



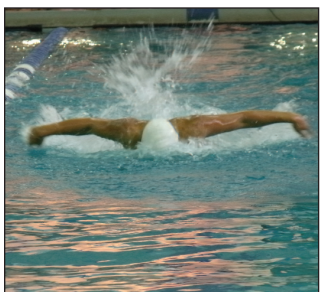
3 People to People an enriching experience



4 International Day entertains, educates



9 Fall sports look forward to playoffs



11 Exploring the physics of swimming



12 Homecoming by the hours



15 New iPod nano features camera



19 'Sweeney Todd' musical preparations

the GLOBE

Clayton High School

1 Mark Twain Circle

Volume 81, Issue 3

Clayton, MO 63105

Oct. 20, 2009



CONSTRUCTION, pg 6

“Architecture is a collaborative process between owner, architect, engineer and builder. The idea of single architect in his ivory tower is a commonly held belief that does not exist. **John Berglund**
Bond Wolfe Architects”

Posting of salaries online raises questions

by **Simone Bernstein**
Senior Managing Editor

Parents warn children against talking salary, religion, past romances, or politics with others. These can be sensitive and private matters. Yet with an easily accessible online database, all CHS students can find their teachers' salaries.

Missouri educators' salaries were published on STLtoday.com last month.

The online database includes the salaries for administrators, principals, teachers and guidance counselors. Community members can search by last name, school district, position and salary range.

“We Americans love numbers and statistics,” CHS History teacher Richard Horas said. “We feel that if we can only come up with the correct formula, we can evaluate almost anything.”

History teacher Rick Kordenbrock was not startled by the creation of this database.

“I was not surprised by the posting of the salaries,” Kordenbrock said. “I have seen salaries for other public employees posted online.”

In fact, this website already posts the public employee salaries of Missouri state employees, University of Missouri System employees, St. Louis city

and county employees and Illinois state employees. This time the site decided to post every public school teacher salary from the 2008-2009 school year.

Teachers like Horas were taken aback that the St. Louis Post Dispatch posted the salaries online at such open access.

“I was surprised,” Horas said. “However, as a public servant and an advocate of government transparency, I believe the public has a right to know what they are paying their employees.”

Some CHS students were shocked to find such detailed information on the website.

“It seems like an invasion of privacy,” sophomore Marguerite Daw said. “They could have created this database without employee names and included a pay salary chart for each school district.”

This online database showcases the differences between merit pay and seniority pay. Clayton builds salaries through seniority and education while Ladue uses merit pay.

“It's not just a seniority pay system,” said Sharmon Wilkinson, Clayton Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. “We pay teachers using a single salary schedule model. Pay is based upon two factors, years of experience and education. Teachers will receive higher salaries for Bachelor's Degrees,



History teacher Donna Rogers-Beard conducts her AP World History class. Her salary, along with that of every teacher in Missouri, is now available for public viewing online. Educators now question whether Clayton's single salary schedule model is the most effective pay system.

Master's Degree and for a PhD.”

Since the single schedule model is objective, it is used by many school districts.

“The single salary schedule model in most school districts has been used

since the early 1930s,” Wilkinson said. “Part of the reason the model was put into place was so salaries were objective and never based upon individual discretion. Historically, the model emerged in response to a movement

for ‘equal pay for equal work,’ a demand for greater teacher skills and the desire to diminish bias in the teacher pay system.”

Teacher salaries
pg. 3



Jerry Estes holds his choir class in the fine arts hallway at Wydown Middle School. As larger classes have matriculated each year, the school's population has outgrown its capacity. The bond issue passed last spring did not include plans for the middle school, but community members have organized to develop options to present before the Board of Education.

Wydown Tomorrow plans for imperative renovations

by **Jocelyn Lee**
Reporter

This November, the group Wydown Tomorrow plans to present a report regarding the future of Wydown Middle School to the Board of Education. An advisory group of 16 parents and community members, Wydown Tomorrow was formed to develop options for a bond issue for the renovation of the Wydown building.

“In the facility master plan that was done last year, the Board of Education recognized that the recommendations that were made for Wydown were not adequate,” co-chair of Wydown Tomorrow Kristin Redington said. “They thought that further study needed to be done and more options needed to be looked at for Wydown Middle School, and more community engagement was needed to find out what the community really wants for our middle school.”

Redington has several children at Glenridge Elementary School and the Family Center. In addition, she attended the Clayton schools when she was younger. Redington said part of the reason why she is involved is that she wants to give back and help provide for future generations.

Along with co-chair Stephen Nickelson, Redington began conducting Wydown Tomorrow meetings in June of this year. Scheduled for the second and fourth Monday evenings of each month, these meetings are open to the public and focus on the group's main goals.

Wydown Principal Mary Ann Goldberg is one of the 16 community members on the Wydown Tomorrow committee.

“The overarching goal for the group is to look at options for Wydown beyond what came out of the facility master plan, and not to come up with a final recommendation to the board, but to present schemes to the board that they think would be good options for them to consider,” Goldberg said. “The final decision on what is going to happen will be made by the Board of Education.”

However, Redington said there are parameters for the plans. One of them is that Wydown has to stay on the current Wydown site, and that whatever options are developed must require less than \$40 million. This will allow the district to propose a zero-tax rate increase bond issue this coming April, in contrast to the bond issue which passed through Proposition S last spring.

“The high school, the elementary schools, and the family school were all done by a bond that the community voted on to increase their taxes,” Redington said. “This bond is differ-

ent because it's a zero-tax rate increase bond, which means that the taxes won't actually go up. Instead of the amount that we are paying currently and it ending at a certain time, let's say 12 or 15 years out from now, we would just continue to pay that same amount for a full 20 years.”

Parent Ronna Pohlman said she isn't so sure that the zero-tax rate increase will turn out the way it is supposed to. However, she said she would not mind paying a little bit more in order to benefit her children's education. Pohlman has a daughter in the seventh grade at Wydown and two sons who will be entering the sixth grade next school year.

Perhaps the greatest issue that needs addressing at Wydown is one of space.

“It's been an overriding issue at Wydown since I've been here,” Goldberg said. “We had issues with space when I came and they haven't gone away – they've gradually gotten worse. We have choir in the lobby of the theater every day, and we have band classes in the hallways.”

Robert Kuehn, the parent of two students at Captain Elementary School, said he was shocked after his visit to Wydown on one of the Monday tours that Wydown Tomorrow offers.

“I never expected to see such a crowded, clearly inadequate school in a highly-regarded, quality school system like Clayton,” Kuehn said. “It is hard for me to imagine all those children, stuffed in those cramped spaces, getting the most from their educational day. I think almost anyone who visits the school would come away both disturbed at the cramped, outdated conditions and supportive of some action by the School Board to expand and upgrade the school.”

In addition to space problems, Pohlman said the aesthetics of Wydown are lacking.

“The whole landscape needs to expand the mind, and it doesn't do a good job of that,” Pohlman said.

According to Pohlman, her daughter enjoys the drama curriculum at Wydown, but is not entirely happy with the provided educational space.

“She has talked about how it feels kind of old and dilapidated, and so for her, that's an area that is lacking,” Pohlman said.

Teachers too, Goldberg said, feel the need for change.

“The teachers here are just hoping that something happens,” Goldberg said. “But what we want and what we need is additional space in whatever way it comes to us.”

Wydown Tomorrow
pg. 2

Prom date moved to accommodate AP tests

by **Mary Blackwell**
Senior Features Editor

The date of prom was recently changed from May 8 to May 15 due to conflicts with AP tests and concerns expressed by students. AP testing takes place May 8-14; prom will now take place on the weekend after AP exams instead of the weekend between the two weeks of AP exams.

“When I first found out the original date of prom I was in a state of shock,” senior Gabby Inder said. “I couldn't believe that the school would choose to place the dance in between the two weeks of AP exams.”

AP Physics students, like Inder, along with AP Biology students, were especially concerned because May 8 is the day of the biology and physics final exams. This exam, taken on Saturday, is designed to prepare students for the biology and physics AP exams, which take place on the following Monday, May 10.

“Originally, we wanted to set aside the last weekend of April for prom,” Principal Louise Losos said. “We thought that it was late enough to feel the weight of prom, but early enough not to interfere with APs and final exams,” Losos said.

But this year, the last Saturday of April falls on a three-day weekend, the last weekend that seniors have to visit colleges before their decision is due on May 1. To set the date earlier seemed to be too early in the year, especially for a dance that is supposed to be a culmination of the school year.

“With the best of intentions we went with May 8,” Losos said. “Part of our thinking was that if you wait until that weekend to study for the AP exam, it's probably kind of late. We were thinking if they're studying for their final, then really they should be ready to go for Monday.”

The first weekend of May is also not ideal because on Monday May 3, CHS students will take end-of-course exams.

“We began to get more students, not a lot of students, but enough that I decided to relook at it rather than have it be a point of contention throughout the year with the students,” Losos said. “If it's that important, I thought, why don't we at least see if there are other possibilities?”

Inder was one of the distressed students that approached Losos about the prom problem.

“When I went to speak with Dr. Losos, she carefully outlined why prom

had been set on that specific date,” Inder said. “She was understanding and seemed as though she wanted to help us try to figure out the best solution to the problem.”

One of Inder's main arguments was that a large number of CHS seniors and juniors would be affected by the conflict. In total, 91 students are enrolled in AP Biology and AP Physics, 21 in physics and 70 in biology.

“I looked again at AP Bio and AP Physics and if we have 400 juniors and seniors all together roughly you figure that AP Bio and AP Physics combined are about 100—that means that 25% of our student population is impacted,” Losos said. “You don't want to make a decision on the needs of a small number. But 25% is not a small number.”

CHS students weren't the only ones voicing an opinion about the May 8 prom date.

“I had gotten an email from my PTO president saying that they had fielded a couple of phone calls and were asking about it,” Losos said.

After consulting with the leadership council, a monthly meeting advisory group of teachers including all of the department heads, the decision was made to change the date of prom.

Student activity director Mike Nelke was able to contact the venue, Palladium, and successfully switch the date to May 15 without monetary consequence.

Traditionally, senior skip day is the Monday after prom weekend, which was one of the original objections to the May 8 date because a significant number of seniors were going to spend their free day taking an AP test. But there is a new potential conflict with the new date.

“We might need to move senior finals up one day to Monday,” Losos said. “So that things like that are never clean.”

Senior finals start on Tuesday May 18, but if they are moved up a day the first day of senior finals will also be senior skip day.

“I am extremely happy that prom has been changed to May 15,” Inder said. “I feel like there has been a weight lifted off of my shoulders. Instead of having to sacrifice my schoolwork to attend prom, I will now be able to relax and enjoy the last few weeks of school with my friends.”



Mimi Liu

Index:

- 2 World
- 4 Community
- 6 InDepth
- 9 Sports
- 13 Features
- 17 Arts
- 20 Forum
- 24 InFocus

American Airlines cuts flights in St. Louis

Due to smaller loads and lower fares as a result of the recession, American Airlines will stop servicing flights from St. Louis to several destinations around the country; the company's decision will affect many St. Louisans' travel plans and has caused some CHS students to rethink their college choices.

by Jake Bernstein
Reporter

With the announcement of new flight reductions for 2010, American Airlines will be left with 36 flights departing daily from Lambert-St. Louis International Airport, far fewer than the nearly 500 daily departures from the airport when American Airlines took over Trans World Airlines (TWA) less than 10 years ago.

After these cuts, non-stop service from St. Louis will no longer be available on any carrier to Austin, Texas; Nashville, Indianapolis; Wichita, Kan.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Madison, Wis.; Norfolk, Va.; Raleigh-Durham, N.C.; Richmond, Va.; San Antonio, Texas; San Francisco; and Des Moines, Iowa. Non-stop service on American Airlines will cease to eight other cities by 2010 as well, though other carriers also offer non-stop service to these destinations.

American Airlines has cut down its St. Louis hub multiple times since TWA left St. Louis nearly eight years ago. Bill Mishk, former Vice President of Marketing and Planning for American Connection, American Airlines' regional service, said that flight cuts should be foreseen.

"People fail to realize that flight service and flight availability is a function of economic development," Mishk said. "In other words, if there is lots of economic development, the city will usually get lots of flights. When there is low economic development, the city will lose flights. And unfortunately, St. Louis has been losing company headquarters to other cities and the automotive industries have downsized hugely. This

has been a major factor in the reduction of flights over the past few years."

Local members of the community are aware of the reductions, and are planning ahead to make sure they are ready.

Trent Bernard, who flies out of St. Louis on a weekly basis, is aware of the flight reductions and is making his travel plans accordingly.

"It will make traveling a lot more difficult, and extra time will have to be dedicated to layovers," Bernard said. "Currently I fly American about half the time, but I will probably fly more on Southwest and other carriers once the new flight cuts go into effect."

Many students who travel know the possibility of long layovers between transfer flights, so this forces their families to reconsider traveling. The flight cuts ultimately could change some students' college choices, which may depend on the access to flights back to St. Louis.

"There are fewer flights which mean more layovers in airports," junior Sarah Graeber said. "This makes me not want to go to college far away, as travel to and from college would be too hard and take too much time and effort."

Sophomore Carmen Ribaldo agrees that flight cuts will make travel a headache. Every year she flies the direct flight on American Airlines to San Francisco, which will cease to exist in 2010.

"I fly on the direct flight to San Francisco every year," Ribaldo said. "We probably will not be traveling there as often as we would spend more time in waiting around for connecting flights which is very inconvenient, and would make the travel much more difficult."

Though it will make traveling more

"People fail to realize that flight service and availability are a function of economic development.

Bill Mishk
Vice President of Marketing and Planning for American Connection



Nancy Freeman

American Airlines will stop providing flights from St. Louis to 19 cities by the end of 2010. St. Louis may face a shortage of flights until its economic condition improves.

difficult, from a business perspective, American Airlines may have made a correct decision in cutting flights.

"It was absolutely the correct choice for American to pull out, as flights are regularly half full and fares have come down due to price competition and the recession," Mishk said. "Combine the lower loads and lower average airfare and the flights are not making any money. I agree, it will be difficult to get to places, but it was a smart financial decision by American."

"In my experience, American can't even fill the small jets when they fly,

with the planes only flying at 50% to 75% capacity, so it's understandable why they are cutting so many flights," Bernard said.

St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay disagreed, calling American Airlines' move a "bad business decision," according to his blog. He said that American Airlines, in cutting more than half of their flights each day, will lose customer confidence and people will just give other airlines their business rather than American Airlines.

Though it may be unlikely that American Airlines will step back in the

immediate future, other airlines may fill the gap American Airlines left in abandoning so many routes.

Southwest Airlines is picking up two routes American originally abandoned, as well as direct service to Minneapolis and Boston, though service to Boston will be picked back up by American Airlines' regional service.

"Even if other airlines do pick up the slack, there is no way that an airline is going to start flying to all these places that American dropped, unless there is much more economic development in the city," Mishk said. "The backfill, a

term used to describe another airline coming in to pick up lost flights, will be muted."

"I am not expecting American to pull back to St. Louis, as they seem to want to concentrate on the bigger cities like Dallas and Chicago," Bernard said. "I think Southwest will fill the gap, as I know they made a great decision in filling a gap this year in opening service to Minneapolis."

For the time being however, the citizens of St. Louis will have to be content with connecting to other cities through other airlines when they fly. ☺

HALLOWEEN EXPRESS

Open Everyday:
10am - 9pm

MANY ITEMS UP TO
40% OFF*
*regular price

HALLOWEEN EXPRESS

\$5 OFF

Any \$50 purchase

Not valid with any other offers or discounts
Coupon Expires 10/28/09

HALLOWEEN EXPRESS

\$3 OFF

Any \$30 purchase

Not valid with any other offers or discounts
Coupon Expires 10/28/09

1114 S. Brentwood Blvd.
Richmond Heights, MO 63117

Next to Old Navy
Fairview Heights, IL
6005 N. Illinois St.
618.233.4425

314.727.7727
Across from Galleria Mall

Saint Peters, MO
32 Harvester Square
St. Peters, MO 63303
636.922.2265

West County, MO
15200 Manchester Road
Ballwin, MO 63011
636.527.9030

PANICEAST.COM



Elizabeth Sikora

Administrators, along with members of the community, are making plans to expand the Wydown Middle School building.

Wydown Tomorrow plans to remodel campus

Wydown Tomorrow
pg. 1

As the principal of the school, Goldberg said it is part of her job to ensure students have the educational space they need.

"A primary objective of my role as the educational leader for the building is to create spaces so that we can honor the program and the teaching that goes on here for the kids each day," Goldberg said.

As to what exactly will happen to the Wydown building, no one is sure quite yet. Several schemes have been looked at, some of which include an entirely new building or an addition onto the gym and theater.

"The building has to be built, whether it's an addition or a new building or a renovation, to accommodate future enrollment," Redington said. "The number that they are asking us to build for is 550 students."

Other than creating more space for the predicted number of students, designing the building to be more environmentally friendly seems to be among the next most important issues.

"Goals would include increasing green space, allowing for natural light and good quality air circulation through the building," Redington said. "The increasing green space would be for outdoor classroom instruction or being able to eat outside. I think our middle school students, especially,

don't get to be outside as much as they could be."

Goldberg also said making Wydown more "green" is a priority among the teacher and student body. "We would like to make sure it is LEED-certified, so that it's environmentally friendly, and it's built on sustainability," Goldberg said. "I've talked with the students about it, and they're very adamant about the fact that they want to make sure that whatever we do, whether it's an add-on or a new building, that it be built so that it's based on building green."

Redington said that an important part of the process is getting the community involved so that they have a voice in what will happen at Wydown.

"We want to present three different options to the community through the website and also through a mailing that we're going to send out at the beginning of November," Redington said. "That will give the community the opportunity to look at the different options and their pros and cons. The community will be able to give their feedback and tell us what they are feeling is the right direction to go in."

Redington said, overall, people recognize the need at Wydown and are supportive of the plans for renovating Wydown. She said she encourages anyone who has an opinion or idea to visit the Wydown Tomorrow website or attend a Monday meeting.

"The more people we hear from, the easier it is to represent the community," Redington said. "And we've got 4.2 acres, so there are great possibilities." ☺

Anniversary of the PRC celebrated in Forbidden City

by Philip Zhang
Reporter

On Oct. 6, the People's Republic of China celebrated its 60th anniversary in Tiananmen Square with a parade that included 300,000 participants and 60 floats. In addition to a civilian parade that highlighted China's achievements in various sectors of the society, a military parade featured troops and modern military hardware such as helicopters, fighter jets, and tanks.

President Hu Jintao addressed the Chinese people from the same Tiananmen rostrum where Chairman Mao proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic of China 60 years ago.

"The situation is a lot different now," said Ziqiang Zhang, a businessman who works in Beijing's Haidian district that is also known as China's Silicon Valley. "With a speed of growth that is unparalleled to any other market, China went from an economically insignificant country to the third largest economy in the world."

This year, China's GDP could total \$4.58 trillion if its economy continues to grow at 17 percent and the dollar trades at an average of 6.3 yuan. At this rate, China may surpass its neighboring country, Japan, and become the second largest economy in terms of GDP.

Zhang said that he has witnessed great changes in many other aspects other than the economy.

"It has been 30 years since I graduated from college," Zhang said. "Nowadays, it is much easier to get into college because of the increase in the number of colleges. Back then, only one student out of every 50 to 60 students got enrolled."

As China opened its economy and merged into globalism, its culture has been greatly changed.

Dr. Ming Fu of Washington University lived in China for more than 40 years and has been visiting China frequently since she moved to the United States.

"People in China are now welcoming Western ideas that had been criticized and discouraged during Mao's generation," Fu said. "The culture is more diverse; people are able to expose themselves to different cultures from all over the world."

Over the years, events like the Cultural Revolution and the Tiananmen Square Protest have cast shadows over China's achievements.

"The progress had not been consistent through out the last 60 years," Zhang said. "During the first 30 years, a lot of mistakes were made by the communist leaders; as a result, China's room for growth was very restricted. During the last 30 years, the changes in government ideology gave China more opportunities to catch up with the rest of the world. In fact, the economic power of China today was mainly shaped by the changes of the last 30 years."

"Whether some of the past choices made and steps taken were right or wrong, China has certainly matured after overcoming obstacles one after another," said Ye Ji, a typical Chinese girl born and raised in Beijing, who is now a junior in college. "In terms of culture, there have been huge leaps since the end of the Cultural Revolution. More Chinese have become aware of the importance of preserving traditional culture, and recent events like the 2008 Beijing Olympics sure gave China a chance to show the world its rich cultural background."

Zhang, Fu, and Ji unanimously agreed that the biggest change in China is the overall improvement of living conditions.

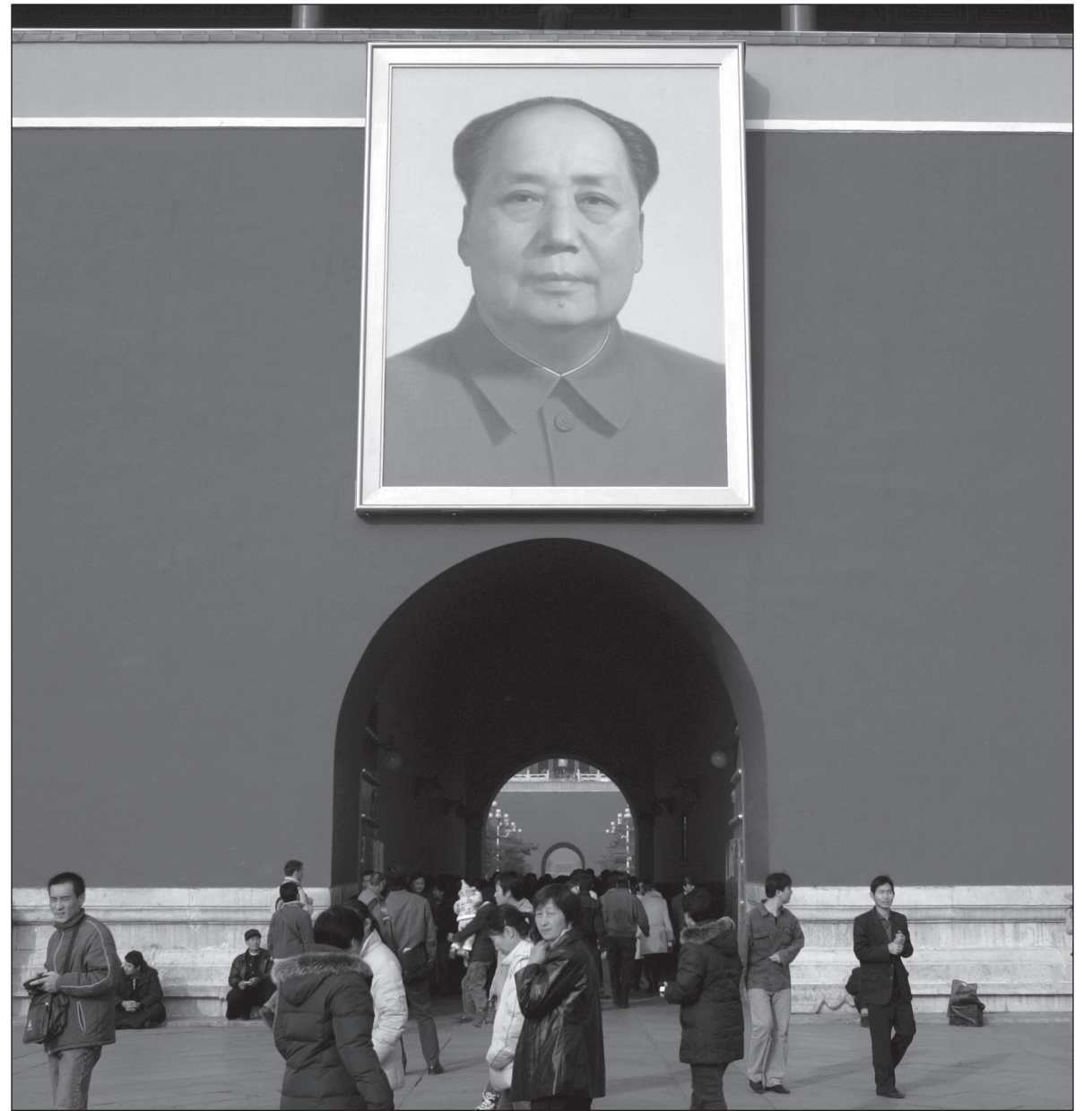
"When I was born, natural disasters often led to food shortage and other life-threatening problems," Fu said. "I remember those days clearly; from the early 1950s to mid-1980s, food was bought with ration coupons. Nowadays, the young teenagers can eat McDonald's or KFC whenever they wish to."

For China, a lot of improvements still need to be made in the future. China's rapid economic growth over the decades has triggered unintended consequences: growing income gaps, government corruption, rising criminality, and environmental pollution. Social tension between different ethnic groups sometimes boils over into violent riots. Despite having the third largest GDP in the world, China still has millions of people living on less than \$1 a day in rural areas.

"I believe this country could accomplish anything with a sense of unity," Zhang said. "During the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake, the whole country, 1.3 billion Chinese people, came together and fought through hardships together. In the future, I wish to see more unity like this among the Chinese people."

Like Zhang, Ji also has high hopes for the future of China.

"Since China is so largely populated, a small change in each individual can make a big impact," Ji said. ☺



Chinese citizens gather in Tiananmen Square to celebrate the People's Republic of China's 50th Anniversary.

Doug Kanter/KRT



Courtesy of Laura Klamer

A group of students in People to People pose in front of the White House on a recent trip to Washington D.C. People to people is an organization that provides students and adults with educational opportunities throughout the world.

People to People promotes cultural awareness, leadership opportunities

by Preeti Viswanathan
Senior Community Editor

People to People is an organization whose mission is to promote cultural awareness and understanding through direct interactions with other cultures.

The organization's foundation is based on the People to People movement that originated in 1956 with former president Eisenhower, and the movement started with the hopes of promoting world peace through connections between citizens around the world. Today, People to People provides students and adults with educational opportunities throughout the world and within the U.S.

There are four types of programs within the organization: student ambassador programs, sports ambassador programs, leadership programs, and citizen ambassador programs.

Former health teacher Doris Smith traveled with a leadership program this past summer to Baltimore and Washington, D.C., and enjoyed volunteering with the group.

Smith decided to get involved with the organization after retiring when a friend told her about the program.

"When I retired from teaching after 31 years I knew that what I would miss most was my interactions with teenagers," Smith said. "A woman I know was involved with the group and told me a lot about it and it seemed like a perfect fit, which it was."

The 10-day program was held at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Smith was assigned to a group of high school students interested in medical careers. Among the 93 total students, Smith worked with a smaller group of 11 students, most of whom were freshman and sophomores deciding whether they wanted to pursue careers in medicine.

"The program featured a curriculum on leadership and medical issues that we did in our small groups for a couple hours a day and completed a research project," Smith said. "There was an outdoor leadership activity morning, a service day and some general touring in Baltimore and Washington DC. The most interesting part was the medical field trip activities we did most days. We went to the National Institutes of Health, Quest Labs, Walter Reed Hospital and Johns Hopkins' new simulation lab," she said.

In addition to touring, the students talked to admissions deans from Johns Hopkins undergraduate and medical schools, and performed procedures simulated on computers in the lab.

CHS senior Laura Klamer has also traveled through People to People, but she participated in a program that traveled abroad to Australia. Klamer and the other students traveled within Australia from the city of Cairns to Sydney.

"The purpose of our trip was to make people aware of other cultures

and establish a good relationship between different cultures through socializing with one other, so that in the future they [cultures] will have better relationships," Klamer said.

In the program Klamer was a part of, the group of students participated in a farm stay and a home stay.

"At the farm stay we had one Australian family that everyone collectively stayed with, and then each student got an individual host family for a couple of days," she said.

Klamer's memorable experiences included attending school in Australia for a day and meeting the students there, as well as going to an alligator farm. She said that, overall, schools are similar to those in the U.S. In addition to Cairns and Sydney, Klamer also went to Brisbane, a city close to where her host family lived and other tourist attractions.

"We went to many cities along the way and also to the Great Barrier Reef," Klamer said. "I enjoyed the trip a lot, and I really felt like I learned about the culture of Australia."

Smith thought her trip was intellectually stimulating but also provided students enough time to enjoy their surroundings. They visited museums and landmarks, including the national mall in Washington D.C.

"The medical museum at Walter Reed was very interesting and we had a great time on the mall in Washington D.C.," Smith said. ☺

Teacher salary systems analyzed

Teacher Salaries
pg. 1

While the Clayton school district determines salaries using a single schedule model, the Ladue school district prefers the merit pay system. Ladue is the only school district in the St. Louis area to utilize this unique system.

"Ladue has had a merit pay-based system since 1954," President of the Ladue School District Karen Webster said. "A committee of teachers and administrators started work in 1952 to devise a system that would set pay increases for teachers based on their individual evaluations. The possibility of earning more money for superior performance and having no salary cap allows for each teacher to be rewarded for his or her efforts as an individual."

In the Ladue School District, pay is based off of yearly evaluations and discussions between teachers and the administrators.

"Each teacher has an evaluator, most often the principal, but at the middle or high school level it could be an assistant principal, who works with the teacher to set goals," Webster said. "This occurs every year for non-permanent teachers, or every other year for permanent teachers. Based on these evaluations and criteria described in the 'Teacher Evaluation Program Handbook', the teacher is placed in a category. Money available for increases in salary will be distributed to the teachers. A portion of that money is distributed so that teachers who place in a higher category will receive more money, independent of how long they have been teaching, in Ladue, or elsewhere."

CHS teachers like Horas believe there are benefits to the merit system, but feel it is extremely difficult to manage.

"I believe merit pay has a place in education," Horas said. "The challenge is coming up with a means by which to determine 'merit'. So much of what teachers do is tough to 'measure'. Can you imagine trying to come up with a 'merit' system for evaluating your parents' performance?"

Kordenbrock believes there are some school districts that would benefit from merit pay.

"In some districts, other than Clayton, there are situations where teachers have tenure, and then have no incentive to work hard," Kordenbrock said. "Teachers can become stagnant, and merit pay could be a form of motivation."

Although the single salary schedule does not pay all teachers the same amount, differences in salaries are solely due to educational levels, credits earned and experience.

"The compensation system was so named because all teachers were paid on the same scale, regardless of gender, race, grade level or family status of the teacher," Wilkinson said. "The model does not take into consideration any evaluation of the teacher's professional performance. To have merit pay, a good system is needed for determining salary decisions. How do you determine the quality of a teacher's performance? Fairness is always an issue."

While some CHS teachers question the reliability of the merit system, the Ladue School District believes it offers many more benefits.

"Every year offers the opportunity for an individual teacher to have his or her salary increased based on his or her contributions- to the classroom, to fellow teachers, to his or her school and the district at large," Webster said. "This allows Ladue to differentiate pay increases for additional teacher effort,

as opposed to paying the same for everyone who has completed the same number of years at a given educational level, regardless of how much they contributed that year."

When analyzing the database, a few CHS students were surprised at the varying differences in teacher salaries.

"From searching the database I noticed there is such a difference in teacher salaries," senior Melissa Kopp said. "If you work longer, it definitely doesn't mean you are a better teacher. For example, Mr. Kordenbrock is a great teacher with only two years of experience, but he deserves a much higher salary. Merit pay definitely seems like a better system."

When viewing the database, many of the extra benefits are not included in the listed salary. The real salary can be significantly more than that published online.

The total compensation package for each teacher includes not only salary, but health care, paid sick leave, extra pay for extracurricular activities, grants and pension contributions. This figure is not listed on the database.

For example, coaching salaries are considered extra bonuses that aren't included on the site. Coaching contracts are set up through the CHS Athletic Office.

"The district places a significant amount of money into a retirement plan, gives us health care benefits and lots of time off," Kordenbrock said. "Our contract includes about 187 contract days, but I also choose to spend time during the summer in unpaid workshops."

Whether payment is based upon merit or seniority pay, the Clayton teacher salaries are competitive with the Ladue, Parkway and Kirkwood school districts. ☺

**Discount
RATES
without discount
SERVICE.**

It's no accident more people trust State Farm to insure their cars.
Call today.

Lisa A Fuller, Agent
11820 Tesson Ferry Rd
St Louis, MO 63128-1467
Bus: 314-843-9500
www.lisafullerinsurance.com

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE.®

Providing Insurance and Financial Services
F040034 12/04
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (Not in NJ), Bloomington, IL

School district benefits from new Centene building

by Zachary Praiss
Reporter

Clayton's skyline is changing. The new headquarters of the Centene Corporation is under construction after years of challenges. The center, which will host commercial towers, retail stores, and restaurants, will have a significant impact on Clayton for many years to come.

Founded in 1984, the Centene Corporation is a national health care provider. Since 2004, the corporation has been searching for a location for their new headquarters.

Originally, Centene sought to build the new headquarters at a former bookstore on Forsyth Blvd. Centene also looked into other locations around the country without success, one of which was Ballpark Village in downtown St. Louis.

Ultimately, Centene chose to remain in Clayton and to build the new headquarters between Forsyth Blvd. and Carondelet Ave. on Hanley Rd. To encourage Centene to remain in Clayton, the city offered tax abatement to the corporation totaling about \$18.9 million.

"We want corporate headquarters like Centene because they bring in jobs to the area, and if you bring in jobs, you



The sign around the construction site shows a projection of what the Centene building will look like once finished. The builders plan to make the new Centene headquarters 17 stories.

bring in people, and those people support our restaurants and our retailers," said Clayton mayor Linda Goldstein.

In 2007, the city of Clayton called for proposals to redevelop the block of Forsyth. Centene submitted the only proposal, and thus, with permission from the city, sought to acquire the en-

tire block of Forsyth to help expand the new headquarters.

However, Centene faced opposition from some companies, and ultimately, the dispute took itself to the Missouri Supreme Court in case known as *Centene v. Mint Properties*. The court ruled in Centene's favor, and as a result, Cen-

tene acquired all of the retail shops on Forsyth Blvd.

