered as they are delegated to honors or non-honors classes. Yet some aspects of the honors placement system have begun to receive criticism.

For most subjects, the decision of whether a student goes into an honors or non-honors class is fairly formulaic. For science and English, the judgment is based on multiple criteria, including scores on standardized tests such as the MAP and Explore, grade patterns, and teacher recommendations.

For math, though, only teacher recommendations are taken into account, and there is a fairly high percentage of students in honors math classes. Math Department Chair David Kohmetscher estimated that approximately 30 percent of the freshman and sophomore classes are in honors math. Kohmetscher said that this leads to less in-depth classes.

should focus more on bringing the bottom of the class up to a B-level, rather than taking the B students and helping them develop into A students.

"I would say improving the bottom half because if the top half is already doing well, they can figure things out and they can probably challenge themselves, but the kids that are at the bottom, if they're not helped, they'll just fall off the radar screen and totally tank," sophomore Andrea Stiffelman said. "It's a lot easier to stay at the top than it is to be on the bottom trying to get back up."

Yet the issue is a double-edged sword. Having such a wide breadth of students in an honors class and therefore holding discussion at a lower level often leads to the upper-level students becoming frustrated with a pace and depth that fails to challenge them.

"I don't think I could sit in class with 30 percent of the class in here and hold our conversation at that A/B level and not have kids very, very frustrated," Kohmetscher said. "But I think that in all

then I think the other issues take care of themselves," Kohmetscher said. "Then I think we could move at the pace where we could get to the statistics content. I think if we've identified the right kids in there, then the level of discussion gets amped up enough so that we're talking at that A/B level instead of that B/C level."

Kohmetscher said that the department came close to implementing a placement test for eight graders. He said he hoped a test would be given to students this year so that the

department could begin taking data and comparing students' scores on the test to how they did in freshman and sophomore math classes. The department would then be able to construct a more fair and accurate placement test to begin refining the placement process.

Many students disagree that test scores should determine what level class a student goes into. Instead, some advocate more student-decision.

"They should be guided by the teach-

an honors class that they entered against the recommendation of a teacher, their grades are not simply wiped clean.

Though Kohmetscher said that parental overrides are not a problem in math classes, English is a different story. Though the number of overrides is not having a palpable effect on classroom, some find fault in the system.

"I just think that sometimes we're surprised by the students who are in an honors class for we didn't expect them to be in the class. We might backtrack and say 'How'd that happen?' and they say 'Well there's an override," said Emily Grady, who teaches honors and non-honors English. "But sometimes we'll kind of retrace the steps and find that maybe not all the steps of the process were taken.... I also think there's probably a situation where some people are more savvy about it than others, maybe know the ropes or know a little bit about how schools work, maybe they've had other kids that have gone through the school, and they kind of know who to go to talk to, and maybe some people don't know that system and they don't pursue it."

Grady said that she encourages students to talk to teachers about placements that they are unhappy with and that she understands that sometimes parents know their students better than a teacher.

'You can have an honors class that encompasses the top 30 percent, but by choosing that large a class, in essence you've chosen to cover less material and chosen to have the level of discussion at a lower level," Kohmetscher said.

In particular, Kohmetscher said that students are being sold short on statistics. Honors Alg./Trig., for example, only has time to cover a third of the hypothesis testing and statistical analysis chapter. If the pace could be quickened by two weeks, Kohmetscher said that students would be able to cover that content. Thus, the problem becomes that the class is slowed by the bottom five or ten percent.

"The dilemma is oftentimes that it's the kids asking the remedial question, asking to see the same question two or three times, that can become frustrating for that top 10 percent," Kohmetscher said. "And what I really see when I look at the grades is we're spending a lot of time at the level trying to turn C understanding into B understanding, and very little time in class turning B understanding into A understanding. And if we as a district decide that it's great to have the top 30 percent in honors, then we have to realize that our B population is probably going to be a little bit bigger, some of those kids are going to earn C's, just so we can move fast enough to serve those top 10 percent as well as we can.

However, some students argue that an honors class

likelihood the fact that we spend a lot of time at that B/C level has just as many kids frustrated, but I think it's the kids at the top that are frustrated. And I feel pretty strongly that an honors class ought to be targeted at servicing the kids at the top. The reason we should have an honors curriculum is to challenge our best students; it shouldn't be a place where that 70th or 80th percent student is in there dictating pace, dictating level

of discussion. If they want to be in there, and they want to keep up with the pace, and they want to rise to the challenge, more power to them -the problem is that they don't. And when we get a lot of C's we get parents complaining, and when we don't stop to answer questions, we get parents complaining."

To solve this problem, Kohmetscher said that he would like to see a different system of selecting students for the honors track out of middle school. This system would be similar to that of the English and science departments, incorporating multiple criteria.

"If we come up with the criteria - the algebra skills -

er and the counselor and get their input, We might backtrack but in the end it's their life and if they want to really challenge themselves, then and say 'How'd that that's their thing, and if it's too chalhappen?' and they lenging they can always go back down," Stiffelman said. say 'Well there's an

"I think it should be a decision between the student and the teacher," sophomore Alex Yepez said.

Another part of the process receiving criticism is the parental override system. If a parent or student is unhappy with the class that a teacher has recommended

them for, they can follow the protocol, as it is called, in an effort to override the teacher's recommendation. According to CHS principal Louise Losos, this involves filling out a form, talking with the teacher and department chair, and eventually submitting the form to the administration for approval.

"There are times when as an administrator we can say no but that's very, very rare," Losos said. "If it's from non-honors to honors, it's typically a rubber stamp, but we want people to go through the process."

Ignoring a teacher's recommendations has it's "pitfalls," as Losos said. For example, if a student wishes to switch out of

Nevertheless, Grady said that many English teachers are irritated by the overrides because of the connotation that they carry.

"I would say most people are frustrated by it, I wouldn't say anybody embraces it, because it's kind of like people are second-guessing you," Grady said. "We put an awful lot of effort and thought into it, and I think when people challenge it then we're a little frustrated."

Losos said that the current parental override protocol was drafted four years ago and that she does not see it changing anytime in the near future. Yet even if the parental override system and math placement criteria are mended, it seems unlikely that the issues surrounding such an important and at ties controversial process will ever be completely vanquished.

"One of the complaints we sometimes get is the gap between honors and non-honors, but the problem you have is that no matter where you make that cut, there's going to be someone who is right up against it," Losos said. "There's always going to be someone who just didn't make it into honors, so we try to have a very rich non-honors curriculum, and I think we do." (?)



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With Clayton's heavy focus on fictional literature in the English curriculum and students debate whether the program should teach more practical writ



John Ryan

Department Chair

try out new texts, plan new lessons, and examine assessments.
We follow the PLCmodel and backwards design, which begin with asking, What do we want students to learn? We have formal

"We review our curriculum on a

regular basis. Each year teachers

curriculum review K-12 every several years. During those years we present our curriculum to the Board of Education for approval."



Will Schedl Senior

"The critical thinking skills that I have gained by listening to the endless discussions, lectures, and essays seem to me to be one of the more important things that I've gotten from high school. Anyone can memorize chemistry equations for a week until a test, but to succeed in an English class, you are

forced to truly understand what's going in this book or that poem."

Test Blueprint: English II EOC Assessment

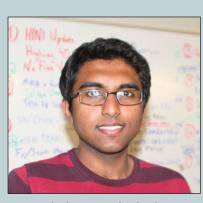
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Content	Emphasis
 Develop and apply skills and strategies to the reading process 	31%
2. Develop and apply skills and strategies to comprehend, analyze and evaluate fiction, poetry and drama	23%
 Develop and apply skills and strategies to comprehend, analyze and evaluate nonfiction 	23%
Writing: 1. Apply a writing process in composing text 2. Compose well-developed text 3. Write effectively in various forms and types of writing	23%

Test Blueprint: English I EOC Assessment

1 0	
Content	Emphasis
1. Develop and apply skills and strategies to the reading process	38%
2. Develop and apply skills and strategies to comprehend, analyze and evaluate fiction, poetry and drama	30%
 Develop and apply skills and strategies to comprehend, analyze 	32%



Sue Teson English Teacher



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Ikshu Neithalath Junior

learn anything. Yet, a system of English ed opinion essays, persuasive writing, and ot tures only acquiesces to the demands of t for concrete profits, not wishy-washy ben or 'intellectual exploration.' But it is just the tions that make literature so important."

English department stands by current curric

by Maria Massad Reporter

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Everything has positives and negatives encircling it, and the English curriculum is no exception.

CHS has an English curriculum unlike most districts. It offers 22 different courses and a conferenced writing program that provides students with 10 individual writing conferences every year. Still, some students question whether the strong emphasis on literary analysis will meet their future needs.

Most teachers support the English curriculum as it is.

"For centuries, human knowledge has been recorded in books," CHS English Department Chair John Ryan said. "We live in an age where the means of recording is being tested by superior, faster, more efficient means of storing human knowledge. Until the time comes when books are irrelevant, we will continue to read them and explore their ideas through reflection, discussion, and composition."

English teacher Sue Teson said that fiction is often an easier way for younger students to access ideas.

think that regardless of how bright or insightful students

are,

THE SCARLET LETTER

they're still young in terms of experience with the world," Teson said. "Fiction gives young minds chances to explore behavior, consequence, and loss of innocence in a way that is objective. Being able to dissect a fictional character gives them insight in facing real world experiences. Fiction is a great tool for students to talk about life."

Also, some teachers argue that English is more skill-focused and less centered on a specific body of knowledge.

"It's different from science, math, and history," English teacher Emily Grady said. "Instead of memorizing material, we read and make inferences. We want you to learn to think. Learning to look at the creations around you helps you to become a good thinker. Reading fiction helps you think in different ways."

Ryan said he believes English is one of the humanities, and the English teacher's job is to explore the human being in relation to change.

"Books offer powerful insights into who we are, whether they are explicit discussions of real calamitous events or fictional portrayals of the harms a state can inflict on an individual," Ryan said.

English teacher Adam Dunsker offers a similar perspective.

"I hope my students will feel confident understanding a novel on several levels in 20 years," Dunsker said.

Ryan defended the strengths of the English curriculum. "Over the course of four years, students get an extraordinary and nationally-recognized program in writing instruction," Ryan said. "They read a variety of literature from drama (Shakespeare, Lorraine Hansberry, and Arthur Miller) to fiction (such as 'Lord of the Flies') to nonfiction (like 'Black Boy') to poetry ('The Odyssey' and works of Dickinson and Whit-

man)."

Although most of the core curriculum is fiction, students also study nonfiction. The English department uses essay writing and reading nonfiction works to complement the fictionbased curriculum.

"I know a lot of teachers support nonfiction with independent reading assignments, or IRAs, just to give students a different spectrum of literature," English teacher Brenda Bollinger said. "In my AP Language class, in lieu of reading IRAs, we have reading circles. We do these about three times a semester. Students form groups of three, and then those three read the same nonfiction book and share analyses of the purpose and summary, writing strategies, and language analysis." The curriculum is not static but is rather a dynamic docu-

ment that grows and changes.

"Each year, teachers try out new texts, plan new lessons, and examine assessments," Ryan said. "We begin with asking, "What do we want students to learn?' We have formal curriculum reviews for grades K-12 every sev-

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eral years. During those years, we present our curriculum to the Board of Education for approval."

The Eng-

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department also buys new texts. They select "core" and "protected" works. "Core" works are taught to all students at a certain grade level, such as "Romeo and Juliet," and "protected" works are books that can be but are not necessarily taught at a certain grade level. These "protected" books cannot be used as "core" texts in other parts of the curriculum.

Another strength is the conferencing program; teachers work one-on-one with students 10 times a year about their writing.

"I love the conferencing program," Grady said. "To get to work one-on-one with a students is a dream. I'm not sure that students appreciate how special it is."

Conferencing addresses the student's individual needs. Many students struggle with grammar.

"Concepts handled in conferences – whether grammar and usage, organization, or development – are more likely to be explored meaningfully and lastingly in such an arrangement," Ryan said.

English teacher Dave Jenkins said the conferencing program works well for students who use it properly, but it is up to the student to understand information presented.

"Some students are short on grammar skills," Jenkins said. "In conferencing, when I emphasize grammar, some students take it to heart, but some kids do not. It really depends

on how seriously they take the assignment." Even though teachers must cover the core texts with their class, they do have freedom within the classroom.

"I don't think our curriculum is so restrictive that teachers can't bring in more grammar and nonfiction reading," Dunsker said. "Individual teachers choose to make it a part of their own courses. For example, I probably spend more time on vocabulary than others who spend more time on reading."

Washing for Godot

ins Fall Apart

RTCHARD III

Students conflicted about English program

by Kara Kratcha Editor

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While most everyone involved in the education process agrees that communication skills are important, creating a curriculum that meets the wide variety of student needs at CHS. Teachers must consider many factors when creating courses. Ultimately, educational programs are created for students. Overall, it seems that Clayton students are happy with most aspects of the English classes they take

Clayton's English program stands out because of the requirement of one-on-one conferences. Students from every grade level seem to agree that conferences are not only helpful in their writing, but also in getting to know their English teachers better.

"[The conference] gives much more meaning to the paper itself," AP Literature student Will Schedl said. "Instead of random chicken-scratch markings across the page denoting grammar mistakes, you can discuss, agree and disagree, change or not change ideas with the guiding hand of your English teacher. The conference program really has been helpful to me."

Advanced Composition student Jake Leech also finds English conferences to be a useful part of the curriculum.

"Conferencing is always where I have learned best as far what my poor habits are and what I should do to change them," Leech said. "They are also an incredibly good way to get to know your teacher.'

Despite her limited experience with the CHS English program, honors freshman Debora Steinberg already sees the conference as beneficial.

'The conference program is amazingly helpful," Steinberg said. "I feel like I get one-on-one time with my teacher to talk about how I personally could improve my writing. Also, it helps me develop my ideas for the essay with someone who can guide me in the right direction."

However not all student reactions to the English curriculum are so unanimous. The question of whether grammar should be taught in a high school setting creates some disagreement as students prioritize different aspects of English class differently.

"We focus so much on concept and so little on grammar that I could probably give you the meaning of any text just by picking out key words, but I couldn't be able to tell you what an object of a preposition means," honors sophomore Dee Luo said. "I think the curriculum needs to spend much more time on grammar and technicalities, because I am personally quite freaked out about the writing section of the SAT."

Others argue that the English department should teach more nonfiction. Schedl, however, disagrees.

"Good literature makes you think, but it also makes you feel, and non-fiction isn't as good at doing that as fiction is," Schedl said. "Personally, I think you need more to be a great author than being a great writer; you have to have imagination, imagination which isn't by it's very nature, present in non-fiction."

Honors junior student Ikshu Neithalath thinks that the curriculum is impractical, as it should be. "The goal of education is not simply to pro-

lish education must also be to imbue culture and literary appreciation into the reader. This depth of connection can only be reached through analysis. Thus, one must desist from asking questions of worth in terms of the practical, but look to literature for its inherent merits. So is Clayton's

English curriculum effective in getting people ready for the real world? I should hope not, because as far as I can tell, the real world is an unrealistically tiresome place to get ready for."

Schedl finds that the analytical nature of the current English system does indeed hold practical value for life after high school.

"While I understand the benefits of having more than just a basic understanding of grammar, the skills that we get from analyzing literature are, to me, more important," he said. "And let's face it, reading books is a heck of a lot more fun than identifying the prepositional phrase in a compoundcomplex sentence."

The biggest difference in possible English tracks a student can take is that between the honors and regular classes. Leech, however, thinks that this difference is appropriate for some students.

"I think really the only differences between regular and honors are workload and class participation," Leech said. "People who are more passionate end up having more deep and in depth conversations in the honors classes. While some in the regular classes may have the capabilities to partake in such a discussion, they may just not have the work ethic to do a 15-page author project."

Junior Hannah Feagans, who has experienced both of Clayton's English programs, thinks that the honors program is more favorable than the regular English program. "Honors is faster paced, ex-

pects a bit more out of you and goes more in depth when examining pieces of literature, which I



A Thousand Acres

THE ODYSSEY

THE ADVENTURES OF HULWEBERRY

NOEXIT

duce an army of oblivious, scurrying, worker ants think is a good thing," designed to operate with maximum efficiency," Neithalath said. "No, part of the purpose of Eng-

Feagans said. "It makes you work harder." ∢

ulum, teaching sty

To Teson, grammar is an area in which some students lack cill.

"Grammar is a legitimate issue," Teson said. "So much rearch proves that studying grammar is both good and bad. It omes down to if students read, write, and talk correctly. They hould have a very acute and advanced sense of grammar if ey do those things?

Bollinger is one of the teachers who teach grammar in ass, and she points out another strength in the current Engsh curriculum.

"Our curriculum as it is exposes students to such good terature and writing that they have a sense of what is right nd wrong, even though they don't know why," Bollinger said. They read so much that modeling what they read is a method learning."

Last year, the English department started the "No Excuses" olicy, an attempt to start following grammar rules known nce grade school.

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"The 'No Excuses' policy is still in effect," Jenkins id. "Mainly, it emphasizes careful proofreading stead of grammar instruction."

Grady said lack of students' response o direct grammar instruction is ne of the reasons teachers

ack away from it. "If a lot of eople would low inrest in rammar, e would ach it ore," ANTIGONE rady

However, some CHS teachers believe that the middle and grade schools are also responsible for the students' education.

"Grammar and sentence structure needs to be taught in elementary and middle school," English teacher Sheri Steininger said.

Although some students make the point that they will not be analyzing fiction in college, the English department has a reason for teaching fictional analysis.

"The average student will encounter more nonfiction in their professional life," Jenkins said. "However, the literary analysis is more easily taught because the author makes points through themes."

Dunsker said that although students might prefer analyzing nonfiction, the English curriculum prepares them well through analyzing fiction.

"Also, our curriculum isn't designed to prepare students for the work world," Dunsker said. "Whether

Groop

analyzing fiction helps you get a paycheck isn't my primary concern. Clayton's college preparatory curriculum isn't the same as vocational or technical education. We work to equip students with thinking skills that will contribute to their success in college and in a variety of life experiences. We don't design our courses specifically to increase students' income."

Steininger said that the differences between fiction and nonfiction are a matter of perspective.

> "It's important to see how people understand the world," Steininger said. "It seems like there is not such a big difference between nonfiction and fiction if the nonfiction is narrative." 🏈

The Grapes of Wrath

THE THINGS THEY CARRIED

Raision in the Sun

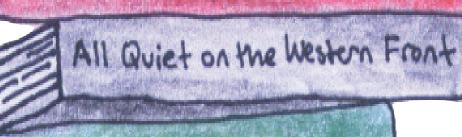
Much Ado About Nothing

The Handmaid's Tale

HAMLET

The

Merchant of Venice



The Catcher in the Rye

LORD OF THE FLIES

Analyzing the roots of crime in Saint Louis

Just 12 of the 79 neighborhoods in St. Louis contain half the homicides committed in the area. Why is so much crime concentrated in such a small area? The answer may contain factors ranging from family relationships to education funds.

in the impoverished

urban neighborhoods,

gangs may be one of

the few avenues avail-

able for meeting their

emotional needs.

Practice at Harvard

by Jonathan Shumway Reporter

For years, St. Louis residents have heard about how St. Louis tops national crime lists and is one of the most dangerous cities. In the recent Forbes ratings of America's Most Dangerous Cities, St. Louis was not even listed since the statistics took into account surrounding suburbs of St. Louis, not just the City of St. Louis alone.

"St. Louis is a rather safe midwestern city as it has strong community ties to various organizations that allow for group cohesive settings such as the 'Taste of St. Louis," US/World History teacher Kurtis Werner said.

In 2000, the Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiative, a program instituted by the National Institute of Justice Program, over half of the homicides committed in St. Louis are concentrated in just 12 of the 79 neighborhoods in St. Louis.

"It is the way it is with concentrated crime, since people have their boundaries," Werner said. "This is the reason why people started to move out into the suburbs.

Though, for Saint Louis, crime in some areas is not as prevalent as in others, some overlying reasons have led to tremendous amounts of crime in some parts of St. Louis. One factor that commonly leads to crime seems stems

from poverty.

be desperate to feed their family," psychologist Jane Darger said.

In times of poverty, people often will make impulsive, dangerous attempts to gain material goods for their benefit or others'.

In speaking of crime in St. Louis City, Alderman Samuel L. Moore of Ward IV said, "Until all get jobs, or some kind of material upswing, it will remain the same; hopefully it doesn't get worse."

One example of crime and violence are gangs. Deborah Prothrow-Stith, Associate Dean and Professor of Public Health Practice at the Harvard School of Public Health said that for "adolescent males in impoverished urban neighborhoods, gangs may be one of the few avenues available for meeting their emotional needs."

Aggression and violence within gangs, therefore, is a way to meet some emotional needs within groups. According to Dr. Prothrow-Stith, a gang member feels like part of a community, or even like a member of a family when he or she participates in a gang.

In addition to gangs, there are perhaps other links that help allow crime to continue.

"We still have relaxed laws, such as carrying your gun in your car," Moore said.

Moore believes that police and citi-"Much of crime is desperate, as to zens working together against crime are not as effective as they can be.

> According to Moore, one of the reasons that citizens of the North side of St. Louis don't have much trust in their police force is that there isn't an equal number of police guarding them in comparison to similar amounts of people per area.

> There are "five or 10 officers guarding us at night, and our counterparts and my colleagues have 25 to 30 officers guarding them, an act of unfairness. This makes us feel

like second class **(**For] adolescent males citizens in this city of St. Louis," Moore said. No one from

the St. Louis Police Department responded to the Globe's calls. Building more trust between citizens and the police will help allow greater unity, and

add to the ability to combat crime in their area.

Werner said that crime in St. Louis son's development and is a factor that is related to the dysfunctional St. Louis can either sway or dissuade people City School District, which is under the from crime. direction of the state right now.

"Students are receiving an inadequate education. Therefore, they are lapsing to other activities such as crime," Werner said.

Although there is some difference in money spent per student in St. Louis City and Clayton, it is minor. This proves that there are other factors that are helping lead to a decline in education in St. Louis City, other than the fund situation of the school.

Although it has been thought that the limitation of funds for St. Louis City is the reason that has caused a de-

cline in education, this is not the case. According to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the amount of money spent per student in St. Louis City is \$15,549, while the amount of money spent per **Deborah Prothrow-Smith** student in Clayton Professor of Public Health is \$16,657. Darger feels

that education is

critical in a per-

in education in St. Louis City is related to busing. "If we didn't have busing we could take that money to buy those yellow

Darger said.

nity, opening another world out there,"

Moore feels that part of the failure

buses with busing, all those people driving those buses, and put in that money in an education system right here in our neighborhood," Moore said. "To get our teachers back to par and bring those students here."

Darger also stated that another factor in crime is how the quality of family relationships has deteriorated in this industrialized age.

"Children are not being supervised, parents are not available, emotionally or physically," Darger said. "Children are without someone who is invested in a child, emotionally or physically to help them grow up."

Moore agreed that lack of parental supervision was a problem.

"We got to teach our children much better," Moore said. "Children are having children; a child can't raise a child." Since not enough physical one-on-

one supervision is available in crimeridden areas, there have been recent attempts to limit violence in St. Louis, such as increasing the police force and using new tactics to conquer crime. One such tactic is video surveillance,

options, opening doors for the commu- a technology that has been attributed to New York City's drop in crime and violence in recent years.

> "Surveillance goes a long way (speaking of ways to limit crime), the technology is there, but the financial resources are not," Werner said.

> In Moore's ward, there are 14,000 people, and he said there are over 200 drug houses.

"The drug dealers come to me and ask me why I am snitching on them to the police that they sell drugs at the house," Moore said. "How should that make me feel? Should I continue to do this or never give the information?"

This demonstrates the power and influence of people who are involved in crime such as drug dealers. They can create fear for legislators and citizens trying to advance the cause against crime.

Strong police enforcement in a community helps deter people's desire to engage crimes. As shown by the report from the Consent to Search Program, building strong communities also is a factor that can help decrease crime. According to Darger, crime is the result of the decrease in the quality of family relationships and also that that education can be become a positive factor in leading someone away from a life of crime.

