

Globe

SHOWING SUPPORT

The vice presidential debate sparked an intense display of political conviction across the city.

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Nina Oberman

600 Starbucks franchises close due to economic crisis

Katie Lefton
Reporter

Approximately 600 Starbucks stores across America are closing. Don't worry, the Clayton stores are staying, but five stores in St. Louis and 17 across Missouri closed on July 1, 2008.

The extra coffee beans and food have been cut off in order to save money for Starbucks. Remaining Starbucks will not get any extra food out of the closed

stores.

Donna Schneider, shift manager of the downtown Clayton Starbucks said that her store is affected by the closures.

"The number of customers has dropped since the closing of the Starbucks, but that could have something to do with gas prices," Schneider said.

While the price of dairy products has increased, the price of Starbucks coffee stays the same. According to Schneider the prices were already high. The com-

pany could not afford to raise prices anymore.

"These days people have to choose between a \$4 cup of coffee and a \$4 gallon of gas," Schneider said. "It's really hurting our business. Some people just can't do both."

The communities in which the Starbucks stores closed were greatly affected. Many jobs were lost. High gas prices may have taken some business from the coffee shop and caused closures.

Our community, having both our Starbucks remain open, has felt no affect.

Freshmen Jasmin Singh and Trevor Leighton both said that they had heard of the closing stores, but had not paid any attention to them.

Schneider said that our Starbucks feel a trickle effect, but they are not changed directly because of closing stores.

Schneider also encourages high school students looking for jobs to look

for jobs as baristas.

"The hours are good, they pay hasn't changed and you get one free pound of coffee per week," Schneider said. "People as young as 16, but preferably 18, since espresso machines are considered heavy equipment, are able to apply for jobs. It's so much fun and you get to meet new and interesting people every day."

Even with closing stores, Starbucks continues to thrive with loyal daily customers. ☺

WashU hosts vice presidential debate

Simone Bernstein
Editor

The Oct. 2 vice presidential debate was literally in our backyard. Washington University of St. Louis (WUSTL) had the honor of hosting this year's only vice presidential debate.

The vice presidential candidates, Senator Joe Biden of Delaware and Governor Sarah Palin of Alaska, only have one chance for a public debate, unlike the presidential candidates that have three opportunities to discuss their views or spar. WUSTL has had the unique distinction of consecutively hosting the past five presidential debates.

"The debate put all eyes on WUSTL and puts it on the map once again," sophomore Scott Jeffrey said.

A record number of television viewers around the world tuned into the vice presidential debates in St. Louis, MO. All eyes watched as Palin made her national debut in her first debate.

The Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD), a nonprofit organization, chooses the debate venues. Fredric Volkmann, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs at WUSTL, described the excitement leading up to the debates around campus.

"Everyone is excited, especially students because any tickets that come to the university from the Commission on Presidential Debates go into a lottery only for students," Volkmann said. "Even the chancellor gives up his seat to the student lottery after he introduces the debate."

Washington University students had the opportunity to observe and take part in political discussions throughout campus. Enthusiastic students created vice presidential debate shirts for each candidate.

Gwen Ifill, a political correspondent with an extensive broadcasting background served as the moderator. Controversy swelled over her role as moderator, when McCain's staff learned that Ifill is publishing a book about influential African Americans in politics. One of the



Jeremy Bleeker

Obama supporters rally at the intersection of Forsyth and Skinker on Oct. 2, the day of the Vice Presidential debate. The debate was hosted by WashU and featured candidates Senator Joe Biden of Delaware and Governor Sarah Palin of Alaska.

chapters specifically highlights Barack Obama and the title even contains his name "The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama."

How do the two vice presidential candidates differ? Biden is recognized for his leadership in foreign policy, terrorism, crime and drug policy. Palin is respected for overhauling of Alaska's ethics laws.

Results of the debate were mixed at CHS. Conservatives tended to acknowledge Palin's strength as an outsider and liberals noted her lack of foreign policy experience.

"In the debate, Palin redeemed herself after her interview with Katie Couric," senior Abby Williams said. "With Palin's informality and Biden's numerous

references to his childhood in Pennsylvania, neither won the debate."

Some even thought the debate itself was full of unnecessary bickering and blame.

"I thought the debate involved a lot of petty attacks, a lot of numbers and figures being thrown around," junior Allie Lake said. "There is always another story behind these attacks and I could not really trust either candidate. Palin had no idea what she was talking about in the foreign policy questions and annoyingly tried to reach out to the people with her main street appeal."

Many students also recognized Palin's distinct body language and appearance in front of the camera.

"I was a little thrown off by Palin's winking," Lake said. "Palin was very poised and charismatic, but it didn't disguise her lack of knowledge."

Other students thought both candidates displayed impressive debating skills, despite their individual weaknesses.

"I think the VP debate has bolstered both parties' credibility," junior Kathleen Naccarato said. "Palin and Biden stood up and motivated their parties base."

Biden escaped the predictions that he might be too sharp or cocky towards Palin. He never directly attacked her answers, like her mispronunciation of a military officer. Palin's lack of experience was highlighted in the debates. Some

students thought she had difficulty with questions or that she avoided answering questions.

"Her explanation and reasoning: maverick, maverick, maverick," senior Teddy Finn said. "Her policies will never help solve this economic crisis."

The next vice president of the United States will alter world politics. Eyes in every country will keep a close eye on the election.

"The next United States president and vice president will affect the rest of the world," junior Lisa Gioveti said. "When reading newspapers from Italy I find that many view Palin as a good candidate, due to her appearance and personality. When watching the debates, I found that Palin was personable, but knew very little."

Although the debates created media attention for the St. Louis area and analysis of each candidate, the impact on the November election may be minimal.

"I think the VP debates will ultimately have little influence in the choice for president," American Government teacher Debra Wiens said. "Debates are performed for those moderate, undecided voters who have yet to make up their minds. Typically the vice presidential debate only reinforces what voters already believe. In other words, Obama supporters think Senator Biden did well and McCain supporters think Governor Palin did well. What matters most is the influence the debate had upon the undecided voters."

Unfortunately, canned and scripted speeches often cause debates to sound overly rehearsed, like actors and actresses performing on a stage. How will this vice-presidential debates impact the undecided voter? Did we learn anything new about the vice presidential candidates? Was there a winner in this debate? These are tough questions to answer, but nevertheless, we should be proud that all eyes were focused on our hometown. Privileged we are, that Washington University's campus served as our national stage. ☺

Hidden Valley closing due to new regulations

Justin Elliot
Reporter

A St. Louis attraction could soon be no more. The owner of Hidden Valley has said the upcoming ski and snowboarding season at Hidden Valley would be its last.

When Hidden Valley applied for a permit to build a snow tubing area and an additional parking lot of 250 spots for the resort, the city's planning and zoning committee would only approve of the plan if the resort met additional requirements.

The resort needed to get its hours of operation approved by the city, and either pay a fee of nearly \$251,000 to the city for the new parking lot, or dedicate some of its land as public space.

"I would basically characterize it as blackmail," said Tim Boyd, president of Peak Resorts Inc., the company that owns the Hidden Valley golf and ski resort in Wildwood. "The parking lot will basically come out to over a \$1000 per spot, just for the permit fee, making the permit fee five times the cost of what the parking lot is going to be."

When Boyd found out about the committee's decision, he withdrew his application for the tubing area and decided that this would be Hidden Valley's

last season.

"This is a unique recreation thing that doesn't exist within 350 miles of here," Boyd said. "What in the world is the government's responsibility now if places like this are run out of town?"

However, Tim Woerther, the Mayor of Wildwood, is in complete disagreement.

"That's not true, not true at all," Woerther said. "The city is not running Hidden Valley out of town. It makes no sense that they say because we didn't get some points, we're packing up our skis and going somewhere else, without even having a discussion."

Woerther said that Boyd has a history of disputes with the city and in the past has made large-scale improvements before getting the city's approval. "In the past Boyd has not worked well with the city," Woerther said. "They believe simply that because they pre-existed Wildwood, they don't have to."

Although Woerther did not speak of a compromise, he hoped the two sides could get together soon to work things out and keep Hidden Valley in Wildwood. However, Boyd is not nearly as



Staff photo

Snowboarders glide down a slope at the Hidden Valley Ski Resort in Wildwood. Hidden Valley recently announced it would be closing after this season due to new regulations linked to the construction of a new parking lot.

optimistic.

"My decision to close the resort is not a negotiating tactic," Boyd said.

Although he did not want to close the resort originally, he says that Hidden Valley is the least profitable of his 11 resorts. He now plans to develop the property into a new subdivision.

"It is already zoned for housing," Boyd said.

Clayton High School students, although disappointed by the closing, do not see the closing as life shattering as others.

"I don't want Hidden Valley to close, but it isn't that big of a deal since the snow isn't good there anyway," sophomore Devan Westermayer said.

While it could be a year until skiers and snowboarders see the real outcome

of this fiasco, there is a larger consequence of Hidden Valley closing than a loss of a weekend hang out for high school students.

"Hidden Valley plays a key role in the Gateway Disabled Ski Program," said Pam Weber, who works with the Gateway Disabled Ski Program. "Obviously, Gateway would not exist without Hidden Valley, but Hidden Valley goes far beyond providing snow."

Weber explains snow sports present a level playing field. "Able-bodied skiers and skiers with disabilities start at the same point, learning to master equipment," Weber said.

Weber also said that with Hidden Valley's help, Gateway provides services in adaptive snow sport equipment, professional instruction for volunteers and

athletes and scholarships. Although many of the athletes have reached great heights in competition, she says that it isn't the skill that matters, it's the opportunity.

A study just released by Disabled Sports USA and the U.S. Department of Labor proves that athletes with disabilities who are active in sports are twice as likely to be employed, have better physical health, have a higher life satisfaction, and are more sociable.

"Without Hidden Valley, these athletes would never get the chance to succeed in skiing," Weber said.

Although the last meeting between Boyd and Wildwood seemed to have no resolution, one thing is for sure.

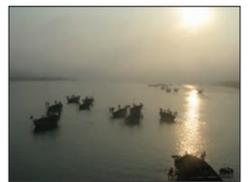
"Eureka just wouldn't be the same without Hidden Valley," Weber said. ☺



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CHS exchanges viewpoints on politics, education, with Moscow delegation

The group from the Moscow School of Politics added a look at local education on to their itinerary.

Jeremy Bleeke
Editor in Chief

Alexey Brezhnev, a Deputy on a local council in Volgograd, Russia, is a self-declared supporter of Barack Obama.

"He is younger, more popular, more Democratic," Brezhnev said. "He is trying to achieve a stronger democracy. McCain says we have to be strict with Russia, and show it their place. He doesn't care what Russia wants."

Brezhnev is one of 29 young Russian professionals who visited CHS on Oct. 1 as part of a delegation from the Moscow School of Political Studies. The upcoming presidential election was just one of the many topics discussed when the group met with teachers, administrators and students from CHS for an afternoon of conversation and exchange.

The delegation arrived around 11:30 for a reception in the Commons, which then proceeded to the Greyhound room.

With the help of simultaneous translation, Principal Louise Losos briefly explained how schooling works in the U.S.

In the question and answer period that followed, the Russians asked, among other things, about the ACT and SAT, whether private or public schools are better, and whether it's prestigious to be a teacher in the U.S.

"It's worth noting how shocked the Russians were to learn our educational system is so de-centralized," CHS history teacher Paul Hoelscher said. "We live through it every day, so it's easy to forget that we have more local autonomy in education (thus unequal spending) than most places in the world."

After Losos' introduction, the discussion went to a smaller group format, with teachers and students fielding and asking questions through a translator. For many, education remained a central topic of conversation.

"Differences in pedagogy are very interesting to me," French teacher Elizabeth Caspari said. "The students tend to have 3 hours of homework per night. They do not have jobs until they are of university age. They do not have any electives until university, either. Every student takes the required classes."

James Lockhart, who teaches AP English lit., wanted to know which American writers were taught in Russian literature classes.

"I thought it was fascinating that they were all early 20th century naturalists, which makes sense because one of the earliest influences on the naturalists was Marx," Lockhart said. "When they mentioned Jack London I thought, well he's a socialist—that might explain it."

Conversely, many of the visitors wanted to know how Russia was portrayed in American text books.

"I ended up getting pulled away and getting stuck in a corner as the social studies guy," Hoelscher said. "I got 101 questions, and then last night I got 101 emails about what we study with regards to Russian history."

In evaluating the primary differences between the Russian and American school systems, Brezhnev stated that there are fewer private schools in Russia than in the U.S.—perhaps only one or two for a city of 150,000. He estimated that about 60-70 percent of Russian high school students went on to study at a university.

"I thought it was interesting to see how different the colleges were in Russia than in America," Senior Krishna Vemulapalli said. "In Russia, scholarships are guaranteed for good

grades, while in America they're not."

Brezhnev also addressed the issue of Russia's compulsory military service, which, for men, must be completed after turning 18. However, the service can be voided in the face of admission to a university, or for health reasons.

"There are about 30 official reasons to get out of joining the army," Brezhnev said. "I would say that 50% go, and 50% don't go."

He added that the military service is not popular, and that the term has decreased from two years when he served, to one year now. His comments underscore a broader sentiment that many of the visitors seemed to share—that Russia is changing, becoming more and more progressive and democratic.

"A great deal of the recent commentary about Russia has emphasized the Russian people's frustration with 'democracy' and the willingness of many Russians to abandon democratic processes for a more authoritarian approach that promises political and economic stability," Lockhart said.

"The group that visited the school is obviously passionate about democracy and wish to have a more democratic society."

From his conversation with Anastasiya Kormysheva, director of a publishing company in St. Petersburg, senior Aaron Praiss could feel her discouragement with the government.

"We talked about the different government regulations and laws that are enforced on the different newspapers," Praiss said. "[We discussed]

what they're allowed to publish—what kinds of advertisements they're allowed to publish, how many advertisements they're allowed to publish—and her frustration with those regulations by the government."

In addition to the state of Russian politics, many tables discussed the state of American politics, where opinions varied.

Smith felt that, like Brezhnev, the Russians she spoke with were "more positive about Obama than McCain." History teacher Debra Wiens got a different impression.

"I talked with a woman who...really likes Senator Clinton (whom she called Hillary) and is very disappointed that she is not the Democratic candidate," Wiens said. "I learned that Russians like McCain and Palin a great deal."

Not surprisingly, the conflict in Georgia was also a hot topic. Brezhnev saw the Russian military action as a justified response to violence against peace-keepers in Ossetia, and said that most citizens understand the government's motives.

Wiens worries that the U.S.'s treatment of foreign conflicts, such as the military action in Georgia, has hurt its international image.

"I am particularly mulling over her comments about how the U.S. needs to mind its own business more often," Wiens said. "This was in response to my inquiry about the Georgia-Russia conflict. I am concerned about our international image and what role the U.S. should play in conflicts abroad."

For CHS health teacher Doris Smith, and for many of the participants, the meeting with the Russians confirmed a feeling of connection and understanding. Perhaps its greatest success was also its most basic conclusion—that in the end, people are people.

"I grew up in the Cold War era where Russia was definitely an enemy to be feared," Smith said. "In my junior high school everyone had to take two years of Russian—I guess so we could be prepared if we were taken over. The people we met seemed much more like us than different than us. We're all trying to make our way the best we can." ☺



Nancy Freeman

Senior Elliot Markman and CHS social studies teacher Paul Hoelscher talk with a member of the Russian delegation. Thanks to translators, CHS students and faculty were able to discuss differences between the American and Russian system of education, and how politics can determine such differences.



Halloween dance returns, new venue

After several dances were cancelled last year, the Halloween dance is coming back with a change of place and some creative planning.

Fontasha Powell
Senior Managing Editor

Although the Halloween dance was cancelled last year because only 7 tickets were sold, this year, StuGo is much more optimistic about the dance's outcome.

Student Activities Director Eric Hamylak said that there are many new changes being made to make the dance enjoyable for the student body.

"The biggest change is that the dance is in the auditorium this year," Hamylak said. "This gives us a lot more options to be creative with decorations. We're going to have a fog machine and Mr. Armstrong, the tech director, will help us set up a light show. The lighting overall will be interesting for students. We also have a couple of other surprises in store."

Sophomore StuGo Representative Justin Elliot is enthusiastic about the dance and said that StuGo has been putting in a lot of effort.

"The plans for the Halloween dance are really exciting," Elliot said. "We saw that the student body didn't like what we're doing so we're trying to put a whole new face on the Halloween dance. There's been a lot of work on the decorations. We're also working very hard on PR this year, since last year not many students knew about it."

Senior StuGo Rep Jasmyne Adams agreed with Elliot. Adams stressed the fact that the student body controls the outcome of the dance, not decorations or music.

"We've been discussing the plans and the decorations for the auditorium," Adams said. "Also, we're trying to get the school body to realize that the dance is what we make it, not just where it is, but what we make it."

Both Adams and Hamylak think that the success of this year's homecoming dance will positively impact the Halloween dance.

"The homecoming dance this year went a lot better than last year's, and it seems to me that students are more excited about dances now," Hamylak said.

Adams believes that because previous uncooperative classes have graduated, dances this year can proceed with much more ease.

"I think the seniors last year weren't the best about being excited about the dances," Adams said. "Since the seniors have a really big influence on what the school does, the seniors made the decision to not come to dances and the rest of the school followed. Also, a lot of the seniors drank and they didn't come to dances because they were upset about the breathalyzers. They had rebellious attitudes."

However, there still exist some doubts concerning the physical location of the dance, but StuGO is attempting to combat these problems.

"I know that some students are concerned about people watching them dance from the seats in the auditorium" Hamylak said. "We are putting a big black tarp on the seats so that it won't be possible to sit down and look up on stage."

Hamylak also said that the space on stage won't be an issue.

"I know that many people are concerned with the space available on stage, but we're confident that we can work that out," Hamylak said. "The DJ won't be impeding on space for dancing because he will be in one of the back storage rooms. The DJ, and the speakers will still be accessible to students, but it won't be on the dance floor. Space won't be too much of an issue because we know that people leave early. Also, not everyone is dancing the whole time. Also, the pit area down in front can be used for dancing if we happen to have overflow."

For students that don't want to dance

the whole time, there will be a hangout area in the front lobby with refreshments.

"In the lobby, there will be chairs and tables to lounge around in," Hamylak said. "There will also be refreshments."

Hamylak also said that there will also be better prizes for the winners of this year's costume contest.

"I like seeing creative costumes, not the typical nurse, pirate or doctor," Hamylak said. "I would be surprised to see politicians and celebrities."

Adams said that she hopes the student body will buy tickets and attend the dance.

"I hope that people come out to the dance and support StuGo," Adams said. "We took a really big hit last year because our Halloween dance was cancelled and our spring dance was cancelled as well. It seems as if our efforts are in vain. It's my senior year and I would like people to come, because StuGO is trying to make things better not just for the school but for the student body."

Elliot too thinks that the dance will be successful.

"I'm really hopeful that the dance won't be cancelled," Elliot said. "I think it should be a lot of fun if people actually come."

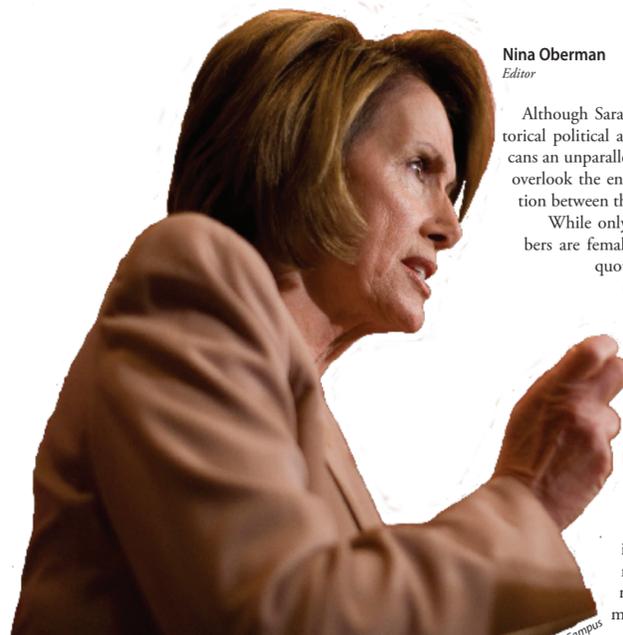
Still, Adams offers advice. "I really advise people not to come to the dance drunk," Adams said. "Because the dance is on the stage, you might fall, and if you fall, well, c'est la vie."

Hamylak ended on an optimistic note: "This dance has the potential to be the best dance ever." ☺

“The DJ, and the speakers will still be accessible to students, but it won't be on the dance floor. Space won't be too much of an issue because we know that people leave early. Also, not everyone is dancing the whole time.”

Eric Hamylak
Activities Director

Women play more prominent role in governments around the world



Democrat Nancy Pelosi is the first female Speaker of the House in U.S. history

Nina Oberman
Editor

Although Sarah Palin and Hillary Clinton's historical political ascendance has instilled in Americans an unparalleled sense of progress, many voters overlook the enormous gap in gender representation between the U.S. and the rest of the world.

While only 16.3 percent of Congress members are female, many nations have established quotas that reserve at least one third of their seats for women.

"The U.S. is unusual in that we don't talk about quotas, and we will most likely never get them," said Mona Lena Krook, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Women's Studies at Washington University in St. Louis.

Most quotas were instituted in response to the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, passed in October 2000, which urges member states to increase the representation of women at decision-making levels.

Perhaps no nation sets a greater example than Rwanda. 14 years after a

horrific genocide left nearly one million people dead, women now make up more than half of the parliamentary body.

"24 seats were reserved for women by the constitution in Rwanda," Krook said. "But on September 18 this year, 20 more were won. This means that women now hold 56 percent of the seats in parliament where only a third were required."

While external pressures did play a role, Rwanda's dramatic shift can be most directly attributed to internal factors. After the genocide, approximately 80 percent of the nation's population was female.

"Rwanda had an incredible opportunity because of the collective intention and good will post-genocide," CHS Social Studies teacher Paul Hoelscher said. "The hope is that the inclusion of women will lead to more civil discussions."

Hoelscher believes that only time will affirm this theory. Still, women in government have already accomplished a great deal, working behind the scenes in areas often unnoticed by men.

"A lot of times the difference [between men and women] isn't in the pas-

sage of laws, it's in the proposal of new laws," Krook said. "The further back you go in the process, the more important women become."

Krook points to a village in India as an example. Once women were elected to the local council, they took steps to bring their water source closer to the village. In previous years, men had not taken such initiative because they weren't the ones collecting the water.

"Diversity, then, becomes important in our political institutions, because men might not always realize what women need," Krook said.

To encourage the nomination and election of women to Congress in the U.S., each political party has set up its own fundraising organization. EMILY's list, an acronym for "Early Money is Like Yeast," seeks out pro-choice Democratic candidates and helps to jump-start their campaigns.

"When women are involved in the political process, our democracy is truly representative," their mission statement reads. "When women make policy, the needs of women and families are not ignored."

EMILY's Republican counterpart is WISH List, or "Women In the Senate and House".

Their vision for the 21st century is "to create a powerful force of Political Partners whose financial support ensures the continuous election of pro-choice Republican women to positions at all levels of government across America."

Both organizations have endorsed candidates for the upcoming election in the hopes of promoting equal gender representation in Congress. Any type of quota, however, seems to be off the table.

"I see the merits of a quota system, but I don't know if they're necessarily going to have the same impact on different societies, cultures, and political environments," Hoelscher said. "It's easiest applied in a situation like Rwanda, where you have such room for improvement." Nevertheless, Rwanda's unique agenda has laid out a framework for women's political representation worldwide.

"Above all, what Rwanda has shown us is that it is possible for women to hold political office," Krook said. "The world doesn't end when women are in positions of power." ☺

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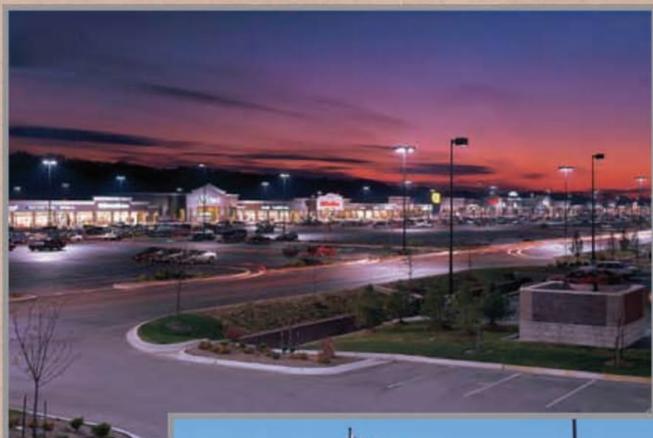
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Hadron extends science frontiers

A revolutionary particle accelerator may change the world of physics.

Meredith Redick
Editor

Lake Geneva glistens. Deep below the adjacent ground, invisibly tiny particles zoom around a vast underground tunnel. A 21-foot wall of fibre-optics and lead takes in enormous quantities of energy. Cryo-magnets are lowered deep into the ground, where scientists from 60 different countries work to secure the superconducting magnet systems that will maybe, just maybe, bring about a revolution in the world of elementary particle physics.

The LHC, or Large Hadron Collider, is modern science's most ambitious venture, and its successes could provide the foundation for entirely new ideas about the world's beginnings.

The LHC is housed by CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research. CERN, located between France and Switzerland, is most famous for the creation of the World Wide Web, which was conceived by English scientist Tim Berners-Lee in 1990.

While the LHC differs in nature from the Web, the magnitude of the experiments conducted may change physics the way the internet changed communication.

The collider is an enormous particle accelerator that allows proton beams to smash into each other at nearly the speed of light. The LHC sends two opposing beams of hadrons, a classification that includes protons and electrons, through a 17-mile circular tunnel, allowing them to gain energy until the beams collide with enormous energy.

On September 10, the first low-energy collisions were performed successfully. Moustapha Thiouy, who works on the LHC project at CERN, celebrated when the collider passed its first test.

"It was a big reward when the LHC was officially turned on, and the ATLAS detector registered the very first events as a result of the LHC beam going through it," Thiouy said.

Thiouy has been involved with the ATLAS project, one of LHC's four experiments, since July 2004.

"Over the years I have participated in the construction of parts of the ATLAS detector, specifically the Cathod Strip Chambers (CSC) of the muon spectrometer and the High Voltage Feedthroughs of the Liquid Argon (LAr) Calorimeter," Thiouy said. "I have also written some software for the LAr calorimeter." Now, he spends his time doing physics analysis and taking shifts in the ATLAS control room.

Controversy has surrounded the LHC as rumors circulate about its potential to destroy the world.

"Whenever you do an experiment where you're banging stuff together, you have to be aware you might make something undesirable," Washington University particle physics professor Mark Alford said. "There are some speculative theories that say that the LHC would create a black hole, but even if you assume the validity of that theory, the same theory says that it would decay very quickly."

Scientists have established the inadequacy of these black hole theories.

"They've all said the same thing," Alford said. "The thing that we're doing, it's not the first time it's happened in nature. It's the first time under human control. In space, there's stuff zooming around at enormously high energies, and they've been colliding with stars, and with the moon, for billions of years. So if they made anything dangerous, we would have already seen it."

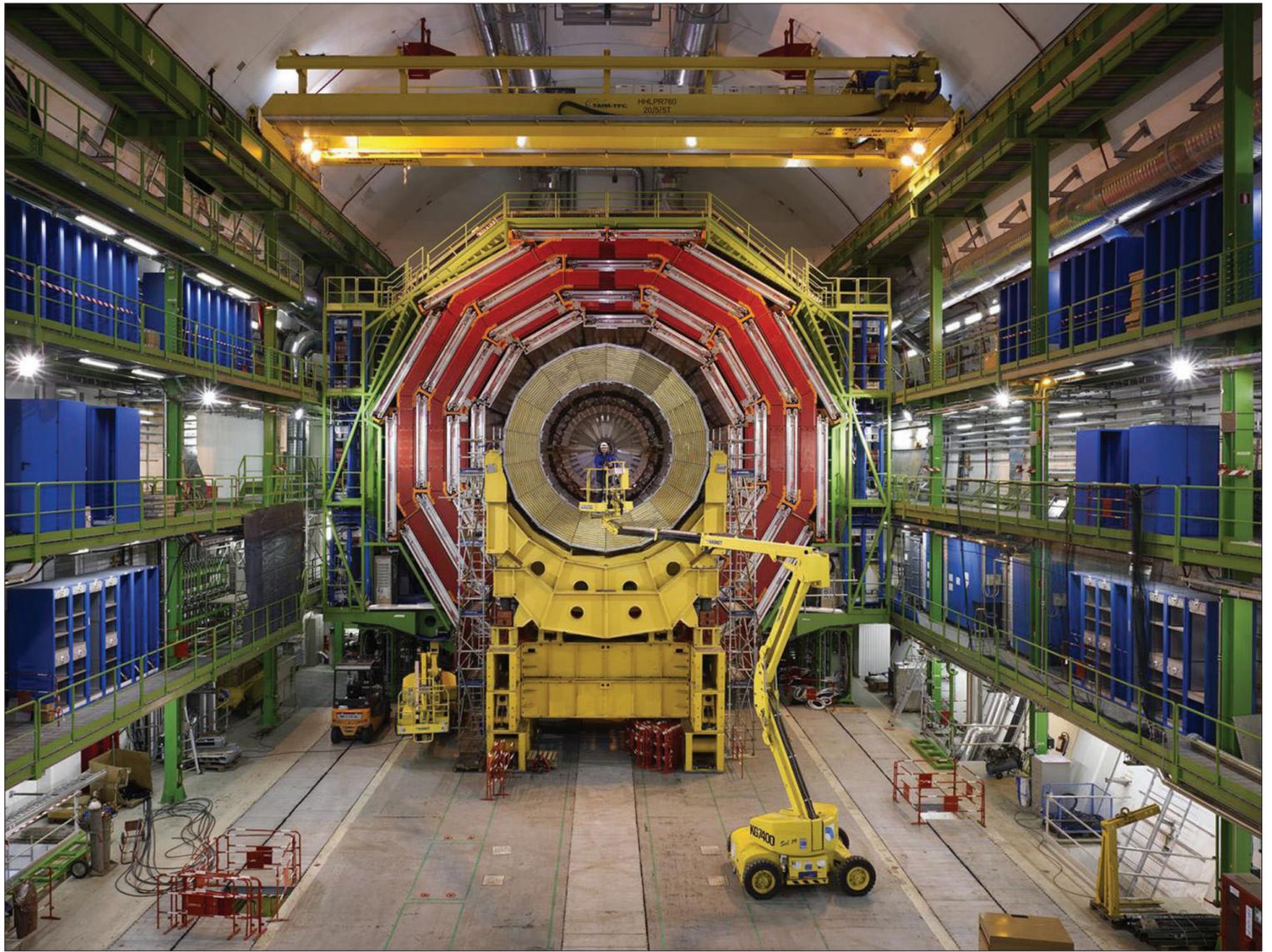
The discoveries made with the LHC could help to confirm or refute scientific theories that have long been questioned. A principal goal of the project is to examine the Standard Model of particle physics, a long-held set of theories that explains the nature of nearly everything in the universe.