Centene's new headquarters will incorporate those businesses into the center's new line of retail shops and restaurants on Forsyth Blvd. and the corner of Hanley Rd.

"It's fabulous," Goldstein said. Ac-

ording to Goldstein, there will be a large open sidewalk with outdoor dining. In addition, the spacious plaza will sport an urban garden nestled between the two towers with a fire pit and peaceful water feature.

The center will feature two towers that will host mainly offices for Centene employees. The first tower is already under construction and, when completed, will be 17 stories tall. The second will be located just south of the first tower on Hanley Rd. near Carondelet Ave.

The new headquarters will attract hundreds of new jobs to Clayton and generate new tax revenue for both the city of Clayton and the Clayton School District.

Goldstein explained how Clayton will definitely benefit through the tax base, the property taxes on the development, the people who are brought here and will spend their money here and the presence of a major corporate headquarters.

"Another corporate headquarters in Clayton will attract others," Goldstein said.

Despite the tax abatement, the city is very pleased with the development of the corporation's headquarters. In addition, the school district supports the development despite its nearly 50

percent loss in its future revenue from Centene due to the tax abatement. Instead of receiving \$2 million a year from Centene, the school district will only receive about \$1 million for the next 20 years.

"The psychology of [tax abatement] you could look at that as a glass half full or half empty, you could say we lost a million dollars or you can say we have a million more dollars in revenue that we would not have had without the development," said Don Senti, Superintendent for the Clayton School District. "I think it's a positive thing. It's a million more dollars in revenue."

This new revenue, Senti feels, will take some pressure off the residential tax base.

However, overall, both Goldstein and Senti respect and admire the Centene Corporation for its continued involvement and support for the arts and education in the community.

"Centene has a history of getting involved in the community," Goldstein said.

The corporation played a major role in the contributions for the redevelopment of Gay Field. Also, Centene sponsors events in the community such as the Big Read.

Both Goldstein and Senti look forward to the center's completion. ☺

StuGo takes on new responsibilities

by Dee Luo
Reporter

Even though Student Officers and Student Government both contain the word "student," they are not the same. A lot of Clayton High School students do not even know the purpose of StuGo.

Student Government is, as the name implies, an organization of student-elected members who work to improve and unify the high school. Although the organization does not make executive decisions on school policies, it hosts student activities and community fundraisers. Kurt Kleinberg, a CHS math teacher and one of the sponsors of StuGo, emphasizes that Student Government is not just a name.

"We are here to be a body that does things, that organizes, that cares," Kleinberg said. "We are just trying to make a positive impact on the school and that's what we are always working towards."

Members of StuGo agree and expand upon Kleinberg's definition.

"StuGo is a group of students who represent the student body and do

things the students actually want to do, instead of things the teachers want to do," senior and StuGo president Eve Root said.

This year, StuGo is trying to be more active in the community, and has taken on many new projects, one of which is the indoor soccer tournament. Although StuGo is most commonly known for hosting the Halloween Dance, it also hosts the Arts Fair, the Blood Drive, the Three vs. Three Basketball, the canned food drive, the Adopt a Family fundraiser, activities with Clayton Connection, and other forms of community service.

"We also do the appreciation breakfast for the staff," Kleinberg said. "My hope is that StuGo is not just some entity of the building that just throws a dance. I want to take a more active role in the community."

In response to the additional events, members of StuGo have taken more responsibility. There are 28 members of StuGo, seven elected members from each grade. From the 28 members, four officers are elected.

This year, Root is president, vice

president is Shelby Sternberg, treasurer is Joe Evers, and secretary is Sonja Petermann. The sponsors are Kleinberg and social studies teacher Kurtis Werner.

"This year, it seems the members have really stepped up, responsibility-wise," Kleinberg said. "It's more of a time commitment than most people realize."

StuGo meets 16 times each year, every two weeks, during the school day and at night. StuGo members can be kicked out if they do not attend meetings or develop behavior issues.

"Attendance was an issue," Kleinberg said. "A couple of years ago, we put in effect a new attendance policy."

So far, issues have been rare.

With the Homecoming dance over, StuGo is starting to prepare for the Halloween Dance on Oct. 30. Judging from the success of the Homecoming dance, where tickets sold out, Kleinberg thinks the Halloween Dance will be a success.

"I hope, at least in the decoration aspect, to create a climate as cool, if not cooler than last year's," Kleinberg



Kurt Kleinberg and Shelby Sternberg discuss aspects of this year's Halloween dance. StuGo hopes for a good turnout to the dance based off of this year's homecoming and last year's Halloween dance attendance.

said. "Last year [the dance] was in the auditorium, the first dance ever to be on stage."

This year, the dance is taking place in the Commons. StuGo anticipates a

lot of work decorating and a high turnout for the dance.

"From my perspective, and from a historical standpoint, it's one of the best dances that this school has to offer all

year," Kleinberg said.

Although StuGo is taking on many new responsibilities, "it's never a burden," Root said. "We always have fun!" ☺



A cultural dancer performs for students at International Day. The traditional Peruvian dance was just one of many presentations students saw over the course of the day.

'International Day' returns to CHS

by Sarah Blackwell
Reporter

A couple dances across the front of the Commons. Every student watches as they eat. But this is not lunch—it is dinner. This is the potluck for CHS's International Day.

This year, CHS brought back an old tradition: International Day. Students who have experienced a different culture, aside from a tourist experience, were invited to present their knowledge in the form of an assembly. On Sept. 25, every language class attended the presentations that were given during the day.

"We realized that there is a community of international children, international students, here," Spanish teacher Teresa Schafer said. "They have challenges with both the language and the culture."

Many students at CHS were born in another country or have lived in another country.

"It all started with a conversation where we said, you know we have a small yet interesting international community," Schafer said. "We wanted to make those kids shine for a day and also have our kids that have gone to other countries and somehow came back with something to share."

This year, the presentations included performances of traditional Indian dances, a martial arts performance, and

visual presentations of trips to countries all over the world. After school, there was a potluck dinner of international food, and performances of traditional Chinese and Peruvian dances. Senior Chi Zeng also performed a traditional Chinese song.

Wydown Middle School science teacher Sandra Sermos hosted a trip to India last year. This year, she invited them to St. Louis to visit our schools. These six Indian students presented and performed at International Day along with our students.

"They were very entertaining and it was cool to see just PowerPoint presentations," senior Hannah Klein said.

Klein presented a PowerPoint about her trip to Ghana. On her service trip, she visited orphanages and painted a hospital.

CHS used to hold the International Day of Languages every year on Sept. 25, but stopped the tradition around 10 years ago. In Europe, they have an International day on Sept. 25 so that is why it is held on that date.

"We wanted to make that day not just for them but for the whole community by putting the emphasis on how happy we are to have all these different nationalities in our community," Schafer said. "We celebrate the fact that we have international kids here and kids that have gone places and learned things that have enriched their lives." ☺



Sophomore Dee Luo does a Chinese dance with her dance troupe in traditional Chinese garb.

Speech & debate prepares for changes as coaches ready to retire

Faced with the prospect of losing teacher sponsors, members are learning to embrace leadership.

by Maria Massad
Reporter

As the coaches of the Speech and Debate team prepare to retire, the team faces changes. Soon, the team might be struggling to survive.

Speech and Debate, or forensics, is a club at CHS that focuses on speaking in front of people while debating moral issues or interpreting fictional works of literature by acting them out in several different ways. If participants perform well, they could receive trophies in recognition of their achievements.

Coach Brenda Bollinger will retire from the team at either the end of the 2011 or 2012 school year. Assistant coach Dave Jenkins is leaving CHS after this year.

"Because the coaches are going to retire soon, we will have a new leader of the Speech and Debate team in the near future," forensics co-president Will Schedl said. In response, the Speech and Debate team student board has more responsibility this year.

"By giving the board members more responsibility, Ms. Bollinger and I will know that the kids will be able to ease the new coaches into leading the team better," Jenkins said.

In order to continue the team's excellence, the team is instituting several changes this year.

One of these additions to the team is the mentor program. Varsity members help novice-level students improve their work by giving them an audience, by encouraging them, and by offering critiques.

"The team has always had this program in place, just not officially," Bollinger said. "Varsity students have always taken the lead in preparing novice

students for competitions. This year, we are just trying to formalize this. Rather than it just being a catch-all program, the mentor program becomes more formal and more committed."

The team wants to make sure that the transition between judges is as smooth as possible.

"By having this mentor program in place, the team will understand how to debate and interpret better when the new coaches come," Schedl said.

Junior John Holland mentors novices interested in dramatic interpretations, humorous interpretations, and poetry reading.

"I listen to the person's piece and give them advice on how to improve their performance," Holland said. "This includes enhancing their stage presence, developing their characters, choosing emphasis on specific words to improve the flow and meaning of the piece, and overall encouraging them to continue their efforts."

For those more interested in debating than interpreting, junior Becca Steinberg is on the list of mentors to help.

"As a mentor, I make sure that people with less experience understand what they need to do and feel like they are in a supportive environment that will help them be the best they can be," Steinberg said. "This involves helping them learn how to find evidence and making sure that they understand how

to write a case, without actually doing the work for them; they need to understand the method behind the madness so that they can be successful."

Most participants agree that the mentor program is useful.

"I believe that the mentor system is an extremely good idea, even though it can be a small drain on the varsity member's time," Holland said. "The mentor system is a good idea because it cultivates winners in speech and debate tournaments, and builds relationships and increases the sense of community in the speech and debate world."

However, sophomore Dee Luo, who has been on the team for two years, finds that the mentor program has not helped her: She has already found an informal mentor last year.

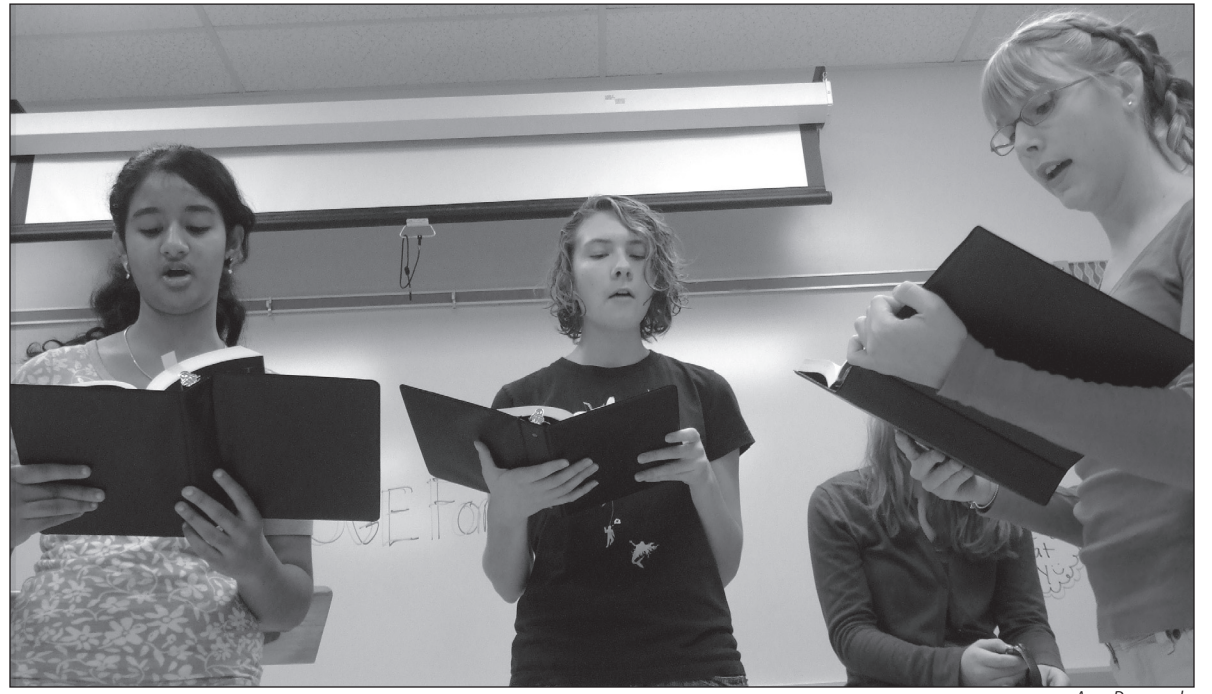
"To me, finding a mentor to help with something new was just embedded in the speech and debate experience," Luo said. "I can see the benefits that it can provide new members with, but personally, nothing was gained or lost."

Sophomore Micah Goodman is also on the team. He chose not to be a mentor.

"I have too much to learn myself," Goodman said. "But it's a great idea, because new debaters can get excellent advice from people who have been debating, in some cases, for four years."

Also, the Speech and Debate team

"By having this mentor program in place, the team will understand how to debate and interpret better when the new coaches come."
Will Schedl
Senior



Anna Duranowsky

Freshman Ravali Poreddy, senior Kara Kratcha and freshman Laura Kratcha practice prose reading with the team. Prose and poetry reading are two of the many events in which members can compete.

is beginning to raise funds. The team is in debt because of the expenses of going to many tournaments for the past several years.

"Our program is an expensive one based on materials, entry fees, and travel expenses," Bollinger said. "As the team grows, the costs become higher and higher. More people is a good thing, but we have to find more ways to raise the money we need to fund going to tournaments."

There have been three fundraising ideas to decrease the debt.

"One idea was selling candles," Jenkins said. "But that idea was rejected by the board."

Luo is not a board member, but she

opposes the idea of selling candles.

"I can see the point in getting some much needed money for the Speech and Debate team," Luo said. "But candles? Really? I guess it's a more creative alternative to other things, but we are speech and debaters."

According to Jenkins, selling candles is now a last resort.

"We are, however, going to have a trivia night in the spring because those are popular and fun," Jenkins said. "The other thing we had in mind was to make a tournament booklet, which is something that team members would give to coaches of other teams that would inform them of places nearby to eat."

The students would sell ads for the

book in order to raise money for the team.

"We have around 30 schools from around the state, so some people are unaware of dining opportunities in Clayton," Bollinger said. "Our tournament is being held on Nov. 20 and 21."

Goodman thinks that fundraising is necessary.

"It's not that big of a deal; we'll all just have to put in a little extra work so that the team as a whole can excel," Goodman said.

Schedl hopes that everything will go well this year.

"It's my last year," Schedl said. "I hope that these changes will add to my last year here." ☺

The WORKS publication will showcase student art, writing

by Meredith McMahon
Reporter

Perfectly phrased poems and explosive original artwork pour out of every page of the annual CHS literary magazine, the WORKS. It's no wonder that this long-standing magazine has been published for 20 years at CHS.

Poems, stories, personal essays and artwork are all part of the WORKS, a literary magazine that comes out every May. English teacher John Ryan sponsors the WORKS.

"We want to publish the best writings that Clayton students have to offer," Ryan said. "We have a pretty wide understanding of what the best writing means: creative work, original work, work that takes a risk, [that is] thought provoking."

Student work can be published following student or teacher recommendation, and an occasional contest that comes once a year. The magazine is a creative outlet for students who want to explore their creative writing and artistic freedom, which makes for an eclectic, interesting staff. Senior Andrea Goldstein is an editor of the WORKS.

"It's diverse set of people," Goldstein said. "We all bring something different to the production of the Works and we

also are able to get a diverse group of people to submit their works of art to the magazine."

Different pieces of art and literature can be submitted to the four editors on staff, who choose pieces with the help of Ryan and co-sponsor Christine Vodicka, a CHS art teacher. The editors, seniors Ken Zheng, Meredith Redick, Allie Lake, Nina Oberman, and Goldstein.

"The editors are passionate about producing the best edition of the WORKS we can," Goldstein said.

Editors of the WORKS change annually because they are usually seniors, although there have been exceptions.

"Last year we had the same staff for two years and this year we have a brand new staff," Ryan said. "What I would love to do is start bringing in juniors this year so that when they are seniors, they may take a role and keep building editors."

Ryan has many other goals and hopes for the future of the WORKS.

"This year we're hoping to do more than [putting out one magazine in May], you know, posters, bookmarks, small pieces you can put in people's hands so they can say, 'Hey, this is cool.'"

Ryan took over the magazine as sponsor two years ago from Nick Ot-

ten, a former English teacher at CHS. Ever since then his goals for the magazine have expanded.

"My goal for the first year was to first put out a magazine, my goal for last year was, okay, let's learn from what we did and even do a better job," Ryan said. "So this year, especially working with Ms. Vodicka, I'm hopeful that we can not only have a good magazine but increase our exposure in the school, put the magazine into more people's hands."

However, putting more magazines into more people's hands may not be as easy as it sounds. The paper is costly to produce, and the WORKS receives a budget from the Student Activities office to pay for full color issues. At the moment the WORKS can only produce about 200 copies every year, despite desires to make the magazine more prominent in the CHS community.

"I believe that the overall goal is to showcase and give recognition to the talent at Clayton and produce something we all can be proud of," Goldstein said.

The creative writing and artistic talent of CHS students certainly is astounding when compiled into one, small, shiny glossed magazine, and it would be easy to forget Clayton's real talent without it. ☺



Jennifer Maylack

Senior Jennifer Golden chats with visitors while volunteering at a children's booth at The Big Read. She spent her time helping children design and decorate hats using paper plates and glitter.

Cultural festival celebrates art for all ages

by Katherine Greenberg
Editor

A literary festival known as The Big Read was held at CHS Oct. 10. The event was held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cindy Lerick, the executive director of Cultural Festivals, ran the event for the first time this year.

"I have worked as for eight months as the executive director," Lerick said. "But before that I have had a lot of experience planning events."

The event was free and open to the public. The event keynote speaker was Greg Mortenson, the author of Three Cups of Tea. The event also had other speakers, workshops, food, panel discussions and demonstrations.

"Our mission is to bring free cultural events to the community," Lerick said.

CHS students were able to get involved with the event through the Community Service Club.

Volunteers from all over the St. Louis area worked in booths oriented towards children and setting up tents

and spaces for speakers.

"We were able to get a lot of people involved and help things to run smoothly," Lerick said. "We recruited people sending mailings out and a lot of people contacted me to help just because they heard of the event through word of mouth."

Community Service Club president Jennifer Golden volunteered at the Big Read for two hours.

"Clayton students were able to sign up to help with the event online," Golden said. "We were able to work in the kids corner helping out with the different arts and crafts projects or students could work in one of the greeting booths."

There were many tents set up for children by volunteers.

"A lot of volunteers were students for St. Louis University and Washington University," Golden said.

There were also volunteers costumed as favorite characters from children's books, including Clifford the Big Red Dog.

The arts and crafts booths were set

up to entertain children while their parents listened to the discussions and workshops set up by authors in tents.

"We looked at which authors were touring," Lerwick said. "When we saw some that were in Missouri or in areas close we reached out to them and many of them were very interested in attending the event."

Not only authors but also book lovers that wanted to promote their bookstores created tents with fun activities for children that drew the whole families interest.

Senior Alexa Boulton regrets missing the event.

"I read Three Cups of Tea this summer," Boulton said. "It's one of my favorite books and I wish I had known Mortneson was going to be at the event because I would have come and gotten my book signed."

Jen Golden was very impressed by the event.

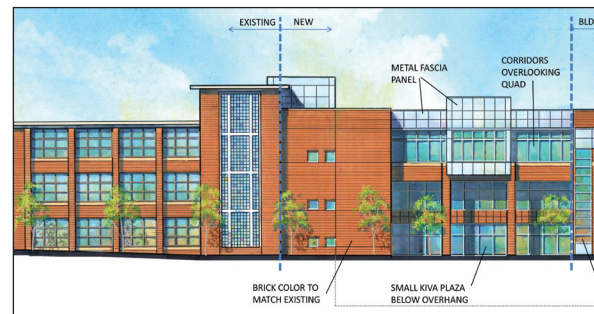
"I don't think CHS students took advantage of it," Golden said. "It was very fun to spend time with the kids and see all of the successful writers." ☺



Caroline Stamp

Seniors Ken Zheng and Meredith Redick peruse a copy of last year's the WORKS. As two of the magazine's editors, Zheng and Redick will select pieces for publication and help to design pages.

BUILD



The essential renovations education is kept minimal

by Ken Zheng
Co-Editor in Chief

Parts of CHS are over half a century old. Last spring, Proposition S passed and allocated \$51 million to the Clayton district for renovations. The three elementary schools, CHS and The Family Center will be sharing this money with roughly \$30 million going directly towards the high school. Wydown's part was removed from the bond issue and is now being discussed by a citizen committee for future consideration.

The Cottage and Tech Building are being torn down and a three-story addition is being built. The bottom floor will have business, journalism and FACs classes while the entire floor will have world language classes. The entire top floor of both the new and existing buildings will house only science classrooms, and the English office and history office will also be renovated. Stuber will be getting a two-story addition, and Gay Field will also have some renovations. The entire project should be done by August 2011.

"About two years ago, they were looking at how to upgrade our science facilities because they are quite old," Principal Louise Losos said. "The plan there was to build out over the library, but it was so expensive that the Board of Education decided to take a step back and create a facility master plan of the entire district."

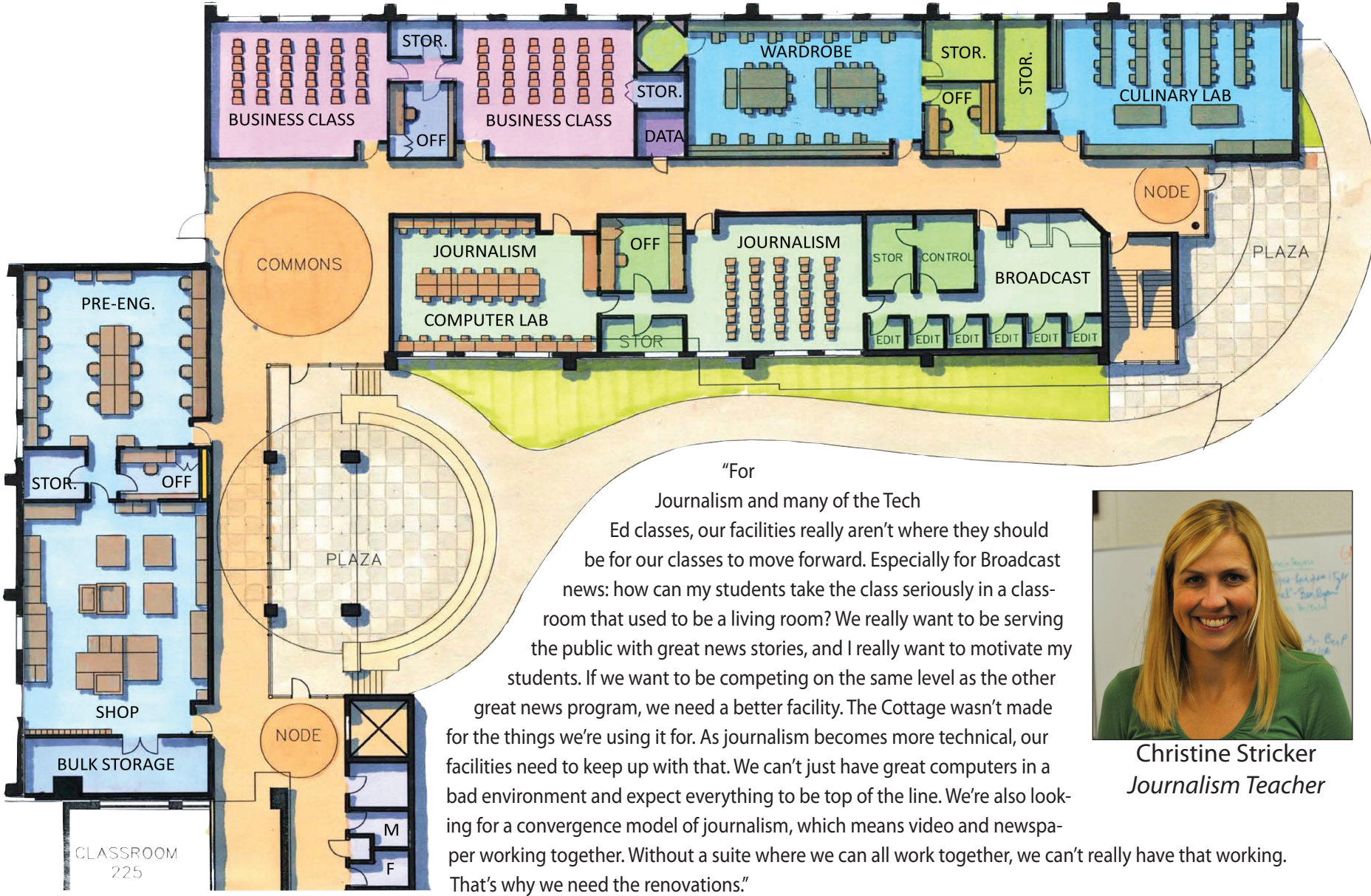
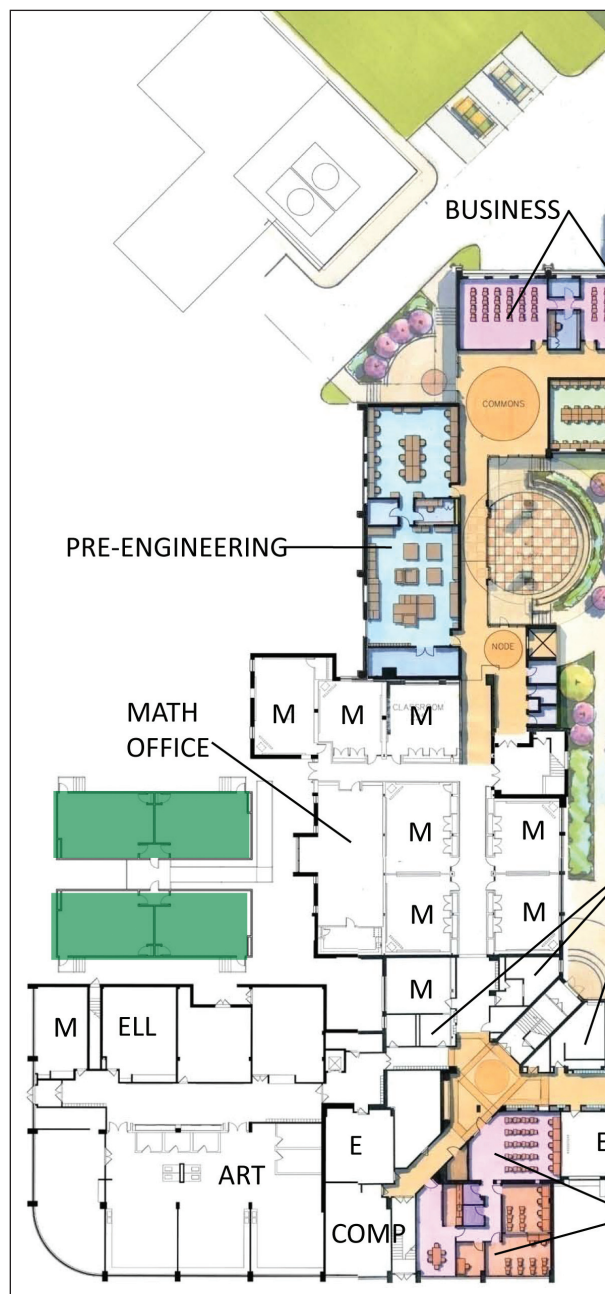
The proposal for the bond issue grew from the need for updates. Overall the buildings at the high school are extremely outdated.

"In the tech building, we have business classes taught out of old wood shops and pre-engineering taught out of an old auto shop," Losos said. "The cottage is decrepit. For all these classrooms, the quality of programming far exceeds the environment in which they are taught."

Another reason for the renovation is to add more classrooms to the school.

"We are very tight on space," Losos said. "There are few empty classrooms in the building during the day."

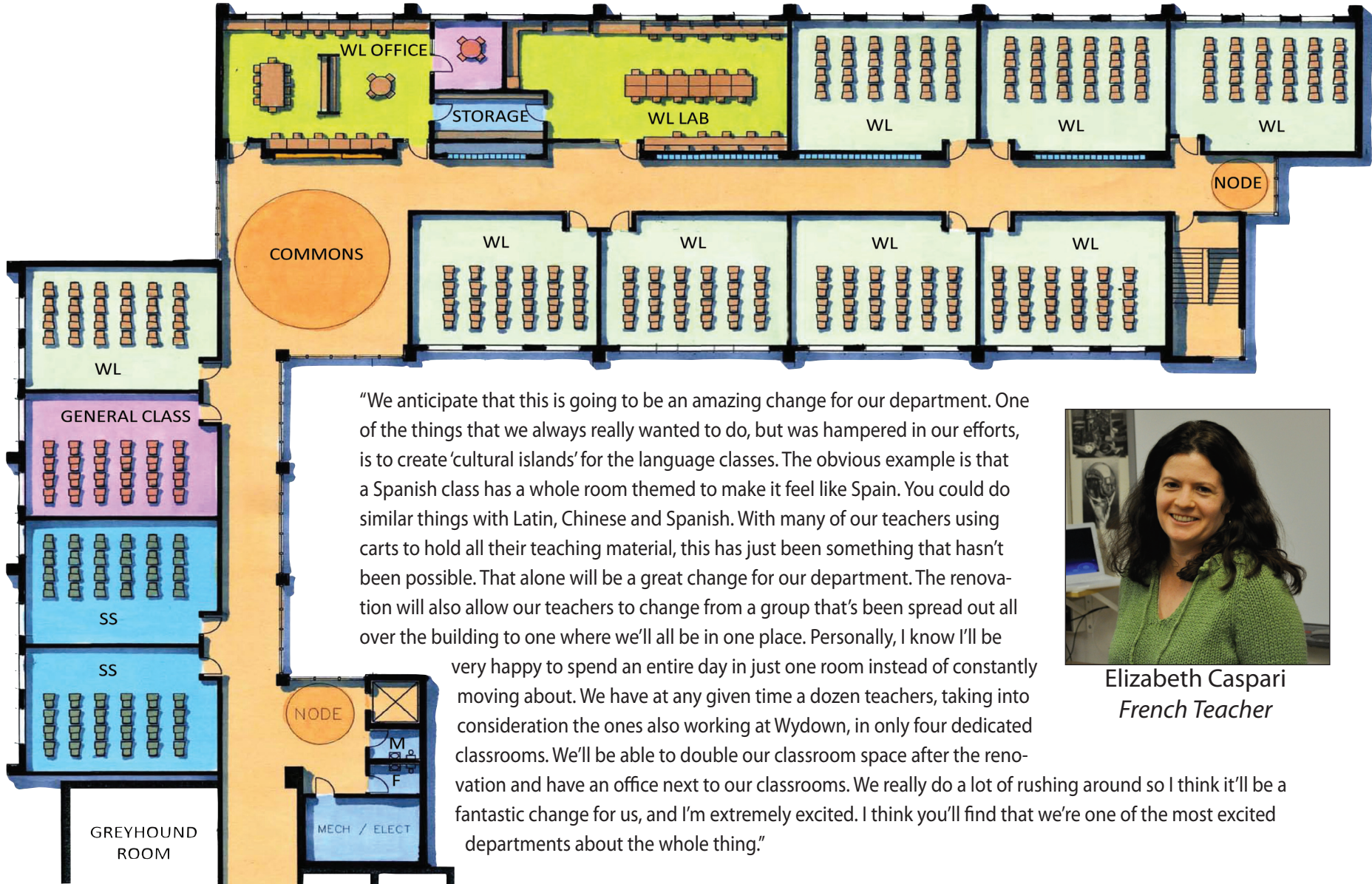
During the two-year building period, students will be affected since classes will be taught in classroom annexes. The annexes actually provide more space compared to the Cottage.



"For Journalism and many of the Tech Ed classes, our facilities really aren't where they should be for our classes to move forward. Especially for Broadcast news: how can my students take the class seriously in a classroom that used to be a living room? We really want to be serving the public with great news stories, and I really want to motivate my students. If we want to be competing on the same level as the other great news program, we need a better facility. The Cottage wasn't made for the things we're using it for. As journalism becomes more technical, our facilities need to keep up with that. We can't just have great computers in a bad environment and expect everything to be top of the line. We're also looking for a convergence model of journalism, which means video and newspaper working together. Without a suite where we can all work together, we can't really have that working. That's why we need the renovations."