"We can do better, never give up, we have to work together," Moore said. 🕐

"Education is a freedom, gives you

Smoking ban to take effect despite low voter turnout

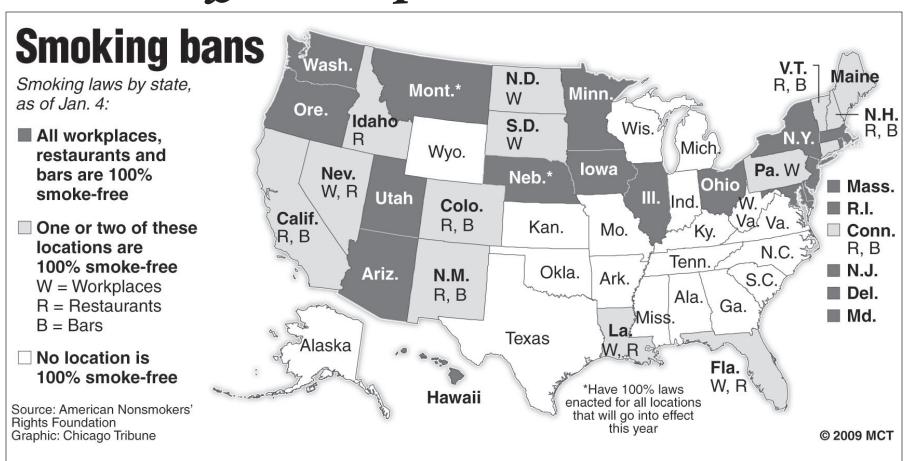
by Mary Blackwell Senior Section Editor

Although late to pick up on the trend, St. Louis County and City voted on Nov. 3 to pass Proposition N, which introduces a smoking ban in most public places and sites of employment in the area. At the moment, 31 states enforce statewide smoking bans and locally, Kirkwood, Ballwin, and Arnold have elected to adopt a municipal smoking ban.

"I was thrilled to hear that the smoking ban passed," Clayton resident Luanne Stamp said. "I have been a strong supporter of stop-smoking since I was a child. My father always smoked and I hated it. I avoid restaurants and bars now that are too smoky smelling."

On July 14, the Clayton city board of aldermen passed a smoking ban to be effected July 1, 2010. The St. Louis County smoking ban takes effect on Jan. 2, 2011.

Before the county ban passed, Clayton business owners were concerned about the local smoking ban negatively effecting revenue of Clayton restaurants. J. McGraugh's Bar & Grill, located on 8405 Maryland, was one such restaurant skeptical of the smoking ban passed in July. "I was definitely worried mainly because a lot of our regulars smoke and because it hadn't passed in the county so in just a couple blocks you could go smoke in another bar," Bartender Britany Corso said. "With this economy you don't want to lose anyone."



The county wide ban alleviated fears of a local economy unable to compete with that of neighboring communities.

"I was relieved because about 20 percent of our customers want nonsmoking and 80 percent want to smoke," Corso said. "We were not longer worried once the county passed it because we knew our regulars would come whether they could smoke or not."

The smoking ban is in effect immediately for any new Clayton businesses, but for preexisting locations, the ban goes into effect about six months before the county ban is enforced.

"As for our regulars I have no doubt that they will stay here, complain and smoke outside," Corso said. "It would be nice if we could have a bigger building for a garden outside."

Providing an outside seating area is a way for restaurants and bars to get around the smoking ban. Under the county's ban, casinos, cigar bars, and bars who make a fourth or less MCT Campus

Though Missouri does not have a statewide ban, locally, Kirkwood, Ballwin, and Arnold have municipal smoking bans as well as St. Louis County. Proposition N, which introduces a county wide smoking ban for St. Louis County and City, was passed on Nov. 3, and is effected in July 1, 2010 for preexisting Clayton businesses. The overall Saint Louis County ban goes into effect Jan. 2, 2011.

of their profits from food are exempt.

Clayton has no bars but the city specific smoking ban prohibits smoking in bar areas in restaurants. The Clayton smoking ban defines a tobacco store as an establishment in which 70 percent of sales are tobacco products, and such stores are also exempt.

"The benefits to Clayton will be improved air quality in the restaurants," Stamp said.

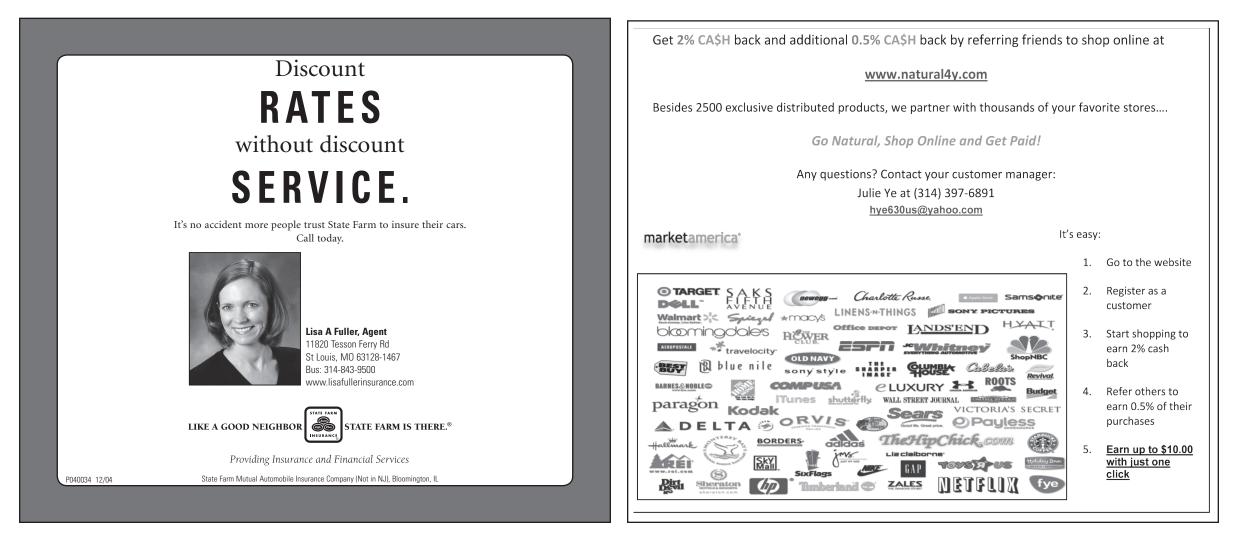
A low voter turnout left about 20 percent of the county population to make the decision for the 1.35 million residents of the St. Louis City and County.

"I was actually surprised," Stamp said. "I thought more smokers would come out and vote against it."

For many CHS seniors, the recent election concerning a new state representative, tax increase to pay for an emergency communications system, and the smoking ban, provided the first opportunity to exercise their right to vote.

"I voted for the ban because I can't stand smoking in public places, especially when I go out to eat and leave smelling like smoke," senior Evan Green said.

According to St. Louis County Election Board, Clayton passed the ban with 73.31 percent, and 4,993 yes votes. Central County, to which Clayton belongs, had the highest level of support with 71.55 percent of voters backing the ban. 🕐



Youth leadership group explores St. Louis neighborhoods beyond Clayton

by Anat Gross Reporter

If you've been to the bathroom lately you have probably seen the interesting "toilet talk" signs posted on the stall doors. As a part of the Young Leaders St. Louis program, participants are encouraged to spread the knowledge they have gained.

A select group of Clayton High School juniors are taking part in this prestigious program, teaming up with juniors from other high schools in the area to gain new skills and train to become the leaders of tomorrow.

The participants are chosen through a somewhat lengthy process, including selection based on criteria and interviews. First, students are selected by their teachers. This group of students is then reviewed by Mr. Henderson and the class counselor, a new group is formed and this group of students is interviewed and selected by Focus St. Louis.

According to the YLSL website, "the program provides high school juniors with a firsthand opportunity to gain problem-solving skills and strategies, develop awareness of issues in our region, and learn how they can make a positive difference."

Students meet for two-day retreats each month, starting in September and ending in May. According to the website, these two-day workshops are a "combination of team-building exercises, conflict resolution models, experiential learning, and dialogue with community leaders who serve as role models."

CHS counselor, Anthony Henderson, is one of the YLSL organizer. He feels that the experience is very important in that it allows students to get a better idea of the community around them.

"It allows students from Clayton High School to get a very good view of the issues that surround our region," Henderson said.

For the October retreat students split up into groups and visited different areas of the St. Louis area, including Downtown, Old North, Grand Center, and South St. Louis. Students observed each location, learning new things to disprove prior misconceptions. They identified the strengths of each of the communities, the defining characteristics, and what may be hindering the area's success.

Greg Dallas, one of the CHS students partaking in the program, traveled to downtown St. Louis. He observed the location's growth, but also some of the economic problems along with what steps are being taken to help the area.

"Housing is a very large part of downtown's economy, but a problem that it is facing is retail," Dallas said. "The mayor is currently attempting to make downtown and surrounding areas more connected to increase popularity of the downtown area."

Juniors Alexis Atkinson and Sarah O'Brien were among the group which traveled to Old North. They learned about the town's history, along with lessons about resiliency, team work, dedication, perseverance, and patience from the community struggles.

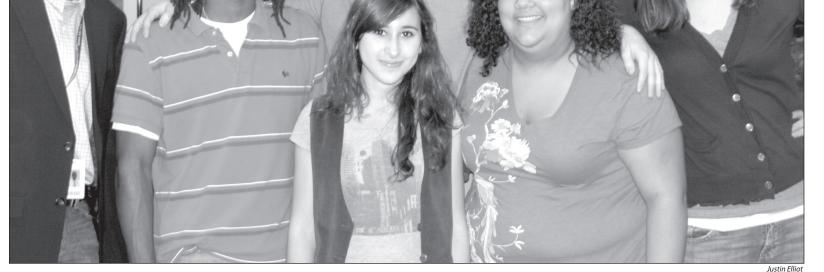
O'Brien took note of the history behind Old North St. Louis and what is being done to preserve the neighborhood.

"Old North was cut in half decades ago by highway 70 and its once vibrant air is now gone," O'Brien said. "On one side of the highway is a prison and industrial areas. The other side is home to the famous crown candy kitchen and vacant buildings. To rebuild this neighborhood a local nonprofit organization is working to refurbish this area and attract permanent residents."

Atkinson was inspired by the community's team work and unity.

"When I went to Old North I learned a lot about resiliency and how the neighbors came together to rebuild their community," Atkinson said. "I also learned how although some things may seem impossible, they actually can happen with time and hard work."

Visiting the Grand Center, "the intersection of art and life" as described



Sponsor Anthony Henderson poses with St. Louis youth leadership members Alex Lipisey, Greg Dallas, Melina DeBona, Sarah O'Brien, Marin Klostermeir. Youth Leadership members explore neighborhoods of St. Louis to gain a greater understanding of their community.

all over the benches in the area, was Melina DeBona and Marin Klostermeier.

Despite its appeal to the creative mind, the Grand Center is struggling. DeBona and Klostermeier explained certain issues the area is facing and what can be done to help the struggling location.

"They [the Grand Center community] need "more stable customers" instead of people who come to watch a show from out of town, and then leave," DeBona said. "There are non profit associations working on this, who for example are now building a building that offers housing to artists." De Bona said students can help the community by taking classes at the art centers or visiting the theaters.

"More people need to live there so that more businesses can move in and do well outside of the Powell Hall, Fox Theater or Black Rep Theater seasons," Klostermeier said.

Visiting the fourth and final area, South St. Louis, was Cooper Minnis. He learned about the history behind the town and the diversity the area has to offer.

"Currently it offers countless locally owned businesses and Victorian inspired architecture," said Minnis. "The neighborhoods here are very safe, and are populated by many different people. This area has its own art district, Mexican district, Asian district, and has a significant gay population as well. It is truly the perfect neighborhood."

Through this experience the students learned about the local areas and what changes can be made to better the society around them.

Looking back upon their experiences thus far, students are glad to be a part of YLSL. The program gives students a great opportunity to develop skills for the future and to learn valuable life lessons. So far all participants have agreed that the program is a worthy experience and they are glad to be a part of it.

"I can safely say that YLSL has

broadened my vision of my community, and I look forward to supporting and contributing to it," Minnis said.

Ultimately, the purpose of the program is to teach students the leadership skills which will lead to the future betterment of the community.

"Our primary goal is to bring the information we learn from participating in the YLSL program back to Clayton high and currently we are working on a community service project." O'Brien said.

Among their future projects is a Television show which will be aired on Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) channel 9.

District enacts improvements to calendar

by Laura Bleeke

Teachers have always struggled with trying to squeeze everything they can teach into the finite number of days in a school year. The school calendar is an outline for teachers and a guideline for them to follow and make sure they fit everything in.

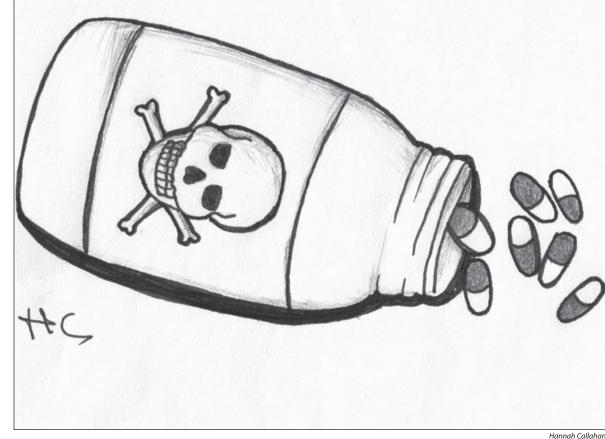
This year, the district is reorganizing the calendar for the 2010-2011 school year. The goal is to allow the staff to function as successfully as possible in the amount of time given. "We're taking the time to use all the time we have in the

calendar as effectively as we can," Director of Communications Chris Tennill said.

"One thing you will always hear from teachers is there is never enough time, because there is not," Director of Professional Development Administrative Center Lee Ann Lyons said. "When you think about all that they do in a day, there isn't enough time. And they spend weekends and evenings doing what they need to do."

Although the committee does have the entire school year to work with, there are many restrictions with the calendar as well. There are state laws on how many school days each district needs, and how many potential snow days, how many potential snow-days there could be.

"The teacher contract is for 192 days, so if they are teaching at the high school, 181 of those days are teacher-student contact days," Tennill said.



Drug policy focuses on protecting students

by Justin Elliot Editor

Sex, drugs, and rock n' roll: the essential ingredients for an American high school experience. Well maybe not rock n' roll, but at least the other two.

It doesn't take too hard of a search here at CHS to see, or smell rather, that drug use is prevalent among CHS students.

"We know students are going to make choices that aren't great," Assistant Principal Marci Pieper said. "But that doesn't make it right."

Pieper explained that if a student were found under the influence or in possession of a controlled substance at school, the student would be subject to a 5 day out of school suspension. However if students go to a drug seminar through the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse the punishment can be reduced to 3 days out of school suspension, and 2 days in school suspension.

"The administration doesn't actively walk down the halls and scope people out," Pieper said. "When we know someone is blatantly doing drugs we pursue the issue."

Students may grumble and complain about the stingy drug policy, Pieper notes Clayton is quite different than other local schools.

"Clayton is such a different place, which is one of the beauties of this school," Pieper said. "We work with students as individuals, while at any other school in the area students caught with drugs are immediately suspended, often for 90 to 180 days,"

Although CHS prides its ability to work with students on this issue, one message is unwavering.

"Don't do drugs," Student Resource Officer John Zlatic said. "The consequences are very severe. If students get arrested, they have the drug charge attached to their names forever."

Other than the obvious legal implications of drug use, Zlatic pointed out the consequences drug use can have for student athletes, college acceptance, scholarships and getting a job.

"Students have to understand that when they use drugs they are partaking in an activity that could hold life long consequences" Zlatic said.

Pieper adds that those consequences could be more than a mark on a student's permanent record.

"It is one of those things where you don't know what is going to happen," Pieper said. "You guys think you are invincible, but it only takes one bad decision to end a student's life."

Although the risks and consequences are high the administration is always trying to help students make better decisions.

"We don't want kids to make bad choices, we have options for them," Pieper said. "That is the reason why we have clubs and organizations. When kids are involved, they tend to get in less trouble."

Athletic director Bob Bone can attest to this fact.

"When students are a part of a team they are not only making commitments to themselves but also to their teammates," Bone said. "Students need to take that commitment seriously and when they do drugs they are letting everyone down."

Bone also feels that involvement in sports helps students fight the peer pressure to do drugs.

"If you have a reason to say no, that helps to deal with the pressure," Bone said.

In the end no matter how many programs the administration makes, or how appealing they make sobriety look it is ultimately up to the student.

"It's a choice every student has to make for themselves, we just hope they make the right choice," Pieper said. (?) Days such as teacher preparation days, professional development days, conference days and grading days, are being taken out of the calendar and looked at closely to see how they can be used most efficiently.

"In a way, we're completely tearing [the calendar] down and building it back up again," Tennill said. "And it may end up looking the exact same, or it may look drastically different."

The district hasn't done a calendar reconstruction of this magnitude for a few years. Although the calendar won't be finalized until February, there is no guarantee the calendar will be very different.

"We haven't done a major wholesale rearrangement of the calendar for

a while," Tennill said. "But again, this is no guarantee anything is going to change."

The biggest challenge the district faces in revising the calendar is the time for teachers to actually teach the students. Staff already spends a lot of time both in and out of the classroom working, and so to take the time given and use it to their best advantage will be a challenge.

completely tearing [the calendar] down and building it back up again. And it may end up looking the exact same, or it may look drastically different.

Chris Tennill Director of Communications The simple solution to teachers not having enough time to teach is to add more days to the calendar. But, adding more school days also means adding more to the teacher contract.

"There is a financial impact in growing that teacher contract," Tennill said. "We basically go to school for as long as we can afford."

The main focus of the new calendar is on the teachers. The administration wants their time teaching to be as effective as possible for the students and efficient for the staff.

"One of our big goals in the calendar is to say there is a finite period of time and how can we use that most effectively," Lyons said. "And so that is really our main focus."

The important part in the calendar is to remember there are a limited number of days in a school year. You need to look at the year as a whole and

really see how much time there is to work with.

"There is a finite amount of time that we have to get this done," Tennill said. "So at some point we need to step back and look at what we really need to get done and how much of it we can realistically expect to get done within the time that we have to do it." P

2010-2011 Key Calendar Dates

- School Starts 8/18/2010
- End of 1st Quarter 10/22/2010
- Thanksgiving Break 11/25 & 11/26/2010

Winter Break – 12/22/2010 through 1/4/2011

• End of 3rd Quarter - 3/18/2011

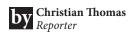
• Spring Break – 3/21 through 3/25/2011

Last Day PK & 6-12 – 6/2/2011

• Last Day K-5 – 6/3/2011

Wrestling team looking to take big step forward

Led by junior Jordan Henry, the team is looking to make a statement this year by improving on its 4-5 record and send multiple wrestlers to state.



It is that time of the year again. When the fall sports come to a close, it's time for the winter sports season to begin.

The "hardest working athletes", the wrestling team, began their demanding season the first week of November.

"We do a lot of running," said junior Jordan Henry.

Henry was a captain of the team last season, earned a 25-12 overall record, and has been competing with the wrestling team since his freshman year.

"Laps in the center and sprints are what we usually do. On top of all the

tough," said Henry. The team held offseason condi-

tioning workouts where members of the team would run and lift weights. With the added work, the team hopes to improve on the 4-5-0 record from a year ago.

"Last year we struggled as a team. I expect our record to be better. We only lost three seniors and a junior from last season," said Henry.

As with most teams, there are some losses in terms of participants every year. For example, senior Luke Madson will not be wrestling this year for other athletic reasons.

"I wouldn't say the team will

running, obviously we wrestle which is struggle a lot without him. He was a has about eight or nine freshman trygood part of the team, but our coaches do a good job teaching us how to get better and also some underclassmen can step up," added Henry.

> Along with the coaching staff, other positives of the team are the athletic background of most of the members.

> Most of the team participated in a fall sport, which adds understanding of the team concept.

"We have kids from football, soccer, and cross country," said Henry. "In my two years here, we haven't had that before. Hopefully that is a good sign." Along with the turnout of fall

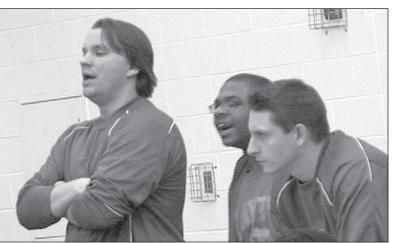
athletes, there are a lot of freshman competing this year. The team this year ing out.

"Last year we had about the same number. It just means that freshman have to step up and wrestle upperclassmen. As long as they work hard in practice and remember what the coaches taught them, they should be fine," explained Henry.

Once last season ended, some members of the team went right into preparing for this season.

"I am just excited to get the season going. We have worked hard in the offseason and it's about that time to show off what we can do," said Henry.

The team's first meet will be on December 1 at Chaminade. ∢



Wrestling head coach Doug Verby shouts encouragement at a meet last year as the team looks on.

Senior goalie Jack Harned helps team to record-setting 18-6-2 season Harned's 0.56 goals against average, 14 shutouts and 16

wins placed him among the leaders in the St. Louis area.

by Sarah Blackwell Reporter

It is the last minute of the game and the opposing team has one last shot. A player carefully approaches the goal and kicks. Senior Jack Harned, the goalie, dives and blocks it just in time. Clayton has won the game.

Harned is the goalie for the boys' varsity soccer team. He is the athlete of the month.

In the St. Louis metro area this season, Harned was third in solo shutouts (games when the opponent did not score and he was the only goalie to play in the game for Clayton), fifth in save percentage with 93.6%, 9th in goals against average with an astounding 0.56 goals allowed per game, and 14th in saves with 160.

"My goals for this season were to allow less than ten goals all season and end with twelve shutouts" Harned said.

Although he let 15 goals in, he did have 14 shutouts this season.

"Athletically, Jack led our defense and made some huge saves throughout the season," boys' varsity soccer coach Matt Balossi said. "He earned 14 solo shutouts and has some of the best overall goal keeper statistics in the area."

Harned is a senior this year so this was his last year on the team

"The thing about losing Jack next year is we are not only losing an outstanding player, but we are losing a team leader and a tremendous teammate." Balossi said. "When you lose a player of his caliber it requires the entire team to pick up his absence, not the single player who fills his position."

In soccer, the goalie is a very important member of the team. He is not only expected to defend the goal, but also to be a team leader.

"The position demands higher personal accountability and therefore pressure," Balossi said. "A good keep needs to be both physically gifted and mentally tough."

"My favorite part about being the goalie is if you make one really good save you can totally change the momentum of a game," Harned said. "If you make a really good save, you can totally get your team pumped up and it can influence the game?

The team's attitude on the field can really alter the outcome of their games.

"Just like anything there's been some inner team struggles with arguments and stuff," Harned said. "But once we get on the field, we look past that."

The team started off districts with a 10-0 win over Miller Career Academy, before beating MICDS 1-0 in overtime.

In the MICDS game, Harned made several key saves to preserve the tie and help send the game to overtime. Possibly his best save of the season came just a minute into the game against MICDS when Harned leapt to the top right corner to stop a laser of a point blank shot from MICDS forward Jeffrey Clithero.

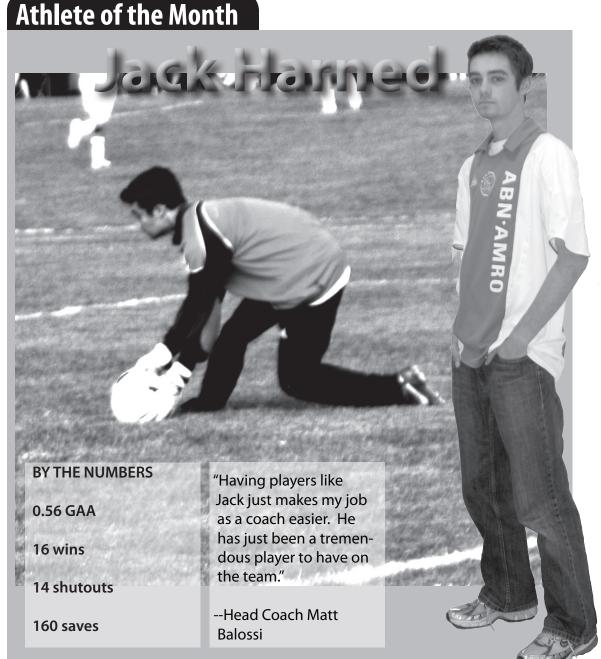
The save seemed to jilt the team into action and the defense seemed to shut down the potent MICDS offense the rest of the game.

In the finals, the Hounds lost to Westminster, and although the season did not end as well as Harned would've liked, he admitted that the playoffs were a lot of fun.

