

Smart Car is intelligent investment

[Simone Bernstein]

Staff Reporter

Interested in joining the eager crowd to slap down \$999 to reserve the Smart Car? The automobile has come along way since the Model-T. The Smart Car is a small, compact and energy-efficient hybrid automobile.

American citizens have already begun making reservations for the Smart Car. The European based Smart Car will make its national debut in the United States for consumers to purchase in January 2008. Although the car is scheduled to debut shortly in the United States, many staff members and students at CHS agree that they know very little information about the automobile.

"I have seen the Smart Car and love the concept," history teacher Debra Wiens said. "But I know nothing about it."

Many students have also seen a few Smart Cars throughout the St. Louis area, but have very little information to make a definite opinion about the car.

"I have seen very little press or advertising for the Smart Car to make a clear cut opinion," junior Shalanda Hellm said.

So exactly what is a Smart Car? The Smart Car is a division of the Mercedes Car Group. The idea for this car was introduced by Nicholas Hayek in the early 1990s. The car was originally started by the Swiss manufacturer Swatch and was nicknamed the "Swatchmobile". The word SMART is an acronym for "Swatch Mercedes ART". The car made its first debut in 1994 at the Frankfurt Motor Show. The United States will become the thirty-seventh country to sell these automobiles. Since its debut, over 750,000 Smart vehicles have been sold to consumers in 36 countries.

Spanish teacher Micah Johnson has seen Smart Cars in action when he spent a few years in Spain. Although he has never test-driven a Smart Car or been a passenger, he had high marks for the vehicle and its appearance in America.

"The Smart Car represents a real shift in American automakers," Johnson said. "If we begin to adapt to this new smaller and more efficient automobile, American highways, parking lots and streets will begin to change."

Production of the car began in 1998 in Hambach, France. Since the debut of the car in Europe additional models of the car have been introduced. These models include the Smart Fortwo Pure (entry level), the Smart Fortwo Passion Coupe (well-equipped with accessories) and the Smart Fortwo Passion Cabriolet (convertible). The Smart USA headquarters are in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

The low prices and high gas mileage may attract many American customers. The Smart Car achieves about 40 miles per gallon (mpg) and a maximum speed limit of 90 mph. In the United States the Smart Fortwo Pure will sell for \$11,590, the Smart Fortwo Passion Coupe will sell for \$13,590 and the Smart Fortwo Passion Cabriolet will sell for \$16,590. The car is 8.8 feet long, 5.1 feet wide and 5.1 feet tall. The car is com-



Harry Kaufmann, owner of Harry Kaufmann Motorcars Inc., in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, drives his 2005 Mercedes Benz Smart car, which has sold well in Europe. The Smart car will begin shipping to the United States in January 2008.

parable to the size of a golf cart.

Although these prices will increase when extra amenities and accessories are chosen, this car is marked at low prices compared with other imported foreign cars with similar gas mileage.

For example, the basic 2008 Toyota Prius starts at \$20,950 and receives 45 mpg when traveling on the highway, the basic 2008 Hybrid Toyota Camry starts at about \$18,570 and receives 31 mpg when traveling on the highway and the 2008 basic Honda Civic Hybrid starts at \$22,600 and receives 45 mpg when traveling on the highway.

"I don't think the debut of the Smart Car is going to help or hurt the Toyota industry or become competition for a car like the Toyota Prius, which has similar gas mileage," Toyota salesman Steve Vachesta said. "Ten years of experience building their hybrids and great ratings is one of our accomplishments at Toyota, so I don't think the Smart Car will affect our market. In America, Toyota is more developed and has great safety ratings and reviews."

Although Smart USA is not releasing sales figures at this time, last year they had over 500,000 hits to their website and that over 30,000 people have made reservations for the Smart Fortwo in America. They have also released that the Plaza car dealership in St. Louis will be one of the 73 dealerships nationwide selling the car in 2008.

For people who wish to "go green" during the next few years, the Smart Car can help lend a hand in supporting the environment. The stated smart Environmental Policy recites: "With our products, we are setting a milestone for environmentally-compatible individual mobility. Every day, we live an efficient and dynamic environmental management system that is aligned towards on-going improvement."

Too support the companies' environmental motto and goal they have started Smart Recycling. This process consists of pieces of the car, like the dashboards and wheel coverings, which are made of 100 percent recyclable synthetics. The company was also the only automaker to serve as a partner for the Live Earth concerts which toured the world with celebrities. These concerts raised money and awareness for climate protection.

The Smart Car also has removable door panels, which allow the owner to change the colors of their car whenever necessary. These exchanged car doors are reused on other Smart Cars. Also, many other environmentally friendly procedures are encouraged during the production of the car.

"The gas mileage is attractive – it consumes less fuel," said Ken Kettenbeil, Director of Communications for Smart USA. "The production time for assembly is under 10 hours per car so it takes less energy at the plant. There are also many environmentally friend-

ly processes that occur at the production facility in France."

Does the size affect the safety of the car? The Smart Car has been questioned by many Americans and critics for its safety features. Some worry that the car will not prove safe in a highway crash with a larger vehicle. According to Smart USA, the car is equipped with many safety features usually reserved for luxury cars.

"While every accident is unique the Smart Fortwo has many standard safety features," Kettenbeil said. "The tridion safety cell is the main component of the safety management system. This steel cage serves as a roll cage in the event of an accident. Imagine a walnut and how the shell protects the nut. The car also comes standard with four airbags (two in the front and two on the side), electronic stability program and anti-lock breaks."

Although information about the safety of the car has been released, many individuals admit safety is still their number one concern.

"I am a little concerned about the car's safety," chemistry teacher Mike Howe said. "Overall, I think the popularity of the car will really depend on the price of gas."

Sophomore Kai Hervey is concerned about the effects of getting into an accident with such a small car, but has no need to worry since she has been promised a different car.

"I would not buy the Smart Car because I have my eyes set on a BMW convertible, that my parent's plan on purchasing when I turn 16," Hervey said.

Smart USA also claims that the car is safe for children. A weight control sensor determines whether the passenger is large enough to deploy the full size front and side airbags.

Although the Smart Car is safe for children, it may not be the best car for people with a large family.

"As for disadvantages – for people looking for a vehicle for more than two people – the Smart Fortwo cannot accommodate them," Kettenbeil said.

Some students think that seating only two people in a car is an advantage for their family. A few of these students are looking into purchasing the Smart Car in the next year.

"For safety reasons, my parents would consider buying the Smart Car, because they prefer that my brother and I don't drive with numerous passengers in our car," sophomore Nina Oberman said. "However, a car that is so small driving on a highway with huge SUVs may not be that safe anyway. We might not even get a car though because the insurance for a young driver is so high."

Want to catch a glimpse of the Smart Car in action? Rent the following Hollywood movies: "The DaVinci Code", "Pink Panther", "Garfield 2", "Scoop", "A Good Year", "Legally Blond 2", "Just Married" and "Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London". If these movies are of no interest, watch for the Smart Car in the St. Louis area beginning in 2008, or call the Plaza dealership to find out more information about purchasing or test driving the car. ☺

2008 Beijing Olympics offer China opportunity

[Leah Eby]

Editor

On July 13, 2001, the fate of the 2008 Summer Olympics was decided. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) voted that the games be held in the world's rising superpower, China. Other contenders included Paris, France; Toronto, Canada; Istanbul, Turkey; and Osaka, Japan.

The Olympics, officially known as the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, will be held from Aug. 8 to Aug. 14 in Beijing, China's capital city. The opening ceremony will be celebrated in the Beijing National Stadium, one of the many venues built especially for the Olympic Games.

In addition to the Beijing National Stadium, the Chinese government has also invested in the renovation and construction of 31 Beijing-based venues, as well as six venues in various other Chinese cities.

There is much anticipation for the upcoming Olympics, and sophomore Chi Zeng believes that the games will in fact improve country's image.

"The 2008 Olympics is a hallmark in Chinese history as a world power," Zeng said. "It's the first time that China has held the Olympics and the first time China has shown the world that it is capable of such a grand economic project. The Olympics will definitely transform the image of China as a country conceived with large-scale capitalism and modernism."

China has also created the Olympic Emblem for the upcoming games – the Dancing Beijing. The Chinese calligraphic character in the shape of a dancing person is, according to the official website of the 2008 Olympic Games, representing of China's hospitality, commitment, and spirit for the games.

"Dancing Beijing' is a kind invitation," states the website. "The open arms in the emblem say that China is opening its arms to welcome the rest of the world to join the Olympics, a celebration of 'peace, friendship and progress of mankind.'"

In accordance with this statement, the slogan of next year's games, "One World, One Dream," was chosen from among 210,000 entries submitted from around the world. According to the official website, the slogan aims to convey the hopes of many that people across the globe will join in the Olympic spirit and help to build a better future for humanity.

"One World, One Dream' expresses the common wishes of people all over the world, inspired by the Olympic ideals, to strive for a bright future of Mankind. In spite of the differences in colors, languages and races, we share the charm and joy of the Olympic Games, and together we seek for the ideal of Mankind for peace."

In compliance with both the emblem and slogan of the upcoming Olympic Games, as well as Chinese President Hu Jintao's proposal of "building a harmonious society," the Olympic torch relay that begins in March will be given the name "The Journey of Harmony."

The scroll-shaped torch, decorated with the traditional Chinese xiangyun, or "lucky cloud" that symbolizes harmony, will travel the longest Olympic relay route in history. With the assistance of 21,880 torchbearers, the torch will cover five continents, even daring to ascend to the summit of Mt. Everest.

Despite these profound, hopeful messages, China's humanitarian status and is still in question. Due to its election as the site of the 2008 Olympics, the country has come under scrutiny for the status of its pollution and human rights.

The current air pollution in Beijing is at least two to three times higher than what the World Health Organization deems safe. Not only does this create a plausible environmental threat to China, but also a great threat to athletes that plan on competing in the Olympic Games.

This air pollution, caused by car exhaust and factory fumes, in addition to the heat and humidity that are likely to afflict China during the games, will ultimately create an unhealthy environment for the athletes. It is unlikely, unless the



The construction site of the new national stadium for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China, September 26, 2006. The construction is supposed to have the shape of a bird's nest when finished.

pollution is cleared up, that the athletes will be able to perform at an outstanding level. Some countries have gone as far as to say that their athletes will be arriving to China as late as possible to avoid excess contact with the pollution.

According to IOC President Jacques Rogge, Beijing has begun impressive preparations for the games that will likely decrease air pollution come game time.

"We should remember this is not the first time that games have had to deal with challenges in this field," Rogge said. "Remember Los Angeles, Seoul and Atlanta, where air quality issues were successfully addressed at game time."

In an attempt to solve China's air quality issues before the Olympic Games commence, Beijing plans to remove approximately 60,000 taxis and buses from roads by the end of this year, in additions to relocating about 200 factories.

Yet, despite this promising plan,

AP Environmental Science teacher Chuck Collis does not believe that China is an appropriate place for the Olympic Games due to its problems with pollution.

"I don't think there is any way the air quality issue can be fixed before the Olympics," Collis said. "If I were a member of the committee, air pollution would be a significant part of my decision. I doubt I would have selected Beijing [as host of the Olympics] for this reason."

In addition to the threat of pollution, protests against human rights violations and the freedom of Tibet could possibly hinder China's plans for a "harmonious" Olympic Games and future.

Many pro-Tibetan independence groups, such as Students for a Free Tibet, have begun to protest China's Olympic Games for the country's refusal to recognize Tibet as a separate country and for the usage of the Tibetan antelope as one of the five Olympic mascots.

Other groups, including Reporters Without Borders, have campaigned against China's violations of free speech and human rights, as well as China's imprisonment of prisoners of conscience, meaning innocent people arrested because of their race, religion, language, sexual orientation, or beliefs.

However, Zeng feels that there have been misunderstandings concerning China's supposed violations of human rights.

"There are many misconceptions about China as a nation that denies basic civil liberties and discourages individualism," Zeng said. "The 2008 Beijing Olympics shall show the international community that China has substantially opened up over the past decade. The games will not only dispel the 'humanitarian crisis' in China, but moreover encourage the image of China as a global power."

Activists are also challenging

China's diplomatic and financial support of Omar al-Bashir, the man responsible for the Sudanese government's proxy militias in Darfur. These advocates have formed a global organization called Olympic Dreams for Darfur that urges the Chinese government to utilize its influence in Sudan to persuade the country to immediately comply with the U.N. operation in Darfur.

According to National Public Radio (NPR), the IOC has said the games could be a source of positive change in China, despite the political and social turmoil. However, NPR also warned that the games do not have the ability to change the country's political institutions.

Hopefully, China's Olympic dreams and attempts to better its worldwide status as an international economic and humanitarian power will follow through and create a brighter future for not only China, but the rest of the world as well. ☺



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Students become politically active as primaries approach

Students, 1

"If I had my way, I wouldn't vote for her."

Senior Nick Clemens agrees with Callahan.

"Clinton turns me off because she has been too vague on some of the issues and a lot of time when she is asked questions, she will say one thing and then later another," Clemens said.

"If you're a feminist, which I consider myself to be, you want a female president, but I just don't like her personally and her politics. I think she has put out too many two-faced answers."

While some CHS students have already formed their opinions on the candidates, others are still looking for more information.

"I am not just going to go vote for someone because they are Democratic or Republican," Renshaw said. "I have to know their background and their ideas and beliefs."

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[Maggie Renshaw]
Senior

herself to be very politically aware, looks to her parents for information on the presidential primaries.

"My mom is a big Democrat," Renshaw said. "She hosts parties for the Democratic Party. But my grandmother and my dad are Republicans, so I get to see both sides. I don't usually search for information but I will watch the debates, but other than that I get my information from my parents. I don't just hear one side; I get both sides and get to interpret it how I feel."

Senior Krystal Bell also admits to not being very politically aware.

"It is bad for me to say this, but I usually don't become aware of something until it is affecting me," Bell said. "Then I will say let me go research this."

However while Bell and Renshaw may not know all of the facts, other CHS students are well versed in the issues.

"I am very politically involved. I have done door to door campaigns

for different politicians. I have done walk-outs and I have worked on fundraising," Callahan said. "I read the New York Times everyday and I read a lot of things on the internet."

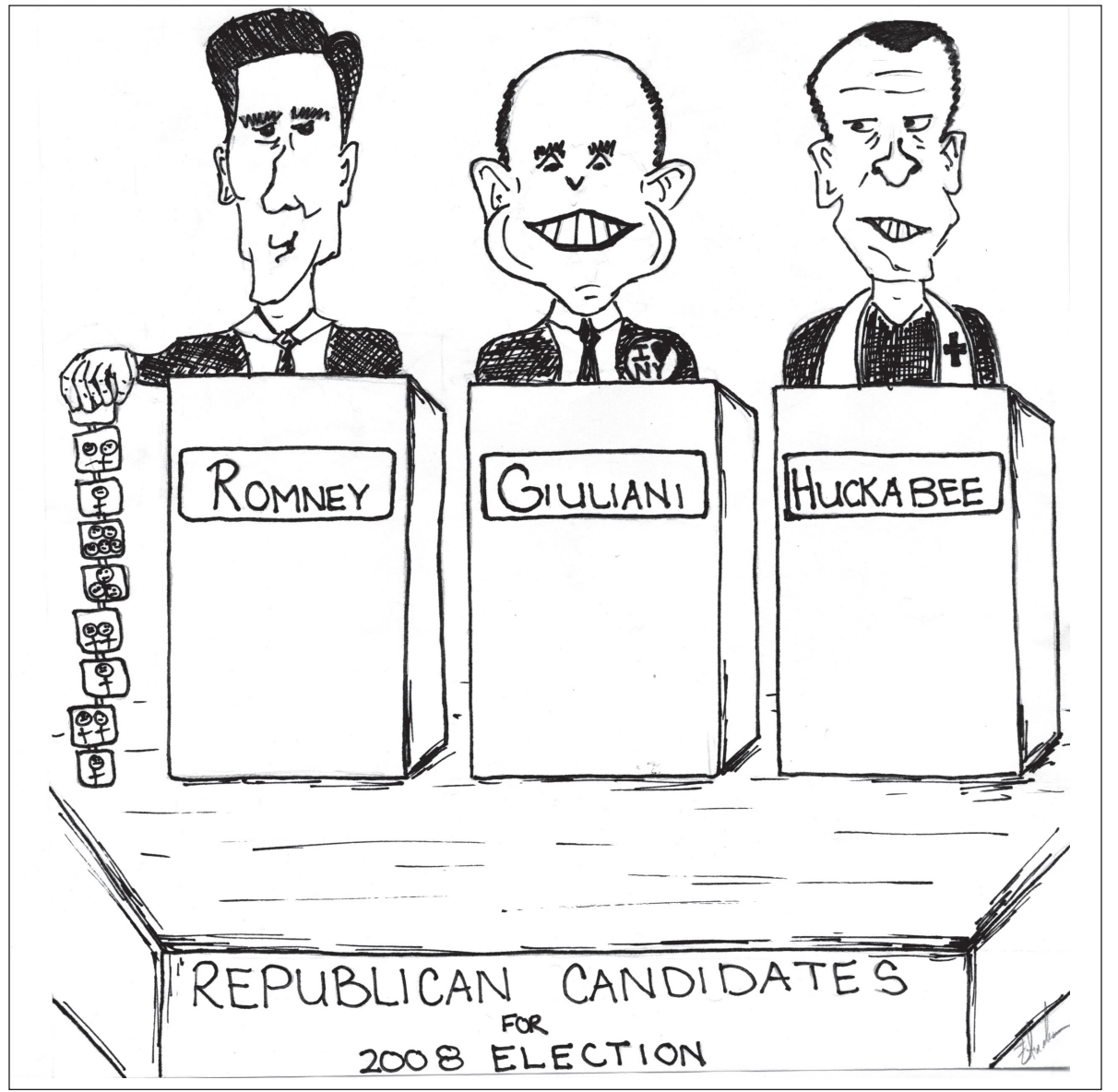
But the facts still remain that while some CHS students may be politically concerned others just don't care. So what can be done to get more of the youth population into the voting booths?

"I consider politics to be very important, but because of my family and the school that I go to, so many people are swayed in both ways that if I ever try to say something I get yelled at," Minton said. "I think that it would be really good if we had a politics class at our school, beyond American government, but a class that taught us about the parties like what it means to be a Democrat and a Republican."

Clemens agrees with Minton that something more than Youtube advertisements need to be done to get young people up to speed on the current issues in the country.

"I don't think youtube is effective because I think it is more about getting to the issues that young people care about and having a candidate that they like," Clemens said. "Just putting out youtube stuff seems too simple."

As the primaries continue to grow closer, CHS students continue to make up their minds on the issues that most concern them and who they want to be the next leader of the free world. ☺



Emily Anderson

Efforts continue in battle against AIDS

[Nick Andriole]

Staff Reporter

World AIDS Day was observed on Dec. 1. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, or AIDS, is a series of viruses that can damage the immune system and is caused by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Significant progress has been made on the issue of research for HIV/AIDS since the disease was first recognized in 1981. Within the United States, AIDS doesn't affect nearly as many people as in developing countries through education and HIV blood tests. However, HIV/AIDS still affects an estimated 40 million people worldwide, 95

percent of whom live in developing countries according to the United Nations.

"HIV/AIDS is a big deal because it's prevalent in many communities," senior Cameron Davis said.

Symptoms of HIV/AIDS include weight loss, frequent fevers and sweats, serious vaginal illness, unexplained bleeding, and numbness on the hands and feet.

HIV/AIDS not only carries symptoms, HIV/AIDS also leads to and becomes a result of poverty in developing countries.

"HIV/AIDS is both a cause and a consequence of poverty," Mercy Corps Senior HIV/AIDS Program Manager Jessica Quarles said. "An

individual with HIV may have issues working, and they may be unable to work. Many people who are in risk of HIV/AIDS as they don't have a home, and migrate."

The United Nations Millennium Development goals were established in 2000, and include a set of eight development goals established by the members of the United Nations. One of the goals aims to completely eliminate the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015.

"It's not a reasonable goal, as 2015 is only seven years away and those people will still be around," Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS Program Officer Aleza Summit said. "While numbers may go down, I don't think it

will disappear. Last year according to UN AIDS, an estimated 2.5 million people became infected by HIV/AIDS."

While some experts believe that the Millennium Development goal for HIV/AIDS is not reasonable at this point, there appears to be a consensus that the situation is getting better.

"By looking at the numbers, there are countries and regions where infection rates have gone down, as many more people have access now to antiviral drugs than five years ago, and through education, progress is being made just not as quickly as we would like," Summit said.

Some areas appear to be on track

with the Millennium goals while others aren't.

"HIV/AIDS epidemic is happening in different ways and different paces in each country," Quarles said. "While there are some countries on track to achieve the millennium goals, other countries will need help. We need to realize that there are places where this will be achieved and there are also places where they will remain goals for the foreseeable future."

For example, Zimbabwe has been particularly successful while other countries such as Sudan haven't. Political involvement, access to medication, and education are also important to how different regions respond. Some regions are

able to respond better, and others are not.

"Global aids statistics show that the epidemic is starting to slow," Quarles said "Countries such as Zimbabwe have had a great response, through education, medication, and political involvement."

Much like the case in Zimbabwe, Quarles believes that people can make a difference by educating themselves about HIV/AIDS.

"You can make a difference educating yourself," Quarles said "Educating your peers is also a great way to make a difference. Raising awareness through teachers and parents can help change knowledge, which then changes the epidemic." ☺

One laptop per child, quality education for all

[Ugochi Onyema]

Editor

With the status of children's education in developing countries struggling to maintain its existence, Nicolas Negroponte and his team of experts are attempting to alleviate some of the adversities facing fledgling educational systems. Negroponte's non-profit organization One Laptop Per Child has created the \$100 Computer.

In January 2005, Negroponte, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology alum, and former United Nations General Secretary Kofi Annan presented a model for a the computer to the World Summit on the Informational Society. The United Nations is supporting the endeavor, as well as many world leaders. In a world where the status of education varies, this organization has the potential to improve the minds of impoverished students.

Students in sub-Saharan Africa are allotted little more than 2 percent of the worldwide resources for public education, even though 15 percent of the world's student population lives in this region, according to the UNESCO Institute For Statistics. In comparison, the United States, a nation that is home to only 4 percent of the world's child and adolescent population, spend 28 percent of global education finances, which is partly because of the comparatively profuse population of college students and the costs of college tuition.

Western Europe's educational status is similar to that of North America's status as a leading region in education. Asian nations, particularly in the eastern region, spend the second highest amount of money allotted for education, 18 percent of the total budget, out of all of the global regions, according to UNESCO. However, in the



Mark Serri/Cooper-Hewitt Design Museum/MCT

The One Laptop Per Child is a low-cost personal computer now on display at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum.

southern and western regions of Asia, only seven percent of the global resources for education is spent on 28 percent of their adolescent population. Central America, South America and the Caribbean are fairly balanced in terms of expenditure of educational finances because this region spends about 8 percent of its finances on students, who account for about 8 percent of the region's population.

The \$100 laptop is the OLPC's answer to the lack of quality education in destitute regions, and although 14 nations have committed themselves to the OLPC project, including the United States, only two nations have actually bought the laptops: Peru and Uruguay

OLPC is striving to price its laptops at \$100 by 2008, but the organization predicts that the starting price will be \$135 to \$140, due to the fact that OLPC is a non-profit organization. The force behind the organization's persistence to create an alternative for learning consists primarily of members of the MIT Media Laboratory, including Chief Education Officer Antonio Battro, Chief Technology Officer Mary Lou Jepsen, Chief Financial Officer Charles Kane, and Negroponte.

The OLPC project has many proponents, as well as some critics. Junior William Kass can relate to both sides of the issue.

"Solely from an educational perspective, on one hand there's

something to be said for wanting to build up an infrastructure in impoverished areas," Kass said. "On the other hand, it's always good to be able to do good for others by going over [to those areas] and teaching personally. I can see where the program can either be good or bad. I think that access to clean water and food would be higher up on the priority list than laptops, so I kind of have mixed feelings about the project."