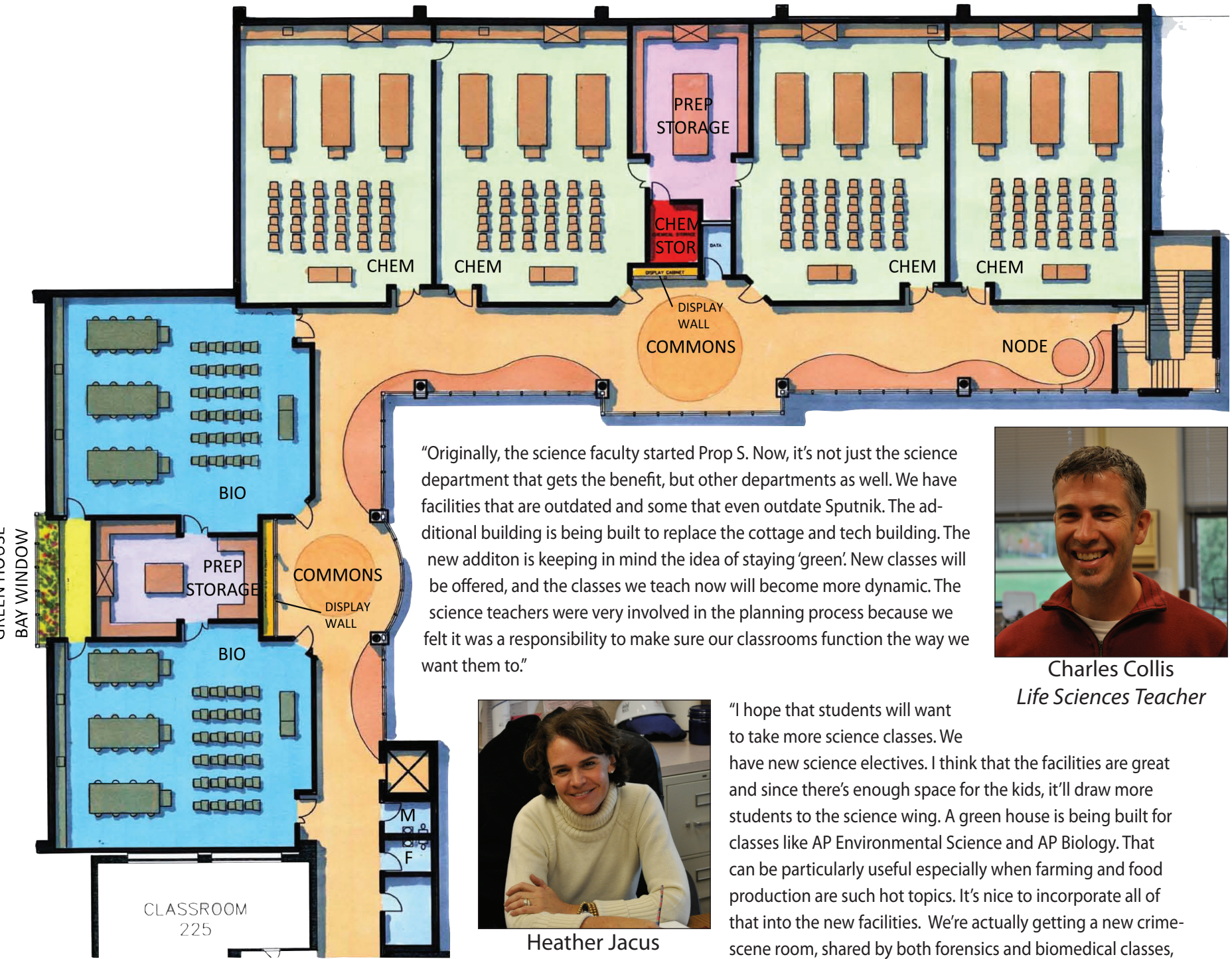
Christine Stricker
Journalism Teacher



"We anticipate that this is going to be an amazing change for our department. One of the things that we always really wanted to do, but was hampered in our efforts, is to create 'cultural islands' for the language classes. The obvious example is that a Spanish class has a whole room themed to make it feel like Spain. You could do similar things with Latin, Chinese and Spanish. With many of our teachers using carts to hold all their teaching material, this has just been something that hasn't been possible. That alone will be a great change for our department. The renovation will also allow our teachers to change from a group that's been spread out all over the building to one where we'll all be in one place. Personally, I know I'll be very happy to spend an entire day in just one room instead of constantly moving about. We have at any given time a dozen teachers, taking into consideration the ones also working at Wydown, in only four dedicated classrooms. We'll be able to double our classroom space after the renovation and have an office next to our classrooms. We really do a lot of rushing around so I think it'll be a fantastic change for us, and I'm extremely excited. I think you'll find that we're one of the most excited departments about the whole thing."



Elizabeth Caspari
French Teacher



"Originally, the science faculty started Prop S. Now, it's not just the science department that gets the benefit, but other departments as well. We have facilities that are outdated and some that even outdate Sputnik. The additional building is being built to replace the cottage and tech building. The new addition is keeping in mind the idea of staying 'green'. New classes will be offered, and the classes we teach now will become more dynamic. The science teachers were very involved in the planning process because we felt it was a responsibility to make sure our classrooms function the way we want them to."



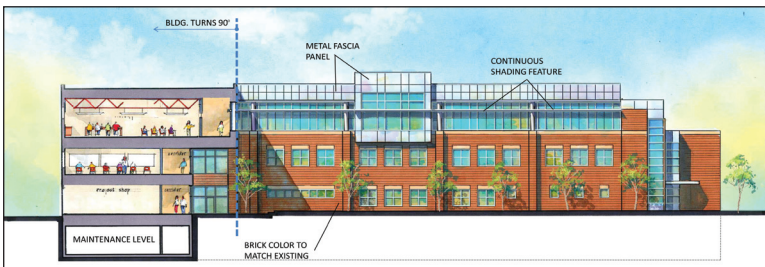
Charles Collis
Life Sciences Teacher



Heather Jacus
Forensics Teacher

"I hope that students will want to take more science classes. We have new science electives. I think that the facilities are great and since there's enough space for the kids, it'll draw more students to the science wing. A green house is being built for classes like AP Environmental Science and AP Biology. That can be particularly useful especially when farming and food production are such hot topics. It's nice to incorporate all of that into the new facilities. We're actually getting a new crime-scene room, shared by both forensics and biomedical classes, to make things more realistic."

BIDDING FOR THE FUTURE



to the district's schools will take two years to complete. The impact on student learning, and the finished buildings will match the high caliber of education at Clayton.

John Berglund, Principal and Project Manager for Bond Wolfe Architects is in charge of designing most of the renovation. Berglund has 16 years of experience as an architect.

"The project is being delivered in phases. Approval by governing authorities for permits comes first, then bidding for demolition of buildings, concrete and steel, then the rest of the building," Berglund said. "We are mostly through with the 'approval' phases, and the demolition is set to begin in soon."

The school district hired Bond Wolfe Architects to design the additions to the school and S. M. Wilson & Co as a Construction Management Agency. The school district still holds all the individual contracts but the agency will manage the contracts.

Architecture is a very collaborative process between the owner, architect, engineer and builder.

"You need participation from all parties to have a successful project," Berglund said. "The idea of single architect in his ivory tower is a commonly held belief that does not really exist, especially as projects develop in size and complexity. The most successful architecture is one that serves the community best, a backdrop so that people can do what they need to do in the best possible environment."

Schematics of buildings are approximately 40 percent complete. However, there has already been a problem regarding the demolition of the Cottage, which has been pushed back to January. A utility tunnel that takes care of heating, electricity and ventilation for the Cottage and Tech building runs under the Cottage in the area that needs to be excavated for the new building.

Project Engineer Dan Behler, of S. M. Wilson & Co, is working on this problem.

"All the utilities that are in the old tunnel need to be re-routed," Behler said. "So what we're going to do is towards the end of the year, we'll take the old pipes out of service and

then transfer them to the new tunnel. We'll need to do this in a way that doesn't disturb the students or shut down the power in the school. The Cottage and Tech Building have to be in a safe condition and completely disconnected before the city even lets us pull the permit for this work."

S. M. Wilson is currently creating bid packages that include collections of tasks to send out to the community. Local contractors then bid on these packages by offering their service for a set price. The school district is notified of the price for the cheapest qualified contractor. Qualifications mostly stem from the past experience that the contractor has.

"Once the buildings are down, then the underground work continues before the foundations can be poured and the steel can be erected," Berglund said. "The new building footprint is very similar to what is out there, but will be much taller and roughly the same height as the existing adjacent buildings."

Berglund is responsible for the blueprints that the contractors will be using. If the construction workers have any issues or questions, they contact him directly.

"A lot of detail and time goes into 'behind the walls' issues of engineering and specifications," Berglund said. "It is critical to have thorough documents, which remove ambiguity so that contractors are all bidding the same thing. There are limited holes in what is to be provided. The drawings are never perfect, but much like a multiple sieves with finer and finer meshes, each successive issue of drawings refines the final product."

The overall project has a huge budget, though Berglund is still cautious about allotting money.

"The project is currently tracking on budget," Berglund said. "Budgets are generated during each phase of drawing development; as the scope gets focused, and additional detail is provided during the design phase, the construction manager is able to gain more confidence that the numbers are

correct."

During construction, architects are on site weekly for progress meetings, as well as additional times for review of progress, clarification of intent, and resolution of unforeseen issues.

"During this phase, the focus of the architect shifts from managing the design and drawing process, to working with the contractor to successfully execute the intent of those documents, given real-world conditions," Berglund said. "If the design team has done their job properly, there will be minimal issues during construction with changes in the field, cost over runs and schedule difficulties. Some of these are beyond our control, but a good set of drawings will minimize future bumps in the road."

Though the buildings will take two years to construct, the new buildings are expected to last 50 to 75 years.

"Two years may appear to be a long time, but a typical large school project like this often extends beyond five years from start to finish," Berglund said. "Two years is simply the construction time. The upfront work is important to long term benefits."

The new wing will be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified as a green building. There are different levels of certification.

"We're trying to decide right now how far we want to go," Behler said. "Everything needs to be as efficient as possible and use materials that are recycled. Obviously, the more green, the more money it'll cost."

Director of Facility Services Tim Wonish asks that all students be patient during the construction.

"Please be safe around the work zones," Wonish said.

A bit over half of the Quad will be fenced off later this year. The part of the Quad near the Tech building and Cottage will be fenced off for the construction.

Overall Losos, is very happy that the renovations are happening.

"If you look at our AP scores, the teaching here is fantastic," Losos said. "I think it's just time for a change. I think it's about the outer appearance matching the inner quality of teaching. It's very exciting, and I'm very happy to see it all falling into place." ☺

“The most successful architecture is one that serves the community best, a backdrop so that people can do what they need to do in the best possible environment.”

John Berglund
Principal and Project Manager for Bond Wolfe Architects



Photos by Tom Haslam
Contributions made by Chelsea Cousins
Schematics Courtesy of Bond Wolfe Architects

"I think that the new wing will have a positive impact. We will be a part of the school again. The last several years, our program has been in a separate building. It was hard to reach students and promote our program when we are not even in the main building. The trailers are much better than I originally thought they would be and they will work fine for the next two years. I do not have as much storage space as I am used to, but it has forced me to purge and reorganize. I wish the trailers had bathrooms or even running water, but I actually like teaching in them. It is kind of fun and different for the kids. I am very excited for the new wing. The new technology that will be available will make teaching a dream. The flexibility in the room will allow students to move around for different types of learning. It will be wonderful for me and the students."



Marci Boland
Business Teacher

By The NUMBERS

1

Hydraulic Orchestra Pit.

2

Story classroom additions between the Commons and Stuber Gym.

3

"Common" spaces total. One on each floor except the basement. Commons are spaces designated for small group independent learning and presentation space.

4

Stories in the new instructional wing.

5

Main offices being improved to comfortably situate all staff near the subject's wing. They are for the math, English, history, science and world languages department.

36

New instructional spaces including classrooms and storage rooms.

4000

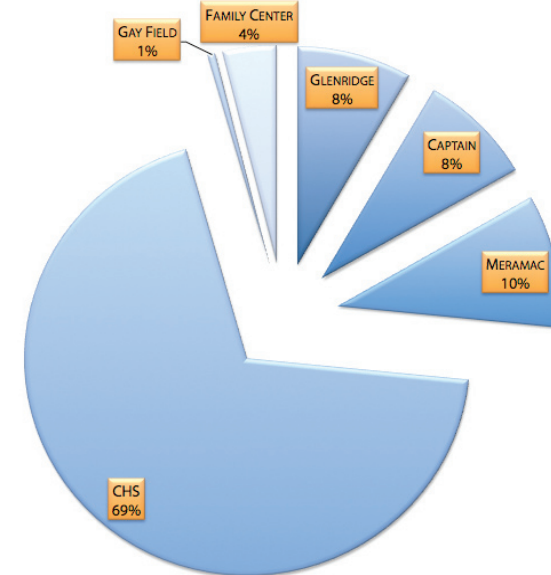
Square foot Stuber Gym extension.

6200

Square foot addition to Clayton High School.

Charles Brown
Project Architect
Educational Planner at Bond Wolfe

MONEY DISTRIBUTION \$51 MILLION



Marching to the beat

A new band assistant and a vamped up regimen have helped the band improve its marching game. Although it required many hours of extra work for all those involved, the band members seemed receptive to the changes and excited to show off their skills at Homecoming.

by Ben Colagiovanni
Reporter

Anyone who has ever talked to a football player has heard the tales of hot, agonizing summer football practices, bone chilling fall games that test the capacity of each athlete to keep his or her head in the game, and the gratification of watching game tape and seeing that the team's hard work has led to significant improvements.

However, you may be less familiar with the stories of grueling marching rehearsals in the parking lot during third hour, of difficult maneuvers which test the ability of each musician to keep his or her eyes on the music, and the constant reflection that it takes to make the next performance more successful than the last.

Just as weekends are game time for football players, they're show time for the students, drum majors, and teachers involved in marching band.

While the band is always striving for improvement from game to game, this year a particularly strong emphasis has been placed on the development of the band's appearance as well as its sound.

"This year we added parade choreography during the cadence in an effort to enhance school spirit on Homecoming," marching band assistant Jennifer Shenberger said.

Changes are also in store for the band's halftime performances.

"We usually put the upper classes in the front, then the drum line, and then the freshmen in the back," marching band director Kim Shelley said. "We're mixing it this year and are going to have freshmen mixed in with the upperclassmen. We're trying to keep the same instrumentation in the same lines since it looks much more uniform when the flutes are in one line, where normally we just mixed it and there was a flute here and a trumpet next to a flute and a clarinet there, so we're trying it."

The marching band is trying to expand its playing time during the actual game itself as well.

"The drum line has these little grooves that we can do during time outs and we're trying to team up with the cheerleaders to have a little bit more interaction going on," Shelley said.

However, not all of the ideas hatched by the brains behind the brass turn out to be successful.

"There were some things that we tried last year and for what we were doing for our marching season they just didn't work and so we pulled those out," Shelley said.

Although it can be frustrating when ideas don't come to fruition, Shelley feels that experimentation is a crucial part of the process.

"As band directors we should always be trying something different. Whether

"The students this year have been very open to new ideas and, as a result, have made great strides in improving the general effect of the band.

Jennifer Shenberger
Marching Band Assistant



Christina Perrino

Junior Melina DeBona and senior Allie Lake march in the Homecoming Parade. This year's parade featured the four classes and many alums along with an improved marching band.

it works or not we don't know, but we won't know unless we try it," Shelley said.

Shenberger feels that this year's hard work is paying off and attributes much of the dividends to the musicians.

"The students this year have been very open to new ideas and, as a result, have made great strides in improving the overall general effect of the band," Shenberger said.

Senior and Drum Major Camille Pegg echoed this statement.

"The CHS marching band has been viewed as a more professional band," Pegg said. "I'm really proud of everyone for stepping it up this year."

The discipline and dedication it takes to pull off a successful show have helped Pegg develop aspects of herself

which reach beyond the music.

"I have gained so many things from participating in the marching band, but one of the main things is how to be a better leader," Pegg said. "Being Drum Major means taking up a position of leadership to everyone in the band. I have learned how to balance being both strict, and friendly to the members."

Noting the successes of this year's band, Shenberger emphasized the importance of the band maintaining the desire to improve.

"Our goal now is to make them look as good as they sound," Shenberger said. "The improvements this year were very evident, I think, in the overall appearance of the band. Our hope is that this improvement just keeps growing year after year." ☺

Class of 2010 wins Golden Greyhound

by Tom Evashwick
Editor

Cue that infamous Queen song. After three years of being the cellar dwellers of CHS Homecoming, the class of 2010 finally came through.

A so-called "friendly competition," Homecoming has more in common with a frantic sprint than a calm game of cards.

Points were awarded to the classes for finishes in the powder-puff game, the log presentation, the penny war and the can tab collection. The majority of points, however, are awarded for the commons decorations, the float design and the bonfire games.

The winning class is awarded the coveted Golden Greyhound.

Challenging the seniors throughout the week were the sophomores, who finished just 32 points back in second place.

Pre-Homecoming, the general feeling was that this was the year the seniors would lose. However, the senior class officers felt differently.

For the previous three years, the class of 2010 finished in last place twice and third place once. The class, notoriously low on school spirit, had a bleak outlook before the events started.

"Other class officers guaranteed we would lose," senior class president Emil Thyssen said. "But I wasn't going to let that happen. Even without those comments, the four of us were going to work as hard as possible to show our class what we could really do."

Thyssen and the other senior officers said they were worried about the possibility of losing to the sophomores even before the events began.

"[The sophomores] definitely went in to win, and we did everything with the mindset of winning," sophomore class president Drake Pinkston said.

"And it showed."

The sophomores' commons decorations rivaled those of the seniors, and the sophomore float was declared the best.

While Homecoming typically has been a senior-dominated event, the senior officers knew something different had to be done this year to inspire the class.

"We really wanted to make Homecoming more of a democratic process," Thyssen said. "So I think it is really appropriate and fair to have four representatives willing to have others involved. People will be able to look back at this week and know they were involved."

The senior officers prioritized bringing more spirit to their class. Over 50 people ended up decorating the seniors' commons, which included the "secret weapon" Batman moonbounce.

"Even though some of the class officers are now in some major debt, I'm still really glad we got the moonbounce," Thyssen said. "Having the first ever interactive commons is something I want this class to be remembered for."

It was clear that this year the classes as a whole were much more involved.

"Last year, I felt that events were geared towards specific groups of people and not inclusive of people outside those groups," Pinkston said. "When we did our Homecoming decorations [this year], I was glad to see people working beyond their group of close friends."

The juniors and freshman finished third and fourth, respectively, but were far behind the other two classes.

With such a gap between the sophomores and juniors this year, next year's seniors will go in as underdogs.

"Maybe next year the other classes can pull something together," Pinkston said. "But regardless of what they come up with we will dominate." ☺

"I think it is really appropriate to have four representatives willing to have others involved. People will be able to look back at this week and know they were involved.

Emil Thyssen
Senior class president

Halloween Fashions

by Alexander Grayson
Reporter

This year's Halloween dance is taking place a bit earlier than expected: three weeks after Homecoming. Fashion has always been a central aspect of the dance.

"A lot of people are probably going to dress up as superheroes," sophomore Georgina Kluser said. "They're basically going to dress up as the theme for Homecoming."

Last year's Homecoming theme was famous time periods, and many people dressed up as people who corresponded to their classes' theme. This year, there will be a lot of Batmans and Supermans.

"I'm going to be Wonder Woman," Kluser said.

But there are some people who will decide to dress up as something a bit different, something that has nothing to do with this year's theme.

"I'm definitely going to be a Yakuza," senior Hiro Horikoshi said.

A Yakuza is a member of an organized crime group in Japan.

This year, the Halloween dance will take place in the Commons, while last year's took place in the auditorium.

The decorations will include the tarps from last year that will make the room look smaller, and other basic decorations such as bats, spiders, and a lot of glowsticks.

"Basically your stereotypical Halloween decorations," said Kurtis Werner, the head of the decorations this year.

The Halloween dance last year was very successful, but with Superheroes as the theme this year, it seems too similar to Homecoming.

"It's probably going to be just like Homecoming," Horikoshi said. "But with more costumes."



Jen Maylack

Three freshmen show off their spirit by dressing up in Spiderman costumes, class shirts and masks.

Upcoming dance to build on Homecoming spirit

by Rachel Han
Reporter

After witnessing the changes CHS experienced throughout the week before Homecoming, it will come as no surprise when our school becomes a dungeon of haunted creatures in preparation for the Halloween dance.

The CHS annual Halloween dance takes place on Oct. 30 this year from 7:30 to 10 p.m. in the commons.

Although the Halloween dance and Homecoming are placed fairly close together in the school year, there will be many noticeable differences between the two events. The Halloween dance encourages elaborate costumes instead of the usual dresses, and the school will be decorated accordingly.

"I think the Halloween dance will be more interesting," freshman Amanda Garrick said. "Everyone will be dressed up."

Freshman Jessica Rosen disagrees. She believes the Halloween dance will not be as exciting or monumental as homecoming.

"Personally, I think it'll be pretty hard to beat homecoming," Rosen said. "The Halloween dance will be fun though!"

Not everyone is as hard to please. Some of the students have more simple demands.

"I'd like to see some eerie decorations," freshman Jonah Lindblad said. "Maybe a zombie or two."

Continuing Lindblad's thoughts, freshman Joanna Shoemaker describes her dream dance in precise detail.

"There should be a dungeon theme," Shoemaker said, "with spider webs dangling everywhere, and fog on the dance floor. In any case, the Halloween dance will be more fun and interesting, because of the costumes."

An event is only as exciting as the participants make it.

The students at CHS are planning unique costumes for the dance. A sailor, a cloud, the Powerpuff Girls, and a popsicle are only some of the ideas being tossed around.

Annual dances have been a tradition for many years. The events have become very popular with most high school students.

"The dances are good to help everyone socialize, and they are a good break from schoolwork," said Garrick.

This seems to be the opinion of the majority of CHS students. Many people enjoy and anticipate these events. Nonetheless, some disagree.

Although the other dances are popular, the Halloween dance doesn't quite measure up in some people's eyes. Students, especially upperclassmen, complain of the as dance being "lame" or "a waste of time."

In fact, the dance has been cancelled multiple times, due to lack of enthusiasm.

"Two years ago, the dance was cancelled because only 30 people bought tickets," junior Zeina Ziade said. "Last year it was okay, but not many people went."

However, she still has hope for this year's dance.

"I think it'll be fun if people stop saying it'll be lame," Ziade said. "And if people actually go and have fun, it'll be fun. It's the students that make it fun."

The freshman vice president of Stugo, Lily Kanefield, agrees.

"I think the dance will be much more fun this year because we're all getting really into it, hoping that everyone else will too."

"I think dances are a great idea for high school," junior Sasha Vine said. "Even though they can be a little boring, they're a good way to be social and see people you only see during school." ☺



Jen Maylack



Jen Maylack



Christina Perrino

FROM TOP: Seniors creating Gotham City in the Commons. Senior Jenna Massey works hard on painting the windows of a skyscraper. The sophomore's beautiful Superman float drives by in the parade.

Soccer stands 15-2-2, looks to playoff run

by Schuyler Longmore
Editor

The varsity soccer team has started the 2009 season with one of the best records of the past few years. A 15-2-2 record has placed the Hounds atop the Suburban East Conference, and awarded them the number two ranking among the area's small schools.

With a large group of seniors and juniors, a scattering of sophomores, and one freshman, age diversity is present, but the success lies in the starting lineup's talent and cooperation.

Success has been attained with a new defensive strategy, solid goaltending, and a superb ability to keep the goals against to a minimum with six 1-0 games, 14 shutouts, and an astounding goals against average of 0.33 per game. Senior goalie Jack Harned has provided goal keeping in almost every game of the season so far.

"We are playing great team defense," head coach Matt Balossi said. "This season we switched from a man-to-man defense to a zone defense and it has made a huge difference for us."

The new defense has proved effective with only six goals allowed all season. Three-year varsity starters Kevin Matheny and Josh Goldstein lead the defense.

"Our shutouts can't just be credited to Jack and the defensive line," Matheny said. "When the offense plays better, it is easier to play good defense."

Defense is a vital aspect of the team's success according to Balossi.

"We are not getting a ton of goal scoring, although we are maintaining possession of the ball and creating good opportunities," Balossi said. "When you can shut teams down defensively you can be happy with a lot of 1-0 wins."

As the wins continue to stream in, it has become clear that there is skill on the team. Talent is abundant on the starting lineup, with eight of the starting 11 playing some club soccer in their life.

"This year we have a lot of solid players," junior center midfielder Beau Haydon said. "Not one position is there a weak spot."

A solid line of defense, a 35-goal offense, and a two-way potent midfield provides a well-rounded team that shows cooperation as well as ability.

All teams suffer player-player conflicts, but the varsity team has kept distracting arguments to a minimum.

"We insist it upon each other that when it comes to game time, we put our differences aside and come together as a team, no matter what the circumstance," junior forward Will Hayes said.

Hayes leads the team in goals with nine, followed by senior midfielder Evan Green with seven, and sophomore mid-

fielder Charlie Harned and senior forward David Goss each with four.

"When we cooperate on the field, we talk well and play well," Jack Harned said.

Where there is cooperation, there exists team pride and a common goal. All starting players put all they have into the game in whatever way they can contribute.

"Everyone on the team takes pride in their strong play, and we come out hard every day," Matheny said.

With one of the best seasons in Clayton soccer's recent history at stake, the Hounds are keeping the season's successes in check. The team makes sure not to invest too much of the post-victory pride in each consequent match up. Cooperation is crucial to the team's success, as well as keeping a level head and maintaining discipline.

"To keep up the great season, we can't let the success get to our heads," Jack Harned said. "We've got to keep playing every game with strength and togetherness."

Along with maintaining discipline, the team keeps an emphasis on the impact of all players, whether they are a star forward or a out of spotlight defender.

"We have been playing together for a while, and although we are still learning we are beginning to find our teammates' strengths and weaknesses," Haydon said.

Cooperation and togetherness have paid off in an excellent record, but the season is not over. The Hounds are looking at district games against three top 10 small school powerhouses: Westminster, MICDS, and Priory.

"If we play well we can win districts, but we cannot afford any let downs or soft games against such tough competition," Balossi said.

Mental determination and a good attitude are at the forefront of continuing success. Team drive will be tested in the coming weeks with tough games against Priory (Oct. 20), senior night against Whitfield (Oct. 26), and Hazelwood Central (Oct. 27).

"As soon as I set the varsity roster in August, I told the team that we should focus on winning Districts - that we had enough talent to make that our goal for the year," Balossi said.

A steady team consensus exists in this season's hopes to win districts.

"I like the drive of this team, we work hard and we are competitive," Balossi said regarding the team's strongest attributes. "At the same time we are having a lot of fun."

Hard work is paying off in wins, and the players are enjoying it. However, the team has been identified as one of the most important teams to beat.

"Now that we are getting some recognition, teams are going to be even more eager to knock us down," Balossi said. "We saw that against Lutheran North. They were very spir-



Jen Maylack

The varsity boys' soccer team huddles before the start of the second half during a recent home victory over Affton. The team's record is 14-2-2 and they are ranked second in small schools in the area by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. As well, the team recently won the CYC tournament.

ited and did everything they could to beat us."

Clayton came away with a 1-0 overtime win.

Players have a productive and positive relationship with the coaching staff many have been playing under for three or more years now.

"Balossi is awesome. Period," Haydon said with Matheny in agreement.

The districts tournament approaches with less than a

month of regular season games left. In fact, just four games remain in the regular season.

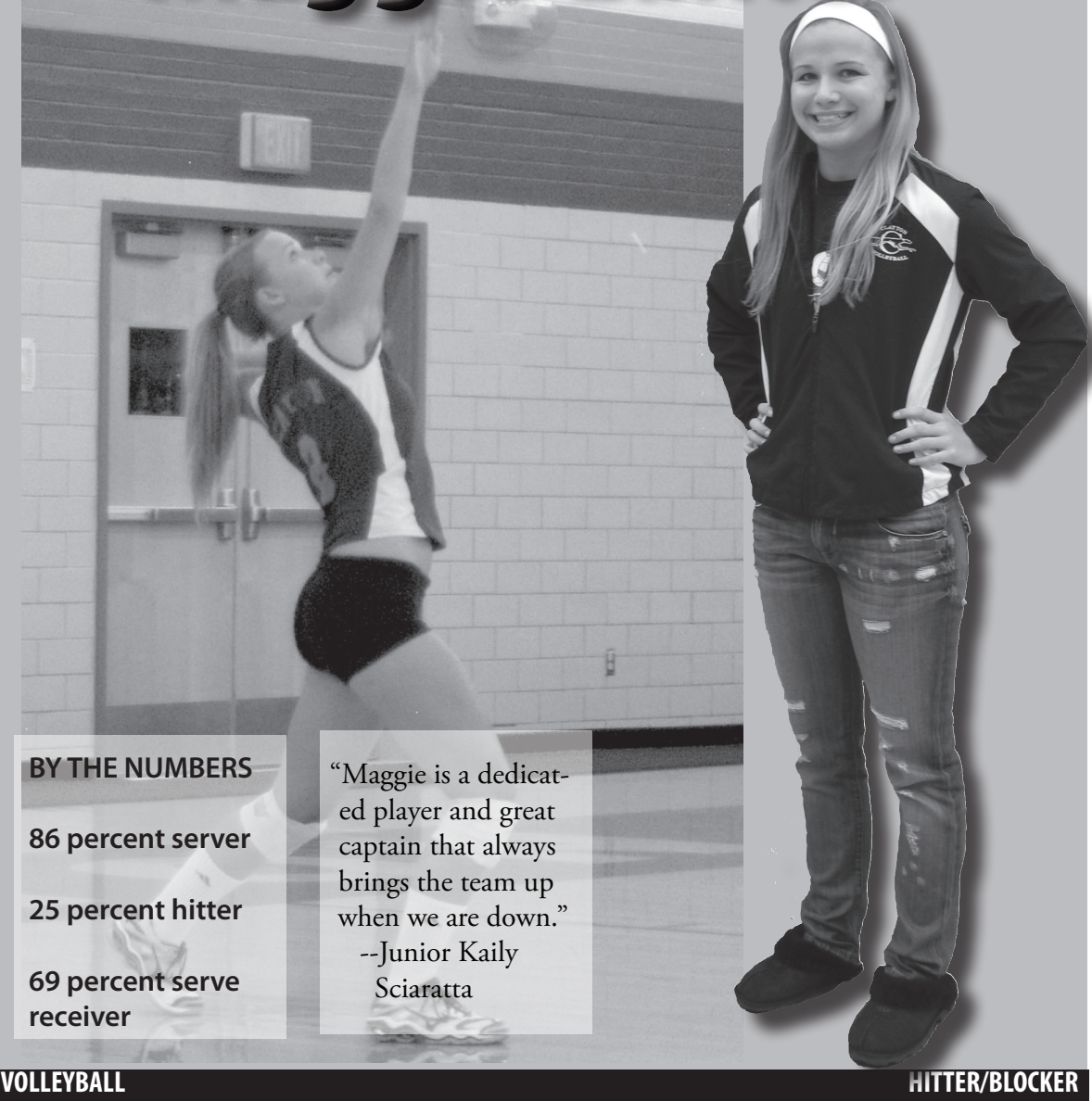
"We know we can win districts, it's just a matter of how much each player is willing to put into the team," Matheny said.

Other players agreed.

"Anything can happen, that's the beauty of soccer," Haydon continued. ☺

Athlete of the Month

Maggie Lanter



BY THE NUMBERS

86 percent server

25 percent hitter

69 percent serve receiver

"Maggie is a dedicated player and great captain that always brings the team up when we are down."

--Junior Kaily Sciaratta

HITTER/BLOCKER

Lanter leads team on and off court

The senior leader has helped the young team adapt to the varsity level, while still succeeding with ease on the court.

by Evan Green
Senior Sports Editor

The Clayton varsity girls' volleyball team is off to a decent start. Even though the team has not performed unbelievably well, the team has a record to be proud of thanks in large part to the play of senior right side hitter and right side defender Maggie Lanter.

A three-year varsity member, Lanter knows her way around the court.

"I have started varsity since sophomore year, so I have become really accustomed to how the game will play out and the different aspects to the game," Lanter said.

As a captain, Lanter has taken the younger members of the team under her wing this season on and off the court. In doing so, her teammates have gotten to know her better and she has made their season a lot easier as well as fun.

"Maggie is a dedicated player and great captain that always brings the team up when we are down," junior defensive specialist Kaily Sciaratta.

In terms of her play on the court, Lanter has truly led the team, and her statistics back it up. Lanter's best game came against Lutheran North when she had seven blocks.

"I was hitting really well that night," Lanter said.

On the season, Lanter is an 86 percent server, 25 percent hitter (which means that 25 percent of the time she

hits the ball, the Hounds score), and a 69 percent serve receiver.

"I would say the best part of my game is my hitting," Lanter said.

Even though she has played extremely well, Lanter still feels there is several aspects to her play that need to improve.

"I want to improve my blocking to be much more consistent," Lanter said.

At the same time, the team too needs to make improvements.

"We need to improve on finishing the play, scoring the point by being more aggressive offensively," Lanter said.

As the team has its places for improvement, they are also effective at other facets of the game.

"We are pretty effective servers," Lanter said.

While Lanter is a good blocker and server, those are not even her favorite part of the game.

"I really like to kill (for common people, this means spike), it is an exciting way to win a point," said Lanter. "It really pumps me up."

However, serving and spiking do not cover all aspects of the game, and even though Lanter has played well, the team's record does not exactly show it. At the same time, the team's record does not truly reflect their play.

"Most of the games we lose are very close, so our record could easily be much different," Lanter said.

The team has a chance to wipe the

slate clean come districts, which are the week of Oct. 26.

"Districts will be tough because we are in one of the best districts in the state along with Villa Duchesne and Visitation Academy," Lanter said.

In terms of the rest of the regular season, there are still some things left worth working for.

One aspect is the chance to end the season on a high note and carry the momentum into the postseason. As well, Lanter has a specific home game in mind.

"I am really looking forward to the game against Bayless," Lanter said. "It's our senior night and we played them a lot in the summer and they are pretty equally matched with us. At the same time, their coach is really obnoxious so it would be nice to beat them."

Even though there are only a couple weeks left before districts, local high school volleyball fans still have several chances left to catch the team in regular season action.

The team plays at Ladue on Oct. 19 and Oct. 21 at 4 as part of the Suburban East tournament.

That tournament is for the conference title, with the real goal the next week. The following week is the start of districts and the real playoffs.

"I have had such a great time this season and I hope that people can make it out to a game in the next couple of weeks and come support the team," Lanter said. ☺

Select sports offer offseason outlet, provide college exposure for athletes

by Christian Thomas
Reporter

The offseason from school sports is usually time to relax from the demanding Clayton High School sports program. There is a select group of athletes that use the "offseason" to continue playing their particular sport to keep their skills sharp, and possibly be recruited by colleges.

"I play summer basketball for the St. Louis Eagles," said senior Devonte Bell. "I do it because I like basketball and it also gets me a chance to play against great competition."

Bell, a four-year varsity starting point guard, is currently being re-

cruited by several schools, including Southern Illinois University- Carbondale and Northern Iowa University. Both schools have Division I basketball programs and are members of the Missouri Valley Conference.