"It was tough ending the season right before the district playoffs with three losses, but we came back with sort of a two note game when we played Miller (Career Academy) and then played really strong against MICDS."

Harned said that these sort of games were what he especially liked about this season. He liked how the team was able to pull it together at the end when the rest of the game was unstable.

"Having players like Jack just makes my job as a coach easier; I could rely on him to be ready to play every night and to inspire his teammates to get prepared to play every night," Balossi said. "He has just been a tremendous player to have



SOCCER

GOALIE

Harned has accomplished this by dedicating his time to on the team. practice and always working hard.

As for next year, Harned plans on playing in college. P

Cross country girls stride on to state meet for first time in over a decade A new coaching staff and a strong core of girls led the Hounds to their strongest running season in many years.



For the first time in over ten years, the Clayton girls' cross country team advanced to the MSHSAA (Missouri State High School Activities Association) State Cross Country Championship by placing second in the District Three Class Three Meet on October 31, 2009 at Jefferson Barracks Park.

The team with the lowest sum of their top five runners' places wins the meet. The Clayton girls' team finished second in a close race, with 44 points. Lutheran South won the meet with 43, and Rosati Kain finished third with 47.

The Clayton coaches and the team were ecstatic once they were told of the victory; however, head cross country coach Kurtis Werner mentioned the outcome did not surprise him.

"These girls knew they had a chance all along and ran superb races to get the job accomplished," Werner said. "They showed up hungry."

However, assistant coach Anne Etling was not expecting the team to do as well as they did.

"I went to the District race thinking we would qualify one girl for the state meet," Etling said. "As they began to finish, I counted [the places] in my head - 5, 8, 9, 14, 16! I couldn't believe it. Four individuals qualified. After computing our team score, I got even more excited."

Clayton's top five runners, in order, were sophomore Nicole Indovino in fifth place, senior Simone Bernstein in eighth place, sophomore Payton Sciarratta in ninth place, junior Sarah Graeber in fourteenth place and sophomore Ella Davis in sixteenth place in a field of 43 runners. Indovino, Bernstein, Sciarratta and Graeber qualified for state on their own, as they were among the top 15 runners. Also contributing in the sixth and seventh spots for the team were senior Nicky Turza and junior Jenna Hooper-Hayes.

role as the team's fifth runner. "Being the fifth runner I knew I

had to really pass people to do it for our team," Davis said. "I wanted us to make state not only for the girls on the team, but especially for Coach Werner. I could tell he was very excited for the season and had so much faith in us, I couldn't let him down. I was sore after, but it was really worth it"

Davis also had to face the pressure of being the sixteenth runner, as she ment to qualify for state out of your was one spot away from qualifying District and Class," Werner said. "The individually for state.

was

shaking".

ning career.

She said the experience waiting to see if the team made state "nerve-racking" and her "hands were Senior Simone

Bernstein, co-captain of the team, reflected on making state in the final year of her runwin].

"I was really excited to make state this year," Bernstein said. "Last

year I was only one place away from qualifying for the state meet. I am glad I got to finish my career with the opportunity to run in Jefferson City for the state meet."

On the boys' side, the team finished fourth in the district meet, behind Lutheran South, Soldan and University City. Freshman Derrick Stone finished eighth in the District and was the first Clayton male to make the state race in four years.

He was happy with his performance at Districts and also mentioned how his prior experience with the Jefferson Barracks course helped him qualify for the state meet.

"It feels great and it's a little overwhelming," Stone said. "It's a really good feeling to have that title at such at early year in high school. I think I did better at this meet mostly because Davis understood her important I had run this course before and I knew

where the hills were, so I could strategize and use my energy better."

According to Werner, thousands of runners compete to make the state meet each year, and only a relatively few are selected. Though the boys' team did not qualify for state, the Clayton coaches agreed it would be unfair to presume such a young team would win the district title.

"It is a huge honor and accomplish-

boys were a young squad this year that These girls knew was still learning in they had a chance all many ways and it showed." along and ran superb Assistant coach Kevin Crean agreed races to get the job that it would have

accomplished. They been difficult for the boys' team to showed up hungry [to advance to the state meet under these circumstances.

Kurtis Werner Head Coach

place. Nobody did terribly, and Joseph

[Dillon] and Derrick [Stone] did great. The other teams in the District are just really good. University City, who has one of the best runners in the state, didn't make state either."

> The team has made great strides in the past year, from qualifying one runner for state in 2008 to qualifying eight runners this year. The coaches and individuals expect to see more improvement and hope more runners join the cross country team in the coming vears.

"The boys did

fine," Crean said. "It

was a long shot for

them to get second

"My goal this year was to get both teams to state out of our district," Werner said. "That was a realistic goal coming in. We did some things well besides qualifying one team. Both the boys' and girls' teams nearly beat Ladue, our rival, in conference and the boys will be hungry for next year concerning state. I stick with the same goal next year and that is to qualify both teams for the state meet in Jefferson City."

Etling agreed that it would be "an amazing accomplishment to send a girls' and a boys' team to state." She also hoped this would lead to an increase in the number of runners participating in cross country.

"I hope to increase our numbers and therefore increase our talent," Etling said. "We only have three seniors leaving the team this year and I believe the coaching staff will stay the same. I hope the word spreads that cross country is a great sport to be a part of."

Werner also hoped that qualifying for state would encourage runners to join the high school team.

"[Making state is] a calling card for young runners to be involved with a program where the runners are dedicated, but know how to have fun at the same time as evidenced by our district dinner before the race," Werner said. "I hope every student at Wydown participating in their running club can join the cross country harriers at Clayton next year and have the same experience as this year's team."

Bernstein agreed with Werner in that cross country can be a fun and gratifying experience.

"I would encourage all students who don't play a fall sport to join cross country next year," Bernstein said. "It's a great way to meet new friends and exercise."

Stone, while having goals for the state meet, also has long term goals for his individual performance.

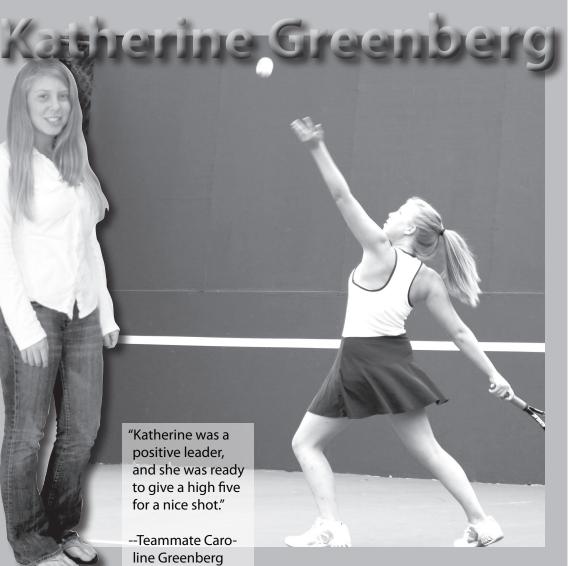
"I want to set personal records at every state race, and eventually junior or senior year get All-State, which is a title given to the top 25 runners in each state class," Stone said.

The cross country team made an enormous jump this year, going to a level the team has not seen in a decade. Hopefully the Hounds will continue to progress as they have in the coming years. 🕐



ABOVE: The girls' cross country gathers after qualifying for the state meet. BELOW: Freshman Matthew Garrett (left) and junior Joseph Dillon run at the district meet.

Athlete of the Month



Greenberg leaves behind winning tradition

by Evan Green Senior Sports Editor

Senior tennis player Katherine Greenberg has been the number one singles player for the Hounds varsity tennis team the last four years. Her reign on the top spot came to an end this season, but Greenberg left a winning legacy at Clayton.

The right-handed captain was a team leader not only in rankings but also in practices and off the court.

"Katherine was a positive leader and she was always ready to give a high five for a nice shot," freshman Caroline Greenberg said.

Greenberg played both doubles and singles for the team. Over the season she also had to endure a couple setbacks along the way leading up to the district playoffs.

"I played with (junior) Elle Jacobs in the beginning of the season. She was my partner last year so it was very easy to play with her, but she sprained her ankle and was out for three weeks," Greenberg said.

At that point, Greenberg started to partner with her sister, Caroline Greenberg, in doubles.

"Caroline became my partner for districts and I really liked playing with her because we play pretty similarly except that she is left-handed," the senior Greenberg said.

The chemistry paid off well as the two defeated the Cassity sisters (Courtney and Carly) of MICDS in the team portion of the district playoffs 6-2, 6-4. In the doubles individual

portion, the Greenberg's lost to the same pair.

In high school tennis playoffs, there are tournaments for singles, doubles, and team matches. So even though the Greenberg's beat MICDS, it came in the team portion of districts. In that match, the team lost, ending the season.

"It was fun to end on a good note in doubles, but I was sort of disappointed how I ended the season in singles," Greenberg said.

However, Greenberg's loss to Hannah Wille of MICDS should not be too disappointing seeing as Wille went on to win the state title in Class One singles. Greenberg focuses on fundamentals to be successful on the court.

"My forehand and approach shots have been really strong, and have really helped me," Greenberg said.

At the same time, Greenberg still feels that she has several aspects of her game to improve.

"I would really like to work on my backhand before college," Greenberg said.

Greenberg has been approached by several colleges to continue her tennis career at the next level.

"I have been talking to a number of college coaches about playing," Greenberg said. " The main colleges that I have talked to are Carleton, Macalester, Grinnell, Colgate, and Hamilton."

With that in mind, Greenberg will be adding to the list of Clayton athletes that will continue their athletic careers at the next level; just another telling example of Greenberg's successful legacy at Clayton.

NOV. 18, 2009 www.chsglobe.com SPORTS 1] A flag on the play: illegal Rush

by Phillip Zhang Reporter

For several years, I have been an ardent football fan. Despite the 1-7 start by the Rams this season, I enjoy watching their games, cheering for the dazzling touchdowns and sometimes arguing over contentious calls.

Over the years, I have seen many disputable penalties that changed the outcome of crucial games, but I have to say that the penalty flag thrown on Rush Limbaugh was a good one.

Just to clarify, the 58-year-old conservative radio host did not actually play in a National Football League game. In a bid to purchase the St. Louis Rams, Rush Limbaugh was included as a limited partner in a group led by St. Louis Blues owner, Dave Checketts.

Just a few days after the announcement became public, on Oct. 14, Limbaugh was dropped by the group.

This decision did not take me by surprise and I think it is beneficial to the Rams and the NFL as a whole.

Limbaugh's background has made him a very divisive figure. As a radio host and former ESPN announcer, Limbaugh made various comments that associated professional African American athletes with criminals. Theses comments enraged many people across the nation including myself.

The most disturbing comment was made in 2007. According to transcripts on his website, Limbaugh said, "The NFL all too often looks like a game between the Bloods and the Crips, without any weapons. There, I said it."

Limbaugh's reputation came back to bite him in a league which is 65 percent African American. As soon as Limbaugh's ownership interest became public, some NFL players stated openly that they would never play for a team even partially owned by Limbaugh. A lack of free agents could damage any team, especially the Rams, who just had a 17-game losing streak.

Upon seeing the result, some may argue that owners should be entitled to their political beliefs and personal values in this free market economy. To me, this argument is understandable but somewhat invalid.

The structure of the National Football League is more like that of a private club rather than an open business organization. The league policy on ownership specifically states that all potential owners must be approved by at least three quarter of the existing 32 franchises. This means that no matter how much money Limbaugh has, the current team owners can turn him down just because they don't like his personal view on certain issues.

At the end of the day, this situation is not only about doing business but also about personal values and beliefs. Limbaugh's divisive opinions can hurt any franchise in the long run. I am happy that he will not be an owner.

It is not anyone's fault but his own that Limbaugh lost this wonderful business opportunity; it is merely a consequence of his actions that he has to bear.

Tiger football struggles

After growing accustomed to success, Mizzou fans must stick by the team while they rebuild and reload for another BCS run.

by Nick Van Almsick Reporter

The Missouri Tigers couldn't have asked for a better start to the 2009 football season.

New starting quarterback Blaine Gabbert led the team to a 4-0 start, including an impressive win over rival Illinois. In that game Gabbert threw for over 300 yards in his first ever career start.

By the start of week five, the Tigers were ranked in the AP poll and in the coaches' poll. It seemed as though this was a starting point for yet another dominating season by the Tigers. However, the start of the season seemed to be a mere flash of false hope when the Tigers then loss four out of their first five conference games.

This is not the same Missouri team that fans have watched conquer the Big 12 North for the past three seasons. The Tigers are off to an awful conference record (1-4) and are in last place in the Big 12 North.

Senior Missouri fan Charles Goodman has been very disappointed in how the season has turned out so far for the Tigers.

"I think the turning point of the season was when Missouri played Nebraska and blew a huge fourth quarter lead," Goodman said.

Missouri was leading number 21 Nebraska 12-0 going into the fourth quarter, and then let up 27 unanswered points to suffer a devastating 27-12 defeat.

Goodman thinks Missouri's struggle might have something to do with the inexperience of quarterback Blaine Gabbert.

"It's hard coming in as a sophomore and trying to lead a team to success," Goodman said. "It doesn't look like Gabbert is as comfortable as Chase Daniel was last year, especially when things start going bad." Inexperience could definitely be part of the problem as the Tigers were only returning five starters on offense and four on defense. They also suffered key losses from three year starting quarterback Chase Daniel and All-American wide receiver Jeremy Maclin.

Senior Tiger fan Scott Morrison hopes that Missouri can still salvage the season with the last three games.

"Even though this season has been terrible so far, I still think they have enough talent to at least make a bowl game," Morrison said.

In NCAA football, you have to win at least six games to become bowl eligible. Although Missouri doesn't have a chance to win the Big 12 North like they have for the past two years, they can still finish the season strong.

"This isn't how I imagined this season going at all," Morrison said. "Hopefully this is just a rebuilding year, and they'll come back next year ready to win another Big 12 North title." (*)





Former Blues' goalie Manny Legace faces San Jose's Christian Erhoff on a penalty shot. The NHL changed its rules in 2005, a change which has made penalty shots more frequent.

The penalty shot: an overview

by Sam Jacus Editor

For many sports penalty shots or sudden death periods are an offensive struggle.

However, in ice hockey a scored penalty shot is praised: only around 30 percent of penalty shots are successful. Due to this, penalty shots in ice hockey are considered a defensive battle.

Penalty shots are rarely awarded during games and when they are awarded it is because a defensive mistake. Out of the nine possible reasons for calling a penalty shot in hockey only three are usually seen.

The first reason for a penalty is a defensive player covering the puck in the crease, the second is the goalie throwing his stick and the final occurs if an offensive player is on a breakaway and is tripped before having a chance to score.

Even though penalty shots occur less in ice hockey than they do in other sports, hockey penalties share a lot of similar characteristics with other sports. Like soccer and field hockey typically five players per team shoot, and a battle between the goalie and the shooters ensues.

"I look at [the goaltender's] depth and position to determine what I will do," sophomore Gabe Jacus said.

The main difference between ice hockey and other sports that have penalties is that the shooter can deke or shoot, increasing the possible angles. The goaltender is forced to interpret what the shooter will do in a short period of time.

While the goaltender is trying to interpret the shooter's intentions, the shooter is reading the positioning of the goaltender. If the goaltender comes out of the net trying to take down the angle, most shooters will make a move. However, if the goalie is back in the net, the option for a move is practically taken away.

For many shooters the decision about whether to shoot or to make a move is almost predetermined. This is because many people stick to something in which they have confidence,

which depends on the player.

"I like to stick with my signature move," senior Josh Few said. "It works, so why change?"

Other shooters have a different opinion with regard to what to do on penalty shots.

"I like to keep things open," Jacus said. "I figure it out on the way towards the goal."

Shooters are not the only ones with preferences on what to do on penalty shots. Goalies have preferences, which usually consist of being either passive or aggressive. For some goalies like ex-Clayton student Michael Vishnevetsky, however, those preferences are mainly pressuring the shooter.

"I like to use the poke check on penalty shots," Vishnevetsky said. "It seemed to work in the beginning so I stuck with it."

Goalies however have less freedom than shooters to save the shot.

"If I can't force the shooter to do what I want, I wait for the player to make the first move and then improvise," Vishnevetsky said. Junior Beau Hayden passes when pressured by a defender against Westinster. Clayton ended up losing 4-0.

n Maylak

Boys' soccer season a success

by Jonathan Knohl Reporter

The Clayton High School varsity boys' soccer season sadly came to an end after finishing 18-6-2, which was good enough for second in the district.

Going into the District tournament, the Hounds had lost the last three games including senior night to Whitfield. But that did not mean much due to the fact they received the second seed in their district.

In the first match of the tournament the Hounds were forced to play Miller Career Academy. The team quickly found its style of play beating them 10-0.

The Hounds were then forced to play their district rivals MICDS in the next leg of the tournament. Earlier in the season, the Hounds tied the Rams 1-1 in the MICDS tournament.

Since the tournament, the Hounds had come a long way, so the team felt fairly confident going into the game. The Hounds won the game 1-0 with help from Jack Harned, Lucas Powers on the defensive side of the ball, and Will Hayes, who scored the winning goal.

"That was one of the best games I've ever been a part of," senior goalkeeper Jack Harned said. "The emotions were so high and it was just amazing."

Clayton then drew Westminster for the district final. Clayton was the underdog going into the match up primarily because Westminster was the top seed and had already defeated Clayton in penalty kicks earlier in the season.

But the hounds were hoping to prove everyone wrong.

After the first 40 minutes the game was scoreless, but as soon as Westminster touched the ball in the second half they

were off to the races, scoring four goals to put the win in the books.

The season turned out to be one of the best in Clayton history.

"It was my sixth season coaching varsity and fifth as varsity head coach," head coach Matt Balossi said, "This year's team was one of the best. They definitely rank in the top two but it's hard to compare this year's talent to others in the past. In 2007 we were primarily a scoring team and this year it was all defense that led us to victory."

Even though the Hounds lost in districts and never accomplished the ultimate goal of winning state, the team did get a lot of small things done.

"In terms of accomplishments we met a lot of those this year," Balossi said. "For starters, we won the MICDS Tournament followed by the CYC Tournament for the first time in school history. We also beat both Ladue and MICDS for the first time in at least six years. Lastly, we posted a phenomenal 14 shutouts."

The Hounds will lose key players next season such as Jack Harned, Evan Green, Josh Few, Lucas Powers, Casey Lawlor and David Goss.

With Harned leaving the goalkeeping job junior Michael Takes and sophomore Jonathan Matheny will compete for the starting spot.

"I think we have a great future ahead of us." sophomore defender Christian Wolfram said, "The main core of our starters are returning next year, and with off season training and club, I think we have the potential to be even better than we were this year. It's only the beginning of the new era of Clayton Soccer."

The Hounds are aiming to improve even further next season. $\textcircled{\ensuremath{\mathfrak{S}}}$

NOV. 18, 2009 IN FOCUS





Annie's Place, located on Page Ave., focuses on rehabilitating children who have suffered abuse and neglect. The facility contains both residential and crisis programs.

Missouri organizations work to give abused and neglected children a fresh start.

by Nina Oberman Co-Editor in Chief

Children mirror the behavior of their parents. Consequently, individuals who grew up in violent homes are prone to using the same techniques with their children. Child abuse, then, becomes a vicious cycle.

"The single most important factor in abuse is ignorance," said Greg Echele, Executive Director of the Family Resource Center (FRC), an organization dedicated to preventing and treating child abuse in Missouri. "When people grow up in a household in which their parents treated them with violence, they may not know any otherway to parent."

Echele has helped to pilot Family Resource Center's one-of-a-kind treatment program that includes intensive ering and frightened."

are at least two million children called into Child Abuse Hotlines every year. In Missouri, 80,000. And in St. Louis, 20,000.

"Those figures still represent only a small percentage of the true number that are suffering," Echele said. "For some, the signs aren't visible. But due to the trauma, the children show up to school and aren't able to learn."

The effect of abuse on children, Echele explains, is comparable to posttraumatic stress disorder in soldiers.

Unlike soldiers, however, children do not have the ability to protect themselves.

"In response to abuse, children revert to a primitive state," Echele said. "They will typically do one of two things: become aggressive and hostile, living at home," Davis or resort to silence and become cow-

knowing how to speak to people and dress appropriately to knowing how to look for a job," Davis said. "We have to teach the children that in order to get respect, you have to give respect. Most of us have families that tell us what's right and what's wrong, but these kids don't have that."

The children who come into Annie's Place, Davis says, often think it is appropriate to sleep in their clothes. The staff must teach them proper hygiene and proper nutrition. Every day, there is time allotted for the completion of homework.

"The children have chores just as if they're said. "The goal is to ensure they are

in-home services for families struggling to maintain a safe environment at home.

"When the therapist first comes into the home, they will put down a piece of paper," Echele said. "On the paper they will ask the parents to write down the five things that they think could make their house safer for their kids. The parents then create a contract, agreeing to work toward these changes over the duration of six weeks."

The FRC has been doing intensive in-home services for 17 years with an 85 percent success rate. The FRC's break from traditional treatments has demonstrated the profound merit of evidence-based-practice, or the use of interventions for which systematic empirical research has provided evidence of statistically noteworthy effectiveness.

In addition to in-home therapy, the FRC works with families on-site. In a practice known as parent-child interaction therapy, a parent plays with her child as a therapist watches through a one-way window, communicating with the parent through a radio receiver in her ear.

"If the child is having a temper tantrum, instead of giving him a backhand across the face, the therapist would suggest that the parent take the child and rock him in her lap," Echele said. "What could have been a violent experience is thus turned into a nurturing, more loving one."

Not every family, however, is fortunate enough to receive this specialized treatment. Child abuse remains a pervasive problem throughout the United States.

In the U.S., Echele reports, there

We have to teach the children that in order to get respect, you have to give respect. Most of us have families that tell us what's right Center. and wrong, but these kids don't have that. often have trouble

Jahara Davis

trusting adults, Coordinator of Public Reand issues with lations and Volunteers for self-esteem," said Darryl Wise, Coor-Annie Malone Children and dinator of Quality Family Service Center Assurance for An-

> nie Malone's. "Each child participates in individual and group therapy, and we monitor their behavior daily."

Annie's place provides long-term residential services and treatment as well as crisis services, which the parents can sign up for voluntarily.

"A parent may be overwhelmed at home," said Jahara Davis, Coordinator of Public Relations and Volunteers for Annie Malone's. "The crisis program is in fact here to be a preventative measure—to ensure that parents have a way to escape from the stressful situation and avoid abusing or neglecting their children."

Some children also come to Annie's Place on their own, Davis says. In one case, a 14 year old girl who had lived at Annie's Place after being abused and abandoned went back to live with her mother. Six months later, she showed up at the door again. She knew that Annie's Place would provide the comfort and safety she needed.

The children's division of the Department of Social Services refers children to the long-term residential treatment at Annie's Place, where children ages 6 through 18 receive 24 hour supervision and aid in the development of life skills.

"Life skills could be anything from ents. (?)

Therapeutic reable to be insources exist, both dependent, at the FRC and in productive St. Louis, to help citizens." children living Atwith the consetached quences of abuse. to An-One such resource nie's is Annie's Place, a place is facility of Annie a K-12 Malone Children therapeuand Family Service tic school, Emerson "The children Academy, that come to us

with impulse con-

trol.

difficulties

where some children attend class. With smaller class sizes and welltrained teachers, the school is able to successfully address behavior issues first and then focus on

academic matters. Where a child goes after his stay at Annie's Place will depend on the individual case; some will reunite with their families, whereas others will be placed in foster homes or move on to another facility.

However, the ultimate goal is for the child to return to his home.

"Our aim is to get that family back together," Davis said. "We want them to understand that things can get better."

After living at Annie's Place, some children have even returned as volunteers

"People leave here with a lot of knowledge and a lot of guidance," Davis said. "They want to come back and help."

The toll-free number to report child abuse or neglect in Missouri is 1-800-392-3738.

The Missouri Department of Social Services advises anyone who suspects abuse to err on the side of overreporting. If someone has thought about calling, then he/she should. Not every call to the hotline is determined to be abuse or neglect.

The efforts of Annie's Place and Family Resource Center demonstrate that these calls can lead to positive changes for both children and par-

News Briefs

Student Drivers Need Parking Tags

Due to the school construction, all students who drive to school will now be required to have a parking tag in their car. Students can pick up their application in the Activity Office. Forms are due by Nov. 24 to the Activity Office. The parking spots available to students will be different in the future.