Business teacher Marci Boland thinks that the project will benefit many students who are stuck in adverse situations, but there will be some adjustments in order to ensure the success of the project.

"My first thought was 'I wonder

if they have wireless connections,'" Boland said. "My phone dies on Spoede Road every day and these computers are supposed to be sent to remote areas in Africa. Another thought was about how expensive the project was going to be. I have a friend who's going to India, and he says that that is what is so time consuming, setting up the infrastructure, but I thought that this was a great idea when I first heard about the project."

Some of the adjustments that will be made on the project are the addition of a satellite dish to provide wireless connection to regions that lack the utilities, as well as the installation of a manual generator on the computer to provide energy

to students who do not have access to electricity. Boland believes that celebrity endorsements can help enhance the awareness of the cause and the problem these students are facing.

"I think that the program will succeed because there are enough high-profile people to donate money to the project and get it going, just look at Oprah in South Africa," Boland said. "Once you get that high profile person, the Angelina Jolies, the Brad Pitts, the Oprahs, the project will take off."

Approximately 615,000 computers have been sold thus far, and this total includes the sale of the laptops through the Give One, Get One fundraising event. The opportunity to donate lasts until Dec. 31. Donors will receive computers in exchange for donating one to an underprivileged student. The computers designed by the MIT Media Laboratory are specifically designed for students from ages six to twelve years old, and the only model available for purchase is the XO. Boland believes that the XO model's technological capabilities are not the only components of the project's success.

"It's also the initial maintenance and infrastructure that will make the project successful, not just the computers," Boland said.

Kass does not believe that the long-term effects of the laptops do not include economical changes, but believes that the project can be successful.

"I can't imagine that the project will have a profound effect on global economy," Kass said. "But I think that [the project] will manage to do some good, and the development of technology at a low price can be used for both underdeveloped nations and underprivileged students in the U.S., where having a computer really does make a difference in terms of the kind of education that a student receives." ☺

New CHS classes for the 2008-2009 school year

Class Registration Information

Jan. 7: students get registration packets

Jan. 11: teacher recommendation day

Jan 15: register during math classes

Feb. 5: registration make-up day

"The counseling department is making a concentrated effort to have teachers describe electives and new classes to students," counselor Carolyn Blair said. "We want students to have an in-depth understanding of what courses they are taking and what they are not taking."

TEEN LEADERSHIP

"The class is about helping students learn how to be successful throughout life by sharing experiences and ideas with classmates to lead to self-discovery," teacher Ryan Luning said. "It will be participation based full of discussions and shared anecdotes. Students who are open to other thoughts and opinions are welcome."

The junior and senior elective will meet daily and the freshman and sophomore class will meet every other day during non-lab periods.

SCIENCE CAREER SEMINAR

"The idea is to try to give students exposure to science careers by meeting with scientists," Science Department Chair Mike Howe said. "I will look for scientists, doctors, and engineers in the community. The seminar will be low pressure and may offer possible field trips."

The course meets 30 hours per semester for a quarter credit. Juniors and seniors will listen to speakers after a science course on two non-lab days each week and complete journals.

STREET LAW

"I designed the class and had to get it approved by the state and the board of education," history teacher Mark Bayles said. "It is a laymen's approach to the legal system. Students who are interested in the legal system might find it more engaging than an abstract civics class. The class is essentially law for non-lawyers."

The course is pending state and board approval as an alternative to the American Government class.

A WORLD AT WAR: WWI and WWII

"We look at the causes and effects of World Wars I and II along with battle tactics and generals," history teacher Sam Harned said. "It will focus more on WWII than WWI. However, it is not strictly military. I also want to balance time on the Pacific, Western, and Eastern fronts."

Harned will teach the class using video footage to explore the various facets of the wars including new weaponry, the Holocaust in detail, and Hitler's regime.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY I, II

"The first course starts with slavery and also looks at free African-Americans prior to the Civil War," history teacher Rick Kordenbrock said. "Then we study the Civil War and emancipation. The second class begins at Reconstruction and examines problems of freedmen including Jim Crow laws. Next comes voting issues, the tragedy of lynching, the Great Migration, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Civil Rights Movement."

Students may enroll in I, II or both.

Chinese language course to be introduced

[Ken Zheng]
Staff Reporter

Beginning next year, CHS will offer a level I Chinese class after much careful planning by the World Languages Department.

This class came emerged because of a parent survey done in 2004 as part of the department's status report. Many wondered why CHS didn't have an Asian language, and so one of the department goals was to research the issue to see what language could be offered and how to make it happen.

The addition of this course has been approved by the Leadership Council and the Board of Education.

In year one, a level I course will be created, and if sufficient student interest continues, additional levels will be added.

Assistant Superintendent Mary Jo Liberstein was a guest of the Chinese government through their organization "HanBan" which supports expansion of knowledge and information about Chinese culture and language.

"I am very excited about the addition of Mandarin Chinese in our school district," Liberstein said. "Our District Mission states that we are developing our students to be contributors to a global society. Much of the world population speaks Chinese. China is becoming a major player in the world economy. We want our students to understand the rich culture of this nation and also be able to communicate with its people."

Liberstein said Chinese seemed to be the most appropriate language to add given the state of the world today. At the time of the review, both students and parents wanted to see this addition to the course of studies in World Languages.

Glenn Cody, District Coordinator of World

Languages and Cultures, said that the department is in the process of searching for a potential teacher. Although the position hasn't been filled yet, it should be very soon.

"We are going to have to heavily rely on the teacher whom we select," Cody said. "That's why we have process very early. We would like to find someone early so that this person could help us select the textbook and the materials that he or she feels would be beneficial for the class. As far as the curriculum, level I curriculum is pretty much the same for any language in terms of what's covered: basic skills in a language, essential foods, how to talk about someone, and how to ask questions."

The department will help the new teacher put together a curriculum, which hopefully will be written in the summer and be ready for the class when it begins in August 2008.

The selection team will use many different criteria to select the new teacher.

"In the teacher we're hiring we're looking for someone who has some experience teaching Chinese to American high school students and that's really going to limit the number of possible candidates," Cody said. "We're looking for someone that has solid background in Mandarin and PingYin. Probably, this person will come from mainland China."

Cody believes that PingYin is important for primarily English speakers because he thinks it is necessary to help them learn characters.

"This person clearly needs to be proficient in English, and this person has to be dynamic," Cody said. "In this country, a successful high school teacher is not someone who lectures; he or she is someone who involves students in learning. We need someone who perhaps is interested in working with heritage speakers."

The World Languages staff members have been investigating different curriculum and related materials to become familiar with the advantages and disadvantages of the many options available.

"The reason we gave out the student survey was just to see if we had enough interest to get a class off the ground," Cody said. "We're a very small school district, and we already have four languages, and we weren't sure we could support a fifth, so we just wanted to have some indication that there'd be enough students to get a class off the ground."

If it is successful, the department will look at expanding the class.

"The response was overwhelming," Cody said. "There were large numbers of students both first-time learners and native speakers interested in taking a heritage course. If this survey is accurate, there will be more than enough to get one, possibly two, Chinese I classes next year."

Both Liberstein and Cody agree that much still needs to be decided about the course.

"Right now it is our goal to create a high school program," Cody said. "Once that is done, we will take it from scratch to see if there was enough interest and to see if we could support another foreign language. At that point, and we're talking years in the future, we'd probably look at a similar course for the lower grade and middle schools."

"At CHS we are fairly certain that we will have a strong first enrollment for the new course," Liberstein said. "While there may be some slight initial decline in enrollment in the other languages, we have seen in the past that the enrollment patterns tend to even out over time."

Cody realizes the impending obstacles in adding an Asian course to the current curriculum.

"None of us in the department have experience in the language at all," Cody said. "It's not like bringing in another European language. We could offer help to the other teacher in that class. But Chinese is very dif-

ferent, and we will have to heavily rely on the teacher whom we bring in."

While there have been varying degrees of success in other schools where Chinese has been implemented, Cody is hopeful.

All the teachers in the Language Department believe that learning each other's language can only help create better relations and a more peaceful world. That's what they want for the students.

"When I was your age, we viewed China as a not very friendly country, and that's changed now, and we live in a more stable world," Cody said. "I think that's because of the improved relations between countries now. We've taken many site visits to various districts, so we've done our homework. We've also talked to national leaders in this movement, which is why I think we're ready to add Chinese to this school."

Liberstein said that it had been an exciting part of her career to be a part of the implementation of this course in Chinese language and culture.

"I am pleased that our students will have this chance to learn more about the world they will be living in and the language and culture of the Chinese people with whom they will interact, either directly or indirectly," Liberstein said.

Junior Natalia Birgisson said that if she were a freshman, she would take the Chinese I class offered next year. Although she has no background in the language and currently takes Spanish, she knows it's very hard to learn.

"[My parents] want me to learn Chinese, but at this point in high school I have to take a bunch of other classes," Birgisson said.

Sophomore Yi Guo definitely plans on taking Chinese next year because he knows it'll be an easy A although he's not sure how many years he would continue it.

Guo's ethnicity is Chinese but currently he takes French and finds that it's easy as well.

"I plan on making lots of cash with my linguistic skills," Guo said. ☺

China is becoming a major player in the world economy. We want our students to understand the rich culture of this nation and be able to communicate with its people.

[Mary Jo Liberstein]
Assistant Superintendent

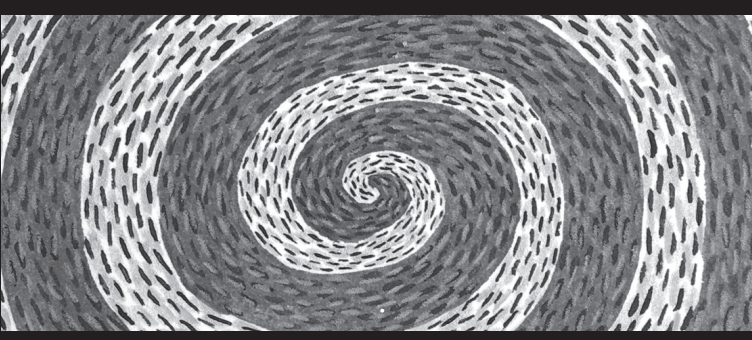


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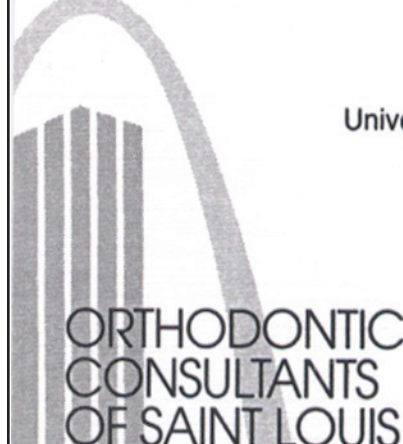
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Lack of character development, shaky directorial hand undercut superb acting in 'The Golden Compass'

[Kelly Moffitt]
Co-Editor in Chief

If director Chris Weitz actually had an alethiometer of his own, it would tell him the unbridled truth: go back to film school because "The Golden Compass" is a disaster.

Though Weitz may have written the screenplay for "The Golden Compass" himself, he resigned from directing it in December 2004, citing that he could not face the technical challenge of making such a film.

He must have realized what mess he was already making at that point but, unfortunately, his replacement, Anand Tucker, resigned as well on grounds of creative differences with New Line Cinema, presumably because they wouldn't let him explore the film's darker themes of God and church. So Weitz was forced back in the director's chair. And it's obvious he doesn't want to be there for the entirety of the film.

As I walked aghast out of "The Golden Compass," a movie I had anticipated since July, all I could think was what just happened? And that's bad because I have read the book too many times to count.

It's not that the film didn't stick to the book, the first in Phillip Pullman's trilogy "His Dark Materials," it's that it tried too hard; leaving all the action in, kicking the plot out for a one hour and 58 minute race through the complicated world of metaphysics and fantasy.

The fantastic adventure story full of prophesying witching, armored bears, southern aeronauts, bohemian "gyptians," bedazzlingly evil mistresses, and the ever mysterious dust revolves around Lyra Belacqua (Dakota Blue Richards), a 12-year-old orphan living in a parallel universe where a human's conscious soul takes the form of an animal, a daemon.

Lyra is taken from her place of safekeeping, Jordan College, where her uncle, Lord Asriel (Daniel Craig) has left her, by the alluring Mrs. Coulter (Nichole Kidman). But before she goes, she is handed the magic key to unlocking the truth in confusing situations: the alethiometer, otherwise known as the golden compass.

When she finds out her best friend has been taken by the mysterious gobblers, her mission is set before her and away from Mrs. Coulter, and she sets out to save not only her friend but the existence of the entire universe.

And that is only in the first 25 minutes.

Little does Lyra understand, however, that all her troubles circle the questionable particle, dust, the fabric of the universe, it's involvement with the all-knowing ruling power of the Magisterium and the prophecy that will shape her future over the course of three movies.

Though the film features some stunningly beautiful scenery, great visual effects and superb acting, nothing can save it from the shaking directorial hand of Weitz and his group of film editors.

What could have been the next "Lord of the Rings" turned out to be a complete and utter flop, though



Nichole Kidman (pictured above) plays Marissa Coulter, a main character in "The Golden Compass." On a whole, the acting in the film was impressive and featured an all-star cast.

The Controversy

After Chris Weitz adapted Phillip Pullman's work for the big screen, he decided that the film would make no mention of religion or God. These themes are integral to the book but New Line Cinema thought the "anti-religiosity" would make the film "financially unviable in the U.S.A." Despite the lack of these themes, Christian religious groups are still protesting the film, claiming it is just Pullman's advertising campaign to entice children to read his books, which do contain religious themes.

you're not allowed to realize that until the credits roll because the constant action doesn't give you any time to actually figure out what the heck is going on.

It is as if Weitz couldn't figure out who he wanted his audience to be. Unlike "Lord of the Rings," which decided early on not to be a child's movie, Weitz decided to take "The Golden Compass" down a route much like "The Chronicles of Narnia," attempting to conceal a confusing mature plot in an eight-year-old's atten-

tion span, leaving both audiences disappointed.

The film is obviously rated PG-13 only to appease religious groups' displeasure with supposedly "atheist" themes. The actuality of it is that this movie has no bloodshed, sexuality, or vulgarity...even though a warring scene between two polar bears occurs.

What is ironic is that God and the church are never directly mentioned in the film, only alluded to, despite the fact that they are the guiding themes of Pullman's

trilogy, a direct move on New Line Cinema's part to keep the movie family-friendly.

It's obvious that the only thing Weitz thought a fantasy film could be was an action-adventure story. He completely annihilates the chance for Lyra's character to forge relationships with anyone she comes in contact with in his attempt to condense the film, relationships that make the book meaningful. She hardly interacts with her best friend she's trying to save, doesn't get but one conversation-worth of bonding time with her savior, the armored bear Iorek Byrnison (Ian McKellan), and has no time to express the incredibly deep tie between her daemon, Pantalaimon (Freddie Highmore) and herself.

This lack of character development leaves any situation that may have some emotional punch in it, completely void of feeling.

Despite the lack of plot to work with, the acting in this film was absolutely spectacular. Kidman does a fabulous job portraying the seductive and icy Mrs. Coulter, making chills run down the spine. Also, newcomer Richards gives a stunning performance as Lyra as she is able to play the tomboyishly quirky and charming 12-year-old with a flare otherwise lacking in the film. Whoever cast Ian McKellan as Iorek was right on track: though the bear is computer generated, his voice portrays power and might as no other's can. However, that casting lost its touch with making Sam Elliot the helpful aeronaut Lee Scoresbee. All the other characters in the film have such short-lived roles and little development, it's hard to say if their acting was good.

What really adds the cherry on top of this disaster, however, is the horrible soundtrack, composed by the afore-genius Alexandre Desplat ("The Painted Veil", "The Queen", "Syriana"). It was as if someone tried to mix happy-go-lucky pasture skipping music from "Heidi" with "Mission Impossible," adding a hint of "Pirates of the Caribbean" and an attempt at the drama of "Lord of the Rings."

The only other redeeming factors of this movie are the superb locations, scenery and special effects, though it is obvious they were only thrown in to keep the audience from throwing their popcorn at the screen.

Because characters' relationships, integral and controversial themes and an attempt at continuity are ignored, what could have been a powerful and moving film is just pure dull. But don't forget the headache from the overwhelming amount of action without reason.

Weitz doesn't even attempt to feign interest in concluding the first of three movies which is too bad because no one is going to want to see the sequels after this horrible attempt.

By the final frame, it is apparent that Weitz has completely abdicated the directorial chair, attempting to escape out the screening room doors from the horror that is the blandness of his film. Don't worry though, Chris, we understand, we're right behind you. □

Disney's 'Enchanted' pleasing to younger group of viewers

[Maddy Bullard]
Staff Reporter

"Enchanted" cast a spell on willing viewers, but those looking for an intriguing film will be disenchanted.

The plot follows the tale of a young princess, Giselle, who is living in an animated, magical world. Giselle meets her Prince Charming, Edward, and they plan to get married. However, the power-hungry Queen interferes and uses magic to send Giselle to modern-day New York City, never to return. Once she arrives, Giselle meets a handsome divorce lawyer, Robert Philip. Robert is skeptical of Giselle's story, and of her conviction of the reality of true love, but helps her quest to rejoin Prince Edward and live happily ever after. Full of lively Broadway-style songs, witty humor, and unlikely, yet sweet romance, this family film is sure to please a younger crowd and crack a smile or two out of the adults.

The main character, Giselle, was played by Amy Adams. Adams plays the part well, portraying Giselle as a carefree, naive young woman who believes in true love and happily ever after. However, one wonders if such an experienced actress (with a repertoire ranging from "The Office" to "Standing Still" (2005) couldn't have brought more to such a seemingly simple role. Adams plays the part, and plays it well, but does nothing to dig deeper into the story of her character.

The divorce lawyer, Robert Philip, was played by Patrick Dempsey, the infamous Grey's Anatomy heartthrob. He plays a more sensitive role in "Enchanted" than his surgeon character, that of a busy single father raising a young daughter. Dempsey portrays Philip's skepticism well, especially in the first half of the film. However, his generosity and hospitality towards Giselle seem unrealistic in the context of the setting and film. Would a stressed-out, single parent working as a divorce lawyer really accept a seemingly



Amy Adams (left) and Patrick Dempsey star in "Enchanted."

crazy young woman in a sparkly ball gown into their small apartment to stay the night? I think not.

Additionally, Dempsey's character bends to Giselle's view of love a little too quickly, in my opinion. Philip seems to be well-grounded in his views at the beginning of the film, and would probably need more convincing than just a peppy song and dance number in Central Park for him to change his mind.

Another character was Giselle's Prince Charming, Edward, played by James Marsden (from "The Notebook" and "Superman Returns"). Cocky, good-looking and a bit dopey, Marsden manages to almost poke fun at himself with goofy jokes and heroic poses throughout. Although Marsden's acting coaxed a few chuckles from the audience, it still didn't make up for the clichéd scripting and predictable resolution.

The scenery of the film, set in New York, was very pretty. One of the best scenes was the song in Central Park, with an entourage of bikers, musicians and acrobats. The soundtrack was also a catchy collection of light, Broadway-style songs with vocals by the main characters. The animation was purposely simple and old-school, but fit well with the movie's motif and style. Of course, the characters included a chorus of high-pitched, singing animals.

The end of the film was the most major disappointment. Hint: It involved a large monster and the top of the Empire State Building. No, the monster was not King Kong. However, the climax was certainly reminiscent of that film, and only about one-quarter as suspenseful. The special effects of the scene were unrealistic and not very impressive, but they didn't really have to be great for this film. Additionally, the true resolution was a great happily ever after, but also was unrealistic and seemed too rushed and spontaneous to actually happen. Of course, realistic plots and planned endings have never been this genre's strong suit. The director, Kevin Lima ("Tarzan"), did a reasonably good job. The actors seemed to work well together and made the script come alive.

Overall, the film was a sure crowd-pleaser for younger kids, but probably a bit simple for teenagers. Adults might enjoy the sweetness of the story, and the little bit of adult, sophisticated humor, but otherwise would most likely find this romantic Broadway comedy a bit too shallow for real enjoyment.

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Nadoz serves upscale food in laid-back café setting

[Nava Kantor]

Co-Editor in Chief

On a night when the stress of college applications was getting to my head and we were at the end of the grocery cycle, my family decided to drop by Nadoz Euro Bakery & Café for dinner. The relaxed atmosphere of the café combined with its tasty fare created a delicious, stress-free dinner.

Nadoz, started by the Steven Becker Fine Dining company, opened a second café at The Boulevard in Richmond Heights in addition to its original location at the Coronado Hotel. The café at The Boulevard is spacious and typically brimming with customers. Sleek and comfortable design and relaxed music (NOT Christmas music—a welcome respite) add to the pleasant atmosphere of the café.

Though it is not a fancy, formal, sit-down restaurant, Nadoz offers breakfast, lunch and dinner options. Dinner-style entrees are converted into quicker, lighter options like crepes, panini and sandwiches. Locally-roasted coffees, fresh fruit smoothies and other beverages are also on the menu.

Executive chef Patrick Thirion has infused the café's menu with light, healthy options inspired by his international travels. The exceptional dessert and pastry offerings are distinctly European.

For breakfast, Nadoz offers staples with unique twists. Whole wheat sourdough waffles with strawberries and whipped cream, house-made granola, a whole grain English muffin sandwich, omelets (with regular and "fancy" fillings to choose from) and a Norwegian smoked salmon plate are among the options. There is also a selection of sweet and savory breakfast crepes. Fillings include fresh fruit; bacon, egg and cheese; Nutella chocolate hazelnut spread; and melted butter and your choice of marmalade. I will definitely be returning to sample some of these delicious-sounding options. Breakfast panini, filled either with meats or

vegetables, are another option for your morning hunger pangs.

For lunch and dinner, the menu is extensive. I had trouble choosing from all the options, as they all sounded amazing. Nadoz's sandwiches are served on handcrafted bread and range from the Turkey Caliente (smoked turkey, avocado, pepper jack cheese, and chipotle aioli) to Le Vegetarien (red pepper hummus, goat cheese, veggies, and red wine vinaigrette). Perfect accompaniments to these include a wide variety of salads, soups and quiches du jour.

The panini and crepes stand out as Nadoz's highlighted dishes, and with good reason. I ordered the Tuscan panini, and was more than content with my choice. Fresh mozzarella, tomato, artichokes, baby spinach and basil pesto melded perfectly with the flavor of the warm, slightly crisp rosemary focaccia. The panini was the perfect size: satisfying, but not excessively large. Other panini options are the Bombay, the Mediterranean, the Ozark Forest and the Devonshire. Each captures the flavor of its namesake region.

The crepes follow the same around-the-world pattern as the panini, running the gamut from the American southwest (the Hermosa: ham, sharp cheddar, honey mustard) to France (the Boursin: beef tenderloin, mushrooms, asparagus, boursin cheese, crème fraîche). I sampled my mother's crepe first. She ordered the Acropolis, a Greek-inspired crepe overflowing with baby spinach, red onion, tomato, kalamata olives and feta cheese. The bold flavors complemented the savory crepe well, and no one ingredient overpowered the others. The Acropolis was served with fresh lettuce and tomato.

I eventually succeeded in wheedling a taste of my youngest brother's dinner, the Grilled Alaskan Salmon crepe. The savory crepe consisted of grilled wild-caught Alaskan salmon, red onion, artichoke, tomato, capers and herb cream cheese. The salmon was cooked to perfection and the flavors balanced pleasantly.