"Playing in the summer has also gotten me ready for this upcoming season," added Bell.

Senior Max Goldfarb plays competitive lacrosse for the St. Louis Samurai.

"The main purpose of playing in the summer is to improve," stated Goldfarb. "Also, the Samurai coaches were really helpful in the recruiting process."

Goldfarb has decided to attend Bates College in Maine after considering Sacred Heart, Robert Morris, and

others.

"The difference between school lacrosse and summer lacrosse is the intensity. Everyone puts in a greater effort in summer lacrosse and the practices are a lot harder," added Goldfarb.

Along with Bell, Goldfarb feels the intensity of the hard work during the summer has prepared him for the upcoming season. Coaches at Clayton have similar thoughts on playing during the offseason.

"I encourage all the players in the Clayton basketball program to play summer ball," stated head varsity boys' basketball coach Ryan Luhnning. "Whether it's for one of the best teams in the area that compete nationally, or a

smaller team that just competes locally, everyone needs to play. That's the best way to get better."

Coach Luhnning had five varsity players participate in competitive basketball outside of the required summer leagues.

"Hopefully that will reflect on our record this season," said Luhnning.

The summer games also allow players to improve and work on certain aspects of their game.

"I spent a lot of time during summer games working on my weaknesses," said senior basketball player Sumner Ahearn. "Expect to see me do more than just shoot in games this year. I am ready to show my improvements." ☺



Photo courtesy of Max Goldfarb

Senior lacrosse player Max Goldfarb (above) plays club lacrosse in the offseason for Samurai. He is one of many Clayton students that play select sports in addition to high school athletics. Many athletes play select sports in order to expose themselves to colleges and stay in shape.

An introduction to field hockey: the secret of the stroke

by Sam Jacus
Editor

Watching a sport that you don't understand is never an easy thing to do.

Sports ranging from field hockey to equestrian have skills and techniques that are known by players, but are rarely understood by the average spectator.

One of the more confusing aspects of the field hockey game for spectators seems to be the stroke. Strokes are the source of many violations in field hockey games, and so many players and fans have trouble understanding what exactly makes a proper stroke.

For those who do not know, a stroke is the field hockey equivalent to a penalty kick in soccer. Like penalty kicks, strokes are often used to decide the fate of a tied game after over time has ended in a draw. As thus, strokes often command significant attention within a game.

Strokes can also be awarded during the game for rule infractions. Like the sport soccer, the ball is placed at a set distance, which for a stroke is seven yards from the goal line. This, however, is where the similarities end between the two sports.

During strokes, the restrictions on what needs to be done and when are relatively simple. The shooters are required to stand a stick length from the ball to start the stroke and they are not allowed to make noise while shooting. They are, however, allowed to take as many steps as they see fit.

"I stand a stick length away from the ball and do a crossover step following the referee's whistle," senior captain Anna Krane said. "After the crossover step I drop the right shoulder while staying low to the ground in order to lift the ball up high."

While the shooters are doing all of this, the goalie stand lined up behind the goal line, motionless like a statue. Upon the referee's whistle, the goalie comes to life, stepping up in order to cut down on the angle.

The number of possible violations that can be incurred during a stroke make the process even more nerve-wracking for both goalie and shooter. A stroke is blown down, or stopped, if shooters make any backwards movements prior to the whistle, shooters make noise while shooting, teammates make noise, or if the goalie is in front of the line or moves before the whistle.

This large list of infractions is the reason that so many strokes are blown down. ☹



Anna Krane attempts a stroke in a game against Villa Duschene. Krane will play for University of Vermont next fall.

Jake Leech

Athlete of the Month

Derrick Stone



"He has contributed so much to our cross country team this year by being our first place finisher for every meet we have run in, and I'm looking forward to having him on our district squad. He's going to be a big benefit by catapulting our team to state."

--Coach Kurtis Werner

BY THE NUMBERS
-Six meets; first for Clayton every meet
-Personal 5k Record: 18:35

CROSS COUNTRY

DISTANCE RUNNER

Stone strides toward state

by Payton Sciarratta
Reporter

Freshman Derrick Stone has been a great contributor to the Clayton cross-country team this past season and will soon be leading the team to state.

Not many people expect to be runners throughout their high school years, but Stone came in prepared and set to make a name for himself.

Stone chose running because it stuck out to him as the sport at which he was best.

This year's cross-country season proved him right.

Stone came into the season not knowing what to expect, but he has made the season a great one.

"It's overwhelming," Stone said. "It's a new experience from what I've run in middle school. There are a lot more kids, the training is kind of hard and there are more meets than what I'm used to."

In the beginning of the season on Sept. 12 at Forest Park, Stone led the entire race; however, he left the race taking second place. Little did the team know, he had yet to improve.

Stone started the season with some common goals in mind.

"My main goal was to make it to state freshman year, and to break 18 minutes this year," said Stone.

Even though Stone hasn't fulfilled either of these goals yet, he is sticking with it and pushing himself to work harder.

Stone previously ran with the Kirk-



Elizabeth Sikora

In one of the Jorgenson invationals in September, freshman Derrick Stone heads towards the finish line at Queeny Park. Stone has finished first for Clayton in every race in which he has run this season.

wood cross-country club for four years and also ran cross-country in middle school. These past experiences have helped Stone to build up endurance and strength to prepare for the season.

Stone knew that he was going to have to work hard to meet his goals, so he uses the team for support.

The girls' cross-country team encourages him as he runs, cheering on the sidelines. The boys look up to him, and endeavor to stick with him as they run as well. Lastly, the coaches constantly offer him structure and advice as he runs, while they record his incredible times throughout the season.

"I knew there was going to be a lot of competitive kids, so I've improved a lot by running with the team," said Stone.

Stone's personal record is 18 minutes and 39 seconds for the 5k race, a distance equivalent to about 3.1 miles.

However, Stone still strives to get better.

"I want to break my personal record by a minute each year, if that's possible."

Stone has continued to receive medal throughout the season, and he has gained points to help get the team to state.

Stone is heading in the right direction, and he is pulling the team along with him.

"I plan to run all of high school and eventually become captain," said Stone. It's a possibility for Stone to run on the boys' track team in the spring, but he will see where the cross-country season takes him.

Stone has had a great season and has taken the team in the right direction. He will continue to get better while maintain the passion that he has for running. ☹

Are sports too competitive?

by Jack Holds
Reporter

As a soccer player dribbles up the center of the field; he prepares to boot the ball into the goal. An opponent attempts to tackle him in a last-ditch effort to save his team from a humiliating goal.

The fouled soccer player is left sprawled out on the grass, furious with the opposing player and the referees for letting the foul pass unnoticed.

Where is the line drawn when sports get too competitive? When participating in a sport, athletes compete to win, but this craving can sometimes drive them to commit unsportsmanlike acts.

However, competitiveness should not be abandoned in sports, as it is at the heart of every sport. Boys' varsity soccer coach Matt Balossi believes competition is vital to soccer.

"Without the opponent, there'd be nothing to compete against," Balossi said.

Sophomore Charlie Harned, a varsity soccer player, believes that the competition in soccer is what fuels him.

"Whenever I do well, it's because of competition and whenever I do poorly it's because I'm not competing enough," Harned said. "You can always play harder."

The varsity soccer team has a record of 12-2-2 and members are looking forward to going to districts this year. Balossi thinks that the competition has been a key factor in driving the team so far.

While Balossi acknowledges that practices and games can get too competitive at times, fair refereeing can hold the reins on games.

"There are times when opposing players can commit a foul that goes unnoticed, and that's where people get upset," Balossi said. "If you have good officials, they'll be able to control competitive games."

Varsity football coach Sam Horrell believes it is the responsibility of the coach to encourage competition in high school sports because he believes it prepares athletes for the real world and teaches them discipline and responsibility.

"You have to be competitive in any market," Horrell said. "You're competing when you get out of high school and college."

Horrell also said high school sports are not too competitive, but there are too many outside agencies getting involved in high school athletics. There is a point, however, where competitiveness can turn into twisted morals for athletes.

"Poor sportsmanship is seen when people lose control and let their values and beliefs start dictating," Horrell said.

Senior football player Nick Kirchoff has seen people get too competitive at times and believes that it becomes most

obvious in team competition.

"That's where a team sport fails, where people start pointing fingers," Kirchoff said.

The varsity football team does not struggle with problems due to over-competitiveness, though. Kirchoff is motivated by pride, both for his team and for himself, and he carries this pride with him when competing.

"We always keep our heads up high," Kirchoff said. "No matter what the score is, it's always 0-0 to me."

Kirchoff, who also plays for the varsity tennis team, took a look at his experiences in both football and tennis and compared the competition.

"I get more hyped in football than tennis, but when I do get hyped in tennis, I'm an unstoppable force," Kirchoff said.

Players in girls' sports have similar experiences when it comes down to competition. Lizzy Dooley, coach of the varsity field hockey team, thinks competition is healthy for the team and for the girls.

"It builds character and unity on a team," Dooley said. "[Competition] keeps the athletes on their game and teaches them good life skills."

Dooley thinks that high school sports incorporate the perfect balance of competitiveness and pure enjoyment, making them a great experience.

"It's fun but it means a lot too," Dooley said. "It's not about money or sponsorship like college sports - it is real competition in the raw sense. Now college sports; division one, that is another story."

Players also represent their schools, something all athletes must realize. Dooley believes that a manner of sportsmanship must always be maintained, no matter how competitive the situation.

"I always tell my players that, when they put the CHS uniform on, it becomes bigger than they are - they cannot think about themselves first," Dooley said.

When shooting the ball that could potentially win a game, it's very easy to get carried away in emotions and forget to be respectful. However, in high school sports, athletes are expected to maturely handle competition despite tensions and stress.

"We sometimes become so competitive that we don't realize how ridiculous we are being," Harned said. "Yelling at teammates never helps, and in the heat of competition you sometimes forget about how immature you can actually sound."

One thing is clear from those who participate in sports at Clayton: competition is a beneficial factor in sports, but it should never be placed in front of sportsmanship.

"I'd rather have my integrity and be a loser than be a champion without morals," Harned said. ☹

Olympic anticipation grows

by Jonathan Knohl
Reporter

Vancouver, Canada will be the place to be once February rolls around.

Vancouver is the site of the 2010 Winter Olympics, where an estimated 5,500 athletes from around the world will compete in 86 different events in various sports for the gold.

The majority of most events will be held in the \$126 million B.C. Place Stadium. The Olympic torch will stay lit for a total of 17 days, starting on Feb. 12, 2010 and concluding on Feb. 28.

Some events that will take place in the winter games are snowboarding, cross country skiing, ice hockey and figure skating, among others. Historically, the most-watched sport in the winter games is hockey.

"It's a good chance to see young international hockey prospects," sophomore David Rhodes said.

Four years ago in the 2006 Winter Olympics, Sweden defeated Finland in an intense battle to the finish for the gold medal.

This year Canada is predicted to win it all in hockey without any trouble. Leading the way for the team are Chris Pronger and Sydney Crosby.

"I would expect Canada to win. They pretty much always win and all of the good players are from there," sophomore Gabe Jacus said. "I'll be looking forward to watching Sydney Crosby and hopefully T.J. Oshie."

In the world of skiing, Bode Miller is predicted to take the gold in the men's division, and Lindsey Vonn should also put up a good fight for the gold medal in the women's downhill events.

"I'm excited for the winter games this year. I've been waiting four long years for this," freshmen Sebastian Juhl said. "I'm really feeling strong about Bode Miller winning the gold in the Alpine events this year. He's only get-



Gary Reyes/San Jose Mercury News/KRT

Martin Rucinsky of Czech Republic runs into Evgeni Malkin of Russia during the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy. Czech Republic won the bronze medal by defeating Russia, 3-0.

ting started and he's only going to get better."

All the competition notwithstanding, snowboarder Shaun White is projected to take gold in the halfpipe events. White is looking to repeat: four years ago in Torino, White won gold.

"Shaun White will probably win it,"

Jacus said. "But who knows? Someone pretty much always pulls off an upset, so I guess we'll have to see."

For the first time in Winter Olympics' history, Ghana, Gabon and the Bahamas will participate.

The games will be televised primarily on NBC. ☹

Soccer, field hockey, football teams anticipate fall playoffs

by Nick Van Almsick
Reporter

As fall sports begin to come to a close for the season, a number of teams are looking ahead to the post-season and playoffs.

Two teams in particular that look to be playoff-bound are the boys' soccer team and the girls' field hockey team.

The boys' soccer team is having a terrific season and currently have a record of 12-2-2. They are also ranked second in the area, and have won both tournaments they have entered this year, against MICDS and CYC.

Head coach Matt Balossi is very optimistic about the team's chances in the post season.

"This season we are hoping to win our district," Balossi said. "There are only 8 districts, so if we win the district then we will be into the quarter-finals of the state tournament."

In soccer, every team makes the district playoffs, so technically the team is already post-season bound.

At the end of the regular season, the coaches from each team in each district meet and decide on the seeding for the district tournament.

Senior captain Casey Lawlor hopes the team goes further in the post-sea-

son than they did last year.

"Last year we made it to the second round of the district tournament. Overall I think we are a better team than last year, and hopefully we'll get the top seed in districts," Lawlor said.

Arguably, this team is one of the best soccer teams Clayton has had in a while, and it looks like they could even make a run at state.

"Of course getting to the state championship is the ultimate goal," Lawlor said. "But we have to make sure we don't get caught up in looking too far ahead and make sure we concentrate on winning districts."

"It's not going to be easy, but I definitely think we are capable of winning some of our last games."

Graham Gold
Football Co-Captain

Another team that hopes to make a run in the playoffs is the girls' field hockey team. So far this season the Hounds are 7-5 and look to do some damage in the post season.

Senior Emily Wack is confident that the team will have a shot in the playoffs.

"We will definitely make the playoffs, and I feel like we will do pretty well," Wack said. "It depends on who we end up having to play, but we keep getting better. We are a lot better as a team this year compared to last year."

Optimism for reaching playoffs rests in the field hockey team's talented starting lineup.

"We have a lot of returning starters

who have gotten better from last year," Wack said. "I think we have a good shot at going far in our district, and hopefully winning it."

Although the boys' football team has had a rough season, with a 1-5 record so far, they too still have a chance at making the post-season.

The way the football playoffs work is that the last three games of the regular season are the only ones that determine if you go on into the post season.

Even though this season hasn't turned out as he had hoped, senior captain Drew Hall is excited that there is still a chance to turn the season around and make the playoffs.

"In the Missouri high school football system basically if we win two out of the last three games of the season we'll make the playoffs," Hall said. "Although our record doesn't show it, I still think we have what it takes to come together as a team and finish the season out strong."

Senior captain Graham Gold agrees.

"Once you get to the last three games of the season every high school football team in Missouri starts over," Gold said. "It's not going to be easy, but I definitely think we are capable of winning some of our last games."

Making the playoffs would be a big accomplishment for the football team, a team that hasn't made the playoffs since 2005.

All of the fall sports teams hope to finish out the season strong, and be able to have success in the post season. ☺



Tom Haslam



Jake Leech

Top: Junior Josh Goldstein kicks the ball towards the net in a Sept. 16 soccer game against Ladue. The Hounds beat Ladue 1-0. Bottom: Junior Kyleigh Smith goes for the ball against a University City field hockey defender. The varsity field hockey team still has games with Kirkwood, Parkway South and Lafayette ahead.

Trainer aids injured students

by Caroline Greenberg
Reporter

Carrie Sickmann is the woman to go to with any sports injury problems.

"Sport injuries are very common," Sickmann said.

Sickmann, the athletic trainer at CHS, has seen it all. She has knowledge of various sport injuries and knows the best ways to treat them.

Injured students depend on Sickmann for advice.

"Good flexibility is a key component to keeping your body away from sports injuries," Sickmann said. "Many people go home and do not stretch after exercise."

According to the National Institute of Health website, sports injuries are accidents due to poor training practices. Improper gear can also cause them. Some people get hurt because they are not in shape. Not warming up or not stretching enough can also lead to injuries.

Overuse injuries occur over time due to stress on the muscles, joints

and soft tissues without proper time for healing. They begin as a small, nagging ache or pain, and can grow into a very painful injury if they aren't treated early.

"I go running basically every day and worked my legs a little too hard," freshman Lily Kanefield said. "I pulled my hamstring, and now I stretch a ton and also put heat on it."

"Good flexibility is a key component to keeping your body away from sports injuries."

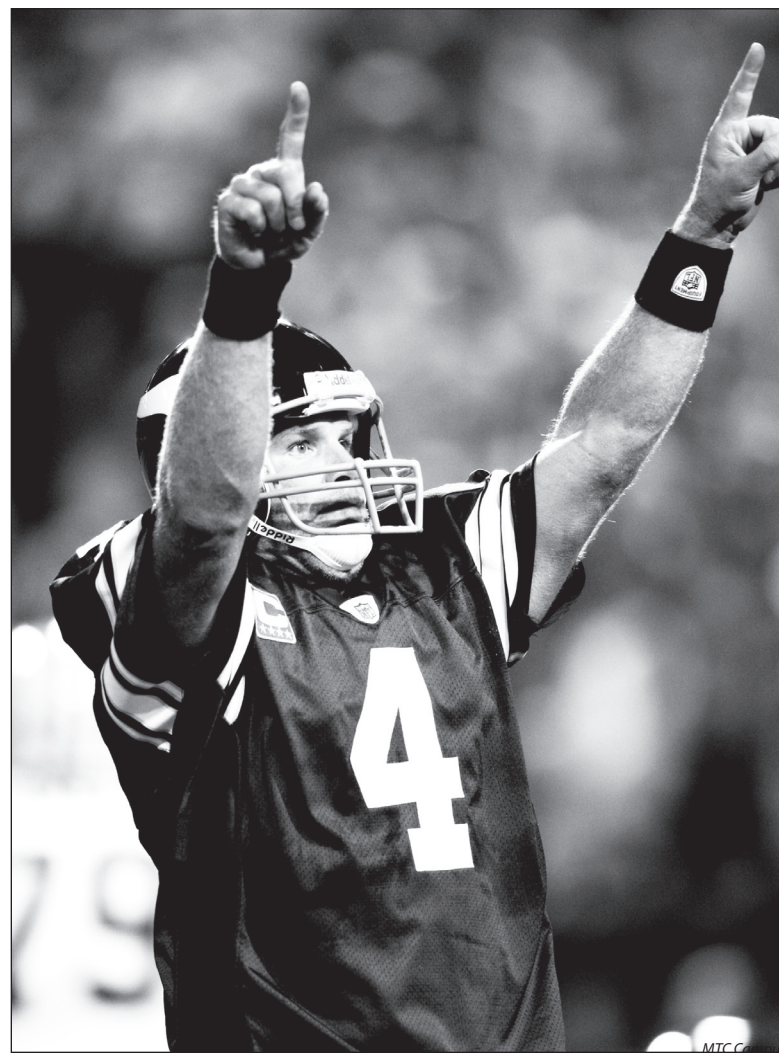
Carrie Sickmann
CHS Athletics Trainer

Kanefield plays field hockey on the freshman team.

"I think the most common sports injury is the ankle sprain as of right now," Sickmann said. "It has to do with the fall sports, as well as right now students don't have the flexibility in the Achilles tendon and they role the ankle. The strength isn't there."

"We have a stretch circle before every game or practice," freshman soccer player Aidan Hayward said. "We are always careful of where the ball is and how much pressure we put on our bodies."

Many sports injuries are due to people ignoring the aching of their bodies. People think that it will just go away, while instead it gets worse. ☺



Brett Favre celebrates after a touchdown pass. Favre is the starting quarterback for the Vikings.

Vikings vs. Packers

by Marc Ritter
Reporter

Brett Favre and the Minnesota Vikings beat Green Bay in a 30-23 victory on Oct. 5. Favre proved his skills by throwing 271 yards for three touchdowns against his former team, the Packers.

Adrian Peterson was a little disappointing, only rushing for 55 yards and one touchdown. For a normal running back, this would be considered decent yardage, but fans have come to expect more out of an amazing player like Peterson.

Other key players for the Vikings were defensive end Jared Allen and wide receivers Bernard Berrian and Sydney Rice.

Allen proved to be the leader of the defense with four and a half sacks and one forced fumble. Berrian had six receptions for 75 yards and a touchdown, and Rice was targeted five times for 70 yards and a touchdown as well.

Although the Packers lost, Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers threw for over 384 yards – the most that any quarterback has achieved in all of week four. Rodgers did better overall in passing yards than Favre, but could still not pull off a win for his team.

Rodgers's favorite target during the

game was tight end Jermichael Finley, who had six receptions for over 128 yards and a touchdown.

Running back Ryan Grant had 11 attempts for 51 yards, but no touchdowns.

"I was really disappointed because I wanted to see that the packers could still triumph, even without their old quarterback," freshman David Ingram said. "I wanted the Packers to teach [Favre] a lesson for leaving us after that many years."

The team might have lost as a whole, but Rodgers did seem to have beaten Favre in the Q.B. matchup. Rodgers had more passing yards than the heart and soul of the Green Bay Packers for more 16 years.

Vikings fans, on the other hand, went home with an "in your face!" feeling.

"I honestly think Favre is completely overrated," Vikings fan Isaac Doyle said. "He cries about leaving his team and can never make up his mind. When he came to the Vikings nobody was really surprised or excited, because we were used to this type of stuff from him."

Brett Favre is a man of many emotions and years, but this will not stop him from leading the Minnesota Vikings to a Super Bowl. ☺



Photos by Thalia Sass

TOP: A swimmer comes up for air during a butterfly stroke in a race. The butterfly stroke is the most difficult stroke to master, but one of the most graceful strokes when performed correctly. BOTTOM: A varsity swimmer competes in the 100m freestyle. Freestyle is typically the fastest stroke, with the Olympic record for the 100m freestyle at a speedy 46.91 seconds.

The physics of swimming

by Dylan Schultz
Reporter

Swimming is really just the action of movement through water. Most humans have learned the basics of this skill, allowing them to play leisurely on certain hot summer days. A few humans, however, have mastered the skill and use it for racing and competing.

According to the USA Swimming Foundation, there are nine deaths from drowning each day in the United States. These are not due solely to freak accidents, but simply to unsupervised children who are unable to swim.

Swimming as a survival skill is simple physics. Humans are made up of 95 percent water. This means that only 5 percent of a person's mass will sink in a large body of water due to the force of gravity. This allows the body to float near the surface of the water, but not on top of it.

To stay up, one must push themselves up with their hands or feet to counter the gravitational force. This repetitive action is known more commonly as swimming.

Swimming for racing or exercise is slightly more complicated. To move forward, a force must be applied to help the body accelerate from rest in a certain direction. This is more than knowledge of Isaac Newton's third law. For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.

"Push back on the water as hard as you can and it pushes you forward with an equal force," physics teacher Gabriel De La Paz said. "Also, you need to reduce drag. This can be achieved by shaving your legs."

Drag is a force that opposes motion and will reduce a person's velocity while swimming. These precious seconds cannot be spared when racing against opponents at a swim meet.

Swim competitions include four different types of strokes. Swimmers are successful depending on how fast they are in the water while using a particular type of stroke. The strokes used at high school meets are freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly.

"Butterfly is the most difficult stroke because of the major strength needed to maintain consistency," sophomore Alex Yepez said. Yepez swims with the CHS varsity team. "However, it is almost impossible to perform a slow butterfly

stroke."

The butterfly is the most complicated of all the strokes and difficult to learn. The correct form involves kicking the legs with a whipping motion as if they were a dolphin's tail. The arms are used for pushing back the water in rhythm with the big kick. A small kick fits in while resting and resetting the upper body and gliding through the water.

The freestyle stroke is the most basic swimming maneuver. A swimmer must have legs straight back with toes pointed, kicking up and down the entire time. The arms move in a windmill motion, alternating with each pull of the water. About every three strokes, the swimmer's head comes out of the water for breath on the opposite side as the arm that is coming out of the water.

The stroke Yepez feels is his weakest is the breaststroke. Swimmers using this stroke resemble frogs swimming through water. The arms and legs are drawn in close to the torso, bending at the elbows and knees. The legs are thrust outwards and then drawn back in quickly. The arms push forwards and then circle back to the starting position. This will allow the swimmer to rise up out of the water for a breath. This motion is then repeated after gliding for a short distance.

The final stroke that the swim teams use for competition is the backstroke. This stroke is basically the same as freestyle, but while floating on a swimmer's back. The legs are straight with toes pointed for constant up and down kicking. The arms once again circulate in a windmill motion opposite to the rotation in freestyle. Coming up for breaths during this stroke is not necessary, as the swimmer's face will be out of the water the entire time.

The members of the swim team are each able to perform all four of the strokes.

According to Yepez, the team is doing well so far. This year's team has four wins with seven more meets to go. Coach Wally Lundt instructs them with a bit of his own scientific knowledge.

Yepez remembers a crucial piece of advice for all swimmers who race: "When you are doing a stroke, it is important to 'catch the water' with closed hands. This reduces the energy you have to use for your hands when they are under water." ☺

HOMECOMING BY THE HOURS

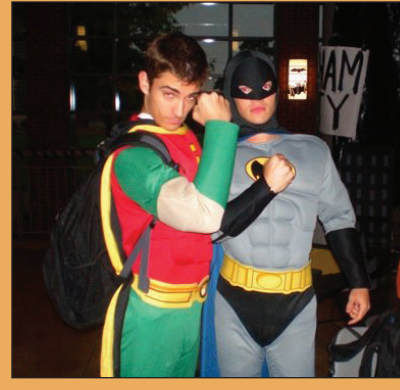


POWDERPUFF

PHOTO BY TOM HASLAM

SUNDAY SEPT. 27, 3 PM

SENIOR SONJA PETERMANN MAKES A RUN FOR A TOUCHDOWN ON THE SENIOR POWDERPUFF TEAM. THE SENIORS WERE DEFEATED IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME BY A TEAM OF SOPHOMORES.



HEROES AND VILLAINS

PHOTOS BY JEN MAYLACK

THURSDAY OCT. 1, 12 PM: SENIOR CLASS PERSIDENT EMIL THYSSEN DRESSES AS BATMAN AND VICE PRESIDENT TOM EVASCHWIK DRESSES AS ROBIN.

WEDNESDAY SEPT. 30, 12 PM: A GROUP OF FRESHMEN POSE IN THE QUAD DRESSED IN THEIR SPIDERMAN COSTUMES.



COMMONS DECORATION

PHOTOS BY JEN MAYLACK

WEDNESDAY SEPT. 30, 8:30 PM

RIGHT: SENIORS CHARLIE KATZMAN AND HANNAH KLIEN TEAM UP TO PAINT BUILDINGS FOR GOTHAM CITY.

ABOVE: JUNIOR CLASS PRESIDENT SCOTT JEFFREY BUILDS A REPLICA OF THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE



BONFIRE

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH SIKORA

FRIDAY OCT. 2, 7:45 PM: A GROUP OF SENIORS TAKE ON STAFF MEMBERS IN TUG-OF-WAR. THE SENIORS PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT, BUT IN THE END THE STAFF WON.



PEP RALLY

PHOTOS BY EVIE ROOT

TOP RIGHT: FRIDAY OCT. 2, 2:20 PM: SENIOR EMILY WACK BUSTS A MOVE TO MICHAEL JACKSON'S "THRILLER"

TOP LEFT: FRIDAY OCT. 2, 2:30 PM: THE SENIOR FOOTBALL BOYS BREAK OUT INTO DANCE AND GET THE CROWD EXCITED FOR THE HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME.

CENTER: FRIDAY OCT. 2, 2:45 PM: SENIORS CHEER FOR SPIRIT POINTS AT THE PEP RALLY.

BOTTOM: FRIDAY OCT. 2, 2:20 PM: VARSITY FIELD HOCKEY PLAYERS THALIA SASS, CAROLINE STAMP, ELIANA HARRIS, JESSICA MERRICK AND KATHERINE THOMPSON DANCE TO "THRILLER"



PARADE

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRISTINA PERRINO

SATURDAY OCT. 3, 11:15 AM: JUNIOR DAWN ANDROPHY WAVES AS THE JUNIOR CLASS FLOAT DRIVES BY. THE JUNIOR CLASS HAD THE THEME OF "X MEN".

SATURDAY OCT. 3, 11:30 AM: THE CHS PEP BAND MARCHES IN THE PARADE, LED BY DRUM MAJORS CAROLINE STAMP AND CAMILLE PEGG.



THE GOLDEN GREYHOUND

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINA PERRINO

SATURDAY OCT. 3, 1:00 PM: A GROUP OF SENIORS REJOICE AS THEY ACCEPT THE GOLDEN GREYHOUND AWARD. ALTHOUGH THE CLASS OF 2010 HAS STRUGGLED TO PERFORM DURING SPIRIT WEEK IN THE PAST, THE SENIORS CAME THROUGH WITH SHINING COLORS THIS YEAR.

Board of Education Approves Dates for 2010-2011 Calendar

The School Board approved key dates for the 2010-2011 school calendar. The District is taking more time this year to evaluate non-student contact time within the calendar. The Board approved these key dates and a completed calendar will be bought back to the board in February. School will start on Aug. 18, 2009, winter break starts Dec. 22, 2009 and the last day of school will be June 2, 2010.

Wydown Tomorrow Tours Continue

Middle school Monday tours allow crowds to learn about the need for facility improvements at Wydown Middle School. The next tour is scheduled for Nov. 9, 2009 at 7 p.m.

Halloween Dance

On Friday, Oct. 30 there will be a CHS Halloween dance in the Commons sponsored by StuGo.

H1N1 Vaccines

Every Clayton student will have the opportunity to receive a free vaccine provided that parents give written consent. Vaccines will be administered during the school day.

Peers Protecting Peers Suvey

The results of the seat belt check on Oct. 12 are that 277 students, or 86%, had their seat belts on and 42 students, or 13%, did not. One-hundred thirty seven teenagers, ages 16-20, were killed in 2008 traffic crashes. Eighty percent of these teenagers were not buckled up. The MO State Highway Patrol and Clayton Police and Fire Department will be at CHS on Monday, Oct. 26 demonstrating the seat belt convincer and drunk driving simulator goggles.



“It was a phenomenal experience that combined educational experiences with involvement in nature activities as well as fun interactions between teachers, counselors, and students. Taylor Stone Sixth Grade Camp Counselor”

Biking for MS

CHS teachers took a ride to support the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in Columbia, MO on Sept. 12-13. The teachers spent long hours training for the event during the year.

by Dawn Androphy Editor

Swarms of bicyclists whisked through an unwelcomingly strong wind in Columbia, MO on Sept. 12-13 with a goal of biking anywhere from 80-200 miles in two days.

The cyclists were all participating in the Bike MS event in support of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. CHS math teachers John Crane and Kurt Kleinberg and CHS librarians Mary Stamborski and Lauran DeRigne were among those participating. MS is a chronic and often disabling disease that attacks the central nervous system.

Although a big part of participating in the ride for Kleinberg was the challenge, he was also motivated to do something to further the cause of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

“A friend of mine’s father from high school has MS,” Kleinberg said. “And then I realized a good friend of my parents has MS, so it became something like a joint effort to prove something to myself, but also for a good cause.”

Despite previously having no personal experiences with Multiple Sclerosis, Crane found that his experiences at the Bike MS event, also referred to as the MS 150, gave him a new perspective on the disease.

“Since I decided to do the ride, Mr.

Kleinberg told me about someone he knew that had MS,” Crane said. “At the ride, we met a woman who was the sponsor of the team we’re going to ride for next year who has MS. Also, when I was trying to raise money, I talked to a number of friends who knew people who had MS and were willing to donate.”

As a result of their fundraising for the ride, they were able to raise about \$750 combined. Next year, however, they will join the Whole Foods-sponsored team, which has a collective fundraising goal of \$80,000.

The training and fundraising for the 175-mile route was a difficult task. Kleinberg, in particular, devoted hours of time to biking before the Bike MS event. Cycling and other types of racing events have become a passion for Kleinberg. He first purchased his bicycle while training for a biathlon. He now participates in about five races per year and trains three days a week. Before the race, Kleinberg estimates that he and Crane biked six to 12 hours per week before the race.

Both Kleinberg and Crane, however, were up for the challenge and faced both external and internal obstacles during the course of the ride. As a result, both had to push themselves to their limits to succeed.



Photo courtesy of Kurt Kleinberg

CHS math teachers Kurt Kleinberg and John Crane participated in the Bike MS event in support of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The goal was to bike anywhere from 80-200 miles in two days in support of the cause.

“It was very, very windy,” Kleinberg said. “So there was like 10-mile stretches of just riding straight into the wind and you’d think your energy was gone and then you’d find a pocket of energy somewhere.”

Crane was proud of his achievements at the ride and was pleased with the results of his hard work.

“The first day, finishing the hundred, just coming across the finish line was a great feeling,” Crane said. “Seeing the support and the amount of people that were involved and how much people give of their time and money was very nice to see and was a great thing to experience.”

Kleinberg was also proud of the personal record he set for himself during the ride.

“After having ridden all-day Saturday, during the last 15 miles, my average was faster than in just a 15-mile race,” Kleinberg said. “After racing 50 miles, I was biking faster than I had before so it was actually a personal record in terms of pace. That was surprising, especially in terms of the last day after you think you’d be most tired, and it was the fastest part of the race. That was exciting as someone who’s progressing in the sport.”

The event is welcoming to a variety of different people, and both Crane and Kleinberg encourage students to also participate in the coming years.

“It’s a great activity and a fun thing to do,” Crane said. “There are lots of people at a variety of different ages and I think students could get involved if

they wanted to.”

Kleinberg also hopes that students will make an effort to increase their physical activity through biking and become involved in the cause:

“I would encourage other people to be aware of the cause and to also be active,” Kleinberg said. “So, you know, get on a bike, go running, do something active, and you’d be surprised you know, how much it might not hurt and how much you might like it.”