"The Standard Model makes up the universe as we see it," Alford said.

One of the most significant holes in the Standard Model is formed by the unconfirmed existence of a particle called the Higgs boson, also known as the "God" particle.

"The Higgs is this thing in the Standard Model, and in order to make the Standard Model work, we need the Higgs," Alford said. "It plays a couple of roles. There's a weak force that causes decay. You get one neutron on its own and it decays in about 10 minutes. Those kinds of radioactive decay are caused by the weak force. The electromagnetic force does almost everything else. The Higgs is what makes the electromagnetic force different from the weak force, and they're vastly different."

The Higgs is also said to give mass to particles, primarily electrons. Its vast importance is once of the forces that



A 13,000-ton particle detector is installed in the Large Hadron Collider, the world's largest atom-smasher, in Geneva, Switzerland.

drives scientists working on the LHC: its existence could validate the Standard Model, and conversely, its confirmed absence could raise new questions about the nature of the universe.

"One of the big hopes for the LHC is that we'll either see the Higgs or we'll see something that does the same thing, but in a different way," Alford said.

Scientists don't know what they're going to see, but they are eager to examine the implication of revising the Standard Model to include the Higgs—or abandoning the Standard Model completely. "Without the Higgs, the Standard Model would predict a completely different world than we have now," Alford said.

Beyond the Higgs particle, the accelerator is expected to provide insight into the state of the early universe—a trillionth of a second after the Big Bang.

"In the very early time in the Big Bang, everything was hot," Alford said. "Likewise, when you collide two nuclei together, you're going to make a lot of energy in a very small volume. It's a super-mega-ultra oven, and it makes this region incredibly hot." Information about the Big Bang would allow scientists to revise their theories on the early universe.

"By trying to re-create conditions that prevailed at the beginning of the universe, we hope to help answer some of the most fundamental questions that mankind continues to ask: How did the universe begin? How did it evolve to its present state?" Thiouy said.

There are hopes for the LHC to reveal evidence of a completely unrecognized version of the universe. One experimental theory is supersymmetry, or the idea that all particles in the universe have corresponding twin particles. Another possibility is that new dimensions will be discovered in the collisions. "It's always good to look for extra dimensions," Alford said. "String theory involves extra dimensions of space, and if they have the right properties, then the proton collision could reveal them. They're not as much of a make-it-or-break-it thing as supersymmetry, where the particles are either there or not. If you're lucky, you'll find an extra dimension."

Another important issue is that of

dark matter, the mysterious material that comprises most of our universe. While dark matter is detectable, scientists know very little about its nature.

"It seems there's this stuff out there, but no particles in the Standard Model will actually do what it's doing," Alford said. The hope is that scientists will not only find the Higgs, but learn more about dark matter.

"There's a nightmare scenario, and that's that all we find is the Higgs," Alford said. "Now it's squared away, and there's nothing else. It's kind of weird, because it would be a disaster based on success. It would mean nothing new, it would mean our predecessors basically got it right."

The structure of the LHC will help to establish scientists' specific goals for discoveries.

"For the moment, it's basically the 'Large Proton Collider,'" Washington University particle physics professor Mark Alford said. "They're doing mostly lead ions now, and they're planning in the future to collide gold nuclei."

The circular structure lends in its efficiency, an important factor when considering the energy costs of accelerating protons to near the speed of

light.

"You want to hit protons together really hard," Alford said. "In principle, you could have two linear accelerators pointing at each other, and then the protons would just smash into each other. The trouble is, you wouldn't get very many collisions per second. When you fire these protons at each other, most of the time they don't interact. So it's better if you can swing them around for another attempt at collision. It's a sort of recycling thing."

The immense diameter of the circle is another necessary aspect of the LHC's design.

"If you try to bend protons around on a tight scale, they'll radiate lots of x-rays and they'll lose their energy," Alford said. "If you made the LHC small, it would be like an incredible antenna that created very strong radiation. Here, they don't emit much radiation."

Among all this, people are asking

about the practical uses of the LHC. "The information gleaned from the collisions themselves have no practical applications," Thiouy said.

Nevertheless, some of the technology can be used in other fields. A new type of cancer treatment, called light ion therapy, sends beams of protons directly to the site of a tumor, providing a more efficient radiation therapy than traditional methods. The super-strong magnets used to direct the LHC's proton beams are also used in MRIs.

Fortunately, the environmental costs are minimal.

"There is waste produced in all human activities," Thiouy said. "However, the LHC is not a nuclear plant. Some material will be irradiated, but all of the LHC, as well as the experiments, are buried 300 feet below ground. There isn't a need to worry."

Because the material used in the collisions is so minimal, the radioactive substances are insignificant. The proton beams, though, could potentially be harmful above ground.

"You wouldn't want this beam flashing around and hitting you," Alford said. "It would damage the protons in you."

Although the LHC was scheduled to initiate the first high-speed proton collisions this month, a problem in the electrical connection between two magnets caused a helium leak that will delay collisions until spring.

"Coming immediately after the very successful start of LHC operation on 10 September, this is undoubtedly a psychological blow," CERN Director General Robert Aymar said in a CERN press release. "Nevertheless, the success of the LHC's first operation with beam is testimony to years of painstaking preparation and the skill of the teams involved in building and running CERN's accelerator complex. I have no doubt that we will overcome this setback with the same degree of rigor and application."

The scientists are not discouraged by this new setback. Thiouy considers the international communication achieved in the project alone to be worthwhile.

"It really amazed me that thousands of physicists from all over the world, from different cultures and speaking different languages could get together and build something like this," Thiouy said.

Even in its disabled state, the LHC represents decades of international scientific thought condensed into a single doorway that might open up a new realm for scientists. "This is really at the frontier of what we know," Alford said. "We're trying to push the frontier forward."

Large Hadron Collider

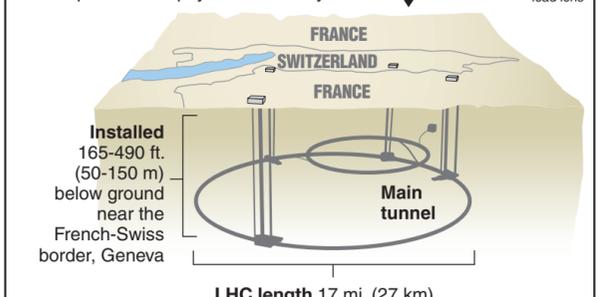
The world's most powerful particle accelerator will create collisions at the highest energy level ever observed.

Purpose

Accelerate two beams of particles in opposite directions at more than 99.9% the speed of light; collision of beams creates shower of new particles for physicists to study

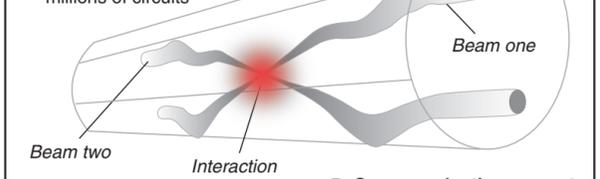


NOTE: Hadrons are subatomic particles—either protons or lead ions

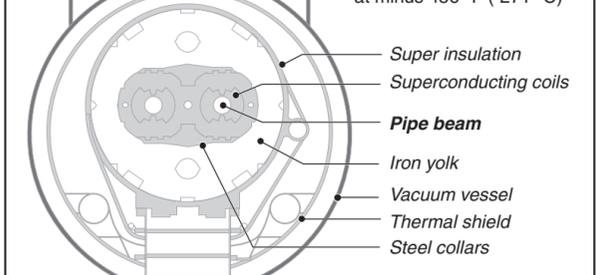


How it works

1 Beams injected into LHC ring; make millions of circuits



2 Superconducting magnet systems control beams; 9,300 magnets will guide particles through a vacuum at minus 456° F (-271° C)



3 Collisions
When bunches of particles cross, there would normally be about 20 collisions among 200 billion particles; the LHC generates up to 600 million collisions per second; beams cross about 30 million times per second

- At full power, each beam has about the same energy as a car travelling at 995 mph (1,600 kph)

- Yearly data generation 10 million gigabytes, equivalent to a stack of CDs more than 10 miles (16 km) high

- Scientists involved 7,000 from more than 85 countries

Source: CERN
Graphic: Jutta Scheibe, Scott Bell

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Homecoming unites Clayton community

Payton Sciarratta
Reporter

After a year marked by dance cancellations and student complaints, the homecoming dance this year was quite different.

"Last year the dance was horrible," sophomore Kaily Sciarratta said. "The teachers lined the walls, all of the lights were on, and the music was really bad. Also if the teachers suspected that a student was drunk, the student had to take a Breathalyzer test. It almost felt awkward to dance with everyone because all of the teachers were watching you."

Even Principal Louis Losos acknowledged that last year's dance was a marked change from last year's.

"There was a smaller attendance [last year] and more controversies," Losos said, "and this year was a lot more fun." Sciarratta said this year offered a much better dance environment.

"There were fewer teachers watching everyone," Sciarratta said, "and they stayed out in the halls most of the time. Also they kept the lights off, which is one of the things that the students liked best this year."

Although this year's dance was much better than last, students believed that it could have still been improved.

"They should have played a mix of songs throughout the dance because they played all the good ones at the very end," sophomore Ruthie Polinsky said.

Even though the students think it could be better, there were things that some people liked.

"The teachers were there for safety reasons, but it was nice that they weren't



Puhan Zhao

intrusive," sophomore Sarah McAfee said.

Many students said enjoyed this year's dance.

"I liked the people that I hung out with because they were the ones that made it fun," freshmen Claire Bliss said. Junior Michelle Cooper agrees with Bliss that the dance was enjoyable.

"I liked being with my date and dancing," Cooper said.

The administration seemed as happy

as the students that the dance was successful.

"I thought it was wonderful," Principal Louise Losos said. "We had a very large attendance, most of the students stayed for the whole dance, and I thought it went very smoothly."

Losos said the atmosphere at the dance was very positive.

Losos also said the Pep Rally, which was a new activity this year was a positive addition.

"I loved it, the students who planned it did an excellent job, and Mr. [Rick] Horas was one of the funniest things I have seen in a long time," Losos said.

One of the traditions for Homecoming is the homecoming princess. The teachers choose the princesses based on academic skills, after-school activities, and several others traits. One of the things that students are confused about is how freshmen princess are chosen because it is the beginning of the year, and



Puhan Zhao

Above: Juniors Emily Rosen, Chelsea Hesterberg, Jenna Carlie, Evan Green, Jennifer Golden ride in a convertible for the homecoming parade on Sept. 27. Each class focused on a different decade and the juniors' theme was the '70s.

Left: Struggling to win the wheelbarrow race during the Spirit games on Sept. 26, senior Kate Wheelock drops the feet of senior Ian Price. The seniors did go on to win the Golden Greyhound.

some of the students have not yet had a change to sign up for after-school activities.

Once the girls are nominated the students in each class vote. They are then to be voted on, and the student with the most votes wins princess. The senior girl with the most votes is Homecoming Queen.

"We had to make posters to show that we were running for princess," freshman Karley Woods, said. "We also

had to throw candy in the homecoming parade."

This year, Woods was princess for the freshmen, along with Jaclyn Poe for the sophomores and Sonja Petermann for the juniors. Senior Ali Holt was Homecoming Queen.

Losos said she looks forward to more dances such as this one.

"We will build on what went well," Losos said, "and we will tweak what didn't work." ☺

Youth Leadership St. Louis promotes community involvement

New leadership group opened to juniors allows members to meet with students from other schools and regional leaders.

Ugochi Onyema
Senior Managing Editor

Now that the centennial year at Clayton High School is in full swing, a new affiliation is being created between juniors at CHS and the Youth Leadership-St. Louis (YLSL) organization.

This year, six juniors—Logan Yates, Ken Zheng, Jacob Leech, Ijeoma Onyema, Laura Klamer and Julien Russel—were selected to represent CHS in the YLSL.

The YLSL, which has been active since 1989, promotes hands-on experiences pertaining to the arts, community service and the political and judicial systems.

Guidance counselor Anthony Henderson, the head of Clayton High School's participation in the YLSL, said he believes that the inception of a CHS membership in the organization is a welcome change to the face of the junior class.

"We decided to join YLSL because I think that it is just such a great opportunity for the students to participate in," Henderson said. "It's a leadership program, and the students have an opportunity to discuss pressing issues with politicians and other leaders. It's such a great program that Clayton students have not yet had a chance to participate in."

Junior Laura Klamer anticipates the opportunities that the organization offers to the student members, as well as



Ijeoma Onyema

Students representing CHS at Youth Leadership St. Louis pose for a photo. Juniors Julien Ruseel, Jacob Leech, Logan Yates, Ijeoma Onyema, Ken Zheng, and Laura Klamer.

some obligatory events that will occur later on in the school year.

"In YLSL, basically, we will be going around the St. Louis Community," Klamer said. "We are going to go to the courthouse and learn about the criminal

system of St. Louis. We are also going to participate in a lot of activities, like Diversity Day, which is in January."

The organization consists of students from schools in the metropolitan region, and the number of students in

each group from each participating high school ranges from three to 12. The cost of membership is \$500 per student, and this fee is paid for by each participating school. According to Henderson, the selection process was fairly simple this

year. "The students were handpicked by me," Henderson said. "I wanted to select a group of kids that were diverse in each area—academics, race. But that will not be the selection process next year."

Klamer believes that the final selection of CHS representatives was successful, based on the cohesiveness of the group, while discussing the usage of stricter criteria that will be used for the incoming juniors next year.

"Mr. Henderson and Dr. Losos basically chose a group that they thought would work well together," Klamer said. "Next year, the sophomores are going to have to apply and be selected from a pool of applicants. So it will be more competitive next year."

According to Henderson, the new selection process will include the review of the incoming juniors' applications, then a series of interview will be conducted, after which, the selections will be made.

Klamer thinks that the selection process promotes diversity within each representative group, which allows the CHS representatives to come into contact with students from other schools that share some of the same interests.

"So far, being in the organization has been pretty good," Klamer said. "We've all made friends with people from a lot of different schools. The seminars are not just with Clayton students."

Henderson also believes that the inclusion of CHS juniors in the YLSL, as well as the incorporation of diversity

within the organization will have a profound effect on the organization.

"I think that having Clayton participate is going to have a huge impact on the organization as a whole, just based on the students who attend Clayton, their base of knowledge and their willingness to help others," Henderson said.

Perhaps the most significant activities that occur within the YLSL are the weekday and weekend seminars, during which members partake in simulations pertaining to important issues that affect the St. Louis community.

During these seminars, students also get a chance to meet with community leaders, which Henderson believes is highly beneficial to the CHS members.

"The benefits of being apart of the YLSL include the connections that our students are making with local and state politicians, the ability to talk about the issues that affect the community, the opportunity to talk to the like-minded students from other districts and the other piece is that it helps to formulate leaders for the future," Henderson said.

Klamer believes that the seminars, and more importantly, the YLSL as an entity will benefit the St. Louis region.

"We are trying to raise recognition at Clayton, but we also are trying to better St. Louis," Klamer said. "I do think that it will make a difference because it is educating the youth of St. Louis, and that is where the future is. The more educated they are, the better it will be for the community." ☺

Orchestra, choir look forward to chance to perform, play at Disney World

Jackie Leong
Reporter

There's a special place in the hearts of the Clayton orchestras, and they're saving it for Mickey Mouse. Not the character the trophy, because the CHS orchestra is going to Disney World, in Orlando, Fla. this spring, where they will compete in a nationwide music festival – Festival Disney, on April 1-5.

"We've gone to Chicago, we've gone to Nashville. It's been about five years since we did the last one," said Julie Hoffman, Director of Orchestra at Clay-

ton High School. "[This] will be a little more fun, I think." In addition to the CHS orchestras, the Wydown Middle School orchestra and CHS Chamber choir will also be attending.

"I want the kids to have the experience of being adjudicated by some national adjudicators, and at the same time experience another variety of music," Hoffman said. Orchestras can choose whether to go for ratings or merely comments.

"I've chosen to go into the competition category," said Hoffman. "It'll be

more challenging for us, and maybe it'll be more inspirational for us to do well."

The high school orchestras have been focusing on playing tunes such as *Fantasia 2000*. "We have to get the music ready to be nipped by a judge," said Hoffman. In addition, the orchestra will also be fund raising to reduce costs.

Besides the competition, the orchestra will participate in a workshop that allows them to record their own soundtrack to a part of a Disney animated feature. Similarly, the choir will participate in a workshop where they learn audition

skills and other techniques and record an excerpt of a Disney soundtrack.

However, there's a flip side to the fun. Because they'll be missing two days of school, the work will continue to pile up while they're gone. "The program goes on," said A.P. Physics and Honors Freshman Physics teacher Rex Rice. "The responsible student will try to minimize the impact," he says. "[But] there's no easy way to deal with it."

Rice has dealt with students off on similar trips, such as the week long commitment of a sixth grade camp coun-

selor. Students came in early and stayed late to make up to a whole week's worth of material in advance.

It can work well, though. Rice continued on to comment that an A.P. student, who had done the bulk of what he was missing the next week, returned and had little difficulty getting up to speed. "He aced the test," Rice said.

The orchestras embark on these trips, if possible, once every four years, to ensure that everyone has a chance to go at least once. "It really does go based on the kids that are involved," Hoffman said.

"Sometimes we have a group of kids that aren't as interested in doing something like that. Right now it seems that we've got a bunch of people that really like it."

The itinerary includes visits to the EPCOT center, Disney's Hollywood Studios, and of course, the Magic Kingdom. "In the past I haven't seen what I wanted to see from the kids," Hoffman said. "I want them to have more fun. If you can't have fun at Disneyworld, I don't know where you can have fun. This is my last-ditch effort to find out where we can have a good time and play well." ☺

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Teachers comment on significance of election



"I think regardless of your political leanings you can't help but be inspired by the symbolism of certain candidates."

-English teacher Susan Teson

"Regardless of your political affiliation, you have to believe that Barack Obama represents the fulfillment of the promise of what this nation was founded upon."

-English teacher John Ryan

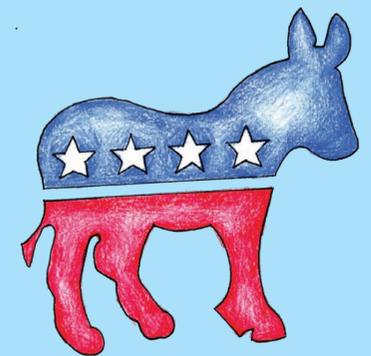


"Ultimately, whoever wins, we are seeing what Americans have fought for for decades--a minority candidate of the caliber of Obama. He and Hillary represent millions of us. They have changed the face of American politics."

-Spanish teacher Teresa Schafer

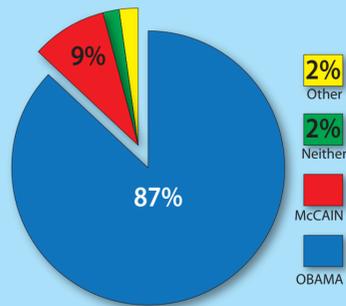
"It's exciting to see such a high interest in this year's election and to see people interested in taking more ownership in their country."

-Chemistry teacher Mike Howe



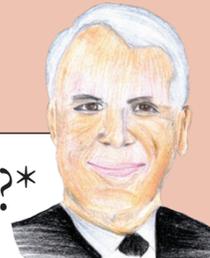
*The quotes from each candidate are from both candidate's websites or direct from their respective speeches.

Who would CHS students vote for?



ELECTION 2008

Where do the candidates stand?*



Obama ENERGY/ENVIRONMENT McCain

What are the main factors of Global Warming?

"Global warming is real, is happening now and is the result of human activities. The number of Category 4 and 5 hurricanes has almost doubled in the last 30 years. Glaciers are melting faster; the polar ice caps are shrinking; trees are blooming earlier; oceans are becoming more acidic, threatening marine life; people are dying in heat waves; species are migrating, and eventually many will become extinct."

"I also believe that strengthening our energy security goes hand-in-hand with addressing global climate change, which I believe is real with human activity contributing to the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere."

EDUCATION

Has the "No Child Left Behind Act" improved the status of public education?

"No Child Left Behind Left the Money Behind: The goal of the law was the right one, but unfulfilled funding promises, inadequate implementation by the Education Department and shortcomings in the design of the law itself have limited its effectiveness and undercut its support. As a result, the law has failed to provide high-quality teachers in every classroom and failed to adequately support and pay those teachers."

"The principles underneath No Child Left Behind -- standards, accountability, transparency, and choice-- are a major step in the right direction; taking away power from education bureaucrats and returning it to those on the front lines of education -- the local schools, the local teachers and the local parents. It has provided support and guidance to our state and local communities to strengthen our schools, while also giving much needed flexibility for every state in the use of federal education dollars."

IRAQ

What kind of withdrawal plan would be most effective in Iraq?

"We must be as careful getting out of Iraq as we were careless getting in. Immediately upon taking office, Obama will give his Secretary of Defense and military commanders a new mission in Iraq: ending the war. The removal of our troops will be responsible and phased, directed by military commanders on the ground and done in consultation with the Iraqi government."

"Our goal is an Iraq that no longer needs American troops. And I believe we can achieve that goal, perhaps sooner than many imagine. But I do not believe that anyone should make promises as a candidate for President that they cannot keep if elected. To promise a withdrawal of our forces from Iraq, regardless of the calamitous consequences to the Iraqi people, our most vital interests, and the future of the Middle East, is the height of irresponsibility. It is a failure of leadership."

ECONOMY

Should the federal government bail out failing US corporations at taxpayers expense?

"This is no longer just a Wall Street crisis -- it's an American crisis, and it's the American economy that needs this rescue plan...This is not a plan to just hand over \$700 billion of taxpayer money to a few banks. If this is managed correctly, and that's an important if, we will hopefully get most or all of our money back, and possibly even turn a profit on the government's intervention - every penny of which will go directly back to the American people. And if we fall short, we will levy a fee on financial institutions so that they can repay for the losses they caused."

"Americans should be outraged at the latest sweetheart deal in Washington. Congress will put U.S. taxpayers on the hook for potentially hundreds of billions of dollars to bail out Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. It's a tribute to what these two institutions -- which most Americans have never heard of -- have bought with more than \$170-million worth of lobbyists in the past decade. Because of that threat, I support taking the unfortunate but necessary steps needed to keep the financial troubles at these two companies from further squeezing American families."

DEFENSE

Should the US build up its missile defense shield in former Soviet Union states?

"Barack Obama will spare no effort to protect Americans from the threats posed by nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. With Iran actively moving forward with programs in both areas, it would be irresponsible not to explore the possibility of deploying missile defense systems in Europe to help protect against this threat. Such systems should only be deployed, however, if based on sound technology that works... He will fully consult Russia on prospects for mutually beneficial cooperation on missile defense but will not give Russia any veto over decisions about U.S. national security."

"...[W]e must continue to deploy a safe and reliable nuclear deterrent, robust missile defenses and superior conventional forces that are capable of defending the United States and our allies...I also believe we should work with Russia to build confidence in our missile defense program, including through such initiatives as the sharing of early warning data and prior notification of missile launches."



Left: High school students gather at the vice presidential debate to show their support for Democratic presidential nominee Obama. Right: Young adults show their support for Republican presidential nominee John McCain. Top Right: A young man works for the Obama campaign.

Youth involvement crucial in election

Sarah Horn Senior Managing Editor

As the election approaches, eyes are turned on the youth and pundits are predicting a large youth turnout. In such an exciting campaign season, more and more young adults are planning on voting and getting involved. This sentiment is all too apparent in CHS as various students are showing support for the candidates they support.

"The youth vote is changing the face of the electorate hands down," Obama campaign's Missouri spokesperson Justin Hamilton said. "This is the fastest growing voting segment, with close to a 10 percent increased turnout for the last 2 elections cycles. This generation is larger than the baby boom, which had an enormous impact on politics and society over the last 30 years. They are going to play an extremely important role in deciding the next President and helping to define America's place in the world."

Senior Ben Peipert is a supporter of Obama. "I prefer his health care plan, his economic policy, his stance on gay marriage, his plan for Iraq and I like his youth, energy, and passion," Peipert said. "While the majority of Clayton high students share Peipert's viewpoint, many do not."

"Personally, I think the lesser of two evils is John McCain," sophomore John Holland said. "And youth involvement is apparent on both sides of the spectrum."

"I think youth involvement is apparent at CHS," co-president of the Young Democrats club and senior Hannah Novack said. "Many students volunteer and

are discussing the events going on in the campaigns and issues they care about."

The Young Democrats club re-formed this year with senior co-presidents Novack and Rebecca Singer. Members of the club are very involved in the campaign.

"The whole point of Young Democrats is to give students an opportunity to be active in the Democratic Party even if they can't vote," Singer said. "We hold meetings and also have been volunteering for the Obama campaign by knocking on doors on the weekends. A lot of students come out to join us, so youth involvement is definitely apparent."

While a Young Republicans Club is currently nonexistent, many Republicans in Clayton are still making their voices heard. Senior Preston Newell, for instance, supports John McCain and believes youth involvement is an important factor in this campaign process.

"Youth involvement is definitely apparent at CHS," Newell said. "I think a lot of students take it very seriously and they make that quite obvious."

Examples of direct involvement are canvassing, phone banking, and rallying. "There are lots of opportunities for youth to get involved," Novack said. "The Obama campaign really encourages young

people to volunteer. When you canvass, people will listen to what you have to say, and may think about things differently if they hear your perspective."

While many students are directly involved in the campaign, others decide to simply show their support.

"There are at least five thousand ways that kids can get involved with the election," Holland said.

"Debate personally, make posters, picket signs, start a riot, etc." Nonetheless, many young people remain uninvolved in the election if they cannot vote.

"I can't vote yet so I don't feel all that important," Newell said.

Youth involvement extends beyond the halls of CHS, and is very apparent in colleges and universities. Elise Miller, a sophomore at Washington University is very involved in the campaign process.

"I mainly volunteer on my campus and at the Obama MO State headquarters located on Delmar and Euclid," Miller said.

Miller also believes that her vote is extremely significant in the upcoming election.

"Since the US has no consistent majority party, often referred to as a '49 percent na-

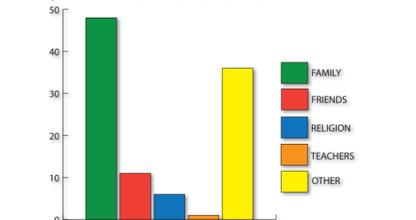
tion", I know my vote is important," Miller said. "If I chose to vote in my home state of Texas, I would put less significance on my personal vote, but now that I am registered in Missouri, one of the closest 'battleground' states in this highly contested election, my vote contributes to whether the cynical show-me state is ready to vote for change."

Miller also believes that the opportunities to get involved are endless. "There are always opportunities for youth to get involved in politics," Miller said. "Not being 18 is not a reason to be uninformed. The Missouri state Obama headquarters is conveniently located in St. Louis and I encourage students to get involved with that organization or for the McCain campaign by phone-banking, going door to door, and distributing literature. Volunteering for a political campaign is a great way to get an insider's view of the political process, meet people with similar political backgrounds as you, and force you to question why exactly you do want to vote for one candidate vs. another."

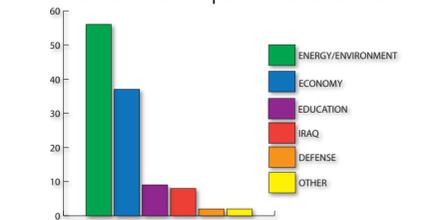
Overall, in a close election the youth involvement and vote continues to play an important role. Singer believes that perhaps now more than ever this is true.

"It is all of our responsibility to do our part for this election," Singer said. "Even if you can't vote, the president that is elected will determine the course of our nation for many years to come."

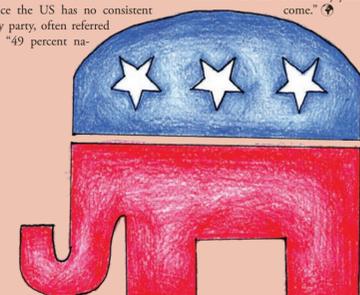
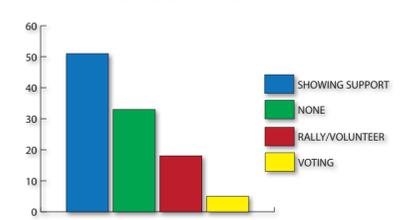
Who/what influences CHS student's vote most?



What issues are most important for CHS students?



How involved are CHS students in this election?



The results of the poll are from a selection of 75 CHS students, out of about 800, from all four classes.

Failing economy frightens investors

Ellie Bullard
Senior Editor

Volatile markets, bailouts, and bank failures—what investor wouldn't be squeamish? The U.S. economy is caught in a cascade of financial trouble. It is certain now that the U.S. is in the midst of a recession. Even after the introduction of new legislation, constantly changing markets make it impossible to determine whether the end of the crisis is in sight.

Arguably a result of the fall of the sub-prime mortgage market in 2007, the crisis has its roots deep years in the country's economic past.

"It appears that the trigger was the decline in house prices," St. Louis Federal Reserve Economist Kevin Kliesen said. "Falling house prices caused a lot of stress for those people who financed the purchase of their house with a non-traditional, subprime, adjustable-rate mortgage."