Staff photo

Though our meals were yummy, nothing we ate compared to the magnificence of Nadoz's signature dessert: the Bittersweet Chocolate Waffle. It arrived at our table still warm from the waffle iron in a specially-designed cone-shaped apparatus that displayed the waffle and its three accompanying sauces attractively. We shared this dessert, which comes with lots of waffle triangles that are easily divided up between hungry siblings like mine. The sauces were so good that we could not leave them alone even after we finished the chocolate waffle, dipping in with our forks. The chocolate almond brittle that also accompanies the waffle

was completely outshone by the Nutella chocolate, vanilla bean crème anglaise and caramel apple sauces. A myriad of other desserts on display in the café were tempting, but this sexy dessert is a must for any waffle (or chocolate, or vanilla, or caramel) lover.

Though Nadoz uses upscale ingredients in some of its dishes, the casual café style and moderate portions keep prices affordable; the most expensive item on the menu costs under \$10. When you're in the mood for a quick, fresh, well put-together meal, Nadoz Euro Bakery and Café's international flair will keep your meal ideally interesting. ☺

Camille's Cafe brings new casual dining to the Clayton area



Staff photo

[Nicholas Andriole]
Staff Reporter

Nestled behind the hectic blocks of Hanley Road in Brentwood, Camille's Sidewalk Café is a unique alternative when fast casual diners have become bored with the usual St. Louis Bread Company, Qdoba Mexican Grill, and other quick service establishments in the Mid County area.

Camille's is one of several retailers occupying the new Hanley Station mixed use retail and residential complex, which is nearing completion. Camille's is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner and offers unique menu items for anytime of day. The café features wi-fi connectivity, making it a nice location to work on a laptop computer. Comfortable seating is available in the back corner, along with plenty of large, spacious tables for studying.

Upon a recent visit for dinner, I

ordered the Napa Chicken Valley Panini sandwich (\$7.59) accompanied with a salad or tri-colored tortilla chips and fresh salsa. The sandwich is served on focaccia bread with fresh grilled chicken breast, sun dried tomato pesto, provolone cheese, red onions and mushrooms. This sandwich made for a wonderful early dinner.

Other items are available for lunch and dinner, such as flatbread pizzas, wraps, smoothies and a selection of salads. Fresh pastries, breakfast wraps and coffee beverages are available during the morning hours.

All of the menu items looked delicious. The presentation is similar to St. Louis Bread Company; the food is served on a tray with a wide variety of enticing side items.

My food arrived thoroughly cooked, with ingredients that appeared to be of good quality. However, I was not very satisfied with the time it took to get my order. My food took a solid 15 minutes to

be delivered to my table after I ordered. This can be troublesome for students who are out to eat during their lunch hour and need to be back in time for their next class.

Service at Camille's is limited, it is a fast casual restaurant and does not have a wait staff and hostesses like traditional full service restaurants do.

The restaurant does not appear to be very busy, as it is in the very back of the Hanley Station complex that is currently under construction and can be hard to find. Other businesses in the complex include Houlihans's, Jimmy John's Gourmet Subs, Intaglia Home Collection and a Spring Hill Suites by Marriott hotel that will open in the beginning of 2008.

Overall, Camille's is a nice change of pace from the relatively limited scene of fast, casual establishments around the Clayton area. Ample parking is available in a parking lot shared with Jimmy John's gourmet subs. ☺

'Vanishing Act' compels audiences and entertains

[Caroline Stamp]

Staff Reporter

The phrase "you can never judge a book by its cover" is a perfect example of "The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox," by Maggie O'Farrell.

The cover consists of a girl dressed in a flashy blue dress with her head hung low. The simplistic cover hardly shows the intricate story inside.

Some people like a book because the writing is wonderful, some people like a book because of the story it tells and other people like a book because it is a page-turner.

"The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox" combines all the latter aspects into one book.

The story line of the book is one that everybody can relate to in some way. Everyone can relate to making a difficult decision, and learning from it.

The book twists together stories of family, betrayal, being forgotten and love, creating a beautiful book.

Iris Lockhart owns a vintage clothing shop and thinks her biggest troubles are avoiding a boyfriend in need of commitment. Her troubles become much larger when she gets a call from Cauldstone Hospital, where she finds that her forgotten Aunt Esme has been locked away for more than 60 years.

Iris is faced with a decision. Cauldstone Hospital is shutting down and Iris has a long lost aunt who is supposedly crazy to deal with. Iris makes the choice to take her aunt under her wing by inviting Esme to stay with her.

Through the book, the reader is brought into the childhood of Esme and her sister Kitty. Esme was a rebellious and quirky young girl. She is sent away to

Cauldstone merely trying on some of her mother's clothes.

The book then twists into the relationship between Iris and her grandmother, Kitty. Iris is intrigued as to why she has never heard of this Aunt. However, her grandmother is no help because she has Alzheimer's and can only recall a few memories. Iris wants to find out why Esme was forgotten.

While Iris is trying to figure out her new found family member, she is also dealing with personal battles of love. Her boyfriend, who is married, wants commitment from Iris, but Iris is hiding her true feelings for somebody else. Consequently, Iris is caught up in the confusion of it all.

Iris learns a lot about her family and about herself from the tough decision that she made.

"The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox" has an interesting writing style, which made the book a good read.

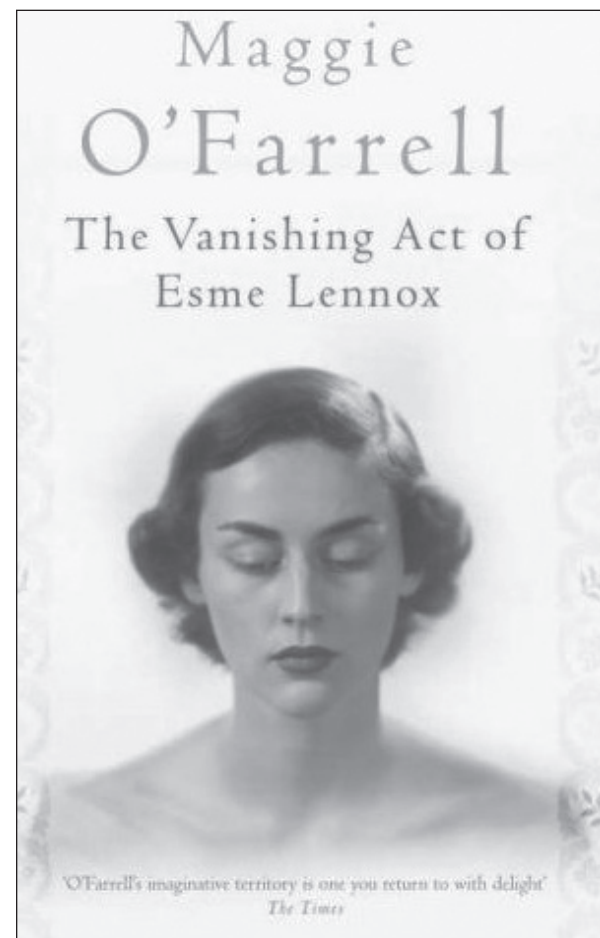
The book describes things in such detail that it is hard to miss O'Farrell's unique writing style. The word choice and sentence structures give the book flow.

The connections are another aspect that make the book hard to put down. There are big connections between all of the stories. You will come across little details that are repeated throughout the book. These

connections keep the story interesting and tie everything together.

The book is twisted with many different stories, but they all compliment each other beautifully. From the unique stylistic features to the relatable plot line, the book achieves masterpiece status.

"The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox," although bound by a simple cover, will intrigue, haunt and mystify you. ☺



"O'Farrell's imaginative territory is one you return to with delight" *The Times*



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Fourth season of 'Grey's Anatomy' fails to deliver

[Anya Veremakis]

Editor

Starting in 2005, love-struck women of America and medical-television enthusiasts alike became engaged in what was to be a new Thursday night phenomena. "Grey's Anatomy" debuted as a mid season replacement in 2005 and was an instant hit, engrossing 18.5 million viewers.

The series featured a cast of excellent actors, a witty script, steamy love triangles, enthralling medical action, and of course "McDreamy," also known as Patrick Dempsey.

Now, almost half way through its fourth season, the beloved "Grey's Anatomy" seems to have met its demise. The common question is whether the demise can be attributed to the loss of Isaiah Washington (Dr. Preston Burke) and Kate Walsh (Dr. Addison Montgomery) at the end of last season. While this would be the more simple and less heart breaking answer, it is not the case.

Yes, both characters were pivotal in the plot line and their acting skills contributed to the overall production of the series. However, "Grey's Anatomy" was only destined to drop from its peak and successfully did this season as it plummeted from greatness.

This season's set of shows features corny dialogue, overly dramatic love scenes, doctors who are annoyingly fickle with their love lives (namely Meredith Grey), and mediocre medical wonders. While admittedly "Grey's Anatomy" was always borderline soap opera, the show has gone overboard this season.

Although the show is nothing close to what it used

to be, there are still glimpses of the past brilliance. Chylér Leigh, as Dr. Lexie Grey, was added to the cast this season. Lexie is Meredith's half sister who desperately seeks Meredith's friendship and approval. While cast into corny and sometimes poorly written scenes, Leigh makes good use of her acting skills and successfully plays the ditsy, Meredith-esque character.

These glimpses continue during the occasional scene when Meredith and Derek are together and happy, which seldom occurs this season.

We are reminded of the good days when the show was exciting and only reasonably complicated, but each glimpse is merely a reminder, nothing more.

For the most part, however, the medical mysteries and wonders are still there. Although tainted by the show's plot and script, the medical action still shines through now and again.

Nevertheless, these mere glimpses are weighted down by the bad aspects of the show and are not enough to save it. "Grey's Anatomy" used to be an action-packed, romantic thriller and now it is just a show you watch when you are bored because it is recorded on Tivo.

While the drop in quality will not and most probably cannot be made up for now, the show still had three exquisite seasons that are unmatched by any other series on television.

For all of the "Grey's Anatomy" fans, it is a hard pleasure to give up; however, fans needn't be jaded by the show's past glory. The time has come to give up on "Grey's Anatomy." ☹

The time has come to give up on "Grey's Anatomy".



Cristina Yang (Sandra Oh) performs surgery on a patient during an episode of "Grey's Anatomy." Although the show's first three seasons were successful, the fourth has not been as popular.

Holiday Comic by Amber Idleburg



Sister Hazel's holiday concert offers merriment, fun for all

[Carol Iskiwitch]

Editor

When I first discovered that the concert I was going to was part of a "12 days of Christmas" tour, I distressed as a non-gentile. But after listening to a few songs from Sister Hazel's new Christmas CD, "Santa's Playlist," I realized that none of their characteristic rock style was lost in holiday music; I also had hope that they would play a few of their classic hits.

The opening act, Pat McGee (sans his band) wowed with an acoustic performance. McGee played a few of his own songs in addition to some classic holiday tunes. According to McGee, his choices of Christmas songs to play were limited by the many songs Sister Hazel had already claimed; thus his portion of the concert was a bit less sing-along-friendly than the main act. Nevertheless, I thoroughly enjoyed both his crooning and his stylish outfit.

The opening act ended around 8:40, so my friends and I were happy at the notion of getting home before midnight on a school night. The 20 minute wait for Sister Hazel to come on seemed to stretch on for an eternity, but at least it gave me a chance to make room in my cell phone for new videos. Finally the band strolled casually onto the stage. Thunderous applause erupted. This group of middle-aged men was exactly what the theater full of Hazelnuts (as the band's fans are known) was waiting to see.

The band started out with a couple of Christmas tunes and then, to my thrill and delight, played one of their most popular songs, "Change Your Mind." This amazing song set

the high-energy, sing-along mood for the numbers that followed, including a fantastically funky version of "White Christmas."

A while later in the concert, Sister Hazel pulled out another big gun, this time in the form of their classic hit "Your Winter." I loved the subtle changes, so endemic in live concerts, lead singer Ken Block added to the chorus.

This concert was full of surprises. The first was when the choir and orchestra from Lindbergh High School filed onto risers on the stage

to accompany the band in several songs. The students performed quite well to my ears, despite nearly always being drowned out by the loud amplifiers on the band. It was nice to see such an unusual addition to Sister Hazel's music.

One of the best numbers of the evening came not long after the students went on stage. Called "Run Rudolph Run," this song blends electric guitar, rock-and-roll vocals and an addicting beat to form the ultimate modern-day holiday tune. This was the only song off of their new album I bought before the concert, and I was not at all disappointed with the live performance, which was complemented with a flashing light display on the backdrop of the stage.

After a few more Christmas tunes and a great original song about the New Year, the band hit yet another of my personal high-

lights of the evening. As a band of "inclusion, not exclusion," Sister Hazel played a bluegrass version of "The Dreidel Song." Yes, you read that correctly. The ditty was wildly entertaining.

But the evening just kept getting better. During a pause between songs, Block announced that some audience members on the dance floor wanted him to perform his "happy dance" as I believe he called it. One of the band members told the crowd to prepare their cameras for "Youtube" material.

Block proceeded to do the famous Spongebob arm-wave move.

A bit disappointed, yet giggling, I perked right up as I heard the band strum the first note of their all-time biggest hit, "All For You."

After capturing a short video, I danced and sang my heart out along with the rest of the crowd. This was the moment I had waited for since the day I bought my ticket.

The end of the concert did not fizzle out. As a final surprise, Santa Clause came out and rapped the beginning of a song, singing the rest backed up by the members of the band who were not in a costume at the time.

Overall the performance was excellent. Sister Hazel not only performed catchy versions of holiday tunes, but also played all of my favorite original songs. After such a fun experience, I cannot wait until they return to St. Louis. ☺

Sister Hazel not only performed catchy versions of holiday tunes, but also played all of my favorite original songs.

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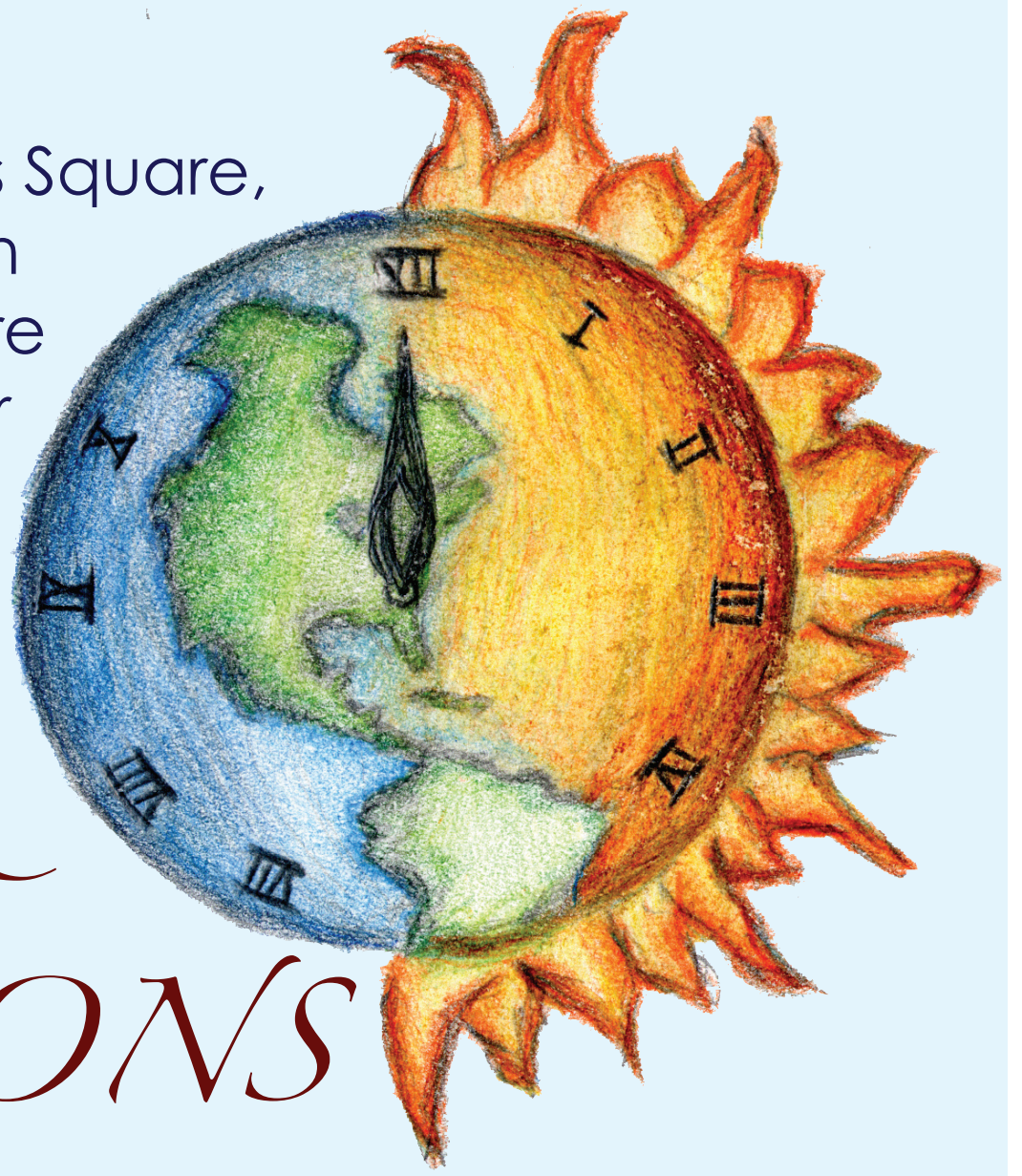
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From watching the ball drop in Time's Square, to filling paper dolls with fireworks in Argentina, to performing rituals with fire in Iran, people around the world usher in the New Year with a multitude of traditions.

NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS



Students reflect on unique cultural customs

[Preeti Viswanathan]
Staff Reporter

While many people anticipate unwrapping presents for Christmas, students look forward to other interesting cultural holidays during this time of year. Some Clayton High students celebrate or observe unique traditions for their cultural holidays.

Some upcoming traditional holidays from other cultures include the Japanese New Year which is also on Jan. 1, and the Persian New Year, called 'Noruz', which is celebrated on the spring equinox and lasts for 13 days.

There are also some Persian holidays which are celebrated in anticipation of the New Year, such as Shabe Chahar Shanbeh Suri, which falls on the last Wednesday of the old year, and one on the last day of the New Year called Sizdeh Bedar.

Another religious festival which has already occurred this year is Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights.

Sophomores Hiro Horikoshi and Ali Sehizadeh and junior Shweta Goswami celebrate some of these customary holidays from their respective Japanese, Persian, and Indian cultures.

Horikoshi said his favorite holiday is the Japanese New Year, also called Oshyougatsu, because it is celebrated the most. For Oshyougatsu, it is customary for children to receive money, and the amount sometimes depends on their age.

"We are given things called Otoshidama, which is a small allowance," Horikoshi said.

A traditional food is prepared during the New Year called Oseti, which contains a mixture of healthy ingredients including Japanese chestnuts, fish eggs, small fried fish, and seaweed rolls.

"During Oshyougatsu, before we eat, we say 'Akemashite Omedetou', which means 'Happy New Year!'" Horikoshi said.

Horikoshi said the Japanese New Year is not a particularly religious holiday.

"We don't go anywhere to worship," Horikoshi said. "Japan's main goal in Oshyougatsu is to stay healthy and get ready for next year."

Other commonly celebrated Japanese holidays include Kodomonih, which is a celebration of children, and Keirounohi, which is a celebration of elders.

"In Kodomonih, you celebrate the children - in English, it is 'Day of the Children'. Keirounohi is 'Day of the elders'. In both of these holidays, we call our relatives and cheer them up," Horikoshi said.

A cultural holiday which was celebrated on Nov. 9 this year is Diwali. Also known as the festival of lights, it celebrates the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.

The mythical story behind celebrating Diwali is that Lord Rama fought and won back his kingdom after 14 years in exile.

Usually, it is a family celebration, and people

wear new clothes and light up their houses with clay lamps or candles. Also, the tradition is to prepare different kinds of Indian sweets for the occasion.

Junior Shweta Goswami said she mostly celebrates Diwali when she goes to India, and her favorite part of the festival is the desserts.

"My favorite part is eating sweets, because the Indian sweets are amazingly good!" Goswami said.

"I remember eating *gulab jamun* [fried milk powder balls dipped in sugar syrup flavored with saffron, cardamom, and rose water], *rusugula* [sweet fried cottage cheese dipped in sugar syrup], and *laddoo* [made of pressed, sweetened lentil flour]," she said.

Customarily for Diwali, North Indians do religious prayers after sundown and South Indians pray early in the morning. One of the most popular Diwali traditions is for people to get together and light fireworks after dark.

In Persian culture, the New Year, or Noruz, begins on March 21, which is the vernal equinox. It is also celebrated with a gathering of family members.

Sehizadeh said Noruz is his favorite holiday because of the festive atmosphere and the large get-together of family. A tradition before Noruz includes cleaning the house to get ready for the new year ahead.

"This is supposed to be like 'nature in spring' so to speak, which symbolizes throwing out old things and bringing in new things," Sehizadeh said.

Another custom is buying new house décor along with gift-giving to oneself and the family, which is very similar to the American tradition of giving presents for Christmas or New Year's.

Persians also have a special altar which they use as part of celebrating Noruz. Sehizadeh said another custom is planting *sabzeh*, which are lentil and wheat sprouts, and having a joyous picnic with family and friends to rejoice the upcoming year.

"Wheat or lentil seeds are used to make *Sabzeh*, symbolizing rebirth," Sehizadeh said.

"The 13th day of New Year is called Sizdeh Bedar, when everyone in the Persian community goes on a picnic and brings all the *Sabzeh* they have grown, and throw it in a stream or any natural body of water."

A Persian holiday which is celebrated on the last Wednesday before Noruz is called Shabe Chahar Shanbeh Suri.

It is similar to Halloween because a tradition is for children to cover themselves, bang on pots with spoons to get their neighbors' attention, and go around their neighborhood asking for treats.

Another unique aspect of this day is that people chant while jumping over a fire for good luck.

"People gather on the streets in their neighborhood or even in their own backyards and jump over a fire while singing the phrase '*sorkhiyeh to az man, zardieh man az to*' repeatedly, which means 'give me your healthy red glow and take my yellow color away,'" Sehizadeh said. "The flames represent good [luck] so you jump over the fire to take away the bad luck."

Although these holidays are rich with tradition, they are not considered religious holidays; rather, they are more of cultural holidays whose rituals stem from ancient religions. ☺

Holiday traditions reflect diversity

[Jiyoun Kahng]
Staff Reporter

The year is coming to an end, and 2008 will start soon with a variety of different celebrations from people all around the world.

In China and Korea, the New Year, or Spring Festival, is the most celebrated and the most exciting holiday of the year. The date of the Chinese and Korean New Year changes annually, and it may vary from late January to early February. Each New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the New Year and ends on the full moon 15 days later.

The Chinese New Year is a week long, and the first day is when the most celebration takes place.

"On that day, we would have a huge family reunion with as many relatives as possible," freshman Phillip Zhang said. "The food that must be included in the big family dinner is the traditional Chinese dumplings, and then the whole family would get together in front of the TV, and watch the 'Spring Festival TV Show' and all the Chinese celebrities would be in it."

Both in China and Korea, the celebration is traditionally highlighted with a religious ceremony given in honor of Heaven and Earth, the gods of the household and the family ancestors. The family would show their respect and thankfulness to the ancestors through traditional rituals, which unite the living members of the family with those who had passed away. The New Year is also celebrated at night with lantern displays and children carrying lanterns in a parade.

"The atmosphere is very different in America, because most of my relatives are in China, which makes it a lot quieter and not as big as the New Year celebrations in China," Zhang said.

On Japanese New Year most businesses shut down from Jan. 1 to Jan. 3, and families gather to spend the days together. All duties are supposed to be completed by the end of the year, and *bonenkai* parties ("year forgetting parties") are held with the purpose of leaving the old year's worries and troubles behind. Homes and entrance gates are decorated with ornaments made of pine, bamboo and plum trees. On New Year's Eve, *toshikoshi* soba (buckwheat noodles) are served in the family dinner. People typically start the New Year by viewing the first sunrise (*hatsu-hinode*).

"We get a lot of money from our relatives at New Year's family reunion, which is one of the reasons why it's many kids' favorite holiday," freshman Takuya Inoue said.