Indoor Soccer Tournament

CHS students are invited to watch the indoor soccer tournament on Saturday, Nov. 21. The games will feature six field players and a goalie, and at least three girls must be on the field at all times.

Center of Clayton **Closed to CHS Students**

The Center of Clayton will be closed after school to students until Nov. 30. If you would like to enter the Center you must check in with the front desk and either show your Center pass or pay the daily admission fee.





'GREAT EXPECTATIONS', pg. 24 66 It was great to take such a complicated story and bring it to life. The cast developed a great sense of community.

> Sarah McAfee Junior

Chickens bring unique fulfillment to Clayton family

There have recently been publicized objections to Clayton residents owning chickens. Currently, Clayton residents are only prohibited from raising chickens for commercial purposes. The Peipert family owns five chickens and enjoys gathering eggs and spending time with the unique pets.

Dawn Androphy Editor

The sound of chickens clucking may not be one normally associated with a suburb like Clayton. Some Clayton residents, however, have transformed their backyards into a home for chickens akin to what might be expected of a yard hours outside of St. Louis.

CHS sophomore Daniel Peipert and his family have been raising chickens in their yard for about a year.

Leah Peipert, age 11, said the family was interested in getting chickens because traditional indoor pets weren't an option.

"The reason we got chickens is because we couldn't get a dog or a cat because of our mom," Peipert said. "She would not let us get one and because chickens live outside, and my dad didn't really ask her, we got chickens."

And, just like more conventional pets, the five chickens the Peiperts currently own have been given the unique names of Rhody, Buff, Heather, Tiger and Rex. Rhody is the mother of all of the other hens, whom the Peiperts have raised since they were eggs.

The Peiperts required the use of an incubator to keep the chicks alive because the hen didn't register that they were her chicks.

Although the prospect of raising chickens might seem daunting, the Peiperts estimate that only five to ten minutes of work in a day is necessary to tend to the chickens. They often just take care of themselves.

"Usually, for a minimum, we have to check on them in the morning and in the afternoon," Peipert said. "We let them out on weekends when we're at home here. We even sometimes let them out the whole day, as long as they don't go to neighbors' houses. We have to put them away at night, which doesn't usually take very long. Usually, they'll put themselves away."

David Bentzinger and Michelle Donnelly decided to raise chickens for their own family after briefly watching



Leah Peipert stands outside her Clayton home with Rhody, a Rhode Island Red chicken. The family spends about five to ten minutes each day caring for the chickens.

over the Peipert's chickens.

After having their own chickens since late this past April, Donnelly has decided that the chickens are even lower maintenance than their dog.

"They're so much lower maintenance and better neighbors than dogs," Donnelly said. "We have a dog that we love, but they're just so quiet." The chickens are also pretty low

maintenance when it comes to food. Although the Peiperts supply the chick-

ens with a steady supply of chicken feed, they admit that the chickens have been known to eat sandwich crusts and moldy lettuce.

In fact, much of the time spent with the chickens is for pure enjoyment.

"You can choose to spend more time with them if you want to stay around them," Leah Peipert said. Barrett Bentzinger, 10, also loves spending time with the chickens raised

in her yard and enjoys her chore of

feeding them.

"They're kind of funny..." Bentzinger said. "They don't know what you're doing so you can, like, chase them but they don't bite you for anything."

Despite the fun of playing with the chickens, there are some parts of raising the chickens that aren't exactly appealing. Namely, cleaning up excrements.

"We have to clean one of their coops when they get dirty," Dan Peipert said. "They poop all over it. It gets rather disgusting."

There is also the benefit of the eggs that some of their older hens lay periodically.

Although she is clear that eggs were not the family's main motivation for raising chickens, Leah Peipert does admit that the eggs from their homeraised chickens taste better than storebought eggs.

The number of eggs the chickens lay does, however, vary. Sometimes, in fact, the hens won't lay any eggs at all.

"It depends on the season," Leah Peipert said. "If it's cold, we get with our three egg-laying hens, maybe one or two a day. But then, in the summer, we usually get two to three eggs a day."

While the Peiperts have enjoyed raising their chickens, there have been publicized objections to Clayton residents owning chickens.

In spite of this, Daniel Peipert isn't very worried about chicken-raising becoming illegal in Clayton.

"We are kind of worried," Peipert said. "I don't find it to be much of a problem. When we already have chickens, they can't take them away."

Donnelly is more worried about the situation, but is in favor of a limit being placed on the number of chickens that one could raise.

"A limit would be terrible," Donnelly said. "But I'm not against them putting a limit on it either."

Dan Peipert is also supportive of a limit on chicken ownership. Currently, Clayton residents are prohibited from raising chickens for commercial purposes.

"I'd certainly be for a limit, but I don't think they're going to go as far as not having chickens in Clayton."

For the meantime, however, the Peiperts and the Bentzinger-Donnellys plan to continue raising their chickens.

Although he admits that chickens aren't for everyone, Daniel Peipert maintains that it's a fun activity and much easier than caring for a dog.

"If other people like the idea, it's definitely a good idea," Peipert said. 🕥

National Honor **Society Inducts CHS Students**

CHS inducted 28 students into the National Honor Society on Monday, Nov. 9. CHS history teacher Debra Wiens gave a speech and senior Chi Zeng sang a song honoring the faculty.

Teen Parenting Workshop

This workshop provides parents with the tools and skills to set limits, encourage decision making and teach their teenagers essential social skills. Katie Monteil and other early childhood staff will run the workshop Nov. 18, 25, Dec. 2 and 9 at the Family Center in Clayton.

Fashion Show

The second annual **DECA** fashion show will take place Dec. 11. Proceeds will benefit Muscular Dystrophy.



amily has transformed their backyard into a home for their chickens. **RIGHT: The family** supplies the chickens with a steady supply of 2 feed. FAR RIGHT: Only three of their chickens lay eggs. During the winter, the hens lay one or two eggs a day and during the summer they lay two or three eggs a day.

LEFT: The Peipert



Graduation date changed to accommodate Hall of Fame

We are trying to

gala will be held

will be invited to

graduation.

Louise Losos

Principal

and then the alumni

by Meredith Redick Senior Managing Editor

The date of graduation has been changed from June 2 to May 23 to accommodate the debut of the recently created CHS Alumni Hall of Fame, which will be celebrated at a gala Saturday night. Graduation will take the place the

following Sunday at 3:30 p.m. at Washington University's Field House.

"We are trying to make a grand ceremony out of graduation weekend," principal Louise Losos said. "The gala will be held and then the alumni will be invited to graduation."

The Hall of Fame was created to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of CHS. The association will initially honor 12-15 members. According to the Clayton Alumni Association website, honorees should be graduates "who continue to bring pride and inspiration to the School District of Clayton, the community and society." Nominees must have graduated from CHS at least 10 years ago and achieved significant success in their professions or made

contributions to their communities. Galas associated with the Hall of Fame will be held once every two years.

In addition to supporting Hall of Fame activities, the change in date will likely make attendance for relatives more feasible.

"For families coming out of town, it's a whole lot easier

to attend," Losos said. "If I were asked to attend a graduation on a Thursday and it were far away, I probably wouldn't be able to go."

In the past, graduation has been held on weekday evenings.

Although the change benefits families, it also poses logistical issues. Because the new date of graduation is the

same weekend as Washington University's graduation, the maintenance staff for the CHS graduation has a smaller window of time to prepare the building for make a grand cerethe ceremony. Additionally, graduation mony out of gradurehearsal will be held at CHS rather than Washington University. ation weekend. The "While I think there's tremendous

benefits for families, there are a whole lot of issues we need to solve," Losos said.

Some teachers have expressed concern about the change.

"We know there is an impingement on their family time," Losos said. "CHS is different in that our entire faculty attends graduation. Everyone is expected to participate. At many schools, that's not true."

While the change to Sunday graduation is currently in effect for only this year, teachers and students could be facing a permanent shift to Sunday graduations if this year's graduation goes smoothly.

"We're going to survey the faculty after graduation to see what they thought of it," Losos said. "We're going to try it out and see if it's worth it." 🕥



14 NOV. 18, 2009 EATURES Students struggling to balance stress levels

by Sarah Tait Reporter

Almost every student has experienced it: that rush of dread in the pit of the stomach, those ever-increasing feelings of hopelessness, that overwhelming scream-into-the pillow-sense. The feeling that it's just not possible to do everything that needs to be done. Almost every student has experienced stress.

As common as it is in everyday life, stress is easy to ignore. But, recent data makes it clear that stress has become too prominent of a problem to ignore any longer.

According to a recent survey conducted by the American Psychological Association, nearly half of all teenagers said that they worried more this year than last year and experienced difficulty sleeping as a result of stress.

Psychologists are now citing stress as a top health concern for teenagers aged 13-17 and saying that this stress could have serious long-term health effects if not managed properly.

The reports start to show that the simple problem of stress is becoming serious and students are becoming too stressed. Stress is the body's response to any kind of pressure or

demand put on a person. When the body experiences stress, the nervous system releases hormones like adrenaline and cortisol to prepare the body for the upcoming stressors. This is called the "fight or flight" response; your body prepares to either counter the stressor or run away from it.

Stress has come to have only a negative connotation, but not all stress is bad.

Having some stress stimulates the body and allows people to become motivated and perform at a higher level. After a certain point, however, stress can become harmful.

"Stress can become a problem when the amount of stress we feel goes beyond our ability to handle it," Health teacher Melissa Hobbick said.

Stress becomes negative when the body cannot feel the rewards from the body's hard work.

"When stress goes from pushing you to making you feel like no matter how hard you're working it's not good enough or making you feel like there's just too much going on, it becomes something negative," Psychologist Teresa Flynn said.

This negative stress is what can lead to problems ranging from minor headaches to full-blown depression and anxiety disorders. The teenage years by nature contain many stressors that are somewhat unavoidable.

"There are lots of changes happening during the teen years and any type of change is a source of stress," Flynn said. "Most kids are having their first experiences with drugs, alcohol, and relationships and that can put a lot of stress on students."

Counselor Alice Morrison agreed that the teenage years alone are a constant source of stress.

"It's a transitional time when you're moving away from the relationship with your parents and closer toward the relationship with your friends," Morrison said. "Even the stressors that your friends face can affect you and add to your stress."

The attitude of friends does indeed play a large role in determining stress levels. If a student's friends are stressed out, a stressful climate surrounding that student is created, which reflects immediately back on their stress levels, even if they themselves don't have much cause for stress.

The technologies of the modern world make this an even more prevalent factor in stress. Students are constantly connected to each other whether it's through Facebook, texting, or some other portal for social interaction.

Though many students may think of their friends as a source of stress relief, this is not always so. The constant exposure to some sort of stimulation forces students to be "on" and thinking at all times.

"Nowadays teenagers experience constant stimulation induced or pressures put on them from the outside world. I Students could tend to overextend themselves for sev their play and I think that's exhausting for them," Flynn said. "There's think there are a lot of stressed out kids at this school." eral reasons. Sometimes, students choose to participate in "I would never discount the impact balance has on a stuabsolutely no time when they're not connected to their It's easy to point out all the uncontrollable aspects of the so many activities because they're simply interested in tryfriends in some way, and so they have no time to relax." lives of students that are to blame for high stress levels, but, ing many things. This kind of participation in many activities lifestyle." (🎙 Caffeine addiction harmful to health



CHS students have a harder time dealing with stress as school and activities become increasingly more competitive.

This makes some aspects of student life inherently more stressful than ever. Students can find themselves overwhelmed and stressed from simply keeping up with the demands of modern society.

Some students feel stress from more than just the social world

"Keeping up with the schoolwork is the main source of my stress," sophomore Jocelyn Cooper said.

Physics teacher Gabe De la Paz acknowledges that CHS schoolwork does have the potential to be a little too much.

"CHS has a lot of really good classes, and if you take a lot of those classes at one time, you could end up with a lot of work," De la Paz said.

The trouble comes when students feel that they are obliged to take on this workload. CHS, being such a high performing school, naturally creates a sort of pressure for students to do everything they can and be good at all that they do.

"There's definitely pressure there," Hobbick said. "There's that idea that we're the best of the best, and I think that a lot of people put that pressure on themselves. Whether it's self often, students put added stress on themselves. Whether the idea was given to them by an outside source or assumed by the student, some students believe that they must overextend themselves in order to be successful.

"Many times when you ask teenagers, they'll say they choose to take that level of classes, or they choose to be involved in all of those activities," Morrison said. "Often, their parents are telling them to back off, but they don't want to."

Junior Jaclyn Poe agrees that stress can be self-imposed. "A lot of times students can make themselves stressed out by choosing to participate in all of these sports and activities," Poe said.

Almost always, excessive student stress stems from having multiple stressors at one time. It's often the combination of schoolwork, clubs, sports, and other obligations that proves to be too much.

Poe feels that all of her extracurriculars add to her stress.

"At one point, I'll have a Student Government event I need to be at, physical therapy, and sports events and then to balance that with schoolwork is pretty stressful," Poe said.

isn't always too much for students.

"I think if students are participating in activities they genuinely like to do, then it's not always that stressful for them," De la Paz said. "It's when students participate in activities because they're worried about their transcripts when things get stressful."

Freshmen A. J. Joseph agrees that extracurriculars have the ability to be both positive and negative.

"If you enjoy doing an extracurricular, it gives you a chance to get away from your stress, but if you don't like doing it, then it's just an activity that gives you less time to do your work," Joseph said.

The kind of student thinking that students have to perform well in everything they do and be involved in as many things as possible in order to be successful works in detriment to their mental health.

If students put the pressure of their entire futures on everything that they do, the stress can become too much to handle.

"Sometimes schools unknowingly send the message that students must do well to have good lives," Flynn said.

Morrison agrees that that's exactly the type of message students shouldn't be getting.

"There's always that thinking of if I let this go, then my grade will drop," Morrison said. "If my grade drops, then I won't get into college. If I don't get into the college that I want, then I won't have the career that I want, and that's just not how life really is."

Some of what fosters this inaccurate way of thinking is the competition between students within school.

"Students are definitely competitive," Poe said. "That competition makes me work hard to see if I can do better than other people."

Sophomore Shuyang Li acknowledges that there is competition between students, but doesn't feel that it's much of a stressor.

"There's natural competition between students to do well," Li said. "That adds to stress, but not on the scale that other things like schoolwork do."

Some teachers, however, feel differently about the effects the competitiveness between students has on the student body.

"Because Clayton is such a small school, there's a lot of competition," Hobbick said. "I think that definitely adds to the stress students feel."

De la Paz agrees that competition isn't always good for students.

"School is a lot more competitive now than it used to be," De la Paz said. "It's basically just become one big competition to get into college."

Though most everyone agrees that students are stressed, it's hard to say if CHS students specifically are too stressed. Some see the competition and high expectations for students at Clayton as a breeding ground for overstressed students.

"In Clayton, you see a lot of people that are very accomplished, and that puts pressure on everyone to be perfect," Flvnn said.

Most students agree that the stress level at Clayton is unusually high.

"I think CHS is more stressful than other schools just because of the workload and drama," Cooper said.

Others say that a high stress level is a characteristic of most high schools across the nation.

"I'd say that CHS is pretty average in comparison with other schools," Morrison said. "Students at other schools may not have the same stress, but I think they have just as much."

Whatever the case, it's clear that stress is a prominent factor in students' lives. The best cure for a bad case of stress lies in one word: balance. Ultimately, it is up to the students to choose their priorities and keep their work proportional to

dent's life," Morrison said. "It's key to maintaining a healthy

Nucleus

by Jack Holds Reporter

Every day, students at CHS find themselves short on time when doing late night homework. Without a thought, they pop open a can of their favorite caffeinated beverage and down it, only to stay awake for an extra half hour.

"Coffee gives me the feeling of being alert," sophomore

Petermann Petra said. "It tricks my body into feeling I'm awake."

Petermann is not alone. According to the National Coffee Association, the number of everyday coffee drinkers has doubled since 2003, increasing from 16-31 percent for

people ages 18-24. While people under the age of 18 are not documented, the doubling numbers of this age group are still significant because they provide a trend to look out for.

According to Richard Lovett in Scientist Health magazine, "Coffee: the demon drink?", 90 percent of adults drink caffeine daily in North America. Popularity in young adults is increasing as well.

Caffeine is a stimulant; as the American Heart Association notes, it stimulates the central nervous system and increases the frequency of urination. It must be remembered caffeine is still a drug, albeit a legal one, that is to be used in low, appropriate doses, like any other drug.

Dede Coughlin, the school nurse at CHS, admits that after frequently drinking coffee in college, she acquired a lifelong habit and developed an addiction over time. Now, Coughlin cannot go a morning without coffee or she gets

a headache. This is just one of effects of caffeine though, there are a more short and long-term effects.

"Caffeine can raise your blood pressure, cause jitteriness, increase your heart rate, and for some, the short term boost can give a down after the buzz wears off," Coughlin said. "[Caffeine] can be a problem for people with high blood pressure and other cardiovascular problems and, of course, there is a

physiological addiction to caffeine as **Coffee gives me** well."

alert. It tricks my

body into feeling

Petra Petermann

awake.

Sophomore

As a result, usthe feeling of being ers must be smart about how much caffeine they put in their body.

"If you're healthy and use caffeine in moderation, it is fine, but you have to watch how much consume, you

Coughlin said.

The effects of caffeine are not entirely poor for the health though; sophomore Jake Lee agrees caffeine can give a tremendous boost when tired or completing late-night homework assignments.

"It's really helpful for school sometimes," Lee said. "When I don't get a lot of sleep the night before because of a lot of homework, it keeps me awake and focused in class."

Sophomore Jocelyn Cooper also pointed out the necessity of using but moderating caffeine.

"I think caffeine is a good source of energy, just not on a regular basis," Cooper said. "It should be used rarely, but when needed, since using those kinds of drugs isn't good for your health."

While devoted coffee drinkers may feel shamed by young people using coffee to stay awake, even students can be found to enjoy a warm cup at a local Starbucks or Kaldi's.

"I love drinking coffee but I don't use it to wake up," Petermann said. "It's just extra tasty." However, for those who don't get

any benefits from caffeine, like junior Elle Jacobs, there is no use in drinking the potentially harmful stimulant.

"If I'm tired and I have caffeine, it doesn't keep me awake, so I don't drink it," Jacobs said. "Plus, my mom buys caffeine-free Coke or Sprite so we don't have any [caffeine] in the house."

Wolfy Gaidis, a junior, said that while he likes using caffeine to stay up later than he normally would be able to, the consequences of using it generally catch up to him quickly.

"Often, I start to crash before I feel prepared," Gaidis said. "This takes me to another level of stress, because I know that if I don't continue, I won't meet my standards. This forces me to take more, and continue to exhaust my body and mind."

Coughlin agreed, pointing out how caffeine can often do the opposite of what it is intended for.

"One of the reasons people use caffeine is to get a short term boost but sometimes the crash can be counterproductive," Coughlin said.

For some students, the beneficial effects of caffeine are too appealing to pass up, but for others, there are reasons to steer clear of the stimulant.

"I don't drink it regularly because I'm really sensitive to caffeine," sophomore Sarah Tait said. "When I drink it, I get heart palpitations and it makes me really jittery and nervous. I only have coffee at Starbucks when something looks really good."

Overall, caffeine is used very appropriately in the CHS community. Even in difficult economic times, it seems like cafés like Starbucks and Kaldi's still maintain a devoted crowd of coffee drinkers. After all, to some, a day without coffee would be a day without a refreshing start. 🕐

Science Matters **Caffeine addiction?** Synapse 🔄

Caffeine, the natural chemical found in coffee and many soft drinks, provides an energy boost, but research suggests that it is also a drug that can cause dependency.

Nerve cells communicate Nerve cell through synapse gap Signals move between nerve cells by the release WITHOUT CAFFEINE Adenosine affects and absorption of two "neurotransmitter" chemicals energy level, causes sleepiness 1 Receptor **Dopamine** affects muscle control. Adenosine ties pleasure, pain up dopamine and emotions receptors, causes fatigue Synapse **Caffeine blocks** adenosine; dopamine Caffeine 🌒 receptors become more active WITH CAFFEINE Caffeine's many effects Improves short-term memory, mental function, alertness and reaction time; can also disrupt sleep Boosts blood pressure; speeds up heart Fetuses absorb caffeine; high doses can slow breathing and speed up fetal heart; may also hinder fetus's iron and calcium absorption

> Promotes urination, making body lose calcium in urine; can reduce bone density, cause dehydration

Source: Caffeine: Pharmacology and Clinical Effects, WebMD, American Pregnancy Association Graphic: Lindsay Dubois, South Florida Sun Sentinel © 2007 MCT

MCT Campi

Caffeine is a drug growing in popularity among youth. Many students use it to give them an energy boost, but if used too often it can be harmful.

NOV. 22, 2009 www.chsglobe.com 'Rocky Horror Picture Show' proves fun for all ages

by Hannah Callahan Editor

"I like your shoes," a man wearing so much makeup it seemed as though you could break it off in pieces told my friend on the crosswalk in front of the Tivoli.

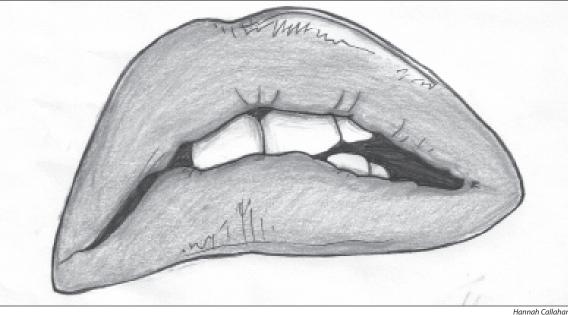
"Thanks," she replied, smiling at her four-inch black, strappy platforms.

We watched him walk away, his limbs like stretchedout paper clips, barely concealed by ripped fishnets and the Frank-N-Furter leather corset he wore. He was the first of many we'd see that night wearing not much more than sixinch heels and a face masked by makeup, dressed as a character from the 1970's cult classic, "Rocky Horror Picture Show." It was just odd to catch one alone. They seemed to travel in packs, looking like extras excitedly waiting for their time on screen, all fishnets, raised hemlines, glitter and red lipstick.

My friend and I crossed the street to get a place in line. I felt over-dressed next to the woman wearing nothing but a swim suit and under-dressed next to man in an elaborate Queen of Hearts costume.

I listened to the buzz around us of song lyrics and movie quotes and man in a banana costume shouting obscenities. It wasn't my first time, though, at the midnight showing. If it had been, I would have been stuck with a lipstick-painted "v" on my forehead.

So for all Rocky Horror "virgins" out there, the film is a British musical comedy, which was released in 1975. It starts with two newly weds, Brad and Janet. They get lost driving and find themselves at the ominous mansion of scientist and transvestite Frank-N-Furter, who lives with Riff-Raff, Magenta and Columbia. Brad and Janet ask to use the phone, with no knowledge of what lies ahead of them. Frank-N-



Furter, flamboyant and maniacal, ignores their request. He is in the process of creating the perfect man: Rocky Horror. The characters are quickly swept into Frank-N-Furter's mess of sex, murder, jealousy, hilarity and song.

Just before my friend and I stepped into the theater, we bought a prop bag of various objects to throw at the screen.

For instance, during Brad and Janet's wedding, we threw rice. We sprayed everyone around us with water guns when it rained. Most memorably, though, we did the Time Warp. The words filled the theater: "It's astounding; time is fleeting; madness takes its toll." And moments later: "It's just a jump to the left. Then a step to the right." The floor seemed to shake. In front of the screen, silent actors dressed as the characters acted out each scene as it played on the screen.

And the man in the Queen of Hearts costume sitting next to my friend shouted his own lines during breaks in between the lines of the characters. I wondered how many hours of his life he had devoted to this movie, how many times he had seen it, if it was his favorite movie, if this weekend was his favorite time of the year.

Reflecting on the experience, the Tivoli's midnight show ing of the "Rocky Horror Picture Show" is not for the faint of heart. Nor is it for anyone who has an aversion to fishnets.

This movie is for anyone wanting an unconventional (to say the least) Halloween, anyone who relishes the rare opportunity to throw rolls of toilet paper at everyone around you and to watch groups of Tim-Curry-as-a-transvestite lookalikes dispersed throughout the Loop.

When the movie was over and the lights turned on, my friend and I smiled at each other and started laughing; we didn't have to say anything.