Kliesen said as house prices continued to decline, and the interest rate on the mortgage adjusted upward, many homeowners could not make their house payment and ended up defaulting on their mortgage. In some cases, they simply turned their house keys over to the bank, since the amount of money they owed on their mortgage was more than what the house was worth.

"Compounding this problem, a large percentage of these mortgages were bundled together and sold as financial assets to banks, insurance companies, pension funds and others," Kliesen said. "It's very complicated, and the story doesn't end there, but the bottom line is that the problems in the housing sector ended up affecting a much larger part of the economy."

Indeed, the housing market failure was only the beginning of the story. The domino effect continued until a wealth of defaults, or failures to pay off debts, sparked the financial emergency in September.

"When you have defaults, that disrupts the financial system," Economics teacher Mr. Bayles said. "When you have a sophisticated market that depends on the free flow and the ready transfer and the purchase and sale, and suddenly people don't want anything to do with

it...[there are] tremendous disruptions in the financial system."

This particular disaster in the financial system has been characterized by painfully unpredictable market changes. The Dow Jones Industrial Average (also called DJIA, a measure of market performance) spanned a total of 1,000 points on Friday Oct. 10, a feat unmatched in the history of the index.

"One thing that I think is different is the wild, almost daily fluctuations in the market," Parents as Teachers employee Kate McGilly said. "One day we're in the dumps, the next day things seem to recover...It's exhausting, but the fact that things can change so quickly gives one hope."

In fact, the crisis is so exhausting that some experts compare disaster to the Great Depression, perhaps partially stemming from the fact that unstable Dow Jones Industrial The DJIA plummeted more than 750 points on Sept. 29, the largest point loss of the DJIA in history.

However, according to Kliesen, this disaster is nowhere close to being the next Great Depression.

Not only did 10,000 banks fail in the Great Depression, but unemployment skyrocketed to 25 percent, and the stock market decreased by 84 percent. As of Oct. 14, 2008 in this crisis, a mere 13 banks have failed, unemployment stands at 6 percent, and the stock market has declined by only 43 percent.

"Perhaps the biggest reason why the current episode will not morph into another depression, is that the Fed and the government learned a lot of hard lessons from the Great Depression," Kliesen said. "We have many more tools and policies at our disposal—and a willingness to use them, as the current episode demonstrates."

Some expert's comparison of the Great Depression to today's recession is representative of the country's diminishing confidence, the issue that may plague the economy the most. Constant media coverage of the economy and bank failures remind the public of the effect the economic crisis may have on them. Many people are worried for the future of their investments and savings.

"I'm most worried that the money I've worked really hard to save and invest over the past 20 years or so isn't going to be there when I need to send my kids to college and when I need to retire. I feel like all the effort I've put into saving and investing money was kind of a waste," Kate McGilly said. "My parents are definitely worried that most of their savings are dwindling. They will be fine, but they worry that there won't be much left for their kids to inherit."

The financial problems will cause a considerable amount of change. Most importantly, people are less willing to take risks. Entities like colleges are less likely to give loans, as are car dealerships and banks.

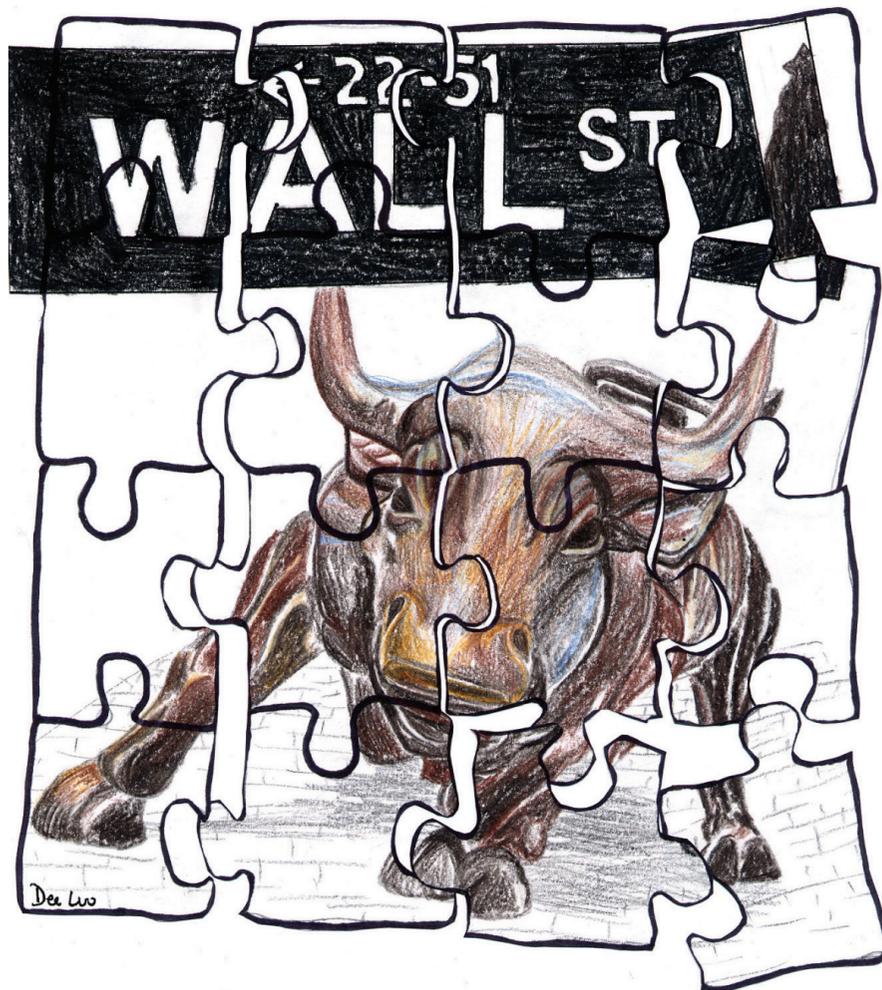
"People are hesitant to take risks right now and you're seeing things like new car sales dropping precipitously because people are concerned about the future," Bayles said.

The government hopes to repair volatile markets, allusions to the depression, and low consumer confidence through the "bailout," or the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), which is new legislation designed to give 700 billion dollars of relief to bankrupt institutions.

"The government has set aside money to buy up those IOUs," Bayles said. "It's going to be a reverse auction... That will exchange paper [bonds] for cash. The theory is that the government has the financial resources. They can hold that paper until the markets are restored and then later on the government can sell the paper back and maybe even, actually, come out ahead. [It is] the hope that the government can restore liquidity by buying up these suspect papers and selling them later."

Legislators hope that TARP targets the heart of the financial issue, and will eventually cure the crisis.

"The Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) is designed to get banks back into the business of making loans to credit-worthy companies and individuals," Kliesen said. "Banks and other financial institutions are, in many ways, the life blood of the economy. If they catch a cold, the rest of the economy could more easily get pneumonia... The purpose of the TARP program is for the



government to buy some of these bad assets. Once house prices stop falling and begin to rise again, the value of these assets will begin to rise."

The U.S. economic crisis has affected the entire world, not just the U.S. On Saturday, Oct. 11, U.S. President Bush and European Union President Sarkozy met to discuss a brewing global economic crisis. The country of Iceland has already felt severe repercussions from the disaster; its economy, mainly based on banking, has all but collapsed.

The financial emergency has also

bled into the presidential campaign. The American public considers the economy is one of the main issues in the upcoming election. Both John McCain and Barack Obama spent considerable efforts shaping the bailout bill.

"I'm glad they both felt it was important to set aside differences and push through the bailout since it seemed like the country was on the brink of economic collapse" McGilly said. "It showed that both know how to deal with a crisis."

In the face of troubling economic times, Kliesen encourages students to

primarily focus on saving.

"The best thing that students can do is to develop good saving habits, regardless of whether the economy is in good shape or bad shape," Kliesen said. "It's inevitable that some small companies will go out of business—particularly those in the restaurant business, since people tend to eat out less during recessions."

Ultimately, this devastating economic disaster will end

"This, too, shall pass," Kliesen said. ☺

Speech & Debate builds on past achievements

Bianca Vannucci
Reporter

No other team in the school warms up by repeating "How you doing Miss Kitty?" over and over again and stretching their mouths with a pencil. The Speech and Debate team does so proudly. The students are then asked with a baby voice whether they have a story.

Senior Mack Su has been part of the team since freshman year.

"It's really taught me the structure of such an organization, which is really fascinating," Su said. "Reacting to team dynamics is always a valuable lesson."

Becca Steinberg, a sophomore, also on the team since freshman year joined for a totally different reason.

"I like arguing with people as well as miscellaneous objects," Steinberg said, "Really I'm not picky."

The participants joined the team for many different reasons, including, ironically, fear of public speaking.

English teacher Brenda Bollinger has been leading the team for nine years but has many previous years of experience.

"It's not acting, it's interpreting," she reminds the team on an early morning practice. "Our goal is to make a message peaceful for the audience."

"Keep it conversational," Bollinger said. "You're working with the audience."

For some of the members the team is a good opportunity for exposure to public speaking environments. Students



Sophomores Becca Steinberg and Kara Kratcha practice duo interpretation as senior Dylan Cockson judges.

are pushed to their limits, but embarrassment is not an excuse.

"I want you to be embarrassed," Bollinger said.

This is of course ultimately done to help students with their (extremely rational) fears.

"Debate makes one look rather foolish if they aren't quite done," Steinberg said. "It has taught me to work for a deadline. I've learned how to sound smart even if I know nothing about what I'm talking about."

Su agrees on the importance of the skills learned on the team. "Freshmen really need a guiding force in speech and debate," Su said.

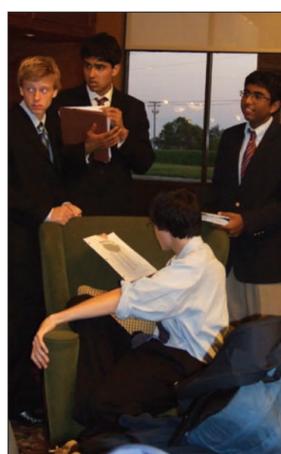
Both Su and Steinberg agree that public forum is "awesome" in the words of Su, or "it kicks some serious butt," according to Steinberg. Both then allude to inside jokes that apparently reserved to members on the team.

The team holds quite a few achievements. Jessica Shen and Dylan Cockson went to nationals for Duo Interpretation this summer in Vegas. Cockson also was in the national semi-final in story telling, he ranked highly among those who competed.

The CHS team is holding an Annual Invitational Tournament Nov. 21 and 22, with more than 30 schools competing and they need judges and timekeepers.

According to Steinberg some English teachers offer extra credit to students who help in this way.

"Hosting our own tournament is



Public forum debaters Simon Warchol, Richard Millet, Ikshu Neithalath and Brett Virgin-Downy practice their speeches at a tournament in Kansas City Oct. 11.

the best part," Su said. "Everyone gets so very excited and it's interesting to see how everything plays out."

Skill level aside, speech and debate proves to be a rewarding experience in the opinion of team members.

"You meet all kinds of people in speech and debate, and even though they're not all going to be amazing, it makes for a great experience," Su said. "That's just the truth." ☺

Quiz Bowl expands students' intellect

Sneha Viswanathan
Editor

A competition that is fast-paced, requires quick memory power, and encourages students to take chances—those are the fundamental necessities of Scholar Quiz, an academic contest that is starting its third year at CHS.

The sponsor of the club is English teacher Dave Jenkins who has been sponsoring this activity since he started teaching at Clayton two years ago.

"It's a MSHAA [Missouri State High School Activities Association] sanctioned activity, where teams of four students answer questions regarding general knowledge that corresponds with what they learn in school," Jenkins said.

The practice for competitions requires a regular time commitment, but is flexible.

"We practice three times a week, about 45 minutes each, and I encourage students to come to one practice per week," Jenkins said. "We're part of a league that competes in five consecutive meets on Tuesdays in the fall, and we also compete two or three Saturdays per semester. The students' commitment is totally self-directed."

The team has seen growing interest over the past few years, and as a teacher, it isn't hard for Jenkins to find potential Scholar Quiz competitors. Most students who come to the practices find that the competition engages their interests.

"Getting students motivated to actually participate is just a matter of getting them to come to the first practice," Jenkins said. "We have probably 20-25 students who have expressed interest in Scholar Quiz. Some of these students are pretty hardcore about it, but it seems like a lot of people are still investigating what we're all about."

The benefits of Scholar Quiz include not only expanding the students' intellect, but the sponsors' as well. It also helps them work well under high pressure situations.

"I've learned a lot just by asking questions on topics that I didn't know about before," Jenkins said. "It doesn't

give me a deep understanding of topics, but it gives me knowledge of math and science concepts and formulas that I wouldn't know as an English teacher. It has also encouraged me to read across works and authors that I wasn't familiar with earlier."

However, Jenkins also said that the team typically has more males than females each year. The female participants in Scholar Quiz can feel the imbalance, but don't feel negatively affected by it.

"It isn't like being a girl in Math Club," sophomore Becca Steinberg said. "The 'nerdier' activity, the more stigma there is against girls. But there are a lot more girls who participate in Scholar Quiz, so it's not bad."

Steinberg also says that learning material for the competitions isn't as rigorous as it may seem, but the competitive nature of the club drives the participants to do their best.

"You're more likely to learn something if it [the contest] is really close or the material is really obscure and someone else gets it but you don't," Steinberg said. "You don't necessarily have to learn new material; you just have to answer the questions with things you already know."

Other team members also agree that the competition is intellectually stimulating and enjoy being part of the team.

"I like the fun and excitement of academic competitions; I enjoy using my knowledge for an academic competition like Scholar Quiz rather than competing in physical competitions," senior Josh Oberman said.

But similarly to sports, in the heat of competition, it's important for the team to pull together in order to succeed.

"Our team is really strong. I like defeating our opponents, and we usually win because our team works well together," senior Tom Maxim said.

The Clayton team has high expectations for this year's competitions based on their performance in the past.

"We usually make it to the district elimination rounds," Jenkins said. "We've had a lot of success—I can count only two fingers where we haven't won medals or trophies." ☺

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Running in remembrance: the John Reif Invitational

Martha Burke
Reporter

While most fall sports begin to wrap up, cross country hasn't even reached its climax. CHS plans to host the John Reif Cross Country Invitational in Shaw Park Oct. 24, merely a week before districts.

The invitational is dedicated to John Reif, a 1982 graduate of CHS. Reif was a talented athlete who had a 9:35 time for two miles at the state meet in 1982 and also won the Northeast Missouri triathlon with a time of just 1:33: 22 in 1986. At age 22 he was ranked 33rd in the country for triathlons after only one year of training.

Reif's sister Lynn said John was "a pretty quiet guy and a very dedicated athlete."

"John didn't get into the social scene as much because he was so committed to being a great athlete," Lynn Reif said.

His close group of friends found that he was very reliable and he was well liked as a person. He was thought of as a role model not only to his sister but to younger students as well.

"He was a fighter in the athletic sense," Lynn Reif said. "He was a great runner and that was his bread and butter."

Reif died in 1987 when he was hit on his bike on Wildhorse Creek Road in Chesterfield, prompting the state's "Share the Road" signs. Printed on his grave is the caption "John, come run with me," along with an image of a runner.

"John was everything you'd want your star athlete to be," said his former coach Earl Hopper.

Hopper is one of four cross-country coaches in the history of CHS and started the invitational in memory of John Reif.

John helped those less fortunate than him athletically," Hopper said. "He was everything you'd want your captain to be."

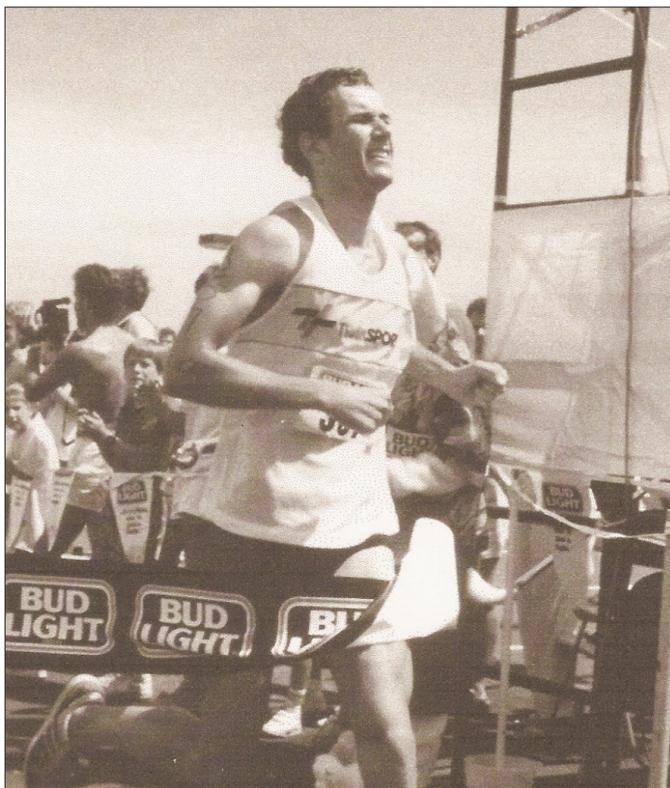
Not only was John Reif an exceptional runner, he also excelled in basketball and academics. According to Lynn Reif, his best performances came after high school.

"John was a fine runner and a good competitor," former CHS coach Marion Freeman the founder of the CHS cross-country program said.

Freeman, who has been involved with running at CHS since 1958, will shoot off the starting gun at the Invitational as he has for many years.

"I've been involved in track almost all my life," Freeman said. "I love being around the kids and I still enjoy working with the track program and the cross country program. Starting has been a way I can watch the youngsters grow and develop."

Freeman thinks that the cross country program has been making a strong come back. When Earl Hopper, John Reif's coach, left the program, some thought the program dropped



Courtesy of the Reif Family



Jessica Shen

Left: Former Clayton runner John Reif speeds through the finish line. Reif was an exceptional athlete with a time of 9:35 for two miles in 1982. He was killed while riding his bike on Wildhorse Creek Road in Chesterfield, prompting Missouri's "Share the Road" signs. Right: Junior Lewis Kopman races at the Metro Invitational. The Clayton cross country program has changed tremendously since Reif's departure, but is making a strong come back. CHS will host the John Reif Invitational in Shaw Park Oct. 24. Clayton runners are hoping for individual best efforts at this commemorative meet, which 40 teams will attend.

a little in quality, but Freeman says that they are "on the right track to getting it done."

Freeman said he is especially proud of the girls' program, which didn't exist when he began coaching in 1958.

"The quality and performance of the young ladies has been great to watch mature," Freeman said.

Because Shaw Park is somewhat small, runners will cover the bowl-shaped course twice running a total of 3.1 miles.

"This course will allow fans to see a great deal of the race

without having to move around a lot," Assistant Coach Erin Sucher said.

Clayton will be hosting 40 teams in total, and Sucher says that they are looking for individual best efforts.

"I think the way runners perform in this race will be a good indication of how they will perform in districts the following week," Sucher said. "Runners should be able to see how much they have improved."

Freshman runner Nicole Indovino agrees that the team has

improved.

"Over the season we've gotten faster from our training and workouts, and gotten more experience from previous meets," Indovino said.

Indovino acknowledges that cross country is difficult but thinks that it is also rewarding.

"[Our performance in these races] are what we've been working for," Indovino said, referring to the upcoming districts. ☺

Three swim Hounds race towards state

Nina Oberman
Editor

Ten boys at CHS define themselves as "Half Man, Half Hound and Half Fish."

Sporting their distinctive T-shirts, the boys' varsity swim team is working for a successful season this year despite small numbers.

After an early win against Affton, the team struggled to compete with larger schools, losing to Parkway North, West and Central, SLUH, Pattonville and Webster Groves. The Hounds came out victorious, however, against University City and Missouri Military Academy.

"We have a great pair of seniors leading the team this year," coach Wally Lundt said. "Paden DuBois and Tom Maxim are both looking for state qualifying times, as well as junior JB Garfinkel."

Although the team lost some of its strongest competitors, namely Paul Orland, Alex Phillips and Charles Du, the boys are driven to fill this hole.

"I've dropped almost eight seconds this year," said DuBois, who specializes in the 100-yard breaststroke. "I think I'm a little more motivated. You know that there's no one else that's going to be able to do it, so you have to do it by yourself."

Maxim has also seen his times drop for the 100-yard backstroke, and Garfinkel for the 100-yard butterfly and 200-yard IM.

The more experienced swimmers set

tremendous examples for their younger teammates. Freshman Zach Praiss and Sophomore Charlie Beard, who swim the 100-yard breaststroke along with DuBois, look up to him greatly.

"I'd like to be like him when I'm a senior and hopefully go to state," Praiss said.

Coach Lundt praised Praiss's versatility as a freshman.

"He's done really well for us," Lundt said. "He can swim three different strokes where I need him, which helps us win meets."

Praiss competed with Clayton Shaw Park before swimming for CHS, but finds the high school experience extremely different.

"It's much more team-oriented than CSP was," Praiss said. "It's a smaller team, so we're a lot closer going to meets."

Although the size of the team builds a tight-knit community, the Hounds find it difficult to compete with larger schools. Lundt set a goal to win five meets this season, gauging team sizes to determine whether or not competition was realistic.

"When we have everybody, and if we had a diver or two, we could be competitive," Lundt said. "Pattonville probably should have been a win, but we were missing one swimmer that day, and they had a diver, but we don't."

DuBois, Maxim and Garfinkel each consistently win their events, earning important points for the team in meets.

The Hounds are planning to win



Puhan Zhao

Coming up for air, junior James Garfinkel swims the 100-yard butterfly during a meet against Parkway North at the pool at the Center of Clayton. In the last meet, he placed second in the butterfly and first in the the 200 individual medley.

against Ritenour Oct. 31. Until then, the swimmers are focusing on individual improvement.

"Mathematically it's very difficult for a team as small as ours to win meets," manager Caitlin Bladt said. "But the boys always have the opportunity to improve their individual times."

For conditioning, Lundt plans 4,000 to 5,000 yards of swimming each day, using paddles to build arm strength and interval training for speed. Maxim also

trains with his club team.

"In the morning we do weight lifting to build strength, and then I work on technique and body position in the afternoon," Maxim said.

Garfinkel also put extra preparation in for this season, training all winter and playing water polo during the summer.

State finals will be held Nov. 14 and 15. With hard work and tenacity, DuBois, Maxim and Garfinkel will each make it to the pool. ☺

Forever black and gold

With such a large burden on the Missouri Tiger football team this year, what truly separates this team from so many other Missouri sports teams that have choked or been screwed over by any imaginable possibility in sports?

To run down the sadly long list:

Tyus Edny, the 1983 Holiday Bowl against BYU, the kicked ball against Nebraska, the five down game, losing to Troy on ESPN, blowing the second half of the Sun Bowl two years ago, ruining their national title hopes last year in the Big XII title game, and the basketball team seemingly always losing to no-name small schools in non-conference play.

Not to mention the most recent letdown that occurred in Columbia no

less, as the Tigers lost in a stunning 28-23 to the Oklahoma State Cowboys on national television. The same Cowboys were 14 point underdogs to possibly the best, sometimes even deemed unstoppable, juggernaut Missouri offense. How can arguably the most desperate fans in college sports trust their beloved black and gold to not break their hearts one more time?

When given this question, many Tiger fans would probably nod to the senior leadership, Jeremy Maclin, last year's experience, or the fact that they can still make the BCS title game with a little help, but not me.

That's because the real answer is that Mizzou fans can't full-heartedly trust the team yet again.

That doesn't mean fans won't try, but they really cannot in good heart know that the Tigers will pull through in what is supposed to be "their year".

The simple answer is that sports can never be 100 percent predicted, especially not college football.

For example, after LSU and Ohio State lost their last home games last season, how many people honestly did not count them out of the national title hunt? Not many.

And who could have predicted the shocking upset last year in Ann Arbor during which tiny Appalachian State beat the feared Wolverines in

the Big House? These are just a few reasons why no one can truly be 100 percent in their predictions about anything in college football, or even sports for that matter.

That is what truly makes sports such a beautiful thing. That reason is what makes us, the fans, come back, year in and year out, win or lose. And that is why I will continue to bleed black and gold, and truly believe that this is the year another highly ranked Missouri team will finally come through in the clutch and finally win a national title in any sport since the track and field team in 1965, and what would be just the third national title for any Tiger sports team in the history of Missouri athletics. ☺

Turf Tales



Evan Green



Julia Reilly

Senior Hannah Slodounik digs the ball during a game against Whitfield as junior Maggie Lanter looks on anxiously. The girls struggled during the game, losing 0-2. They came back, however, with five consecutive wins, including a crucial victory against rival Ladue.

Varsity volleyball strives for success

Christian Thomas
Reporter

Girls' varsity volleyball has had its ups and downs this season.

"The season hasn't gone exactly how I planned," junior Maggie Lanter said. "We lost close games to beatable teams such as MICDS and Affton."

"Although we have struggled so far, things have taken a turn for the better and we are playing with a better attitude," senior Hannah Slodounik said.

Even with the disappointments, the Hounds are still very optimistic; hoping their hard work during the offseason will pay off for their remaining games.

"I did a lot of running and drills to work on my passing," Slodounik said.

"I attended camps at Washington University as well as the returning players camp this summer to work on my skills," Lanter said. "My dad also helped me work on my athleticism."

The Hounds have a few regular season games before entering the district tournament.

"I hope we can enter the district tournament seeded well and improve on last year's record," Slodounik said.

A pleasant surprise has been the outstanding play of senior captain Neda Svrakic.

"Neda in particular has done a great job so far," Lanter said.

"She had to change positions and has done so with a great attitude."

"I had always been a left strong-side hitter" Svrakic said. "However, this year our coach decided to move me to the middle position. It was a hard transformation because of the different skills and tactics I had to pick up."

A big win the three agreed was the most important was against Ladue.

"They were a good team but we feel we are better," Svrakic said. "We wanted to beat them. Badly."

"Everyone played their part and as a team we had a great game," Lanter said.

"On top of helping my team win, I hope to get more skills to improve my stats," Slodounik said.

A kill is a spike not returned by the other team resulting in a point.

"I am looking to improve my serving as well as getting more digs to improve my stats," Svrakic said.

A dig is defined as preventing a spike from the opposing team from hitting the ground on your team's side.

"As a whole, we are still positive about the remainder of the season," Slodounik said. "We have a lot of potential and hopefully we can begin to play like we are capable of."

"I really love my team and coach this year," Lanter said. "We all respect each other, and since it is our third year together I think our season can still be successful." ☺

One Student's Perspective

Cardinals' Report Card

Tom Evashwick
Reporter

For the second straight year, the Cardinals failed to join the ranks of the Dodgers and Phillies and make the playoffs. However, with their 86 wins, they overachieved in the minds of many. The offense was the best in the league this season, but it was the pitching that let the team down.

1st Base: A – Albert Pujols established himself as one of the best hitters in baseball history, and this year did nothing but supplement his Hall of Fame résumé. He was the best hitter on the best offensive team in the National League. He batted .357, hit 37 home runs and had 116 runs batted in, despite missing 15 games this season. This was by far one of his best seasons. By the time all the awards are handed out, he could have an MVP award, another Gold Glove, and a Silver Slugger Award.

2nd Base: B+ – If the All Star Game was at the end of the season, Aaron Miles would draw some attention as being part of that. Although he didn't play in about 30 games, he still almost got to 400 at bats, and hit .317 this year, a career high. He is the typical middle infielder: short and someone the opposing pitchers don't want to see. While he may not be the fastest guy (three steals in six attempts), he can still make plays worthy of the SportsCenter Top 10, and had an outstanding fielding percentage (.988).

3rd Base: B – Cardinal fans became spoiled by the all-star play of Scott Rolen over the past few years, but Troy Glaus has done a good job replacing him. While Glaus isn't a speedster by any means, he made all of his defensive plays easily, and occasionally threw in an occasional Web Gem. He almost reached the 100 RBI mark with 99, and was third on the team with 27 HR. He also did a good job working the count, and was 10th in the league with 87 walks.

Shortstop: C+ – The former Gold Glover Cesar Izturis has thrown his name into the hat for another piece of hardware this season. His fielding percentage (.980) is the highest of his career, and rarely is there a ball that he can't

get. He stole 24 bases this year, 16 more than Skip Schumaker who was second on the team. The switch hitter hit just .261, but when facing right hand pitchers and hitting from the left side, he hit .290. He struck out just 26 times and hit into a double play just 1.9 percent of his total at bats. However, he shouldn't be counted upon to come up with a big hit – a major reason he hit in the 9th place behind the pitcher for many games this season.

Outfield: A- – This season, the Cardinals debuted a very young and inexperienced outfield. However, it seems that two future All-Stars and a third fan favorite have been discovered. By this time, everyone knows the Rick Ankiel story. The once promising pitcher suddenly lost his ability to throw to the catcher, and was sent to the minors. He worked his way back up and made the Cardinals later in the 2007 season – as an outfielder. In his first game back to the majors, he hit a home run. This season, he displayed his hitting skills along with an electric arm from the outfield. After an amazing return last season, his offensive numbers dropped this year. He hit .264 compared to last year's .285 average, but still hit 25 homers. Despite his large amount of strikeouts, he maintained a very high slugging percentage – .507. Ryan Ludwick is a journey that finally seems to have found a home. He had one of the top batting averages at .299, matched Pujols with 37 HR and knocked in 113 runs. With just one more hit this year, he would have been the 5th Cardinal regular to hit 300 this season. However, like Ankiel, he struck out a lot. He struck out 146 times in 583 at bats, and grounded into 8 double plays on the season. Skip Schumaker showed that he should be yet another Cardinal to be a household name. He was 10th in the league after hitting .302 having 146 hits on the year. He scored 87 runs while driving in 46 runs from a high spot in the order. With these three having years to play together in the future, the Cardinals could establish themselves as having the best outfield in the league.