In France, people spend the New Year's Eve with their family and friends. With costumes similar

to those in America, family and friends get together and enjoy eating food and drinking champagne. Many people watch the special New Year's TV shows, and go outside to see the beautiful street parades with friends.

"Many people throw parties and invite people on New Years, but I think the best part is at midnight when people get together and shout out the countdown for the first day of New Year in TV and cheer," junior Lo-ann Deubreuil said.

In general, people in France celebrate the New Year however they want. It is much more informal than the celebration ceremonies in China, Korea and Japan.

Argentineans have very big parties for New Year celebrations. Traditionally, families of around 10 to 15 people get together at their grandparents' house. In Argentina, the New Year is in the summer, so the parties are usually outside. People start coming at around 9 p.m. or 10 p.m. There is always food like *asado*, which is the traditional Argentinean barbecue, plus ham, fruits, wine, soda, ice cream, pies and cakes. At midnight, the family does *toasts*.

"The most exciting part of Argentinean New Year, and the key difference from America's New Year, is the 'doll fireworks,'" freshman Melina De Bona said. "After eating and cheering, all the families go outside where there are dolls ready to be exploded. Dolls are gigantic figures of cartoons, people or animals that teenagers have constructed at least three weeks before New Year. They are filled with fireworks! When the clock strikes 1 a.m. all the dolls are burned at the same time! The sky fills with colors and energy."

After all of the ceremonies, the families go back to their grandparents' house to talk and play games together until around 5 a.m.

"People stay up all night on New Year's Eve, and the variety of fun ceremonies never made me feel tired," De Bona said.

In Lebanon, the families gather at their grandparents' house to celebrate the New Year. The family eats a big dinner together, play games and talk about their plans for the upcoming year.

"The special part about Lebanon's New Year is that it is a tradition to eat turkey for dinner on New Year's Eve," freshman Zeina Ziade said. "My grandmother would always bake turkey that night, and everyone would enjoy the meaningful family time." ☺



[ourview]



staff playlist

1. "Only Apathy" Tally Hall
2. "Carry You" Dispatch
3. "Fa Fa" Guster
4. "Baby, It's A Fact" Hellogoodbye
5. "Radio People" Zapp
6. "Love Song" Sara Bareilles

Top Three...
holiday movies

^ It's a Wonderful Life

↪ The Santa Clause

3 To Grandmother's House We Go



skul·dug·ger·y
 noun

1. underhanded or unscrupulous behavior; also
2. a devious device or trick

What you never knew...

McDonalds is the largest toy distributor in the world.

One of Hewlett Packard's first ideas was an automatic urinal flusher.

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Revamped roster sparks success for Lady Hounds

[Nava Kantor]
 Co-Editor in Chief

The loss of last year's stellar senior players could have hindered this year's varsity girls' basketball team. However, with several returning players and some new, younger players, the team is off to an impressive start.

Captain Erin O'Neal and co-captains Laura Bliss and Diane Martin have led the team to a 4-1 record. The addition of a new coach to the program has been beneficial to the team, according to O'Neal.

"It has definitely been an adjustment," O'Neal said. "We have a new coach and a completely new system and program. We miss the starters from last year, but everyone has stepped up and we are doing really well."

Coach Steve Lanter, who played college basketball for the University of Illinois, has so far enjoyed working with the team.

"I've had some pretty extensive experience with the game of basketball," Lanter said. "It's been a while since I've coached, but it's something I love to do."

Bliss feels that her basketball skills have improved under Lanter's instruction.

"I'm learning a lot from Coach Lanter," Bliss said. "No one ever taught me how to play defense before, they just said to go over there and not let the ball get by you. Now I'm learning specific strategies and effective plays. I'm a better player, and it shows in my game."

Point guard and shooting guard Michelle Cooper, who is new to the varsity team, is confident in the relationship being built between the team and the coach.

"Working with the new coach is going really well, no complaints here," Cooper said. "He's getting used to our style of playing, and we're getting used to his style of

coaching." Lanter is pleased with the team's effort so far this season and is especially confident in the players' defensive skills.

"The good news is that we've won a bunch of close games," Lanter said. "I don't think we're playing our best basketball yet, but we are definitely capable. We're still in the learning phase. All 11 girls work hard and I think everyone makes a contribution."

Lanter and Cooper agree that the team could improve in shooting ability and turnaround prevention.

According to Bliss, height is another weakness the team must overcome.

"We only have one tall player, so we have to rely on our skills and not on height," Bliss said. "We have to work harder for rebounds."

Bliss is also concerned about the players' preparedness at game time.

"We sometimes don't come out prepared the first half of games, but we're able to step it up and come back in the second half," Bliss said.

O'Neal has no doubts regarding the team's athletic ability.

"Lots of the girls have been playing basketball for a long time," O'Neal said. "Everyone is really determined and has a real love for the game."

The loss of all of last year's starting players has been balanced by the arrival of promising new talent.

"We have a younger team that is slightly less experienced," O'Neal said. "We have a few first-year varsity players, but that is affecting us less and less as the season goes on."

Three sophomores have joined the varsity ranks this year, including Cooper.

"It's been fun being on the team so far," Cooper said. "I've met lots of new people and it's been a learning experience. Sometimes the girls



Jo Saleska

Junior co-captain Diane Martin looks for the pass during the MICDS game on Dec. 11. The Lady Hounds defeated MICDS 32-27.

joke about us being younger, but they don't treat us differently."

Bliss feels that the team has come together well and bonded quickly.

"We knew we would be losing lots of players going in, but we got a fresh start with out new coach and our new players," Bliss said. "In a sense, everyone was new together. The team gets along really well."

Lanter has emphasized goal setting since the start of the season in order to inspire his players.

"We had a dinner at the start of the season where we sat down and set some pretty lofty goals for ourselves," Lanter said. "Setting high expectations and reaching towards

them is how we're operating."

O'Neal wants her final season as a Lady Hound to be her best.

"I've been playing forever," O'Neal said. "I want to enjoy this last season and prove that we're still a good team that works hard and does well. My ultimate goal is to win districts. We've come close in the past, and hopefully we can succeed this year."

Bliss, who is also a senior, has similar sentiments.

"I want to beat MICDS," Bliss said. "We lost once to Ladue, but we get to play them again, and we're planning on winning. This is my last year. I don't want to have any regrets."

Lanter is satisfied with the team's progress and hopes to see more support form the rest of CHS at game time.

"We are right where we want to be, doing well but with room for improvement," Lanter said. "Come check us out. We'd love to see more students at games."

Cooper is optimistic for the rest of the season, which will pick up after winter break.

"We want to win districts," Cooper said. "Just because we lost all those senior starting stars from last year doesn't mean we can't be a good team too. The season has started off well, and I think we can keep it up!"

Tigers robbed of bowl game

[Michael Root]
 Editor

Ah, the BCS controversy begins again, but this time it hits a little closer to home. The crazy college football season saw numerous number one and other top teams fall from the ranks: Michigan, LSU and Ohio State just to name a few. Oh, and Mizzou.

After the gigantic win over the University of Kansas, which was the number two seed at the time, number four Mizzou took the number one spot in the BCS, Bowl Championship Series, ranking. All they had to do was beat Oklahoma University in the Big 12 Championship, and they would be playing for the national championship.

Mizzou and OU met on Dec. 1 and it was not even close. OU dominated Mizzou en route to a 38-17 win, causing Mizzou to drop six spots to number seven in the country. Mizzou was also knocked out of a BCS bowl and will play Arkansas in the Cotton Bowl on Jan. 1.

The hype and thrill in the CHS halls that surrounded Mizzou's victory over KU was quickly quieted by the loss to OU.

Math teacher Curtis James, Mizzou Alum class of 1996, follows Mizzou football and other sports throughout the year.

"At the beginning of the year, I expected they would have a good team, and I really wanted a bowl win," James said. "The positive side is that we are in a much larger bowl than last year, which is good for the school, but we got robbed by the BCS."

Although Mizzou did reach a much larger bowl game, many people that follow the team believe that changes need to be made to the BCS system in order to prevent the controversy surrounding teams like Mizzou.

"They should rely more on the coaches poll rather than the computer," James said. "A playoff or a head-to-head match of the top two BCS winners would be great to see, but that may create too many extra games."

Others, such as senior David Luten, think that a playoff would not only be beneficial for college football but is also absolutely necessary.

"The BCS rankings by computer are all right, but an end of the season playoff with the top eight teams based on ranking should be instituted," Luten said. "With this scenario, all match-ups are more than fair since any team could lose, even the top seed. Also,



Jim Barcus/Kansas City Star/MCT

Missouri's Jimmy Jackson drives through the Texas Tech defense during the first quarter during a game on Oct. 20.

there will still be enough time for the national championship game without having teams wait over a month like Ohio State did last year."

Luten broke down faulty BCS system by explaining why Mizzou was robbed of a bowl game.

"First of all, Mizzou beat Illinois and Kansas who both got into BCS bowl games, West Virginia lost to an unranked Pittsburgh team and is also in a BCS bowl game when they were number two behind Mizzou," Luten said. "Mizzou, who lost to a ranked Oklahoma team in the conference championship fell out of the top ten teams with respect to the bowl games even though the computer rankings had them at number six. It really comes down to the fact that the only factor the bowl committee looks at when picking teams is how much revenue they will bring in, forcing Mizzou out of the picture. It's absolutely ridiculous."

Another problem with college football that aided in creating a problem that the BCS takes the blame for was that certain conferences decide whether or not to have a championship game. The Big Twelve, Mizzou's conference, decided to have a championship game which allowed OU a chance to beat Mizzou and upset the rankings. In contrast, other conferences like the Big Ten do not have a championship game which allowed Ohio State to escape losing another game, placing them in the national championship after Mizzou and West Virginia, the number one and two teams, lost.

For most Mizzou fans, the win over Kansas justified the season even though the tough loss to OU overshadowed much of the glory.

In terms of individual players, Mizzou fans were pleasantly surprised with the offensive production out Mizzou, 6

Hounds strive for victory, despite unexpected losses

[Evan Green]
 Staff Reporter

The boys' basketball team is not off to the start they expected to be. After losing all three games in the Vianney tournament, the team finished last.

"We need to limit our turnovers, play better defense, box out better and definitely hustle more," sophomore guard/forward Syd Warner said.

While there is no 'I' in team, there is an 'I' in win, and some players feel that they need to improve their own game.

"I need to play better defense and pick up my scoring," Warner added.

Despite minor setbacks in the season, the team is still working hard.

"We have put out good effort and hard work, and it is really starting to show off in games," head basketball coach Ryan Luhnning said.

The team's youth has shown at times, especially during the Gateway Tech game. The Hounds turned the ball over on four consecutive trips down the court, leading to an easy 8-0 run for Gateway, clinching the game for Gateway late in the third quarter. On a high note, sophomore guard Alex Kasnetz had a team high of 20 points in the game and sophomore guard Devonte Bell added 14 points.

Due to a big gap left from last year's frontcourt of Dan Stamborski and Zack Warner, the team has had problems with ball handling

and rebounding. While senior Zoe Veale has filled in at the position, other players have also gotten time in the post. New to the team's frontcourt are junior's Ben Stamp and Warner, freshman Christian Thomas and sophomore Matt Militello.

"I feel as if I have adapted to my position well because I have limited my turnovers and done the little things well," Warner said.

While the Hounds have lost four games, their record is 3-3, due to Soldan's forfeit of their victory over the Hounds because they had three 19-year-old players on the team.

"The Lutheran South game was by far our best overall game so far on the season," Luhnning said.

The Hounds do feel as if they have several aspects of their game to improve on.

"We need to get better at rebounding and running the offense more smoothly," Bell said.

Luhnning believes their scoring potential is not where it should be, but still remains optimistic.

"Our scoring is starting to come around with experience," Luhnning added.

The Hounds schedule will ease as the season goes on, with the exception of a trip to CBC later in the season.

The team hopes to win the district this year, and with establishing a tough schedule in the beginning of the season, the Hounds can only get better as their experience greatly increases.

We have put out good effort and hard work, and it is really starting to show off in games.

[Ryan Luhnning]
 Varsity Coach

Hockey team off to fast start during strong, exciting season

[Evan Green]
Staff Reporter

The Clayton hockey team has begun the start of the season with a bang.

The team has two key new additions: freshman Cory Cannon and sophomore Connor Dougan. Captains Michael Root and Patrick Rafferty are key returning players.

Cannon's ten points lead the team so far, and Dougan has also contributed with six goals. The goaltending has been better than earlier suspected, as sophomore goalie Michael Vishnevetsky has posted two shutouts for the team.

"I've really kept my focus well this season, but I still need to make the game more simple," Vishnevetsky said.

The team has a 6-3-1 record so far on the season with a couple impressive victories.

"We played really well against John Burroughs and Ladue," sophomore defenseman Sam Jacus said.

The team has shined in several aspects of the game so far.

"We've really done a good job of getting shots on goal," Vishnevetsky said.

Other members of the team agreed with the goalie.

"We've put out a good team effort each game, and really worked to get good shots," Jacus said.

Some players have personal agendas for their improvement, which has assisted the team in its fast start to the season.

"I need to concentrate more on getting better at passing and shooting," sophomore forward Josh Few said.

Vishnevetsky also set goals for himself.

"I need to improve my focus in games more," Vishnevetsky said.

The overlying concept of the team was foremost for the players in their stride for success.

We just need to do the little things better, such as passing and develop our overall team cohesiveness.

[Sam Jacus]
Sophomore



Above: Sophomores Brendan Barry and Josh Few defend against Rockwood Summit in the Hound's first game of the season. Right: Senior Patrick Rafferty handles the puck behind the net against Rockwood Summit in the Hound's 3-2 win.

David Sherby

"We just need to do the little things better, such as passing and develop our overall team cohesiveness," Jacus said.

Jacus, who played on the team last year and scored the opener against John Burroughs, is only a sophomore. Vishnevetsky, who posted his second shutout against the Bombers, is also just a sophomore, showing the youth of the team, along with the team leader in points, Cannon, who is only a freshman.

As the season began, the team set lofty goals for the year.

"Our goal is to win the league and do well in the playoffs," Vishnevetsky said.

As the schedule has progressed, those goals appear to be getting closer and closer for the Hounds.

The hockey Hounds take a break over the winter holidays, but return to action on Dec. 27 at the Brentwood Ice Rink against the MICDS Rams. ☺



David Sherby

Off-season workouts prove beneficial in preparing athletes for next season

Time off from sports also provides students with opportunities for social and educational gains outside of sports.

[Sam Jacus]
Staff Reporter

Athletes spend hours and hours a week on physical activity during sports seasons. What is that time used for during the off-season?

Many students maintain part-time jobs and focus on other activities. These students work varying hours depending on the amount of time they have and the schoolwork assigned.

"I'm a lifeguard at the Center of Clayton, and I usually work about 15 to 20 hours a week including weekends," sophomore Nicky Turza said. "The money is pretty good and it is something that I enjoy doing." "I worked about 10 hours a week but had to cut it down to like two hours, because we started fostering three kids and it takes a lot of time and energy," junior Natalia Birgisson said.

Others prefer to use the time in order to focus on school.

"I have time to go in to see teachers for extra help or retake a test if I need to," Turza said.

Students agree that the free time is nice and allows for a more social life and leaves room for improvement in school.

With the extra 15 to 20 hours a week, working is not the only thing made possible. The chance to improve oneself in school is also there. The extra time allows students to further their personal lives and join new and exciting clubs and extracurricular activities.

"Most people do less exercise in the off-season due to other activities, so the beginning of the season is generally spent getting back in shape, which means a lot of running at least for the soccer team," sophomore Casey Lawlor said. "I run sprints and long distance for endurance, quick feet, and agility. I also attend the Clayton soccer camp and a camp in Indiana. This lets me improve the major issue or weakness in my game."

The time is well spent as students have an opportunity to improve in the areas one needs work in, according to many Clayton High School students.

"A lot of time you become out of shape in the off-season if you're lazy but if you want you can get in better shape," said Lawlor. "I like to take advantage of the off-season to improve in certain areas of my game."

Some students, such as Turza, agree with Lawlor's feeling that the off-season is a time for great improvement if the attitude and work ethic are there.

While students do little along the lines of work in the off-season, for some students the off-season presents the opportunity to jump rank within squads or teams.

Off-season work is not only about working out on your own. It allows athletes to focus on school events.

Numerous students play multiple sports staying in shape through the work at practice. Soccer, track, and

cross-country have provided some of the athletes with the opportunity not only to stay in shape but to also unite them in a school cause. This cause has given students the chance to make new friends as well as to be involved in extracurricular activities.

A lot of students run in the off-season or occasionally go to the Center to work out. Although students feel that the work during the off-season is fulfilling, there is a debate on whether or not it is as fulfilling as that of the regular sports seasons. Students are split about the decision.

"The off-season gives you the opportunity to improve areas needed for your sport but also give you the chance for a well rounded workout that not all sports give you," Turza said. Other students feel that the off-season is a warm-up for the regular season.

"During the gap in-between seasons I need a coach to make sure I do stuff; otherwise I do around a third of what I planned to do," Birgisson said.

With varying opinions about the off-season Clayton provides many opportunities to maintain mid-season form.

Coaches agree with Turza's feeling that the off-season provides the chance to not only improve, but also to gain skills that were unknown to that athlete.

"Players are made in the off-season, teams are made during the season," baseball coach Craig Sucher said.

Not all students just go on runs to stay in shape; many do it to improve part of their game.

Many students form unusual habits and events that they do during the season, which are usually formed in the off-season, but one of the habits that a lot of stu-

dents don't have is one that is used by freshman Jack Hodapp.

"I stop drinking soda," Hodapp said.

Other people try using various methods like Turza. Many of them varying in type as well as strictness.

Coaches have a big influence on the amount of exercise and nutrition that students have during the season, but lack control during student's time of relaxation. Coaches do however suggest things to do during the off-season.

"Eat right and keep moving—when a training program gets boring or stops providing desire results as quickly, change to a different training program that is more fun and easier to stay motivated and committed," Sucher said. "Fried food doesn't help at all; fruits and vegetables are key."

"I eat more vegetables and try to do the same amount of exercise," Turza said.

Other students, like Birgisson, change their eating habits.

"I usually lower the amount of food and increase the quality of food that I eat in the off-season because I am not burning off as many calories like during track season," Birgisson. "I also try to drink between 70 and 80 ounces of water."

One aspect of that you shouldn't change during the season according to Sucher is that, "supplements are not needed; five balanced meals a day should get it done."

Depending on the amount of time and effort spent on training in the off-season, there is always room for improvement. ☺



Freshman Kevin Matheny works out in the Center during the off-season from soccer.

Michael Root

Foreign students find differences with American sports, customs

[Sneha Viswanathan]
Staff Reporter

At CHS, student athletes have football in the fall, basketball and ice hockey in the winter and soccer in the spring or fall. This is the order of sports that teenagers in America are used to watching and playing at school. However, students in other countries, many of whom are equally enthusiastic about sports, are used to interesting choices of sports that are somewhat different from sports at CHS and other high schools across the nation.

In some countries, sports are taken as seriously as they are in the United States, while in others, they aren't.

"In Australia and America alike school sports are widely participated in," sophomore Gabby Inder said. "Both countries also are very competitive and take sports seriously."

Inder says that sports in Australia are taken seriously from a younger age than they are in the United States.

"A big difference is that sports in seventh and eighth grade are taken as seriously as American high school sports, because in Australia, seventh grade is the beginning of high school," Inder said.

In contrast, sophomore Kristine Juhl, who lived in Switzerland, says that sports at her old school were not taken nearly as seriously as they are in the United States.

"In Switzerland, there weren't proper seasons or teams, we mostly just had after school clubs," Juhl said.

However, according to Juhl, some sports are equally popular in both the United States and Switzerland.

"The two sports taken most seriously were soccer and basketball; basketball was the one taken most seriously, but there was only a boys' team and they had seasons," Juhl said.

Both girls mention that there were definite differences between the types of sports played in the countries in which they lived and sports in the United States. For example, while students in Australia and Switzerland don't play lacrosse, American football or participate in cheerleading, both countries have school skiing teams.

Another major difference between American high school sports and school sports in other countries is the seasons in which sports are played and the order of competition. In the United States, schools first compete with other schools, then depending on the number of wins and losses they have, advance to districts, then state, and then nationals. But in Switzerland, school teams don't necessarily advance to other levels based on counties or states.

"Most of the time we only competed with other schools," Juhl said. "We rarely went regional, but it all depends on the school you go to. When I lived in Budapest we would travel each year to different countries like Austria and Czech Republic, but that was the closest you got to playing regionals."

However, in Australia, the order of competition is more similar to that of the US.

"In Australia you play sports against a lot of the other similar schools in your state, as in America," Inder said. "For example, if you are a large private school than you will compete against other large private schools. Then, every team has the chance to compete in districts, which is made up of schools in your surrounding area. Then if you are good enough you will make it onto zones, each state is made up of 4 zones, and then if you are good enough you will go onto state. After that, individuals who excel in their state will be chosen to be a part of their state team and will compete nationally against the other states."

The students say they like some parts of school sports better in the United States, and other aspects better in their former countries.

"In Australia you could be part of more than one team at a time, which I really enjoyed," Inder said.

In Switzerland, "Students have a lot of choices [of sports], and because they weren't so serious, you didn't have to worry about it interfering with other plans or activities," Juhl said. "I like how serious it is here in the United States though, too." ☺

SPORTS THIS MONTH:

Girls' Basketball

Freshman: Dec. 20 at 4 p.m. at Duchesne

Boys' Basketball

Freshman: Dec. 20 at 4 p.m. at Duchesne

Varsity: Dec. 21 at 8:30 p.m. in the MICDS tournament
Dec. 26 -28 MICDS tournament

Hockey

Dec. 27 at 9:15 p.m. at Brentwood vs. MICDS

Dec. 28 at 9:45 p.m. at Affton vs. Seckman

Cheerleaders continue supporting CHS teams

[Colleen Layton]
Staff Reporter

It is the night of the basketball team's first game and standing on the sidelines are girls, clad in blue and orange, cheering on The Greyhounds.

Practicing nearly every day after school from 3:45 to 5:30, the cheerleaders always have a lot of work to do to get ready. They may not be the major attraction at football and basketball games, but they show great school spirit and dazzle the crowds with seemingly impossible stunts. They get the crowds excited.

"Games are loud and exciting," sophomore and varsity cheerleader Logan Yates said. "It's kind of hard to explain, but it's a really good feeling."

They make a difference too. When the cheerleaders perform, a tense and anticipating atmosphere easily becomes an active and happy one.

"We help pep up the crowd and

it helps give the boys confidence," Yates said.

There are two seasons of sports and a JV and varsity team, which gives girls from every grade level the opportunity to join in on the excitement. Even if a squad member has no previous experience with stunts or cheering, the practices give plenty of chances for the girls to learn and brush up on their routines.

We help pep up the crowd and it gives the boys confidence.

[Logan Yates]
Sophomore

"All of the girls are involved in stunts on some level," Coach Meredith McCue, who has been sponsoring for four years, said. "They do a range of stunts from preps (lift of flyers or girls in the air to the height of the base's chest) and fulls (lift of flyers by bases to full height in the air) to more elaborate pyramids (multiple lifts).

When games start, the rehearsals get even more intense.

"During practice...usually we work on stunts along with a few cheers to go with them for the games," Yates said. "Because we are on varsity, we are allowed to

extend our stunting and we can do many different things such as preps, fulls, cradling (tossing flyer) from fulls and from preps, Fish stunt, lots things."

With so many dangerous stunts being worked on, there has to be some safety precautions to ensure the well-being and safety of the cheerleaders.

Just as basketball players have to wear sneakers and football players have to wear helmets and pads, cheerleaders have specific guidelines, rules and precautions to make sure that no one gets injured.

"There's really nothing to it for cheering, but as far as stunting goes, there is very low tolerance for talking while stunting, laughing or giggling, and it is taken very seriously because if you're in the stunt and you're distracted, you could potentially fall or injure someone really badly," Yates said. "Nails have to be short and no jewelry is allowed on during practice."