We watched the transvestites walk away from the theater, the shock of the bitter coolness biting at their long legs, six-inch heels against cement, and sparkling garments that flashed one last time under the sodium vapor streetlamps until disappearing into the dark. I began to wonder what would happen to everyone who had dressed up. I thought of the gaudy sequined costumes, how they would soon hang in the backs of dark closets, sad and forgotten.

And what did all of these people do exactly? Was the man who complimented my friend's shoes a computer salesmen or a cashier at Office Max? Did all of the Rocky Horror groupies live seemingly normal lives? Had I ever seen any of them in daylight?

I imagined them all living double lives: normal, working Americans by day, "sweet transvestites from Transexual Translyvania" with a love for fishnets by night. I would never know their real identities, but I liked thinking about it anyway

Outside the theater, I saw a glitter dress flicker. After a moment, it was gone. We will all have to wait until next year. 🖗



The South Butt logo emulates the brand name North Face logo.



Creator, Jimmy Winkelmann poses for a picture with Rick Williams of Ladue Pharmacy in front of a South Butt clothing display.

'South Butt' an alternative for teens tired of fitting the mold



Teens are obsessed.

Teenagers today are obsessed with brand name clothing covered from head to toe: Uggs, designer sunglasses, Nikes, polos and more. One high school student went against the grain, hoping to end the obsession with brand name clothing.

Jimmy Winkelmann, a graduate of Chaminade College Preparatory School, went through high school observing his classmates' obsession in their name-brand clothing, especially the North Face fleeces. As a result, Winkelmann decided to create a spoof of the North Face, the South Butt, to send a clear message to his peers, and moreover, all teenagers, about the absurd obsession with name-brand clothing. "In high school, I started to notice the big explosion of popularity in the North Face fleece," said Winkelmann. "I just thought it was stupid how everyone was becoming so obsessed with these brand name clothing. So, I decided to make a parody of the North Face called the South Butt."

Face and just try to get clothing out there at a cheaper price than the brand name stuff," Winkelmann said. "And have it be just as good of quality."

Over the past month, the company's sales have significantly increased as word of the South Butt has spread quickly, due to media coverage and word of mouth.

"I think it is gaining popularity just because the whole idea behind it is funny," Winkelmann said. However, he believes the South Butt still sends a strong message to teenagers

and their obsession with name-brand clothing. As Winkelmann explained, the South Butt tea agers that name-brand clothing is not going to make you look cooler and, as a result, teenagers should not be obsessed with wearing certain brand name clothing. Winkelmann hopes to spread his message further as he pushes to have South Butt merchandise available in stores nationwide by the spring season. In addition, the company is looking to advertise on Facebook. The North Face company may present an obstacle for him. Recently, North Face threatened to sue South Butt on the basis of trademark infringement. The South Butt logo features two downward curves on the left of the logo while in comparison, the North Face logo has three upward curves on the right side. In addition, the South Butt's slogan is "Never Stop Relaxing," and the North Face company believes is too similar to their slogan "Never Stop Exploring."



If you were a wild animal, what would you be? A tap dancing penguin

Would you rather play basketball with **Obama or Quidditch** with Harry Potter? Obama

Who would star in a movie about you? Jack Black



Winkelmann suggested the idea to his family and friends and before he knew it, he had the support to start a company. With financial support from his parents, Winkelmann created a website and produced T-shirts.

In addition, other merchandise including long sleeve shirts, fleeces, track shorts, and baseball caps were made. Winkelmann was also able to arrange to have some South Butt merchandise sold at Ladue Pharmacy.

"Our goal is to provide people an alternative to the North

Despite the possibility of a lawsuit, Winkelmann continues to sell South Butt merchandise and spread his message, hoping to end the teenage obsession with name-brand clothing. 🕐

'Glee' surprises with clever twists on conventional plot

by Meredith Redick Senior Managing Editor

It's not much like a real high school: students burst into song in the hallways, vicious slushie-throwing tournaments dominate the halls, and teachers are brave enough to bust a move in front of students. This peculiar world is the setting for a hit new television show: "Glee".

The premise comes from the same mold that brought us "High School Musical": boy jock falls in love with girl nerd and struggles to reconcile his athletic interests with his budding romance, all the while expressing his angst in innumerable dance and song numbers.

Senior Ellen Spann admits that the show is rife with stereotypes, but she doesn't mind the prosaic setup.

"The best thing about 'Glee' is that it's so cliché," Spann said. "Clichés are true for a reason. I think that they get all the stereotypes really correct."

The show takes place in a small Ohio town and centers around a high school Glee Club-essentially, a show choir-comprising an odd amalgam of students that includes diva performer

Rachel (Lea Michele), disdainful head cheerleader Quinn (Dianna Agron), flamboyant singer Kurt (Chris Colfer) and star quarterback Finn (Cory Monteith). Cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester (Jane Lynch) adds a generous pinch of abrasive humor to the mix by constantly developing plots against the Glee Club, which she believes threatens the sanctity of her cheerleading squad.

The show has gained popularity since its May 19 premiere. Spann has been a fervent supporter since the first promotional advertisements for "Glee" aired on television.

"I was so excited for it that I was counting down the days until it came out," Spann said. Junior Phoebe Raileanu follows the show with similar ardor.

"Coach Sue is definitely the number one reason why I watch that show," Raileanu said. "She's so funny."

Raileanu identifies most with the character of Rachel. Michele, who plays the ambitious semi-pariah, gained a following in the musical theatre world after originating the role of Wendla in Broadway's "Spring Awakening".

"I really identify with Rachel because she's Jewish like I am," Raileanu

said. "Plus, I'm in show choir, and the show is all about a show choir."

Spann also connects to the show on a personal level.

"People think I'm a diva, and Rachel is a diva," Spann said. "I'm also really fierce like her."

For Spann, the show has inspired her in her own life. "It makes me work to be better at singing and being an actress," Spann said. "Still, it's kind of obvious that no high school show choir has that much talent. And no show choir can pick up the music and then start performing instantly."

The show's devoted followed is tempered by students who find the musical theatre aspect overly trite.

"I saw one of the serious duets and I laughed, so I knew I couldn't take it seriously," junior Kassandra McConnell said. "I would watch High School Musical more than I would watch Glee, because the people in High School Musical know they're being kind of silly."

Raileanu encourages the skeptical to give "Glee" a chance.

"It's really relatable to people who break out into song in the hallway, like I do," Raileanu said. "Everyone should watch it." 🕐

Is the glass half empty or half full? half full What is your favorite play? Rabbit Hole What is your favorite food? Toasted Ravioli What is your favorite song to sing in the shower? Got Life from Hair

What is your pet peeve? Meredith Redick

What are you going to miss the most about CHS? Mrs. Fasman and

Mrs. Ryan



Oliveri keeps his mouth shut, playing Mr. Jaggers in "Great Expectations." Oliveri has been a

Photos courtesy of Shawn Manny

Oliveri avoids questioning looks as he explains a large amount of money has anonymously been donated to Pip's upbringing.

Senior Nick Oliveri lives for theatre

by Bianca Vannucci Reporter

Nick Oliveri, a senior, lives on stage.

Here at CHS he is known as the Drama Guild President, a much-desired title. He fills all the qualifications: he has been in Show Choir as well as Choir since his freshman year, and he has been acting since sophomore year. His life is the perfect resume.

In his freshman year he was in "Grease" and "The Adventures of Average Man and Normal Boy." During his sophomore year, he was in "Company," and "The Tempest," junior year he choreographed "Urinetown," was in "Anon(ymous)" and "Peter Pan." This year, he was Mr. Jaggers in "Great Expectations."

Nick started being involved in theater at the age of seven years old, he acted in community theater all around St. Louis. One of his proudest roles is of Young Cosmo in "Singin' in the Rain" at the Muny, the Muny, after all, is where it began.

"It all started in 1999," Nick said. "When the Muny did Annie and my family had season tickets. My dad took me to go see Annie with him, and it was one of the shows that had a large children's chorus. After the show was over, I told my dad that I really wanted to be on the stage, not watching the shows."

Two years later, when he reached the age limit, he auditioned. He has been doing theater ever since.

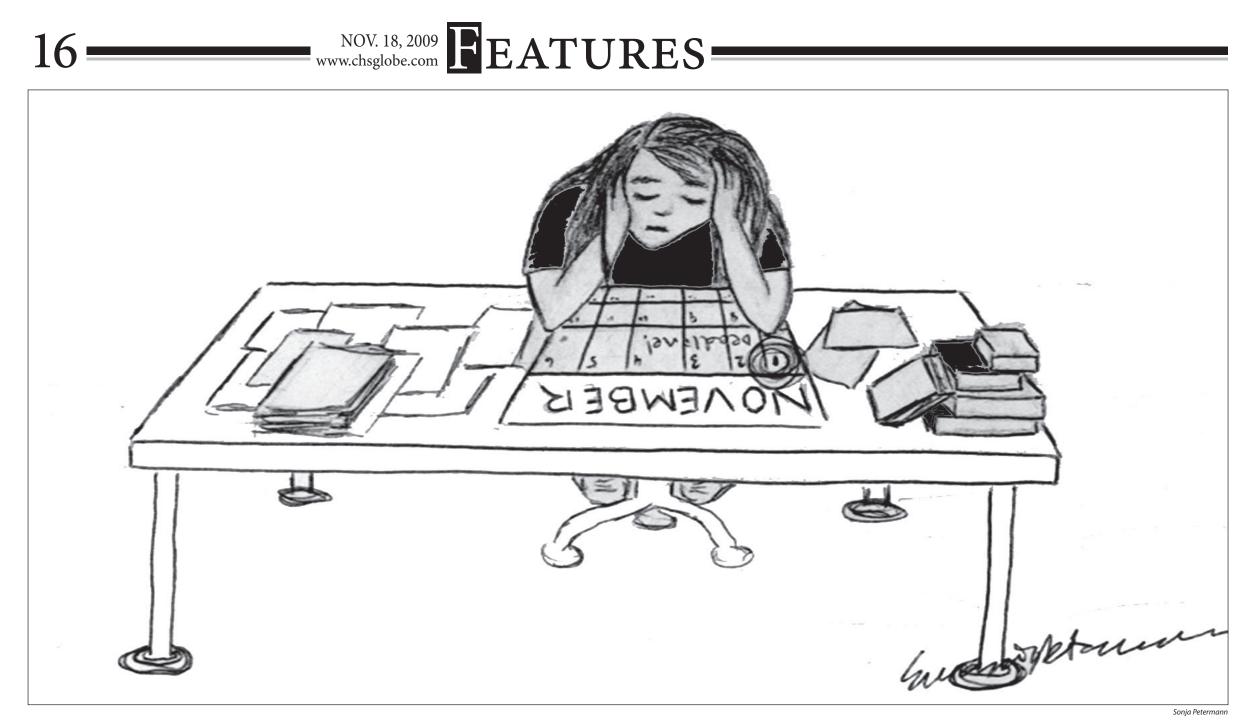
Nick's acting does not only benefit himself and his audience. When he was a sophomore year he directed and organized a charity show (Musical Review) at CHS which raised almost 500\$ for the Save The Music Foundation.

This summer, Nick kept himself busy by doing a showcase in New York that consisted of multiple performances for Casting Agents, Casting Directors and Managers.

To Nick, acting is not just a hobby. He is planning to get a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theater, and he hopes to make a living doing theater after college.

"Whether it's regional theater or a national tour, or Broadway," he humorously said. "All I do is theater."

So look out for Nick Oliveri, whether it's on the cast list of "Sweeney Todd," as the director and actor as Nicely Nicely Johnson in "Guys and Dolls," or in a Broadway musical. (?)



Applying early to college has drawbacks, benefits

Senior

by Tom Evashwick Editor

For everyone, college just can't come quickly enough.

Living and growing with friends sounds like the best possible four years of one's life.

However, getting in has been rumored to be the hardest part about the whole experience.

With more and more pressure being applied to current seniors, many want to get the application process over as quickly as possible. This year, many have turned to early applications in hope of getting accepted five months early.

"I [applied early decision] because I wanted to find out sooner where I was going next year," senior Alex Butler said, who hopes to attend Boston University next fall.

The deadline for early applications falls either at the beginning of November or the middle of November depending on the school.

Since the early application deadline is well before those of any regular decision program, many students feel it allows them to concentrate on the single school.

"Since it was just one application that I had to worry about I felt that I could take my time and still get everything together," senior Danny Steinberg said, who applied early decision to Brown University.

Students who apply early decision can only apply to a single school are legally bound to attend if accepted. Statistically, applicants have a much early decision," senior Emil Thyssen

better chance of being accepted when applying early. Early acceptance rates are practically double regular decision acceptance rates at many of the competitive most colleges.

"Part of my decision [to apply early] was the fact that it would help my chances," Steinberg said.

Brown University accepts 23 percent of early applicants compared to just 13 percent of regular decision applicants.

"I figured my best chance would be

said, who applied to the University of **C** Part of my deci-Miami. "If I wasn't sion [to apply early] accepted through early action, then I was the fact that would have beaten myself up over not it would help my doing everything chances. I could have to get in. This way, I know **Danny Steinberg** that I've done everything possible."

> The University of Miami is one of the few colleges that offer both early decision and early action.

> However, some psychologists have raised a criticism of early decision,

arguing that having teenagers make a binding life-changing decision is unnecessary and unfair.

The only way a student accepted through early decision can break their attendance contract is to demonstrate it would be financially impossible for them to attend.

"I really just couldn't decide," senior Eve Root said. "I didn't want to commit to a school and then later change my mind and be stuck."

Many have embraced early action as a way for students to declare their intent early while still leaving all options open

Early action is similar to early decision, except applicants are not bound to the school.

Additionally, applicants can apply to

as many schools via early action as they wish. The only exceptions are Stanford University and Yale University, which offer restrictive early action, meaning an applicant can only apply to the one school

"I applied early action to increase my chance at my first choice," prospective Northeastern student Sam Visser said. "I actually wouldn't have applied early decision because of the financial packages other schools might offer me."

But whether it's early or not, all agree that finally knowing where the next four years of one's life will be spent is worth it no matter what.

Schools alert prospective students about the result of early applications on Dec. 15. 🕐

Student refs see sports from



The cast of "Snow Angel" rehearse for the freshman-sophomore play. Students involved in drama have little downtime between productions.

Drama jocks balance time, commitments

by Rachel Han Reporter

The students of CHS have grown to expect spectacular theater productions.

However, the smooth, professional plays do not happen without extremely hard work and dedication. The performers and crew must invest as much, if not more, time into the production as any athlete.

For example, the time spent memorizing lines, in addition to the hours of rehearsal add up quickly. Not only does the cast have to deal with the stress of the production, they have to learn how to balance any other extracurricular activities, their social lives, and their academic requirements.

"It's hard," sophomore Fergus Inder said. "It forces me to be organized and I've gotten pretty good at balancing everything. Teachers are understanding though, especially during the week of a show."

Others, however, find it reasonably effortless to maintain a good school record.

"Theater doesn't really impact my school work," said freshman Lucy Bowe, stage manager. "Although it does take up a lot of time, so I am always rushing to get my homework done. It's not hard to maintain academic success if theater is your only activity."

In any case, it understandably comes as a relief in some ways when a production ends. Students have much more free time to devote to other activities, or just to focus on their grades.

Many students in theater are also involved in other activities. Most clubs and extra-curriculars are year-long commitments, and the breaks between productions are a welcome time to be more involved in the clubs a student may already be in.

"Along with the play 'Snow Angel,' I'm involved in speech and debate," freshman Emma Riley, female lead in the upcoming play, said. "We have tournaments pretty often: every

other weekend, if not more. It takes up a lot of my time, but it's also really fun. In addition to speech and debate, I also draw art for the Globe."

Riley is one of many students who are very involved at CHS. Although she loves theater, the break between plays is a good rest period.

Overall, theater is an incredibly positive experience, and many of the cast members dread the end of the production.

"There hasn't been a break so far, but if there were, I would probably die of boredom," Bowe said. "I love working on the plays."

Riley doesn't mind how busy the plays and her other commitments keep her

"It gives me something fun to do, and helps me enjoy everything at high school," Riley said. "Because no matter how bad my day may be, I know I'm always going to have fun at play rehearsal. It takes up a lot of time, but it's really fun."

Any good thing takes a lot of commitment and passion, and the students involved in theater at CHS are no different. "It's always a shock when a play ends and you realize you

don't have to go

to play practice

anymore," Riley.

one of the stars

of "Snow Angel'

said. "But it's okay

because you can

fill that time with

friends or home-

work. Also, it

seems at the high

school that every-

thing moves along

pretty fast, and as

soon as one play

or musical ends,

another starts." (🎙

new angle, and get paid for it

Refereeing offers a chance to make extra money as well as build one's leadership skills.

by Jake Lee Reporter

Those who are looking for a job in the Clayton district can expect a great deal from refereeing kids' sports on the weekends.

To apply for the job, all one needs to do is go to the Center of Clayton and ask for an application

to fill out and have a quick interview with the refereeing director, Andrew Entrikin. Though a worker permit is needed, one can be quickly received from the counselors of CHS from filling out an application sheet for that as well.

After being hired for refereeing, a schedule of games to referee is sent via email one week before the days of refereeing.

Most employees have around six to eight games per week, which is spread over Saturdays and Sundays.

Though the hours for the job are not too time consuming, with each game varying between 45 minutes and one hour,

some employees wish they had more control in the times of the refereeing.

"I wish we had more of a say in the day or the hour," sophomore Ali Planells said, "but you can get someone to take over, so it's really not a big deal.'

One aspect that most employees that referee enjoy is the high pay. Employees are paid \$10 per game, so \$10 per hour.

Though the pay is much higher than jobs with minimum wage, some employees believe the job can be hectic at times with the coaches, parents, and even the kids.

"Sometimes the kids don't react to the whistle, so you have to teach them the rules," sophomore Allison O'Neal said. "It can be hectic, but it's our job and we need to be patient." At times the young refs becomes an issue for parents.

"Some of the parents are kind of skeptical, but they understand it's a recreation league, so most don't care," sopho-

more Charlie Harned said. Planells said coaches often argue and disagree with the officials.

> "It makes you nervous, but I just ignore it and pay attention to the game," she said.

Despite the several difficulties, the employees generally love their job and believe it is important to both the children and to the Clayton district.

"It's important that we ref for the younger kids," O'Neal said. "We were also given the same opportunity to be refereed when we were younger and it's important to make sure the games are played fairly."

"It's a fun job that helps with exercise because you always have to run all around the field to watch the kids, " Planells said.

"It even helps with leadership skills and work with children, which is helpful for future careers that one might follow."

When asked if they would recommend the job to other peers, the employees highly supported refereeing for the Clayton District.

"It has reasonable hours and there is a good pay," O'Neal said. "Also this job is great for those just looking for the experience of working and you can start early with this one because you only need to be 15 to be hired and not 16 like most other jobs. It's a perfect job for anyone in CHS." (?)

Urogynecology Division Marianne Rosenthal Dept. of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Women's Health M.A.T. Sec. Lang. Arts 1031 Bellevue Ave., Ste. 400 College St. Louis, MO 63117 Office: 314-977-7455 Essavs College Essays After Hours: 314-388-6233 Fax: 314-977-7477 Creative Coaching c: 314.616.6513 The Physicians of Saint Louis University mgem610@yahoo.com

G Sometimes the kids don't react to the whistle, so you have to teach them the rules. It can be hectic, but it's our job to be patient Allison O'Neal sophomore referee

NOV. 18, 2009 www.chsglobe.com Student examines novel's influence on life, self

I should have been born in "Dictionopolis". Admittedly, the origin of my state of being can be summarized in a passage of Norton Juster's novel, "The Phantom Tollbooth".

'Step right up, step right up - fancy, best-quality words right here,' announced one man in a booming voice. 'Step right up— ah, what

can I do for you, little boy? How about a nice bagful of pronounsor maybe you'd like our special assortment of names?'

'Maybe if I buy some I can learn how to use them,' said Milo eagerly as he began to pick through the words in the stall. Finally he chose three which looked particularly good to him

- 'quagmire,' 'flabbergast,' and 'upholstery.' He had no idea what they meant, but they looked very grand and elegant (47).

Taylor Stone

I am perpetually submerged in the world of "Tock", Milo's companion. A literal "watchdog", he laments improperly making the sound "tickticktick" though his brother "Tick" makes the sound "tocktock". I imagine that I, like Milo, travel in a little electric car through a magical tollbooth to locations such as the city of Dictionopolis, the island of Conclusions (which can only be reached by jumping), the Valley of Sound, and the Castle in the Air (all in order to rescue the imprisoned princesses, Rhyme and Reason). "Diction" altogether soothed my soul.

My adoration for the children's and characterization. novel, with its nutty circumstances and didactic dialogue, stems from my childhood years when my dad would read to me before bedtime. When I was a young child, he would read fantastical fairy tales, short stories, picture books, and the adventures of Beatrix Potter's

> beloved creations. In a later year he would open the electric-blue, "Special 35th Anniversary Edition" of "The Phantom Tollbooth" and transport me, as the actual Tollbooth did to Milo, into a world of wit, wordplay, and wacky characters.

> My grandmother's words scribbled inside of the cover "Taylor – I LOVED this book. It is so clever and funny. Love you, Grandma G" fueled my curiosity for the

novel. My father's nostalgia from his own experience with it as a child also encouraged my plunge into the tale, as I endlessly anticipated the next chapter of Milo's dynamic, hilarious quest.

After my dad had uttered the last words of "Phantom", I yearned for more. Fueled by a love of being read to, I fervently encouraged my dad to read me hoards of books throughout the years. I devoured books such as "Charlotte's Web" by E.B. White, "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" by Roald Daul, "Willy Wonka and the Great Glass Elevator" by Roald Daul, "The Hobbit" by J.R.R. Tolkien, "The Chronicles of Narnia" series by C.S. Lewis. I was hooked, trapped in the worlds of my stories, through the depths of diction

Literature has since then consumed my life, socially and ethically. I often wonder to myself, "What would Jane (Austen) do?" and "Would Mithrandir approve?" I ponder if modern procedures could cure Mr. Rochester's blindness or if the influence of cellular phones could have affected the plight of Pyramus and Thisbe. Instead of educating myself more extensively on global issues in newspapers, I flip to the "Arts" or "Books" sections wondering if the "New York Times" best-seller list has changed significantly since the previous week. The aftermath of my childhood love of diction and the spoken word is evident to me - I recently neglected sleeping in on a recent Saturday morning to attend a marathon reading of Ovid's Metamorphoses for three hours at the St. Louis Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts. I now sweat on the elliptical while listening to Homer's "The Iliad", fascinated by its poetic beauty.

While I may have graduated to more "serious" genres of literature and poetry, I still view children's novels as ultimately superior. What work, truly, can compare to the mystery and delicate splendor of the orphan Mary Lennox's discovery of her aunt's gated garden? What novel has the power to delight a child more than J.M. Barrie's "Peter Pan"? The power of the human voice while reading aloud a children's classic- increasing a child's fascination, wonder, and delight- is incomparable to the impact of a mere song or political speech.

For this conclusion, I give credit entirely to a certain tollbooth. 🕐

THE PHANIOM 1011300114

NORTON JUSTER Illustrated by JULES FEIFFER With an appreciation by Maurice Sendak

"The Phantom Tollbooth" by Norton Juster is a children's adventure novel and modern fairy tale written in 1961.

Action film 'Law Abiding Citizen' utilizes swift pace, explosive scenes



by Alexander Grayson Reporter

"Law Abiding Citizen" is basically a mixture of "Saw" and "The Dark Knight." It mixes gruesome deaths with genius storytelling, superb acting, and excellent direction. This is a movie that combines violence, comedy, drama, romance, and politics into one epic film. Not only does it give a message of how the death of a loved one can turn a man around, but it also gives an opinion on our government and the justice system. Although most people (and critics) question some of the messages given, "Law Abiding Citizen" is simply trying to be entertaining. And it sure does succeed.

Directed by F. Gary Gray, "Law Abiding Citizen" tells the story of Clyde Shelton (Gerard Butler) who witnesses the murder of his family in his own home. Nick Rice (Jamie Foxx) is an attorney who is given the case. Unfortunately for Clyde, Nick gives one of the killers a plea bargain and another a death sentence. This leaves Clyde, 10 years later, wanting revenge on the justice system and everyone involved in the case. After hunting down and killing the man involved, he is sent to jail and forces Nick to give him anything he wants or he will start killing people.