However, he also wouldn’t mind if biking became a passion for someone else as it has become for him.

“It could be the start of just a hobby, great, it’s still doing something good for your body,” Kleinberg said. “But, if you do end up liking it, then it could be something really worthwhile.”

‘Dancing in the Street’ an enthralling spectacle

by Dee Luo Reporter

Fifty dance companies and 700 dancers, all on four stages, ushered in the 2009-2010 Grand Center fall arts season with the third annual Dancing in the Street Festival on Sept. 26.

Automobile traffic between Olive and Delmar was replaced by human traffic as children, adults, teenagers and performers walked from stage to stage, nibbling delicacies and licking ice cream cones, despite the scattering rain.

From 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., the four stages were filled with diverse dances ranging from Arabian belly-dancing to modern interpretive dance. Off the stage, the streets hosted hip hop crews, aerial ballet, a green walking tree, and a skateboarding man on crutches.

The Washington Stage was constantly busy with dance companies performing intriguing pieces, such as MADCO’s “Untitled,” a piece of the raw basics of dance; The Slaughter Project’s “Hang Tough,” a journey through tough times; and COCA dance’s “Emergence Uplifted,” a composition of new beginnings.

Grandel Square Stage featured many cultural dances. Bollywood Shuffle Dance Company performed and taught the audience the dance to the Slumdog Millionaire song, “Jai

Ho.” Dances of India performed an intricate dance of hand movements in their “Dance of Classical India, Dance Hand Movements.” There was even a bit of rock n’ roll performed by St. Louis Academy of Dance’s Pazazz Performers.

For Hannah Montana fans, Radio Disney sent a group of dancers to teach attendees the Hannah Montana “Hoedown Throwdown,” which was in The Hannah Montana Movie.

People walking in the streets were often blocked by a huge mob surrounding Bill “Crutch Master” Shannon, who gave impromptu performances of skateboard moves on crutches. Others raised their head to see a romantic kiss between aerial performers Duo Amado while they dangled in midair, on two silk ropes, from a tree branch, and without a net.

In one of the performances, COCA Ballet Eclectica’s “Trois Aubrey,” a dancer slipped and landed with an unsettling crunch. She continued to dance nevertheless, while tears streamed down her face. At the end of the performance, the audience gave the performers a standing ovation.

The complex dances, festive atmosphere, street performances, surprise productions and brave persistence made the third annual Dancing in the Street Festival a stunning display of art and culture. The best part? The festival was free to the public.

“Four stages were filled with diverse dances ranging from Arabian belly-dancing to modern interpretive dance. Off the stage, the streets hosted hip hop crews, aerial ballet, a green walking tree, and a skateboarding man on crutches.”



Dee Luo

Dancers perform at the third annual Dancing in the Street Festival, sponsored by Grand Center

Theater production examines perception of homosexuality

by Sneha Viswanathan Senior World Editor

Eleven years ago, Matthew Shepard, a homosexual man in Laramie, Wyoming, was tied to a fence and beaten to death. Shepard’s murder was a shocking revelation of hate crimes against homosexuals.

This exposure of a violent hate crime resulted in several reactionary projects, including the landmark production, “The Laramie Project.” On Oct. 12, 2009, the Tectonic Theater Project debuted its epilogue to the play.

The New York-based theater company had begun writing “The Laramie Project” in 1998 as an experimental venture. The play was based on the torture and murder of Matthew Shepard on Oct. 6, 1998.

In November of that year, the Tectonic Theater Project traveled to Laramie under the direction of founder Moises Kaufman to interview members of the community about their reactions to the murder.

What began as experimental playwriting soon had its first showing as a complete play in several cities across

the United States. Over the years, the play has been performed in theaters, schools, and colleges across the nation and it is widely considered a defining work of art for its depictions of intolerance and homophobia.

“The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later,” is a follow-up to the original production. It includes new interviews of the citizens of Laramie as well as an interview with Matthew Shepard’s murderer. Kaufman created “The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later” to examine changes in American cultural attitudes toward homosexuality.

According to Pamela Schneider, publisher of The Vital Voice, St. Louis’ only LGBT newspaper, the project hasn’t created a significant change in beliefs.

“I wouldn’t say attitudes have changed as a result of the project,” Schneider said. “It has helped by exposing this type of behavior [violent discrimination] in a very public way and that is likely an eye opener for many.”

Schneider said that although the murder of Shepard was widely publicized through the play, it is a single event in a regular sequence of hostility against homosexuals.

“Even though people were shocked by what happened in Wyoming, that kind of discrimination and ‘hated’ occurs throughout the entire US,” Schneider said. “The crimes against another may not have as harsh an outcome but they occur every day to people others define as ‘different from them.’”

Although theater has been shown to be an effective medium in communicating messages to a wide range of audiences, Schneider said that other means of promoting diversity and tolerance could be more effective.

“For years Oct. 11 has been considered National Coming Out Day,” Schneider said. “The very act of ‘coming out’ is one that can change not only one person’s life, but a community as well. When people live their lives in an open way, not hiding who they are, others in their circle will find it hard to discriminate because they would be discriminating against ‘you.’”

Events such as National Coming Out Day have changed mindsets toward gay marriage over time, but more gradually in some parts of the country than others. The public often views homosexuality as a legal issue in terms of gay marriage or broader gay rights

instead of as a difference between individuals to be accepted.

“The Midwest always lags behind the east and west coast, but there have been some significant changes - gay marriage in Iowa for example,” said CHS art teacher Christina Vodicka, who previously sponsored the GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance). “In 1998 when Matthew Shepard was killed, gay marriage was just becoming a blip on the public radar and focused more on constitutional bans to prevent it.”

Exposing a variety of sexual orientations through commonly available modern media has in some ways helped to create a more accepting general public. However, according to Vodicka, people should be careful in their judgements and beliefs about homosexuality that are taken exclusively from mass media.

“I think almost any medium can be effective in creating acceptance as long as the message is clear, honest, and doesn’t rely on fear or stereotypes,” Vodicka said. “I guess an example would be the increase of gay characters on TV sitcoms over the past several years.”

According to Schneider, public

discussion and exposure of controversial issues is a beneficial way to tackle problems.

“Hopefully we have moved a little closer to acceptance and more people will work toward ending all forms of discrimination,” Schneider said. “As people share of themselves, others will see themselves in the sharing and hopefully change.”

The CHS theater department has never produced “The Laramie Project.” However, Vodicka believes the reactions to “The Laramie Project” would be original and varied if it were produced at CHS, partly due to the age group of the student audience, most of whom are too young to remember the murder and original play. She said the success of showing the play at CHS will depend largely on the diversity and number of students involved.

“I think it would be best done as a team effort by several groups,” Vodicka said. “If only the GSA puts it on, then only a certain sector of students really pays attention. If the point is to reach as broad an audience as possible, then it should be the effort of several different groups. It’s too much work to end up preaching to the choir.”

Haunted houses thrill and entertain

by Sam Jacus
Editor

Haunted houses are not truly a center of supernatural occurrences or paranormal phenomena but rather a great way to enjoy Halloween Festivities.

"The best time to see a haunted house is on Halloween," junior Alex Breckenridge said. "There are tons of people working, and they really try to make it scary."

With haunted houses opening at the beginning of October and remaining open until Halloween, the window to go see one is rather large. However, if you wait until Halloween, the line to see a haunted house grows.

"Last year I went on Halloween to see the Darkness, and it was so crowded that I had to wait an hour to get inside," senior Izzy Fratt said.

Other people who see haunted houses have similar feelings, and have decided that the lines are longest the closer to Halloween you wait.

"I usually go to a few haunted houses, and the first one I see always seems to have the shortest line," Breckenridge said.

There is a large number of haunted houses in the St. Louis area. But these are not the only option for Halloween fun; the St. Louis area also has entertainment like corn fields or forests that have scary setups.

"I used to go to Markoff's Haunted Forest," junior Emilie Schweich said. "It is really fun and scary with people chasing you with chainsaws and axes."

One way to narrow down the decision is to decide what kind of atmosphere you want. Many of the haunted corn fields or forests have a carnival or other attraction, but the drive to get there is always longer. The haunted houses, although they are usually the only attraction there, provide the rush of adrenaline that people seek when they choose a haunted house.

"The Darkness in Soulard is my favorite haunted attraction," senior Connor Waldman said. "The people seem to blend in and when they jump out its

exhilarating."

Whether you are going to a haunted house or to a haunted forest, people usually rely on recommendations from friends to decide which haunted house to see.

"I usually only go to a haunted house if I have heard really good things about it," Breckenridge said. "You know it's good if someone recommends it."

For those who haven't gotten recommendations, The Darkness and Creepy World have continually been highly rated attractions in the St. Louis area. If you are a person who prefers a theme park environment, Creepy

The Darkness in Soulard is my favorite haunted attraction. The people seem to blend in and when they jump out, it's exhilarating.

Connor Waldman
Senior

World includes a haunted corn field as well as haunted houses. However, The Darkness seems to get the most praise from attendees. Most haunted house enthusiasts agree that late night is the prime time to go.

"The best time to go is between 10p.m. and midnight because it's dark and eerie," Waldman said. "Going earlier takes away half the scariness."

Although some people disagree with this, many of the features people look for are the same.

People consider the costumes as well as the music as must haves at haunted attractions.

In addition to the music and costumes, haunted house fans feel that the people that work there have to be scary.

"At the Darkness, there was a guy with whose costume had only one arm and I thought the costume was cool so I grabbed his arm," Fratt said. "He really didn't have an arm and I freaked out."

The unexpected details seem to be the scarier features of haunted houses for most people.

"The best part is people jumping out from behind trees with chainsaws and other things that are creepy," Schweich said.

Whether you are someone who likes houses or forests, costumes or sounds haunted houses are something that many people enjoy and they all suggest people go to at least one. ☺



Emma Riley



Left: Attorney General Chris Koster speaks to a group of CHS freshmen and sophomores regarding the dangers of driving drunk. Right: Koster answers questions from an American government class after the assembly. Students found the assembly and question-answer session to be both informative and inspiring.



Photos by Christina Perrino

CHS Orchestra plans for fun, spooky Halloween performance

by Jackie Leong
Editor

Forget the formalities and enter festivities: unlike the usual set, the CHS orchestra's Halloween concert will be an experiment in mixing traditional (and not-so-traditional) music and a more relaxed, hands-on form of entertainment.

The concert is scheduled to be held on October 28.

Included in the festivities will be a costume contest. Prizes will be offered to participants in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Orchestra director Julie Hoffman is excited about her new vision for the concert.

"I got the idea as one way of bringing all the schools together," Hoffman said. "The younger students will get to hear the older kids play."

The orchestra has been working hard, rehearsing popular Halloween music. Their repertoire includes varied Halloween songs, from classics such as "A Night on Bald Mountain" to more contemporary pieces such as "Thriller." Also included on the list are medleys which contain excerpts of both genres.

The music is hardly of the conventional variety. But Hoffman reveals that this was one of the major points of this year's Halloween concert. She wished to show that having heard one concert doesn't necessarily imply that one has heard them all. In fact, this year's concert promises to be more creative and interesting, and certainly different than past years.

"Music has specific purposes," Hoffman said. "I don't think people realize that if we take music out of movies, or any everyday activity, there's a big impact. This brings in the multiple facets of art."

The more contemporary styles will demonstrate one of the specific modes of music that many don't think about very often, or at all.

The concert is intended to be "fun for all ages," and Hoffman encourages students to bring along younger friends or siblings that might enjoy an early opportunity to go trick-or-treating, along with the costume contest. Desserts will also be for sale.

The concert is intended to be the orchestra's annual fundraiser, and is serving as a replacement to the usual POPS concert.

"The tickets only cost \$5, which is a reasonable cost," Hoffman said. "I'd like the place to be full, so that the orchestra has a great audience."

The concert will be held at 7 p.m. in the CHS Auditorium. Anyone interested or with additional questions should contact Stephanie Manny at 314-854-6720, or in the Performing Arts Office. ☺

Memorable guest speakers enlighten sophomores, freshmen about consequences of drunk driving

Attorney General Chris Koster and guest speakers Brandon and Tony Silveria talked to freshmen and sophomores about the dangers of drinking and driving and underage drinking at an assembly in September.

by Laura Bleeke
Editor

Last October, CHS hosted the Missouri Attorney General debate with Chris Koster and Michael Gibbons. This fall, Chris Koster has returned to CHS as elected Missouri Attorney General.

On Monday September 14, Koster talked to the freshman and sophomore classes at an assembly about drunk driving. He then introduced Brandon Silveria.

At 17 years old, Silveria was in a car crash while drinking and driving. He suffered severe head injuries, and was in a coma for three months and then spent several years in rehabilitation. He had to relearn how to do everything from talking to walking to eating.

"In 2008, 1,697 youth aged 12-20 were killed in alcohol-impaired traffic fatalities across the country," Attorney General Koster said. "It is important we continue in our efforts to stop drunk driving and underage drinking. We must do more to keep our nation's roadways safe and alcohol-free. I

am proud to have Brandon and Tony Silveria with us today to communicate their life-saving message."

Silveria and his father Tony Silveria talked about the consequences of drunk driving and underage drinking.

In Silveria's moving speech, he stresses the point that teens do have a choice. They have a choice whether or not to drink, a choice to drive home instead of call a parent, a choice to go that party.

"I had the world at my fingertips," Silveria said. "It all changed with one stupid mistake."

The speech moved many students, and showed them how their choices affected themselves and the people around them.

"It made me realize how short life is," sophomore Fergus Inder said. "And how a decision that we make right now can shape our lives and the lives of people around us."

Silveria's words moved many teens, and forced them to think before taking that beer.

"It was really touching," sophomore Courtney Dickson said. "And I could see that it moved many people."

After Silveria's speech, Koster sat down with the American Government class to answer any of their questions.

When one student asked if he had ever met President Obama, Koster answered in a somewhat humorous way.

"I have met [Obama] two or three times in the last three months," Koster said. "He is very cool. It's like meeting a movie star. I've met several presidents, but he's got like a George Clooney characteristic about him. When you're around him it's a little different than meeting like Bush or Clinton. He is a real movie star. It sounds strange, but he's even better looking in person than he is on television."

The students were able to ask questions in a comfortable environment and learn about Koster's role as Attorney General and how he connects Missouri to the government in Washington, D.C.

Both aspects of Koster's visit, the assembly and the question and answer session, accomplished what it set out to do. Both Silveria and Koster brought new insights and information to students, and allowed them to take a step back and see the bigger picture. ☺

Technological toys that entertain CHS students

iPod nano features new design, camera to boost consumer interest

by Appi Sharma
Reporter

The iPod nano became popular mainly because of its slim form factor. At a time when other iPods were thick and bulky, the iPod nano offered a model that one could actually stick in their pocket. However, times have changed.

Now, iPods keep coming out that have more memory and capabilities but are still fairly thin.

Also, iPod shuffle, keeps getting smaller and smaller. This was leaving the nano as something that tries to be two things but isn't good at either.

Thus, the nano was on its way to becoming useless: if one wanted an iPod with a screen, one could get an iPod touch instead, which is almost as thin as a nano but can do much more, such as run applications; and if one wanted a small iPod for running with, one could get the iPod shuffle.

Apple realized this, and introduced the new 5th generation model. With this release, the nano was brought on par with the higher end iPods. Apple did this by making it more than a music player.

The main addition to the nano is the video camera. The idea behind this is simple: People like documenting their activities, but don't remember a camera.

The video camera is surprisingly good for its size, as it is capable of shooting video at 30 fps, the traditional speed of most digital cameras. Of course, this camera is not suited to making high quality videos, but it is perfect for short clips for Facebook or Youtube. It also includes some simple effects, such as sepia, motion blur, and black-and-white.

However, the camera is incapable of taking still pictures. Another problem with the camera is its placement. One needs to hold the iPod in an unnatural manner in order to uncover the camera. Even so, the video camera is a great feature that gives the iPod nano another reason to be in one's pocket.

Another prominent feature of the new iPod is the implementation of a FM radio tuner.

This allows users to use their iPod to not only listen to the radio, but pause and tag songs.

These features, dubbed "Live Pause" and "iTunes Tagging" respectively, greatly enhance the radio listening experience. They allow one to simply pause the radio for up to 15 minutes, and then start listening where they left off.

Users can also fast forward to the live broadcast at any time. The iTunes tagging feature simply stores the information of whatever song is playing on the radio, and allows you to remember the name later, if you wanted to buy it from the iTunes store.

These features bring the radio listening experience to the future, as they allow interaction between the listener and the broadcast. Furthermore, these features separate the iPod nano from the other models, which lack them.

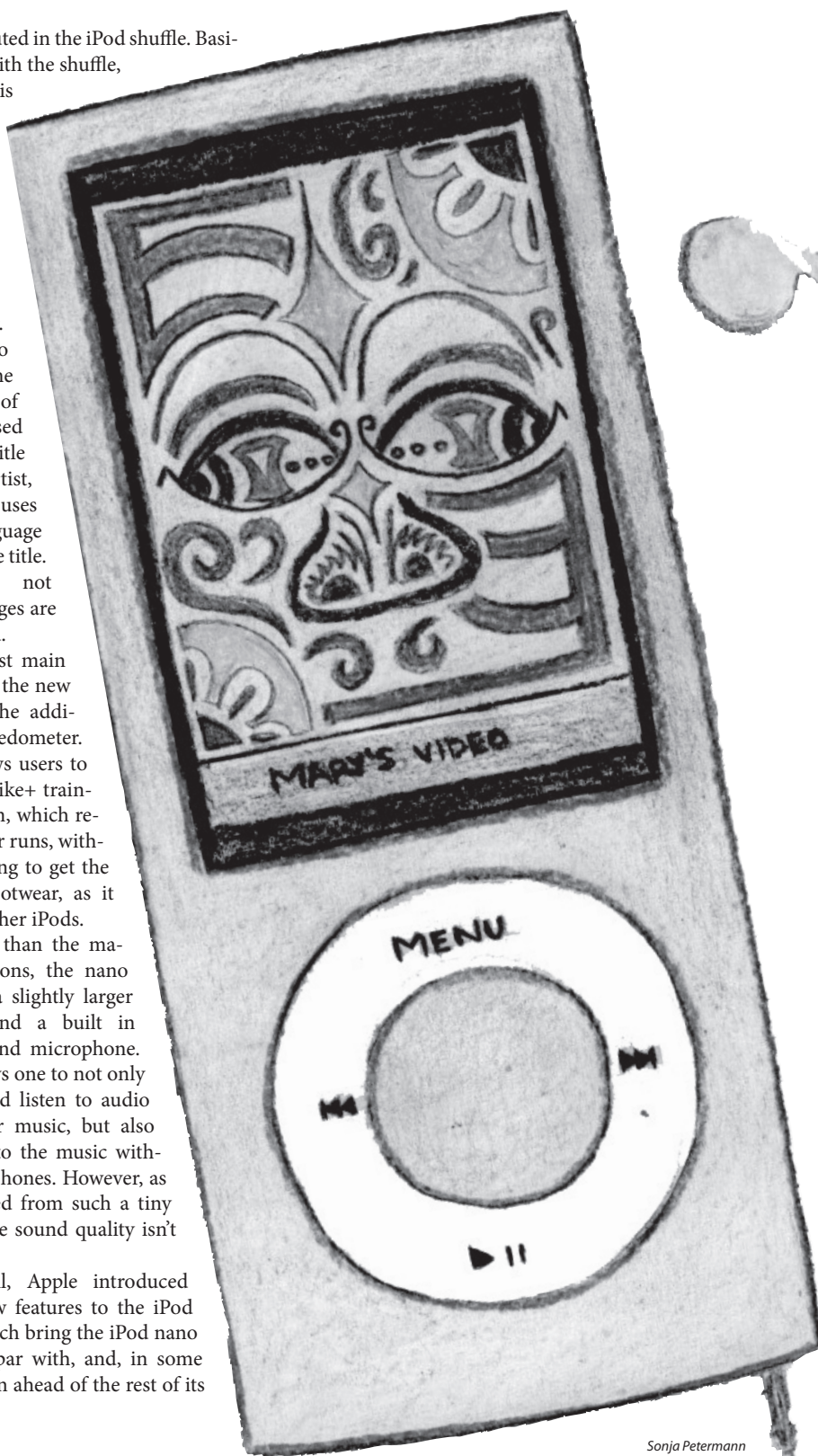
The iPod nano also gets the VoiceOver feature that origi-

nally debuted in the iPod shuffle. Basically, as with the shuffle, the nano is capable of reading the song name and artist to the user. It also guesses the language of a song based on its title and artist, and then uses that language to read the title. However, not all languages are supported.

The last main feature of the new nano is the addition of a pedometer. This allows users to use the Nike+ training system, which records your runs, without needing to get the special footwear, as it was for other iPods.

Other than the major additions, the nano also got a slightly larger screen, and a built in speaker and microphone. This allows one to not only record and listen to audio with their music, but also to listen to the music without headphones. However, as is expected from such a tiny device, the sound quality isn't great.

Overall, Apple introduced many new features to the iPod nano, which bring the iPod nano back on par with, and, in some areas, even ahead of the rest of its family. ☺



Sanja Petermann

Mac, Windows face off again

by Jake Lee
Reporter

Microsoft has created another anticipated invention, the Windows 7

laptop, available for purchase

on Oct. 22. The touch screen Microsoft computer rivals the new MacBook Pro that was recently made by Apple.

The MacBook Pro is known for its simplicity and user-friendliness and is said to be one of the fastest computers to just "do stuff" such as surfing the web, creating a word document, or even editing pictures on photo shop.

"I like everything about the Mac, there just isn't much about the Mac that is bad," sophomore Raihana Omri said. "The Macs are more user friendly and don't have virus issues and errors like the Windows computers."

However, as appealing as the simplicity of the MacBook Pro is, the Windows 7 laptop is bound to make Apple lovers become Microsoft adherers. One feature of the Windows 7 laptop is the 64-bit processor. This little feature allows the computer to operate

as quickly as or even a little faster than the MacBook Pro and makes the Windows 7 able to hold a massive amount of data.

"For games and other such round-about tasks, the Windows 7 laptop should beat out the MacBook Pro in terms of processing speed, file space, maybe even graphics, and overall compatibility with the 64-bit processor," sophomore Micah Vriezelaar said.

Another new idea is the jump lists, which are basically just bookmarks for the whole computer. The most frequent things one opens or does on their Windows 7 laptop is saved onto a jump list, which can then be accessed to reach these often visited applications.

The Windows 7 also has an expanded feature that the MacBook Pro has, the taskbar. On a MacBook Pro, one was able to minimize an application and put it in a corner where the applications were still visible. However, the task bar allows a preview of all the applications minimized, so that one can instantly find what they are looking for from the whole screen showing all of the applications currently used with a click. Last of all, the most famous part of the Windows 7 is the touch screen. With the touch screen, a mouse is not needed to access the applications one wants to. However, some people have different opinions on the touch screen for the Windows 7.

"Though the battery life can be confusing because it isn't always accurate, the speed is sometimes slow and needs to be restarted, and I wish there were more applications that came with the MacBook Pro, the Windows 7 sounds very complex compared to the Mac," sophomore Claire Bliss said. "A touch screen is a little too much for me"

Some students disagree. "Macs don't have a touch screen like the Windows 7, which in my opinion is an advantage of Windows computers", sophomore David Mayer said.

Microsoft and Apple will surely be competing for consumers for their new computers. However, many lean towards the well-known Mac computers.

"I would keep an open mind about the Windows 7," Omri said. "But I think in the end I'm a Mac person and not a Windows person." ☺

What is your favorite piece of technology?



"The iPhone because it has everything all together in one. With an iPhone you always have everything with you."

Dylan Brown
Freshman

"The iPhone because then you don't always need a computer with you to go on the internet, you can just use your phone."

Emily Clapper
Senior



"The iPhone because it is very easy to use. I also love how small it is and how much stuff you can do on it."

Jennifer Golden
Senior

"Mac computers because I can do schoolwork and be productive but also be on video chat and talking to people."

Lily Kanefield
Freshman



Staff photo

Android provides option for consumers that want a phone with all of the features of an iPhone but without having an iPhone.

New Google phone 'Android' impresses

by Nia Charrington
Reporter

Google.

It's a website often taken for granted. We are accustomed to using it on a day-to-day basis with little thought. It's easy to forget sometimes that Google is a huge company with influence that stretches beyond the Internet.

Besides being a search engine, Google is an email provider and news provider. It also allows you to edit documents, make notebooks and watch videos on YouTube. People can subscribe and read favorite website articles through Reader, and over 73 other innovative features within the website.

In November 2007 Google pushed its influence from the Internet to mobile devices in an operating system called Android.

What is unique about Android is that it's an open source operating system for phones. Unlike Windows Mobile or the iPhone, developers can improve or change Android to suit their taste.

After only 2 years Google's Android is quickly on the rise. According to the mobile phone research firm Gartner by 2012 Android will be second most used smart phone OS. These projections would appear valid as Google has already released 9 smart phones and that number is quickly rising as more and more network providers have shown interest in Android.

Similar to Google's search engine, email service, and document editor Android has become very successful. As Google moves from the internet and into the real world we can hope to see more innovations in the future.

At the forefront of Android's cellular lineup is Sprint's HTC Hero a phone that brings Google's smart phones to the level of other big name phones such as the iPhone or Palm Pre.

The Hero is different from other Android phones because of the HTC's Sense UI system which they skillfully laid out top of the standard Android system. Sense creates a more intricate user interface while adding a polished look that previous Androids struggled to attain.

The Hero has Qualcomm 528 MHz processor slightly less than the iPhone and Palm Pre's 600 MHz processor. The phone's overall speed during the use of the phone is good despite the lower processor speed.

The Hero also sports 3.2 in touchscreen, an impressive 5 megapixel camera, a standard 3.5 mm headphone jack, GPS capabilities, and WiFi connectivity.

The Hero has access to its application store called The Market. The Market holds more than 4,000 applications and is steadily increasing in number. The Market however does not have as many applications as the iPhone application store.

The device when used performed well. The ease and customizability of the phone due to HTC's Sense UI make this a great phone that I would recommend to anyone. ☺

A student's perspective

Despite similarities, Harry Potter surpasses Twilight

by Lucy Jenneman
Reporter

The Twilight and Harry Potter series have both had quite an impact on people young and old, all over the world. The Twilight series is seen through the eyes of a disaster-prone young woman who has fallen in love with a vampire. The Harry Potter series is seen from the perspective of a teenage, orphaned wizard who is fighting for his survival.

Both of the series feature action, romance, comedy, and drama. Both show that even in a fantasy world, teenagers are still teenagers. While the character may face slightly different foes than those everyday teenagers face, the relationships they build and the inner conflicts they face ring true for many of their fans, which is part of their appeal.

However, there are major differences between the two series. Twilight is essentially a girls' series, being built almost totally on the idea of romance and the idea that eventually love conquers all, even though one of the partners is a vampire. It also centers on Bella and her growth as a young woman. Few boys

would admit to being a fan.

The Harry Potter series, on the other hand, has universal appeal, even though Harry is its main focus. It is easier to relate to one of its many characters. Whether you can relate to goofy Ron Weasley, brainy Hermione Granger, or heroic Harry Potter, there is something for almost everyone to enjoy in the series. The variety of characters is an excellent feature of the series, and contrasts with Twilight's three main characters, which can bore readers and leave them longing for more diversity.

Harry Potter is also able to reach a broader audience. While both deal with teenage angst and romance, Harry Potter moves past these simple themes to embrace other subject matter.

It carries the classic good versus evil motif into a fantastical world of magic powers and supernatural forces, filled with villains readers love to hate and even a good dose of humor at times.

Another reason why the Harry Potter series is better is the fact that it's a lot less whiney. In the second book of the Twilight series, the main character, Bella Swan, gets whiney after her boy-

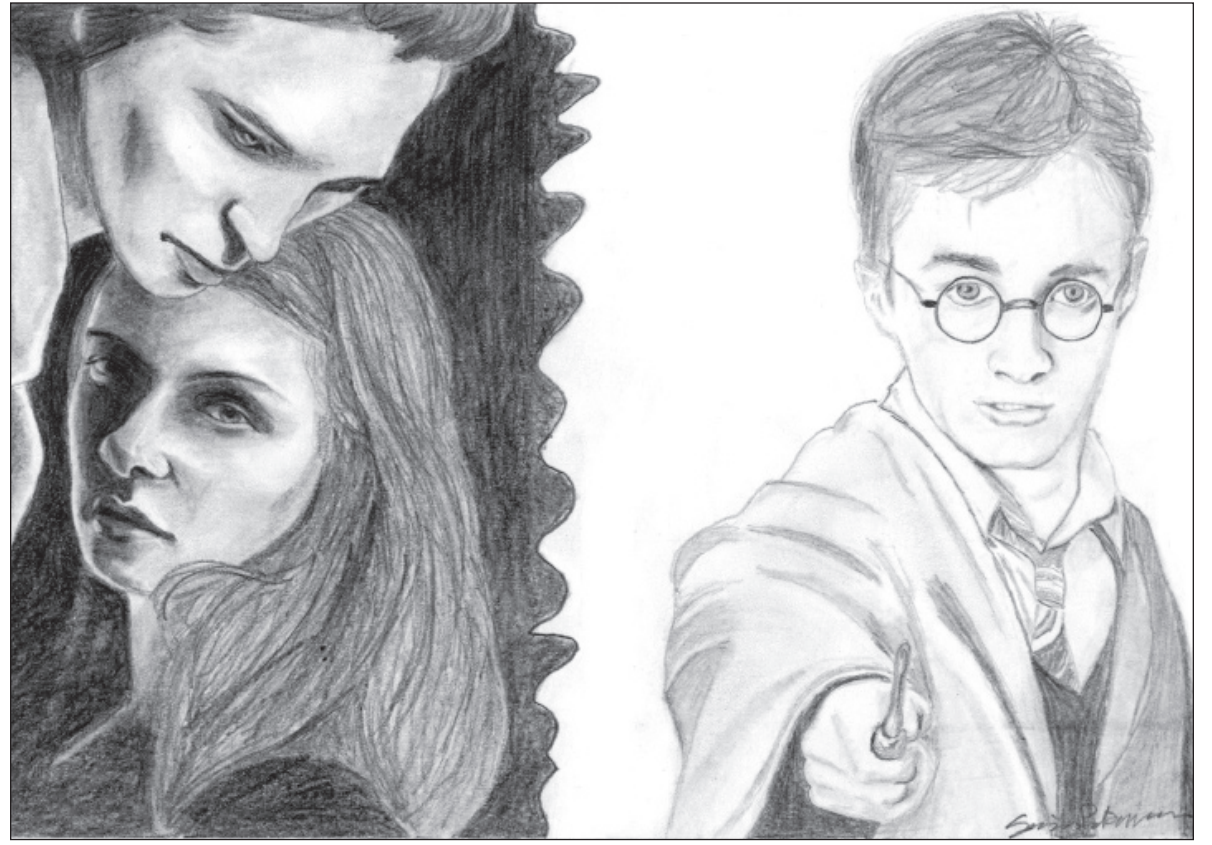
friend Edward Cullen leaves town. Although it's understandable that she'd be upset, but to do nothing but cry, sleep, and feel sorry for herself for several months is a bit on the extreme side.

Though the story is more focused on fantasy, the characters of the Harry Potter books, seem to be more down to earth. For the most part, they seem to have more realistic reactions to the situations they are put in.

In terms of plot, there's no contest between the Twilight and Harry Potter series. Both Harry Potter and Bella have a central goal, but not only is Potter's goal more heroic and worth while, but the twists and turns in the plot create more complexity and interest than is found in Twilight.

Both authors have sold millions of copies of their books, but the Harry Potter books seem to give a more responsible message to the teenagers of today. When Bella Swan is devastated after Edward Cullen leaves, she makes no effort to get over him, wanting to do nothing but mope.

I don't think that's the best kind of message to send to heartbroken teen-



Sonja Petermann

The Harry Potter series is overall more applicable to a larger audience and contains a better message than the Twilight series. Both series of books have sold over a million copies and have devoted fans. Although both are wildly popular, Harry Potter has a more diverse group of readers.

age girls reading the series. It tells them that it's okay to mope, do nothing to get over the guy, and ignore all your friends, which is definitely not the best way to cope with a situation.

In the Harry Potter books, Harry

is often upset, angry, or feeling down about something, but he always finds a way to push through and get things done. It teaches young readers that even when bad things happen to, or around you, you can't just give up. It

teaches them that you have to keep trying when the going gets tough.

Harry Potter inspires ambition and bravery, but Bella inspires female readers to find their identities in romantic relationships. ☹

Minutes of Fame

If you were a wild animal, what would you be?

Unicorn

Would you rather play basketball with Obama or quidditch with Harry Potter?

Quidditch, definitely

Who would star in a movie about you?

Angelina Jolie

Is the glass half empty or half full?

Full

by Mary Blackwell
Senior Features Editor

Sophomore Henry Zimmerman turned heads at the Homecoming dance this year as he strutted through the crowd in a dress. Determined to make a memorable appearance and to play a prank on his mother, Zimmerman borrowed a dress from friend Chelsea Colangelo.

"It was kind of a show in front of everyone," Zimmerman said. "I literally got attention from 500 people there. It was ridiculous. Some people asked me to take pictures."

Zimmerman made his clothing choices a week before the dance.

"Me and my girlfriend weren't going to go but then we ended up going so I was like all right, I'm gonna wear a dress," Zimmerman said.

The other reason for wearing a dress was in order to amuse his mother.

"My mom always wanted a girl so I wanted to give her that wish," Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman's mother was completely unaware of the plan until her son showed up for pictures in a dress.

"She took a billion pictures and sent them against my will to all our relatives and family friends," Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman wouldn't describe himself as an attention



Photo Courtesy of Henry Zimmerman

Sophomores Henry Zimmerman and Ella Davis model their dresses at the homecoming dance.

seeker, but he reports his level of eccentricity has reached new heights this year. He received reaction from fellow students and teachers.