The team members not participating in the stunt still have a job to do and have safety precautions that they must follow as well.

"Mats are always necessary for any new stunts the girls work on,"



Starting from the bottom left: Logan Yates, Aigner Watkins, Essence Carter, Ayneshea Ingram, Caroline Stamp, Leigh Tail, Meredith McCay. The CHS cheerleading squad practices stunts and routines every day after school in order to prepare for performances at school sporting events.

McCue said. "Each time a new stunt is introduced, I show the girls a visual of it. I talk about the possibility of issues and how we can overcome them. I stress that the only people talking during a stunt are the three or four girls directly involved in it. While executing anything new,

the remaining cheerleaders become spotters, having them watch the head of the flyer (the girl in the air) to ensure her safety."

The group doesn't attend any competitions or retreats to show off their hard work, but that doesn't seem to bother most of them. They

find enjoyment in other aspects of being on the team. They cheer with their friends and have lots of fun together.

"I just love going to the games and cheering on our greyhounds," Yates said. "Plus it's just so much fun for us." ☺

Patriots close in on history

[Michael Root]
Editor

As much as it hurts me to say it, the New England Patriots will most likely finish the season undefeated. Well, hopefully not 19-0, but chances are they will run the table and outdo the 1972 Miami Dolphins who went 17-0-0 with a win in Super Bowl VII. And with the last three games of the regular season, the Patriots will play the 3-9 New York Jets, the 0-13 Miami Dolphins (who have the chance to stop from having a no-win season and keep the 1972 Dolphins the only undefeated team in history), and the 8-4 New York Giants.

In addition to have a legitimate chance to be the first team in NFL history to be undefeated in a 16-game regular season, Patriots players have the opportunity to break individual records as well. Quarterback Tom Brady, currently with 45 touchdown passes on the year, has a chance to break Peyton Manning's record of 49 touchdowns in 2004. Wide receiver Randy Moss is also compiling gaudy numbers with 75 receptions for 1129 yards and 17 touchdowns, also with the chance to break receiving records for the season.

Let's back up a little. For those who don't know, I hate the

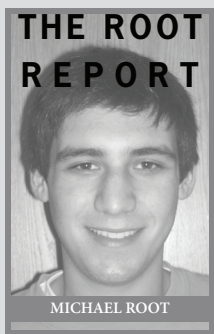
they may ing the this year, cut-throat class. Their Belichick some of the conferenc- seen. He emotion a n s w e r s regarding the opposition. Nothing about injuries. Nothing about his own team or strategy. Well, that's probably to keep his advantage—wait—he has cameras for that.

The 'Spygate' controversy earlier this year cost Belichick half a million dollars and caused a lot of questions regarding the team's previous wins and Super Bowl victories. And going back to Belichick for a second, what's up with his grey hoodie sweatshirt he wears at every game? It's got that little 'BB' stitched on the front, and he even cuts off the sleeves in hot weather. I hate that stupid sweatshirt.

I was watching the Patriots play the Pittsburgh Steelers this past Sunday, my last hope for a team to beat the Patriots in the regular season, and when I saw a Moss drop a pass behind the line of scrimmage, throw it back to Brady, and then saw Brady throw a 63-yard touchdown pass, I once again realized how incredibly lucky they can get. Everything seems to go right for them, and I just don't understand.

From a St. Louisan's standpoint, I can still remember the Patriots beating the Rams in the Super Bowl—with their kicker. The Patriots won another Super Bowl by relying on their kicker to win the game, and when they sent him to Indianapolis, he won another. So who carried the so-called dynasty?—the kicker.

I know that the Patriot's bandwagon is easy to jump on, but I will never sink that low. In my eyes their season is tainted with the spying issue and they will always have to face that fact. Additionally, I still have hope for a playoff loss, preferably to the Colts, but if I could get one thing, it would be for the Dolphins to beat the Patriots in the regular season. I know it's a long shot, but I guess it could happen. ☺



THE ROOT REPORT

MICHAEL ROOT

Although be dominant-competition they are a team with no coach Bill has had worst press es I've ever shows zero and only questions

Mizzou fumbles

Mizzou, 13

of their key players: quarterback Chase Daniel and receiver Jeremy Maclin. Daniel, a Heisman Trophy finalist, threw for 4,170 yards with a 33 to 10 touchdown to interception ratio. Maclin, an extremely dangerous player running or as a receiver, caught nine touchdowns for a total of 1,023 yards and ran for four touchdowns and 349 yards. Together, they led Mizzou's offense into one of the top twelve schools in points, total yards, and pass yards per game.

"I think the Heisman Committee chose Chase [Daniel] as a consolation gift for not picking Mizzou for a BCS bowl game," Luten said. "Everyone was talking about Tim Tebow and Darren McFadden from the beginning of the season and the media loved Colt Brennan, but the facts are that Chase is better than Brennan and would probably have done the same as Tebow if he was at Florida. The only difference is that Chase had a better supporting cast with running backs and receivers."

Regardless of the controversy over the BCS system and Heisman voting, Mizzou fans can agree that the season as a whole excels the football program to a new level.

Senior Steven Glynias, who has always been a Mizzou fan and hopes to attend Mizzou next fall, believes that the team greatly surpassed and preseason expectations by being ranked number one in the country.

"This season was great for the recognition of Mizzou and the football program when it is often hard for smaller schools and programs to compete for recognition with the big-named schools in college football," Glynias said. "Not playing in a main BCS game is disappointing, but we want to prove we deserved it by winning big against Arkansas. It will also be fun seeing another Heisman candidate with McFadden in the bowl game."

However you look at the season, Mizzou was able to accomplish feats that the program has not seen in decades, putting the program into the light with big-name programs for the next few years. In the next couple of weeks, we will truly see Mizzou's resiliency as they face Arkansas in the Cotton Bowl, which could determine people's views on the season as a whole. ☺



Girls' soccer shapes up as they prepare for the regular season

[Jeoma Onyema]
Staff Reporter

Although the season has not started yet, the girls' soccer teams are conditioning harder in hopes of success in the upcoming season.

Head varsity coach Paul Hoelscher has been very active in the CHS soccer teams for several years. He coached the varsity boys' for four years and this will be his seventh year coaching the girls' varsity soccer team.

"Girls will have running sessions on Mondays, and open gym work outs on Wednesdays during January and February," Hoelscher said.

During the open gym sessions, girls in all four grades will be equally divided into teams based on experience. There will also be six on six games on Wednesday nights, and a training/running session eight weeks before the beginning of the season.

"This is not exclusively for the varsity team, rather, it is open to all girls at CHS interested in playing soccer," Hoelscher said.

Junior Varsity and Freshmen coach Eric Hamylak has been coaching in the girls' soccer program for six years. He also encourages girls interested in soccer to condition during the pre-season.

"Between now and the first day of official practices, I hope each of the girls, no matter their skill level, will be preparing themselves by staying in shape," Hamylak said. "Ideally, each player will play some sort of soccer on a regular basis during these winter months, or at least staying active so they can be ready for the beginning of the season."

Hamylak says that in some ways the most important part of the soccer season is the off-season.

"Players should stay in shape, work on their indi-

vidual ball skills, and maintain a healthy lifestyle," Hamylak said. "The more players train in the off-season, the less chance there is for early season injuries like shin splints and then coaches will be able to focus more on specific soccer skills and strategies, rather than conditioning."

Junior Tracy Einstein is a defender on the varsity team, and proves to be a good example of this practice; she and her sister Lisa condition during the pre-season while balancing everything else in their lives at the same time.

"I go running a lot," Einstein said. "Also, I go to running sessions with Mr. Hoelscher. During practice, being in good physical shape helps out the girls a lot, especially during game simulations."

According to Hoelscher, there is no direct instruction before the season begins.

"The goals of the pre-season programs are to increase the girls' cardio readiness for the season and just allow them to play pick up games in a fun environment," Hoelscher said. "Once the spring season begins, I hope to foster an environment in which the athletes care about each other and find a passion for the game."

However, Hamylak plans to assess the players once the season kicks off.

"At the beginning of every season, I evaluate the players on an individual and team basis and then try to improve on those skills," Hamylak said.

"At the freshmen and JV level we tend to focus on soccer fundamentals such as passing, receiving, shooting and gradually move into other skills such as defensive positioning and off-the-ball movement. As a team, I hope we develop into a strong, improved, hard-working group of soccer players."

As the season progresses, both coaches hope that each of the girls have fun, play competitive soccer, and achieve their individual goals. ☺

The goals of the pre-season programs are to increase the girls' cardio readiness for the season and just allow them to play quick pick-up games in a fun environment.

[Paul Hoelscher]
Soccer Coach



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RELAY STATE CUT

COACHES

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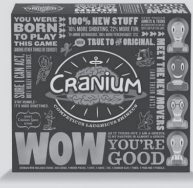

JILL O'SULLIVAN

KATELYN EUSTIS

Top 10 Holiday Gift Ideas

December can be a stressful month. With finals and holidays both rapidly approaching, it doesn't take much to go crazy. Here are some holiday gift ideas to make your life a little bit easier.

information gathered by Maddie McMahon

Product	Description	Availability	\$\$\$
	The iPod touch can do everything its cousin, the iPhone, can do, except make phone calls. Yet the iPhone is \$100 more than the 8GB iPod touch. Both pieces of technology can browse online using Safari, which means it is possible to purchase music online and listen to it right away. The technology is amazing, but the price is high, especially when compared to the 8GB iPod nano, which is an additional \$100 less than the iPod touch. Decisions, decisions. . .	Apple store Apple.com Other retailers	iPhone \$399 for 8GB iPod touch \$299 for 8GB; \$399 for 16GB iPod nano \$149 for 4GB; \$199 for 8GB
	As the temperature drops, scarves, gloves, hats, and mittens become necessities. These items can be personalized enough that they become acceptable, sincere gifts. Instead of buying combinations of these and then giving them out randomly, keep the person in mind, and try buying something he or she will actually like instead of just hoping that it's the thought that counts. For instance, pick a favorite color or a scarf with initials.	Target, Macy's, Dillards,	\$20 for a scarf and a hat or a scarf and gloves.
	Gift cards get a bad rap for being impersonal and uncaring. While it is true that a gift card the perfect gift, it's a safe bet that whoever gets it will be able to purchase what they actually want. However, if giving a gift card, try to personalize it as much as possible: if someone loves coffee, give them a Starbucks gift cards. Or if someone enjoys renting movies every weekend, a Blockbuster gift card is an extremely useful present.	Almost any store	All; usually should to be more than \$10.
	Wii by Nintendo enables up to four people to play with its wireless Wii Remotes. Wii comes with "Wii Sports," or tennis, golf, bowling, and baseball. Other games must be purchased separately. The video game system provides detailed graphics and Wi-Fi access. If you want to buy a gift to go with Wii, the popular Guitar Hero 3 is an additional \$189.98 at Amazon.	www.amazon.com	\$485 for a basic console with one remote, add-ons extra
	Hot chocolate kits are extremely inexpensive yet good gifts. They can be purchased in grocery stores for about \$14, or they can be hand-made. To make a hot chocolate kit for someone, purchase several sizes of clear plastic bags. Fill one bag with a chocolate powder and others with smaller items such as candy canes, caramel, marshmallows, and sprinkles. Hot chocolate kits are especially useful for making and giving gifts in bulk, to numerous friends or family.	Grocery store	\$10 to make multiple gifts \$14 for a purchased kit
	Digital cameras are a great way to capture holiday memories and avoid unflattering pictures. With a price range from about \$60 to \$175, the quality of digital cameras varies. However, fairly inexpensive digital cameras tend to work well as long as they have adequate lighting. If you feel so inclined, one of the most reliable cameras available is the Sony Cybershot DSCW55, which has 7.2 MP, which can cost as low as \$140.	www.amazon.com	As low as \$60 for a 5MP camera As high as \$175 for a 7MP camera
	Many people have read Khaled Hosseini's popular book The Kite Runner. If someone on your list hasn't read it, it would make a wonderful gift. However, many people already have, which would make A Thousand Splendid Suns, also by Hosseini, another good choice. The novel takes place in Afghanistan under the Soviet Union, and focuses on two women whose lives ultimately come together in a surprising way.	All bookstores or Amazon.com	\$14.27
	Perhaps it's not on many people's lists, but most people could use an alarm clock that runs around. The Clocky Mobile Alarm Clock, made by Nanda Home, does just that. This annoying, but admittedly useful present rolls onto the floor after someone hits the snooze button, and then it hides. Up to nine minutes later, it goes off, and will not stop beeping until it is found. Help someone get to finals on time!	www.amazon.com	\$49.95
	The Cranium Wow Game is the recently upgraded version of the classic board game, Cranium. Once players are divided into four teams, they can test each others' artistic, linguistic, performance, and trivia skills. Cranium Wow has an even wider range of cards and activities. This gift is fun at family gatherings over break, especially when there isn't enough snow on the ground for sledding.	www.amazon.com	\$23.79
	With the recent cupcake craze, a boxed-up, festively decorated cupcake can make a great gift. It's also inexpensive. At Jilly's Cupcake Bar, at 8509 Delmar Blvd., creatively made cupcakes cost about \$3.50. Also, the Cupcakery at 28 South Maryland has even more options. Just be sure to not get this gift too far in advance. Although it isn't a bad idea to place large orders as soon as possible.	Jilly's Cupcake Bar, the Cupcakery	\$3.50

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Photographers at CHS share passion for capturing a moment

[Maddie Harned]
Editor

Famous American photographer Aaron Siskind once said, "Photography is a way of feeling, of touching, of loving. What you have caught on film is captured forever."

The quote's universal message indeed applies to student photographers at CHS.

Whether they are self-taught or have taken years of lessons, the group of CHS students who call photography a passion are as diverse as their photos themselves.

Freshman Elle Jacobs has been pursuing photography for most of her life.

"I've been interested with photography since I was like four-years-old," Jacobs said. "I got a camera for my birthday and wanted to be a photographer."

For others, the interest develops a bit later in life.

"I first became interested in photography when I was 11 or 12 years old," senior Blair Klostermeier said. "I found an old Polaroid and was hooked."

Many students are introduced to photography as being a possible hobby through classes at school.

"I guess I always liked photos and such but I probably started really liking photography in 7th grade," junior Jenna Wonish said. "I took art class then and got a camera for Christmas. I took a computer art class where we did some things with photography in 9th grade and took photo 1 in 10th grade and now I am in photojournalism."

Another individual aspect of photography that sets each individual camera-holder apart is their favorite subject to photograph.

The uniquely artistic ability a photo has is the capacity to capture a moment and all the emotions and expression that come with. That interesting facet of photography commonly attracts people to want to pick up a camera.

"My favorite subject is people," Klostermeier said. "I love the ability to freeze emotion. Portraits have a way of speaking to a viewer that other photos don't. I also like shooting nature; trees, flowers, mountains, rivers, etcetera."

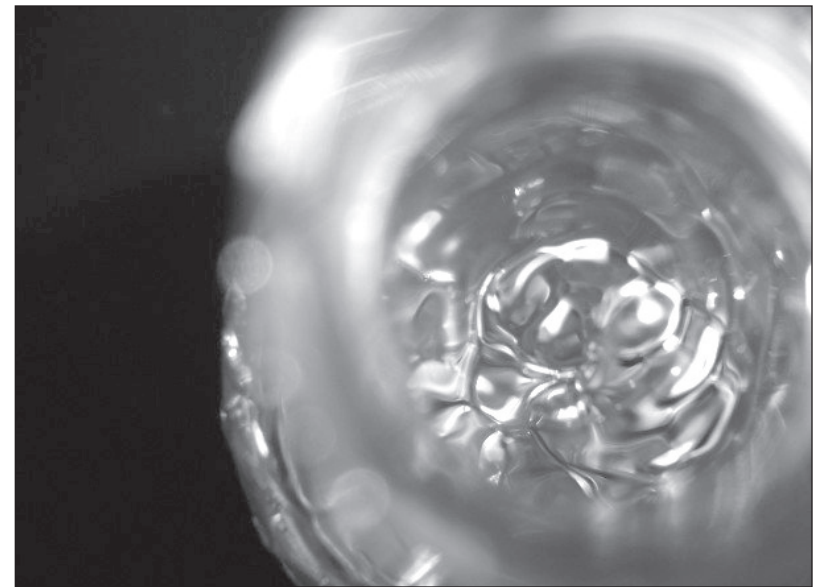
Junior Taylor Obata has similar photographic interests.

"I like to photograph people," Obata said. "I really like getting candid shots because posed shots don't have the same quality and feeling as something that's real. I also like photographing animals because they aren't as affected by the presence of a camera. Landscapes are great too because nature is gorgeous."

Some CHS photographers enjoy photography as a form of fine art, experimenting with colors and angles to capture a one of a kind shot.

"I like to photograph more art type photos that catch your eye or are from an interesting angle or something, so it looks nice and not ordinary," Wonish said.

Jacobs enjoys reading into seemingly ordinary situations to find hidden artistic mag-



Top two photos courtesy of freshman Elle Jacobs. Pictured is a close up water bottle (top right) and a night time skyline of Clayton taken from outside Jacob's residence (top left). Jacobs has been pursuing photography for most of her life. Bottom two photos courtesy of senior Blair Klostermeier. Klostermeier enjoys capturing natural elements such as trees, flowers and mountains on film. She also enjoys capturing a more human element in portraits.

nificance that she can capture in a picture.

"I have lots of fun taking photos of people, random objects around home and space," Jacobs said. "I like to capture the moment and the memories."

For the many photographers at CHS who use the camera as an artistic tool, finding inspiration is key to achieving a good shot.

"I am inspired to take pictures because they can be so affective in getting across a feeling or a message; sometimes more than written or spoken words," Obata said. "I also love to getting awesome shots and going back through them. It brings back memories and gives you a more vivid image of that memory."

"I am inspired by music, poetry, and nature, of course, especially the change in seasons," Klostermeier said.

While many CHS students use photography to portray an artistic message, there are also many other meanings behind their fondness of taking pictures.

A photographer can capture his or her own individual viewpoint on a subject through a photo, a power that can be both liberating and invigorating.

"My favorite aspect of photography is being able to show others the world in a new way," Klostermeier said.

Another enjoyable characteristic of photography is the ability to portray many different sentiments. Essentially, for many student and photographers, there are vast opportunities for originality when taking pictures.

"I guess my favorite thing about photography is

how you can take one shot and do a lot of different things with your camera to change it," Wonish said. "Or you can just getting different angles of different things."

With the advancement of technology comes even more creative possibilities to alter pictures to the photographer's pleasing.

Obata takes gladly utilizes her creativity as an able tool to change both the messages and moods in her pictures.

"My favorite aspect of photography is the fact that you can take the same subject and produce so many different photos," Obata said. "The room for creativity is huge."

As diverse as each CHS student photographer's own style may be, they all share a similar passion for capturing a great shot. With changing technology and lower prices than ever for digital cameras, the future of photography seems to only be getting brighter. ☺

I love the ability to freeze emotion. Portraits have a way of speaking to a viewer that other photos don't.

[Blair Klostermeier]
Senior

I like to photograph more art-type photos that catch your eye or are from an interesting angle.

[Jenna Wonish]
Junior

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Semester exams cause pressure, bewilderment

As finals approach, students seek studying tips and strategies for success



Seniors Joseph Speck (left) and Bryan Griesbaum (right) catch up on some studying during a free hour in the library. Students study a variety of ways but all agree that getting a lot of rest and starting early on studying helps when it comes to crunch time. Reviewing notes and doing practices sets also helps.

[Mary Blackwell]

Staff Reporter

Currently, finals loom over students, as a constant stressor. Exams approach quickly and if a student is caught off guard, finals can have a negative impact on a semester grade. However, with all the pressure, it's imperative to develop good study habits.

"Don't do it the night before," Learning Center teacher Nino LaMadrid said. "It depends on how many tests you have. I'd probably start studying at least three days before."

Science Department Chair Michael Howe suggests the students review the material covered in class.

There are many different study routines such as study groups, reading notes, and looking over old assignments.

"Do lots of practice problems," Howe said. "Although some students think that pretty much knowing the material is fine, if you don't take time to practice, you won't do as well."

Most teachers agree that students should fully understand old homework and tests before taking the final.

"For math students should look at their old tests and quizzes if they haven't thrown them away," LaMadrid said. "I think that applies to any class. Go through everything. Go through old homework because generally the questions that are asked are just variations of questions that have been asked before."

In addition, the teachers think that it's critical to know how to approach those mountains of notes. In short, students should be able to understand the overall material, not memorize minute details.

"Another thing that's important is to understand from a big picture perspective is what was discussed in the course," Howe said. "Step back and look at what

you've done. Look at the forest, then step in and look closely at the trees. What was the teacher trying to communicate to me when I took the notes?"

Teachers advise that all distractions be put away when studying, even though everyone has different study habits. Some distractions include all electronic devices

"I would not watch TV," LaMadrid said. "No TV, no movies, no iPods."

Too much studying may become overwhelming. On top of stress, students may become nervous before exams.

"It's important to study, but you shouldn't psyche yourself out," sophomore Jen Maylack said. "Unless you really bomb it, it doesn't make a huge difference in your grade."

Although studying is a huge part of passing a final exam, once the test is received, test-taking skills should be put into action.

"Studying is one thing but once you get the test it's another story," LaMadrid said. "If I need to memorize a bunch of formulas, the first thing I do when I get the paper is write the formulas from memory on the test itself."

Everyone fears running out of time, scribbling in guesses and filling in bubbles.

"I look at the test, see how many problems there are and how much time I should allow for each problem," LaMadrid said.

It may be tempting to start right in, but often time is needed to read directions and flip through the pages.

"Some students jump right into it and some students need to skim over the test," Howe said.

Wydown students may take a few practice finals towards the end of their middle school years, but most freshman take their first finals during freshman year.

"I think the hardest year for finals is when you're a freshman because you don't know what to expect," Maylack said.

"The teachers might give me study guides and I'll look over the tests," freshman Stephen Juan said. "We had finals at the school I used to go to, so I'm used to it."

To keep up grades, health must be kept up as well.

"If students are staying up late, getting no sleep, and studying for finals, it drags your immune system and your more likely to get sick," Registered Nurse Sharon Parker said. "It's hard to study when your not feeling well."

Poor health during finals week would most likely have a negative impact on grades.

Healthy eating and exercise are always encouraged but especially before taking exams because a healthy diet will give energy and exercise releases stress.

"It's important to get sleep and eat breakfast because you have enough brain power so at ten your not wiping out and not being able to focus," Parker said.

This year finals are from Wednesday, Dec. 19 to Friday, Dec. 21, a week that's sure to be one of the most intense and academically demanding. Along with a new school atmosphere, many students wear different attire.

"I'll wear pajama pants, a sweatshirt, tennis shoes and my hair in a ponytail so I can finish and get right back into bed," junior Asia Watkins said.

Another thing that's important is to understand from a big picture perspective when it was discussed in the course.

[Mike Howe]
Science Teacher

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Studying abroad a paramount experience

[Katherine Greenberg]

Staff Reporter

After studying day after day, year after year in traditional and comfortable classrooms and school settings, many students have learned that another option exists. Studying abroad allows students the opportunity to earn school credit, meet a whole new cross section of people, travel to far flung and interesting locations and gain a different perspective on life.

Some students recognize this as yet another way to enhance their resume for college, graduate study or increased their odds of landing the perfect out of school job.

For these reasons and many more, this cultural experience is sought after by many high school and college students.

Although the thought of studying abroad creates much excitement and enthusiasm, there are a few practical considerations to keep in mind.

"I wouldn't mind studying abroad during high school or in college; however I feel as though it might be easier in college as it is more common," sophomore Jen Maylack said. "I wish that there were options concerning studying abroad during high school because it is something I am very interested in, but I am afraid I would miss out on much of my high school experience," Maylack said. "I would definitely go only if I could go with a few of my friends to bring some of my home life with me."