Catcher: A – Cardinal fans will al-



St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols hits a double to drive in his 100th RBI of the season in the sixth inning against the Chicago Cubs at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, Missouri, Thursday, Sept. 11.

ways remember Yadier Molina for hitting the series winning home run in the 2006 National League Championship Series, and sending the Redbirds to the World Series to meet the Detroit Tigers, who the Cardinals would eventually defeat. Yadi was the best hitting catcher in the league, hitting .304 – which was good enough for top 10 in the league. He hit best at night – batting .315 – which is an incredible feat for a catcher. Because he is a Molina brother, he is great defensively, but also very slow. The gold glove is the leading candidate to win the award once again this year, throwing out 35% of prospective base stealers and maintaining a .986 fielding percentage.

Starting Pitching: C – Given that

their two best pitchers – Cy Young award winner Chris Carpenter and Mark Mulder – missed the entire season, the Cardinals did a decent job filling the gaps. Closer Adam Wainwright was converted into the Cardinals' #1 pitcher, and went 11-3 with a 3.20 earned run average, but started just 20 games. Todd Wellemeyer maintained the lowest ERA other than Wainwright at 3.71, which just about average for a #3 starter. Through the All-Star break, Kyle Lohse had a 12-2 record, but lost three starts in a row in the middle of the Cardinals' push for the playoffs, and finished the year at 15-6, which is still a very good record, but his ERA was high for an elite pitcher at 3.78. Brandon Loper (12-14, 4.16)

and Joel Pinero (7-7, 5.15) finish out the Cardinals' starting rotation with sub-par records and high ERAs.

Bullpen: D – With the Cardinals leading the league in offense, there was a good reason they did not make the playoffs. That reason was the bullpen. In the league leading 73 save opportunities, the bullpen blew 31 saves, a ratio far too large for a contending team. 39 year old Russ Springer was the only relief pitcher with an ERA under 3.30. Ryan Franklin led the team with 17 saves, but walked 30 batters.

Managing: A – Once again, Tony La Russa is in a prime position to take home his fifth career Manager of the Year award. Through injuries and a

deep bench, La Russa brought in players from around the league and played an astrophysicist. He traded away two of the team's most popular players in Scott Rolen and Jim Edmonds who were both perennial all-stars, yet had an improvement of eight wins this year. Because the pitching wasn't as good this season, there were more opportunities for pinch hitters and double switches, both of which La Russa fully utilized.

There was an outfield shuffle this season and you could never feel sure about players would be on the field on any given day, yet the Cardinals were once again in contention for a playoff berth. Overall, the season had its share of excitement and heartbreaks. ♣

Athlete of the Month

Jack Harned



SOCCER

QUOTE FROM THE COACH

"Jack is an extremely hardworking and competitive person, by nature. He has great quickness, particularly blocking low or close range shots, his reactions are seemingly instant. Jack started as a sophomore and in the off season he worked extremely hard to improve his game."
--Coach Matt Balossi

BY THE NUMBERS

Goals Against Average: 0.82	Shut-outs: 4
Winning Average: .500	Save Percent: .842

GOALIE

Summer work ethic pays off for goalie

Evan Green
Editor

Junior goalie Jack Harned's summer workouts are starting to pay off not just for him, but for the Clayton High varsity soccer team as well.

Over the summer, Harned trained with two goalie coaches to improve several aspects of his game.

"The training improved my game by conditioning me as well as helping me to learn to keep a smart position in the goal," Harned said.

Harned's 0.82 goals against average is one of the tops in the area, and this stat

has been increasingly important for a team that has at times struggled to score, and has had to rely on their defense and the ability to hold the other team scoreless.

"My favorite part of being a goalie is how one nice save or one nice grab can turn the momentum of a game around," Harned said.

Harned's ability to make that save came up in the team's biggest win of the season thus far.

That win came on the road in penalty kicks over a solid Westminster team that has given the soccer Hounds trouble in the past.

The penalty kicks followed a back

and forth game that ended in a 1-1 tie after two sudden death overtimes.

"The environment was tense, but our scorers made the kicks they needed to, and I saved some penalty kicks when I needed to, so it was a fun win," Harned said.

Even though Harned has four solo shutouts thus far into the season, he still believes that there are several parts of his game he needs to better.

"I need to improve my decision making on going out to take crosses, which is what I have really been working on recently," Harned said.

At the same time, the mental aspects of the game are what Harned has done

well lately, and propelled him to a .500 winning percentage after a rough start to the season.

"So far I have been trying to communicate well with my team on the field to let them know what to do when they have their backs turned to the other team," Harned added.

Of Harned's positive mental aspects, his physical strengths have been key to the team's recent success. That is, Harned's .842 save percentage.

If Harned continues his development, the soccer Hounds will have a solid chance to repeat as district champions again this season, something the soccer team has not done in a long time. ♣

Football Hounds' record full of inconsistencies

Evan Green
Editor

Despite some strong efforts, the varsity football Hounds have yet to put together a streak of more than two games, winning or losing.

The team has a 4-3 overall record and but more importantly, the team is 2-1 in conference play. The team's lone conference loss came to Berkeley on Sept. 20 in a hard fought 28-17 loss just eight days after winning their conference opener over Ladue.

The Hounds rebounded from the losses to Berkeley and Chaminade with a 29-0 pounding of Imagine College Prep. On a low note, the Hounds lost star senior wide receiver Alex Hill for the rest of the season to an injury that he suffered in the Homecoming game against Chaminade.

"It is unfortunate for Alex who is a senior that this happened," head coach Sam Horrell said. "We will definitely miss Alex. Our game plan does not change as other guys will have to step in and carry the load. Alex is still a part of the team though, him being at practice and games to help mentor the younger players is huge."

As well, the team has had key injuries to seniors Floyd Hemphill and Patrick Cunningham.

In the Hounds' game against Imagine, the team not only picked up their first shutout of the season, but they also got the rushing game going, spreading out the attack for a total of 144 yards on the ground and 155 yards through the air.

The Hounds followed their shutout with a 48-27 pasting of Affton at home in which the Hounds seemingly scored at will. Junior running back Don Stewart ran for the most yards of any Hound in one game all season as he amassed 161 yards and two rushing touchdowns on just 16 carries, not to mention Stewart's receiving touchdown, and on the defensive side of the ball, his six tackles from the linebacker spot.

Stewart's big game was in large part thanks to the offensive line.

"We have really improved our downfield blocking, which has allowed our running game to improve as well," senior offensive tackle/nose guard Jacob Waldman said.

Senior quarterback Adam Banks continued his efficient season, throwing for 154 yards and one touchdown on 11 of

18 passing completions. On the season, Banks has totaled 1324 yards on just 82 completions.

The game was full of bright spots for the Hounds, as junior linebacker Graham Gold had 13 total tackles and senior safety and captain Hal Lewis added 11 total tackles to the team effort.

Lewis' statistics from the game put him closer to his personal goals.

"My personal goals from the start of the season were to finish with more than 100 total tackles, have four interceptions, and to be a first team all conference defensive back," Lewis said.

While those are lofty goals, Lewis already has 81 total tackles.

The win against Affton gave the Hounds their second conference win. The Hounds will visit University City and undefeated Normandy, before returning home to close out the regular season against Jennings.

"In order to make the playoffs, we essentially have to win our last three games," Horrell said.

Thus far into the season, the team feels that they have done several things well.

"We have really come together in practice, and I think we are starting to fully realize our potential," Waldman said.

Horrell echoed the opinions of his captain.

"The team's work ethic has continued week in and week out, which has led to their recent improvements," Horrell added.

On the other side of the debate, the Hounds still feel they have a ways to go in terms of getting to the level of play they need to accomplish their goals for the season.

"On the defensive side of the ball, we need to improve our inside run defense and do a better job of wrapping up (in tackles)," Lewis said. "The offense needs to keep doing what they're doing and catch the ball."

The aforementioned goals were outlined at the beginning of the season.

"Our team goals for the rest of the season are to win the conference, win districts, and ultimately, win a state championship," Lewis said.

If the Hounds can string together consecutive wins in the last two games of the season, then this is a team that will live to play football in November, a four year dream for this year's group of seniors. ♣

Shortstop's dynamic character results in overall achievement

Ijeoma Onyema
Editor

Senior Shannon Harms, current shortstop, additional pitcher, and co-captain for the Lady Greyhounds, has been playing softball since she was four years old.

"It was the first sport I ever played," Harms said. "My parents sort of preplanned it, so I've been raised playing softball all my life."

Though she has played for most of her life, Harms is still considering playing college softball.

"I've been scouted, but not to colleges I plan on going to," Harms said. "Wherever I end up, I'll probably try out there, but I'm going to focus on my schoolwork first."

No matter what she does after CHS, Harms always be remembered fondly by her other teammates. Junior Aireale Johnson-Orange depicted her as the definition of intensity.

"I remember one time before the beginning of the last game someone tried talking to her but she said, 'Not right now, I'm in my zone,'" Johnson-Orange said. "Shannon is truly talented and she really inspires me to become better at softball."

This season, Harms had 41 RBIs, 12 walks, and seven stolen bases. She also scored 28 runs and had 34 hits with 22 singles, five doubles, five triples, and two home runs.

In Harms' opinion, the two home runs were the proudest moments of the season.

"I was really proud of those runs," Harms said. "Both runs were grand slams, and I have never done that this year, so it was

a really big moment for me."

Varsity Coach Christine Langenbacher does not have a specific example that she could regard as her proudest moment for Harms. She believes that Harms gives 110 percent in every game.

"Every moment is a proud moment with Shannon because her heart is always in the game," Langenbacher said. "She made some all-star plays at shortstop and was always dynamite when it was her time to hit. Shannon always finds a way to get the job done when she's on a softball diamond."

Langenbacher considers Harms to be the most influential player she has ever coached.

"She takes the game seriously and plays intensely but at the same time she makes it fun for the teammates she's playing with as well," Langenbacher said. "She is a great defensive player as well as on offense, ripping the ball at the plate."

Like many of the players on the team, Langenbacher believes that Harms is a great influence on and off the field with great character and confidence.

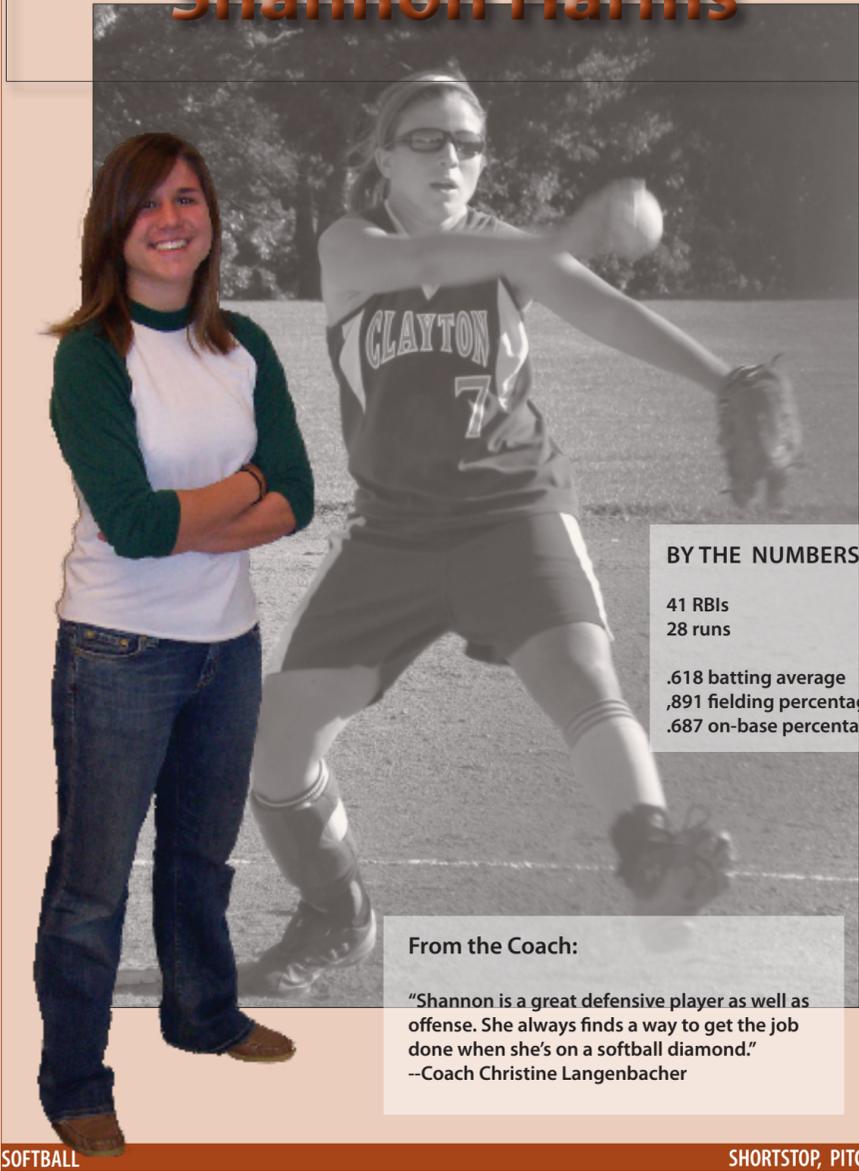
As she leaves behind a legacy CHS won't forget, Harms also leaves behind some last words for the remaining team.

"I wish the next softball team luck," Harms said. "I hope they have a great season and I hope the underclassmen play well for Coach."

Harms finished off her last season at CHS with a batting average of .618, a fielding percentage of .891, and an on-base percentage of .687. ☺

Athlete of the Month

Shannon Harms



BY THE NUMBERS:

41 RBIs
28 runs

.618 batting average
.891 fielding percentage
.687 on-base percentage

From the Coach:

"Shannon is a great defensive player as well as offense. She always finds a way to get the job done when she's on a softball diamond."
--Coach Christine Langenbacher

SOFTBALL SHORTSTOP, PITCHER



Staff Photo

Junior Aireale Johnson Orange and Seniors Shannon Harms and Hayley Rosenblum position themselves for the next pitch.

Varsity softball team reflects on bonding during past season

Katherine Greenberg
Reporter

The varsity softball team has made vast improvements in its record. By the end of their last season, the team ended with a record of 3-16; however, this year the team ended the season with an improved 9-11.

One reason the team has improved so much is because of the 10 freshmen that joined the team this year. Senior Hayley Rosenblum has been on the team for four years, and is enthusiastic to have had more members on the team.

"Our team had been so used to having 13 people on the entire team, with maybe one or two freshmen," Rosenblum said. "It was great having a variety of talent from all different ages."

Co-captain Mary Barber also praises the young talent on the team.

"We had so much new talent and everyone wanted not only to play, but to win too," Barber said. "We never truly had the fire to win until this year."

Freshman Lauren Hill is one of the new additions to the softball team this year.

"I think one of the reasons our team was so successful this year was because we all bonded so well," Hill said.

To bring the team together each member of the team was assigned a buddy that they got presents for.

"Our team bonded better than any team I've played with," Rosenblum said. "Within the first day, it was like we

were all best friends, but we did go to team dinners every once in while to 'bond'."

Barber co-captained the team with fellow senior Shannon Harms. Both have been on the team since freshman year.

“We had so much new talent and everyone wanted to not only play but to win too.”
Mary Barber
Senior

"I think since both Shannon and I have been playing so long we were able to show the freshman the ropes," Barber said. "The captains don't make the team, the players do."

It was this attitude that brought the team together.

Freshman Claire Bliss thought the team had many strengths, and the individuals each had a special abilities beneficial to the team.

"The team was really good about encouraging everyone to make sure everyone stayed competitive and were always motivated," Bliss said.

The softball team was able to become close-knit because of the way they came together and worked hard to improve together.

"We tried to keep the practice atmosphere light and fun in order to let everyone have a good time and really enjoy playing softball," Barber said.

Another reason the team had such a successful year was because all of the members were valued. "Everyone had a role on the team and since everyone fulfilled their roll we had an awesome year," Barber said. ☺

Girls' golf anticipates post-season as teammate proceeds to districts

Caroline Stamp
Reporter

As the girls' golf season comes to a close, the team is looking forward to the state tournament and next year.

"We had eight players this year, and two had tournament experience," girls golf coach and CHS health teacher Melissa Hobick said. "The rest were new golfers."

The girls' golf team was a mix of more serious players and players just learning how to play. One of the new golf players was junior Rebecca Swarm.

"I have only been playing for four months," Swarm said. "But I wanted to learn how to play so I could play with my grandpa, and it looked like fun."

This year was a building year for the team, and they hope to improve their scores for next year.

"A lot of the girls are just learning to golf," sophomore Tierney Rodgers said, "We are still trying to get everyone's skills up before we really concentrate on winning."

The golf team practices at Ruth Park in University City. Although the park is

a small drive from Clayton, the green had its advantages.

"It is a smaller course that worked out great for new golfers just learning the game," Hobick said.

Although the golf team has eight members, only the top five players compete in matches. When scoring, the top four individual scores are taken and added up for a final team score.

"In regular matches we only play nine holes," Swarm said. "But in districts and state, you play 18 holes."

Golf has one of the shortest seasons in Clayton sports. The played 8 matches this year, and in one all-day tournament.

"It's a pretty packed season," Hobick said. "And golf is a hard sport to play and our girls always kept trying and never gave up."

Even though the regular season is already over, the golf team is excited for Rodgers to represent Clayton in state.

"Tierney placed 15th at Districts and is moving on to the state competition," Hobick said.

Rodgers was the only member of the

golf team to make it to state, and she isn't one to boast about it.

"I just hope I can keep up with the strong players at state," Rodgers said.

The whole golf team is very excited for her and hopes she does well in state. But for next year, the team is hoping to improve.

"I would like to see the golfers continue to improve and to bring their scores down," Hobick said.

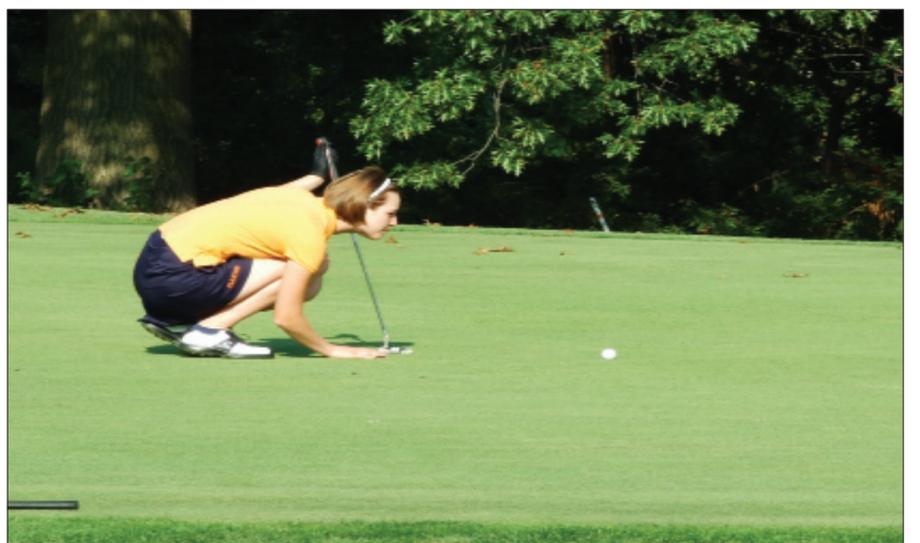
A small team of young players also shows great potential for upcoming years.

"I think this season was awesome," Rodgers said. "And we had no seniors so we don't have to lose any players for next year."

The golf team also bonded quickly, which made for fun practices and great team chemistry.

"I think we really meshed well as a team," Swarm said. "We had fun at practices and would just talk while we putted."

The golf team ended with a record of 2-6, and Rodgers will compete in the State tournament on October 20. ☺



Staff Photo

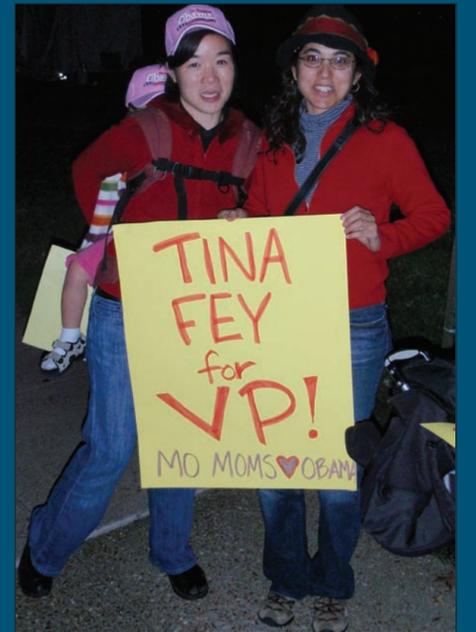
Sophomore Tierney Rodgers estimates her distance before she hits. Rodgers placed 15th in Districts and will be representing Clayton at State.



A McCain-Palin supporter resolutely makes his position known as he chants "Palin! Palin!" amongst a crowd of Obama supporters at the rally on Skinker and Forsyth.



St. Louis resident Mary Chipman screams "Go home Sarah!" as Palin's motorcade passes by on Skinker. An animal rights activist, she stated, "My biggest concern is both McCain and Palin's records for having absolute disdain for any life other than human."

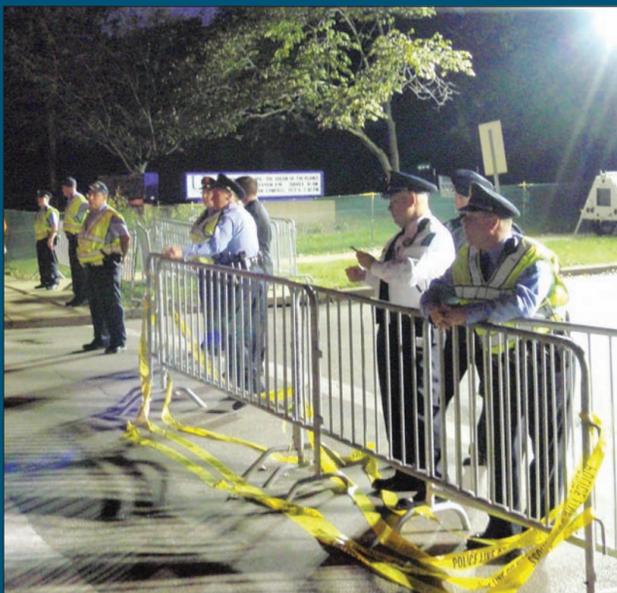
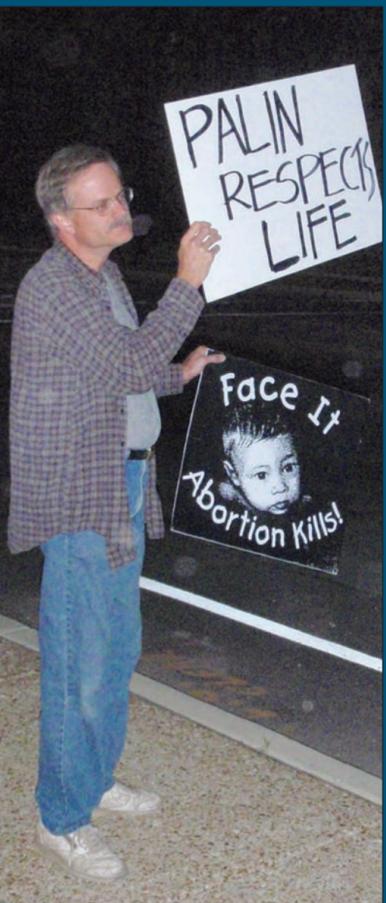


Pauline Lee (Left) and a friend stop for a photo on their way home from the rally to watch the debate. She believes that "Palin may possibly be a wonderful human being, but I think she's completely and totally unprepared to be any sort of leader of the most powerful country in the world."

Taking a stand

Photos and quotes collected by Jeremy Bleeke, Nina Oberman, Leah Eby and Aaron Praiss

On Oct. 2, Joe Biden and Sarah Palin faced off in the election's only vice presidential debate. Across St. Louis, proponents of both candidates poured out to show their support.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Youth supporting McCain-Palin stop for a photo after leaving Palin's post-debate address at SLU's Chaifetz Arena. "Hardcore Right-Winger" Tyler Landis, who supports McCain-Palin and believes that Democrats are "a bunch of psychotic socialists," confronts a passerby at the Obama rally on the corner of Skinker and Forsyth. A man protests Palin at an Obama demonstration earlier in the evening. A girl protests Obama's image of being a political savior. Police gather at the barricade outside of the entrance to Washington University. St. Louis resident Mark Bromeier protests Obama-Biden's position on abortion along with two other families. Bromeier supports McCain because of his "respect for things related to morality."

HOMEcomings SPIRIT

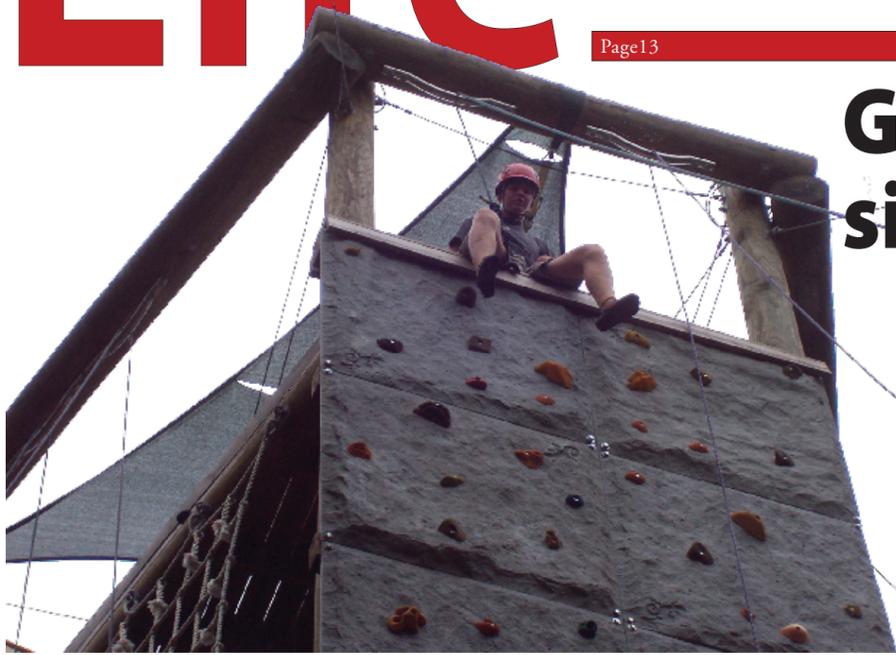
This year's "Blast from the Past" theme allowed CHS to express class pride while paying homage to the 20s, 50s, 70s, and 80s.

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all photos by Julia Reilly

Gamlin missed at sixth grade camp

Rachel Nevels
Reporter

Walking into Ryan Luhnig's office, the commotion of excited basketball players anticipating the up and coming season, deciding what size shoes they needed, surrounded him. Moments later a woman intruded with an important question that needed to be answered right away, which of course was no problem for the very bustling Luhnig. It seemed to be a bad case of one thing after the other. But in addition to his busy role as varsity basketball coach and his new role as administrative intern, Luhnig has taken on the task of being a sixth grade camp director. This year was the first in many without the presence of Joe Gamlin, who passed away this spring.

"It was an Honor, also a thought process to live up to the stuff he's done. It was hard," Luhnig, who was close to Coach Gamlin, said about being chosen to replace him as the high school sixth grade camp director. "I told myself from the get go, to be myself -- I could never be Coach Gamlin. No one could ever be Coach Gamlin."

Terri Lawrence, the middle school sixth grade camp director, was also close to Gamlin and this was her first year working without him, since her start 15 years ago. "Coach's personality and leadership style was missing this year," Lawrence said. Personally, for myself and Mr. Carter, camp was the special place that we all gathered together each year...so we relived many memories and grieved our loss some more."

This year's closing campfire was even more emotional, as each sixth grader from a different cabin dedicated a log to the late Gamlin, out of respect for all he had done for the sixth graders before them.

"I never heard 'Quickly, quickly, quickly' or 'c'mon, you scalawags,'" senior Brooke Lawrence said about the absences of Gamlin. "When I didn't hear that, those were the times when I noticed he was gone."

On the bright side, Luhnig, the new addition to the sixth grade camp team, made a strong impression on many.

"He convinced me he was the man for the job when he found time to write

personal letters to each counselor, load all the teacher's gear personally, inspected all the villages for departure and road the buses home with the counselors and sixth graders, all within 24 hours!" Lawrence said.

As the sixth graders arrived, there seemed to be a boost of energy in the air. All of the counselors waved their cabin flags high and mighty for their sixth graders to see.

Although the counselors seemed to be confident, it is safe to say they didn't really know what to expect from the sixth graders.

"I had to maintain a lot of patience and energy, the patience, I didn't know I had," senior Montrell Bridges said. "For you prospective counselors out there, set good examples for those kids, because they will follow you."

When gathered around the spirit circle before each meal, that's when the energy really seemed to accumulate. This was one of the few times to that counselors interacted with their kids, especially during the cheer offs, where each cabin got to showcase their fun, energetic chants.

Everyone walks away with fond memories.

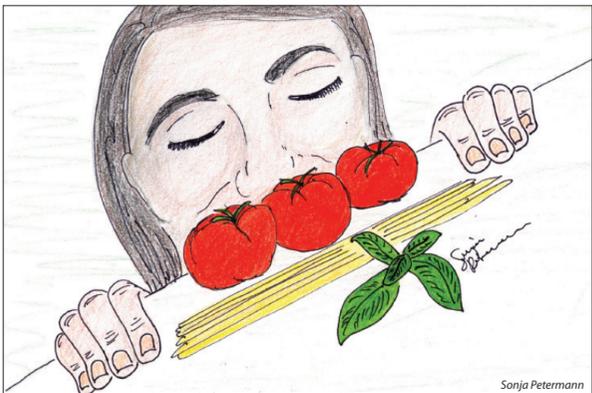
"The first spirit circle had to be my most memorable moment," Luhnig said. "Not only watching how crazy the sixth graders were, but how enthusiastic the counselors were. It made me sit back and think 'wow', these are the people we trusted with this and they are incredible."

Everyone shared their ups and downs, camp was a time of learning and growth, not only for the sixth graders, but also for the teachers and counselors. "When I broke out of my comfort zone, I noticed that my girls respected me much more," Senior Jasmyne Adams said. "No matter what the situation was, they still had respect for me, and looked to me as their parent figure, and we had so much fun together."