The plot presents itself so well that the audience is surised on every twist the film makes. Clyde's next move is

the final twist turns the film around altogether. This sudden change in plot is both unexpected and slightly flawed. The first hour of the film makes you think that Clyde is the villain, but the twist alters that belief. Clyde is simply the man who wants change and equality, and attempts to bring it by doing evil deeds. This is both brilliant because the film changes its pace, but flawed because the film switches villains and motives.

The acting is superb from all characters except for Jamie Foxx. This role is a big step down from his Oscar-worthy performance in "The Soloist" last year. He looks like he is just here for a paycheck, and always has the same emotion on his face. Gerard Butler, however, is at his best. This is definitely his best performance yet. His portrayal of a dark and sinister killer is so believable that it's actually pretty scary. He has a slight resemblance of the late Heath Ledger's Joker from "The Dark Knight," simply because he is a man who accomplishes every evil deed flawlessly and is a man who wants change done to the city. He may not be the great Heath Ledger, but Butler is rising up to stardom, and eventually Oscar potential.

Overall, "Law Abiding Citizen" is a brilliant, entertaining thriller that has a slightly disappointing final act. For this reason I gave the film a four out of five stars. The film goes at a perfect pace, and is more of a thinking film than an explosive action film (though it has plenty of that). It is one of those always unpredictable, and when it comes it hits hard. The movies that you shouldn't take seriously, because that just

"Citizen" actor Jamie Foxx interrogates co-star Gerard Butler, who plays a man exacting revenge on his family's killers.

'The Stepfather' spooks viewers

The horror film, starring Dylan Walsh and "Gossip Girl" star Penn Badgely, appeals to younger audiences.

by Zach Praiss Reporter

worried about or not.

Above all, "The Stepfather" is not the type of movie that you would bring your actual stepfather to see.

This movie is basically about a man named David Harris (played by Dylan Walsh) searching for an idealistic, perfect family. When someone discovers his dark secrets and when his new family "disappoints" him, he turns into a homicidal killer. The killer is very practical and calculating and is able to cover his tracks easily and quickly after losing his temper in a very precise fashion. His control of temper and cool reaction to violence are some of his most eerie and impressive traits.

The scene shots, music soundtrack and editing are very impressive during this movie with a very plausible script for the characters. The real life trait to this movie makes it even eerier, especially when the original movie this remake is based off, "The Stepfather", is based off a true story that happened in New Jersey in 1971.

However, this movie may have not changed much since the original because the new movie is geared towards a younger audience, especially because of the casting of "Gossip Girl" heartthrob Penn Badgely to play the son of the mother who Harris marries. Badgely and his skimpily dressed girlfriend (played by Amber Heard) spend many scenes lounging by the pool and discussing whether or not Badgely's new stepfather's weird habits were to be

Not only the cast of characters, but also the PG-13 rating makes this a much nicer, teen geared movie than the original, which was rated R. Plus there were multitudes of dramatic scenes over cell phones, such as when Badgely's girlfriend is trying to find her phone charger cord so she can text Badgely that his stepfather is going to come to kill him. Honestly, a genuine horror film should not be geared around "finding the cell phone cord."

The movie also lacked critical points which leaves the viewer with many questions when the film is done, such as 'how many families did he kill before?' and 'if he's searching for the perfect family, then why is he killing them all?'.

These unresolved issues continued to annoy me throughout the movie, as well as the pace of the movie. Some scenes were unbelievably slow, while others jerked me awake with jumbled lens shots and screaming. These inconsistent, annoying factors plus the unsatisfying ending were definitely downers to a fairly good film.

Overall, "The Stepfather" takes a good (but unoriginal) idea, and although geared towards a younger audience, it still would be considered creepy by adults as well. I give the movie four stars out of five because of it's horrifically realistic element, the interesting screen shots and the good acting. If you're in the mood for a scary film about a seemingly normal family, remember to watch "The Stepfather." (*)

last third of the film is full of tension, action, and twists, and 🛛 leads to hate. Enjoy the film for what it is: entertainment. 🛞



World-renowned musician Yo-Yo Ma, seen here performing during the inauguration of Barack Obama on Jan. 20 to an enormous audience. Ma has received numerous awards, including a recent Grammy in 2004 for Best Classical Crossover Album for "Obringando Brazil".

"This concert was especially fun be-

cause it was interesting to hear him

Polinsky also lives in a very musical

"My younger sister is a violinist,"

Polinsky said. "My whole family is very

into music, so it was a really big deal for

Myer had an even bigger draw to

"I also play the cello," Myer said.

"Yo-Yo Ma made the concert more

interesting because of his incredible

talent and style," Polinsky said. "I've

never seen any cellist play with such

play, and the audience went wild."

us that he was coming in town."

see Yo-Yo Ma's performance.

"And he is pretty amazing."

Polinsky agreed.

the symphony

household.

Yo-Yo Ma visits St. Louis Symphony

by Katherine Greenberg *Editor*

World-renowned musician Yo-Yo Ma performed at Powell Symphony Hall on Oct. 25. The concert was presented by Centene Corporation and was the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra's first Gala Concert since 1999. Cellist, Yo-Yo Ma performed Dvorák's "Cello Concerto" by David Robertson.

The concert sold out so quickly and accumulated such a large waiting list that standing room tickets were added. Two CHS students had the privilege of experiencing the concert.

"My mom got us tickets months in advance," junior Ruthie Polinsky said. "I know it sold out extremely fast so we were very happy that we could all get tickets."

Junior Henry Myer's parents are in

Myer described his performance. "I go to the symphony routinely: around twice a month," Myer said.

"I just looks like he is getting so much joy from playing the cello," Myer said. "The audience is so involved because he is able to share that joy with the audience."

His talent was not the only thing that impressed people.

"He walked on the stage, hugged everyone, played, hugged everyone and walked off," Mver said.

Polinsky echoes how much his personality was a part of why the world loves the musician.

"He was so enthusiastic and his love for music was so obvious to the audience," Polinsky said. "Not only was his talent remarkable, but his personality made the concert much more enjoyable."

Myer was able to get an up close and personal experience with the musician.

"Actually, I got to meet him," Myer said. "Somebody asked him to talk to the cellists in Youth Orchestra, and so we got to go to the rehearsal and talk to him afterwards. He was just about the nicest guy I've ever met."

Polinsky thinks being able to attend the symphony is not an activity that is taken advantage of by CHS students.

"I used to go to classical concerts a lot with my dad," Polinsky said. "But as I got older I had less time."

Myer's parents have passed their love of classical music to Myer.

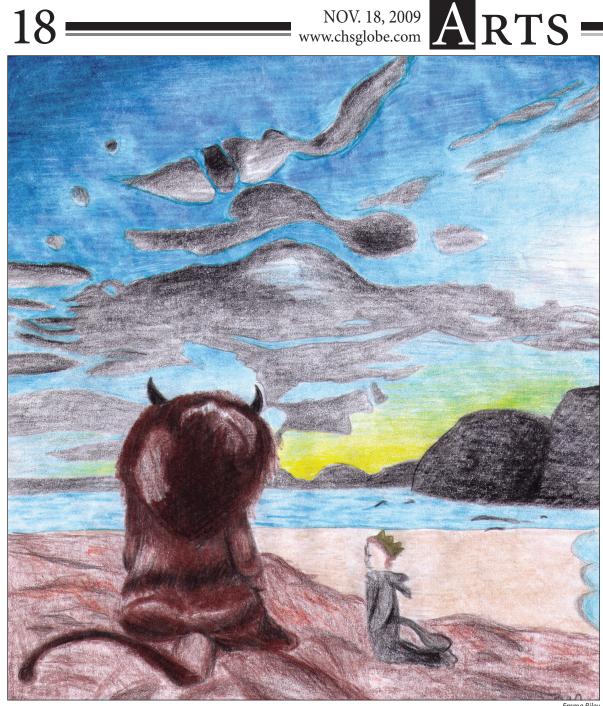
"Classical music is generally difficult to understand for people who do not listen to it often," Myer said. "But when Yo-Yo Ma plays, everybody understands." (🎙

Top Three Yo-Yo Ma Fun Facts

1. Was appointed by President Obama to serve on the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities.

2. Has reached young audiences through appearances on television shows "Arthur", "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" and "Sesame Street".

3. Established the Silk Road Project, a not-for-profit organization promoting multicultural artistic exchange.



Dark comedy 'A Serious Man' ponders the suffering of modern Jewish man

by Schuyler Longmore Editor

The Coen Brothers' newest film opens with a grotesque scene of a 19th century Yiddish couple at their home in an Eastern European Shtetl. Cold, but joyful, the bearded husband has recently returned from a broken wagon debacle bearing news of an approaching dinner guest. His wife meets this news with a stern face and crossed arms declaring the guest a three-year-dead spirit - a dybbuk. A knock is heard, and the couple looks at each other, followed by the now apprehensive husband letting the guest in. An argument unfolds between the wife and the supposed spirit leading to the wife stabbing the spirit, and the old man respectfully standing up and leaving the house to re-enter the snowy winter night.

Seemingly unrelated, the movie cuts to 1960s Minnesota to follow the life of

a Jewish physics professor at a local university, enters the frame – a partially naïve pushover who's endlessly vexed by his deteriorating family situation. His wife (Sari Lennick) is leaving him for a gentle but condescending acquaintance, Sy Ableman (Fred Melamed), because of his thorn-in-the-side, deadbeat brother Arthur (Richard Kind), all to the utter apathy of his two teenagers, Danny and Sarah (Aaron Wolff and Jessica McManus, respectively).

Larry Gopnik (Michael Stuhlbarg),

"A Serious Man" follows Larry as he deals with endless irritations – a car crash, spiteful letters attacking his attempt at gaining tenure, and a Korean student bereft of common bribing protocol – beyond, it seems, what any average man must ever endure.

His troubles go unbalanced by the pleasures of life save for a pot-smoking lady neighbor who flirts with Larry through ice tea and naked sun bath-

man."

Semi-autobiographical of the Coen Brothers' own upbringing, "A Serious Man" highlights the misfortune and resulting angst of the modern Jewish man. Poignantly funny, you will find yourself laughing and wincing simultaneously to the cacophony of Larry Gopnik's life. Not exactly in the comedic luminosity of "The Big Lebowski," "Fargo," or "Raising Arizona," this movie digs deeper into the psyche of the Coen Brothers themselves for once, rather than other assorted quirky characters.

A regular blockbuster viewer might find this film less accessible because of its discreet jokes of Jewish tradition and anxiety, but comedy aside, the Coen Brothers' return from hiatus with true film brilliance. "A Serious Man" follows the biblical story of Job (only with more Yiddish). Literary allusions abound in the Coen Brothers' works. "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" is a loose translation of Homer's The Odyssey.

Wild Things' brings childhood book to life

by Dee Luo Reporter

A picture must be worth a thousand words. How else does one turn a 10 line children's book into a 95 minute production inhabited by ferocious, though loveable, Wild Things? A classic children's book, "Where the Wild Things Are," is brought to life with director Spike Jonze's brilliant interpretation of a misunderstood boy's journey to find acceptance.

Although some feared that the movie counterpart would stray too far from the beloved children's book, the movie stays true to the premise of the book; so true that some parents have questioned the appropriateness of the movie for children.

The many previews and trailers depicted fuzzy, smiling Wild Things frolicking in a brilliantly lit forest carrying their king, Max, and howling to the reverberating sea. The general mood of the movie, according to these trailers, appeared to be like a typical, feel-good, children's movie.

The movie starts with a rebellious boy vying for Mom's attention, who sails through a storm to discover an island filled with hungry beasts. One of the Wild Things, Carol, has anger management issues. Another, Judith, is a "downer." The motherly figure, KW, has left the family of Wild Things for her new friends. The larger-than-life characters exaggerate Max's jealousy, rage, depression and isolation.

All the Wild Things seem encompassed with a great sadness that drags the scenery into a brooding sepia, the music into soft wisps, and the tone into aggravating depression. Max tries to make everyone happier by running through the forest, tearing down trees and throwing dirt clods at unsuspecting creatures.

But everything stays sad and tension builds to a breaking point. In the middle of the movie, I heard a little girl across the aisle say, in an innocent voice that little girls have when something beyond their grasp enters their bubble, "Daddy, is this a true story?"

Such a genuine question made me realize that this movie portrayed a harsh world. Starting with bullies, negligence, fighting, and ending with destruction, loss, departure, the story captured the essence of a misunderstood boy who realizes the world is not always good. But the loss of boyish innocence is a bildungsroman, or coming-of-age, concept, not a childhood fantasy.

There were so many adult perceptions of childhood threaded into the characters that the little girl couldn't understand why Max was so angry all the time, or why KW left the family, or why everything just seemed so sad. This interpretation of the movie was different from the happy, joyous bedtime story I had expected the movie to be. Instead, the kid inside me felt confused and slightly scared. From a teenage point of view, I could understand the frustration of being ignored, the violent reactions to upsetting news and the instinct to find happiness. But from a kid's point of view, it seemed like the happiest place in the world was filled with problems, violence and sadness.

The movie is brilliant, an absolute masterstroke of a genius. The interpretation, on the other hand, is slightly disturbing. The quality of the film was surreal. Every character was memorable, each scene was straight out of a child's imagination, every note sung struck against the heart, but the direction of the film was too deep for a children's movie.

"Where The Wild Things Are" is a touching movie that might help parents understand their children just a little bit better.

But it's not a children's movie. Parents should save this movie for when their child grows older and looks back upon his or her childhood with simplicity.

And to answer the unasked questions, yes, I cried a bucketful of tears, yes, I flashed back to all those temper tantrums, and yes, I know The Hat Kid dressed up as the King of the Wild Things for Halloween. (?)



Above, Michael Stuhlbarg stars as physics professor Larry Gopnik. Below, the Coen Brothers on the set of their newest film, "A Serious Man."

Coen Brothers' brilliance full circle.

With more specificity than ever before, the Coen Brothers focus their broad sights with "A Serious Man" and dissect their upbringing, while fleshing out the funny and painful story of what happens when everything seems to fall apart, even when it wasn't great before. You might squirm with awkwardness in your seat while Jefferson Airplane plays over Danny's headphones, Sarah and Arthur fight for bathroom time, and all life goes to shambles, but try to keep in mind; it is a comedy. (?)



a man and his situation. This confusing transition is the starting point for a movie filled with confusing situations, all of which are perfectly detailed with the appropriate angst, frustration, or sadness to fit the main character's ailing mental stability. ing. As Larry battles the struggles of his depreciating family situation, he looks for equilibrium in the turnstile that is his life. When consulting a triptych of inattentive rabbis turns out no results, Larry understands a new existential goal: to become a mensch – a "serious

As the director duo becomes more sophisticated with time, it is clear that literary allusions and intellectual quality have gradually nudged their way into the plot line. "A Serious Man" brings the

'Amelia' resurrects forgotten heroine, entices audiences

by Jocelyn Lee Editor

Amelia Earhart defined feminism. She was a heroine of the 1930s. She inspired women to be bold.

The film, "Amelia," certainly captures this – Amelia Earhart's tremendous impact on the public, her contributions to aviation, and most importantly, her role as an inspiration for other women during the time period. She was a star and was adored by many.

However, the movie is, for the most part, only about this. The focus on her heroism isn't necessarily a bad thing, but the movie could have the potential to go much further and deeper than simply celebrating Earhart, played by Hilary Swank, as an individual and a pilot.

It opens with the end of Earhart's career and very near to the end of her life. She is embarking on a trip to fly around the globe, something that has never before been done, especially by a woman. As she begins her flight, there is a flashback to her as a young girl growing up in Kansas, where she first grew to love the idea of the freedom of flying.

The movie then follows her career, from the first time she meets her future manager and husband, George Putnam, played by Richard Gere, to the last moment on her failed flight when she was in contact with the world. Along the way, the movie flashes forward to brief scenes on her last flight. The idea is that Earhart is reflecting on her life, particularly her love life, as she does what she loves most for the last time. Even though she does not know if

Taylor Gold

she will survive the trip, she does know that she will most likely never fly again because it's time for her career to come to a close.

In the end of the film, just as the world witnessed in 1937, Earhart's plane disappeared somewhere in the Pacific Ocean after nearly two-thirds of her flight was completed. As the movie depicts, it was a tragic loss for many around the world, but in particular her husband.

Much of the scenery throughout the film was beautiful, and the actors were well cast, especially in terms of appearance. Hilary Swank definitely pulled off the wide, toothy grin and determined spirit of her character. The movie did a good job of incorporating the private aspects of her life such as her affair and imperfect marriage, as well as the struggle she had with the alcoholic who was the navigator on her attempted flight around the world.

Director Mira Nair also included photographs and short clips of black and white footage from Amelia Earhart's life. They were woven into the movie nicely so that the story seemed more real. Being able to see how big of an impression she made on American society in actual footage stressed the historical significance, and it was one of the film's most interesting traits.

Out of five stars, "Amelia" deserves three. Although it didn't impress with its originality or acting, it entertained. It paid tribute to a remarkable feminist and pilot in American history, and it did so gracefully and in a Hollywood kind of manner. **(*)**

Small theater produces riveting war time play



To many, it may to be hard to find the location of The Upstream Theater. It seems to be almost always disregarded since it lies right next to the Fox Theater which takes away all the attention with its bright lights and huge signs. Many theater fanatics will probably go through their lives without even hearing of this small theater. But do not let the popularity and size mislead you; it produces quality plays that many critics have never even heard of.

Many of us can remember the tragedies of the Second World War and how the Nazis terrorized millions of people. Their essential goal was the final solution, the extermination of the Jewish population. But it was not only Jews who were victims of the Nazis' ruthless brutality. People who had mental and physical disabilities were targets of the Nazis as well.

In Upstream Theater's latest play, Helver's Night, a young, mentally challenged man with the mind of an adolescent faces the challenges of the Nazi regime during the time of World War II in a small European village.

Helver lives with his guardian Karla in their modest home which includes a small kitchen and a living area. One day, Helver comes home marching and wielding a flag. The symbol on the flag is not a swastika, but the meaning is eminent.

He tells Karla about his day and how he learns to march like a real soldier. He informs her of how he received the flag from the leader of a band of militants. He repeatedly shouts about how he must track down the "carcasses," or, by the definition of the militants, someone who is something other than

ther

As young Helver goes on describing the methods of training that were initiated that very day, Helver's guardian Karla comes to the horrifying realization that Helver may be considered one of those "carcasses" by his new "friends".

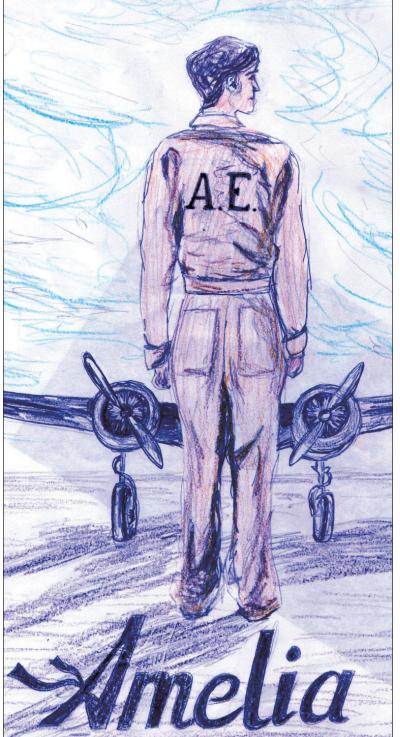
As the play goes on, it takes a dramatic turn for the worse. The tension climaxes until the ending scene where Karla makes a stunning decision that leaves the viewers speechless. But you will have to see the play to find out what happens.

The play was directed by Phillip Boehm. I am grateful that I have family connections with him or else I would have never gotten the chance to see this superb play.

Christopher Harris does an outstanding job portraying the innocent mind of a child trapped inside a mature man's body. The producers and writers picked the right actor to display this character. Karla, the guardian of Helver, was played by Linda Kennedy. She succeeded as an actress in grabbing the viewer's emotions with her superior performance in the play.

I am usually the type to go see movies rather than plays. But in this case, the play did not fail to keep my attention. What I enjoyed the most about the play was the emotional punch it delivered at the end. As the play went on the viewer could tell that things were not getting better as the tension accumulated.

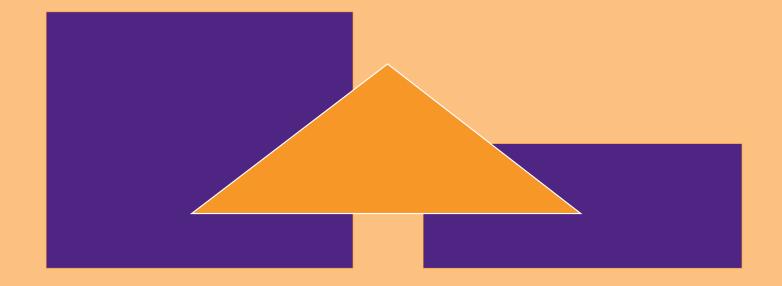
Helver's Night gets four and a half out of five stars in my book because of the riveting story line, outstanding acting and an overall great performance from the whole crew. This is an impressive play that you should consider taking time to see. (?)





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'Paranormal Activity' finds new ways to frighten viewers

Students are quick to make assumptions about this frightful film but are shocked at the horrors of reality that result from the unusual conduct of a new house currently under ghostly renovations.

by Caitlin Kropp Reporter

Oh no, please no. It can't be night already! That nice couple Micah and Katie are going to sleep with the camera set to record, documenting the paranormal activity that has been plaguing them for the past few weeks. Maybe we'll get lucky and nothing will happen tonight... Omigod, the door moved a few inches... And then it moved back!

Such scenes are staples in the newest box-office hit, "Paranormal Activity." Made for just under \$11,000, this lowbudget phenomenon is sweeping the nation, terrifying movie go-ers everywhere. Instead of delivering the characteristic gore and revelation moments that are associated with modern horror films, the movie preys on the feelings of dread and suspense generated by the audience. All in all, "Paranormal Activity" is a surprisingly good and scary movie, even for a low-budget film.

"Paranormal Activity" follows Micah and Katie, a couple which just recently took the plunge of moving in together. Clearly, they cannot be left alone, and paranormal mayhem ensues. The movie begins after apparent weeks of strange goings-on, such as weird noises and objects moving by themselves. Scary, but not exactly knock-your-socks-off material. So, Micah sets up a camera in the bedroom, hoping to capture said activity on tape. What the tape will be used for is never really revealed. Cathartic release? Aiding ghostly investigations? Blockbuster movie material?

Soon enough, it is revealed that this isn't any ordinary ghost they're dealing with. Apparently, this force from beyond the grave has been haunting Katie since she was eight years old, when she first saw a shadowy figure at the foot of her bed. This drops the entity into the realm of "demonic", making it all the more sinister, as it doesn't haunt specific locations. It haunts Katie herself, making it impossible to escape. The demon will follow her wherever she goes. Events escalate over time, finally culminating in the final scene that literally gave me nightmares for a week.

ness you feel with the main characters. The actors, Katie Featherston and Micah Sloat (they lent their names to the characters), are truly convincing. Their chemistry makes them totally believable as a couple, albeit one haunted by a demonic spirit. They effectively portray the average people, the ones you never suspect anything to happen to. But of course, through some unlucky twist of fate, they always end up as the victims.

In addition, the filming techniques used make it all the more personal. The filming copies that of movies like "The Blair Witch Project", where handheld video is used to make the audience buy into the story line that the footage was "found", and is subsequently real. Unlike other hand-held movies, however, the film is pleasantly free of the unfortunate nauseous side effects that so often plague these movies. Most of the movie is shot with the camera on a tripod, and the only times when the camera is removed it is because of some paranormal activity going on downstairs. The fast action of sweeping around corners and down stairs adds to the suspense, as the audience seriously feels as if they are peering around corners to find who knows what.

But the real genius in the filming is the subtle scariness that further adds to the sense of dread and fear pervading the movie. The demon is never revealed; we never see it take shape, or attack someone directly. There is no blood or gore. Just little things. A door slamming shut sends shivers up our spines and an ominous form under the covers makes us cower in our seats. We cannot see it and we cannot know its next move. The tension just builds and builds until something has to burst. This burst, of course, comes masterfully during the final sequence, leaving us terrified, but shakily relieved that our ordeal is over.

Honestly, looking back at the movie, I can see how it wasn't all that scary. I mean, come on, seriously. How was I frightened when that door banged shut? It was clearly just a wire trick. And the sounds on the stairs? They were all just recordings. Still, while watching the it alone. (?)