"Ms. Pieper said she almost wore that dress, Kleinberg just laughed at me and Dr. Losos said have a great time," Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman's girlfriend, Ella Davis played along by wearing an outfit that looked like a suit, completing the role reversal.

Zimmerman sings backup and plays guitar in the band Pinkleaf. At school, you can find Zimmerman playing four square.

"I'm one of the founders of the unofficial four square club," Zimmerman said. "We play every day after school in the front."

After his memorable appearance at Homecoming, Zimmerman is struggling with forming a plan for next school dance.

"I probably won't go because if I don't wear a dress, then everyone will be expecting a dress, but if I wear a dress, then that's really lame," Zimmerman said.

However, if he decides to attend another school dance, Zimmerman is set on making a statement.

"I will dress up like a dragon or I just won't go," Zimmerman said. "I want to be majestic and have wings." ☹

Eating habits contagious

As America searches for the social causes of obesity, recent research proves that friends can negatively affect eating habits.

by Martha Burke
Reporter

It has always been known that your friends affect your decisions, both positively and negatively. Recent studies have shown that friends are effecting not only what you eat, but how much of it.

As obesity sweeps the nation, America looks for a person to point a finger at.

A September cover of the "New York Times Magazine" read "Are your friends making you fat?" in wide bubble letters.

This new evidence was first brought up in a 2007 issue of "The New England Journal of Medicine."

This article suggests that patterns such as a friend's eating habits can be passed on from person to person.

CHS students agree that friends' eating affects doing affect them.

"I tend to eat more when I'm with my friends," freshmen Chloe Hromockyj said.

Sophomore Haley Wartman agrees.

"Normally I don't have a lot of good

food or good snacks at my house but when I go over to my friends' house they tend to have better snacks in their pantry," Wartman said. "When I go to my friends' we just watch T.V. and eat when we have nothing better to do."

These choices however might not be the healthiest.

"I eat junk food more with my friends, when I'm by myself I'm



Helen Wiley

more likely to eat an orange or an apple," Wartman said.

Health teacher Melissa Hobick believes that the social aspect of eating is what is now motivating teens.

"Eating has become such a social thing to do; ordering in, eating out, eating while doing other things etc.," Hobick said. "It is something that many people do for entertainment.

So when people eat out we tend to order more including appetizers and desserts because the people around us are doing the same thing."

Although this may create bad habits, peer pressure sometimes has its advantages.

"My friends also motivate me to exercise," Wartman said.

Hromockyj agrees that friends also motivate her to exercise.

"I'm not the only one that wants to get into shape," Hromockyj said. "When I'm with my friends and I feel like quitting they tell me don't because it will pay off in the end."

Hobick encourages teens to make their own healthy decisions, regardless of their friends.

"You may have one friend who can eat whatever they want and never gain a pound, but you may have another who struggles with their weight and has to watch what they eat," Hobick said. "It's your life, you have to live it for you regardless of what everyone else is doing." ☹

Halloween Special-- 10% OFF all store sweets with this ad

Experience the flavors of Europe with our specialty food & gifts!

- Extra Virgin Olive Oils
- Chocoalte Truffles
- Italian Dark Chocolate
- Glazed Chocolate Almonds
- Honey
- Olivewood
- Olive Oil Soaps, Lotions & Bath

EXTRA VIRGIN, an Olive Ovation

The Shoppes at The Crescent

143 Carondelet Plaza, Clayton, MO 63105

314-727-6464

Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

www.extravirginoo.com

LIFE WITHOUT OLIVES IS THE PITS!™

All smoothies are NOT created equal.

Each 24 ounce freshly blended smoothie contains 4 to 5 fruit servings and is virtually FAT FREE!!! We use only 100% Fruit and 100% Juice to create a delicious, nutritious meal replacement or energizing snack, PERFECT for the health-conscious person on the go!!!

GET \$1 OFF REGULAR SMOOTHIE WITH THIS AD
(One Coupon per Customer)

st. louis smoothie

9914 Clayton Rd. 314-432-7009

C.J. Mugg's

RESTAURANT PRIVATE PARTIES CATERING

Outdoor Dining
Sunday Brunch
Open 7 Days a Week
Food Served until Midnight

Clayton 314-727-1908
200 South Central Avenue
Corner of Central & Bonhomme
www.cjfmuggs.com

College Essays

Marianne Rosenthal
M.A.T. Sec. Lang. Arts

College Essays Creative Coaching

c: 314.616.6513
mgem610@yahoo.com

Fox Theatre's 'Phantom' production a masterpiece

by Taylor Stone
Senior Arts Editor

The reputation of "The Phantom of the Opera" precedes any form of viewing. Globally known and critically acclaimed, theatre buffs and average people alike are aware of its famous music and colossal success. However, once "Phantom" is seen on stage, one can understand the reasons for the sensation – it's a darkly simplistic tale wrapped in elaborate, breathtaking theatrical design. "Phantom" truly presents itself as a poignant, global presence through its beautifully composed music and performers that boast enrapturing vocal power.

The musical runs at the St. Louis Fabulous Fox Theatre from Sept. 30 through Oct. 25 and tickets are \$28 to \$130. It is being performed amidst the recent, major news of a "Phantom" sequel titled "Love Never Dies" set in Coney Island. It is reported to premiere in 2010 in London.

The musical, based off of Gaston Leroux's 1911 novel "Le Fantome de L'Opera," is a masterpiece of Andrew Lloyd Webber, who composed the music with lyrics by Charles Hart. Webber, knighted in 1992, has composed 13 musicals including "Evita," "Cats," and "Jesus Christ Superstar." One of the richest men in Britain, Webber has won numerous prestigious awards for his creations, including seven Tony Awards, three Grammy Awards, an Academy Award, and a Golden Globe Award.

The musical truly possesses the most impressive record in the history of musical theatre.

The show has won over 50 major theatre awards, including three Olivier Awards (the equivalent to the Tony Award in London), the most recent being the 2002 Olivier Audience Award for Most Popular Show, seven Drama Desk Awards and three Outer Critic Circle Awards.

The Broadway production, the first being in 1988, became the longest running show ever on Broadway when it overtook "Cats," another Webber creation, with its 7,486th performance on Jan. 6, 2006.

"Phantom" is also the most financially successful musical ever, as it is estimated that more than 80 million people in 124 cities and 25 countries have seen it since 1986. The total worldwide gross now exceeds \$5 billion.

The original cast album entered the music charts at number 1, a first in British musical history. Album sales are in excess of \$40 million worldwide and it is the best selling cast album of all time. In 2004, a big screen version of the show was released starring Gerard Butler and Emmy Rossum and directed by Joel Schumacher. Numerous other literary adaptations have been created.

The story is set at the Paris Opéra Populaire in 1881, where we meet the beautiful ballerina and soprano Christine Daaé. She has been taught operatic vocal skills by a mysterious tutor, an "angel of music" presumably sent by Christine's deceased father. This "angel" is revealed to be the Phantom, a masked musical genius who haunts the opera house and lives in the Paris sewers. He becomes obsessed with Christine and lures her through the Paris catacombs to his lair so that he can mold her vocal talent around his musical aspirations, wishing for "my music and your voice in one combined."

But his horrifying appearance and violent despair poisons any potential for love between the two. Chaos ensues when Christine falls in love with her childhood friend and patron of the arts, Raoul. The outraged Phantom plots revenge on the lovers as well as anyone who stands in his way. Disastrous events descend upon the Opera Populaire before the fates of the Phantom, Christine, and Raoul are decided.

The musical cannot accurately be defined or described in a single word or simple phrase. There are so many facets of the production that cause it to be both a classic and a masterpiece.

The show combines the raw emotional beauty of its mu-



Sarah Blackwell

sic with elaborate theatrical designs for sets and costumes, as well as thrilling special effects. The production retains an aura similar to a magic show, but it has more substance resulting from its intricate plot weaved by characters with a striking amount of depth and bold power. Even if such detailed lighting, costumes, and sets were stripped away from the musical, it would still maintain a haunting command over its audience, which is one reason why the cast album has been so successful.

One of the largest highlights of the entire production at the Fox was the Phantom himself, Tim Martin Gleason. Gleason has had a long history with "Phantom," completing

a record-setting tenure as Raoul for three different American companies in over three years. He is the longest-running Raoul in American history, playing the role more than 2,600 times, and he originated the role for "Phantom: The Las Vegas Spectacular."

Gleason is absolutely phenomenal in his performance of the title character. His voice is perfectly suited to the emotionally charged songs in the musical as he reaches his higher notes with chilling sentiment and poignancy. His take on the Phantom's character is also significant – Gleason seems to prefer to convey the loneliness and misery of his character in a more subdued manner, commanding attention with-

out overdramatic fervor in such songs as "The Music of the Night," "The Phantom of the Opera" and "All I Ask of You (Reprise)."

Trista Moldova, who plays Christine, also contributes to the brilliance of the cast. She played Cosette in the regional premiere of "Les Miserables" at the Pioneer Theater Company and recently worked with Julie Andrews in the John Bucchino musical "Simeon's Gift." She has appeared in many television shows such as "The Guiding Light," "All My Children," and "As the World Turns." Moldova exhibits great skill with a dash of warm feeling in songs such as "Think of Me," "Angel of Music," and "Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again."

Other spectacular additions to the cast include the dashing Sean MacLaughlin as Raoul, who gives a lovely, sweet performance – an appropriate contrast to Gleason's dark Phantom – in songs such as "Little Lotte" and "All I Ask of You."

Other actors that deserve recognition are Kim Stengel as the humorously over-the-top soprano Carlotta Giudicelli and D.C. Anderson and Michael McCoy as the opera's bumbling owners. Each of these characters gives the musical a drop of light-heartedness amidst an otherwise emotionally draining plot. Songs such as "Prima Donna," "Notes," and the operatic parodies of Carlotta caused the St. Louis audience to actually laugh, a striking dissimilarity between most of the other scenes.

The Fox proves to be a character in itself – its beautiful designs and magnificent height completely transform the performance so that the audience truly feels that they are completely absorbed in the atmosphere of the Opera Populaire. The Fox legitimizes the elaborate, gorgeous period costumes, colorful operatic scenes, and startling lighting effects of the show. A scene where the Opera's chandelier (reported on the Web site of "Phantom" to be 1,000 pounds) is suddenly brightened and surreally raised to the ceiling of the Fox is especially powerful.

Other breathtaking special effects include the use of fog on the floor of the stage to simulate a lake in which a boat containing the Phantom and Christine is traveling. The fog ripples as water would, a mesmerizing feat that uses 550 pounds of dry ice for each performance. The scenic design is also unique. Scenes are depicted from behind the stage of the opera, with strategically placed curtains and rooms that transport the audience to the other side of the stage. This masterful design by Maria Bjornson is truly brilliant.

The Gothic, haunting music affects all who have the privilege of hearing it in a theatrical setting. They define the musical as dramatic, romantic, and beautifully tragic. Webber establishes himself as a musical genius, enhancing his creation's plot rather than distracting from it with over-embellished music.

He combines the appropriate mixture of raw power and subtle delicacy to define "Phantom" and the utter complexity of its meaning. Songs such as "The Music of the Night," "Point of No Return," and "Why Have You Brought Me Here/All I Ask of You" display dilemmas within characters including the meanings of darkness versus light, and emotional versus intellectual supremacy.

One could endlessly describe the wonders, mysteries, and delights of "Phantom." Such a musical is proven to be timeless, not only because of its global success but because of the universal themes and moral dilemmas it depicts. The end of the production emphasizes this idea. The standing ovation was clearly an earned response rather than mechanic. Audience members seemed to be experiencing choking emotion from the tragic plight of the Phantom as Gleason somberly bowed.

"The Phantom of the Opera" is truly a musical not to be missed. It is a tragedy on a Shakespearean level, an epic, theatrical masterpiece of a lifetime. ☺

Children's novels mold persona

by Taylor Stone
Senior Arts Editor

I have to admit that my secret obsession is a little childish. And by childish, I certainly mean awesome.

I am a proud member of "The Babysitters Club" No, this is not a group of CHS students and I couldn't tell you what days we meet. It's a children's book series.

Perhaps some of you (especially those of you who couldn't read during the majority of the 90s) may not remember "The Baby-sitters Club" book series. Written by Ann M. Martin, the series was published by Scholastic Inc. between 1986 and 2000. It has met colossal success, having sold over 175 million copies.

There have been 131 "The Baby-sitters Club" novels published, with 12 Super Special novels, 40 BSC "Mysteries", and 14 "BSC Friends Forever" novels. There is also an additional series focusing on one of the member's younger stepsister called "Baby-sitters Little Sister", of which there are 83 novels.

BSC follows a group of middle school girls living in the fictional town of Stonybrook, Connecticut. They form a club based on their shared interest in baby-sitting and decided to run a business that helps parents find baby-sitters from the club. Each novel (other than the Super-Specials or Mysteries) follows a plot line focused on one of the girls.

I don't pretend to be accomplished enough to have read every BSC novel,

but I am still an avid fan. I began my obsession in second grade when my parents bought me a subscription to the Baby-sitter's Club "Little Sister" novel club from my school's Scholastic book sale.

For a couple years afterwards I would receive four "Little Sister" books a month, to my utter delight. I would gobble them down and impatiently wait for the next month's delivery. I savored my hours following the adventures of Karen Brewer and her two families (her parents were divorced), her best friends Nancy and Hannie, and her multiple pets (one of which was a goldfish named Crystal Light the Second, as the original Crystal Light had perished in a previous volume). Karen's struggles with spelling bees, birthday parties, frightening neighbors, and disastrous haircuts filled me with a sense of wonder. Life was always entertaining for Karen, and I soon viewed life as a sea of beautifully simplistic possibilities.

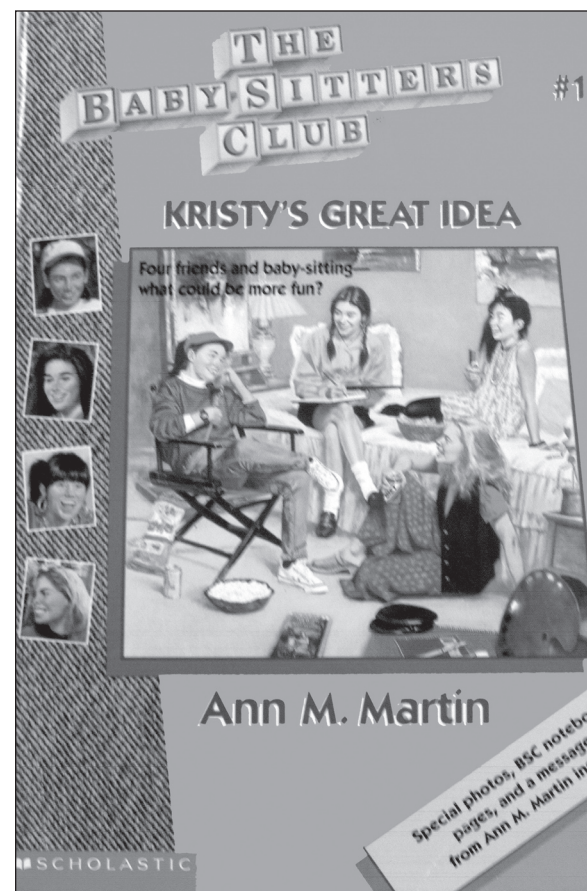
After I had finished all 83 "Little Sister" novels in a later year, I embarked upon an epic quest to gather all of the "Baby-Sitter's Club" novels I could. I was older, so I knew that I would appreciate the tales of older girls and their middle school dilemmas. However, considering this series was published many years before the "Little Sister" spin-off series, I had a grueling task at hand.

The tales of the BSC members were very different from Karen's adventures. The members themselves de-

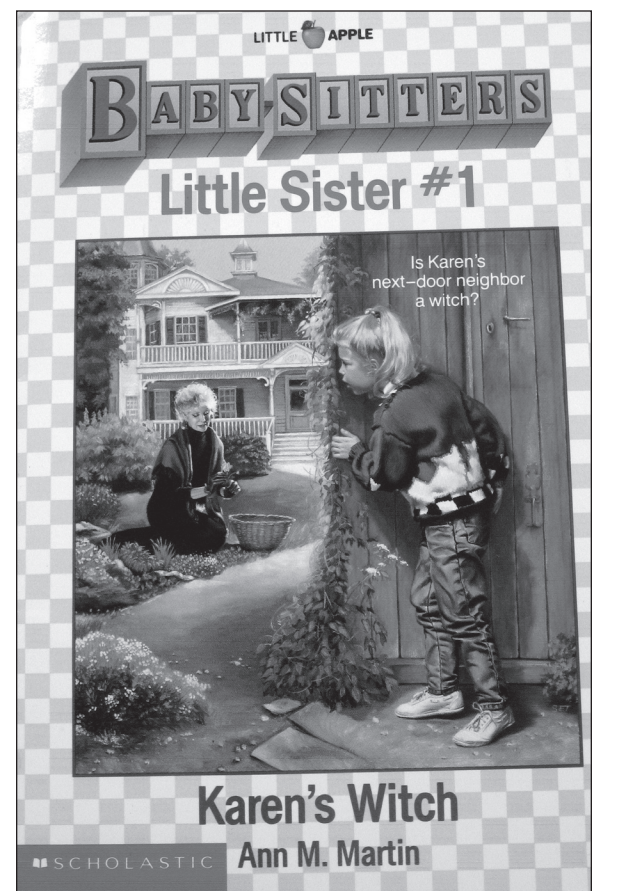
veloped the maturity of the novel – they had different backgrounds, opinions, and outlooks on life. These girls came together in the BSC to form a sort of melting pot out of their shared love of babysitting. The stories explored more mature themes, such as challenges with schoolwork and their many babysitting clients, friendships, divorce, and the general process of leaving early adolescence behind.

My dad was able to find the first novel, "Kristy's Great Idea", at our nearest Barnes and Noble bookstore. I remember having to clean my messy room before he would let me read it – torture on its highest level.

However, I was dismayed to find that the series was no longer in print, and the major bookstores only carried the first novel, if at all. So, my dad and I pored through our nearby Goodwill and another locally-owned used children's clothing store to piece together the series. This is proven to be an optimum system at the beginning of the series, and I was able to follow the novels in a logical, sequential manner. However, once I delved into the higher numbers of BSC, I encountered much more difficulty. I would have to skip a couple volumes here and there that I could not find. I would miss certain elements of the plots. Why did Mary Anne and Logan break up? Did Dawn move back to California permanently? When did Stacy's parents divorce? These are all questions that I frustratingly attempted to answer for myself, searching for



Ann M. Martin has written 131 "The Baby-sitters Club" novels over her career. Though currently out of print, BSC sold over 175 million copies while being published by Scholastic from 1986 to 2000.



Staff Photo

clues by delving into previous novels but finding nothing.

I sometimes wish I could have considered looking on E-bay for my lost treasures, but I now understand that this pondering and fruitless searching has molded me into the person I am today. I ask myself questions when I

analyze a literary text, I think critically about life's events in an introverted manner, and I've learned to adopt certain qualities while caring for children such as patience and the general appreciation for the simpler things in life.

"The Baby-Sitters Club" has shaped me as a person, both as a student and

baby-sitter. One of my prime achievements through my obsession was seeing my two sisters lug out the boxes of "Little Sister" books from our storage area and pore through them just as I once did. I hope that they also adopt the same fascination and wonder for the world that I have today. ☺

GoodEye
PHOTOSHARE

"The Photo Booth without the Booth!"

Photo Entertainment
at its Best!
Set your next School
Dance above the Rest!

Unlimited Printing
314.644.7770

Urogynecology Division
Dept. of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Women's Health

1031 Bellevue Ave., Ste. 400
St. Louis, MO 63117
Office: 314-977-7455
After Hours: 314-388-6233
Fax: 314-977-7477

SLUCare
The Physicians of Saint Louis University

Visit Us Often!

Center of Clayton
50 Gay AVE
St. Louis, MO 63105
314.721.6099

'Whip It!' radiates girl power

Barrymore's first attempt at directing is motivated by her childhood, and the movie goes off with a bang.

by **Andie Glik**
Reporter

For every girl who doesn't fit in to the typical high school mold, who would never attend a football game and who considers The Ramones as one of the greatest bands of all time, there is the movie "Whip It!" Break out those roller skates ladies, slip on your ripped fishnets and pile on the eyeliner. Filled with hot hipster boys in skinny jeans, and a soundtrack that blows Juno far out of the water, "Whip It!" is the perfect movie for you.

Meet Bliss Cavendar played by Juno actress Ellen Page. Bliss is a resident of Bodeen, Texas and an employee of the local BBQ joint that has a giant pig on its roof.

Her mother enters her in beauty pageants, but Bliss really prefers combat boots to satin heels.

On a day trip to nearby Austin, Bliss discovers girl's roller derby, and nothing is ever the same. Bliss breaks out her old Barbie skates and gets on the team, The Hurlscouts. Actresses such as, Drew Barrymore, Saturday Night Live's Kristen Wiig, and Eve play Cavendar's Hurlscout team members.

Think it can't get better than that? Drew Barrymore not only plays Smashly Simpson, the rainbow haired tough girl, but she also directed the movie.

"The main love story in 'Whip It!' is between the girl and her mother," Barrymore said in a recent interview with In-Style magazine.

Barrymore's problems with her own mother inspired her to take on this movie along with the idea that "Whip It!" is a "become your own hero" kind of film. Of course, Bliss must hide her newfound passion from her overbearing mother, who has her heart set on Bliss being Ms. America.

Pretending to take an SAT class, but really riding the Bingo bus with Senior citizens to Austin, Bliss is able to go to practice and participate in games as Babe Ruthless.

Her mother is not Bliss's only problem. You have to be 21 to participate in roller derby, and Bliss is only 17 so she must hide her age from her team members. Along with boy and best friend problems, Bliss had a lot of anger to take out on the track.

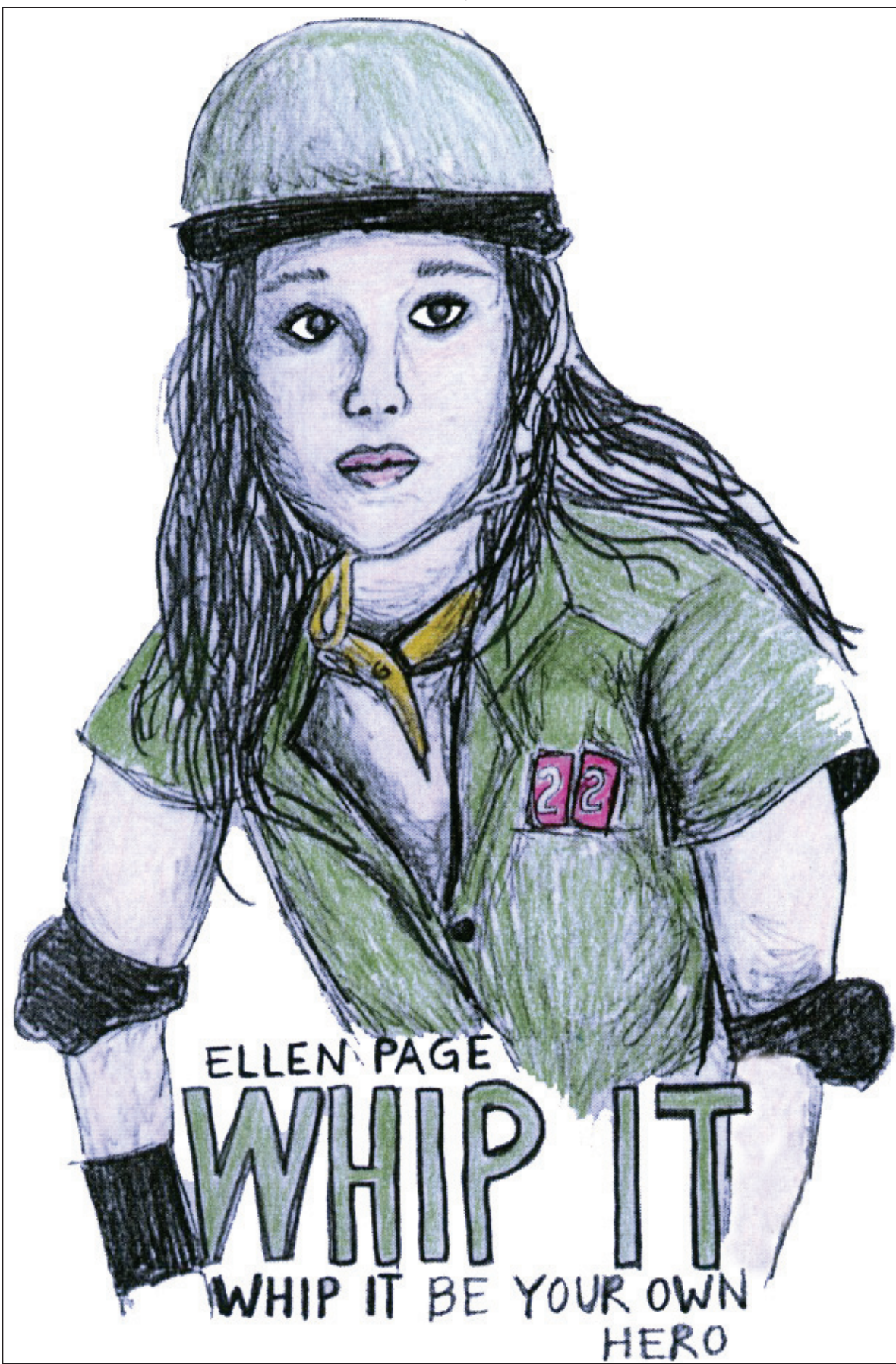
It seems the world of Indie movies has moved on from awkward, adorable, Michael Cera and on to hot musicians. Meet local band member, Oliver (played by real-life musician Landon Pigg.), who becomes Bliss's love interest.

The soundtrack goes perfectly with the movie, and includes music from girl led bands such as Peaches, The Breeders and The Ettes. Girl power exudes from every aspect of this film.

Every moment of "Whip It!" is entertaining, and leaves you craving a broken nose and manic panic hair dye. Bliss will be your next style influence with her combat boots, long wavy hair and ironic Christian metal tee. It looks like Drew Barrymore's directorial career is only beginning, and with a great start. ☺

“The main love story in 'Whip It!' is between the girl and her mother.

Drew Barrymore
Director and actress



Taylor Gold

Michael Moore fails to find solution

by **Justin Elliot**
Editor

A pair of blinding white NewBalance shoes, a megaphone, several rolls of yellow crime scene tape, and an armored truck spell one thing; Michael Moore is back again.

Moore's newest movie "Capitalism: A Love Story" is a brutal attack on the economic system that sustains our nation.

While the movie's sporadic plot, poor attempt at humor, and failure to identify the changes needed to make the situation better detracts from the movie, it still exposes some of the harsh realities of capitalism to those who live a comfortable middle class life.

Moore's thesis is that greed in capitalism has made the economics of America only about money. The human factor in the United States has gone by the way side and economic decisions are made by the ultra rich to maximize profits, no matter the cost.

Moore feels that the world has turned into a great divide where the rich bathe in profits, while the rest are left barely getting by.

Moore's story begins in his hometown of Flint, Michigan, where he recounts the demise of the city through the slow shutdown of its main employer, General Motors.

From there Moore loses his focus and finds random stories of how capitalism has ruined American lives.

His investigation includes the stories of several young teenagers who were wrongfully incarcerated by a for-profit juvenile rehabilitation center, airline pilots on food stamps because of their dwindling pay, and factory workers who

were refused pay because of their companies' poor credit.

The most interesting of these stories involve life insurance policies that numerous large companies take out on their employees called "dead peasant" insurance. When employees die, companies cash in, and families never see any of the money.

Together, these stories make an illogical and biased case against capitalism. However, by themselves, the stories truly put a face on the negative effects of capitalism. With the push of a button, CEOs and other executives can make decisions that truly ruin lives of innocent Americans.

Overall, these depressing stories leave viewers angered at the current system.

Although Moore alludes to the importance of voting he still leaves most questions unanswered.

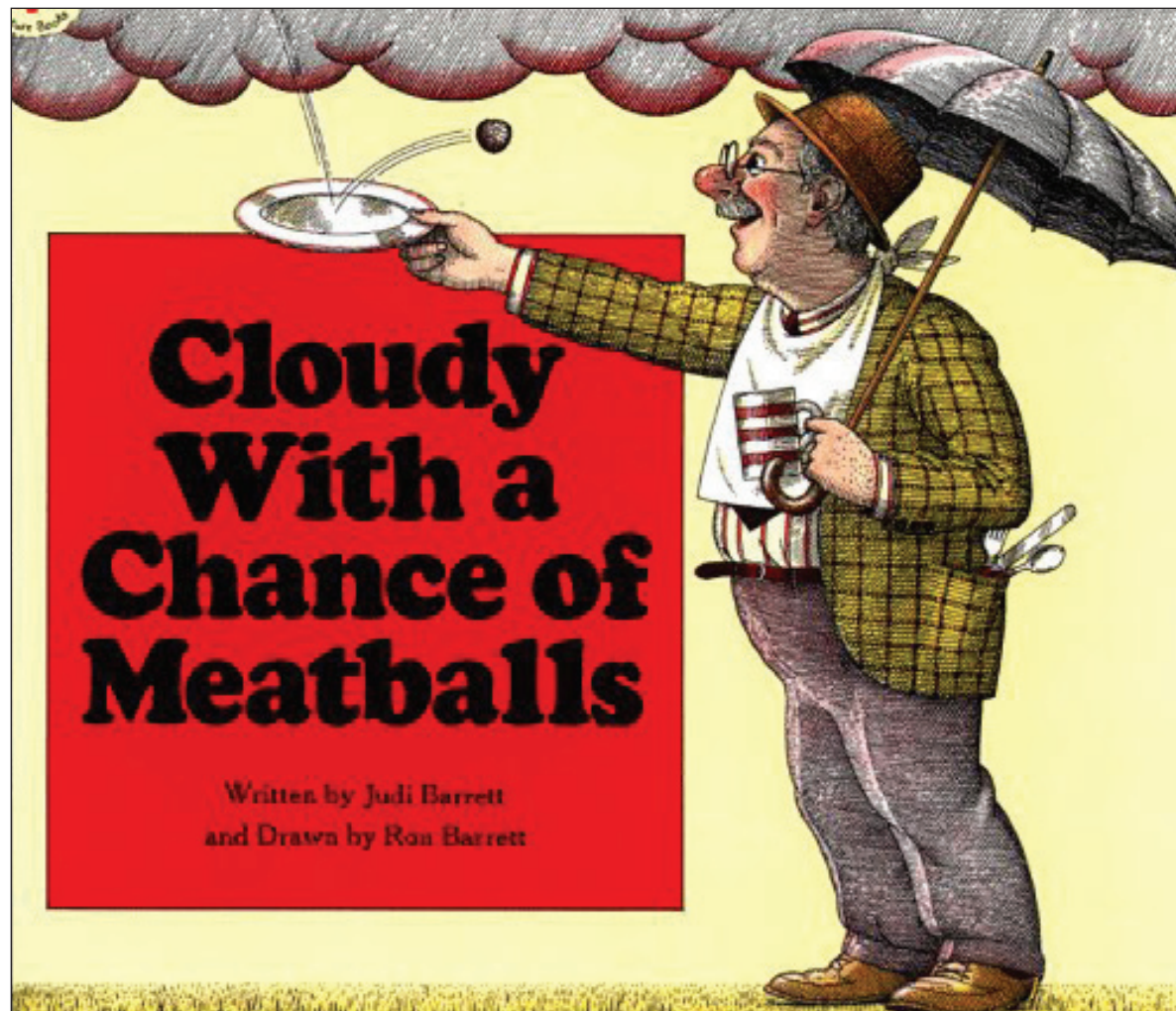
Who should people vote for? What changes need to be made? What system would work better than capitalism? All are left untouched.

Furthermore, Moore loses his credibility by not only failing to even recognize the opposing view point but also his flawed attempt at humor.

With a five-minute exposé on how Jesus wasn't a capitalist, Moore attempting to make a citizen arrest of Wall Street executives and Moore standing outside of the major U.S. banks with money bags and a megaphone demanding the taxpayer money back, Moore only makes a fool of himself.

It seemed like it was more like a YouTube video than a full-scale movie.

Overall, Moore makes some astute points, but his outrageous behavior and illogical arguments don't add up. ☹



Judi Barrett's 1978 children's book, 'Cloudy with a chance of Meatballs', provided the foundation for the popular new movie.

Children's classic sparks comedy for all

by **Anat Gross**
Reporter

Yummy! "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" leaves the viewers hungry not only for some hot dogs topped with donuts and ice cream, but also for more of the adorable and humorous animated film.

The Columbia Pictures and Sony Pictures movie is inspired by the popular 1978 children's book written by Judi Barrett and illustrated by Ron Barrett.

The film is about Flint Lockwood (voice of Bill Hader) a young and failing inventor who continuously attempts to find his big break.

His big break comes when he invents a machine that converts water to food in order to save his town plagued by sardines.

However, Lockwood's plans soon go awry as the town must be saved from giant pancakes, hot dogs, and a variety of other foods.

The animated movie features the voices of many well known actors including Anna Faris as Sam Sparks, Flint Lockwood's love, James Caan as Tim Lockwood, Flint's father, and Mr. T as Earl Devereaux, the town security guard.

However, the cutest and funniest character is one of few words, but hilarious animation, Flint's sidekick monkey Steve, voiced by Neil Patrick Harris.

Although the movie is inspired by a children's book, teenagers and adult audiences can find as much enjoyment as the 10-year-olds filling up the theater seats. Sony strategically

“Sony strategically includes some adult humor for those parents accompanying their children or for those high school kids who secretly miss the Disney movies of their past and wish to hold on to the memories of their childhood.

includes some adult humor for those parents accompanying their children or for those high school kids who secretly miss the Disney movies of their past and wish to hold on to the memories of their childhood.