Many challenges were faced, from climbing the walls of Tango Tower to hiking for hours at a time on the nature walk. But everyone overcame each obstacle with integrity, and learned something from every experience, something Coach Gamlin would be proud of. ☺



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Junior Luke Madson sits atop the Tango Tower, a part of the high ropes course used to build camaraderie. Senior Morgan Johnson poses with a camper as another camper pouts in the background. Junior Shelby Sternberg and senior Brigham Wheelock show their "Peace Pipe" pride. Wydown science teacher Claudia Wall conducts a lesson on stream biology at the Black River.



Vegetarianism, veganism on the rise among youth

Gabrielle Lachtrup
Reporter

"Christmas day, 2006." Freshman Raihana Omri smiled and closed her eyes at the memory. "I guess that's when I really became a vegetarian. I was on PETA's website, and I saw this really awful video of animals being tortured. I had really wanted to try it for a long time, because I had so many moral issues with the killing of animals."

Vegetarianism, though still a relatively rare lifestyle choice among U.S. citizens, is on the rise, particularly among young people. Groups like People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and The Vegetarian Society now boast over 2 million members, many of them teenagers. Like Omri, other CHS students have been influenced by what these groups' websites have to offer.

"I decided to become a vegetarian when I was browsing through pictures on Google and I saw a site that looked good," freshman Katie Lefton said. "It turned out to be a PETA article on how they [the meat industry] killed animals and did things like keep them in cages that were their exact sizes. That, to me, constituted really terrible abuse."

Despite this, neither girl agrees with some of PETA's more radical forms of

protest, particularly their widely-covered practice of throwing red paint on furled celebrities.

"I think peaceful protest is okay, but when you ruin somebody else's property, it won't stop them from buying more, it just ruins their coat," said Lefton.

Omri disagrees with the controversial tactics as well. "I don't approve of that," she said. "I respect people who become vegetarians, but I don't blame those who don't. Meat is just too tasty."

However, not all CHS vegetarians became vegetarians later in life. Freshman Nia Charrington said, "I've been one my entire life, just because that's how I was raised." Charrington said she's perfectly accustomed to the lifestyle. "It's not actually that hard, since so many people are vegetarians now," she said. "To stay healthy, I end up eating a lot of tofu, vitamins-- you really have to keep up with those-- and lots of vegetables."

Omri, however, admitted to occasionally struggling with the diet's many restrictions. "Sometimes it's really hard if there's really good food around, like pigs-in-a-blanket," she said. "Usually, though, I manage to survive."

Lefton's regrets are more specific.

Vegetarian, 18

Students weigh in on PDA

Fontasha Powell
Senior Managing Editor

Public displays of affection, also commonly called PDA, has always been a minor nuisance to school districts.

Lately, here at Clayton, it seems as if it is becoming a bigger issue as teachers are being forced to reprimand and sometimes even physically separate offending couples.

Students and Staff both maintain different views on the level of appropriateness of PDA.

Senior Katie Poplawski has been dating her boyfriend for roughly a year.

She personally doesn't have a problem with showing her affection.

"I don't think PDA is bad because I do it with my boyfriend," Poplawski said. "But I think that the limit is kissing. I only mind PDA when it goes from hugging or kissing to making out."

Sophomore Seth Thornton agreed with Poplawski to a certain extent.

"I think that we're at school to learn and it's kind of distracting when people have lovey-dovey, but if a couple really likes each other, I guess it's fine," Thornton said. "Usually I encounter PDA at parties, but when I see it at school it's kind of awkward. I think that the limit of PDA is just a kiss on the cheek, which is probably normal. Anything else is a little much."

Junior Drew Hall does not have any problem whatsoever with couples openly expressing their emotion.

"I think that PDA is awesome, and it's really fun, so why not?" Hall said. "I don't think there's a limit to PDA. If you want to do it, then go ahead. If people don't want to see it, then they don't have to watch."

Conversely, social studies teacher Kurtis Werner, who monitors the hallway in between periods, has a different opinion.

"I encounter PDA on a semi-regular basis," Werner said. "At least three of out the five days in a regular school week in hallway between the math and social studies departments. I don't think that



Sonja Petermann

school is the place for that sort of behavior."

Senior Rowland Han strongly disagrees with PDA.

"I think it's disgusting and should be outlawed from school," Han said. "That sort of thing should happen in private and should not go on at school."

Hall thinks that the general attitude concerning PDA has greatly evolved since Wydown, especially where the teachers are concerned.

"At Wydown, everyone would meet on the front or the side of the school just to hug and stuff," Hall said. "And the teachers would shout 'PDA! No PDA!' At the high school, kids don't really get in trouble for it."

To discipline students for physically expressing their affections, Werner usually issues a verbal warning.

"Usually, I tell the students to do it on their own time, away from school property," Werner said. "The freshmen are typically embarrassed when I bust them for it, but for the most part the upperclassmen are pretty nonchalant, as if they don't care."

Poplawski said that her friends don't generally have an issue when she and her boyfriend display their affection publicly.

"Sometimes they say 'ew, gross,' but because we've been dating so long, my friends are pretty much used to it, Poplawski said.

Both Werner and the various students have witnessed various degrees of PDA, 18

News Briefs

Mr. CHS

Senior Patrick Cunningham earned the title of Mr. CHS on Oct. 16 in a pageant that displayed contestants' talents and poise as well as looks. The pageant raised \$800 for the Make-A-Wish foundation, to send a 3-year-old boy to Disney World.

Smith Honored

At the October Faculty meeting, Communications Director Chris Tennill announced that Health Teacher Doris Smith had been selected 2008 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award winner. Clayton teachers nominate their colleagues for the award, and a committee of Clayton's past award winners review the nominations and annually chooses Clayton's recipient. Emerson will honor all of this year's winners at a banquet in November.

National Merit

Thirteen CHS seniors have been named semifinalists in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Competition. The students, who are now eligible to compete for a number of corporate-sponsored scholarships, include: Caitlin Bladt, Jeremy Bleeke, Rowland Han, Carol Iskwitch, William Kass, Meredith McCay, Madeline McMahan, Rebecca Poplawski, Kevin Rusbarsky, Jessica Shen, Lisa Tang, Yiran Su and Yiliu Zhang. Commended students in the 2009 National Merit Program are: Natalia Birgisson, Charles Du, Leah Eby, David Goldstein, Rhiannon Jones, Tom Maxim, Eileen Meneses, Taylor Obata, Benjamin Peipert, Katherine Poplawski and Jordan Stanley.

Athlete Honored

Senior Adam Banks was recently selected by the Post Dispatch as player of the week for rushing and passing for over 290 yards of offense in the 21-14 win over Ladue.

Connecting international communities

While missing an entire week of school seems unappealing to most students, 12 Clayton students take a trip to India in order to establish a lasting and deep connection.

Ken Zheng

Editor

A group of students from Wydown Middle School and Clayton High School went to India this year in order to build their own community and to connect with the students in Mumbai and Delhi, India.

Wydown science teacher Sandra Sermos strives to figure out what children realistically could do to make a difference, and how to integrate that aspect into her teaching.

Last spring, Gautam Yadama, Washington University faculty member, wanted Sermos to meet a visiting professor from Washington University: Dr. Usha Nayar. Nayar also judged one of the debates at WMS and felt compelled to facilitate a connection between students between Indian and American schools. Nayar is one of the vice-presidents of DAV (Dayananda Anglo Vedic School) governing board.

Though Sermos at first thought that this project would be too much effort, Nayar's persistent inquiries got through in the end. Nayar talked about the KHOJ, a national science fair and wanted to include an entry from Clayton kids, in the fair.

Because Sermos thought that time was too short for preparing an entry, Nayar instead went suggested that the Clayton students present a topic during the KHOJ in the form of a symposium—a panel type presentation and discussion.

The group then formed around seven seventh graders, Marie Warchol, Carly Beard, Adam Rangwala, Wayne Sexton, Parker Schultz and Arya Yadama; one freshman, Ian Docherty; and four juniors, Madeleine Docherty, Cynthia Koehler, Will Schedl and Ken Zheng. Also on the trip were Brown student, Jill Kuhberg; and teachers Claudia Wall and Sandra Sermos; as well as Arya's father, Gautam Yadama.

The trip, which was free to students except for visa applications and airfare, began on Sept. 27, when the group departed for Mumbai, India on an 18-hour plane ride. After staying the night at the DAV guest house, the group departed by train to Delhi on Sept. 30. Once in Delhi, the group attended KHOJ and presented a symposium on water. They arrived back in the U.S. on Oct. 4.

In India, the group gave a presentation on water quality including aspects of what they've done in the past as well as what they're trying to establish: international water protocols that will be used to not only determine the quality of water, but to determine how to improve it.

The presentation centered on the name for the group, "C Cubed," which stood for Community, Conservation Science and Connections. In India, the group learned at the DAV school in Mumbai that the Indian three C's were Culture, Compassion and Competence, and thus became C Cubed². The group also presented a website that could be used to build connections with Indian schools.

After the KHOJ was over, the rest of the time was spent synthesizing the information and immersing themselves in the contrasting culture including activities such as visiting Gandhi's eternal flame and shopping at local stores.

When asked how she felt about the overall success of the trip, Nayar responded with optimism.

"I believe that children at a global level must meet together, especially from two democracies such as the U.S. and

India to determine the problems that directly affects them," Nayar said. "They also need to have a deeper knowledge through the collaboration with each other and find the solution. This will most likely happen over a period of time once the children meet each other and understand each other to perform this task."

Nayar realized the group shared certain common traits such as openness, adaptability, the willingness to work on their own time. Also, they had families that are willing to reciprocate to invite Indians over.

"There are three parts to the project; the exchange, the project, and the sharing of the experiences with the overall community.

"We struggled with conveying to parents, teachers and administrators how the students will be going into safe hands," Nayar said. "Of course, the children have been excited since day one. Overall, everyone has cooperated. I feel that the Clayton school is the pioneer school who will invite other schools to become a part of the program. The topic that was chosen this year was water, next year the topic could be energy or other topics."

The interactions between the children fascinated Nayar. The assumptions and myths that melted away during the interactions increased the level of friendliness. The other aspect was that they shared a common goal.

"What are the environmental problems that they have come together to solve?" Nayar said. "I feel that children from both sides have been transformed and I'm very encouraged to sustain the collaboration."

Nayar thinks that it will take an extent of five to seven years for the problem to have real definition. She said these children have the capacity to make a difference and next year, the DAV children already have plans to go to Clayton.

Junior Cynthia Koehler was most fascinated by the differences in culture.

"I learned that they have a very different school system and that we, as Americans, are very spoiled," Koehler said. "We're used to getting what we want and need while in India, you just have to make do with what you have. In America, we take water for granted most of the time but in India we learned that water was really a commodity in most parts of the world. Showers, for one thing, because we use buckets to shower and we have to drink bottled water?"

Koehler also realized that in India, there's a different sense of personal space and the hospitality is much different.

"We're always moving and we haven't spent more than two nights in one location," Koehler said.

“Overall, India is developing in many places and it has a great future. But like so many other places in the world, it has to pull together before it can step forward. I love it here and it's a lot fun. I will definitely come back.”

Cynthia Koehler
Junior

“Overall, India is developing in many places and it has a great future. But like so many other places in the world, it has to pull together before it can step forward. I love it here and it's a lot fun. I will definitely come back.”

standing of their privilege," Yadama said. "They were able to observe and contrast the privileges that they come with, and the resources that they take for granted. I could see many of the American children were impressed by how much the Indian children were doing with science



Photos Courtesy of Will Schedl

ABOVE: Junior Cynthia Koehler discusses cultural differences between the countries with Head Boy Rishabh Jain of DAV. BELOW right: Fisherman of India during sunrise as seen on the train ride from Mumbai to Delhi.



ABOVE: High school Indians at DAV in Delhi performing a chemistry lab. BELOW (from left to right): Juniors Ken Zheng, Cynthia Koehler and Will Schedl present part of the group's Powerpoint during the Water Symposium.



and math with fewer resources."

Yadama coincided the trip with one of his own trips to the Institute of Social Sciences and the Ministry of Environment of Forest in India.

"Whenever possible, I spent some time with the group in addition to doing my own work," Yadama said.

Yadama accompanied the group as they traveled to Delhi to attend the KHOJ and interact with the students there.

On the last day before going back to Mumbai, the group met senior Rishabh Jain. Jain is Head Boy at the DAV public school and interacted with Koehler and even played soccer together.

The rest of the group also enjoyed recreational activities in the Indian school such as cricket and chess.

"The most interesting aspect of my school is the balance between the academics and sports as well as the ability to preserve our culture," Jain said. "Our school is number one around Delhi. In this branch of the school, we have

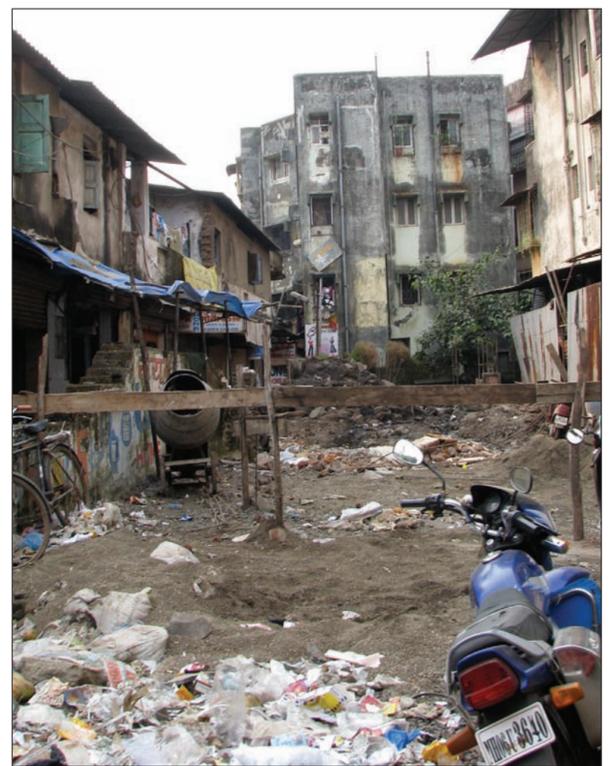
roughly 3000 children. DAV is a national institute and our school is one of the parts."

The House system that the group learned about entails six Houses in this DAV school with each one having a house captain and four prefects. Above all the Houses are the Head Boy and Head Girl.

The duty of the Head Boy and Head Girl is to coordinate all the activities of the Houses and all the competition between the Houses such as debate. All the sports are played between the Houses including soccer, volleyball, gymnastics, swimming and basketball.

Lajwanti Yadava, biology teacher and Supervisory Head of classes 11-12, explained the school system in India in even more depth. There are a total of eight supervisory heads for the school.

School starts at 7:25 and begins with morning prayer and morning assembly. In the assembly, important news is announced so that the entire school is aware of what's going on within the



ABOVE: The streets of Delhi are strewn with trash. Old buildings can often be seen next to newer complexes. India's wealth, while on the rise, will still take some time to eliminate poverty in major cities such as the capital.

world and within the school.

Every morning the staff also thinks of five English words that children often mispronounce.

"We have eight periods in a day, each 40 minutes long," Yadava said. "After four periods, we have recess and then the students go back to class. We have fixed timetables and we have three streams."

These streams are for students oriented into a specific field and are: science, commerce and humanities. Yadava also feels very involved in her students' lives.

"If there's any problem they face that they cannot work out with teachers," Yadava said, "they come to me and I act as a mediator between the student and teacher to work out the problem. All children, Indian and American alike, love to play, and they want to go out and do what they like. From our side, we try to help them with it."

Though outsourcing of American jobs often goes to eastern hemisphere countries, Yadava does not attribute this to the education systems.

"I don't find a great difference between the education systems between India and the U.S.," Yadava said. "Aside from the structure of the classes, the children are very similar, everyone loves to play and party. Here, I think the parents are slightly more career-oriented and try to push the children that I don't think is fair because children should have their own choices."

Now that they are back, the group begins planning for the Indian trip to the United States that will tentatively start on May 16.

They plan on showing the upper-classmen from India through the high-level classes as well as special programs such as theater and sports.

A key point for the trip would be determining what a 20th century classroom should be like. DAV plans on sending 12 to 16 students to the U.S.

"If we go back next year in October, we must have some serious, heavy-duty stuff to talk about," Sermos said. "We're here to make a difference." ☺



The Lemp Neighborhood Arts Center provides an alternative to commercial music, a place where artists can experiment with different sounds. The center has been hosting a wide range of musical performances for 12 years.

Lemp Arts Center breaks music mold

Hannah Callahan
Staff Reporter

Board member Charlie Turner, 21, sat at the Lemp Neighborhood Arts Center, a corner store converted into an all ages venue for DIY and experimental music.

The Lemp is located in the south side of St. Louis, almost in the shadow of the Anheuser Busch Brewery. The venue was founded in 1996 by Mark Sarich.

Behind Turner is a wall of stickers, displaying abstruse bands that have played here, like "Muscle Brain" and "Modern Life is War." The room is occupied by couches facing forward, towards a drum set and speakers, one of which that holds a stuffed giraffe that "just showed up here one night." Most conspicuous is the absence of a stage; the Lemp breaks the façade between a performer and his audience.

"People don't see music this way," Turner said. "When they think of someone who's going to be a musician, they think that they have to be a superstar. It's a certain way of seeing things."

Turner represents people who have rejected mainstream music.

"At the Lemp," Turner said, "the music has integrity. It's easy to lose that in the industry."

No longer do people look to MTV, or listen to the radio. The omnipresent iPod has changed the way music listened

to and marketed.

The Lemp Neighborhood Arts Center, whose motto is "No Booze, No Drugs, No Jerks," is a community of musicians, artists, and vehement supporters who escape commercialized music, even if it's just for the length of a show.

Board member Jack Callahan, 18, a Clayton High School graduate who is currently attending Hampshire College in Massachusetts, said, "[The Lemp Neighborhood Arts Center's] goal is to better the community, and improve the emotional and mental well-being of young people."

Like Turner, Callahan is tired of music made to sell records.

"In commercial music," he said, "no new information is presented; it's a repetition of what has been done in the past. Music should be about changing society and enlightening people—it's all about communication."

At the Lemp Neighborhood Arts Center, people who share the same indignation for mainstream music come together as a family.

"The best moments are when you're surprised during a performance, and reminded why you're doing this," Turner said, "the shared experience is incredible, knowing it's not just you; there's everyone else in the room."

Turner's attendance to concerts depends on the season, confessing that he comes six to seven times a week during

the summer.

"I get the best feelings I've ever felt from music," he said.

A typical show at the Lemp Neighborhood Arts Center features music from a broad spectrum, such as noise rock band Neptune, who welded their own instruments from bike parts, saw blades, gas tanks, and oil drums.

"The focus is entirely on the performance," Turner said, describing shows, which usually last until 1 a.m.

The couches are pushed back before the performance, while audience members crowd around the band, within sweating distance. Heads nod rhythmically, and bodies sway.

The audience sings along to songs they know, and contributes to the music by clapping their hands or stomping their feet en masse. Looking around the room, everyone seems like the perfect candidate for a high school outcast.

"Once during a Brain Transplant concert, the band was playing noise music so loud from their laptop that the amplifier started smoking," Callahan said, laughing. "One guy smashed the laptop. The amplifier was literally on fire. I remember thinking, 'this is something I am going to remember for a while.'"

At the Lemp Neighborhood Arts Center, nonconformity is praised.

"Just because it's not on the radio doesn't mean it's not worth hearing," Turner said.

Sing for Safety promotes teen driver safety

Jessica Lefton
Staff Reporter

Every year, 250 people lose their lives in a Missouri accident where a teen driver is involved, according to Operation Stop. In addition, a Missouri teen is killed in a driving accident every 43 minutes. With numbers this high, it is no wonder that the Galls felt a need for change.

"The organization was started after there was a fatal accident in my yard," says Mindy Gall, President of Sing For Safety, a non-profit organization whose goal is to improve teen driving safety. "Then, a second boy died later that summer. He was the same age as my daughter."

Working together with her daughter, Melissa, the Galls single-handedly started the Sing for Safety organization last year, at the time hoping to put on a charity concert, (thus the "sing" part of their name). While the concert has so far been only an idea, the organization

has done a lot of work with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) to improve teen driving safety.

"We held a prom fashion show in the spring," says Gall. "Prom is one of the most unsafe times for teens."

The show featured public service announcements one screens behind the models and seat belts worn as sashes to promote the driving theme.

"I volunteered at a booth teaching people about driving safety," says senior Jenna Wonish, who worked at both the fashion show last spring and the Modot Pointfest booth in September.

Wonish thoroughly enjoyed working with Sing for Safety, especially because it is promoting an issue which affects her personally. "I do a lot of driving, so I know what it's like to come close to being in accidents. [Sing for Safety] interests me because they are trying to help reduce accidents and promote safe driving to save lives."

One way this is done is with the annual Battle of the Belts, a program presented by MoDOT to improve the num-

ber of teens who wear seat belts. In 2006 Clayton participated and won the award for the highest seat belt use in the Saint Louis Area, but has not participated since then.

But while we are not active participants in the Battle, it is clear that driving is an issue which resonates with CHS students.

"I think teen driving safety is important because teens can be more immature than adults when it comes to driving," says senior Dominique Graham, who also volunteers for Sing for Safety. "We sometimes make stupid decisions that can put ourselves and others in danger. I know some teens who don't see it as a big deal, so they need to have some information that can convince them otherwise."

Gall whole-heartedly agrees. "[Sing for Safety exists] to empower teens to encourage their peers to be safe," says Gall. "This message should be peer to peer."

Sing for Safety is looking for volunteers, so if you are interested in promoting safe driving, be sure to check out the website, www.singforsafety.org.

The Big Read comes to CHS

Cultural Festivals presents an event that encourages and celebrates reading within the city of Clayton

Taylor Stone
Editor

"If you devour, inhale, weep over, wish you wrote, laugh aloud at, underline, dog-ear, ponder, talk about, dream about, live through, can't live without or simply love books, mark your calendar."

This phrase illuminates the top of the St. Louis event The Big Read's official website, fully emphasizing the event's status as the jewel of the St. Louis literary community.

Held on October 11, The Big Read festival featured publishers, book-sellers, national authors, readings, book signings, panel discussions, workshops, and demonstrations. It also had an interactive children's area with readings, costumed characters, and games.

The Big Read is presented by Centene Corporation, but produced and presented by Cultural Festivals, which is a non-profit cultural organization, specializing in cultural special events that aim to educate and entertain simultaneously.

Cultural Festivals, started in 1994, has produced and presented other esteemed events such as The St. Louis Art Fair in Clayton and The St. Louis Jazz & Heritage Festival. Over 2,000 volunteers are employed in a wide variety of leadership roles through the organization.

One of the volunteers was CHS's own Library Media Specialist Lauren DeRigne.

"Each year, all the librarians from the School District of Clayton have a booth," DeRigne said. "This year, we offered the game 'Are You Smarter Than a Librarian?' So I volunteered in our booth for the Big Read from 8-noon."

Clearly, the focus was not on the success and prowess of the organization producing the event, but the goal of the event itself—to promote reading within the community.

"The turnout was roughly around 5,000 people," said the event's author consultant Lisa Greening. "However, we do not have the official attendance count yet."

Greening is also a Clayton High School graduate. She emphasized some major changes this year to the festival.

"The number 1 difference was the location from downtown Clayton to on the CHS campus," Greening said. "Everyone stayed a part of the festival, instead of people being focused on the restaurants down town."

"The reason why we changed was primarily to increase food and music in the festival itself, including dancers and jugglers."

Another change was the increase in available workshops during the event.

"Workshops such as how to publish a book, how to draw manga, etc. were such a big hit last year that we wanted to have a facility to take those classes in," Greening said. "We were able to use the rooms in the school for these classes."

Another big hit was the attendance of children's authors and an extensive children's area during the fair.

"This year, the children's authors came a week early to visit,

and they attended 32 schools, which is a major increase from last year," Greening said.

DeRigne particularly enjoyed the children's section.

"My favorite part was the variety of activities offered for the preschool and elementary age children," DeRigne said. "My son came, who is 2 1/2 years old and he had a great time. He loved all the characters that walked around and performed for the kids. There was the Cat in the Hat, Winnie the Pooh, Clifford, Madeline and a few more. He talked about them all weekend."

Junior Simone Bernstein, who attended the festival, also was pleased with the children's area.

"I think it encouraged younger kids to read and participate in unique activities," Bernstein said. "Many were very creative and accumulated a large attendance."

Despite the seemingly effortless success of the event, Greening reflected that the process of organization and planning "takes longer than you would think".

"In the spring, I go to New York City and talk to publishers about new books coming out in the fall and authors going around touring to promote their books. In the mid summer, we are confirming authors if they accepted proposals to come, and by the end of the summer we are finalizing the program guide and other details. We also have to organize flying the authors, which totaled to 42, in to St. Louis."

It is an extensive process to choose the authors in the first place.

"We look to see who has books coming up in the fall, and an advisory group of 12 talks about authors, decides who to bid for, and determines who St. Louisians would want to come hear," Greening said. "Some authors who wanted to come actually had to be turned down."

Even before authors are discussed and chosen, the development of the event had to be confirmed.

"The director (Laura Miller) actually had to be raising money from major sponsors before the organizational process even began, so the entire process took about 1 year," Greening said.

Despite the positive response from the long planning for The Big Read, there are some aspects that could welcome change.

"The use of the auditorium (for presentations, workshops, etc) didn't work," Greening said. "Everyone wanted to stay outside participating in the festival. Next year we will probably expand the outside area as much as possible."

An issue with conflicting events also was apparent.

"There was a lot going on the weekend of the festival," Bernstein said, "If the Jaguar Show and the Fall Festival hadn't been going on, most likely more people could have attended."

Despite a couple issues, The Big Read was altogether a great success as a fun awareness for reading in the community.

"Any event that celebrates a more intellectual form of entertainment, like reading, is good for a community," DeRigne said. "It shows we value reading in our children's lives and our own lives."

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month serves as reminder, symbol

Jocelyn Lee
Staff Reporter

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM) began as a week-long event to spread public awareness about breast cancer, a rarely discussed topic. Over the years, NBCAM, now designated as the month of October, has grown to be nationally recognized and celebrated.

For many people, NBCAM means pink grocery store bags, a pink Arch, and a large pink ribbon on their Cheerios box. However, for a significant fraction of the population National Breast Cancer Awareness Month bears a lot more meaning.

"It's a little disconcerting because it's a very public reminder," CHS principal, Louise Losos, said when speaking of a pink-themed Schnucks store. Losos struggled with breast cancer only two years ago at the age of 38.

"I was young to get it," Losos said. Mammograms for women typically start at the age of 40. However, doctors sometimes begin them at a younger age when breast cancer is prominent in a family's history.

"[Breast cancer is] still considered a rare disease among young women," said Jennifer Ivanovich, genetic counselor and director of the Young Women's Breast Cancer Program at Siteman Cancer Center in St. Louis. However, Ivanovich said breast cancer is one of the most common cancers, if not the most common in women ages 20 - 40.

"Most people think it's only women in their 50s," said breast cancer survivor Ann Shields, a member of the Susan G. Komen committee in St. Louis. "But more and more young women are being diagnosed with [breast cancer]."

Shields' story shows the importance of self-examination. She went to a mammogram one month, and no signs of cancer were detected. However, three months later she discovered a sign of breast cancer through self-examination, and radiation.

Shields said her biggest advice for young people is to get your family history. "Be a self-advocate," Shields said. Losos has similar advice. "Be conscientious," she said. "Do those things that one is supposed to do. [If you notice something,] it's better for it to be checked out and it be nothing at all."

insurance."

Inadequate health insurance is a huge obstacle that an enormous number of people face.

"It's a huge challenge for the country as a whole," Ivanovich said. "And people who have breast cancer - their insurance rates will always be affected by their cancer history."

Besides financial problems, Ivanovich said racial issues might also come into play with breast cancer.

"African American women have the lowest survival rate," said Ivanovich. She also said there is a great deal of research going on addressing financial and racial issues and how they affect survival of breast cancer.

There are currently over 2 million women in the United States who have been treated for breast cancer, according to nbcam.org. The American Cancer Society estimated that in 2008, about 182,460 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed among women in the U.S. In addition, there is likely to be a number of recurrence cases.

"The higher the stage [of breast cancer], the higher the likelihood the cancer will return," Ivanovich said. The different stages are used to measure the type and severity of breast cancer cases. They are based upon the size of the tumor and whether the cancer has spread.

As breast cancer awareness has increased over the past few decades, the number of those diagnosed with it has decreased.

"We've come leaps and bounds from where we were 30 or 40 years ago," Shields said. "People are more comfortable talking about [breast cancer] because it's so prevalent in our society."

"Twenty-five years ago, women didn't talk about breast cancer, they didn't talk about mastectomies," Ivanovich said. "[Today breast cancer] is much more a part of our dialogue. The number of women dying with breast cancer has decreased and the incidence rate has gone down."

Shields said her biggest advice for young people is to get your family history.

"Be a self-advocate," Shields said. Losos has similar advice.

"Be conscientious," she said. "Do those things that one is supposed to do. [If you notice something,] it's better for it to be checked out and it be nothing at all."

Ready for the Future

According to 2008 graduates, Clayton prepared them well for freshman year at challenging universities.

Maddie Bullard
Reporter

Senior year: college time. For students at CHS, getting into college is generally one of the main priorities their final year here.

Most kids end up getting into a school they are happy with, and looking forward to moving in at the end of summer.

But just how prepared are these seniors for the challenges that lay ahead? College, as we all know, is the first step to true adulthood, and the responsibilities and challenges that come with it.

University of Illinois college freshman Natalie Turza felt that her two years at CHS prepared her for college.

"I think that it depends on your major and where you go to college, but all around I don't feel overwhelmed at all," Turza said.

The activities and sports Turza was involved in during high school were also beneficial to her transition to college.