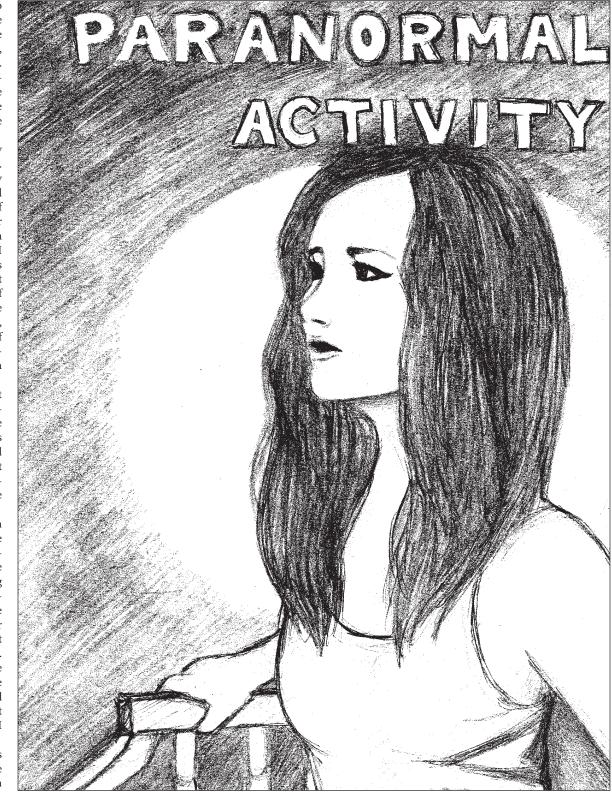
I guess the real appeal is the close- film itself, rational thought tends to flee. I was actually terrified before the movie began. There was so much hype about the movie, and how scary it was, that I literally felt sick to my stomach. I considered leaving the theater or actually throwing up. Anything to get me out of this. Still, to be fair, those were some pretty freaky previews they were showing.

But I stuck it out, and thankfully made it to the actual start of the film. This, not surprisingly, did not help my anxiety. When the first noise was heard downstairs, I nearly jumped out of my chair, spilling my popcorn all over the aisle. Things only got worse from there. By the middle of the movie, I was squeezing my movie companion's arm so tightly that she might have lost circulation in it. I didn't realize this, of course; I was too busy watching the movie. Finally, during the last scene, screamed out loud, earning myself glares from my fellow moviegoers. Apparently, screaming in a theater with only six people is a big social faux pas.

All in all, the movie was an excellent fright fest, but there were some drawbacks. The first 45 minutes or so were pretty slow. The same bangs and creaks got old pretty fast. Even the Ouija board catching on fire failed to excite me. It was only afterwards that the action really started to pick up, and I was once again glued to my seat in sheer terror.

"Paranormal Activity" is the first in a new wave of film-making: films made for almost no money that let the audience do the scaring themselves. The dread and fear we feel while watching is very real and is the actual frightening element. There is really little in the actual movie to scare us: it is only our minds, reacting what we see, and what we don't see, that give the real terror. And, because it is all in our minds, we can't seem to stop watching. Everyone in the theater is turned into the child hearing a ghost story, wondering: What happens next? No, I can't bear it! No, I have to know!

Although "Paranormal Activity" is most definitely an excellent film, one piece of advice is in order: Don't watch



The 'King of Pop' continues to wow fans

by Katherine Greenberg Senior Editor

It is easy to let the drama and scandal of Michael Jackson's personal life cloud a person's idea of his persona profession-

This movie is not a tell all about Jackson's personal life, nor is it an eyewitness experience into his death. The movie does however give the audience the idea of what kind of artist Jackson was to work with. He knew what he wanted and how he wanted it done. His descriptions like "slow the tem-



Warren Skalski/Chicago Tribune/ MCT

Simpson Herman and Laura Harley attend the celebration of the life of Michael Jackson at Steelyard Stadium in Gary, Indiana, Friday, July 10,

Chinese Opera at Webster University an entertaining cultural experience

by Jocelyn Lee Reporter

On Friday, October 30, Beijing Opera students from the National Academy of Chinese

Theatre Arts took the stage at the Community Music School's auditorium at Webster University.

Invited to perform by the Confucius Institute at Webster, these actors and actresses performed "Highlights of the Classical Chinese Theatre." The show consisted of six short Beijing Opera plays with English subtitles. Each one was an excerpt from a full-length opera, so the audience was able to see different types in a shorter period of time.

Before the operas began, Vice President of the Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts, Ba Tu,

along with a translator, spoke about various artistic elements important to understanding the operas. Some of the topics he covered were the types of musical instruments used in traditional Chinese opera; costumes and how they represented different types of characters; and visualization.

C There were plenty of opportunities for audience participation during the show, which the audience seemed to respond to well. The performance attracted a diverse audience, and a fairly large one, too.

The significance of visualization was a point he brought up repeatedly. Because so few props are used in the performance, performers must use exaggerated movements to help the audience visualize the action on stage.

> During Tu's explanations, a musician demonstrated the use of various instruments used in the operas and played short pieces for the audience

The operas contained song, dance, acrobatics, and martial arts-based movement.

The costumes were colorful and often intricately decorated, and the exaggerated stage makeup worn by the performers added another aspect of performance unique to Chinese theater.

There were plenty of opportunities for audience participation during the show, which the audience seemed to respond to well.

The performance attracted a diverse audience, and a fairly large one, too.

The Confucius Institute, which made the performance possible, was recently founded in 2008 and provides Chinese language and cultural instruction, as well as educational opportunities for the community.

The event was free, and CHS Chinese teacher Pinpin Yu reserved a number of seats for interested members of Clayton. 🕐

ally. Watching Jackson in "This Is It" people are reminded of why he is known as the "King of Pop."

The movie is set in the Staples Center in Los Angeles and features the preparation for Jackson's comeback tour. It showcases all of the new and exciting things that were planned for the tour.

Michael Jackson is known for his legendary dance moves and perfectionist nature. In this movie his specific views are always given to his vocal director, choreographer and producer. He is instrumental in each step of the process as plans for the concert progress.

Thousands of dancers flocked to the auditions for the movie and slowly the group was whittled down to a small group of dancers.

Kenny Ortega directed the movie and with all of the footage from the rehearsals it was hard for the producers to make a decision whether to make the movie a documentary about Jackson or just a compilation of the videos that were recorded during rehearsals.

This movie is not for people that are not fans of Jackson's music and on-stage personality.

The highlights of the film are Jackson singing all of his most famous and popular songs. Even with Jackson at times resting his voice and not giving it his all the film gives the audience a concert experience that makes them remember why Jackson is called "the King."

po like someone is just getting out of bed" or that he wanted "more sizzle" show how important every little detail of this concert was to him.

It is hard to believe that Jackson died only days after filming scenes from these rehearsals. Although at times looking frail and skinny, Jackson's trademark moves showed his gifted backup dancers how to do it right.

This concert was not going to be the normal concert experience. Not only were there giant set designs and innovative wardrobe pieces; but also there were many films made to enhance the audience experience. Jackson's most famous video, "Thriller" was completely redone. With the high tech video production: set, wardrobe, and makeup, the new "Thriller" video looked more like a movie than a music video.

After watching this movie it is evident that Jackson can still hit the high notes. His unique voice had not lost any of the magic that made it so compelling decades ago. He was saving his voice at times but his love of performing took over during many performances and he could not help but sing with his backup vocals.

This is not a "True Hollywood Story" kind of plot; it is a compilation of the greatest Michael Jackson songs, while also giving us an inside look at the musical genius at work. While listening to Jackson thank and bless his "family" of production managers, dancers, vocalists and musicians people cannot help but mourn the loss of "the King." (?)



NOV. 18, 2009 www.chsglobe.com CORUM 21 Pro/Con: Merits of the 'Twilight' series

Despite criticism, novels serve as valid form of entertainment and encourage youth reading

by Taylor Stone Senior Arts Editor

As one who has read the entirety of Stephenie Meyer's "The Twilight Saga" and has viewed the film of the first novel, I believe that I have enough authority to truly comment and analyze its definite content as opposed to a detached observer basing opinions off of the marketing endeavors of the franchise.

To properly comprehend the basic themes of the book series, one must fix the brain's narrow perceptions beyond the "Team Edward" t-shirts, glossy posters, and publicity circus surrounding the movie and its actors. The novel's plot surrounds many main characters, namely clumsy high school student Bella Swan and the intelligent, passionate vampire Edward Cullen. The series unravels dynamically, revealing fatal conflicts within the local vampire community and with the leading coven, the Volturi, based in Rome. Another major character, Jacob Black, adds interest as a member of a werewolf tribe, further complicating the experiences of the protagonist.

On the surface, or rather if one was to merely skim People magazine's section on the film's media frenzy, the entire concept of the novels seems ridiculous – who needs another chick-lit novel anyway, right? Isn't "Twilight" simply a romance novel disguised as a vampire fantasy?

However, with such narrow judgments, one would clearly miss the significant themes and purposes within the text of the series. While the novels do serve as a method of simple entertainment, proven by its globally colossal success as bestsellers, it exposes readers to inner conflicts within characters. The theme of sacrifice is prevalent - the protagonist wishes to sacrifice her mortal life to be with her lover, while she also sacrifices her sense of reason in order to follow the path of her emotional thought. These sacrifices are not depicted as appropriate and rational to the reader, who is often repelled from Bella's decisions and does not idolize her blind devotion. Characters encounter dark, complex ideas of self-hatred,

immortal love, and suffering.

I found that the novels also attempt to set forth positive messages to teens. The series is altogether very chaste, as the relationship between Edward and Bella remains virtuous until the last novel of the series—following their lawful marriage, of course. The message that pure love can exist without such behavior before marriage is certainly positive.

I am certainly not attempting to insinuate that the "Twilight" series is equal to the works of Charles Dickens or Nathanial Hawthorne. The often-clunky writing style is characteristic of teen literature and should not be equated with the masterpieces of literary giants.

However, the argument that the "Twilight" series deteriorates the quality of literature illustrates the pretentious ideas of "high culture" and "low culture", one to be appreciated by the intellectually gifted portion of society. I value the "Twilight" series as a form of entertainment, not writing it off as "below" my intellectual standards. The positive impact it has had on the literary excitement of society should be undisputed. Many individuals who may not be interested in Chaucer or Poe have expanded their literary interests through the series. I personally am happy that literature can be viewed as exciting by the general public, and therefore can be available to everyone.

The commercial success of the series is therefore well-deserved. While I certainly would not purchase a "Twilight"-themed snow Lack of quality writing and character development paired with showy marketing render series a failure

by Dawn Androphy Editor

Full disclosure: I haven't read the entire "Twilight" series. I have, however, read the first book and seen the released movie. With all of the "Twilight" mayhem that has proliferated American culture, I feel as if I've been exposed to enough of the series and its connected marketing ploys to have a valid opinion on the brand.

While Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight" contains some pretty dreadfully written prose, it is easy to dismiss the books as harmless light reading. Sure, I did not enjoy reading the book, but it is pretty unreasonable to condemn every book that I read and do not like. However, it is hard not to notice the strange development of Bella's character in the first book and not find it to be off-putting.

The entire book seems to be compromised of Bella gasping over Edward's beauty, mysteriously reticent behavior, and even his "sparkling" appearance. She constantly frets over her clumsy tendencies and is quite possibly one of the most self-conscious and insecure characters ever written into a novel. Meanwhile, Bella is never shy to randomly insert passages marveling at Edward's beauty throughout the book to the point of redundancy.

I suppose that a character like Bella just doesn't seem to be at all independent or capable of autonomy. Her relationship with Edward becomes her life and true obsession throughout the book, with few other concurrent, meaningful relationships in her life. Bella's relationship with Edward seems to require her to abandon the rest of her life for a man she has known for only weeks. Some might find Bella's isolation and blind dedication to Edward to be romantic, but it seems to be purely unhealthy to me.

Bella's "virtuous" relationship with Edward and Bella's own behavior may be repellant to a more astute reader, but I can't help but find it disconcerting that so many people view Edward and Bella's relationship as an ideal to aspire to. Their angsty-gaze-filled relationship may be declared by some as "wholesome" because Edward and Bella do not consummate their relationship, but the way in which their commitment is cemented so quickly to the extent that Bella doesn't even seem to have a life outside of Edward is a truly disturbing concept to me.

A bland teenage girl in a codependent relationship that is glorified by the author just isn't what I'm looking for in the fiction books I take time to read.

The permeation of "Twilight" into American culture adds an additional layer of unbearable aspects to the brand. I call "Twilight" and its accompanying memorabilia (which includes, but is not limited to, movies, clothing, jewelry, and photo mugs) a brand because "Twilight" has expanded far beyond the status of a book series. Despite what many "Twilight"-devotees might say, the series can no longer be judged as simply a poorly written teen romance novel.

As the brand has grown to such a comically extensive level of popularity and obsession, the "Twilight" series has become an insultingly blatant marketing ploy to appeal to teenage girls in the most clichéd way possible. How can one be expected to be ambivalent to a product that wasn't even enjoyable to begin with when it is constantly shoved in one's face?

globe, I do realize that the franchise's marketing system, as well as any marketing system, operates on the "invisible hand" of supply and demand. The big, bad franchise is not attempting to corrupt youths with products. The savvy franchise is aware that posters, T-shirts, and pens are desired by those captivated by the novels, who themselves pay for such merchandise and have the responsibility to choose which companies to support.

> Though the low budgeted and poorly scripted "Twilight" film does take some responsibility for allowing negative opinions to exist, the novels themselves are the foundation for the national success of "Twilight" rather than the charm of its Hollywood stars – a concept not easily comprehended by most critics.

> My opinion on the "Twilight" series is foundationally based on the texts themselves, which stem a deeper understanding of the causes of the national frenzy supporting the franchise. Truly, the series' often misunderstood literary merits and entertaining qualities, as well as its promotion for the appreciation of reading, prove it to be beneficial to both the reader and the reading public. (*)

For example, on a recent trip to a clothing store, I was surprised to find the shelves of the store stocked with T-shirts adorned with phrases such as "Team Edward," or "Team Jacob." Even more bizarrely, there was a sweater that was apparently "inspired" by the weather in Forks, WA, where the book series is set. This moment epitomized my weariness of "Twilight" in that not only has a strange teen vampire romance novel sparked an overwhelming vampire trend in the media, which truly escapes my understanding, but the series has also become impossible to simply ignore.

It's moments like these that really lower my opinion of the "Twilight" brand. From the beginning, I experienced distaste for the book. Now, however, I seem to be provided with additional reasons to dislike the brand each day. The unpleasant writing, the unfortunate character development, and the branding of the books with such tired marketing towards teenage girls are pretty infuriating and reductive to literature. (*)

Guest Column Vote deprives homosexuals of constitutional rights

by Cooper Minnis Guest Columnist

On Nov. 3, 2009, the voters of the state of Maine were given the superfluous opportunity to essentially alter the lives of their neighbors. Only months prior, the significant homosexual population of this state was deeply overjoyed as their general assembly upheld the promises of the Constitution and granted them the protection of full marriage equality. With the extension of these rights to the gay population, no lives were systematically harmed or otherwise altered to accommodate these committed couples, and contrary to what the whimpers and lies of some seemed to suggest, this event did not catalyze the dissolving of the Earth's hemisphere, the melting of the polar ice caps, or the immediate and spontaneous disembowelment of our nation's newborn population.

are not aware what makes legitimate political dialogue. In this nation of ours, we are lucky enough to live under a law that protects and defends its subjects. If only these subjects too could extend themselves in the same manner. In reality, however, these elites are not defective. They do not breath by different means than the rest of us, nor do they bleed a different color. No, in fact, they are perfectly able to complete the very same tasks as the rest of us. They very much could extend themselves with the full integrity of the law. But the real problem that we face today is that they will not. They will not afford to others the same liberties, privileges, and opportunities that they expect for themselves. Even as elementary as the concept is, they blatantly refuse to extend themselves so stubbornly that it almost mimics a physical incapability.

If our nation's law was meant to fit

Some seem to be confused. Some e not aware what makes legitimate litical dialogue. In this nation of rs, we are lucky enough to live under

> ambitious group of like-minded senators could overturn the very constitutional foundations on which this nation was designed, constructed, and inhabited. There would be a permanent unwritten "theoretical" clause attached to each and every section, article, and amendment, and each would be

deemed unfinished if not infinitely subject to the discretion of each and every representative. Henceforth, our union would be no more representative of equal protection and opportunity than the most inimical of third world dictators.

Rather, this was a moment of coexistence, in which one people could

> pursue their own happiness alongside another people who may or may not choose to do so differently. It is such an event that represents the very nature of this country: true opportunity to coexist. However, It was the confused, the politically unaware and socially elite who prioritized

the systematic toppling of the faithfully executed exercise of the legislative process and the well-warranted jollity of their fellow Mainers. It was these agitators who consciously and gratuitously retarded the progress of their country, their state, and their community. And for what? For egos that spoke louder than decency.

It was a crowded rally, indeed, in which the leaders of the anti-gay marriage campaign exclaimed, "We believe marriage is between a man and a woman!" It shows true foolishness to suggest that simply exclaiming one's mind is anything similar to legitimate, legislation-bound political dialogue. The very fact the word "we" was used in the beginning completely strips the statement of any justifiability. Had the preacher replaced the word "we" with some sort of well-reasoned explanation as to why two consenting adults, free of criminal charge should be systematically denied the right to enter into a civil contract (more of a "because of this undeniable fact that distinguishes gay people as blatantly and inarguably less deserving to enter into a civil contract), perhaps their so-far mewling excuse for an argument would gain an ounce of credence.

These rabble-rousers possessed all of the physical capability in the world to extend themselves – to put higher, over-arching principles of equal opportunity, equal protection, liberty, pursuit of happiness, and brotherhood, above their own fleeting whimpers, their own thoughts and traditions. Yes, once again, it was not that they could not, but that they would not. They would not rest before suppressing another man's triumph of liberty, his glimpse of hope, his opportunity to coexist.

It is this truly malignant structure that will continue to cast shadows upon our Constitution, and upon its subjects. Light will only begin to shine when today's agitators become tomorrow's brothers, when they gladly accept the simple opportunity to coexist. (*)

 Light will only begin to shine when today's agitators become tomorrow's brothers, when they gladly accept the simple opportunity to coexist.

English curriculum at CHS has room for improvement Although the English curriculum has long been considered exemplary, it lacks in areas such as grammar, nonfiction, and the depth of analyses.

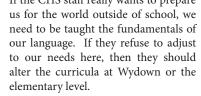
"English class" has puzzled me. After all, is English class like Spanish or French class? Do we study grammar, tenses and vocabulary? Of course we don't. Instead, the English curriculum focuses almost entirely on formal text analysis writing. This is a major flaw in CHS's philosophy of preparing students for their futures, one which needs to be fixed.

The fact of the matter is that unless you become an English teacher or professor, there is very little need for text analysis in the workplace. Bankers, doctors, and lawyers do not make money by reading books and then writing essays pointing out the author's use of figurative language and the underlying coming of age theme. The ability to read and ana-

lyze is a valuable skill, but nine or ten critical analysis essays a year is beyond overdoing it.

Noah Ebv

Instead, English class should teach us more about the language itself. The ignorance of grammar among teens is astounding. We speak in slang and incomplete sentences and it comes through in our writing. The "No Excuses List," a list of the simplest and most basic grammar rules that students should be able to edit for, is constantly being disobeyed in students' essays. Incorrect apostrophe use, misspellings, fragments, and run-ons are abundant.



In the more immediate future, the SAT and ACT are heavy on spelling and grammar, and Clayton students rely on their English classes to provide them with this knowledge. As of now,

> though, we are clueless. Many of my friends, myself included, had never heard of the subjunctive or past participle before Spanish class last year. Even though we used them every day when we spoke, we had no idea what they were or how to formulate them. In addition, English classes make it seem as

if creative fiction is the only type of literature.

Memoirs and historical non-fiction in particular seem unduly absent from many classes' syllabi. Are they not valuable pieces of literature as well? Though it may be more difficult to apply the standard analysis formula to nonfiction, this should be embraced as a breath of fresh air.

Nonfiction writing other than text analysis is also foolishly missing from the English classroom. As students, few of us will become English teachers or novelists. But many, if not most, of our jobs will require us to be able to write strong, coherent, nonfiction. Whether

For quite some time, the term If the CHS staff really wants to prepare that is a legal brief or an academic article, informative writing is imperative and yet not taught for a moment in freshman and sophomore level classes. "English class" has become little more than a class devoted solely to the analysis of fiction texts. This is completely impractical and is a massive loophole in the curriculum.

> I realize that the curriculum is not likely to change any time soon, as critical analysis is the norm for most English classes across the country. But if the English Department insists on focusing so heavily on textual analysis, they should at least allow students to really dig into what they have read. Two weeks to read a text, a weekend to write an essay and another to revise it is not enough. Though it may come as a surprise to some English teachers, students have busy lives. We take hard classes, we play sports, we spend time with our families - we have lives outside of school that we are and will remain committed to.

Expecting students to generate truly valuable and insightful ideas, search through a text to support those ideas, and bring it all together in a laudable 1500-word essay in just a weekend is ludicrous.

Students should start with an outline, then a first and second draft, then a conference. Jumping immediately to a rough draft only hurts the final product. I would rather spend an entire quarter writing draft after draft of an essay if at the end I could walk with my chin up knowing that I had created something new and ingenious. Ten rushed, mediocre papers is nothing to



Sophomores work on an assignment during an English class. Although Clayton's English program is widely reputable, students are concerned that the skills they learn will not be practical in the future.

be proud of. Though I hate to criticize a system that in most other ways serves its students well, it is necessary to point out

the clear flaw in this school's mantra of preparing its students for the future. The English curriculum is far too one-dimensional, focusing almost en-

tirely on text analysis and failing to address students' needs. As the nation moves towards reform, CHS must look inward. It is time for the English Department to reevaluate its goals and fix the clear issues in need of redress. Ironically enough, I learned that word in English class. 🕐

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Running proves valuable pastime, learning experience for CHS senior



I was a classic bench warmer throughout elementary school soccer and basketball games. I tried, but always performed faulty passes and failed to bring the ball down the court or field. On Clayton Recreational Leagues, my ball never entered into the hoop. Supposedly, I was good at defense.

I started running by default and entered into my relationship as a runner quite timidly at first. My love affair with running was driven by my intense fear of being smacked by an airborne basketball. Running provided the ideal means to being involved in a ball-free activity. So, as a freshman I ioined cross country.

Track and cross country are two different sports united by the common thread of running. Through these sports, I discovered what I am willing to sacrifice and what I can tolerate. No, I did not choose these two sports because I was a talented runner, since there is frankly nothing special or unique about my running capabilities. I was just willing to run the distance.

my running course and explore new routes in my town and neighboring communities.

There are times when my exhausted legs ache and just want to give out, but I know I have to push myself to return home

What have I learned from crossing the finish line? I now know how to treat heat exhaustion, care for the dreaded shin splints, motivate my teammates, and aim to create fun and enjoyable practices as team captain, along with appreciating the multiple benefits of water.

In a runner's world, water is the cure. Ice legs with shin splints, drink room temperature water for heat exhaustion, run through the sprinklers in the yards of homes along the routes, and use the water from unused water bottles for team splashing. Water is a runner's necessity.

Running is a lifetime sport. Although the cross country season is over, I'll continue to pound the asphalt on a regular basis, or at least until my knees give out. Luckily, running has kept me from warming the team bench, since there is no bench; every team member runs Running is the perfect sport; no balls, and a no-cut policy. Sometimes a fear of SIMONE BERNSTEIN being whacked with a soccer ball comes in handy, but I have no fear of being hit by a cool refreshing water balloon after a long run in the stifling and steamy St. Louis summers. This past week the CHS girls' cross country team qualified and competed for the state finals. The last time our team went to state was in 1997. It was a quite an honor. Although, we did not expect to place with the top schools, we were pleased that our team finished the course. It is not just about results, running is a process and a commitment to cross the finish line. 🕐

Senior Simone Berstein valiantly pushes up an incline in the State finals. She placed 8th in the gualifying race and not only ran for Clayton High School, but herself.

Running is not just about my results or my team's outcome. I value that, but when I run, I run for myself. Success does not lie in the results, but in the resilient individual that demonstrates drive, motivation, and commitment.

I always find it interesting when people ask me if I enjoy running. Do I like to run?

No. Do I enjoy the sport of running? Some days I do. I make running a habit, like brushing my teeth. I usually run twice a day, but sometimes only once.