Despite its storybook inspiration, directors Phil Lord and Chris Miller had very little to work with. Thus, if you go see the movie, do not expect to see the exact replication of the 1978 book's plot. In fact, the two are quite different.

The movie centers around Flint who invents this machine, which converts water into food, while the book focuses on two children listening to their grandfather tell the tale of the town of Chewandswallow where food falls from the sky.

In the book, storms force the people to leave the town and adapt to the new world without food falling from the sky.

It may be because of these major plot changes that some parts of the movie fell short. If it were not for the random, yet adorable remarks of the gummy bear obsessed monkey Steve and the great animation of Sony Pictures, viewed in 3D for the first few weeks of the film's release, these plot holes may have been more imposing on the viewer.

Overall, the cute and quirky animated film is great for all types of

audiences. The movie is perfect for the younger audiences and adults seeking a relaxing and comedic 81 minutes. ☺

Second release provides flashback

by **Anat Gross**
Reporter

"Toy Story" and "Toy Story 2" delights audiences young and old. The second release of the beloved 1995 Disney movies gives the most recent generation an opportunity to view the films in theaters. Older audience members have the chance to revisit their favorite film of their childhood, but this time in 3D. The Disney Pixar classic does not disappoint.

The animated feature is about the fantastical world of toys, which come to life when people are not watching. The movie specifically focuses on a group of toys dealing with the possibility of new arrivals during their owner, Andy's, sixth birthday party. Woody, a pull string cowboy toy handed down through generations, is threatened by the arrival of Buzz Lightyear, the new space action figure every kid wants. Woody plots to get rid of his competition, but the two end up lost together and forced to work together so that they may find their way home before it's too late.

Although the film was originally released in 1995, the wonderful story is still a hit with current audiences. The animation that was released again in 3D is still amazing, despite being over a decade old.

The movie features the voice of many well-known actors including Tom Hanks as Woody and Tim Allen as Buzz Lightyear. However, it is not the talent, which makes the movie so successful; it is the simple, yet creative, storyline, which keeps the viewer intrigued.

Despite the overall appeal of the animated movie, the teen audience may be wishing they had not delved into the memories of their childhood. Even having seen the movie multiple times and wanting to watch it over and over again as a kid, the length of the combined movies was almost unbearable. Yes, the storyline and the animation are great, but the movie is being released again in order to promote Toy Story 3. Those who watched the tape over and over as children, who have memorized the plot may not enjoy the two films as much as those 7-year-olds and their parents giggling in the audience.

Overall, "Toy Story" and "Toy Story 2" are great movies and can be enjoyed by all audience members, but it may be a painful showing for those attempting to connect to their childhood. Wonderful animation, even without the 3D, coupled with magnificent storyline filled with humor makes the double feature a great way to spend the evening if you haven't seen it once too often already. ☺



Filmmaker Michael Moore speaks at a press conference in Washington D.C. opposing President Barack Obama's health care reform.

Olivier Douliery/Abaca Press/MCT

Artist finds opportunities on sidewalk

by Eudora Olsen
Reporter

On a stroll through the neighborhood, local architect Janet Goodman discovered new creative opportunities lying at her feet. She picked one up, took it home, and began painting.

"It sort of all started because I wanted to give them a new life, or a little appreciation," Goodman said. "You just see the sticks on the ground, and they're just trash."

Her passion is sticks, any shape or size, but Goodman says they must be "big enough to have a presence."

The architect lives at home in Clayton with her husband, and her twin daughters are off away at college. The walks have become more frequent with the arrival of their new puppy, a miniature poodle, and Goodman adds to her collection of sticks every day.

"Sometimes you see something where the stick is branching off, or something has been chewed," Goodman said. "My perfect stick has personality, and the paint on top just brings it out."

The architect can't help but see stories in the sticks; a little dent in the bark is a whole new plot line for her to guide to

life. She paints the scenery on the sticks with anything from nail polish to metallic gel pens, taking hours on end to decorate each one.

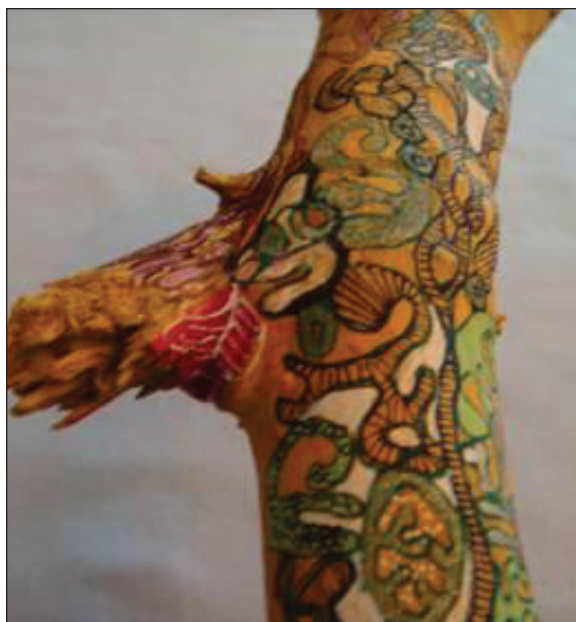
She sees her work as an appreciation of what already exists. In her own words, she explains that the stick holds magic within itself, and the coloring on the surface is merely a device to bring the stick's potential to light.

"It's not making something the same way as if you have a blank canvas or piece of paper," Goodman said. "It's just sort of bringing out something that's there."

Because it takes her up to three or four days to finish one stick, Goodman's pile of raw sticks has gotten ahead of the actual painting process. She is now focused on just the decorating aspect of her unique artwork, and with each finished product comes the lingering question of how to display her collection.

"One of the challenges of the sticks is that there are so many details, but no direction," Goodman said. "If I were ever to display these, I'd want people to see what I saw—the spirit of the stick."

Although she is not sure on the display, Janet Goodman is sure of one thing: sticks make a great canvas for the imagination. ☺



Courtesy of Janet Goodman

Local artist Janet Goodman has a positively uncontrollable passion for sticks. She believes each individual stick has a story of its own to tell.



Ali Sehzadeh

'Sweeney Todd' cast prepares for upcoming performance

by Sarah Tait
Reporter

Though the spring musical is a far-off event for most, the theater crew has already started to work on what is to be one of their biggest undertakings yet, "Sweeney Todd."

"Sweeney Todd" is quite a challenge to perform, but the theater students are sure they're up to it. Auditions have been held and parts passed out early this year so that the cast and crew can have extra time to prepare.

"This is the most difficult show I've done by far," junior John Holland said.

Holland will play the title role, a demonic barber who slits the throats of his customers and bakes them into meat pies with his partner in crime, Mrs. Lovett.

"This particular musical is almost entirely based upon song," Holland said, "and the music is based on moods, not melody."

Sophomore Fergus Inder, who plays Anthony in the musical, agrees that the music is the most difficult element of the play.

"There's a lot of key changes and crazy harmonies," Inder said. "The chorus part is really difficult and that's going to take a lot of work, but it's also just a tough piece to read in general."

The composer for this musical is Stephen Sondheim, who is renowned for writing complex musical scores. The cast has already begun meeting with music director Alice Fasman in their free time so that they are able to meet Sondheim's challenge.

However, "Sweeney Todd" presents more challenges than just the tricky score.

Director Kelley Ryan believes the musical relies heavily

on talented acting as well.

"As hard as the music is, acting will be hard too," Ryan said. "This isn't a typical show, it needs really strong acting skills. It will be tough for everyone."

Despite the difficulty, the whole theater team is looking forward to putting on the show.

"All the challenges will be the most fun," Ryan added. "The music is difficult but it's also witty, funny, and dark."

Holland is also excited to get to work.

"This is one of my favorite shows and it's always a great experience to get to be in something you love," Holland said. "This is a musical that is so unlike others. You don't get to see a lot of dark but eerily comical productions that strike deep into the audience and make them reflect."

The theater crew believes that the unique and memorable qualities "Sweeney Todd" brings to the stage are well worth the struggles. Though they are all extremely excited to begin working on every aspect of the musical, there may be one element they look forward to even more than the others: the blood.

"Sweeney Todd" is a musical not lacking in gore and violence to the delight of audience and crew members alike. Though this may raise concerns for some younger viewers, it's not likely to be a major issue.

"The violence in 'Sweeney Todd' is just as bad as the sexual references made in Greece, so I don't think it's going to be a problem," Inder said.

The crew is instead focusing on how to get the most out of this gruesome production.

"We're already working on the effects to make them look really good," Ryan said. "It will be pretty bloody."

This year's spring musical is certain to be unlike any others performed before. ☺

'Invention of Lying' leaves its watchers laughing, pondering

by Meredith Redick
Senior Managing Editor

It's a world where no one lies.

Producer Ricky Gervais has carried the clever, penetrating humor that sensationalized the British version of "The Office" into a bright, whimsical film he calls "The Invention of Lying."

The world of "Lying" is almost identical to our own, with one looming difference: in this world, no one has ever tried to lie. The people speak with a startling candor, admitting without hesitation the mistakes and prejudices that fuel the industry of duplicity in our own society.

For loner Mark Bellison (Gervais), such transparency means that he suffers insult after insult in his already dismal life. Mark is fired through no fault of his own from a company that produces historical films, the only kind of films that people can think to create in a world without fiction. His incontinent landlord, learning that Mark has lost his job, evicts him. Then to top it all off, Mark's reluctant dinner date, Anna (Jennifer Garner) rejects him—on the grounds that he is fat and has a snub nose.

Desperate for a way out, Mark momentarily slips into fantasy as he withdraws his last savings from the bank. He declares to the teller that he has \$800 in his account—even though he doesn't—and the teller unhesitatingly gives it to him. Astonished, Mark realizes that he has effectively invented the lie.

Mark's powers extend beyond finding quick wealth, however. As his mother lies dying, Mark desperately comforts her with tales of a beautiful world beyond death—a concept that quickly spreads from his mother's deathbed to a voracious world eager for the promise of salvation. As Mark gradually becomes a twisted Christ figure, he realizes that lying may

not, after all, be the perfect force in this world.

While the film is undoubtedly packaged like a romantic comedy, Gervais effectively uses this structure along with a comedic hypothetical situation to present relatively profound issues with lightness and dexterity. When Mark discovers the lie, he writes a fictional screenplay that, passed off as truth, becomes a smash hit in the historical movie industry. Gervais' message, then, is that a wholly truthful society is also a society without imagination. This challenging of precepts continues in Mark's transformation into a white-robed, bearded character that writes the rules of the "man in the sky" on a pair of pizza boxes—effectively, a Christ character.

While Gervais' satire of Christianity is witty, it also probes the concept of religious faith without arriving at a clear judgment: while the people of the pre-lying, secular society are forced to face their own despair, the concept of eternal paradise only makes them ambivalent to their lives on Earth.

These moral issues are handled skillfully by a stellar cast, which includes Jason Bateman and Jeffrey Tambor of the television series "Arrested Development" in addition to Garner and Gervais. Although parts of the script could have easily become trite, Gervais' self-effacing charm and Garner's distinctive smile makes even the compulsory romantic scenes watchable.

Gervais' final conclusion is that humanity resides most comfortably between the cold, logical realm of truth and the extravagant fantasies that Mark bestows on his own life upon his introduction to deception.

"The Invention of Lying" tries to look like a clever comedy, but its core is an amalgam of philosophical questions designed to leave viewers pleasantly musing about the nature of truth and imagination. ☺



Warner Brothers

Producer Ricky Gervais acts alongside Jennifer Garner in "The Invention of Lying". When Mark discovers the world's first lie, his life changes forever.

Dan Brown delivers in latest novel

In his thrilling new novel, Brown takes readers through a maze of complex symbolism in the nation's capital with the return of his beloved protagonist Robert Langdon.

by Caitlin Kropp
Reporter

Something very special happened on Sep. 15. Throughout the country, thousands of people were united. Some stood in line, some stayed at home, but they all shared the same goal: get the book. This book was obviously something extraordinary, as on the day of its release, more than one million copies were sold. This makes it the fastest selling adult novel in history. Getting closer? Everyone was trying to get their hands on Dan Brown's latest novel, *The Lost Symbol*.

A story six years in the making, *The Lost Symbol* can definitely be called one of the most anticipated books of the year. Before it even hit stores, this sequel to *Angels and Demons* and *The Da Vinci Code* was already a bestseller. But does the story live up to all the hype? The answer is a resounding yes. Dan Brown certainly knows how to deliver.

The story begins eerily similar to Dan Brown's other novels. A secret ritual. A distinguishable villain (an albino in one, tattooed in the most current). And, the revelation of a secret within a secret. Okay, so maybe it wasn't eerily similar.

Just a bit disappointingly similar. After all the research and time that Brown took to write the novel, it would seem that he could at least deliver something new. We've seen this opening over and over again in his novels, and it's getting quite repetitive. But, just as we begin to despair, the story takes off on its own. Cue sighs of relief.

Robert Langdon, our loveable Harvard symbologist, is reintroduced to us, this time accepting a call to give a last-minute lecture for a close friend. Instead of jetting off to Europe, however, Langdon goes stateside, in Washington, D.C. The first real gasp moment we get is when it becomes apparent that there is no lecture planned for the evening.

Events follow in rapid fire succession. A gruesome discovery is made within the rotunda, apparently acting as a calling card requesting Langdon's help. The prize? An ancient wisdom that will supposedly lead to man becoming a god. If Langdon doesn't help the mastermind behind it all (a tattooed baddy who calls himself Mal'akh), there will be grave consequences for those he holds dear.

The remainder of the book takes the reader on a breathless race through Washington, D.C. Along the way, in true Brown fashion, the readers are enlightened with factual information that comprises the complex web that Brown creates. String theory, capitol architecture, ancient mysticism, and a new field of research called noetic science, exploring the idea that the physical world can be influenced by human consciousness, are just a sampling of everything encountered.

The Lost Symbol is told in Brown's usual breathless, highly energetic style. He chucks characters and references and actual facts at the reader at lightning speed. But we always hang on. Why? Because we have come to love Brown's energetic

style, his fast-paced action that whips information and fiction through our mind like a hurricane. We've come to expect his style, and so, it is able to effectively keep us engaged.

In addition, Brown once again succeeds in taking a place we already thought we knew, and turning it into something completely different. With intense explorations into the architecture and decorations of several well-known D.C. buildings, Brown takes the old and makes it new. He also directs our eyes to other, less well-known aspects of the city, making us want to see it for real.

Brown creates the same atmosphere for *The Lost Symbol*. Even now, I want to go back to the capitol rotunda, just to look at *The Apotheosis of Washington* and realize what it really means. Here's a hint for Washington: start on *The Lost Symbol* tour, ASAP.

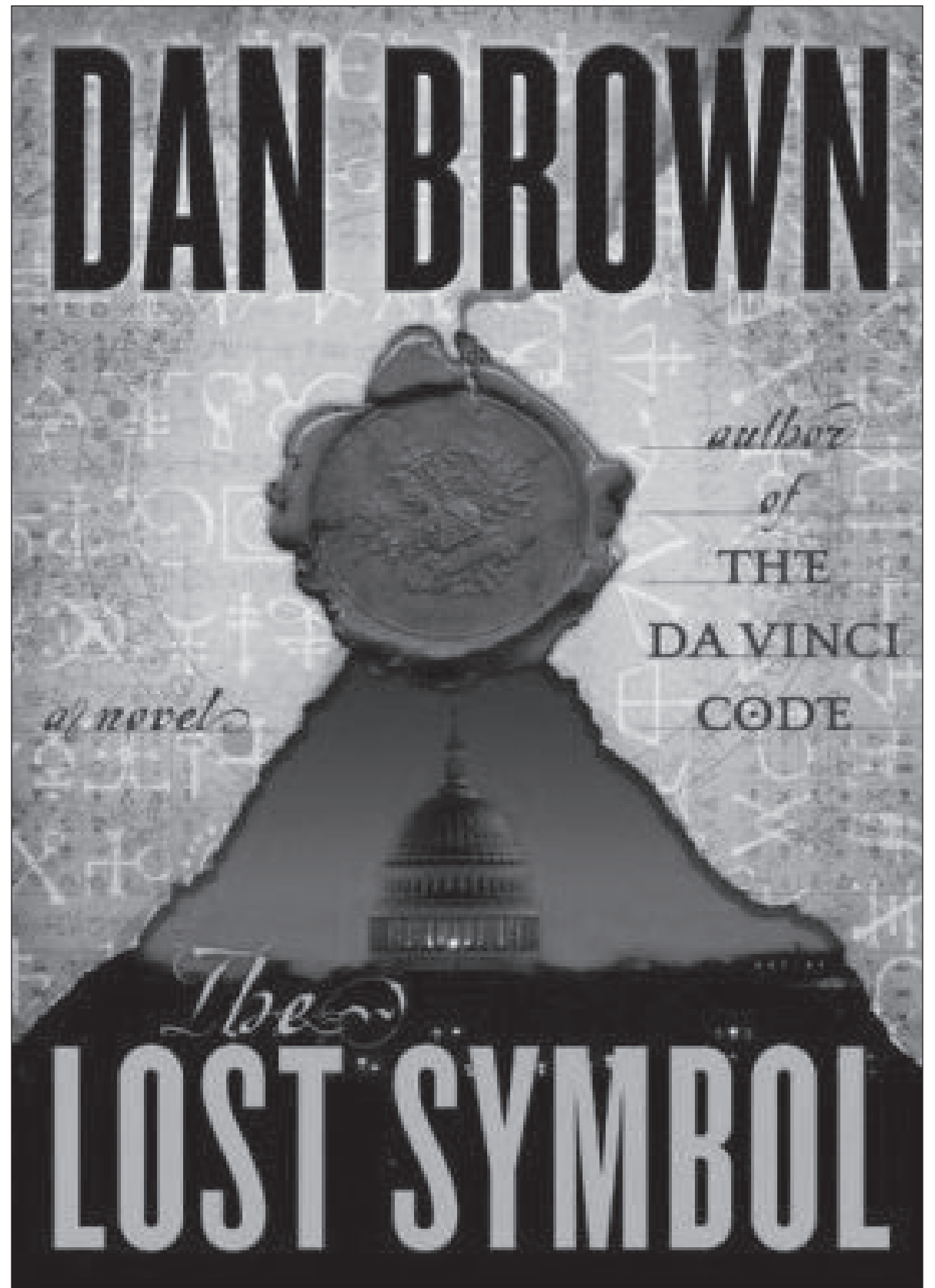
Another similarity is the introduction of yet another brainy heroine/love interest. The newest addition to the Brownverse is Katherine Solomon, a noetic scientist who aids Langdon on his quest for ancient wisdom. Don't get me wrong: I love the fact that Brown frequently introduces heroines that can hold their own, both in the academic and the outside world. But it's the addition of yet another possible Langdon love interest that irks me. Even though nothing really happens between Solomon and Langdon, it is implied enough to leave no doubt in the mind of the reader what their true relationship is. Just once, can't Langdon have just a smart friend that happens to be a girl? That's all I'm asking for.

What differs in the newest novel is the underlying focus of the plots. In both *Angels and Demons* and *The Da Vinci Code*, the main focus is Christianity, and exploring the different levels within it. *The Lost Symbol* strays from this path, instead focusing on the concept of Freemasonry in America, an equally well-known and controversial subject. It is simply astounding how much Freemasonry played a part in the formation of the United States, and Brown presents it to us in his new book.

Also, Dan Brown does incorporate religion, but on a more neutral plane. It is true that the formation of America was done so under white Christian males. Brown addresses this. But he also seems to back down from his more controversial topics, instead ending with an affirmation of faith. He doesn't specify which faith, thankfully, just that there is faith in general. And this, coupled with the image of the first rays of dawn hitting the top of the Washington Monument, can make anyone an optimist.

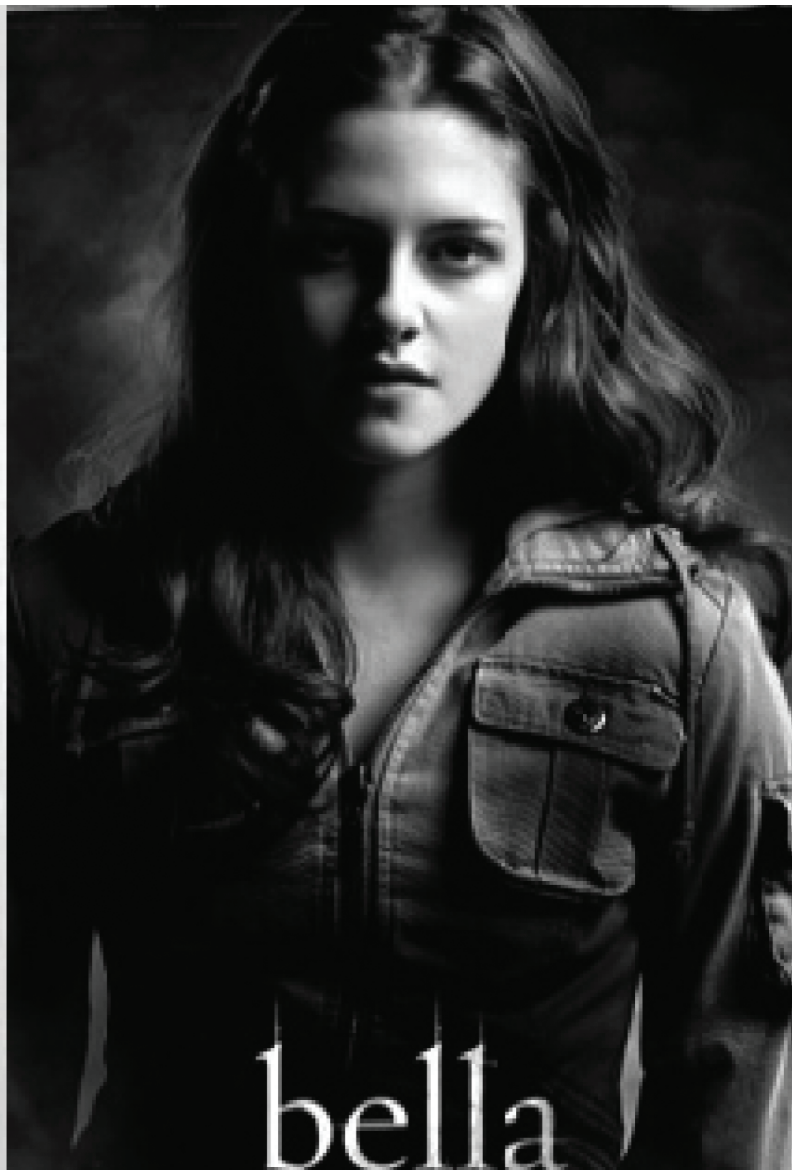
All in all, *The Lost Symbol* was an excellent read. Although told a little fast, the action is great, the scenes are fantastic, and the facts cut to the core. *The Lost Symbol* certainly lives up to the wait of six years. The next question is, of course, will Dan Brown be able to outdo himself again? I certainly hope so. Life just wouldn't be the same without another Robert Langdon thriller to hyperventilate over. ☺

“*The Lost Symbol* is told in Brown's usual breathless, highly energetic style. He chucks characters and references and actual facts at the reader at lightning speed.



Amazon

Current fashion trends...



GLIK'S

gliks.com

Shop online @ gliks.com

Is modern-day trick-or-treating a good idea?

Trick-or-treating still enchanting for youth despite societal scares

by **Ijeoma Onyema**
Senior Forum Editor

Remember Halloween back in the 90s (oh yes, the decade of the geometric shapes) when you would skip merrily down the street with your friends, highly anticipating stuffing your pumpkin-shaped basket with tooth-rotting treats. Even if you got something lame like a bruised apple or a toothbrush, you wouldn't mind because it was all apart of the trick-or-treating experience.

Nowadays, kids can't even accept those gifts from their neighbors due to the fear that it might be spiked with glass or some date rape drug. Possible? Sure. Likely? Not so much. Either way, let's face it: without trick-or-treating, the jokes, the haunted houses, the costume parties, everything about Halloween would cease to exist.

"Trick-or-treating," as you all know, is the traditional custom where children go from door to door asking for treats, preparing to do a "trick" whoever doesn't give them treats. However, thanks to the poisoned candy scare in the 70s and 80s, parents are more fearful of kids getting tricked rather than the opposite.

It's even worse in Clayton, where I thought many were festive about this holiday; one can see the impact of these scares. When I was trick-or-treating in Clayton, I can specifically recall one time when I knocked on a door; a lady opened the door just a crack, gave my friend and me each two pieces of candy, and briskly closed the door. And this was all before we could even say "trick or treat," mind you.

Furthermore, more and more people are turning their lights off earlier than 10 p.m. Back in the day, Halloween night was filled with the hauntingly warm glow of the jack-o-lanterns, with children frolicking merrily from house to house as Halloween-y music filled the air. Now all the streets are haunted with a freakishly dead silence, with the cold wind hitting the backs of the few trick-or-treaters who drive from house to house. Seriously, I can count last year's quota on my hands and by 9 p.m., I am still left with more than half of their baskets stuffed with candy (and one would think that would be awesome at first but it's just a nasty start into the holiday season with all that weight increase and whatnot).

This just proves that amongst the parents of suburbia, there is this idea that in order to protect their children from the outside world, children must be in the care of an adult every second of the day. It is understandable to be cautious, but parents have to wake up and smell the fresh candy: there is not one place on Earth that is safe. It's hard to comprehend, but get used to it.

As for the candy red scare, there haven't been any reported incidents that connected to this scare, so parents should just chill out cut the umbilical cord. Just as birds have to fly, so must children, despite the protest of their parents.

Apart from that, Halloween is on a Saturday; having the holiday on a Friday or a Saturday is a rare treat by itself. Kids are already gloomy when they can't go out on the weekend, but parents, if you don't let your kids go out this Halloween weekend, then they won't love you. A bit of a stretch, I'm sure, but they will be seething. Parents, I'd advise letting them go this year because, there's always next year, when it's a Sunday.

I don't know if everyone forgot but hello?! Candy?! Besides grumpy, toothless geriatrics, no one here can say that they don't like candy. It's imperative to let a kid go trick-or-treating so they can engorge themselves with their treasures (after hours of negotiations and trading of course), throw up an hour later, and have an appointment for a cavity filling the next day. It's a rite of passage that simply must be accomplished.

Besides, just because a parent is afraid of their child having Halloween fun on the streets doesn't mean he can't go out and enjoy Halloween elsewhere. If anything, many malls and local outlets offer "safe" trick-or-treating in a closed environment. And for the truly paranoid parents, some local fire departments have voluntary x-rays where one can check to see if there's anything dangerous in the treats.

To conclude, be cautious Halloween night because it is possible that when the parents are away, the sex offenders might play. But that doesn't give reason to cooping the children up at home all Halloween night with nothing to do. If life is short, then childhood is most definitely shorter, so when times like these come around for the children to go romping around the neighborhood, go on and let them romp. ☺

Traditional Halloween activity less an experience, more a nuisance

by **Kara Kratcha**
Editor

This Halloween thousands of kids will be knock-knock joking their way around St. Louis neighborhoods in search of a bag full of free candy and a night full of after-dark fun. However, maybe it's not the candy-givers who should be asking "who's there?" when trick-or-treaters fill the streets.

Let's face it: if someone were to explain trick-or-treating to a parent out of context, the resulting description would sound pretty bad. "A bunch of small children from house to house in costume, demanding food from strangers in the dark, often on a school night," that portrayal might say. "Oh, and this is also the night adults and teenagers traditionally throw masquerade parties in the same houses kids are approaching for candy."

If parents have confidence in the moral caliber of their neighbors, then the scenario described is not dangerous at all. Adults could be expected to conduct themselves responsibly and to monitor their teenagers' Halloween fun. However, with the kids' ever-growing appetite for sugary treats, trick-or-treating territory has extended to include the nooks and crannies of every neighborhood, far surpassing the average parent's ability to know the safety of individual houses, or even blocks. Even in Clayton, total safety cannot be ensured by parents.

Then there's the problem of costumes.

Should children have to wear tennis shoes and a bulky coat? Are masks really that dangerous? Do props such as plastic swords and fake guns tend to cause accidents? In most cases, parental instinct probably says, "Yes, yes and yes!"

Of course, a myriad of safety tips are readily available. The Los Angeles Police Department suggests adding reflective tape to coats and bags for visibility, purchasing "healthy alternatives" to candy to give out at the door, and to use a decorative hat instead of a mask or toxic face paints. Halloween-safety.com advises parents to go with their children while trick-or-treating, or at least to send a teenaged sibling along. Eating Halloween candy before allowing a parent to check it for safety is a no-no, according to kid-shealth.org.

Unfortunately, these tips are hard to follow for one simple reason: kids think doing so is lame, and with good reason. It's hard to be *Scream* without a mask and long, dragging cloak. A knight without his sword is barely a knight at all, as is a Jedi without his light saber. Most nine-year-olds don't want their parents trailing behind them, just as most teenagers don't want to follow their ten-year-old siblings around. Teens think egging houses, scaring little kids, and going to wild parties are fun things to do on Halloween because of the danger factor. Can a completely safe Halloween night even be a fun Halloween night?

Often, although not this year, Halloween occurs on a weekday. Unlike other holidays, students are not usually given a day off for Halloween or the day after, when kids are more likely to be tired and possibly sick from their night of running around and candy eating. At first glance, this seems like a bad thing. However, not having the day off may be good for children.

Perhaps the solution to Halloween danger lies in ensuring that all Halloween festivities fall on a school night. Trick-or-treating should be moved from Oct. 31 to the first Sunday before. After all, Halloween is a commercial holiday, the date of which means little to most people.

In this way, trick-or-treaters would be forced to search for candy during the daylight hours. Parents would be more aware of their children's location because of the community-regulated change in trick-or-treating time. Because of the heightened safety moving trick-or-treating to a Sunday would ensure, parents would feel less need to accompany their older children, thus allowing them more freedom to have fun on Halloween.

To clarify, moving trick-or-treating is not the same as moving Halloween. Full-fledged adults should be and are allowed to make whatever decisions they want on the holiday. Under the suggested system, the parties of teenagers and adults and the more innocent fun of children would be separated since most people are not inclined to party into the wee hours of the morning on a Sunday. This benefits children, who could then safely wander the streets in search of candy, and adults, who could then enjoy Halloween without the worry that their children are doing just that.

Trick-or-treating is in not an inherently bad tradition. Dressing up and receiving candy are fun activities for children and have provided fond memories for many adults. However, today's world is one of terrorism, impersonal neighbors, and swine flu. Trick-or-treating need not be completely abolished; instead, it needs to be safer for children and better fit modern times. ☺



Thrift stores provide economical alternatives to commercial 'hipster' stores

With that condescending scowl he often wears, arms crossed, my brother barked, "Urban Outfitters is the devil."

It was two days before Christmas, and I had foolishly dragged him to the mall to help me pick out a hat for my mother. At the time, I dismissed his words as an arrogant exaggeration, said to get my attention, and in retrospect, I have no doubt that this was exactly his intention. But I could barely hear him over trendy indie-rock on the loudspeakers as I wandered through racks of \$60 flannel shirts and pre-ripped jeans. After much thought and research, though, now almost one year later, I have come to agree with what he said that day in December.

First, to back my case, I'll provide a brief history of the chain we all know and love.

Urban Outfitters originated in 1970

as "the Free People's Store" in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The owner, Richard Hayne, ranked as number 262 of the richest people in the U.S., changed the name shortly after to the one we now know, as well as creating the stores Free People and Anthropologie. The brand is expanding, and today has 140 locations around the world.

The apparel sold in the original store reflected Hayne's liberal roots and hasn't changed much over the years, though he is now an ultra-capitalist conservative. In fact, according to Philadelphia Weekly, Hayne and his wife, Margaret, have "contributed \$13,150 to the campaign coffers of Paleolithic right-wing Republican Sen. Rick Santorum and his Political Action Committee." This is one of the chain's contradictions thatirk me the most.

The typical Urban Outfitters shop-

per is liberal-minded and craves the "boho chic" hipster look the chain markets. However, it's blatantly obvious that anyone shopping at Urban Outfitters is not poor in the least bit, and in fact, has enough money to buy overpriced, purposely-tattered items. I really can't get over the irony of this situation: while shoppers spend their parents' money (most likely), in efforts to look artsy, bohemian, vintage, etc., they are unknowingly funding a system of beliefs and politics most shopping there would condemn-- a system their "alternative" clothes are a statement against.

Urban Outfitters has mass-produced the thrift-store "look," abusing its authority as a big business to knock-off independent designers, and scam people of their money, selling things that look cheap, but aren't.

My brother and I are not the only ones who see the contradiction, though.

As reported by In-foshop News in Aug. 2008, a group in Milwaukee voiced their disgust against the brand, "juggling eggs (all over the merchandise) while informing the customers that the circus was in town, and they were the freak show. Displays were bro-

ken, tables were flipped, and merchandise was scattered all over the store." Most impressively, they yelled, "Die hipster scum!"

Not that I'm suggesting anything radical. I just want to provide another option, which is thrift store shopping. Here is your opportunity to free yourself from the shackles of consumerism!

Two years ago, I never would have set foot in Value Village or Goodwill. Now, though, I see that I can find the same '90s floral dress, the same scuffed boots, the same acid-wash jeans or oversized sweater for \$5 instead of \$50.

Prior to my discovery, I didn't shop in thrift stores because shopping at Urban Outfitters was so much easier. Everything I wanted was right in front of me, glowing in the windows' display-- though I did pay the price.

But when the resources are avail-

able, especially during this recession, to find much cheaper, one-of-a-kind clothes (if you're willing to search), it seems completely unnecessary to pay more money for them, while supporting a chain like Urban Outfitters. Plus, the hunt for cheap clothes in thrift stores is exhilarating. Finding your sartorial match holds more value when you've had to search for it (and I don't mean in a catalogue).