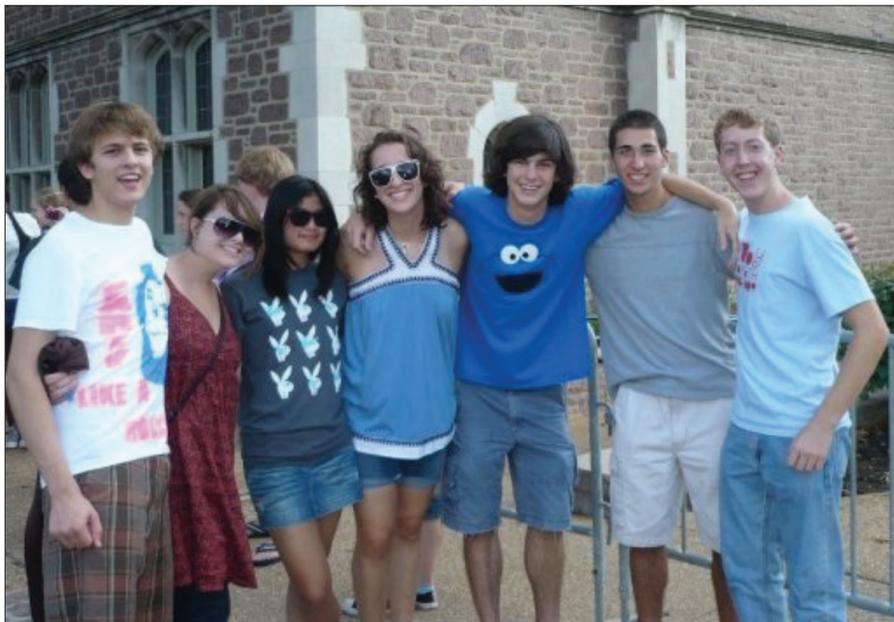
"I learned a lot of time management skills in high school from being in clubs and sports," Turza said. "The more involved you are and the more you challenge yourself, the easier college will be."

However, she maintains that college is a different environment from high school in terms of academics.

"Here, there aren't worksheets that you have to do every day or anything like that, there are more long-term assignments that you just have to plan out on your own time," Turza said.

Turza felt that the English program in particular, although strong and helpful for high school students, isn't used at many universities.

"I only went to Clayton for two years so I learned how to



Courtesy of Michal Hyrc

Hanging out with friends on Washington University's campus, '08 CHS grad Michal Hyrc is enjoying his first year of college and said he was well prepared for his work there. When asked which class at CHS helped him prepare the best for college, Hyrc said that Rex Rice's AP Physics class was awesome, and that he each day he subconsciously thanks Mr. Rice for teaching such a great class.

write a paper without conferences, but I think for some students it might be hard to adjust to not having that," Turza said. Overall, Turza feels that her experiences at Clayton have softened her transition into college.

"From my years there I got so much out of it and it really helped me in college," Turza said.

Southern Methodist University freshman Jackie Wilcher agreed.

"I think Clayton did a really good job of preparing me for college socially and academically," Wilcher said. "I have been able to keep up in all of my classes and I've made some really good friends."

However, Wilcher feels that the focus on taking very challenging courses in order to be accepted to good colleges may have been overemphasized.

"I know that I took some difficult classes just to build up my resume, and not that having a strong background isn't important, it's just that taking a variety of classes is also important," Wilcher said. "Most likely, you will end up at a college that is right for you, so while in high school, I think that taking classes that seem interesting is something students should do."

Wilcher felt that the intense academic environment at Clayton contributed to this issue.

"At Clayton there was a lot of pressure to take the hardest classes because everyone is so driven, but students should remember that they are there to learn not just make themselves look smart," Wilcher said.

Harvard college freshman Whitt Downey also thought that Clayton had successfully prepared him for college.

"I feel very prepared for college," Downey said. "My classes in Chemistry and Biology in particular prepared me very well for my college life science courses."

However, Downey also thought that the college environment was different from that of CHS.

"CHS could make it clear to graduating seniors that they will have to study in very different ways in college," Downey said. "Methods that worked in high school don't always work at college."

University of Illinois college freshman Erin O'Neal has also seen her high school career pay off in college. She recognized the benefits of her large high school workload.

"A lot of people I have met are having a tough time adjusting to the workload of school and the fast pace of classes," O'Neal said. "Clayton taught me how to study and most importantly how to manage my schedule."

Specifically in English and history courses O'Neal feels she has an edge over the other students.

"I feel like I have a definite advantage in English and History courses because of all the writing I did in high school," O'Neal said. "For example a girl on my floor was talking about her high school and said the longest paper she had ever written was 4 pages...[At] Clayton that just isn't the case."

In O'Neal's case, taking challenging courses paid off in college.

"There were times during high school when I thought the workload was too much, or didn't see the point in taking AP classes," O'Neal said. "But now that I am here I'm really glad I put in all that work because it is really paying off."

O'Neal also advises high school students to keep perspective about being accepted to colleges.

"I would say maybe they should emphasize more balance during high school," O'Neal said. "It really isn't necessary to take 10 AP classes between junior and senior year."

O'Neal also assured CHS students that there are a variety of colleges out there, despite what many may think.

"[CHS should] help seniors realize that there are a lot of good schools out there," O'Neal said. "I feel like there was a lot of pressure to get into 'a good school' which most people define as the Ivy Leagues and few select others."

Overall, the college freshman feels that CHS prepared them for the next four years of college. ☺

“I feel like I have a definite advantage in English and History courses because of all the writing I did in high school.”

Erin O'Neal
College freshman



MCT Campus

Mac or PC? Clayton Schools purchased Mac computers for classrooms because of Apple software.

Apoorva Sharma
Reporter

At the Clayton School District, there are around 100 PCs. The rest – the other 1400 computers – are Macs. The numbers make it clear that the district has chosen to predominantly use Macs as opposed to PCs.

Macs, also called Apple Computers, are scattered across all the classrooms in Clayton. Why Mac?

Macs come with various features that are useful to students and teachers alike, but these features in turn come with a high premium. PCs generally cost less than an equivalent Mac.

For example, an Apple iMac, available for \$836, has slightly less computing power than a Dell Studio Slim Desktop, priced at \$549. However, Clayton is not sacrificing money for features on the computers.

"The initial decision to purchase Apple computers instead of PCs was made because Apple gave education tremendous discounts on their hardware and software," Chief Information Officer Devin Davis said.

This discount is the main reason that the district is mostly Mac-based. However, Macs provide some more benefits. Macs come with the iLife package, which bundles programs such as iPhoto, iMovie, and GarageBand, which let users manage photo libraries, create movies, and create their own music respectively.

"These Apple applications are free and their equivalent would have to be purchased for a PC thus offsetting some/

all of the difference in hardware cost," Davis said. "Most other titles like Office and Photoshop have PC and Mac versions."

Michael Rust, who teaches math at CHS uses some educational software to aid his teaching. For example, in his geometry class, he uses a program titled *The Geometer's Sketchpad*, which allows him to demonstrate various theorems to the class. However, he says that PCs would let him do the same.

"They make a version of Sketchpad for PCs, so I don't think it would make a difference if we used PCs instead of Macs," Rust said.

Even though classrooms are filled with Macs, there are still about 100 PCs in the district. Therefore, the goal of the technology department is to enable both types of computers to work with the Clayton system.

"Our objective in the Technology Department is to make sure both platforms are compatible with our network and infrastructure," Davis said.

Since both Macs and PCs are able to use the Clayton infrastructure and network, there is room for change.

"The decision of what platform we should be operating is a decision that has to be made by the teachers, students and parents of the school district," Davis said.

This decision could be a hard one. "The Apple vs. PC debate is very personal to some people, much like religion or politics," Davis said.

Students at Clayton take both sides on this issue. Some people, such as freshman Matt Mikesic, like the fact that Clayton uses Macs.

"The school computers are compatible with my laptop, which is also a Mac," Mikesic said. "Therefore, I don't feel uncomfortable using the Macs at school."

Some students do not agree.

"The main issue for me, is that PCs are much more cost effective than Macs - in that they give more tangible benefits proportional to the price you pay," freshman Shuyang Li said.

Li explained that these benefits include the fact that there is more software made for PCs.

However, although the student body is almost evenly divided, Rust thinks that there is almost no chance of a switch from Macs to PCs for Clayton.

"Even though we would still be able to do the same things on PCs, switching would be a hassle," Rust said. "Everyone would have to figure how things are done on the new system. Also, it would be very expensive."

Davis takes a neutral position in this argument. He thinks that eventually there won't be a difference between the two.

"Michael Dell said in an interview a few months ago that within the next decade, the personal computer will only be a portal to the internet," Davis said. "If that is true, (and I agree) the brand of computer on your desktop is meaningless." ☺

Facebook undergoes significant changes

Nicholas Andriole

Editor

The popular social networking website Facebook has recently undergone significant layout and format changes.

Facebook was launched in 2004 by Harvard drop out, Mark Zuckerberg. Facebook has since grown to 100 million active users worldwide, mostly attracting young adults.

Through profiles, networks and groups Facebook is both a means of communication, sharing photographs and videos and an opportunity to meet people in your community and abroad. The new platform has been progressively phased in since its launch on July 21. However, on Sept. 10, users were forced to switch over to the new platform.

The new features include filter feeds, customized tabs, and faster navigation.

"We've made the changes in order to highlight the most recent and relevant information that users value, give users even more control and ownership over their profiles and simplify the user experience," said Zuckerberg in a company press release. "Facebook's new design makes it a lot easier for users to share information, and we encourage them to check it out."

Earlier versions allowed users to view entire profiles along with demographic and contact information on one screen in lieu of the new tabbed browsing layout.

"I would like it if you could view people's entire profiles without having to click on different sections," senior Claire Miller said. "I would also like the wall to be a separate feature from the mini feed. I wish old features would return, like the big picture application."

Senior Max Freedman agrees with Miller that the tab browsing is inconvenient.

"The new tabs unnecessarily create more steps involved in accessing and browsing a profile," Freedman said.

Other new features include the ability to upload photos and other multimedia to other users profiles using the Publisher feature. However, the newer version requires that users view this information in tabs.

Students find some of the changes unwelcoming. "I don't really like the new Facebook platform," Miller said. "There was no need for change and it is extremely hard to get used to. The way people's walls and minifeeds are combined into one feature is really annoying and confusing."

Some changes appear to be disliked by many users. A simple search on the website yields hundreds of social groups instructing users unintended loopholes and tricks of how to return to the old platform.

Senior Siobhan Jones dislikes the new platform and thinks Facebook should continue supporting the older platform.

"I think Facebook should offer users to opportunity to continue using the older platform," Jones said.

While many of the changes appear to be disliked, some believe the new platform offers timely improvements.

"I like the new home screen with the enhanced news feed," Freedman said.

Facebook also plans to open its new platform to web developers around the world through Facebook connect. Facebook believes linking their content to external websites is key. Some early adopters of this platform include Citysearch and CBS.

"We're confident that the new profile and integration points will give entrepreneurs and developers even greater opportunities to build their businesses and deliver on the promise of Facebook Platform," said Ben Ling, Facebook director of platform program management, in a company press release. "One goal of the new site design is to align Facebook Platform with users' interests who will see a new class of applications emerge that provide deeper engagement and a better experience."

Facebook hopes to better integrate its new platform. ☺

Game points out pirating problems

Kara Kratcha

Reporter

EA Games is trying to sell you the power to recreate the universe.

In the tradition of The Sims, Electronic Arts has come out with a new game that allows the player to control every aspect of their character's life. Spore, the recently released game, gets even more basic than any of The Sims games.

The player starts off as a single-celled organism and evolves from there, supposedly allowing them to "play God" with even more control than ever, with five different stages of evolution: Cell, Creature, Tribal, Civilization, and Space.

"Behold the galaxy, full of stars and light and intelligence," said the trailer on the official SPÖRE website. "But it wasn't always like this. Not long ago, it was cold and dark. So what happened? Someone made a decision."

SPÖRE was arguably the most widely anticipated game of the year, with preview videos on the internet as early as two years ago.

EA promised intricate game play with various stages including underwater, land, and outer space parts of the game.

But has EA managed to live up to all the hype? Sophomore Greg Dallas seems to think EA has succeeded in that goal.

"It's a really fun game," Dallas said. "The best part is making the creatures evolve."

Not everyone, though, seems to agree with Dallas's evaluation.

"Compared to what we were promised," sophomore Tanner Schertler said. "Spore had a lot of corners cut. The AI [Artificial Intelligence] is very dull; meanwhile the underwater stage is cut out completely. The Creature stage, instead of having an RPG [Role Play Game] element, is just running around either hitting one button or the other."

Whether or not SPÖRE is actually a good game, it has become the number one most pirated game on the Internet. It seems that this rise in illegal downloading of the game comes from an increase in security on the disk itself.

DRM, or digital rights management, keeps the owner of the game from installing it more than a certain number of times.

The security measure is similar to the one placed on songs bought on iTunes, which keeps the owner from downloading the song on to more than five computers. The illegal downloading of copy righted material, or pirating, is not by any means exclusive to video games.

In fact, according to a recent survey done by CHS sophomore Colleen Layton, 87.5% of CHS students admitted to downloading music illegally. The game and music industries lose millions of dollars per year because of piracy.

Still, gamers seem to think that they have a reasonable justification for illegal downloading aside from the lower price. Security measures have angered many gamers. Gamers seem to see this measure as an infringement on their rights as owners of the game.

Practically, you would think EA would be correct in assuming that if gamers are playing their game legally, then should not have to install it more than one or two times. Is their indigence really justified?

"It's incredibly irritating how the DRM limits everyone to five, and only five, installations," Schertler said. "Seeing as it's not uncommon for people to clean up their computer every month or so."

Pirating is a vicious cycle. As more and more people decide to download their media for free, companies impose more limitations and raise the price of their product. Consumers in turn want files that are easy to use and less expensive, so they pirate the files, and the cycle starts all over.

Unless one side decides to cease their actions, this trend of high security and expensive files will only continue to and grow. ☺



Advancements made in Avian health research

Parker and researchers at UMSL discover new pathogen in Galápagos penguins.

Leah Eby
Senior Managing Editor

"For having contributed to the material and spiritual progress of the community," is written on a certificate that hangs in the office of Dr. Patty Parker. A large gold medal, hung by a ribbon in the colors of the Ecuadorian flag is nearby. Both serve as the Order of Scientific Merit from the people of the Galápagos, an award granted to Parker for her research in the Galápagos Islands.

For the past eleven years, Dr. Patty Parker has traveled to the Galápagos Islands to research the health of native birds. Parker works as part of a partnership between the UMSL Biology Department and the St. Louis Zoo as both a Professor of Zoological Studies and a Senior Scientist at the zoo's WildCare Institute. The collaboration of these two institutions, as well as the Galápagos National Park and the Charles Darwin Foundation, resulted in the Center for Avian Health in the Galápagos.

"This is, in my experience, a perfect collaboration," Parker said. "In the case of the scientists [at UMSL], we want science." In the past five years, Parker and her associates have published over 40 articles on their research. Not only is her lab able to conduct important research, but the Charles Darwin Foundation and Galápagos National Park are able to use these findings to protect the numerous bird species and their habitat on the islands.

Throughout her career, Parker has conducted research on all of the 16 major islands and many of the minor islands, surveying and banding over 20 species of birds. Yet, it was not in the Galápagos that her recent discovery

took place. Rather, she conducted her groundbreaking research from a science lab at UMSL.

Earlier this year, when studying the results of her research regarding the Galápagos penguins, Parker discovered a new pathogen in the penguin samples: plasmodium. Plasmodium in general is a genus of blood parasites whose life cycle requires cycling through a mosquito, where it reproduces sexually. When the mosquito bites a vertebrate, the plasmodium is injected into the animal, where it multiplies in the liver. The plasmodium then leaves the liver and enters the blood stream, where it can be transmitted back to a mosquito through a bite. In the mosquito, the life cycle begins again.

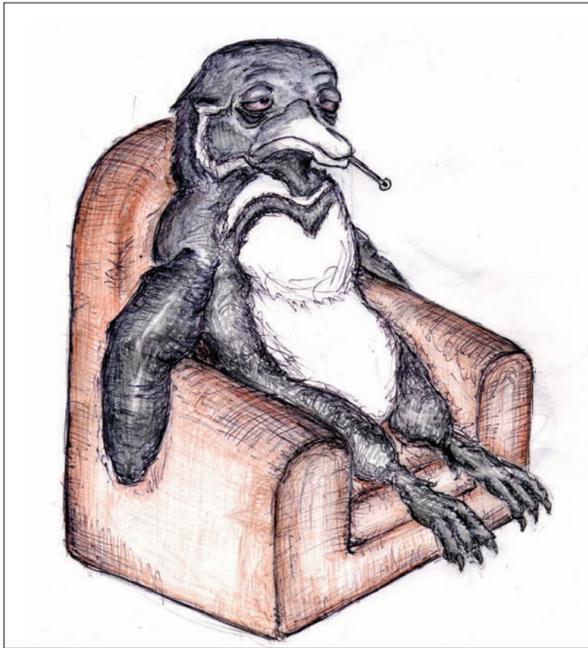
"Really, it's the mosquito that is the primary host," Parker said. "The vertebrate, the secondary host, is more or less an amplification system that the parasite uses to make more copies of itself. It's a very efficient system from the perspective of the parasite."

Once Parker determined that the pathogen found in the Galápagos penguins was indeed a plasmodium, she took her findings to the scientists at the Center for Avian Health in the Galápagos.

"We have since then been working very closely with the Galápagos National Park and their laboratory down there, and we've sent all the testing materials that we have to them so that they can conduct this research as well," Parker said.

Although they were unsure exactly what type of plasmodium had infected the penguins, the scientists predicted that it was Plasmodium relictum, known as avian malaria.

While the Plasmodium relictum is in



Ali Sehzadeh

the liver of a vertebrate, the animal may become sick or die, as was seen in Hawaii, an island habitat in which a number of bird species have become extinct due to the introduction of a certain mosquito, Culex quinquefasciatus.

If this mosquito is the carrier of Plasmodium relictum that has infected the penguins, the next step would be to eradicate the mosquitoes, a fairly simple effort since Culex is a recent arrival in the islands.

"If we assume that Culex is the vec-

tor, the fact that we know that it just arrived in 1985 means that this is a relatively recent occurrence and has therefore not had much time to spread," Parker said. "Now, a really wet year can change that."

What Parker means is because the mosquitoes that carry Plasmodium relictum and avian malaria need fresh water to reproduce, an El Niño year, an extremely rainy, wet season, could dramatically increase the population of mosquitoes, and thus, the infection of penguins.

Though it is possible that the plasmodium in the penguins is Plasmodium relictum, Parker and her fellow scientists have come up with other hypotheses. Because the penguins that tested positive for plasmodium showed no clinical signs of disease and appeared otherwise healthy, this form of plasmodium could only affect the penguins in times of stress, such as an El Niño year.

"It doesn't appear that under normal circumstances this parasite is terribly harmful to these penguins, so that's good," Parker said. "If it remains that way, even through an El Niño, then it is also possible that it could provide some sort of immunological protection should one of the bad plasmodiums ever arrive. Birds that have been affected by this benign form of the parasite could be protected from a more virulent form should it arrive. This is all sort of conjecture, but right now, we just really don't know."

According to Parker, scientists need to continue research in determining what the result of the plasmodium truly is. If the plasmodium turns out to be harmful and it begins to spread throughout the islands, other bird species could be affected as well. This is one of Parker's greatest fears.

"It's hard to gage what the impact would be on the ecosystem itself," Parker said. "I think the biggest impact would be to have started down the slippery slope of extinction. There has never been a bird extinction on the Galápagos Islands, and that's because of the people who live there and their determination to protect that place. My fear is that once [the birds] start toppling, all of the resources and commitment to preservation may begin to relax. To me, that is the greatest danger." ☺



Courtesy of K. Ryan

Drama Teacher Kelly Ryan performs in a local theater production.

Teacher combines passion for both drama, education

Preeti Viswanathan
Editor

Kelley Ryan has always loved acting and theater work. She also had a passion for teaching, which is why she decided to combine the two professions and become a drama teacher at Clayton High School.

"I went to graduate school to be a professional actor, but before that I really wanted to be an English teacher, and then my studies and my work led me more to theater and to acting," Ryan said. She decided that she liked to be in charge of aspects of theater productions, which, she says, is one of the benefits of teaching.

"I wanted to do the kind of theater work that I love to do all the time, so teaching really affords me the luxury of being able to direct shows," she said.

Ryan also likes working with students and choosing the types of productions which Clayton High School students perform.

"I get to pick [the shows], and I love teaching and working with kids, but it also is much more, I think, artistically fulfilling to be a teacher, sometimes, than it is to be an actual practitioner," Ryan said.

In addition to teaching at the high school, Ryan is also a resident artist at a local theater group called Mustard Seed Theater and has acted for other companies.

"When I first moved to St. Louis thirteen years ago, I started doing professional theater, and then I stopped for about five years when I had my kids, but then started doing it again about six years ago," Ryan said.

Ryan helps run the Mustard Seed theater company along with three other resident artists who run theater programs at other schools. Many of the theaters she has worked with have various objectives.

"One company I've worked with does work that's very physical-based theater. Another company I've worked with really closely and that I'm going to be working with this year is called the Orange Girls, which is a theater that promotes women's rights and women's stories," she said.

The Mustard Seed Theater Group's goal is to examine people's relationship with religion and moral responsibilities.

"At Mustard Seed, our mission is to explore plays that deal with our relationship with God and our ethical responsibility to the world," Ryan said. "So we look for plays that are faith stories of all different religions - we're like a 'green theater'," she added.

Despite being so active in drama groups and directing all the major CHS productions, Ryan still has time to raise a family.

"It's pretty busy," Ryan said. "A typical day would have me coming to school, and teaching class, directing after school until 5 or 6 p.m. sometimes, going home quickly, having a quick dinner with my family and going to rehearsal from 7 to 10 [p.m]."

For one of this year's student productions, Ryan is directing and adapting a play by Naomi Azuka called *Anonymous*, which is a modern version of the *Odyssey* told from the perspective of a young boy who is separated from his mother while immigrating to America. Progress on the play began early because the set was built over the summer, making it more convenient for the first rehearsal.

Ryan said the most difficult aspect of directing is communicating specific ideas to students of varying levels of acting experience while encouraging them to work hard. However, there are also several positive aspects.

"The best thing about [acting and directing] is I get to learn about a lot of different things," Ryan said. "Right now with *Anonymous* I'm getting to revisit the *Odyssey*, learn about immigration and the stories of people of different cultures coming to America, so every play that you do opens up all these new avenues for learning, which I think is the most exciting thing." ☺

Students balance school with religious holidays

Mary Blackwell
Editor

More than a fourth of all students were missing Sept. 30 and Oct. 9. Based on the number of absents, it can be assumed that around 25-30% of CHS students practice Judaism.

"I have dinner usually at my grandparents house the night before, because Jewish holidays start the night before, and then we go to synagogue in the morning," junior Eitan Kantor said. "I spend a lot of time with my family in general."

Rosh Hashanah, Sept. 30, is a day to celebrate the Jewish New Year. Oct. 9 is Yom Kippur, a fasting day of repentance. For the majority of CHS students, it's just another school day but for observant Jews, it means services that can be up to five hours depending on the synagogue, and spending time with family.

"The Rosh Hashanah services are really long," junior Daniel Iken said. "At my synagogue it was 6 hours long. Other places it's shorter and other holidays are like 2 hours."

Orthodox Jews, like Iken, and some conservative Jews, Kantor, are out of school for two days celebrating Rosh Hashanah. Reform Jews, the least strict of the three, miss only one day of classes.

"Orthodox Judaism is the most strict version of Judaism where you adhere to more to laws of the Old Testament," Iken said. "Conservative is a little less strict and Reform is even less strict."

The atmosphere at CHS is changed on Jewish holidays due to all the absences. Although there is no official policy in place concerning religious holidays, teachers are reminded before such days.

"Dr. Losos sends out a reminder to the faculty about the Jewish holidays and to remind folks about Ramadan," associate principal Dan Gutchewsky said. "Depending on when spring break falls too we also send out reminders about Good Friday. We just ask teachers to be cognizant of the fact that the holidays are coming up and to take that into consideration when they plan."

It would be possible to place a teacher grading day on religious holidays with low attendance, if the administration so desired because CHS has 181 student attendance days and 192 teacher days while the state only requires 172 student attendance days.

"People always just anecdotally say why don't we just take that day off," Gutchewsky said. "I do know that there are schools, particularly on the east coast

where they do take off the Jewish holidays."

But canceling school for religious holidays could cause more problems than it would solve. For one, a day would have to be subtracted from somewhere else on the calendar, like winter or spring break.

"I think it's not fair for the school to be closed on Jewish holidays because then it would have to be closed on the holidays of all the other religions," Kantor said. "It's not so bad because there's so many Jewish kids and the teachers are flexible."

Like any arranged absence, teachers and students have to set up a new dates to turn in assignments and make up work, varying due to the religious practice of the student.

"I think some teachers are lenient and some are not," Iken said. "But what's really hard is if a teacher or teachers think 'Oh I won't put the test on the holiday, I'll make the test the day after the holiday.' They don't understand that people don't study on the holidays because students are in synagogue or temple most of the time."

Naturally, parents often show concern over their child's absences.

"Parents will be concerned because their student is having a religious observance and they want to be sure that they don't miss anything," Gutchewsky said. "It's one of those things that we get calls every year about. I've found generally that teachers are very flexible and very understanding in that regard."

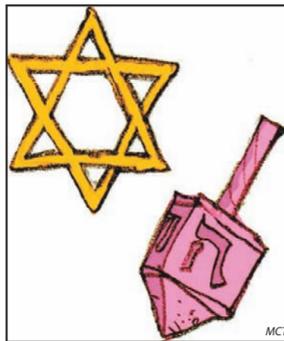
Many don't want to lose a day of class, and try to balance making the class time beneficial while keeping in mind that many students are going to be behind.

"I feel that teachers don't give enough time to catch up," sophomore Danielle Eisenberg said. "It's really stressful when you come back because you've missed so much work. I think they could be better about it."

Several staff members, including Dr. Losos, understand the struggle because they too observe the Jewish holidays.

"Every teacher in the district has two religious observance days that they can take," said Gutchewsky. "Teachers that are Jewish usually take them for Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah."

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the major holidays for which Jewish students take the day off school. Depending how the days fall, Passover and Shavuot can also cause absences. ☺



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Norah (Kat Dennings) and Nick (Michael Cera) star in the new comedy, "Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist," from Columbia Pictures and Mandate Pictures. (MCT)

'Nick and Norah' defies stereotypical teen comedy

Dawn Androphy
Reporter

Boy-meets-girl romantic comedies may have become a sort of clichéd Hollywood staple, but "Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist" puts a creative spin on both the romantic and teen comedy genres.

Michael Cera and Kat Dennings star as Nick and Norah, New York suburbanites who meet at a city night club while in search of the secret show of an obscure band, called Where's Fluffy? Nick is a bass player for a band called The Jerk-Offs and is still enamored with his shallow ex-girlfriend, Tris. Norah is a privileged girl debating her future and awaiting graduation who has an unsavory ex of her own named Tal, a wannabe musician who uses Norah to aid his essentially nonexistent career. One of the funnier moments of the film comes

when Tal describes his band as a mix of Zionism and anarchy, but in an "ironic" way.

Despite their uniquely contrasting backgrounds, Nick and Norah are initially brought together by the one thing that they have in common besides both being "straight-edge": their taste in music. While Nick lovingly prepares mix CDs for Tris, Norah secretly retrieves them after they are tossed into the garbage by Tris.

Cera does a great job throughout the film in yet another reincarnation of his awkward and hilarious character from both Juno and Superbad. Dennings is also convincing as the sarcastic Norah, but still manages to be likeable and sweet. Her character of Norah is a nice break from the typical female protagonist in films directed at teens.

The likeability of both characters and

their amazing on-screen chemistry keeps the viewer cheering for Nick and Norah to finally get together. There is a thin line between overdoing a sentiment of good chemistry and the main characters actually working well together. "Nick and Norah" manages to stay on the right side of the line.

In addition to the great performance by the lead, there is also some great slapstick and gross-out comedy mixed in provided mostly by Norah's partying friend, Caroline (Ari Graynor). This character provides some brilliantly over-the-top scenes that also prevent the film from being overly sentimental.

Another aspect of the film that really deserves kudos is the amazing soundtrack. It is incredibly difficult not to find yourself humming along to a soundtrack that features music from Vampire Weekend, Band of Horses, Rogue Wave, and

The Submarines. The music definitely adds to the mood of the movie without distracting the viewer from the plotline.

Director Pete Sollett does a great job of giving a fairytale aesthetic without going overboard and making the whole film a corny and predictable mess. He manages to make it seem almost plausible that one could find a parking spot in Manhattan so easily at several times in one evening.

"Nick and Norah" served as a very entertaining 90 minutes and it shouldn't simply be written off as yet another formulaic teen comedy. On a scale of five stars, "Nick and Norah" deserves an impressive rating four. Despite the somewhat overdone plot device of boy-meets-girl, the film still manages to be creative and would be best described as a cute romantic/teen comedy with a twist and is definitely worth seeing.

Ben Folds' 'Way to Normal' appeals to diverse tastes

Carol Iskiwitch
Chief Copy Editor

The prince of power-pop piano is back, and he has taken a turn toward a decidedly rock style.

In his third solo album since the days of Ben Folds Five, "Way to Normal," Ben Folds seems to be attempting to figure out exactly what normal is. One thing that is definitely not normal, at least in terms of Folds' music, is the CD itself. From staccato trance-like beats on "Free Coffee" to distortion on "Dr. Yang," Folds employs a variety of technical flourishes not previously heard on his solo recordings.

This album continues one of his favorite themes, broken relationships, but while his first solo album, "Rockin' the Suburbs," is largely composed of character studies and his second, "Songs for Silverman" focuses on personal disappointments and heartbreaks, "Way to Normal" is much more varied.

The album opens with a hilarious (yet gross) anecdote about Folds hitting his head while performing in Japan. "Hiroshima (B B B Benny Hit His Head)" is an entertaining story with a steady, toe-tapping beat.