Clayton high school has no programs in which students study abroad but several organizations outside of school are open to high school students.

"I started looking at many options to study abroad because I am very interested in going during high school," sophomore Peri Harlan said. "Most of the schooling programs look very nice and friendly. They are mostly for living with another family, however, I am more interested in the ones where the kids live in a dormitory because I personally would be a bit nervous to go to a foreign country and live with a family who I haven't ever met."

The study abroad experience can be expensive, adding additional costs for travel, tuition and living costs. Also, college scholarships may not apply to the tuition fees generated by the participating university. These cost concerns accompany the practical reality that participating students must give up their traditional dances, holidays and events. Yet, many college students are confident that the experience is well worth it.

"I would definitely recommend studying abroad," Brigham Young University junior Sarah Shumway says. Sarah went to Scotland with a program through Brigham Young University for five weeks. "In Scotland I took Scottish literature and history classes at Glasgow University," she said.

More and more students are looking into the option of studying abroad. According to an article in the Business Journal, "Study abroad grows as more students view it as crucial".

Saint Louis University sends 500 students each year, Washington University sends 570 students each year, both the University of Missouri-St. Louis and Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville each send about 200 students abroad each year, at both schools the number of students being sent abroad has nearly doubled in the past five years.

"I was looking for a great learning and cultural experience," Sarah said. "Lots of universities offer a variety of places to go, the important thing is to find a place that offers an education about something that you are interested in and fits into your major."

Study abroad programs are available to a variety of countries.

"I am studying to be a dietician and when I heard that there would be a trip that related to my major I was very interested" BYU sophomore Annalisa Shumway said. "I am preparing to go to Vienna, Austria for fifteen weeks and am going to take German before I go, in September."

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Harry Potter fans bereaved, satisfied at end of era

[Ellie Bullard]
Editor

There are few icons in American culture that are absolutely, universally known. Santa Claus, Abraham Lincoln, Elmo—these are some of the few “household names” that have earned that status.

Harry Potter, a fictional character created by J.K. Rowling, quickly rose to become one of these household names. Something about the boy, with his taped glasses and scrawny figure, appealed to an enormous number of people. Perhaps it was alluring that someone, supposedly a nobody, could be so special.

The core plot of the series is simple enough—a story of a boy, seemingly ordinary, who turns out to be a savior of sorts in the wizarding world. As he finds out about who he truly is, and who he must become, Harry Potter goes to school at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, a school for witches and wizards. There, he meets his two best friends—Ron and Hermione—who remain friends with him throughout the series. Rowling creates a world rich in detail, which is entertaining and humorous to read about. The series is decidedly quirky, with its strange, lovable characters and extraordinary new ideas. Azkaban, the wizarding jail, and Quidditch (which has its own entry in Wikipedia and particular spelling) are both Rowling’s creations, mere parts of the complex world that she created.

The Harry Potter Era began in 1997 and ended in 2007, a total of 10 years—easily covering someone’s childhood. Many kids—who now are teenagers—grew up with the books, and still cherish them. The books, for some, were a distraction from their lives, for others, a constant that helped them through troubling times. Rowling wrote the books in such a way that some even feel that they have found true friends in Harry, Ron and Hermione.

“The first time I read Harry Potter was when I was in first grade and then by the time the fifth book came out I was about the same age as all of the characters,” junior Caitlin Bladt said. “Because I’ve known them, so to speak, for so long, I feel like they’re members of

my family as well. The characters are just so familiar to me that I feel like I’m really friends with them, and finding that kind of comfort and familiarity in a book is great.”

Because they were such a prevalent component of many teenage lives, the books had a profound effect on today’s generation of teenagers. Mainly, the books increased the literacy of younger people. One of the Kids and Family Report, showed that 51 percent of the 5- to 17-year-olds that they surveyed said that they started to read books for fun after reading Harry Potter. Senior Kiara Corbetta remembers reading Harry Potter when in grade school. The books provided her the same encouragement to read that they did for so many others.

“I’ve been reading Harry Potter since I was in third grade,” Corbetta said. “I remember the first time I started reading the first book I really hated it. But then I tried re-reading it again a couple months later and just fell in love with it. I remember having reading competitions with Bryan Greisbaum, to see who could read the most pages in one night. I always won.” Besides literacy, other aspects of life have been changed for teens by the Harry Potter series.

“It [the series] has taught me to be more imaginative and creative with writing and artwork,” junior Jessica Morse said. Many children started reading the books even earlier than third grade.

“I have been reading Harry Potter since I was 9 years old, and I’ve been a huge fan ever since,” junior Josh Oberman said. Some teens remember exactly when they started reading the books.

“My mom used to teach 6th grade when I was in first grade so I would always sneak in her room and steal the big kid books from her and read them so I felt really smart,” Bladt said. “That’s how I found Harry Potter. I remember sitting at my kitchen table during breakfast reading the opening chapter and refusing to put it down. After that I was just hooked.”

The series has also provided, perhaps, a healthy connection between students and teenagers around the country. Freshman Leigh Ryffel considers the books to be a link between her friends because the same kinds of things are shared between the ‘muggle’ world and Rowling’s. “Reading books that talk about the same kinds of stuff that teenagers go through, whether it’s first dates, or peer pressure, or difficult teachers, that kind of stuff makes the books so much more real to read,” Ryffel said. “And that makes them fun and popular with any kids who’ve ever gone to school.”

In addition to identifying with the books and its characters, kids greatly enjoy the engaging world Rowling created.

“I really enjoy all the adventures the characters go through, the obstacles they overcome, and the friendships they make on the way,” Corbetta said. “The whole Harry Potter series is like a journey that the reader feels a part of.” Morse also feels that the series is very fun to read. “I enjoy all the constant action and excitement that the book,” Morse said. “There’s no dull moment. I also

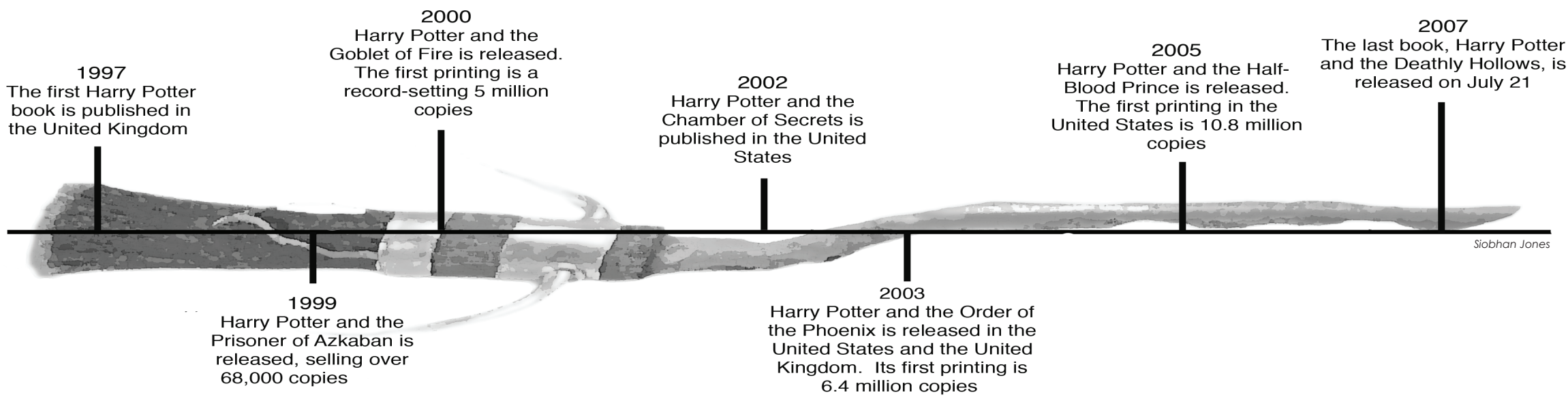
love how J.K. Rowling fits in the romance, it really adds another story to the book.” This summer brought the end of the Harry Potter Era. Approximately five months ago, the last book in the series, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, hit the shelves. “With the release of the last book, Harry Potter’s heyday has pretty much ended,” Oberman said. “However I’m sure because it became so popular that it will last for many more generations, kind of like the ‘Lord of The Rings,’ only maybe even bigger. Overall though, I don’t think Harry Potter will go down as a classic piece of literature so it will die out eventually. I do feel satisfied, though I think looking back. The Deathly Hallows was a very good ending to the series.”

Many students were generally satisfied by the ending of the series. “It’s kind of sad to know that there won’t be another book to read, and I think that the last book almost wrapped up too nicely,” Ryffel said. “But also, having finished all seven books, it’s satisfying.”

However, there were many for whom Harry Potter had been a large part of their life, and couldn’t fathom life without the books.

“I still feel very much in denial,” Bladt said. “I loved how the books ended (although I still kind of cringe whenever I hear the name Albus Severus) and I don’t think they could have been effectively ended any other way, yet I just can’t get it through my head that I know how they end, and there are no more of them coming. I’m sure a day will come when I realize this and break down sobbing wherever I am, but it hasn’t happened yet.” Unfortunately, it may seem that the Harry Potter Era is truly over. However, its uncommon effect will remain with those of today’s teenage generation for the rest of their days.

“It’s obviously very sad that there will be no more Harry Potter books written ever again, but the series will never die because the readers will always carry their memories of the books with them their whole lives,” Corbetta said.



Plagiarism proves serious and punishable crime at CHS

[Hannah Novak]
Staff Reporter

Delaware Senator Joe Biden, who is currently campaigning to become the Democrats’ next presidential candidate, learned the hard way that plagiarism doesn’t pay off. Twenty years ago, news surfaced that Biden committed plagiarism in 1965 in his first year at Syracuse University Law School. Further pressure was brought upon him when he was accused of using material from other politicians’ speeches. Biden had to withdraw from the 1988 Democratic presidential nominations. Many years after Biden had perpetrated the academic offense, he was still being suffering the consequences. In law school, Biden was called before academic authorities over the plagiarism charges, but was allowed to remain enrolled at Syracuse and eventually graduated from the school.

At the university level, schools hand out severe punishments for plagiarism. This may include a failing grade for the assignment or the course, and some universities may even go as far as expelling a student.

“At Washington University, they made us sign a Scholar’s pledge,” Steinger said. “It said that you would be expelled if you were caught plagiarizing.”

Why such harsh consequences? English teacher David Jenkins has a legitimate answer.

“I don’t want to see to a doctor who plagiarized all through school because he can’t help me with whatever illness I may have,” Jenkins said. “[High school] is where those habits start, and we, as teachers, need to nip it in the bud.”

Teachers at CHS believe plagiarism, a form of cheating, is a serious ethics offense, and it can lead to bigger problems.

“You can cheat once, and you might get away with it, but a pattern is created,” English teacher Susan Teson said. “Whether you cheat on a spouse or your taxes, you will eventually be caught, and you will pay.”

Plagiarism takes many different forms, but at Clayton High School, it is, according to the trusty student handbook in our planners, defined as the “taking of ideas or writings knowingly from another and presenting them as one’s own.” This is a pretty broad definition, but the duty to interpret this definition is bestowed upon the teachers.

“[The school] allows teacher leeway and discretion,” English teacher Sheri Steinger said.

Teachers understand that there is a gray area. “Plagiarism is often accidental,” Teson said. “Students make mistakes in not acknowledging ideas

or properly crediting quotes.”

The punishments of plagiarism at CHS can vary from teacher to teacher.

“Students usually have to meet with the principal and their parents are called,” history teacher Paul Hoelscher said. “In most situations, students receive a zero for the assignment.”

Teachers may also offer the student a chance to revise their work for reduced or half credit.

Most teachers agree that it is not very difficult to spot plagiarism. Clear signs include superior knowledge on the subject as if the writer is an expert on the specific topic.

“You know a student’s voice,” history teacher Donna Rogers-Beard said. “Students may use too advanced vocabulary, or the sentences are awkward as if they’ve been pieced together.”

To confirm their suspicions, teachers can easily type in a phrase or sentence into a search engine.

When a situation involving plagiarism does arise, a teacher may approach the student and discuss the situation with him or her in private.

“I haven’t had a student in 20 years who hasn’t immediately confessed,” Steinger said.

Teachers will often listen to a student’s explanation, but students will still have to suffer the consequences.

“[A situation of plagiarism] doesn’t put a black mark on the student, I am forgiving” Jenkins said.

Many teachers agree that plagiarism is a big problem across the country.

“There are Internet temptations and a plague of procrastination, which makes it easy to crumble and let one’s morals slide,” Jenkins said.

Rogers-Beard agrees that students often do not do the work using their maximum abilities and therefore do not show their maximum capabilities.

“Students may not be willing to do the work and research, or they do not trust their own words,” Rogers-Beard said.

Teachers use different techniques to combat possible plagiarism, for instance, assigning in-class essays.

“One way I circumvent a possible problem is to make assignments unique to my class; there are no generic questions,” Teson said. “This way there is no possibility a kid could download the answer off the internet.”

Steinger believes it is very important to educate students on plagiarism and pressing the importance of citing words and ideas.

“I don’t act like [plagiarism] is not a big deal,” Steinger said, “so students aren’t shocked by the consequences when they get to college.”

There are Internet temptations and a plague of procrastination, which makes it easy to crumble and let one’s morals slide.

[David Jenkins]
English teacher



The Saint Louis Art Museum plans to add 82,452 square feet of new galleries and public space, in addition to 128,979 square feet of below-grade parking.

St. Louis Art Museum plans expansion

[Taylor Stone]
Staff Reporter

The Board of Commissioners of the Saint Louis Art Museum announced on Nov. 5 a monumental expansion to be added to both its historical and active area.

Currently the museum is home to over 30,000 objects and several special exhibitions annually. It is a focal contributor to St. Louis’s culture and enrichment, pledging no charge for entrance fee, thus available to all citizens.

The St. Louis Art Museum’s original building was designed by celebrated American architect Cass Gilbert for the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition, more popularly known as The World’s Fair. It remains as the sole building from the Fair intended to be a permanent structure.

Art appraiser Andrew Walker said that the current architectural structure did not call for an expansion, but the need for more room.

“In large measure, the St. Louis Art Museum has given such a level of quality and importance that we outgrew the space that can feature the riches of the [art museum’s] collection,” Walker said.

Walker said that the museum needs more room so greatly that of the museum’s six works by Pablo Picasso, only one can be currently shown at a time. This is also true for the three paintings by Georgia O’Keeffe, as only one can be exhibited.

The process of planning and making this dream into a reality has been formulating since the fall of 2005. This time was spent working through the rigorous process of creating a schematic design. In Oct. 2008, the museum staff plans to break ground for the project, which

is projected to last 2 years. In the spring of 2011 the new building should be open for the public.

A campaign is in motion to raise the \$125 million dollars needed to pay for the new building, which is the largest capital campaign for a cultural institution in the history of St. Louis. About \$78 million dollars of that total is to go into the hard cost of the project—or the actual construction.

The project will feature substantial gallery space. Principally the new galleries will exhibit work that is post World War II, particularly with pieces ranging from 1945 to current years.

“This [ability to display more artwork] is instituted to demonstrate the tremendous cultural aspects of the museum,” Walker said.

The architect for the expansion project is British David Chipperfield who recently was awarded the Royal Institute of British Architects’ (RIBA) James Stirling Prize of 2007. This is the highest honor for architecture in England.

In the U.S., David Chipperfield is taking on such projects as the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center in Alaska and has completed such as the Des Moines Public Library in Iowa.

“Chipperfield is well known and not only has European clients, but also American clients,” Walker said.

His plan for the expansion includes an addition to the East and South of the original building. The Saint Louis Art Museum official website states that the design calls for 82,452 square feet of new galleries, public space and collections support. Around 128,979 square feet is supposed to be added for below-grade parking.

“The current period feels like a cultural renaissance, and the expansion will be a crowning jewel in that process,” Walker said.

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--the Globe editors

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Americans must cut back the waste to help our environment

"Waste is the eighth deadly sin."

In "Angela's Ashes," author Frank McCourt describes how every ounce of sugar, potatoes, or meat meant the difference between a full stomach and going to bed hungry. Reading about the deaths of McCourt's siblings from sickness and starvation makes the thought of throwing away a mushy apple that much more troublesome.

My involvement in Arboretum Team in middle school made me aware of how much of a 'Big Foot' I really am. Americans, on average, use 24 acres per person of the earth's resources. I calculated my ecological footprint - 25.2 acres. Italians use 9 acres, Pakistanis, 2 acres.

However, there are only 3.7 acres of ecologically productive land on the planet available for each human today. That would mean that if every person on Earth wanted to live like an American lifestyle, then we would need four Earths' worth of land.

I considered myself somewhat of an environmentalist, yet the numbers weren't adding up. Was there no point to carpooling? No reason to use cloth bags at the grocery store? No point to the compost heap in my backyard?

Determined to learn how to reduce our footprints, the Arboretum Team spent a cold, snowy February week at the Keystone Science School, studying the almost-extinct local lynx population, learning about changing weather patterns, and examining the effect of pollu-

tion on animal habitats. Our field instructor, Guff, proposed a challenge at dinner the first night. Instead of shoveling our leftover food in the garbage after each meal, we were told to scrape the leftovers into plastic buckets and to weigh our ORT (Our Remaining Tidbits).

Hamburgers for dinner. The cook brought me, the loan vegetarian, a plate stacked high with four spinach-colored slimy veggie burgers. No way could I eat four burgers, but the thirteen-year-old in me couldn't

EL CUATRO



[GILA HOFFMAN]

That would mean that if every person on Earth wanted to live like an American, then we would need four Earth's worth of land.

included.

The average American generates about 4.4 pounds of trash per day, the highest number for any country in the world. Less than one quarter of our trash is recycled, leaving the rest to populate the already overfilled landfills. While Americans only make up less than 5% of world population, we are producing 50% of the world's garbage.

It's hard to imagine how much trash we are truly producing, but when I think about the trash my family produces (and how often I take out the trash) and multiply it by 300 million other Americans, the result is staggering.

The environmental issues that we face today are complex. We have the scientific knowledge to solve environmental problems, but if we do not address the societal issues we will not be able to fully solve the problem. Poverty, lack of education, discrimination and consumerism are all part of the equation. Not until I

was older could I put the ORT experience in the proper perspective. Frank McCourt's description of the emotional component of hunger made me think about that dinner in Keystone. I came to understand that addressing the social and moral aspects of today's environmental issues are just as critical as the scientific initiatives that receive so much attention.



Prohibition of sagging pants sparks reaction

One of the features designed to entertain students in the CHS student planner is the "Loony Laws" section. Perusing through its pages, you may learn that in Galveston, Texas, you cannot land your airplane on the beach; that in Acworth, Georgia, all citizens must own a rake; and that in West Virginia, you CAN take road kill home for dinner.

Congratulations to Pine Lawn, Missouri, on a law the city's Board of Alderman passed in November that is certainly worthy of "Loony Laws" status: the prohibition of sagging.

Anyone caught in public wearing pants that expose the "skivvies" (translation: underwear) or any skin must pay a \$100 fine. The law also holds parents of the outrageously dressed responsible for their children's attire; they may face a \$500 fine or, incredibly, 90 days in jail.

Some consider the semi-recent sagging phenomenon to be indelicate, odd or off-putting, and the Globe staff does not contest this opinion. However, finding perpetrators of this fashion "crime" and threatening their parents with incarceration are absurdly harsh punishments that do not match the magnitude of the offense.

Saggers expose only under-layers of clothing, such as boxers. As long as they are not displaying their naked bodies, their style of dress should not be considered worthy of 90 days of jail time.

If someone takes their sagging too far, a verbal reprimand would remedy the situation more effectively and more appropriately than would a \$100 fine. Sagging is simply not an offense that calls for the penalties given it in Pine Lawn.

The Board of Alderman has chosen to walk a slippery slope with its anti-sagging law. For starters, the law is unenforceable. What one police officer considers to be sagging probably differs from what another thinks to be indecent.

How will the city's law enforcement agree on a universally accepted sagging standard? Exactly

how many inches of undergarment or skin must be peeking out over a person's pants to be worthy of a jail sentence? The idea that such a law will be effective in any way is ludicrous.

Sagging does not endanger the public well-being, disturb the peace of society or infringe on anyone's constitutional rights. Why, then, is this St. Louis-area legislative board writing laws that ban this style of dress?

The lawmakers and police enforcers of the ordinance cite "improving the image of Pine Lawn" as their justification for its creation, but this seems illogical.

Tattoos, body piercing, certain hairstyles and a whole

slew of alternative styles of dress may also be considered indecent or "disruptive," but these are not banned; ridiculous laws which prohibit citizens from such self-expression would rightly cause outrage should they be implemented in our free society.

The real cause for concern here is not the sagging style of wearing one's pants. Rather, it is that across the nation, city governments like that of Pine Lawn are wasting their time writing laws such as this one. Legislatures are squandering money, time and effort creating pants patrols when, in reality, they have much more pressing issues with which to concern themselves.

Why is something as trivial as sagging taking precedence over health care? Why is it more important than solving on-going racial tension, especially prevalent here in St. Louis?

What about public education? And America's losses overseas? And the increasingly

alarming manifestations of global climate change? Why, with all of these critically important problems to deal with, are our leaders focusing on sagging?

The Pine Lawn Board of Aldermen needs to rethink its priorities. If its members simply cannot stand to allow its citizens to expose a few inches of boxers every now and again, there is a simple way to stop them from doing so. Two words: free belts.

[Thumbs Up]



- Holidays
-Winter Break
-Snow
-End of Semester
-Gifts from friends

- One more Semester to go
-Cold Weather
-Final Exams
-Ice on your car
-Getting gifts for your friends
-People being sick



[Thumbs Down]

New sport encourages physical activity

America is the land of fast food and super-sized people; where switching the remote to the football game is the closest most get to physical activity. Yet despite America's enormous calorie consumption and chronic couch vegetation; sofa cushions can hope for better days to

That's because a sport originates (grudgingly) to the U.S.A. culminating in kind, encompassing physical and lunge into one first appearance, be described nasties; but

more. Parkour is to gymnastics as Calvinball is to tag. Because there are no standards of competition, there is absolute freedom. The "traceur," or practitioner of parkour, creates his own challenges and standards, according to his motive and skill.

Upon simplifying America's favorite sports, we discover just how uncreative and dull Americans can be. Sometimes we throw, sometimes kick. Sometimes we use our arms, sometimes our legs, and sometimes we use a stick. Sometimes we hit balls at other people; sometimes we just hit other people. Always there are points, rules, standards, minimums, maximums and penalties.

Not with parkour. The philosophy of the sport is existential in nature. Parkour defies definitions; it has no boundaries. Parkour represents ultimate freedom, the likes of which are unseen in today's world of televised professional sports. Its purpose is always and only what the traceur desires to gain from it. Some

traceurs prefer parkour to be the "art of escape" a la Casino Royale. Others just want to throw flips off of trees, park benches, and anything else suitable for acrobatic displays.

The philosophy of parkour is also daoist. No boundaries or courts constrict the field of play. The natural environment is the area of practice; fluctuations are welcome rather than avoided.

In Daoism, the sage seeks to raise awareness of his relation to nature. In parkour, the traceur raises his awareness of his environment. "Wu Wei," or effortless action, is a central concept of Daoism. In parkour, the traceur seeks to flow through his environment with minimum force and maximum efficiency. A Daoist would say: "Because he has no goal in mind, everything he does succeeds."

As a sage of parkour, the traceur imbibes the philosophy of the Dao. Referring to the sage: "They are pliable and supple, not rigid and resistive. They are like water, finding their own place, overcoming the hard and strong by suppleness." Parkour takes the Daoist "path" to its literal manifestation.

The sport of parkour is characterized by flux. No two environments or athletes are the same. There is no goal line or referee, only body and mind. America needs a sport for individuals, for artists, for athletes. Parkour is the sport for all. In the eternal words of Calvin: "Other kids' games are all such a bore! They've gotta have rules and they gotta keep score! Calvinball is better by far! It's never the same! It's always bizarre! You don't need

a team or a referee! You know that it's great, 'cause it's named after me!" Hit up http://www.americanparkour.com/ to check out articles, videos, and tutorials on parkour.