However, proceed with caution.

I say this because while it's easy to become an Urban Outfitters hipster cliché, it's even easier to become a pretentious, scraggly-looking, strictly Value Village-shopping, vinyl-listening, fixed-gear riding, carbon-copy hipster (who refuses to admit they're a hipster).

Unfortunately, I realize by writing this, I have just placed myself in the latter. ☺



Hannah Callahan

Ditching Facebook restores real friendships, sense of self

For several years, I lived in a different universe. My friends were two-dimensional, and I could summon them at any moment. Voices did not exist. No one cried, no one screamed, no one laughed. Emotions were reduced to a series of abbreviations. As I looked into people's eyes, they were never looking back into mine.

Originally, I embraced Facebook as a new way to connect. Pictures that used to require printing to share were uploadable in seconds. Friends who lived thousands of miles away were suddenly sitting right in front of me on the computer screen. I felt a rush as I typed my password into the small rectangular box every day, entering a world of endless social activity. My heart jumped each time a red flag, accompanied by the satisfying ping of a new message, appeared on the corner of the page.

The sounds echoed in my dreams, and my fingers itched constantly to return pokes and flip through the most recent albums. I spent my evenings wasting away in the home page's beautifully streamlined, navy blue oblivion. Sometimes, when a friend came over, we would explore the Facebook world together, staring at the screen—but rarely looking at each other.

I felt more isolated than ever. My excitement for the website's possibility of contact had ironically transformed me into an Internet zombie. I associated every person I saw with his or her profile picture as though we were all frozen in time.

As I spent more and more hours on Facebook, I spent less and less time interacting with friends in real life. Committing what most teenagers today would consider social suicide, I deleted my account.

"Did you fall off the face of the Earth??" my friends called to ask. They were shocked by the need to resort to such a primitive form of communication: actually talking to me.

But as we talked, I realized what I had lost for so long.

I had lost the fluidity of dialogue; I had lost the extended silences that weren't awkward at all; I had lost the poignancy of speaking without being able to revise. I had lost their laughs, each one a unique sound bite that cannot be heard in "lol." Some are quick and wispy giggles. Others are shrill crows from high in the throat. Others have boisterous guffaws that seem to shake the air around me.

I have resurrected a practice that had disappeared since middle school: walking to my friends' houses on weekdays. The distinctive smells of their homes have come back to me, as well as the sometimes-bothersome check ups by their parents. I am now truly present in their lives. We are no longer virtual images of ourselves floating around on each other's computer screens.

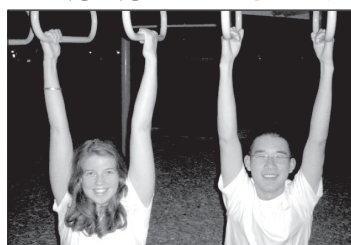
One day in class, a friend pulled a picture out of her folder and handed it to me. The two of us sat on a sidewalk with chalk in our hands, smiling without any front teeth. Nostalgia seized me. I had forgotten that a photograph was an object I could hold onto, not just something I could click.

The picture now sits permanently on my dresser rather than being buried in a rarely visited Facebook album. I print photos out now, to hang up and to give to others. My memories feel less transient, more concrete.

Deleting my account has grown to be the opposite of social suicide. Sure, I'm the last to hear the latest gossip or see the newest viral video. But I hear the laughs of my long-distance friends, and I walk to the houses of those who live just down the block. I can touch the photos I treasure, not just "like" them. I feel my friends in my arms when we hug and scream with them when we're crumbling under stress. When I look into their eyes, they're always looking back into mine.

I live in this universe now, and I don't intend to go back any time soon. ☘

HANGING BY A MOMENT



NINA OBERMAN



Photo courtesy of Bleeke family

Laura Bleeke, now a sophomore, wraps arms around her big brother, Jeremy, in younger days.

Filling space of beloved siblings away at college

by Laura Bleeke
Editor

The new school year has brought many changes to my life. I got my license, much to my parents' horror, and the freedom that comes with it. I've begun the long struggle of trying to understand periodic trends and the shielding effect in chemistry, and crew has become my newest hobby, as I continue the endless search of finding a sport that I am decent at.

But the biggest difference this school year is the absence of my big brother, Jeremy. At the end of August my family went to Columbia University to attempt to squeeze his clothes, books and electronics into his closet-sized dorm room. My sister flew to college straight from New York, and on the plane ride back, I felt strangely lonely.

I had always had one of my siblings with me. My sister had immediately taken on the protective, motherly role, while my brother was my crazy best friend. When I was little my brother and I were inseparable, and even as we've grown up we've remained close.

When I was a few months old, I was lying on the floor across from Jeremy. He was three years old, playing with his little yellow truck, and he wanted me to play too. So, he pushed the truck at me lightly, thinking I would catch it. Much to his surprise, it hit me instead, and I burst into tears. Thinking he had hurt me, he started crying as well. In a few minutes I was fine, but Jeremy still couldn't believe he had upset me and was devastated. He has been the same way ever since then. Whenever he has hurt me in any way, his remorse is far greater than my pain.

He used to have a little wooden flute that he carried around with him, and if he ever wanted anything, he would play a few notes on it, and I had 30 seconds to get to his side. Now, it sounds abusive, but then I thought of him as the

most important person in the world. Anything he told me to do, I would.

This included being a monster-exterminator. Every time Jeremy needed to go to the bathroom I had to go in before him to check behind the shower curtain and in the bathtub for any monsters. Even now I have to stand guard outside the bathrooms of public restrooms to make sure no one comes in.

When my family went on any kind of trip, my brother and I would have to share a bed. Jeremy would make an invisible line that I wasn't able to cross, and although I tried, it never worked. I would wake up the next morning wrapped in all of the blankets, with my brother on the floor. My sister and he would argue over who had to share a bed with me, but she always won because "she was the oldest". As I've grown, I've learned the meaning of personal space, but my brother will always hold it against me.

Jeremy has always been extremely creative. Since I can remember I've watched him build elaborate railroads, racecar tracks, Lego wonders, and highly structured fort mazes. It takes a lot of work to build these masterpieces and I was his happy helper. But when it came to the final product, I always had to be outside a 20-foot radius, which I never thought twice about.

I have never questioned anything my big brother tells me. I trust him and know he is a great role model because he has always had time for me. From pushing trucks at me to taking me out dinner, my brother has never forgotten me. Even though home doesn't feel quite right without him, we talk on the phone a few times a week, and of course, text daily. Maybe we won't go on "adventures" through the backyard or play hide-and-go-seek in the dark anymore, but I know I will always have my big brother to look up to. ☘

Self-discovery at the subatomic level

I flip a switch and gas explodes into the airless chamber, abandoning the restraints of its pressurized tube. Electrons energized by electric current pound the chamber walls like pulsating fireworks. It's a grandiose display, stunning enough to grace any Independence Day sky, and yet the chamber lies silent, its wires undulating with the whoosh of the ventilation system.

The world within the chamber is invisible to the human eye.

I discovered the plasma chamber in a molecular spectroscopy lab run by Dr. James O'Brien of University of Missouri-St. Louis.

My task for the summer was to examine the changes in excited diatomic molecules in the plasma chamber by observing their absorption of electromagnetic radiation. Observation, it turned out, consisted not of staring at the contents of the chamber, but at a stark set of lines recorded a laser beam noiselessly passed through the invisible particle cloud.

Initially, the lines revealed nothing to me. Shooting up and down with erratic agility, they taunted me with their capricious leaps and dizzying twists.

As I learned the details of the experiments, however—wide dips often meant argon, for example, while palladium revealed itself in a more slender valley—I got a sense of what each abrupt rise and plunging dip meant.

Using only a ruler and a copy of the spectrum, I identified patterns within the chaos and determined specific changes within the structure of the

molecules. Even as rows of numbers blurred my vision, I began to understand the spirited revelry happening right before me in the chamber. Electrons were exploding into oblivion, tracing fiery trails on the steel of the chamber. Each dark line, innocuous enough on paper, was a spark on a blazing pinwheel of excited electrons. For a moment, I had glimpsed the interior of a world too small to see.

Excited electrons are only a small part of the world that is hidden from my sight. Throughout history, scientists have sought entry into the enigmatic world that extends beyond our own five senses.

John Dalton, whom we call the "father of modern atomic theory", used his observations of the visible world to detail fundamental characteristics of atoms without ever seeing an individual atom.

In a small way, my own meticulous data collection offers a momentary glimpse into the breathtaking world of subatomic particles.

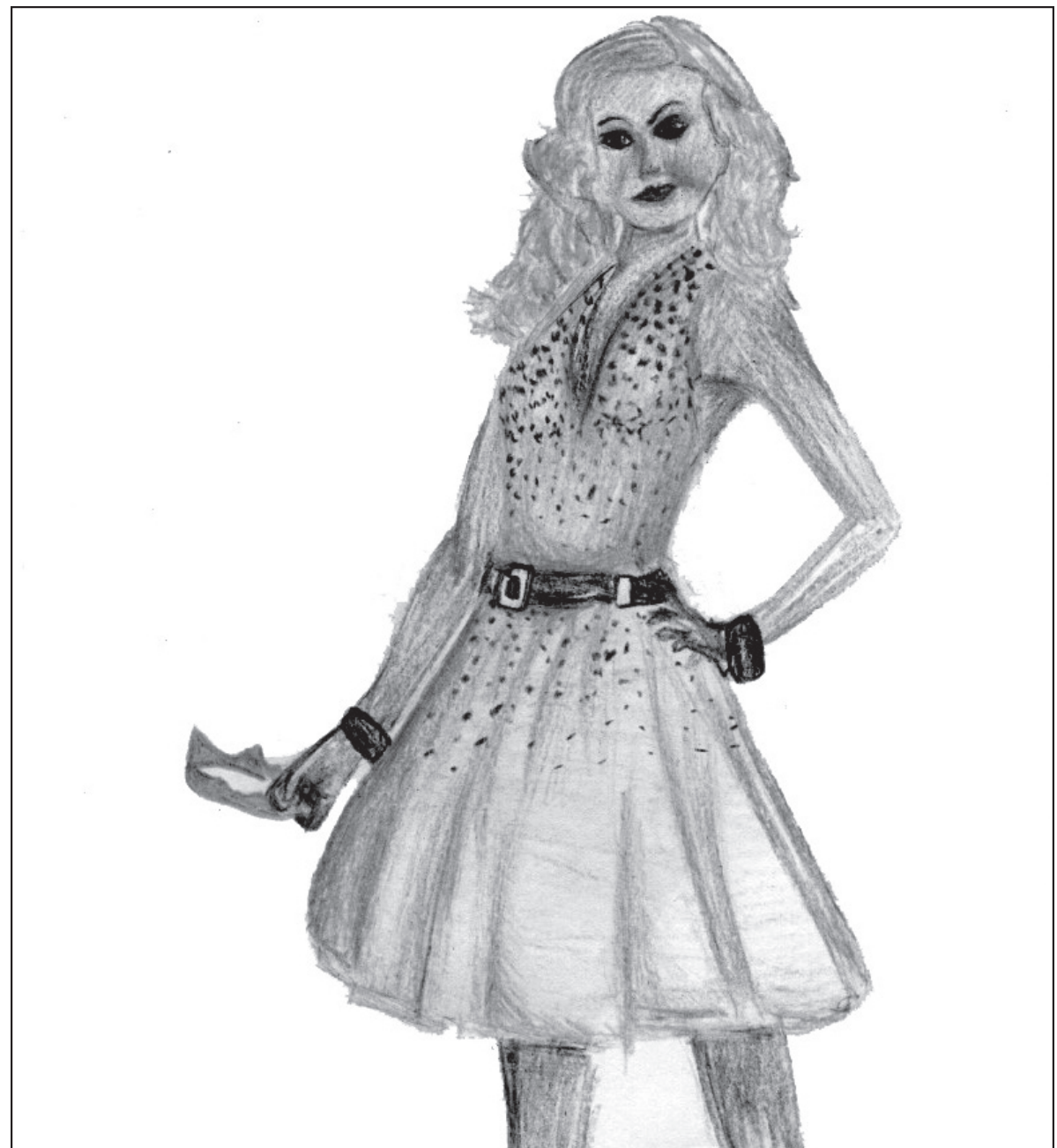
The eruptions within the plasma chamber may be infinitesimal, but their resplendence emanates beyond the constraints of a steel chamber because the seemingly distant world within the plasma chamber is intimately connected with my own world.

With luck, this dazzling world will someday reach the eyes of many people. The more clearly I can see the world beneath my eyes, the more deeply I will be able to understand the larger world I see. ☘

UP IN THE AIR



MEREDITH REDICK



Dee Luo

Pondering modern-day significance of Homecoming Court, school spirit

Homecoming is one of the most enduring traditions at Clayton High School and other high schools around the country. Homecoming festivities—themes for each graduating class, decorating the Commons, the parade, football game and dance—are always staple in the school year.

However, in recent years, the popularity of these events has begun to decline. Some students choose only to attend some events; some choose not to go to any. Perhaps this is due to new rules regarding the dance, or perhaps it's simply due to generational differences.

One anticipated part of Homecoming is the selection of the Homecoming Court. A group of 5 girls from each grade is nominated for this select group, and their classmates vote for the winner for each class.

This year, girls from each grade were nominated, as usual. But for the junior class, things started to go a little differently.

One candidate turned down the nomination, because she had already won the honor a previous year. This was at least partly due to an oversight on the part of the nominators. The refusal was probably more out of modesty and fairness than disdain.

Another candidate turned down her nomination because of a religious

holiday on the night of the Homecoming dance—another legitimate excuse.

Then a third candidate turned down her nomination. The junior class was left with only 3 nominees to the Homecoming Court.

Homecoming queen was once an omnipresent icon in American teen culture. Once upon a time, homecoming king and queen were among the most coveted honors a student could receive. Apparently that honor has lost some of its appeal.

It's not only the Homecoming Court that has lost its appeal. Enthusiasm towards other aspects of homecoming has also waned in recent years.

The homecoming bonfire is one example; many students don't attend this long-standing tradition because they are too busy or because they think it's a waste of time.

The homecoming parade, too, has become less popular among students. It's now more of a community event than one that students actually participate in. The football game, too—once the central component of the weekend—has faded into the background.

Attendance levels at dances, especially in the last few years, have been the most obvious example of this attitude. Many students come to the dance

late and leave early, often before the coronation of the Homecoming Court even begins.

In fact, this may have been a factor in the refusal of the nominations to the Court. Some students are so opposed to staying the extra half-hour to receive the honor that they would rather refuse it altogether. Some groups are also reluctant to wait for a friend to participate in the ceremony.

Compare the current-day scenario to one of years ago. Back then, high school students focused on school spirit more than nowadays. Sports were an integral part of the high school experience, and not just playing them, but watching them. A pep rally used to be the main event on a Friday night, instead of an activity built in to the school day to encourage attendance.

For now, the attitude towards the tradition of Homecoming remains a minimal issue. More important is the school's academic excellence and high achievement.

Homecoming, and nominations to the Homecoming Court, should not be treated as a joke, as stupid or meaningless.

Despite what many students may think, being chosen to represent a class of 200 students is an honor, one that should be accepted with grace and modesty. ☘

AGREE 64%
DISAGREE 36%

STAFF EDITORIAL

Co-Editors-in-Chief
Nina Oberman
Ken Zheng
Senior Managing Editors
Simone Bernstein
Meredith Redick
Art and Graphics Director
Ali Schizadeh
Webmaster
Chi Zeng
Senior Section Editors
Community: Preeti Viswanathan
World: Sneha Viswanathan
Sports: Evan Green
Features: Mary Blackwell
Arts: Taylor Stone
Forum: Ijeoma Onyema

Editors
Dawn Androphy
Laura Bleeke
Maddy Bullard
Hannah Callahan
Chelsea Cousins
Noah Eby
Justin Elliot
Tom Evashwick
Katherine Greenberg
Sam Jacus
Kara Kratcha
Jackie Leong
Schuyler Longmore
Appi Sharma
Caroline Stamp

Reporters
David Behrend
Jacob Bernstein
Sarah Blackwell
Martha Burke
Nia Charrington
Ben Colagiovanni
Max Diekneite
Andie Glik
Alexander Grayson
Caroline Greenberg
Anat Gross
Rachel Han
Jack Holds
Lucy Jenneman
Alex Kasnetz
Jonathan Knohl
Caitlin Kropp
Jake Lee
Jocelyn Lee
Dee Luo
Maria Massad
Eudora Olsen
Zachary Prais
Marc Ritter
Dylan Schultz
Payton Sciaratta
Jonathon Shumway
Sarah Tait
Christian Thomas
Nick Van Almsick
Bianca Vannucci
Philip Zhang

Photographers
Jenna Carlie
Hannah Feagans
Madeleine Fleming
Isabel Pratt
Tom Haslam
Jake Leech
Jennifer Maylack
Eve Root
Ryan Shields
Elizabeth Sikora
Caroline Stamp
Emily Wack
Meng Wang
Willie Wyssession

Artists
Sarah Blackwell
Taylor Gold
Mimi Liu
Meredith McMahon
Raihana Omri
Sonja Petermann
Emma Riley
Helen Wiley
Business Manager
Simon Warchol
Assistant Business Manager
Shelby Sternberg
Adviser
Nancy Freeman

The Globe student newspaper exists primarily to inform, entertain, and represent the student body at CHS to the best of its ability. It serves as a public forum for the Clayton community. All content decisions are made by the student editors.

The Globe is self-funded for all publishing costs and offers advertising to all school-appropriate businesses. Please 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.

Editorials
Unsigned staff editorials will appear only on the designated opinion page and shall represent a majority opinion of the staff. A by-lined editorial reflects only the view of the writer. The views expressed on the editorial page do not necessarily reflect the views of any of the faculty, the administration or the board of education.

Letters to the Editor
All letters to the editor must be signed when submitted to the editorial staff. The paper reserves the right to edit letters for length and repetition. Publication of letters is subject to the laws of libel, obscenity, incitement and copyright.

We also remind students that as the Globe is a student publication, all compliments, opinions, complaints, and suggestions are welcomed and should be forwarded to the Globe Office:

Clayton High School Globe
1 Mark Twain Circle
Clayton, MO 63105
(314) 854-6668
Fax: 854-6794
globe@clayton.k12.mo.us

Some material courtesy of American Society of Newspaper Editors/MCT Campus High School Newspaper Service
Winner of MIPA All-Missouri, NSPA All-American with four marks of distinction, Quill and Scroll Gallup Award, CSPA Silver Crown (2004), Pace-maker winner (2003), NSPA Hall of Fame Member (2006)



Raihana Omri

Does Obama talk too much?

Welcome to the Internet: the place where there is absolutely enough room for anyone and everyone, and then some, and where it's easy to find most anything. Forgo the dictionary, the stationary, the whole paper hassle. After all, why bother when, in the digital realm, everything one could ever want is just a click away? It's constant, it's instant, and it is enormously gratifying.

Enter the people. About 20,000 new web domains get added to the Internet each day. The Internet is essentially a forum—and a very free, uncensored, sometimes questionable one at that—so let the debate begin. The founding fathers, whose idea of “free speech” was fairly vague, probably never even fathomed that any of this could have existed. We think: a printing press and leaflets? Bah! Try Facebook, email, Google, blogs, Twitter. Twenty-first century free speech has, frankly, never been quite this free. After all, Obama is known as the first Internet president. What on earth could be possibly wrong with that?

Let's dig a little deeper. First off, there are the chain messages—the ones that, for a lack of a better phrase, have “bashed” Obama, Palin, and countless others. Then, there's the recent “Birthers” controversy, which, using

the sheer power of the Internet, the group brought mass scrutiny to the authenticity of Obama's birth certificate. Later, a forged Kenyan birth certificate was published on the Web in a rather obvious crack at Obama's legitimacy. In the midst of this was a whirlwind of media, despite the fact that Obama's (very American) birth certificate had already been produced during campaign season.

Now pause for a moment. Without the Internet, where would the Birthers be? Their desperate operation would have (probably) not even gotten off the ground. After all, in the old days, one had to raise money to mass-produce flyers, then stand outside for hours handing out said flyers. Then, those who had gotten a flyer would have had to read, believe, and then join the cause, to create such a massive upheaval.

It seems that with the Internet, where it's easier than ever to get anything, it's also easier to give information as well, be it one's opinion or something

completely fabricated. There is no requirement that we must confirm the information—we just have to know how to get it out to the widest audience possible. More and more (be they extremists or not) are finding a voice—and getting heard. Just check out Wikipedia.

Is it right? Where do free speech, and speaking just because we can, clash? How free is too free? We may have condemned the Birthers' claims that Obama isn't an American, and dismissed their opinions that he is thus unfit to be president. We may have uncovered the forgery in the so-called “real” birth certificate, and we may have written the Birthers off as a bunch of desperate

people clutching at straws. We did all this rather good-naturedly (or perhaps were simply happy to have our talk-show ratings go up) but should we have had to?

It seems that the more opened-up our world becomes, the stranger the filler material turns out to be. And because we live in a world of free speech, the views that would have once been

immediately discarded as illegitimate are now being given genuine, albeit unwarranted, attention.

Not to be a bit clichéd, but it's all fun and games until something like this comes to pass: a ridiculous debate, magnified and blown out of proportion. It's not to say that free speech shouldn't have its place on the Internet, but something about these latest events hits a wrong chord. As the Internet is constantly making it easier for anyone to say anything and everything, we find ourselves having to sift through more and more garbage to get to what we were looking for in the first place.

It is safe to say that as readers, we, too, have a responsibility. It's easier to get and give information, and in all of this, it is easier to believe as well—to look at anything we've read and take it as fact. The Internet, wonderful as it is, can't be our one-stop. It can make or break someone: just look at Obama, our Internet president, picking his way out of this latest Internet “conspiracy”. We have to be wary. After all, if all the world's a stage, then every crazy extremist with a WiFi and a blog (which, remember, is free) just got the luckiest break they could get, and, given the opportunity, they're going to milk it for all they can get—every time.



Jackie Leong

ate people clutching at straws. We did all this rather good-naturedly (or perhaps were simply happy to have our talk-show ratings go up) but should we have had to?

Why have CHS students lost interest?

CHS is one of the best public schools in Missouri. We are often lauded for academic excellence and I am very proud to be a Greyhound. However, one thing we do lack as a high school community is school spirit, especially in support of our athletics.

Everyone knows that Clayton is known more for academics than excellence in sports. But it goes beyond that. Students here do not support their sports teams in the way we ought to.

This manifests itself in many noticeable ways, but there is one that sticks out to me.

Ladue is our archrival, and the football game against them is maybe the most notable highlight of the year in sports. And yet I remember so vividly entering the stands at this year's game just a little late, and feeling a slight sting of shame at what I saw.

Ladue, a very similar community to Clayton, had managed to fill up their

stands entirely with students before I even got there. They were adorned in school colors, some with painted chests, beads and other spirit filled traditions.

Then I made my way to the Clayton stands. I recall about ten or so students representing Clayton halfway through the first quarter. Sure, by the second half our stands were filled maybe half as full or less than the Ladue stands, but still, the football players looking up from the sidelines must have felt pride in their fans from the Ladue side while our players probably felt unsupported.

The larger problem is that this situation is by no means an aberration. I can't recall, at least since I began attending high school, arriving to a game

before halftime with any significant presence in the student section.

As a naive freshman, I remember my friends and I arriving at the infamous Ladue - Clayton hockey game that we had heard so much about. What we hadn't heard and quickly realized, was that a group of a dozen or so freshman were alone in our section. And yet the Ladue stands were already completely full and had begun to start their cheers.

We were embarrassed. And although our stands were filled by the end of the second quarter, I was still somewhat shocked at this odd tradition.

I know from experience in basketball that stepping out on to the court at the beginning of the game and look-



Alex Kasnetz

A documented tradition of Fufu

“Jjeoma, do you want fufu?” If this were seven years ago, I would have contorted my face into a grimace and have asked for pizza instead. But now, it's practically instinct to say yes.

At home, I'm known as the fufu girl; I eat it almost every night. One would think that I'd get bored with fufu seeing as it's a main factor in my daily diet, but I can't help but get excited every time my mom makes a new dish.

It all starts on a typical night. I open my bedroom door after forcing myself to get a couple of hours of homework in, and I am hit with a scent so potent that the aroma would linger in the attic for another week, so indescribable that it is only known as a name that sounds like an onomatopoeia: fufu.

Basically, fufu is composed of two parts: the soup and the actual fufu. There are hundreds of soups that are eaten with this dish, but there is only

one fufu; the fufu is made of cassava but yam flour can be used as a substitute. It is mashed with water to make a substance that is like mashed potatoes but thicker.

As I was saying, the aroma hits my nose and suddenly I'm downstairs looking for which soup my mom has made tonight. Egusi, bitterleaf, okporoko; the possibilities are near to endless.

We all sit around the dining table and begin to eat. As I pinch off some fufu from the corner, I reminisce on when I was younger and used to make fufu pizza to improve the tasting experience of the meal. I would chew the fufu, which, as I look back

on it now, very...yucky. I wasn't aware that my technique was wrong. If you chew fufu, expect a very unpleasant meal, but if you swallow it whole, you get a whole new experience. Yes it's weird at first, but it's just the same way with pills; you chew it and it's nasty, but when you swallow it, it's much better.

However, the whole topic of fufu isn't always a utopia of flavor; I realize there are some disgusting parts about it too as I roll my small plop of fufu into a small ball and dip it in a small puddle of soup. Like the fact that no vegetarian or vegan will be able to find a meatless soup to eat. There's so much meat in the soup, sometimes there's no

liquid, just meat, so some people just pour water in the meat and eat it (I am most certainly not one of those people). My mom's soup has at least two different types of meat in it and the soup is usually 75% meat, 25% soup. Also, I'm pretty sure that the majority of people have not seen someone gulping a huge ball of fufu and witnessed it traveling slowly down the throat. Not a Kodak moment in the least.

Nonetheless, I've found that fufu is not just a part of my culture, but of me as well. I have been eating it all my life, willingly and reluctantly, and it is one of the few things that will never change. The tastes of all the spicy, salty and bitter soups against sweet cassava will forever be etched in my memory, and as long as I have the taste, I will have my native home to return to, and if I have children (God forbid for both our sakes), so will they.



Ijeoma Onyema



Nate Townsend

Healthy choices

Teenagers are often thought of as being reckless and irresponsible. And that is true. For some. But it is not true for everyone. Clayton High School as well as our parents and our community have informed us of all the choices we should and shouldn't be making. We have been informed that sex leads to pregnancy and STDs, alcohol to liver damage and a beer gut, cigarettes to lung cancer, and drugs, clearly, to death. This is true. And it's true that if you have promiscuous and unprotected sex, overdose on heroine and smoke a pack a day you are likely to experience a few side effects. But how many students at this high school really fit into that category?

Adults have been informing us of the worst possible outcomes. Health class takes care of that. But maybe the majority of CHS students aren't what health class expects us to be, nor what health class warns us not to be. Most students would probably land in a middle ground of moderation. It's not all black and white. So are we being taught the right things? Rather than being taught to say no to alcohol or drugs, shouldn't we be taught what our limit should be? That the one beer on the weekend with your friends is not going to kill you, especially if you are not planning on a late-night road trip?

Health class makes me feel guilty for experimenting with things that it is only natural I should be curious about. I am not a worst-case scenario. If you try one cigarette, that's not the same as smoking every day for years. I want to be informed on what the middle ground is, on what's between the angel

and drug addict. Adults have taken a habit of labeling teenagers in categories. They have generalized and taught us all to “Say No to Drugs,” and this is by no means a bad message. There are certainly teenagers who could benefit from being reminded of the risks that they are taking, and I'm not saying that we shouldn't be taught about these risks as well. It just seems there's more to the story than adults would let on.

There are things that teenagers take upon discovering themselves, such as their limits and their ability to make choices, which should also be focused on. Maybe it won't help the guy that can't go a day without his weed-fix, but there are some worry-warts out there, like myself, that are tired of diagnosing themselves with symptoms from one-time experiments.

I would rather know what my chances of pregnancy are from different situations, rather than to be taught abstinence. I would rather know how dangerous it is to be in a car if someone is coming off a high. It is not all right and wrong. If we are expected to be making “Healthy Choices” then we should be realistic in establishing the fact that the percentage of CHS students that are heavy meth addicts is small. The percentage of CHS students who smoke pot on the weekends is much higher.

I am tired of feeling like Health class is not for me. I need someone to talk to me honestly about the real situations that I and many of my friends are facing every day.



Bianca Vannucci



Courtesy of Nate Townsend

Chasing a passion

I used to sit behind a cluster of monitors, speakers, hard drives and cameras, wondering why this is what I do. Why film? Why have I invested most of my time and literally all of my money in a field far away from my friends and peers? For years I have wondered what makes me so different from them, and not until junior year did I realize why.

It all started with Ameera and Balka, my two Bosnian house cleaners. After hearing stories for years of the pain and suffering that they faced during the Bosnian War, I decided to make a documentary on the matter. Through these two women, I met up with several Bosnian War veterans and the owner of a local Bosnian radio station. When we met at a local Bosnian restaurant (at their request), I was surprised to see the three veterans and their families sitting around a large table, with two seats reserved for my crewmember and me. I reluctantly set up the camera, but immediately became comfortable as the gentlemen began telling their stories.

After about an hour of stories of bloodshed, dying family, and ruined homes, it became apparent to me that this story was far from easy to tell. I could see the pain in one of the wives' eyes as she tried to distract herself from the memories by entertaining her young son with a toy car. I left that night confused. Why are these people so willing to tell me, a 17-year-old high school student about something that obviously hurts to tell?

For the next month I compiled my interviews with various footage and

narration. When the documentary was complete, I gave a copy to Ameera, Balka, and all of my interviewees. I didn't really know exactly what I was going to do with the video, but I began to move on to different ideas and projects.

A little less than a week after distributing the documentary, Ameera called my house and asked to speak with me. She explained that the Bosnian president was coming to St. Louis to present current events in Bosnia at a very exclusive dinner party. I was invited.

That night, I sat down in my assigned seat as one by one, local Bosnians shook my hand, thanking me for telling their story. I was overwhelmed with gratitude and a little bit of guilt as I felt that I was being way over-credited. At the end of the dinner, I went up to Ameera and asked her why I was receiving all of this attention. Ameera then put her hand on my shoulder and said, “You care, and you are going to make others care.”

It was at that moment that I knew what to do with my life and how I was going to do it. For more than a full year after that, I have gone in and out of St. Louis, diving into the film industry and striving to be the most professional and pro-active filmmaker I can be.

I want to continue using film as a medium to affect people's lives, to continue to draw emotion, even if that means from the smallest amount of people. I believe that if you follow a passion, no matter what effect you think it may or may not be having, it should be pursued; sometimes the little things can matter most.



Photos by Sonja Petermann



LEFT: Junior Vivian Zimmerman helps Senior Taylor Pasley to scale off the Tango Tower. ABOVE: Senior Jeff Bader walks his campers to an upcoming activity. BELOW: Junior Grace Brumley relaxes between activities.



ABOVE: Senior Sonja Petermann and a camper show their spirit while adorned in costume. BELOW, CLOCKWISE: Senior Taylor Pasley, Senior Jordan Stern, and Senior Jeff Bader take in the surroundings of Sherwood Forest; A group of counselors help each other scale the Tango Tower; Senior Simone Lenoir and Junior Vivian Zimmerman get excited for a climb up the infamous Tango Tower.



Memories of Sixth Grade Camp

by Nate Townsend
Reporter

Any kid would love to return to school after the summer knowing that they will be going right back to camp. Luckily for Wydown sixth graders, sixth grade camp has been a tradition practiced in the Clayton school district for years.

On Sept. 22, sixth graders from Wydown, counselors from CHS, and teachers from both schools took a ride to Sherwood Forest, the multiple cabin-filled campground that they would call home for the next four days.

"The goal is to give the sixth graders an experience they will never have again," camp co-director Ryan Luhning said. "We hope they develop a greater understanding of themselves and create a stronger bond with their classmates."

Some of these experiences include activities such as canoeing, archery, arts and crafts, nature writing, nature art, and the notorious Tango Tower, which became the most popular structure at camp.

"Tango Tower was my favorite thing to do because the counselors got to bond," senior counselor Max Goldfarb said. "It eventually led to unity between the kids and counselors."

Many other high school students took a week off of school to mentor the sixth graders at Sherwood Forest. The juniors and seniors' applications had to be approved by the directors of the camp. Those who were approved then had to attend a team building and informational meeting a few days before camp.

Most students chose to be a counselor for similar reasons.

"I did it because I learned a lot last year from the kids," senior and two-time counselor Sonja Petermann said. "I really wanted a similar experience this year and that's why I applied."

With her little brother, Andreas, attending the camp as a camper, Sonja had a particularly interesting experience.

"It was a lot of fun to see my brother and mess around with him," Petermann said.

Like a lot of the other campers, Andreas gave his praise to the Tango Tower.

"I loved climbing the tango tower with my friends," Andreas Petermann said.

Many of the sixth graders left the camp stronger, more environmentally conscious, and more socially comfortable.

"For many of the sixth graders, this experience is their first time away from their family, so they naturally learn more independence," Luhning said. "They also learn leadership roles that allows a group to function successfully."

The sixth graders weren't the only ones who went home with a sense of accomplishment; many seniors got a lot out of sixth grade camp as well.

"The counselors seem to come back with a sense of accomplishment," Luhning said. "They feel like they made a difference in a young person's life and gave them an experience they will not forget. I think they also come back with a better appreciation for their parents and teachers as they live through the struggles and the joys that kids can put us through."

Next year, Luhning hopes to continue running sixth grade camp with a new set of counselors.



TOP: Senior Sonja Petermann, Senior Jeff Bader, and Junior Carter Ellston dress up for a camp activity with their campers. BOTTOM: A group of counselors and campers prepare to climb the Tango Tower while taking turns belaying each other.