Following this track is the frothy, upbeat dirty "Dr. Yang," in which Folds ridicules professions such as online psychics and chiropractors. The mockery continues in "The Frown Song," but this piece of social commentary disguised as a catchy, indie rock-style song criticizes the unpleasant, melodramatically glum attitude that seems to be a trend among middleclass American women. Folds' pointed irony is as effective as ever, with lyrics such as "Tread slowly from the car to the spa / Like a weary war-torn refugee/ Crossing the border with her starving child/ It's a struggle just to get to shiatsu."

Effectual lyrics are not the only thing that Folds maintains in this record. Folds' exceptional piano playing

is present throughout the album, as a fan would expect. Particularly beautiful showcases of his abilities include the sad ballad "Kylie From Connecticut" and the short track "Before Cologne," which is an introduction to the song "Cologne," which in my opinion is one of the best songs on the CD.

The song "Cologne" is appealing because it features smooth, melodic instrumentation (piano, violin and others) and vocals. And as a bonus, it mentions the bizarre news story about the NASA astronaut wearing diapers to drive across the country to attempt to murder a romantic rival.

Another standout track is "You Don't Know Me." This song, released as a single before the album's release, is a duet featuring popular indie songstress Regina Spektor. A look into a relationship troubled by a lack of communication, this song is additively catchy.

Upon my first listen of the entire album, which I anxiously anticipated

after hearing the excellent and un-Folds-like single, I felt that there were only a few tracks worth buying. But after several listens, almost all of the songs have grown on me. Each has its own merits. The only one that I still feel is pretty poor is "Free Coffee," which, despite being a lament of society's obsession with celebrity, I feel is too self-indulgent with the unnecessary and distracting static noise and Folds' emo complaints that he "never get[s] tickets/ Yeah, I only get warnings" and that "when [he] was broke [he] needed it more."

Overall, "Way to Normal" is at least worth a listen, whether you are a diehard Ben Folds fan or not. The songs are so diverse is every way that there is sure to be at least one that appeals to those of most any musical taste.

Beyond that, there is no clear-cut way to summarize this album. As Folds discovered while traveling the "way to normal" in his creation of this CD, "normal" is extremely hard to grasp.



'Eagle Eye' disappoints

Sam Muslin
Reporter

You go home to find a stash of illegal weaponry that isn't yours. The weaponry includes high-powered rifles, detonators, and large bins of chemicals for making bombs. You receive a phone call from a complete stranger telling you to run. Suddenly soldiers with helmets and machine guns bust into your apartment. You are walking out of bar and you receive a phone call from a complete stranger telling you to look to the left where you see a video of your son.

These are some of the events experienced by Jerry Shaw (Shia LaBeouf), the main character in DJ Caruso's film "Eagle Eye". He and Rachel Holloman (Michelle Monaghan) are two strangers linked together by perplexing phone calls from a mysterious woman threatening their lives and the lives of their family.

This woman pushes Rachel and Jerry into a number of very dangerous situations by using the omnipresent technology of daily life to track and manipulate their every move. This technology includes the tracking of cell phone calls, the use of television cameras at street intersections, security cameras

in stores and public buildings, and satellite transmissions. Amazingly, almost every part of the country has cameras allowing the mysterious woman to track Jerry and Rachel.

As the plot thickens, the two become the country's most wanted fugitives, who must now work as one to figure out what it really going on. Fending for their lives, they become victims of an invisible enemy who seems to have endless power to control and manipulate everything that they do.

The action thriller "Eagle Eye" is already a major blockbuster by executive producer Steven Spielberg and starring young actor Shia LaBeouf. After a confusing initial military sequence in Southern Asia, the action depicted in the United States is intense and relentless.

Multiple chase scenes, near-death experiences and police pursuit are the hallmarks of this film. These elements are presented with great intensity and a sense of fear and paranoia.

LaBeouf and Monaghan are believable as normal people thrown into a terrifying and life-threatening series of events. They both appear anxious and frustrated for most of the film. As the movie progresses, LaBeouf becomes



Shia LaBeouf stars as an unsuspecting American drawn into a conspiracy in DreamWorks Pictures' race-against-time thriller "Eagle Eye."

more confident and assured as he fights his many adversaries.

Although Eagle Eye is certainly an exciting experience, the major disappointment is the ending, because the villain can't possibly live up to the mystery that is built up throughout the first hour of the movie.

After an hour of incredible action and violence, a huge payoff seems inevitable, but unfortunately, the villain in this picture is not particularly innovative or exciting. Despite this objection, the film still has enough action, intensity and mystery to keep the viewer entertained.

Vegetarianism a popular option

Vegetarianism, front

"I still miss one type of chicken from Panda Express," Lefton admitted. "It can be really hard to avoid meat, particularly at places like Chinese restaurants where they don't necessarily list all the ingredients on their menus."

It's not only CHS students who have opted into the lifestyle. Jennifer Sellenriek, a ninth-grade English teacher, has been a vegetarian since her first year of college.

"I became one for environmental reasons," Sellenriek said. "For example, the amount of grain and water-- essentially resources-- it takes to produce one pound of beef is far greater than, say, it takes to produce a pound of soybeans. There's just so much waste associated with it."

Sellenriek said it is easier then it used to be. "In any large social gathering, there's always a vegetarian option, and all

of my friends know about me and what I can and can't eat. The whole hard time I ever have is at a small gathering where people don't really know me, and it can be embarrassing if they feel like they have to go out of their way [to help me]."

Despite the difficulties they face, all plan to continue with the diet. Omri even said she would like to eventually try practicing veganism, meaning omitting all animal products, including milk, cheese, eggs, and even sometimes honey.

"It would be hard, though," she said, "because milk and cheese are two very vital products that I enjoying eating."

Sellenriek would not mind becoming a vegan, but feels comfort with her current lifestyle choices.

"You know, I think in some ways I'd like to commit myself to being a vegan," Sellenriek said. "But usually I think I'm really satisfied with the action I'm already taking."

Public displays of affection disturbing to many

PDA, front

PDA on school property. Werner said that he has never witnessed PDA to the degree that was too offensive.

"I have never seen anything too provocative happen at school," Werner said. "The most I've ever seen is French kissing, so I suppose it could be much worse."

When asked if he'd ever taken part in PDA when he was in high school, Werner's reply was "No comment," he did, however, make a declaration that many would deem wise.

"PDA is a just phrase that everyone goes though," Werner said. "Usually, people grow out of it and then look back and say 'Boy, was that stupid!'"

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Haunted house caters to fears of all ages for Halloween



Helen Wiley

Caitlin Kropp
Reporter

Screams shatter the calm night air, occasionally interrupted by the ominous sound of a chainsaw at full speed. The air is thick with fog, while strobe lights beat out a hypnotic rhythm. Such was the scene at Creepyworld, a series of haunted houses in Fenton, Missouri. It claims to be the biggest Halloween Haunted event in St. Louis, and after experiencing the house first hand, it has me convinced that not only is it the biggest in St. Louis; it is also the best.

First of all, let me say this: I do not scare easily. I've sat through numerous horror movies, ones that can make grown men cry, and haven't broken a sweat. Haunted houses ceased to scare me when I was eight. The fact that I even considered going to Creepyworld is an honor in itself, and the results were spectacular.

Creepyworld is composed of five parts, each with its own, unique spin: Ravens Manor, Grisly's Graveyard, Hornbuckle's Haunted Cornfield Maze, Tombstone Haunted Hayride, and Silo-X. Every part features detailed sets, live actors, and moving statues which were so realistic, that at times, I had trouble telling who was alive and who was just a statue. Some parts even feature chainsaw-wielding maniacs, albeit with the saw parts taken off.

Raven's Manor was the first stop on the route. This was the home of Professor Raven, who performed experiments on his family and staff that were so horrific that they killed everyone. Going from room to room, I found lots of fog, creepy ambient lighting or no lighting at all, and grotesque scenes of death, including a person chopped in half while lying in bed. I also learned an important lesson about Creepyworld: the actors can get very close. One zombie hissed in a girl's face, promptly sending her into hysterics.

After surviving the manor, it was time for Grisly's Graveyard. This was not as horrifying, probably because it was outside. There were the usual cobwebs and fog, including skeletons and tombstones.

The one moment of terror I received was when a grim reaper I thought was a statue tapped me on the shoulder, and then started following me. That was the second rule I learned: the

actors can smell fear and will follow anyone who looks even remotely frightened.

Next on my list was Hornbuckle's Haunted Cornfield Maze. The good news was that it wasn't a maze after all. The walkways were clearly defined, and the corn only came up to my neck. The bad news was people were lurking in the corn, several with axes, and other sharp items you can find on a farm. As I exited, I heard running footsteps behind me. Stepping aside, I silently watched as a girl my age came speeding past, with a man carrying a chainsaw hot on her heels. That was my third lesson: if you run, they will chase you.

Then came Tombstone Haunted Hayride. Unfortunately, I had come during the busiest time of the night, so I had to wait 30 minutes for my turn to ride. The hayride took us through a ghost town, complete with creepy people carrying hammers. One hammer, swung by a crazy girl in a red dress, came dangerously close to hitting my little sister. She promptly burst into tears. The rest of the ride was spent attempting to console her, though I was still able to experience a fake shootout, and an explosion so big, I was able to feel the heat on my face.

Finally, after exiting the Hayride, and getting my sister to go back to the car, it was time for the climax of my journey: Silo-X. It is said to be the scariest house in the entire series, and I had witnessed a fair amount of people running, while screaming, from the exit. I prepared myself for the worst, and I got it. First, I had to navigate my way through a fog-filled maze. As the walls were impossible to see, I felt my way along, wary of the monsters that often emerged from the mists. The death grip my friend held on my jacket didn't help my anxiety. After a very long, confusing stint in the maze, I emerged into the main part of the house. Strobe lights amplified the grotesque, alien mutations that decorated the walls, not to mention the ones that roamed the halls. As the exit approached, I heaved a sigh of relief, glad that my ordeal was over.

In short, it was amazing. Creepyworld, by far, is the best haunted house I've been to. I was genuinely scared, but I was still able to have fun. The sets were believable, the actors were creepy, and the ambiance was perfect. All in all, Creepyworld is an excellent way to prepare for Halloween but, sadly, it only runs until Nov. 2. I definitely recommend this haunted house to anyone, especially those who relish a good scare. ☹

Downtown eatery offers sandwiches, crepes, plus atmosphere



Grace Cohen

Grace Cohen
Reporter

As soon as I sat down at the table on 1104 Locust St., I knew I was in for a heavenly food experience. From the freshly cut flowers to heart-shaped sugar cubes, everything is prepared to perfection.

The atmosphere is very nice. Families and loft owners alike come for a food experience. The mosaic floors and large wall mural of a rooster give it a one-of-a-kind unique look. Outdoor seating is available if weather permits and provides a good spot for people-watching.

Rooster offers a wide variety of crepes ranging from breakfast, sweet or savory. All the meat is locally raised without antibiotics or hormones. Kaldi's coffee, espresso drinks and freshly squeezed orange juice are also on the menu.

I recommend the Missouri-Made German Sausage Number Two crepe (\$8.50). It's like nothing I've ever tasted before. The sweet apples and spicy sausage have an amazing aroma; the two flavors of sweet and salty go so well together.

The Nutella crepes are a must have if

you're in the mood for chocolate (original \$4.95). A choice of bananas or strawberry can be added. The warm chocolate and outer crepe seems to instantly transport you Paris.

In addition to the crepes there is the B.E.L.T. (\$7.95), which is bacon, fried egg, tomato, and lettuce on toasted bread with breakfast potatoes. It is also good, but in my opinion cannot top the other crepes. It is truly a site to behold. The piece of bread towers on top looking down on the potatoes and bacon and a sea of egg below.

Rooster also offers a lunch menu that is only served on weekdays. This includes a wide variety of sandwiches including Pulled Pork, Croque Madame, Roast Beef and Chicken Caesar to name a few. Fresh and Roasted Seasonal Vegetable, and Egg Salad are served to fit the needs of any vegetarian customer.

The prices are fairly reasonable for the amount of food patrons get. Sometimes there is a morning rush and you may have to wait for a table, but I assure you it's worth the wait. If you're in the mood for an authentic taste of Paris or have a big appetite give Rooster a try. ☹

Teens continue favorite Halloween traditions

Chelsea Cousins
Reporter

Many high school students are in the midst of preparing for a ghostly night out and putting all fears aside. Whether they are staying at home or going out for the night, many students at Clayton High School are looking forward to celebrating Halloween this year.

"Little kids aren't the only ones who get dressed up for the occasion," senior Morgan Johnson said. "High schoolers like to go up and down streets begging for candy just as much as the kids do."

Dressing up plays a huge role in Halloween's spooky festivities.

"Outfits tend to change from when you're a kid versus once you get to high school," junior Jack Harned said. "Usually, our costumes are more unique and thought out."

Most high school students let their creative side shine once Halloween rolls around, trying to have the creepiest or best costume.

"You're never too old to dress up for the occasion," senior Muhammad Austin said, "I think if you want to do it you should go for it; go have fun."

"This year I'm most excited for all the different Halloween parties plus having the opportunity to buy all the leftover candy the day after for super cheap," Johnson said.

Many students love the sweet treats that come along with Halloween; however, trick or treating is not the only activity that catches peoples' eye.

"Even though some students trick or treat mainly for the candy, most people these days go to parties to have fun," junior Logan Yates said.

Another alternative includes going to different hang out spots around the area. Halloween is a time when students enjoy just hanging out with friends and maintaining a fun atmosphere.

"My favorite part about Halloween is going to the haunted houses," Austin said. "It's more fun to go in bigger groups."

Many high schoolers waste no time in getting their adrenaline pumping. Students believe the way to make it happen is to go out for a wild night on Halloween.

"Going to the haunted house is like being in a scary movie," Yates said.

Most students think the best way to prepare for Halloween is to have a positive spirit.

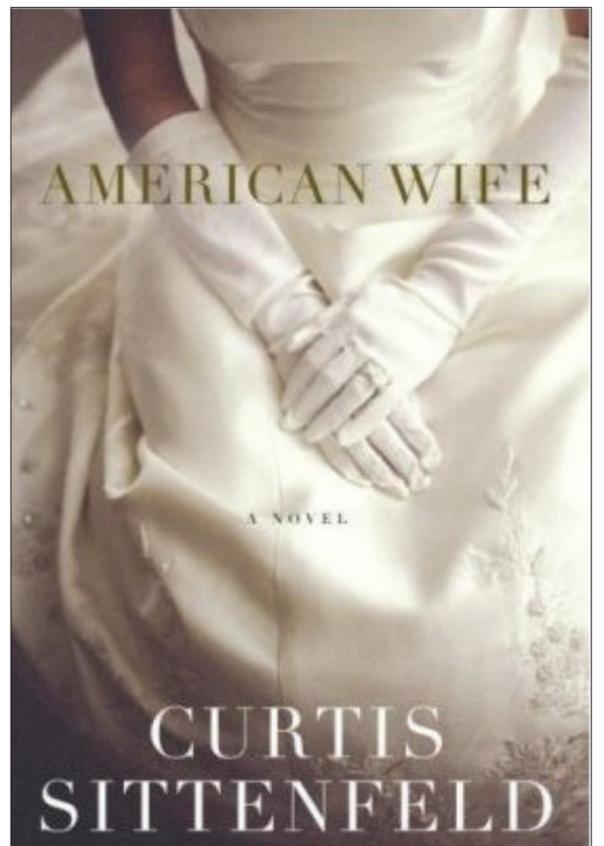
"This is a time to spend with your closest friends in an environment that loves to celebrate the same holiday as you," Yates said.

CHS is used to making Halloween preparations; it is the school's privilege to host a Halloween dance almost every year. This brings the Clayton family closer together.

"Watch out for my costume CHS," Harned said.

While dances in the past haven't gone as planned, this year students have set higher hopes.

"The Halloween dance should be fun this year!" said Johnson. ☹



New novel humanizes First Lady

Meredith Redick
Editor

A fatal car crash, a lesbian grandmother, and the sexual exploits of a teenage girl are not what we would expect to find in a biography of Laura Bush's life. Curtis Sittenfeld, though, delves beyond the expected in her newest novel, "American Wife."

The novel is, strictly, a fictionalized account of Bush's life, complete with a name change to Alice and a shift from Texas to Wisconsin, but the flints of truth it contains have been enough to spark controversy throughout the country.

Alice Lindgren is born in a small Wisconsin town that promises nothing more than quiet contentment for its citizens. The tranquility is interrupted, however, when teenage Alice crashes a car and kills her friend and crush, a poignantly beautiful young football star.

Devastated by the guilt of her mistake, Alice struggles to reconcile her own values amongst the other sources of pain in her life—namely, her exposition of her grandmother as a lesbian who is having an affair with a Chicago gynecologist. As an adult, Alice meets and marries a politician, Charlie Blackwell, whose name is known both for his family's Republican values and his family's successful meat business. The shy librarian is certain she can maintain her support for her husband without supporting his career as a politician; when he decides to run for President of the United States, however, she must rethink her stand.

While the more provocative aspects of the story are discussed in depth, Sit-

tenfeld's cleverly crafted symbolism and sweetly insightful narrative make the novel a surprisingly heady glance into the mind of a young woman. The simple language reveals a clarity of thought characteristic of Sittenfeld's work, particularly in the realm of sexuality. Details of Alice's sex life, which indubitably contain descriptions of her experiences with the President of the United States, are more humanizing than scandalous in their intensity.

Similarly, the car crash that leaves a teenage boy dead—an aspect of the story that is at least, in part, factual—is depicted with an eloquent grief that moralizes Alice's character instead of casting seemingly inevitable shadows.

Ultimately, as Sittenfeld brings forth the modern-day Alice, her character sheds humanity on even the thoroughly alienated President Blackwell, who is, unsurprisingly, in a similar position to George W. Bush in the trough of his presidency. President Blackwell is characterized by his many flaws, but he also remains visible as the man a woman could—and does—love. Love finds its shifting point, though, when Alice is forced to choose between her loyalty to her husband and her loyalty to her country.

Alice's narrative is only in the most superficial sense a tabloid-esque scandal suit. The events of Alice's—and, presumably, Bush's—life paint a complex picture that professes, more than any public rebuttal of the presidential family's flaws could, the need for citizens to understand before judging what it means to be an American Wife. ☹

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Fall brings crop of stylish boots into fashion forefront

Caroline Kennard
Reporter

Seasons are changing and we are entering autumn. In the fashion world, autumn brings around possibilities that last autumn didn't. Especially when it comes to fashion. Ugg boots aren't the only boots being sported by students.

In other words, it's a new year for designing boots.

"A woman could own an entire wardrobe of boots. A boot can be as simple and understated or dramatic as you want this season," said Fashion director at Nordstrom, Andrew Gregg to the Chicago Sun-Times.

There are many styles of boots that are in this fall. According to Gregg, shoe booties, open-toed shoe booties, ankle boots, mid-calf boots, knee boots, and over the knee boots are all in this fall.

The shoe bootie hits below your ankle or mid-ankle. This boot gives more of an elegant edge than regular pumps would. Shoe booties should fit tightly against your ankle and look great with slender pencil skirts. The longer the skirt, the shorter the bootie should be.

"If you're going with longer-length pencil skirt, you're going to be better off going with a Mary Jane or high-heel oxford or loafer," said Gregg.

The oxford 'hybrid' or open-toed shoe bootie is a great boot for fall and is a great medium for people who aren't sure that booties look great on them.

"They are more wearable because they aren't so extreme," said Gregg.

The ankle boot is also called a bootie because it hits height above the ankle. These boots usually trendy details or extra slouchy-ness. This boot is designed to show of your legs so if you decide you want a pair of ankle boots, pair them with a skirt that hits your knees or higher. Pairing a longer skirt with an ankle boot will miss the right proportions and end up looking offbeat.

Mid-calf boots are self-explanatory. They should hit right in the middle of your calf and is usually wide and loose around the top of your calf. The same style choices apply to mid-calf boots as ankle boots—wear shorter skirts. Mid-calf boots are great for women with a bigger calf.

"If you have a bigger calf, match hosiery to your boot to



Boots are the perfect footwear for the unpredictable autumn weather, as seen on females across the CHS campus. From brand name Ugg boots to taller knee-high styles, boots are fall's top accessory.

create a really nice, long line, and look for boot styles that are intended to slouch down," said Gregg.

Knee boots are the most common among boots.

They hit right below the kneecap and usually fit slim to your leg. Wear hosiery with texture and trying a color other than black.

"Try to show a hint of leg. Hosiery is crucial this fall. It can totally change the look. You can't have a bare leg," said Gregg.

Over-the-knee boots are a new trend for this fall. This boot hits a few inches above the knee. The tops of these boots are usually ruffled and loose and made especially for women who

like wearing short skirts.

Cowboy boots and Uggs that are sure to make a hit this fall.

"They are unique and they define me," said senior, Reynolds Ellston when asked about why she loves cowboy boots.

Stories have a wide variety of cowboy boots or cowboy styled boots to choose from.

Cowboy boots are cute with a flirty dress or great with skinny jeans. Usually cowboy boots fall under the mid-calf boot or knee boot.

The infamous Uggs are back in business! Ugg offers a variety



photos by Puhan Zhao

of boots. They have 57 different types of boots this year varying from high-heels, to crochet, snow boots, cowboy boots, and the classic Uggs.

"The snow boots are always really comfortable to wear and they'll always keep you warm," said senior Jessica Morse.

This fall, don't be afraid to step outside the ugg obsession and try something new. Or if you've never tried Uggs, give them a try.

Look at many types of boots because there is a wide selection of boots this fall. There is one boot out there that is right for everyone, you just have to find it. ☺



photo by Sarah Horn

Junior Ivana Schulz will be living in Saint Louis and attending CHS for the next 11 months as a part of a foreign exchange program.

Foreign exchange students learn life lessons

Hannah Novack
Editor

CHS now has a handful many foreign exchange students.

"Before the plane touched down, I did not really believe I was going to come here," junior Ivana Schulz said, describing her journey from Paraguay to the United States. "It all sort of went by like a dream!"

Schulz is enrolled in an 11-month foreign exchange program through the American Field Service Intercultural Programs (AFS). AFS is an international, non-profit organization that sends more than 13,000 students and teachers abroad each year. AFS's mission is to "affirm faith in the dignity and worth of every human being and of all nations [by encouraging] respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to race, sex, language, religion or social status."

"I wanted to learn about other cultures and to learn English," Schulz said.

The process to become an exchange student is rigorous.

"I had to take exams and write papers, and AFS chose if I was to be admitted to the program or not," Schulz said.

Senior Elizabeth Salkoff went through a similar experience when she applied to be a participant in the AFS program.

"There was a lot of work that needed to be done," Salkoff said. "They needed medical records and I had to get my fingerprints taken. There was also lots of paperwork, essays and pictures to be sent."

Salkoff traveled to Santa Rosa, Argentina.

"Most of my family has lived abroad, so I just thought I should too," Salkoff said.

Students who travel through the AFS program stay with families who have also gone through an application process. AFS partners hosts and participants based on many factors including home environment and interests, such as sports and music. AFS tries to match up people with similar interests and preferences, and who will provide good learning experiences for both family and student.

Senior Sarah Horn and her family are the host family for Schulz.

"My family decided to be a host family about a year ago," Horn said. "It was really after I had spent a summer in Honduras and when I got home I thought it would be really cool to host a student and do the process in reverse."

Horn is very pleased with the program thus far.

"So far being a host family has met my expectations," Horn said. "It is like having another sibling in the house, and for me it's really cool because now I have a sister."

There was some preparation required before Ivana's arrival.

"The main preparation we had to take was getting the house ready," Horn said. "We got a trundle bed for my room so that she would be able to share a room with me, and we emptied out a closet so Ivana would have room for her clothes. Besides that it was mainly just meeting with an AFS representative to

get the full information on how the process works."

Schulz's arrangements included filling out VISA papers, finishing school in Paraguay, and buying all of the necessary things to live in America for a year.

Once Ivana arrived, Horn showed her around St. Louis.

"I took her on a drive and showed her CHS and the Clayton Center, as well as surrounding restaurants and parks," Horn said. "And I showed her the gelato shop where I work, and took her to Kaldi's and we had a nice cup of coffee."

Both Schulz and Salkoff cited differences between their homes and the places they have traveled to.

"No question, I went through culture shock," Salkoff said. "The experience was nothing like I expected."

Schulz also described cultural differences between St. Louis and her hometown in Paraguay.

"In Paraguay there are school uniforms, so the way that people dress in Clayton surprises me sometimes because it is less conservative," Schulz said. "There the skirts went to our knees, and here they are really short."

Schulz has also observed other differences between Paraguay and St. Louis.

"Here [driving] is safer. In Paraguay, the streets aren't as organized," Schulz said. "Here everything is very put together with the lights and what not."

Being a foreign exchange student also poses many obstacles.

One initial challenge students face is the language barrier.

"I am the only person who speaks Spanish in my house so I have to translate a lot," Horn said. "But I am also very busy, so that forces Ivana to really have to try and speak English even though it's difficult for her."

Salkoff also described her difficulty in understanding the predominant language in Argentina.

"I still can't speak Spanish well, but now I understand a lot more," Salkoff said.

A typical weekday for Salkoff included waking up at 6:15, going to school, and returning home around lunchtime. Also, Salkoff was assigned chores around the house, including washing dishes, setting the table and keeping her room clean.

"School was really different because the kids didn't change classes, and school was over at 1," Salkoff said.

Schulz describes a similar arrangement in terms of schooling in Paraguay, and has observed the differences at CHS. She states that the workload is heavier at Clayton, and there are more frequent tests.

"It surprised me that school lasted until 3 in the afternoon. For me, everything is different," Schulz said. "All of my classes are in one room and the teachers of every subject come to that classroom. Everyday, we have different subjects rather than all in one day."

Schulz describes the Clayton environment as welcoming and accommodating.

"I like the people [at Clayton] because they help me out, and I feel like I need help in every class," Schulz said. ☺

Alternative energy heats up politics

Jonathon Shumway
Reporter

Politicians of both parties have talked about energy this year, given the state of the economy and the high prices of gasoline. Plus the threat of global warming has turned the idea of alternative energies sources into a hot topic for many people.

"With gas prices at \$140 a barrel, it was a wake-up call, that we don't have control over oil prices," AP Environmental Science teacher Chuck Collis said.

This is one of the several reasons why people have suggested 'energy independence,' since after all, \$600 billion annually is spent on foreign oil, according to the New York Times. In addition to more drilling on U.S. soil, alternative energies are beginning to take over as major piece of the energy independence puzzle.

Alternative Energies are forms of energy that use natural resources to generate energy from sources other than fossil fuels. Some of the more common forms of alternative energies or wind and solar energy, but they are the only forms. Currently 3 percent of the energy in America comes from alternative energies, according to The Economist.

Of the ambitious goals that have been made pertaining to energy independence, Al Gore, former Vice President during Clinton Administrations and the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, has called for American energy independence by 2018, being derived from alternative and renewable energies.

"Today I challenge our nation to commit to producing 100 percent of our electricity from renewable energy and truly clean carbon-free sources within 10 years," said Gore in a 2008 speech at the DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

Brian Rasmussen is the Director of Project Development in Arizona and New Mexico for Bright Source Energy. He doesn't think Gore's plan is realistic, since it all comes down to how much it will cost to convert to alternative energies.

"Are we willing to pay the money or not?" Rasmussen said. "It can be achieved by exploiting all energy resources including nuclear, oil, clean coal technology, and alternative energies."

Though energy independence may not be near, Collis said we can make strides.

"We can disperse alternative energies in areas of the nation that are most ideal for that technology," Collis said. "Energy independence will become a necessity since then can slow or halt global warming, and also as world demand increases for fossil fuels, prices will increase, as the demand is placed on these limited resources."

As gas prices have soared and other forms of fossil fuel of energy have increased over the years. It has become not only an environmental issue concerning the emissions of fossil fuels, but the financial and economical cost of alternative and renewable energy seems the stumbling block.

"Even though alternative energies may be expensive right now, as technology develops, cost will become cheaper," Collis said.

Though this may true, several problems may pose themselves as threats to slow down the investment and transition to alternative and renewable energies.

"The problem with alternative and renewable energies is that where the energy is produced, Rasmussen said. "In many cases it is located away from people, such as solar panels in the desert, so new infrastructure will have to be built with transmission lines to transport the power to where the people actually live. It will cost more short-term, but will cost less long term."

The government has taken an active role in the promotion of alternative energies. The recent \$700 billion bailout package includes \$100 billion for tax subsidies in alternative energies.

"It will allow us to lower costs by about 20 percent," Rasmussen said.

Though costs may continue to decrease, it is possible that government intervention concerning tax subsidies will have to continue to keep alternative energies competitive.

"It will take at least 50 years for alternative and renewable



Tom Maxim

energies to be independent from subsidies," Rasmussen said. "Alternative energies have a lot of catching up to do."

Even so it could be worth it. The financial costs should be taken into perspective, but also the financial profits and science innovation that could take place concerning the alternative energy. It will be able to create tens of thousands of jobs, and also be able to keep money that would have otherwise gone overseas, but instead keep that money in circulation in America.

"Fossil fuels have a lower straight-up cost in comparison to alternative energies, but have to look at the whole costs," Collis said. "Science says overwhelmingly the globe is getting warmer by human consumption in fossil fuels."

"There are a lot of hidden costs in conventional energies [energy generated by depleting natural resources]," Collis said. "It seems cheap now, but will then have to bear costs of global warming."

Alternative energies will continue to be a controversial issue as time goes on. Much investment will have to take place, but the benefits should also be considered.

"There is no silver bullet in approach to alternative energy," Collis said. "There has to be multi-faceted approach." ☺



Obama for president

This is by no doubt a critical election. It is a year for change. A time to reinvent and "fix America." To wipe away the blemishes of a presidency that has deeply upset Americans and undermined their expectations.

The reasons why change is necessary are innumerable: The doubling of the national debt and a predicted budget that will make Bill Clinton's famed surplus an anomaly. 7 million Americans have no health insurance. 150 thousand American troops remain in Iraq and will remain without a strategic plan for giving Iraq back the responsibility of managing their own nation. The Bush administration has been marked a disgrace for bullying and lying the American public into supporting this war, and then somehow managed to mess up the execution of the war in every way.