[Kevin Johnson]

Upon simplifying America's favorite sports, we discover just how uncreative and dull Americans can be.

The Globe is a public forum. As such, we welcome the voices of all. We accept letters to the editor provided they are signed; under very few circumstances will we publish an anonymous letter. Due to space constraints, we reserve the right to edit submitted material.

Corrections from the November issue

-On page 11, the article "Finding beauty at Banff Park" was written by Sneha Viswanathan, not Daniel Iken.

CYBER-BULLYING

How far is too far? And when exactly is the line crossed between just being mean and a criminal act? Students weigh in on the controversial Megan Meier case.

National laws should be passed in light of the Megan Meier case

Not one person has been charged with any misconduct a full year after the tragic death of Megan Meier, a 13-year-old girl from Dardenne Prairie, Missouri. After long battles with attention deficit disorder, obesity and depression, her childhood was not an easy one.

However, after moving schools, her life seemed to finally be taking a turn for the better. She was making a few new friends, and was much cheerier due to a new connection she made over the popular social website, MySpace, with Josh Evans, a home-schooled 16-year-old who claimed to have recently moved to the small Missouri town from Florida. He played the guitar and drums, and shared his own teenage problems with her, over which the two adolescents connected.

On Oct. 15, 2007, Evans turned on Meier after six weeks of close online companionship, telling her he didn't want to be her friend anymore, and that he heard "she wasn't very nice to her friends", calling her fat. The taunting culminated in the statement, "Everybody in O'Fallon knows how you are. You are a bad person and everybody hates you...The world would be a better place without you."

The next day, Meier was found dead after hanging herself in her closet.

Even more appalling than the death of the girl was the cause behind it. It was revealed to a school counselor soon after the tragedy that Josh Evans was a fake identity created by a student's mother to attempt to reveal what things Meier was saying about her own daughter after alleged cyber bullying from Megan. The mother, who was a family friend of the Meier family, along with her daughter and an employee all had access to the Josh Evans account, and monitored the communication between Meier and whom she believed was Evans.

Ron and Tina Meier, the parents of Megan, were very attentive, closely monitoring their child's Internet use. They knew her password, and didn't allow her to be online unless they were in the room with her. They often talked to her about Evans, and cautioned her to be careful with this boy they didn't even know. Megan told them when the abuse began, and they advised her to discontinue talking to him. But the false comments invented by the cruel brains behind this foul prank had more of an effect on her than Ron and Tina realized. Her suicide came as an unjust shock, but has made the Meiers spokespersons for the movements to have restrictions on Internet behavior.

After being told there was no clear legal opportunity for justice, no charges have been filed against anyone involved in response to the death of their daughter. In an attempt to bring forth justice, the Meier family has made efforts to put legislation in action to battle situations like these. As a result, Dardenne Prairie and nearby Florissant have passed laws against Internet misconduct with possible consequences amounting to 90 days in jail or a \$500 fine. That is, if the charge can be proven.

The question is: should these supposedly grown adults be held responsible for the death of the child they chose to torment over the Internet? According to their refusal to apologize or even admit that they were at all at fault, they don't believe so. The refusal to take responsibility for what happened has not been an appropriate response whatsoever. As adults, the masterminds behind Josh Evans should have known better than to cause such emotional distress to an already emotionally unstable young girl. The malicious tormenting of the girl, which ultimately resulted in her death, is not only unfair but also criminal. Molestation, through any medium should be treated the same. Just as calling the girl names and demeaning her in person would be grounds for charges of assault, the same should go for comparable actions over the Internet.

Are the current Internet conduct laws sufficient to prevent a disaster such as this from ever happening? Probably not, but at least it's a start. Not only should the people responsible for the death of Megan be prosecuted for what they did on the state level, but national laws should be passed to regulate behavior on the Internet.

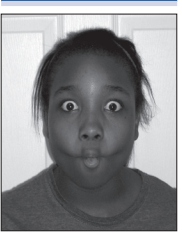
Megan Meier's case is only the latest. Within the last ten years numerous other cases such as these have been reported, ending in a teenage death without any effective measures being taken to prevent reoccurrences. With this disturbing trend on the rise, we can't just sit idly by. Online harassment is a situation very difficult to prove, thus making leaders in our government hesitant to take serious action against situations like this. Nevertheless, difficulty cannot be an excuse for inaction. The Internet is a new commodity around the world changing fundamental dynamics of our modern society. It is the government's responsibility to protect its citizens, and with this new threat coming over the web causing heartbreaking deaths of numerous innocent teens at an astonishing rate, there is no time to lose.

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[Abby Eisenberg]

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[Fontasha Powell]

Meier case exemplifies need for cultural wake-up call

Indubitably, at one instant in time or another, everyone has been involved in an online battle. Although admittedly childish, one cannot help but feel slightly satisfied as one feverishly pounds insults onto the computer screen, which serves as a means of assault between oneself and alleged enemy. The satisfactory aspect of an online barrier is that it grants the freedom of expressing ideas that are usually either repressed or subdued. Personally, I've never heard of an online argument that has gotten too chaotic. Usually, a cyber fight is between two immature students, settled within a week, and results in no permanent damage. However, what happens when blog lines are crossed and the virtual insults become unending, *by adults*?

When I first heard about the Megan Meier case, I felt cheerless. I thought that it was awful that a teenage girl would commit suicide because of mean things that a boy said to her online. However, as I learned more, my gloom quickly transformed to fury and then finally, to pure disgust. I was thoroughly appalled at the fact that a grown woman would pose as a teenage boy on MySpace in order to harass a depressed pre-teen girl.

Although the accused woman, Lori Drew, said that she only harassed Meier to prove a point, there exists no logical excuse for her behavior. If Drew simply wished to teach a lesson, it was her role as an adult to calmly mediate the conflict, not add fuel to the fire.

I equate Drew's actions with that of a child predator because that is exactly what she is.

Drew preyed on Meier's weaknesses and insecurities in order to fulfill her own selfish desires. Almost single-handedly, Drew's thoughtless comments caused an innocent child to ruthlessly

hang herself in a closet, the day before her fourteenth birthday.

Drew is an imbecile and ought to be ashamed of herself for living. How would Drew like it if she went to comfort her *own* daughter, only to be greeted by a lifeless body hanging limply from a cord?

However, this example can transcend the boundaries of the Meier case and be applied to the issues concerning the roles of adults that currently plague American society.

Especially lately, it seems as if adults have forgotten the ethical commitments that they have concerning the welfare of children. Cases such as sexual student-teacher relationships along with those of careless adults leaving children on buses or locked in cars are becoming much more prevalent. Inherently, every adult that a child encounters significantly impacts that child's life. Each adult has a moral obligation to what is referred to as the 4R's in child psychology; reading, responsibility, respect and resolution. When an adult does not live up to these expectations, not only do they discourage child development, but ultimately they also harm the child. As a result of improper nurture, that child will forever tote around that specific negative influence on his/her heart onto adulthood. Although it is up to each adult whether or not he/she plays a negative or positive role, a child will never forget the way one makes him/her feel.

In closing, although the death of Megan Meier is depressing, we can't forget the lesson that pertains to the circumstances of her case. Meier's death was a wake-up call to our society to remind citizens with reference to the role of adults. As illustrated in the previous assertions, there exists no excusable reason as to why an adult should *ever* intentionally hurt a child.

...although the death of Megan Meier is depressing, we can't forget the lesson...[her] death was a wake-up call to our society.

Drew cannot be found guilty as comments were not libelous

According to a recent survey conducted by Cox Communications, 71 percent of teenagers reported receiving messages from someone they don't know. Megan Meier was just one teen who received messages from a stranger. However, these messages ultimately led to her death.

Meier hanged herself on Oct. 16, 2006, after being dumped by "Josh Evans," a fictitious boy created by an 18-year-old employee of Lori Drew, the mother of Meier's former friend, in order to find out what Meier was saying about her daughter.

This incident has gained national press coverage in the year since Meier's suicide, enraging masses of people, leading many to question if the laws involving Internet harassment, specifically online libel, are strong enough.

Over a year later Drew has not been charged with any crime, including libel. And despite public opinion, she technically did not commit that offense.

Libel is defined as a false and malicious published statement that damages someone's reputation.

While the consequences of Drew's actions most likely were far graver than she expected, she did not publish any statements that could be tried in court as being libelous, including the few wall posts made on Meier's page that were mean spirited.

Meier and "Josh" almost exclusively communicated through online messages on the social networking website MySpace. While the final messages sent to Meier may have been slanderous, they were not publicly posted. Even if the statements were publicly posted for all to see, calling someone a mean name is not a crime. It is a state-

ment of opinion. Hypothetically, even if the vast majority of Meier's associates read what Drew sent to her, the statements were not defamatory enough to be proven to possibly induce enough damage to Meier's reputation to be considered libel.

Granted, the content of some of the messages Drew sent to Meier was despicable and cruel, but not criminal. And what Drew did to Meier is a disgusting example of what can happen when technology is abused. I wish Drew could receive some sort of criminal punishment, and most people would probably agree with me.

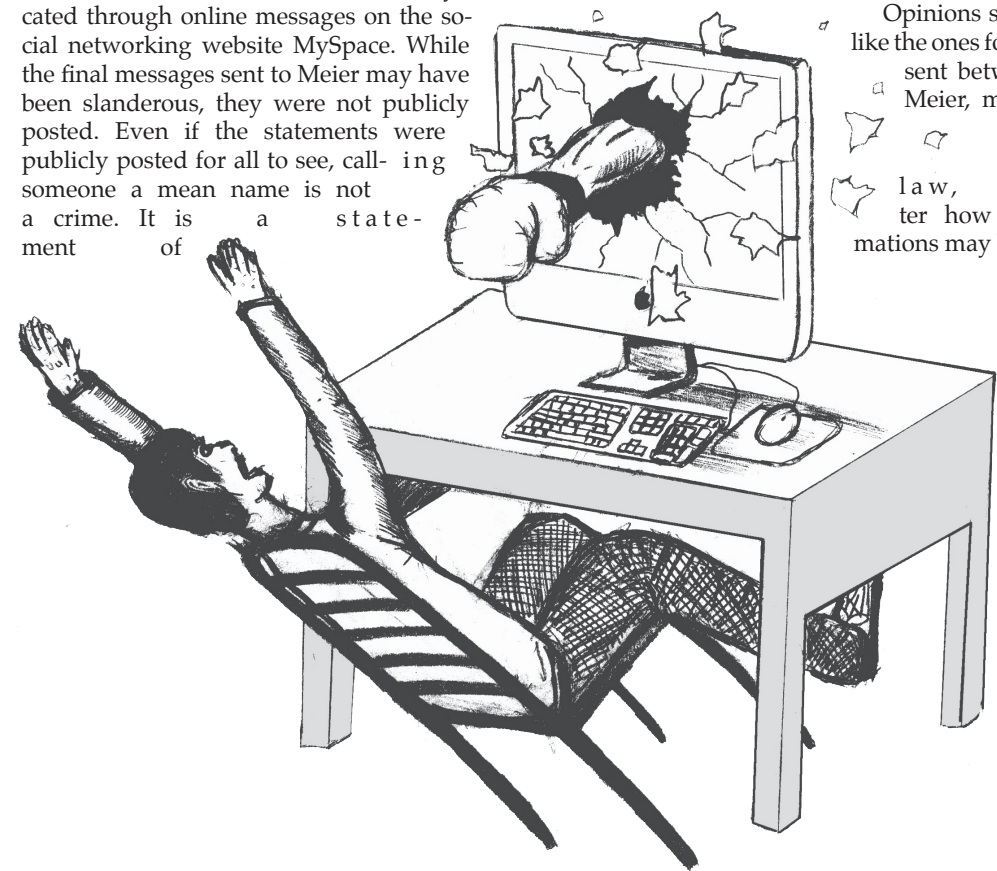
Nevertheless, Drew cannot be charged with libel. She did not do significant damage to Meier's reputation. The majority of the callous remarks Drew knowingly sent to Meier were private messages only Drew could read. Even the rude remarks that were publicly posted on Meier's MySpace wall could be concluded as opinions, not severe enough statements to be considered libelous.

If Internet libel laws were made stronger and with more clear-cut guidelines, the effect could easily get out of control. If someone posted that another person was a "slut" or "bitch" or even just plain mean, similar to what Drew posing as "Josh" sent to and later posted about Meier, it frankly would not be just to punish the person who posted in a court of law.

Opinions shared in private, like the ones found in messages sent between "Josh" and Meier, must be protected under law, no matter how cruel the estimations may be.



[Madeline Harned]



Tom Maxim

Q & A

Local lawyer Carrie Constantin speaks about the legal implications of the Megan Meier case. Constantin also explains the current laws against cyber-bullying.

Q: Are there currently any laws against cyber-bullying?

A: There are currently two federal laws that have the potential to cover cyber-bullying. Title 18 United States Code 2261A (Stalking) covers the use of the mail or a facility of interstate commerce to with the intent to kill, injure, harass or intimidate or cause substantial emotional distress to a person in another state. The other federal law is Title 47 USC 223 (Obscene or harassing communications) which prohibits the use of a telecommunications device (which could include the Internet) to transmit any communication which is obscene or child pornography with the intent to annoy, abuse, threaten or harass another person. The state law of harassment (565.090) may also cover cyber-bullying. The state law prohibits communicating in writing a threat to commit a felony or using coarse language offensive to one of average sensibility.

Q: Why was no legal action taken against the Drew family?

A: None of these laws covered the actions in the Megan Meier case because:
1) as to 18 USC 2261A - they were not in different states
2) as to 47 USC 223 - there was not an obscene communication
3) as to the Missouri Revised Statute 565.090 - there was no threat to commit a felony or use of coarse language.

Q: In light of the Meier case, do you believe more laws against cyber-bullying should or even could be passed?

A: I believe that the current laws adequately cover criminal harassment and cyber-bullying. I believe that broader laws are potentially unconstitutional because they violate the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech. In other words, an attempt to create a crime to prevent people from saying unkind things either in person or over the Internet would be found to be too broad to put people on notice as to which conduct is prohibited.



Kelly poses with friends Dec. 2006 at the Brentwood ice rink. This is one of her many new memories.

Reflection on Beatles song inspires new outlook on memories, friendships

Ever since I watched that episode of “The Wonder Years” where Winnie and Kevin are swinging on the swings of the kiddie park after the funeral of Winnie’s brother, I have had an indescribable connection with the poignant Beatles song fading out with the background: “In My Life.”

I’m not sure why, as a naive kid, the lyrics, “There are places I remember/All my life though some have changed/Some forever, not for better/Some have gone and some remain/All these places have their moments/With lovers and friends I still can recall/Some are dead and some are living/In my life I’ve loved them all,” resounded within me, but they did.

Those Beatles lyrics have stuck with me since the second grade, and I’m finally beginning to see why.

For quite some time I’ve been a girl of introspection. I love that feeling when you come upon a photograph from years past, with people you had all but forgotten but suddenly remember. I love that feeling when you turn the dial on the radio and a song from elementary school comes blaring on and suddenly, out of nowhere, you’re screaming every word at the top of your lungs. I love that glow of a remembering feeling; the “Yeah, I’m going to remember this forever!” moments that make life worthwhile.

Perhaps this song verifies the very thing about memories that I cannot: though times, places, ages change, you will always love the memory. And the memory, no matter how far you are from it (or how far it is from you) will always be there to bring comfort.

I am fortunate because, in my life, I have had little chance to brush with the feeling of loss. Unlike Winnie, I have had no brothers killed at war, no parents taken away from me, no friends disappear from walking the realms of this earth.

Growing up, I guess I never understood how important a memory could be because I had never known that kind of loss.

My parents were divorced, yes, but they loved me dearly, and I saw them everyday. Part of my family lived in town, so I saw them often, and the other part I got to see quite a bit. I had friends that moved away in elementary school, yes, but I had never really depended on them so much I couldn’t stand for them to be far.

But, at the end of sophomore year, when my two best friends moved away, far away, I began to understand how dire memory was to my existence.

These girls were my lodestones as I grew up and into high school, and I demanded more of them than I think most people do of their families, probably because they were like my family. For some reason, as I grew older, it became harder and harder to talk to my parents about what was going on in my life. I felt like I was alone between them, in the middle. And I think, subconsciously, I wanted a sister to be able to share what it felt like to be there. Instead of coming upon friendships as friendships, I came upon them as people to share everything with.

I found these sisters during middle school, and over the course of time, we began to develop history. History turned into events, events into jokes, jokes into inside jokes, inside jokes into memories, memories into me.

By the time high school started I knew that no matter what, they would always be there for me, I could always tell them exactly what I was thinking, I could be entirely truthful without fear of judgment, and they would drop anything to come to my aid when I was in times of trouble.

Think about it: How many people in your life would you willingly trust with your life if that need ever came about?

I have never been wrong about them. With that kind dependency comes a kind of an energy, an almost telepathy that produces even more strength. With a single glance, an entire stream of thoughts can be heard. With a single word, a thousand

connections. With one connection, a million stories.

And truthfully, I never thought they wouldn’t be right there, 24/7. On some days, I still can’t believe they aren’t.

And it hurt, more than anything in the world for me, to know that because of circumstances beyond our control, we couldn’t be the way we once were.

Of course, when we see each other, it’s like no time has passed. When we talk on the phone it’s as if we live right next door to each other. But it’s not the same. How could it be?

It wasn’t the same just because I felt cheated that I couldn’t ever feel as *me* as I did around them all the time.

Sometimes, in the dead of night or smack dab in the middle of the day, it hit me: part of me was (and is) gone with them, part of me was not whole. And it hurt. And it still hurts to some extent.

I don’t think I fully realized, after sophomore year when all the brown boxes were packed and finally goodbye hugs distributed, what a toll their departure would take on me. I was sad, yes; I cried into my parents’ shoulders, yes. But, deep inside, I truly didn’t know how to confront how bad I really felt simply because I didn’t have them to help me feel it.

I was torn, it felt like, because I couldn’t share this huge pain in my life with them because I wasn’t about to try and make them feel guilty for things they couldn’t control. I really did not know who to cry to. Instead, I cried to myself and I dealt with it myself, putting on a happy face and making jokes about how much it sucked they had to move *cold* places. It was pretty pathetic actually. As much as I laud myself on being an independent spirit, at that time, I surely was not.

At that point I did not have memories; I lived *within* my memories. All I wanted was to be back in the past. I was not happy. I had not learned the true power of memory yet.

I lived for the times my friends would come back to visit me, and in some respects I still do, but at the time I wasn’t living in the real world.

But, as life is often apt to do, our circumstances change.

People say we put up barriers against others to see who cares enough to pull them down. How true it is. You want barriers? I put them up, layer upon layer.

Crazily enough, to me, it was the people I hadn’t really paused to realize cared about me, who pulled them down.

It was the people I had griped to, sitting next to me in classes I hated, the people I said hi to in the hallways, the people who I sat with in the library nonchalantly, the people I did things with but never really got to know, the people of my history...it was these people who became my acquaintances, my friends, my best friends and these people who taught me I needed to learn to be myself, myself.

It took a little while to get it right, I had to learn how to reach out to others just as much as they were reaching out to me.

Simple things like watching “Lord of the Rings” the weekend before school started, sitting next to me at the computer going crazy, text messaging over blowing off school projects to watch old school Disney animations, watching really bad karate films while sitting in circles playing ‘consequences,’ running around lopsidedly ice skating, or making insanely disgusting strawberry rhubarb pie, suddenly turned into the memories I never thought I could make again.

These friends taught me that you shouldn’t live *in* memory because it inhibits you from ever being able to make new ones.

I find myself better friends with people I never would have imagined...and I kind of like that element of surprise.

So now comes the part where I get a bit cliché but, hey, what did you expect if you’ve read this far?

Though I’ll never lose affection for my best friends who moved away, I am now able to see the world as something new, with new friends and best friends, and the opportunities for even more, different, and unique memories

“In my life, I loved them all.”

the last
word

memory
[kelly moffitt]

There are places I remember all my life, though some have changed, some forever, not for better, some have gone and some remain. All these places had their moments, with lovers and friends I still can recall, some are dead and some are living, in my life I’ve loved them all.

-The Beatles-



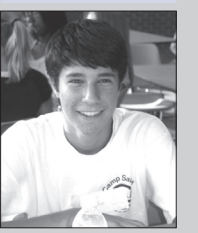
How to make each day count...

In the midst of hectic schedules, final exams and gift-giving for the holidays, it is easy to overlook the fact that almost 6,000 days have passed in a high school student’s life.

With New Year’s around the corner, people are brainstorming multiple resolutions, which they will probably never follow through with. Now is the time to really make a difference in your own life as well as the lives of others.

In times like this it is important to make each and every day count. People tend to let their lives slip by not realizing what they missed.

I have compiled what I think are the top ten things a stressed out high school student can do to make every day count.



[Aaron Prais]

1 SMILE
Trust me; your parents didn’t spend \$2000 on nothing. Your teeth rock, and you know it, so flash those babies every once and a while! Most high school students have had the privilege of straightening, polishing, and dotting on their 32 pieces of flawlessly enameled bling to a point which exceeds 90 percent of the earth’s population. So the next time you see Bucktooth Bertha in the hall, give her a taste of those pearly whites, and maybe she too will be inspired to strap on the metal, and get the big bucks flowing.

2 TRY YOUR HARDEST
Really, try to do the best that you can in school. But, of course, this can only be accomplished with not one, but four grande mocha lattes from Starbucks. If you really want to succeed, you’re going to have to stay up practically all night, and make coffee your true love. With a good 100 fluid ounces of Starbucks coffee in your bloodstream, you are on the verge of being invincible, and you can conquer all the AP classes you desire.

3 GIVE SOMEONE A HAND
Remember that one girl who passed out and had to be rushed to the emergency room, not because of an anxiety attack, but rather for texting her friends too much. Her fingers just couldn’t take it anymore, pressing the minuscule buttons over and over again. Next time you run into a person with a permanently attached cell phone to their hand or ear, give them a hand, text their friend yourself. Don’t stand on the outside of the circle; get in there, so that they too don’t have to suffer such consequences.

4 COMPLIMENT SOMEONE
Focus on a person’s true beauty when trying to compliment them: their hair. Have you ever been the person who got a hair cut, but no one noticed at all? It’s no fun. There were those days when your parents would strap a bowl to your head, and then cut with a regular pair of scissors. Your hair would be at a strange angle for the next month, until the bowl was back, and you would have been dubbed Hideous Hair Helga. Thank God things aren’t like that in high school, or else Hideous Hair Helga and Bucktooth Bertha would be filling the halls. That’s why, when someone with radiantly attractive hair walks by, you should really compliment them, since they obviously don’t use the bowl.

5 APOLOGIZE TO SOMEONE
If you had to walk an extra 10 feet to get to school, you would be mad. So, don’t steal other people’s parking spaces. If you perchance accidentally, completely by accident, take another fellow student’s parking space, a nice apology, preferably in the form of a Starbucks coffee, of course, would be sufficient to make up for the extra calories the other person burned. Life can be really difficult sometimes, and you’d be surprised at how far an apology can really take someone; close to 10 feet.

6 BE THANKFUL FOR WHAT YOU HAVE
This isn’t a cheesy excuse to pretend you love your parents. Everyone can see right through “I love you, mom and dad, with all my heart”. And, this isn’t about iPods or cell phones, or even Starbucks gift cards. This is about even more; where you live. St. Louis has everything a person could want: the Mississippi River, the Arch, Busch Stadium, and Forest Park.

7 EXPRESS YOURSELF, STAND OUT
Don’t forget about yourself. You are obviously the most important person in your life. Remember the main goal in life; getting into a college your parents love. Because, only with college can you get a career and then a family, of course everyone knows that. Try to be the absurd person who asks every single obnoxious question at a college meeting. College interviews are also important, so that you can get some one-on-one question time with an alumnus of your “parent’s” favorite school.