My 15 pairs of overpriced and worn running shoes have hit the pavement hard and steady over the past seven years. My aching knees have given in to the harsh realities of running: it hurts. My daily runs are like a blank computer screen; each day is an opportunity to explore a new route. I run through a myriad of neighborhoods. I relish when I can alter



UP IN THE AIR

Emily Wack Meng Wang Willie Wysession Artists Sarah Blackwell Taylor Gold Mimi Liu Meredith McMahon Raihana Omri Sonja Petermann Emma Riley Helen Wiley **Business** Manager Simon Warchol Assistant Business Manager Shelby Sternberg Adviser Nancy Freeman

Caroline Stamp

The Globe student newspaper exists primarily to inform, entertain, and represent the student body at CHS to the best of its ability. It serves as a public forum for the Clayton community. All content decisions are made by the student editors.

The Globe is self-funded for all publishing costs and offers advertising to all school-appropriate businesses. Please con-tact 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 firstclass subscriptions for \$30 a year.

Editorials

Unsigned staff editorials will appear only on the designated opinion page and shall represent a majority opinion of the staff. A by-lined editorial reflects only the view of the writer. The views expressed on the editorial page do not necessarily reflect the views of any of the faculty, the adminis tration or the board of education.

Letters to the Editor

All letters to the editor must be signed when submitted to the editorial staff. The paper reserves the right to edit letters for length and repetition. Publication of letters is subject to the laws of libel, obscenity, incitement and copyright.

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

Clayton High School Globe 1 Mark Twain Circle Clayton, MO 63105 (314) 854-6668 Fax: 854-6794 globe@clayton.k12.mo.us

Some material courtesy of American Society of Newspaper Editors/MCT Campus High School Newspaper Service

Winner of MIPA All-Missouri, NSPA All-American with four marks of distinc tion, Quill and Scroll Gallup Award, CSPA Silver Crown (2004), Pacemaker winner (2003), NSPA Hall of Fame Member (2006)

After visit to hometown, student realizes value of the 'Clayton Bubble'

I've always thought that I lived in a small town. In the 12,000 people of Clayton, Missouri many have lived in Clayton or some part of St. Louis all of their lives.

I've often heard it fondly described as "The Clayton bubble," which is a quite accurate description. Walking the mile and a half stretch from my house to Starbucks I'm bound to run into at least a couple people I know.

Before stepping on the small 737 jet I took to Houston this past weekend, I would have confidently answered anyone that I was quite familiar with the

workings of my small town.

I was not thrilled to be leaving my bubble for something that could prove to be even smaller than what I had successfully blocked out of my memory for the past couple of years.

While my parents and I can call Clayton our home, there is a large section of my family living in the

Southern United States whom I had not seen in years. The last time I visited I had smiled at their quaint town, but barely remembered anything from my past visits.

Since that time, I'd entered high school, gotten my license, in reality I'd grown up. This visit I'd see my 91year-old great aunt and the rest of my Southern family. We'd bring my great aunt back to the town she'd lived in for the past 70 years and was forced to leave after the death of her husband, my great uncle.

This meant little to me before I greeted my great aunt, face to face, for the first time in years. She came up to about my shoulders and hobbled towards me in her completely purple outfit, grabbing me in the fiercest hug a 91-year-old can give.

"How are yooou?" she drawled in her Southern accent, the one I had for-

> gotten how much I loved. As we loaded her into the back of our white sedan she began to chatter about how she hadn't been back to Winnie Stole, her former home in Texas, for months.

"I could probably tell you how to get there blindfolded," she remarked gripping my hand.

As we passed down

more and more anxious to return home. Crossing into the small town of about 2,000 people, I expected it to resemble Mecca the way she talked about

But when we arrived, I found that it really it resembled an average small town found anywhere in Missouri or Illinois, complete with chain restaurants and small stores.

However each place seemed to mean something to her as we passed. "That's the Subway sandwich place where your Aunt Bobby would go for lunch, and that's the Dairy Queen all the church ladies meet at on Tuesdays," she continued as we drove by.

We finally drove into the parking lot of her church, which she hadn't attended since the year before.

"I've been a Methodist ever since listened to my grandma whisper T prayers for me and my two sisters in her sleep, that's something you don't forget," she told us.

A group of 12 to 15 women greeted her covering her in hugs and kisses, eagerly introducing themselves to us. As I watched her socializing with her friends, I remembered how much Winnie meant to everyone in my family. I had overcome my fear of horses at my cousin's ranch, I had watched my twin cousins cry as they said goodbye to their father, and I had hugged my great uncle goodbye for the last time. "We have missed her so much," one of my aunt's friends said turning to smile at

At this time I realized that maybe I don't live in such a small town after all. I had forgotten the deeper connection than having the man at Starbucks know my drink order, or simply knowing everyone at the Clayton Center.

This connection went back through



Justin Elliot

you will never be forgotten. 🕐



the roads, she got

"Your Uncle Bo and I were here

I realized Clayton is a small town,

together 66 and 1/2 years, that's some-

but I had roots in an even smaller one

thing you don't forget," she said.

that I had chosen to forget about.

One of the residential areas that border Clayton High School. Burke now realizes that the "Clayton Bubble" is what she calls home, and has found much sentimental value in living here.

generations of love and caring as Towards the end of the day we visthroughout the weekend probably half the town greeted my aunt.

ited my great uncle's grave at the local cemetery, where my great aunt's plaque already waited carved. When her life ended she would stay with him in Winnie forever. While the definition of a small town varies from person to person, I learned that it is truly one where

Genesis: the Obama administration Sophomore Zach Praiss weaves a whimsical biblical tale about Obama's first seven months in office

Month No. 1:

In the beginning, there was darkness. Chaos and desperation covered the world. War and violence threatened everyone. People were scared, tired, and starving for change. But President Obama said, "Yes we can," and the people believed that a new beginning was possible. And Obama said, "Let there be light," and a bright ray of hope swept across the world and Obama saw that it was good.

Month No. 2:

In the second month, President Obamalooked out across the land and saw that the land was dry. So, he called for cash to flow throughout the land like a raging river of water. Obama said, "Let liquidity pour over the land," and the gates of the Treasury broke open, pouring out billions upon billions of dollars. Tidal waves crashed down upon Wall Street and the auto

companies, bailing out big banks, insurance giants, and the auto industry, while soaking them up in government control and ownership. Obama opened up the heavens for these corporations, showering them in billions of bailout dollars. At the same time, many other corporations and people on Main Street did not receive any cash, and were left helpless, bankrupt, and unemployed with a dire future in a living hell.

Zach Praiss

Month No. 3:

In the third month, President Obama saw that the Earth and plants were choking in a shroud of smog. So, presided over the animals of the sea

Obama called for an end of pollution. He said that everyone must conserve energy, water, and other natural resources, to sustain our Earth's precious environment. Obama called for a green revolution: the creation of new green jobs, the development of renewable energy, and the reduction of our dependency on foreign oil. He supported renewable energies such as wind turbines and solar panels. However, nothing

new really happened, and people continued on with their daily lives.

Month No. 4: In the fourth month, President Obama

looked out across all boundaries and saw that the sun, moon, and stars were moving further away. Although no one had reached out to these foreign lands in many years, Obama stretched out an open hand in an effort to

communicate with

them. Obama reached out to leaders from these foreign lands such as Cuba, North Korea, and Iran. He asked them to talk; however, they did not want to talk to him. He commanded them to end their secret activities; however, they ignored him. He said he would make their lives hell if they continued their production of weapons of mass destruction; however, they continued to ignore him and Obama saw that it was not good. Month No. 5:

In the fifth month, President Obama

and the air. In the war on terrorism, Obama shifted the war effort from Iraq to Afghanistan. He used massive navy ships, monsters of the sea, and stealth unmanned aerial vehicles, birds of the sky, to help in the war effort. The ships transported thousands of troops to Afghanistan, while the unmanned aircraft targeted Taliban hiding spots. Obama launched a full-scale effort, by sea and by air, to hunt down the Taliban and bring an end to terrorism.

Month No. 6:

In the sixth month, President Obama created a healthcare plan for all humans. He called it universal healthcare. Obama promised that every single individual would have access to a healthcare service. He breathed life into the idea of a public option, calling for a government run healthcare service that would generate a competitive market for other healthcare providers. However, many people disagreed. The President's Congress debated and argued over the issue endlessly. As a result, a good solution or compromise seemed unlikely, if not impossible, and Obama saw that it was not good.

Month No. 7:

In the seventh month, President Obama realized that he could not rest. Indeed, there was still a great deal that he had not accomplished. The task that he undertook was too complicated to be completed in only seven months. With all the issues on his table and new conflicts and problems arising, the President needed far more time to achieve his goals. Obama realized that he would need to lead the people for at least another forty months through the harsh desert to finally reach the Promised Land. 🖗

Obama not yet experienced enough to receive Nobel prize

Many Americans were surprised to hear the announcement that President Barack Obama has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2009. In the press release given by the Nobel Foundation, the reason behind the award was "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen in-

ternational diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

The foundation cited Obama's work to eliminate nuclear weapons and return to "multilateral diplomacy." The release also stated that

more constructive role in meeting the waited until at least the end of his first great climatic challenges the world is confronting."

With climate change experts still bemoaning the lack of initiative regarding the global climate crisis, I fail to see how Obama's work in the space of less than one year could have

merited the same award that Al Gore received in 2007 for his extensive work on educating the public about the immediacy of this issue.

Perhaps Obama's work on the problem term to determine whether his efforts at peace had any actual palpable effect on the worldwide community, and to determine whether Obama falls into the same category as past Peace Prize winners

Past Nobel Peace Prize laureates include the Dalai Lama, Elie Wiesel, Mother Teresa and Martin Luther King, Jr. Has Obama proven that he can stand tall among giants like these? He may have inspired a nation with his message of hope and change during the campaign last year, but with the oneyear anniversary of Obama's historical election, those promises have yet to be fulfilled. Granted, the campaign promises he made were big ones, and therefore it may take time to reach the goals that were set. However, the prize remains a perplexing move. Obama once stated that, "Now is the time for all of us to take our share of responsibility for a global response to global challenges." Obama's words are elegant, his policies commendable, and his appeals noble, but the global community has yet to answer his call to action. It may be that this happens in the coming months, at the close of this historical administration--or perhaps never. But until it does happen, and until we can clearly see what good Obama's words have done in the world, this President will not truly deserve the prize of which he was awarded. 🕥

Dear editor,

Quite a superior little newspaper feature is cleanly written and nicely executed, but as the only person mendisservice to a very talented and hardemphasize the value of hard work and patience, and can be a therapeutic out-

arts, stifle valuable life lessons

Psychological Science, the study of arts

as children develop. As the national education system becomes more geared towards meeting academic

curriculums in favor of "core" subjects

to save money. The Missouri Arts Council made tremendous efforts to keep the programs alive throughout the DISAGREE 36% state, but their grants may no longer be possible without the necessary funding.

Even at CHS, however, the arts are faltering. Students are signing up for fewer and fewer art classes as they pack their schedules with academic requirements. When visual art teacher Russell Vanecek retired last spring, the school district did not hire anyone to replace

him. They felt that there was no need. With falling numbers, the sym-

Letter to the editor: Design team unrecognized, imperative in planning school renovations

that you guys put together. The entire tioned from the design side, there is a working team. To list the more than

sultants and engineers) would dull the senses and render the exercise somewhat meaningless; having said that, there are a few key players that should be mentioned:

Mark Randall is the primary conceptual designer for the addition, and completed those seductive renderings that are so nice to look at.

phonic band now practices together during one period, whereas during years past during years past it would divide into two periods. There are only eight seniors in the class. CHS students should strive to

take-and stick with-more art classes. They should not regard them as an "easy A". The arts are as important a component of their education as any AP classes are.

Instrumental music, voice, painting, creative writing, drama, dance, photography, ceramics, film, fiber arts, and design are not in any way inferior to the "core" classes. In fact,

64%

AGREE

the arts are one of the most core parts of the human experience.

Nor are academics and the arts mutually exclusive. One is not serious and the other fun-both can be demanding

and rewarding at the same time. As schools across the state see de-

cline in art programs during today's new economy, and as academics continue to be raised high above the arts at Clayton, we must make a concerted effort to secure the valuable position of arts in our curriculums. 💎

and Charles Brown who have spent

extended hours with staff; along with

David Yates and Richelle Jokerst, they

are working diligently to complete the

completion of this project - August of

2011 will be here before you know it!

We look forward to a successful

to decline. He chose to cut \$4.4 million from the Missouri Arts Council, an organization whose goal is to increase participation in

Governor Jay Nixon recently an-

the arts and strengthen the STAFF EDITORIAL state's educational system through art grants.

As economic systems slip, the arts often seem to be the first to go. However, the arts are not expendable. The performing and visual arts are just as vital as math, science, language or history.

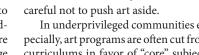
Albert Einstein himself understood that "imagination is more important than knowledge." If one of America's goals is to produce innovative scientists

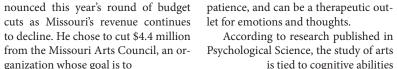
and engineers that will compete in the twenty first century, educators must emphasize creativity as much as they do information.

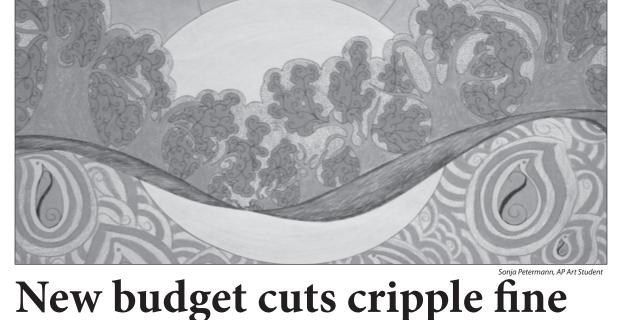
Science is not the only career that requires imagination. In every profession there is an aspect of improvisation, of lateral thinking. Preparation can't come from textbooks alone.

Yet the arts don't just teach creativity. They foster confidence and poise,

standards, we must be careful not to push art aside. In underprivileged communities especially, art programs are often cut from







NOV. 18, 2009 www.chsglobe.com

Dialogue and negotiations are preferred as instruments for resolving even the most difficult international conflicts."

Although I agree

wholeheartedly with this statement, the fact is that right now, the United States is involved in a war in Iraq and a war in Afghanistan, wars which, during his whirlwind campaign, Obama promised to finally end. In fact, the conflict in Afghanistan has increased in intensity in recent months, and additions of more troops have been suggested to combat the new resurgence of violence.

The Nobel Foundation also cited Obama's work in the area of climate change as praiseworthy. The press release stated, "Thanks to Obama's initiative, the United States is now playing a

of climate change has brought it more into the American peoples' consciousness, but that is Maddy Bullard the extent of his effect,

and there is still a huge amount of work to be done to fix this worldwide disaster

Another puzzling fact is that the prize was awarded only partway through the first year of Obama's administration. When former US President Jimmy Carter received the award, it was not until many years after his presidencies, when all of his lifetime accomplishments could be considered.

What Obama has done so far in his political career has been momentous and inspiring, but is not yet deserving of an award of this magnitude. The Nobel Foundation should have

thirty people who are actively working on this project (including all of the con- Lara Thiel, Erik Wilson, Holly Rudd,

Full credit should also be given to

John Berglund Bond Wolfe Architects

drawings and specifications.

Bathroom etiquette gone awry Proper hand-washing is not practiced in Clayton bathrooms, causing not only ignorance but also a higher chance of contamination in the halls.

I had just turned on the water and heard the heard the toilet flush, followed by the stall door opening behind me. I glanced up into the mirror, seeing the flat expression on his face as he walked past me.

As I pumped the soap dispenser, he kept going, past the second and third sink without slowing down until he reached the door. He didn't stop there either. I shook my head in disgust as I dried my hands, using the paper towel to carefully open the door without touching the handle with my hands.

In health class, we learn that frequently washing hands is crucial to maintain our health. I rarely sing the ABCs as we are advised, but a quick soap-and-rinse isn't very difficult. Not only should we wash our hands after we use the restroom because of the proliferating swine flu, it's just plain disgusting. Imagine shaking hands with someone who doesn't

wash his hands after HANGING BY A MOMEN wiping his butt.

Teenshealth published data that said "In one study, only 58 percent of female and 48 percent of male middle and high school students washed their hands after using the restroom." That means

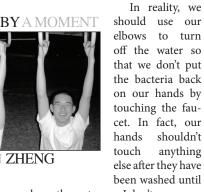
at the school actually bothered to wash their hands in the restroom.

set by society; there are physical implications of not being clean. Someone who doesn't wash their hands after using the restroom won't do it after they sneeze either. Apparently, old habits die hard, but to maintain the health of our community, these habits must change.

According to WebMD, 80 percent of illnesses are spread through touch. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 36,000 people die from the flu annually and another 5,000 die from food-borne illnesses. People are dying from a simple mistake that they or others around them have made.

E. Coli bacteria have been found in many public places such as handrails, tabletops, and telephones. How did they get there? Via the hands of ignorant people.

These hands, according to the CDC, should have been washed using soap and warming, running water. The hands should be vigorously rubbed together for at least 20 seconds under the tap. Paying attention to drying the hands is also important because residual moisture determines how easily the bacteria are transferred.



we leave the restroom. I don't even usually do that and I've been accused of being an anal germaphobe. Still, hand washing helps reduce disease drastically, particularly during the flu season.

There is no substitute for washing our hands. Vessel Sanitation Program asserts that hand sanitizer should only be used in conjunction with proper hand washing. Though in a pinch, hand sanitizer is still better than nothing.

Effective hand-washing

How to wash away flu viruses, bacteria and other microbes:



• Use soap and warm running water; ather well



wrists. finaers. under nails: rinse well • Dry hands with clean towel; use towel to turn off

faucet and grab bathroom doorknob on exiting to avoid recontamination

Hand sanitizer

Use when soap and water is not available; must be at least 60% alcohol to be effective

 Use at least a half teaspoon to coat hands

 Rub hands vigorously at least 30 seconds; 30 sec. if sanitizer dries before then, use more and repeat

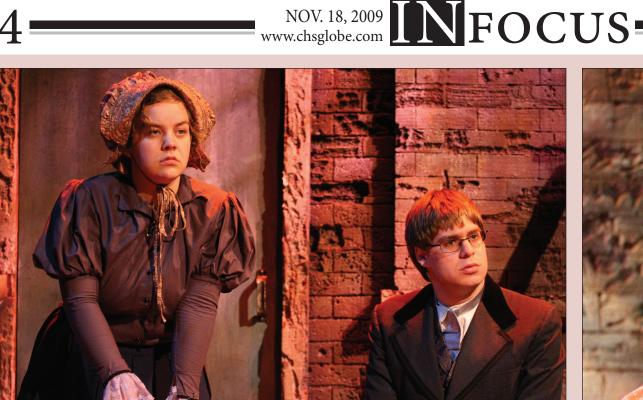
 Not effective if hands are visibly dirty; use soap and water

MCT Campus

Proper hand washing shouldn't just be a habit that lasts for this flu season, it should last a lifetime. Don't just do it for you, but all those who you may infect with the germs on your hands. (?)

in this study, less than half of the guys

Hygiene isn't just a high standard



Great Expectations

by Meredith Redick Senior Managing Editor

An evening of Charles Dickens may not sound like the most scintillating weekend activity for CHS students. The cast of "Great Expectations", however, destroyed that assumption and showed, in a set of bewitching and sharp performances, that Dickens can be fun.

Students performed a stage adaptation of Dickens's classic novel Oct. 15-18 in the CHS Black Box theater. While the production embodied wonderfully the poignant solemnity of Dickens's work, the cast also added a liveliness that made Dickens's austere, winding text more manageable for audiences.

The story of "Great Expectations", as Dickens fans will know, is that of a young boy, Pip, portrayed by sophomore Fergus Inder, and his transformation from the poor son of a blacksmith into a London gentleman with the help of an anonymous donor. Pip, eager to win the affections of the inexorably distant Estella, portrayed by junior Ruthie Polinsky, gladly accepts the peculiar offer and assumes the money is from Estella's wealthy guardian, the withered Miss Havisham, portrayed by junior Sarah McAfee.

As Pip uncovers the secrets of his new wealth, though, he also reveals the dark and destructive sorrows that lie amongst the people in his life. Even in his disillusionment, Pip sees a rare form of humanity rise amongst even the most twisted characters.

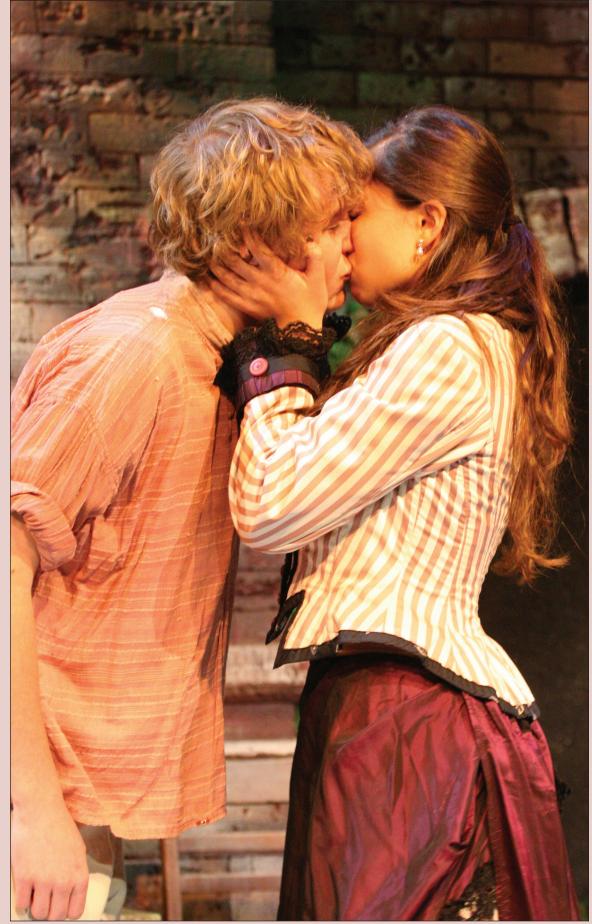
The cast demonstrated a clear command of the text and a deep understanding of the characters. Inder car-

ried the show confidently with charm and alacrity, and effectively bridged the otherwise dichotomous settings of London and Kent, England. McAfee's colorful representation of both the bitter Miss Havisham and Pip's mysteriously magnanimous donor was as disturbing as it was riveting; McAfee's presence on the stage inevitably induced shivers all around. Polinsky was equally entrancing as the lovely but cruel Estella, managing to evoke sympathy even as she scorned Pip for his common upbringing.

While the principal actors carried the plot, supporting actors infused essential dimension and much-needed comic relief into the production. In particular, sophomore Emily Erblich played the character of Estella's mother—a servant purported to have murdered her husband's lover in jealousy—with an arresting sympathy.

Junior Ian Miller brought a striking tenderness and depth to the character of Joe, the humble blacksmith. Junior John Holland and senior Ellen Spann effectively balanced out the occasionally overbearing events of the story with skillful comedic relief.

In addition to clear mastery of the characters, all actors in the cast delivered their lines with flawless British accents, and used accents appropriate to the social class of the character. This laudable feat, along with period costumes and a charming set, made the performance unusually realistic. As a whole, the performance demonstrated that CHS students are capable of transforming even the formidable text of Charles Dickens into an unequivocally captivating experience.







ABOVE LEFT: seniors Ellen Spann and Peter Brody assume solemn demeanors to enhance the somber mood of the scene. ABOVE: sophomore Fergus Inder and junior Ruthie Polinsky share a fiery kiss. They played Pip and Estella respectively. Left, John Holland provides comic relief to an otherwise overdramatic plot line. BELOW, junior Sarah McAfee, playing Miss Havisham, argues with adopted daughter, Estella.





ABOVE, sophomore Nadia Diamond , junior Sarah McAfee, and sophomore Jason Riss perform in a scene. The set was simple and small, but it complemented the play perfectly. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, Diamond sits poised on stage. Diamond portrayed young Estella in the production. Senior Nick Oliveri portrays the character of Jaggers, a foreboding lawyer put in charge of Pips' transformation from a blacksmith to a London gentleman. McAfee fills the role of Miss Havisham with impressive quality. Miss Havishman was Estella's strict adoptive mother. Sophomore Emily Erblich plays the role of a jailguard. She also took on the role of Estella's mother-a serventwith arresting sympathy.