Now, whether you are Democratic or Republican, I think that America can at least agree on one political move that should be taken: Change. Politics. Economy. Social rights. Healthcare. You name the issue and there's a change that should be made.

On every single issue, both candidates, Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama have agreed that there has to be change. But there's a key difference. Obama has given the American public a vision that is not only convincing and coherent, but also full of hope and inspiration. You can disregard the latter two as "silly politics" or good oratory skills, but when a nation is in the current state that ours is, a little morale boosting is necessary. It helps us see the change, understand it, appreciate it and more than anything else, want it.

With the current condition of the stock market, the economy is the number one issue concerning America. Obama's plans will help propel America into another capitalistic boom. Obama has put forth the effort to make a serious investigation about the economic disaster and determine how it is possible for it to make a recovery. He wishes to reform the economy in a way that will not only restore stability, but also protect the population from this happening again in the future. He wants a National Infrastructure Reinvestment Bank that will help regulate the financial system.

Historically, our country has never been able to gain economic prosperity in times of war, and the unpopular war in Iraq has certainly been a drag on our nation's economy. Obama opposed the war before it even started, while McCain failed to have this foresight and voted for it. In 2007, McCain also stated that it would be possible to save the war with adding new combat brigades. However,

Obama believes it is time to acknowledge not necessarily a loss, but an end. What makes Obama so much stronger on this subject is that he has a plan. Obama's plans for both Afghanistan and Iraq show deep political understanding of how to approach a war with no battlefield victories.

Obama's energy plan can also help the country. Obama wishes to develop alternative-energy sources and create job opportunities in green technologies. He has the idea that 10 percent of America's

electricity could come from renewable sources by the next four years. Obama's proposals have offered the most reasonable and intuitive energy plan ever offered by a presidential candidate. Obama has put forth several suggestions on how to aggressively approach this crisis. Obama wants a cap-and-trade program that would reduce carbon emissions by 80 percent in the year 2050. While it's a huge goal, scientists have noted it can be reached only if atmospheric carbon dioxide is kept below dangerous levels. While McCain once showed hope in this area, as gasoline prices went up, his ideas shifted. He wants to lift the delay on offshore oil drilling, which really would not even lower gas prices.

Apart from the major issues that affected the American public, there is also the issue of character. McCain has become a disappointment with his television ads that lie and pander. He chose Sarah Palin as his vice presidential nomination, a move many have viewed as simply a strategy move to keep his campaign alive, rather than a choice that is best for America. McCain has come off as impulsive, impatient and a "risk-taker." What would these qualities be like in a presidency?

Obama's approach is the exact opposite. He is pragmatic and calm. He advocates hope and unity as the driving forces in turning our nation around. While his decisions have defined Obama as liberal, he is able to reach out to Americans of every political background, even if they do not necessarily have the same opinion as him. In the situation that America is in, unstable and scared, it seems more reassuring to have a president with Obama's temperament, patience and intelligence.

It is impossible to expect that one man is going to fix every single problem our nation has come to face. However, it is about concentrating on the essential: The economy, energy and the war in Iraq. If Obama were to be elected, America could refresh its image and start anew. We need a leader that is inspirational and levelheaded, ready to bring about change that will eventually turn into stability. The man that is best suited to do so than Barack Obama. ☺

When culture is source of pride, misunderstandings are bothersome

I have a problem. I am instinctively compelled to slap every person that refers to Africa as a country. Hello!!! We are students at CHS, a pretty decent school, yet this remains a problem.

As an African, and a student, I am offended by this. Africa is comprised of 54 individual nations and the total area of the continent is 11,668,598.7 square miles. Can you imagine if all of that land were just one country? I can't, which is why I cannot for the life of me understand why some people have trouble calling Africa what it truly is—a continent.

I have heard countless anecdotes about certain members of this year's junior class—particularly of the African-American persuasion—openly mocking the names of the characters in the critically acclaimed Chinua Achebe novel "Things Fall Apart". I have to admit, I wasn't all that surprised at hearing about these occurrences. You see, I believe that Africans are deeply misunderstood. We are seen as uneducated, barbaric, old-world people who lack any motivation to rise above our adverse situations. This irks me, as most of the Africans that I have come across have the exact opposite mentality.

During my most recent visit to Nigeria, I encountered many people who were full of life, even when faced with adverse situations, and that made me second guess all of the times that I complained about not being able to text, not being given an absurdly large amount of money for shopping—petulant requests like those. When my family members

in Nigeria would share a joke, I would feel excluded and discontent, because I felt like I was truly not a part of their joviality.

I am a Nigerian, and although I have been somewhat assimilated into American culture, I still retain a large amount of my culture. And to hear students mock the essence of African culture, let alone black students, in our hallowed halls, makes me quite uneasy, to be frank.

I think that the power of African culture, intellect and emotional fervor is highly underestimated. And that's a shame, because as I have been exposed to Nigerian culture throughout my 17 years, I have only been enriched.

I've encountered many stereotypes and misconceptions from a lot of people, including my friends. The most tiresome stereotype is that the "African" language consists of clicks. As in "click-clackety-click" meaning something like "dog." This ridiculous display of ignorance is what annoys me the most. I think that something must be done to alleviate this problem, not solely for my sake, but for the sake of Africans in general, who already receive such little respect from people from other cultures.

Another unfortunate attitude that I

have observed stems from my Nigerian contemporaries. These contemporaries happen to be teenagers and young adults who are ambivalent toward observing their Nigerian ancestry—or worse, are embarrassed to be associated with anything with a direct correlation to Africa.

Now, don't get me wrong, there are certainly a few aspects of Nigerian culture I can not tolerate. One thing that I disagree with wholeheartedly is the intolerance that is displayed toward homosexuals.

And as a young African woman in the 21st century, I believe that it would be reprehensible to simply tolerate the disregard of the intellectual and physical abilities of women that I have witnessed during interactions with many men in Nigeria. Also, men in Nigeria tend to believe that they can make offensive "constructive criticisms" to women that they hardly know.

But, I digress. The point that I'm trying to make is that although there are some questionable components to Nigerian culture, as there are in cultures throughout the continent, the positive aspects heavily outweigh the negative ones.

I can't speak for the Nigerian youth

living here in the United States, but being exposed to a culture that is so starkly discrepant to that of America has instilled in me a sense of respect for people that I think is lacking here.

That's not to say that Americans lack respect for others, but the respect that Africans show towards their compatriots is more profound, while concurrently remaining an insignificant component of the average African. How can anyone possibly mock a culture as vividly rich and propitious as the general African culture?

The richness of the African culture is derived from many different components, and I would not know where to start describing the various ways that being a part of the African society has cultivated my world views.

I have learned to be more tolerant of different concepts, because I know that I would want people to be able to accept the cultural views of Nigeria and similar African cultures.

From the apparel of various African cultures, to the music and the food, the richness is just much too abundant to overlook.

I think that acceptance of the culture and the willingness of people from around the world, as well as in our own school, to disassociate the financial or health predicaments from the true livelihood of Africa, would benefit everyone.

So for all of those who laugh at the names "Obi Okonkwo" or "Obeirika", I urge you to look at yourselves and revel in your intolerance. And while you do that, I'll revel in my "African-ness." ☺



Staff Editorial

Agree **93%**
Disagree **7%**



Stella Oparaji, Maureen Davies, and several other members of the Igbo Women Association-St. Louis Chapter participate in a traditional Igbo Dance. Though immersed in the American culture, many African adolescents gather to celebrate their culture throughout the year.

Modern art surprising source of inspiration

There's a game I often play when I visit exhibitions of modern art. I choose a piece that catches my eye—a particularly compelling rectangle, for example—and contemplate it for about 10 uninterrupted minutes.

I take everything about the image into account—the colors, the size, the positioning, the media, the frame. I mull over my observations, trying to imagine the artist's intent, trying to answer that fundamental question, "What does the rectangle mean?"

I usually arrive at some basic conclusions about the elegance of color, the simplicity of shape, and the emotion felt when the two unite.

Then comes the fun part. Stepping closer to the painting, I find the placard on the wall that gives the curator's interpretation of the work. Usually as priceless as the pieces they accompany, these descriptions are absolutely spectacular.

"In Study of the Freudian Dichotomy," reads the rectangle's narrative, "Albers rejects the assumption that sexual desire is the primary impetus for human interaction, commenting instead on existential notions of the moral imperative." The account proceeds for about five or six sentences, covering topics from predestination to definite integrals to the battle of Waterloo.

Momentarily stunned, I glance again at the canvas. The parallelogram gazes out at me smugly, almost mockingly. I linger briefly, then walk away, telling myself that next time I will be ready.

With an entire floor devoted to the twentieth century, the St. Louis Art Museum is my venue of choice for upscale quote shopping. One of my favorite lines, however, is actually outside the museum, inscribed over the building's south entrance. It reads, "Art still has truth; take refuge there."

Modern art moves me because it conveys such a boundless variety of truths. The works focus on elements like color, form, and shape—components that can be understood and interpreted a multitude of ways. So even though I may respond differently than a critic to a Mondrian or a Manet, I don't view my interpretation as any less valid than his. I believe that one's initial emotional response is the truest evaluation of a work's inherent power.

Again and again, this genre draws me back because it reminds me of the ways I should live my life. It teaches me to look beyond the obvious and rewards me when I observe carefully. It encourages me to live deliberately. It inspires me with its limitless diversity and stands as a tribute to the power of creativity. It



Senior Jeremy Bleeke sprawls out on the floor with his vast collection of art texts.

shows me that sometimes, a little can go a long way.

Most importantly, however, modern art tells me things that I haven't heard before. And even after dozens of viewings, I am still enraptured by its wild unpredictability.

This is all of particular relevance to me because this week marks the beginning of the exhibit Action/Abstraction: Pollock, de Kooning, and American Art, 1940-1976 at the St. Louis Art Museum.

The show is stunning. The thesis

is clearly presented, the works are well laid-out, and the galleries are full of masterpieces—Pollock's Convergence, and de Kooning's Gotham News to name two of the most famous.

But beyond the exhibition's academic reevaluation of Abstract Expressionism, which is fascinating in its own right, I recommend this show because of the palpable joy in the splatterings of Pollock and the wild brush strokes of de Kooning. More than anything else, Action/Abstraction captures the delight of creativity. ☺



Asiatic obsession enlightens, forges friendships

"Hey Asianposse," a greeting that I am quite used to and frequently get in the hallways walking to the library or to class. This is because my Facebook last name has been "Asianposse" for the past year and a half.

Yes, I have an Asian posse, and basically, I love Asians. I don't stereotype or generalize about them, I just genuinely love and respect Asian culture, knowledge and appearance.

I think this seemingly random obsession can be traced back to my carefree yesteryears-Kindergarten at Glenridge Elementary. In Mrs. Smith's class, there was a Korean boy whose name was Sung Sek Kim.

Although he didn't speak very much English and I didn't speak Korean, we were very caring and thoughtful towards one another. I would often lend him my markers during coloring time and he would allow me to borrow his safety scissors. As I cut out shapes with the blunt orange scissors, Sung Sek colored next to me very quietly. I have to admit, I was thoroughly impressed by his inclusively innate ability to color perfectly inside of the bold, black lines.

During reading time Sung Sek and I shared books, although neither of us knew how to read. Instead, we would simply sit side by side and patiently wait for each other to observe the bright pictures of *Boom Chicka Boom* before turning the page. Obviously, we shared something special and had a very con-

siderate, respectful relationship. Having Sung Sek in my life really made the bustling, stressful Kindergarten atmosphere so much better.

A summer came and went, and when school started back, I was distraught because I had to start First Grade. I was incredibly tense and preoccupied at the fact that naptime no longer existed and my hair was turning gray just thinking about learning how to read a clock or do addition.

When I stopped by my former Kindergarten class after school to say hello to Mrs. Smith, she told me that Sung Sek had gone back to Korea with his family, but his mom had written Mrs. Smith a letter detailing how often Sung Sek had asked about me.

The fact that Sung Sek missed me made my stressful first day of first grade so much better and even now, when I think of Sung Sek and the leisurely, lethargic days we spent flipping through picture books and coloring pictures- I smile.

After that fateful kindergarten year with Sung Sek, my Asian obsession laid dormant for quite awhile. Admittedly, I had a few more Asian best friends; a girl named Echo in second grade, Hannah Gu in second, and a girl named Trinity in third.

However, eventually, they all had to move away, and for the next eight years of my life, I was Asian-less.

Until I went to Missouri Scholars

Academy that is. At MSA, also referred to as "nerd camp," I was able to spend weeks submerged in a world of chemistry experiments, math puzzles, Socratic seminars and Rubik's cubes. I don't exactly remember how, but I ended up hanging out with a group of wonderful Asians.

After being together 24/7, a member of this Asian group nicknamed our group "The Asian Posse." Within the Asian Posse, there were various subgroups, such as the Hearts Playing Asians, that played Hearts all the time and would scream in glee every time some would "shoot the moon."

Additionally, there were the silent Asian boys, the Dance Dance Revolution Asians and the Paparazzi Asians. There also was a redheaded boy, me and a Hispanic girl. We were lovingly referred to as the "Honorary Asians."

Surprisingly, after spending literally every waking moment of my time with this group, I truly did become enlightened about Asian culture and learned that every Asian indeed was not a stereotype. I met a gay Chinese boy that was a beast at Dance Dance Revolution, and a, separate, cynical Chinese boy one that didn't own jeans and wore nothing but slacks and dress shirts and also happened to immensely enjoy sexual innuendos.

My Asian friends taught me how to identify which part of Asia a person came from, based on the shape of their eyes and their last name. I also learned to properly handle a chopstick. "Holding a chopstick is like learning to write, everyone does it differently," my friend



Courtesy of Fontasha Powell

Fontasha Powell poses with her "Asian Posse" at Missouri Scholars Academy in 2007. The 5 "honorary Asians" are posed in the front row.

Linda Hou advised me during my first chopstick lesson. I even developed an "A-dar," which is like a radar, but only goes off when an Asian person is within a 100 ft radius.

I loved every minute of being with the Asian Posse. From the stereotypical jokes about rice, and red Toyotas to taking part in non-stereotypical activities like playing pool and having photoshoots, we always laughed and made every moment that we experienced together into a memory.

Truly, the Asian Posse was and is a group with which I have come to iden-

tify myself. We grew, and learned so much together. Literally, each member was able to teach another something different, whether born in Shanghai, Delhi, Tokyo or the US.

Everyday I miss the Asian Posse but everyday I think of them. We still see each other occasionally, some I see more than others, but we all try to talk regularly. Even if it's just to stress over the shortcomings of a 35 ACT or chat about Japanese pop music, the oriental bonds we created that summer are eternal.

So yes, call me Asianposse. FontASIA is the first. Please, pardon the pun. ☺

Voting imperative for young Americans

In recent years, more people have voted for the next "American Idol" than during the 2004 presidential election.

While it may be true (for some, anyways) that texting in a vote is easier than waiting in line at the polls on November 4, the fact is that the 2004 election of George W. Bush was based on 122 million votes while the choice of the American people to make Carrie Underwood their American idol the next year was based on 500 million votes. The ratio? Essentially 5:1.

Okay, fine. So maybe there are more teenage girls willing to vote for American Idol than there are eligible voters willing to vote for the American president. Maybe I can live with that.

But what if it isn't an issue of willingness— an issue of caring about who becomes president enough to feel like doing something about it? What if people aren't voting simply because they don't have the energy to go vote?

Having gone through the process of registering to vote this year, I can see why it's such a hassle. It's not like spending five seconds on a text message. First,

you have to register online or at the local Board of Elections, and then you have to send in a form detailing all the usual facets of your identity, including your identification number from your driver's license. All of this had to be done before Oct. 8, which is practically a week before my eighteenth birthday and way before I'd even be thinking about doing it.

And on Nov. 4, I doubt casting my ballot is going to be like texting the word "vote" to OBAMA08 or MCCAIN08.

I once thought that people simply didn't vote because they were indifferent. Now, I realize that the number one reason people don't vote is probably just plain old laziness.

Whether such laziness stems from people not feeling that their vote matters enough to merit their driving down to a polling station or from sheer inertia due to the four years that passed between now and the last time they had to drag themselves to do their civic duty, is unimportant.

This election, like the elections that have come before it in recent years, is go-

ing to be very, very close. The role that Missouri plays in close elections is absolutely crucial.

Missouri has always been a "swing" state, a state that can go either way in elections. To illustrate, I need only point to our Republican senator, Kit Bond, and our Democratic senator, Claire McCaskill. Both Obama and McCain have a chance to win Missouri's 11 electoral votes.

In an election like this, 11 measly votes can determine who moves into the White House next year.

Thus, it is so important for the individual voter to try to determine the vote of Missouri's 11 electors. Literally one vote could theoretically determine whether all eleven electors of Missouri turn the state blue or red in this presidential election.

But this is true in every election— what is different about this election is that now there is a greater urgency with which younger voters must make their voices heard. No election in history has yet dealt with the matters facing American voters this November.

They are matters that affect not only the majority of people who vote (that is, older and more experienced voters), but the younger voters. This election's

incoming new group of voters has a duty to represent not only their personal viewpoints but the viewpoints of the younger generation: a generation that will have to deal with the environment, energy, and the world power balance like no other generation before it. We're probably going to spend the rest of our lives on these very issues, so shouldn't we try and get our voices heard as early and as strongly as possible?

Missouri's swing state status means that young voters' choice between the two candidates is perhaps more significant than anywhere else in the nation. States like California and Texas have already chosen their colors. It's up to young voters to sway the Missouri electoral votes in the right or left direction. We, the youngest generation of voters, have to make sure our voice is heard.

So no, perhaps the candidates don't dance or sing little ditties behind their podiums, but can't we care enough to shake off the sluggish apathy of the last four years just for the amount of time it takes to wait in line and decide who runs the country? Can't we put aside the busy work of the school or work day to proclaim our opinions with the deafening power of a silent ballot?

I'll see you at the polls. ☺



MCT Campus

Magazine inspires dreams

Most teenage girls impatiently anticipate the next issue of *Cosmo Girl*, *Seventeen* or *Vogue*. They hope that maybe this issue will be more detailed than the last. It will have even more options for the best hairstyle, and maybe they'll find the dress they've been looking for.

I will admit to being one of those girls who checks the mailbox everyday hoping for that special magazine. A magazine full of design and artistic detail, one with color and excitement bursting from every glossed page. No, I'm not waiting for the next issue of *Elle* or *Glamour*. Instead, I'm waiting for the monthly issue of *Architectural Digest*.

It's not that I don't enjoy reading fashion magazines, or trying to find which color lip gloss is right for me. I have just never found anything more beautiful or sophisticated or artistic than a well designed house.

The day *Architectural Digest* arrives I immediately go to my room, shut the door and read it cover to cover. I don't miss a single comment, estate sale or letter from the Editor. I study each house, each room, each detail until I feel as if I had designed it myself. My needs for travel, architecture, detail, color, nature, light, water and space are all satisfied

through its extensive articles.

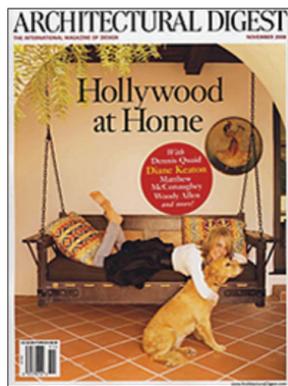
The buildings let me travel to the woodlands of Tamil Nadu, India, or the foothills of Mount Fuji in rural Japan. I can be in a rundown building in New York City, or the middle of a desert in Arizona.

Just for a few hours I can be anywhere I want, in the most beautiful house on earth. I can be in another country, in another time period, in another world all because of the architecture.

Ever since I was little I have been drawn to gorgeous buildings. I would keep a list of all my favorite houses, and tell myself that when I grew up I would buy them. I can look at a building as if it were a painting, taking in every small detail and design.

I won't deny the obvious fact that I'm a nerd about architecture. As I read through the magazine, I sticky note and write down interesting points about my favorite buildings. I compare each building to ones that are similar and find my favorite and least favorite things about each one. I could not be happier spending a Saturday night at home reading *Architectural Digest* or planning my own creations. I now find myself redesigning buildings or staircases or space layouts in my head. I think about my favorite five

story house built on a ledge in Rio de Janeiro. Or the house that first made me fall in love with architecture in Texas.



Architectural Digest has occupied a special niche in my life- my weird obsession, my secret affair. It's something that I know I will always have a passion for. I can express my love for architecture and design because of it.

Architectural Digest is far from the normal teenage girl mania. And it will probably be one of the few things that my friends may never be able to relate to. It is something that will be forever special to me and forever loved by me.

It inspires me to design things that maybe one day I can create. This magazine makes all of the dreams I've ever had, come ever so closer to reality. It is all my favorite things in life all wrapped up in one package. ☺

Seven years later, I resumed the search for my skill again. I decided that my special gift was something related to the arts. I began studying French and the Japanese art of anime; plus, I read more fervently than I ever did.

However, my determination slowly diminished as the body proportions of my drawings grew worse, the plots of my stories began to ramble, and my French steadily turned into disconnected words and long pauses.

Finding talent proves difficult

I've been told that everyone has a special talent. Some are ambidextrous. Some are double-jointed. Some are even mental calculators. For the past 16 years, I've classified mine as "N/A"; I have yet to find my special gift.

I began searching for my gift one day after having the discussion with my class in kindergarten. My teacher was doing a verbal "show and tell" of some sort, and all my classmates were able to name something off in a heartbeat. When she turned to me, I panicked and did what anyone else would do. I lied.

"I have a pet dolphin in my backyard," I said.

I doubt she really believed me, but she went along with it and asked if I could bring it to school sometime. I told her that it could happen if the door frame was larger. I left school that day, deep in thought.

As soon as I got home, I began testing myself. I tried kissing my elbow and nearly broke my arm in the process. I read encyclopedias constantly hoping to increase my IQ. I ended with a headache, a sore arm, and low confidence. I went to sleep that night, sore and defeated.

Seven years later, I resumed the search for my skill again. I decided that my special gift was something related to the arts. I began studying French and the Japanese art of anime; plus, I read more fervently than I ever did.

However, my determination slowly diminished as the body proportions of my drawings grew worse, the plots of my stories began to ramble, and my French steadily turned into disconnected words and long pauses.

By the time I entered high school, I finally came up with a gift I acquired: a vivid imagination.

I suppose many others had vivid imaginations as well, imaginations more vivid than mine, but it was a gift, and even though it was a common gift, I didn't mind being common at the time; I was just trying to survive my freshman

year without looking like an idiot. But as time progressed I saw that this "gift" I had was no more than a creative skill for minor obstacles.

I returned to my state of dissatisfaction again. I realized that finding my gift was much more of a challenge than it ever had been. Because I am immersed in an academic atmosphere with such high standards and bright minds, it is hard to search while competing against others who were already using their gifts to excel.

However, it's not that big of a deal anymore; I've gotten older, and I've gotten smarter and less insecure. Unique talents aren't what make up a person; it's the personality that makes up a person. There is no such thing as an "Average Joe", so I believe that everyone has a special talent; but like me, it just takes time for some to find their gifts. But just in case you don't believe me, I can make a blood vessel in my hand wiggle like a snake by wiggling my right pointer finger, and that took me 16 years to find that.

Nonetheless, I still rack my brain, trying to get some feel for what my rare attribute might be. Perhaps it's my ability to veer a conversation off course into a random topic or something arbitrary, like wiggling a finger. ☺



Fontasha Powell



Maddy McMahon



Ijeoma Onyema

Globe

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Please contact our office for more information. The Globe is distributed to students each month of the school year. We also offer bulk mailing subscriptions for \$20 a year and first-class subscriptions for \$30 a year.

We also remind students that as the Globe is a student publication, all compliments, opinions, complaints, and suggestions are welcomed and should be forwarded to the Globe Office.

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Some material courtesy of American Society of Newspaper Editors/MCT Campus High School Newspaper Service
Winner of MIPA All-Missouri, Quill and Scroll Gallup Award, CSPA Silver Crown, Pacemaker winner (2003), NSPA Hall of Fame Member

The Globe is a public forum. As such, we welcome the voices of all. We accept letters to the editor provided they are signed; under very few circumstances will we publish an anonymous letter. Due to space constraints, we reserve the right to edit submitted material.

Playlist

- TV Trays **1** *Death Cab for Cutie*
- Waiting for my Ruca **2** *Sublime*
- The Hardest Button to Button **3** *The White Stripes*
- Rejazz **4** *Regina Spektor*
- If You're Into It **5** *Flight of the Conchords*



MCT Campus

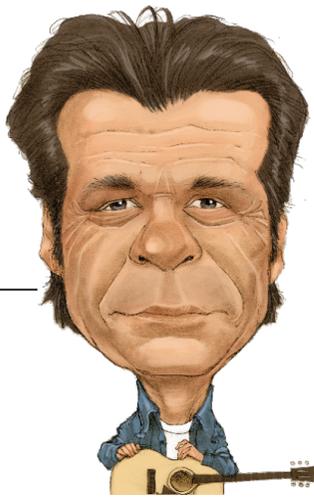
The Interest page is a new venture for the Globe staff this year. It focuses on funny and interesting bits of pop culture. If you have any item you think is worthy, drop us an e-mail at globe@clayton.k12.mo.us or come see us in the cottage. Photos, funnies, favorite songs and websites are all welcome.

Automated sprinklers are wasteful and unnecessary. When it rains, the lawn does not need to be sprinkled at the same time. In fact, yards really do not need to be watered at all unless the country is experiencing a drought.



This year is the hardest year for college admissions. Some of the most selective schools have dropped their acceptance rate to as low as 8 percent such as the prestigious Columbia University in New York City.

McCain's campaign has upset multiple rock-and-roll artists by including their songs in his television advertisements without permission. Among the disgruntled stars include John Mellencamp, the Foo Fighters, and Van Halen, all of whom are strong Obama supporters.



Former Beatle Ringo Starr has announced to fans, with peace and love, that he will no longer accept any fan mail. On his official website, he warns his fan that any letters dated after Oct. 20 will be torn up.



Abby Eisenberg's

Line of Infamy

All photos from MCT

THE ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN JEFF

Jacob Goldsmith

With a bone-cracking thud, Jeff hits the side walk. The building reels from the force.

I say old chap, are you alright. That was quite a nasty fall and what not.

The dog could talk!

To Be Continued!

A curious dog bounds over to the prostrate Jeff. But as he got closer to sniff Jeff, something strange began to happen. The dog started to glow just like Jeff had before.

Environmental Pat on the Back: Carleton College

"Carleton College recognizes that it exists as part of interconnected communities that are affected by personal and institutional choices. We are dedicated, therefore, to investigating and promoting awareness of the current and future impact of our actions in order to foster responsibility for these human and natural communities. Carleton strives to be a model of environmental stewardship by incorporating ideals of sustainability into the operations of the college and the daily life of individuals."

Carleton's Environmental Mission Statement



MCT Campus

Carleton has caught our attention through its recent efforts to make its campus more "green." The administration, students and staff have all fought for these amazing programs at the school in Northfield, MN:

- Fair Trade Organic Coffee sold at the campus snack bar
- Cafeteria serves locally grown food and composts all food waste
- Energy-saving green roof in use on campus
- Practices a single-stream recycling program where all types of recyclables can be put in one place
- Students inspired the purchase of a wind turbine which supplies the campus with 40% of its energy

All information from www.carleton.edu

October Photos of the Month: The Junior Challenge Experience



Jacob Leech

A group of juniors bond as they work as a team to jump rope. The junior challenge provided an opportunity for all the juniors to get to know one another.

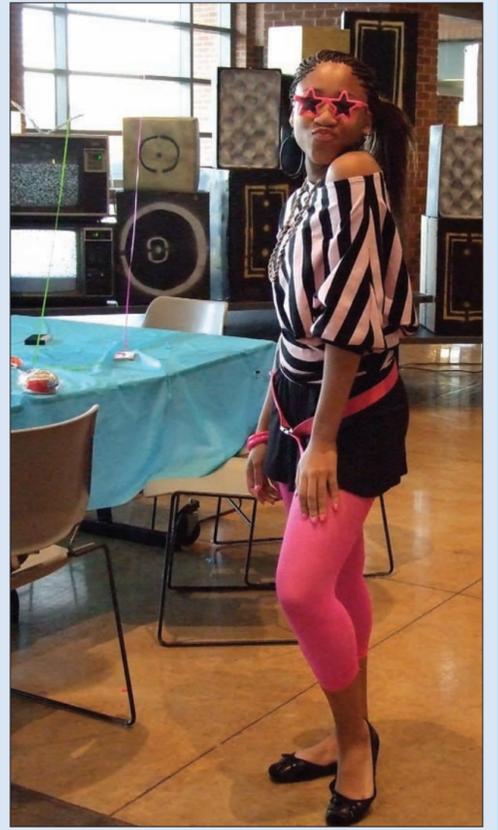


Jacob Leech

A group of juniors jump onto fellow students' backs to try to get across an area with a limited number of contact points. This activity was one of many that students enjoyed at the junior challenge.

Homecoming 2008: Blast from the past

With decorations, the parade, game and dance, not only the high school, but the whole Clayton community was able to partake in the homecoming festivities.



Photos clockwise from left: The bonfire glitters brightly and majestically the night before the homecoming dance. Seniors Olivia Hayes and Dani Shore play wheelbarrow at the bonfire. Senior Brittney Byrth poses in her '80s outfit for dress up day. Senior quarterback Adam Banks throws a pass during the Varsity football game against Chaminade as Jacob Waldman blocks. Although they delivered a valiant effort, the Hounds lost 45-24. Latin teacher Steve Meyer takes a pie to the face at CHS' first ever pep rally. Homecoming Queen Alli Holt gets recognized as a court nominee during half time at the football game. A group of juniors participate in the class games at the bonfire. CHS students, decked out in black, cheer enthusiastically for the Hounds. The football hounds hustle and play hard for the ball. Varsity cheerleaders Brooke Lawrence and Asia Watkins keep up the pep at the homecoming football game.