8 REFLECT ABOUT YOUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE
This doesn’t mean to do a dorky diary every single night. And please, don’t record all of your dreams, that’s just plain creepy. Just add up your total spendings for the day: coffee, cell phone minutes, lunch, texts, an afternoon snack and soda from the vending machine, coffee and more cell phone minutes. Assess this data, and then try to lower your expenses for the next day; perhaps only one coffee is really necessary.

9 EAT DINNER AROUND THE FAMILY TABLE
You will really come to your senses when you eat dinner with your family, rather than out with your friends. Who knew that your younger sister could burp louder and longer than you could? And you know that spinach will help give you those big strong muscles you need in life. Come on, if Popeye ate spinach, you can too. And the dinner table poses a perfect time to have those one-on-one father or mother to child “talks.” Who would want to miss out on one of those discussions?

10 GET SOME FRESH AIR
We have to breathe. It’s as simple as that.

Student celebrates Christmukkah

The holiday season is one of extended family gatherings, cozy fireplaces, hot cocoa, and yes, presents. Some celebrate Christmas, others Hanukkah, and some Kwanza.

I, however, celebrate Christmukkah.

My mom was raised Jewish and my dad Christian, resulting in my multi-faith upbringing. As a child, I lit the menorah and sang a Hebrew prayer for eight nights, then switched gears to write letters to Santa Claus and leave carrots and cookies for him and his reindeer after their exhausting trip from the North Pole.

My holidays have always been fortunate, and I guess that receiving twice as many presents doesn’t hurt, but despite the gifts, warm drinks, and fresh snow of this time of year, I tend to feel a bit short-changed when it comes to being Jewish.

I can’t claim to be a devout Jew, a religious Christian, or a pious follower of any other faith for that matter, but I think that this level ground enables me to observe the holidays from a different perspective. And this view, despite how much I enjoy singing along to Christmas songs, baking Christmas

cookies, and that rush of euphoria on Christmas morning, makes me feel like less of a Jew around the holidays.

Yes, Christians make up about one third of the world’s population while Jews account for less than one percent. But for those 14 million Jews, the overpowering impact of Christmas on modern society can be a little threatening.

Immediately after Thanksgiving, I mean literally the day after, Christmas shoppers flock to the shopping malls in herds of feisty impatience. In St. Louis, the FM radio station 102.5 begins playing its seemingly endless selection of Christmas songs, carols, and jingles. Neighbors adorn their houses with holly wreaths, shining lights, and methodically decorated Christmas trees.

It’s easy to get caught in the hype of Christmas – it seems as though just about everyone in the world offers a jolly “Merry Christmas” as you pass by. And so--throughout the month of endless Christmas shopping, caroling, baking, and decorating--Hanukkah is forgotten.

Maybe it’s the fact that Hanukkah falls on a different day each year because it is in accordance with the Jewish calendar. Or

maybe it’s that there aren’t as many festive decorations for retailers to sell to the masses, but Hanukkah seems to come and go each year with little care from the populace.

Even schools make sure that students are through with school and have settled into the relaxed state of winter break before Christmas Eve. But what of the Jewish kids, who are forced to study for finals and stress about semester grades throughout the eight days of the Festival of Lights?

Why do I not hear Hanukkah music streaming through the airwaves this month? Just as there are “Toy Land” and “White Christmas”, so should there be “Dreidle, Dreidle, Dreidle” and “Hanukkah, oh Hanukkah” playing on car stereos, in shopping centers, and on television commercials.

Not to say that Hanukkah is the better holiday or Judaism the better religion – both are extremely significant and profound holidays in their respective religions – but I do believe that the playing field needs to be a bit more level, just to give Hanukkah a chance to take on its more popular counterpart.

And so, to quote Adam Sandler, the next time Hanukkah comes around, “Put on your yarmulke, here comes Hanukkah, so much funukkah, to celebrate Hanukkah...”



[Leah Eby]

Annapolis peace conference fails to resolve key issues in Israeli-Palestinian conflict

As the end of November came to a close, the small capital of Maryland was buzzing with internationals. President Bush decided to call a conference to discuss a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Annapolis conference is a repeat of the 1993 Oslo Accords, talking and doing nothing. I like to compare the Annapolis conference to the movie *The Breakfast Club*, in which a bunch of people (countries) sit around and talk. The nations that came to the conference did not come to find a solution to a peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians, but really came to take a piece of Israel.

Some countries, like Syria decided to come to see if they could regain lost territory from the 6-day war in 1967. The Syrian delegates decided to appear at the conference, at the last minute, when they heard that the Golan Heights would be on the table for discussion.

Considering land and peace, the land for peace deal was, and still is, an utter and complete failure. The Gaza strip is a perfect example. Since Israel returned Gaza in August of 2005, over 1700 rockets have fallen into Israel from the strip and this is only the number of rockets recorded up to late 2006. Kassam rockets coming from Gaza have constantly hit the Israeli town of Sderot that borders Gaza. The population of originally 24,000 has been reduced to less than half and 33 percent of Sderot's children suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder because of the terror of the falling rockets.

The land for peace deal is a failure, the Oslo accords were a failure, just like the Annapolis conference is a failure.

The Annapolis conference addressed five main issues: Jerusalem, Palestinian refugees, borders, security and water. These five are the most essential and prime issues concerning the fate of Jerusalem and the Palestinian refugees.

The Palestinian refugee condition came into being after the 1947-48 Israeli War of Independence. Palestinians either fled or were driven out during the war of 1947-48, and simultaneously Jews in Arab lands were kicked out. The Jews found refuge in Israel and the Palestinians in neighboring Arab countries.

Bernard Lewis, a professor at Princeton University, addresses this issue in an article he wrote for the Wall Street Journal on November 26, 2007. He states that it was an exchange of populations. He said it also occurred several other times, such as when Pakistan and India were split, Hindus fled to India and Muslims to Pakistan.

The same exchange of populations happened when the Soviet Union annexed part of Poland and gave the



The room in which the Annapolis Conference was held is pictured above. It was held at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, Nov. 27. President Bush declared that the time is right to relaunch Mideast peace talks to create a Palestinian state.

Poles a slice of Germany, so Poles fled from the Soviet Union and the Germans fled into Germany.

"The Poles and the Germans, the Hindus and the Muslims, the Jewish refugees from Arab lands, all were resettled in their new homes and accorded the normal rights of citizenship," Lewis said. "It was remarkably done without international aid. The one exception was the Palestinian Arabs in neighboring Arab countries."

The Arab neighbors rejected the Palestinians. Fourth or fifth generation Palestinians in Syria or Iraq remain stateless.

If they came to the United States or Britain, they would become citizens in a few years. Jordan grants limited citizenship, but the refugees have to stay in the refugee camps. This issue is not for Israel; it is a question for the Arab nations to figure out. Why would they shut out their brethren?

The issue of Jerusalem is a deep, religious question. What concessions do the Israelis have to make? They gave up Gaza; no new settlements have been built late-

ly. On the Palestinian side, terrorism and violence continue. The Muslim claim to Jerusalem as the third holiest site took off during the British mandate of Palestine. In medieval times, during the crusades and even up to the decline of the Ottoman Empire, Jerusalem was not entirely important to the Muslims- it was in the backseat. The Jewish claim to Jerusalem is thousands of years old. Jerusalem is mentioned in the Torah 823 times. It is not mentioned once in the Qur'an.

While Jerusalem was under Jordanian rule from 1948-67, only Muslims were allowed to pray there. Currently as Jerusalem has been under Israeli control, everybody has been able to pray there. Even if Jerusalem was to be turned over, how can the Palestinians be trusted to secure and care for Jewish holy sites? Would it be the same incident as with Joseph's tomb, where the tomb was desecrated and destroyed when put into Palestinian hands? Muslim sites have been kept intact under Israeli control. The Christians have an undivided Rome, and the Muslims have Mecca and Medina undivided. Why can't the Jews have their holiest site, Jerusalem, undivided? ☹

Holiday rules to live by...

As the holidays approach, we are reminded of snow, the smell of cinnamon and the migraine you get from explaining to your mother for the fourteenth time, that while you like the sweater she picked up from the young miss department at Macy's, it is not your style. In the spirit of the holidays, I have taken it upon myself to do a little community service. I have compiled a list of family holiday survival rules. For all of you out there who have had their cheeks pinched one too many times, this list is for you.

1. In response to being asked the inevitable question, "Where are you applying to college?" Repeat after me: Princeton, Harvard and Yale.
2. If you make a joke and no one laughs, it's probably not funny. DON'T keep telling it.
3. When someone asks who is willing to play with the children, suddenly contract food poisoning and head straight towards the bathroom.
4. If you have a relative with a birthday in December, stay clear of the phrase: "You don't really need two gifts this year, do you?"
5. Either hide all of your food or label each container with your name as well as marking the point of which you last drank or ate.
6. Designate one person who will call you at eleven with an "emergency" that requires you to kick that last family member out, close all the doors and turn off all the lights.
7. When your mother announces to the whole table that you are so smart and beautiful, just smile and nod. Don't waste your time arguing or being embarrassed, it will only lead to more awkward and humiliating comments.
8. Hide the baby albums. The uncovering of these will only lead to stories of how you once yelled for your "mommy" to come "wipe your tushie" in the middle of dinner 15 years ago.
9. Don't use the holidays as an opportunity to tell your sister about your crush on the kid who sits next to you in class. I guarantee the moment you leave the room; your sister will be sharing that same bit of information with the entire dinner table.
10. Criticism is life. So when your grandmother subtly remarks how she noticed you seem to be gaining a little "holiday weight," smile and remember she's old, and while you could probably take her in a wrestling match, you run the risk of having yourself cut out of the will. ☹

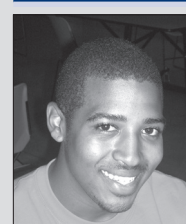
Taking It In Stride



[Katharine Weiss]



[Daniel Iken]



[Cameron Davis]

Let's get it together, CHS

A few nights ago I was flipping through my Tivo, and I came across an old recording of the BET show "Hot Ghetto Mess: We Got to do Better." The program humorously profiles some of the most glaring faults of the American population in terms of etiquette, political correctness, and all around tact. Between watching the show and then coming to school the next day, I got to thinking, and realized that at CHS we could definitely afford to do better in more than a few areas. From cell phone concerts in class, to the down right triflin' appearance of the Commons after lunch, to the behaviors in the halls deserving a few slaps and a backhand, all I can say is: what's really goin' on CHS?

First, let's take it to inside the class room. We have all seen the millions of signs posted around CHS telling us that cell phones are to be turned off during class. Now for you all who actually turn them off- a round of applause for you. I, personally, can't bring myself to turn mine off. However, for the cell phone rebels, who keep theirs on, remember these two words: "Ringer Off" or "Vibrate On." While I'm far from perfect at remembering this at times, to some people, it seems like they just aren't making the effort.

How many times will you be sitting in class, taking notes or possibly a test, and suddenly you are graced with Brittany Spears' "Gimme" or "I Get Money" by 50 Cent? What's really goin' on with this? Moreover, it kills me when someone, thinking they are so slick, tries to answer that cell phone in the middle of class. Like the teacher isn't right there, or like no one else can see what they're doing- like suddenly, putting up a folder transports them into a different realm where they no longer exist in the visible light spectrum. The same applies with texting. Now I can't tell anyone what to do; however, I'm just saying this: if you are one of the people I just described, don't look all surprised when someone gives you the crazy look, or a teacher takes that phone away. We got to do better.

Now let's take it an area that we all are familiar with: the Commons. You have to admit that the Commons is one of the best places to go around CHS. You can hang out with friends, do some last minute homework, or to just chill out and enjoy some tater tots between classes. However, not one soul can say that from 4th hour on, the Commons is just a place of accumulating filth, clutter, and all around triffness. Now, if you're unfamiliar with the word "trife," UrbanDictionary.com defines trife as: something nasty, gross, disgusting, or indecent- basically, the Commons after the lunch periods.

Let's be for real- just how hard is it to throw your trash away once you've finished eating? Not that the trash cans are basically three feet from the lunch tables. The problem even surpasses simple junk on the table. One day I was going to talk to some friends at one of the many junky tables. I decided to clear it off and BAM- Ketchup all over my hands, and fin-

gers. Who, better yet, why, would someone just put ketchup all over the table for someone to find? That's not funny. It's not cute. Moreover, I find it fascinating that some have the nerve to look at you as if you were crazy if you tell them to pick up after themselves- like you did something wrong. Did you not just finish eating and attempt to walk away from your trash like its going to disappear once you leave? Moral of the story CHS: Keep the commons clean- pick that mess up.

Finally, let's take it to the site for possibly the largest viewing area of CHS student behavior: the hallways. For the first order of business- and I want to keep this short- these PDA exhibits need to stop. Now. You and your, "Boo", "Sugar Baby", "Love Muffin", whatever, need to take that mess somewhere else. No body wants to see it.

Secondly, I'm really gonna need people to speed up the pace. With only for four minutes between class periods, and this new tardy policy, people are straight up trippin' in these halls. I have three words: keep it movin'. I have to travel between the Black Box and the math wing everyday, and now, especially since it is cold, the halls are crowded. However, the masses will move faster if people get some pep in their step. Let's keep it real, for all of you who like to luxuriate in time and have these long conversations as if talking is going out of style, I'm really gonna need you to speed things up, or prepare to be bulldozed. It kills me that people walking slowly want to

give you the crazy look when you rush past them- not that they're fully taking up the hallway and making me late. Moreover, I'm not saying that I'm not guilty of it, but once made aware, take care of it please and keep it movin'. Also, stop lounging around in front of lockers that aren't yours and giving people the crazy look for trying to get into their lockers. Thanks.

Finally, these conversations in the halls...lord have mercy. Now I've heard and said a few things in my day, but some things in these halls simply take the cake. We don't need to hear all your business about the previous night or weekend in these halls- some things are better left unsaid and unknown. Also, the shouting needs to end. If old boy or old girl you need to talk to isn't right next to you, then it's not meant for you to talk at that moment. Don't just broadcast your conversation down the hall, it's most likely not even that important. Finally, I'm really gonna need those people who feel that they should be on American Idol to stop singing in the halls during class period- you don't know what door might be open. Again, moral of the story: Keep it movin'. Keep it clean. Keep it down.

Let me just finish by saying this: I'm not trying to preach. I can't. Everything stated here I have at one point in time been guilty of. However, let's look at these issues CHS and see what we can do about them. Let's get it together. ☹

Pets provide companionship

When I was a little girl, I always wanted a dog or cat. I went back and forth in my mind on which I wanted the most.

I doubted that I would ever have either, and I knew I would never have both.

Today, I am fifteen years old. I have a dog named Duke and a cat named Serafina.

My dog, Duke, is a mix of Border collie and Labrador retriever. Duke is smaller than most Labs and a lot leaner. He has a silky coat of black fur with white on his chest, paws, and the tip of his tail. He is a beautiful dog. Duke is extremely athletic, intelligent, caring, and fun to be around.

Serafina, the cat, is currently four months old. She has two modes, being overly hyperactive or deep in sleep.

Serafina likes to pretend she is a lion hunting on the savannah.

It doesn't matter if it is your hand, nose, hair, or foot, she will attack.

Duke and Serafina are like my little brother and sister. I am an only child and it is really nice to finally have siblings after spending years alone in the house with my parents. Just like actual younger siblings, they always want me to play with them when I am doing homework.

Like many cats, Serafina loves computer screens. She leaps up onto my mother's desk and watches the cursor move around the screen. Eventually, she reaches up to touch the cursor and never understands why she can't. Serafina often gets into trouble because my mother is afraid she will scratch the screen.

Duke is a very sweet dog. Most of the time, he wants you to take him on a walk or play Frisbee. However, during certain times of the day, all Duke wants is to be scratched and loved.

Just holding his paw will make him happy.

When Serafina isn't busy chasing things, she is sleeping. Cats sleep for roughly 18 hours each day. Sometimes, Serafina likes to climb onto my lap or shoulder to burrow in and sleep.

Animals bring so much companionship into my life. It always



Freshman Helen Wiley poses with her beloved pets, Serafina (the cat) and Duke (the dog). Wiley enjoys the special moments the animals have brought to her life and feels lucky to have them.

brightens my day to know Duke and Serafina will greet me with sweet faces when I arrive at home after school.

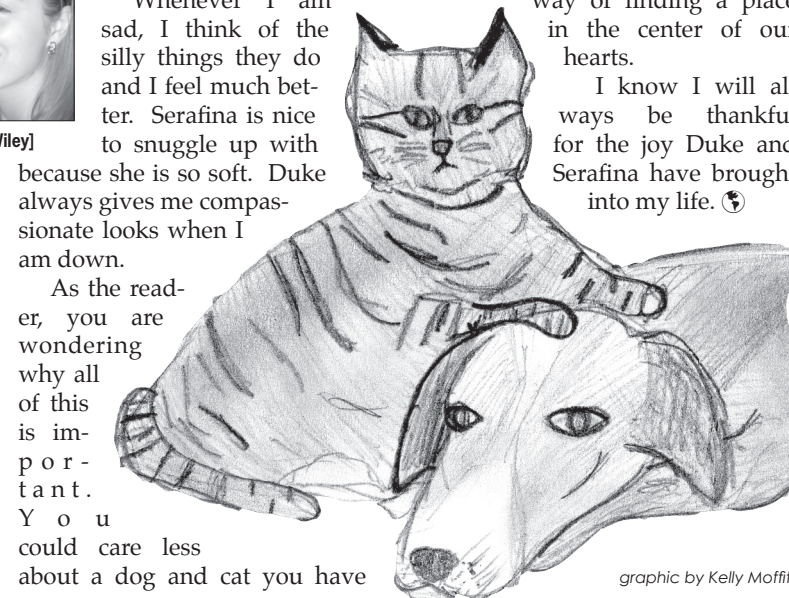
When my parents go on errands or have meetings at work, I enjoy playing with Duke and Serafina or just knowing they are there.

Whenever I am sad, I think of the silly things they do and I feel much better. Serafina is nice to snuggle up with because she is so soft. Duke always gives me compassionate looks when I am down.

As the reader, you are wondering why all of this is important. You could care less about a dog and cat you have

never met. Not everyone is lucky enough to have a wonderful pet, let alone more than one. My life is just testimony as to the benefits a pet experience offers in a person's life. Most pet owners feel a strong connection of some sort to their pets, because every animal is special in its own way. Animals just have a way of finding a place in the center of our hearts.

I know I will always be thankful for the joy Duke and Serafina have brought into my life. ☹



graphic by Kelly Moffitt

Learning from Loss

As CHS deals with yet another loss in the student body, many members of the community are grieving. The process of recovery after the loss of a friend or family member close in age can be a long one, leading to new understandings of love, loss and acceptance.

[Kelly Moffitt]
Co-Editor in Chief

Grief is one of the most transcendent emotions in the human condition and losing someone is always a horrible ordeal to undergo. However, for teenagers, loss of a friend can be even harder than losing a close family member because of just how much their friends and peers influence their lives: their most secret confidences are shared with them, their identities formed by their reaction to them, their opinions influenced by the feelings. How teenagers cope with this loss charts the course for how they view their own lives and how they react to death for the rest of their lives.

Math teacher Barbara Dobbert knows what it's like to feel loss as a teenager. As a senior in a high school, when she was 16, she came home when her parents were out of town, to find that her brother had committed suicide.

Dobbert and her brother, Allen, had only been 10 and half months apart in age.

"We really didn't see it coming," Dobbert said. "He was my best friend, and we both hung out with the same group of friends. In retrospect, we think he may have suffered from depression. As an adult, I know he knew I loved him. But as a kid, all I could think of was: How did he not know we cared about him?"

Dobbert chose to cope with her feelings by ignoring them. For the rest of her senior year, though her mom tried to get her to talk to a counselor, Dobbert found she just couldn't face it yet.

She left home for college and for the next two years, she went on with her life "as usual." However, for Dobbert, nothing felt normal.

"I felt guilty after he died, so I didn't talk to my parents," Dobbert said. "I knew how much pain they were going through and I didn't want to add to it by making them see my pain. But, knowing what I know now, they wanted me to talk. I just wasn't the same for the next three years. For the rest of my senior year, I'd come home and make sure that everyone was still alive."

Once she went to college, however, she found she couldn't escape coming to terms with his death.

"I did a lot of soul searching after he died," Dobbert said. "I really didn't deal with it very well at first—I kind of just pushed it aside for a couple of years. Then after my sophomore year at college I took a year off because it caught up with me and hit me pretty hard."

Robert Fleischman, licensed professional counselor, understands this to be the way many teens cope with loss, at first.

"At first, the loss will hit you and you try to understand that you don't run the universe and that there are things outside of your control," Fleischman said. "But, that takes time to do. Eventually, you learn to accept the loss and instead of fighting it off or pretending it didn't happen, you learn to confront it. Deferring grief and mourning is leaving unfinished business. If you let it go for too long, it'll come back to you."

Junior Nathan Crall has felt this same kind of feeling of denial. When Crall was in eighth grade, a drunk driver ran a red light and hit his step-sister's car head on as she returned from a dance with friends.

Over the two and a half years that they had been family, Crall developed a bond with his stepsister that made it hard for him to accept her death.

"I had been sleeping when my dad came in my room with my sister and sat on my bed and told us she'd been killed," Crall said. "I couldn't believe it, I thought it was some cruel, sick joke. But after a while it became impossible for me to ignore her death. I kept thinking 'This didn't happen,' but after three days went by and she didn't come back, I realized we'd really lost her."

Crall says the hardest part was that all of her friends were able to make it out of the car, but she couldn't because of the flames. The drunk driver only broke a few bones.

"It still hasn't gotten easier for me to think about her death," Crall said. "She was completely innocent. You'd think after three years I'd be able to talk clearly about it, but I can't; that she lost her life and did nothing to deserve it always gets me."

According to Dr. Robin L. Turner, M.S.W, Psy. D., a child, adolescent, adult psychotherapist and psychoanalyst practicing in Clayton understands this feeling of

"Younger children and even teens can feel abandoned, or fear abandonment, feel guilt and fear retribution for imagined or actual transgressions," Turner said. "If only I would have..." S/he can have difficulty reaching out to new friends when a friend dies. The person left living can feel isolated, alone, and angry. S/he begins a type of bargaining, 'I wish I would have done this. If only I would have done that.' And then depression follows: turning the anger of the loss inward on her/himself, feeling despair and hopelessness. It seems that nothing more

horrible could have occurred. Life in this stage can seem meaningless and overwhelming."

Senior British Williams underwent these emotions twice: once after her brother was murdered in April 2006 and again after her best friend, Jazzlyn Williams, was killed in a car accident in November 2006.

"I think about them everyday," Williams said. "I guess, because I am so young, I wasn't expecting anyone around me to die or die before me, at least. It seems so much easier now for young people to die; it can range from high blood pressure, to a car accident, to being killed by another individual. Losing someone is something I don't wish on anyone to experience."

Williams dealt with each loss differently; with her brother, it was her first time experiencing the death of someone close to her.

"My mom called me and I'll never forget the words she said: 'that truly someone that is born on this earth is sure to die,'" Williams said. "With those words I knew he was dead and I just threw the phone away from me. I walked around Clayton High School for like three hours and I didn't want to talk to anybody. I just wanted to cry."

With Jazzlyn, Williams had a harder time even accepting the fact she was not alive anymore.

"Every Saturday morning, I'd call her and we'd arrange to go to the hair dresser at the same time," Williams said. "On Friday, I called her and she didn't pick up. Well, that Saturday morning, I called her again to see how things were. Her mom answered the phone and said: 'Jazzlyn passed last night.' At first, I thought she was just joking. But then, it got serious and I started crying. I still cry just to think of her not being here."

Williams did not completely believe her death until the door was shut on her vault at the funeral. With her brother, Williams could not understand the reason for his death.

"My brother's death was the most mind-boggling to me because he was brutally beaten and murdered," Williams said. "I felt like I could feel the pain he felt when he died. It was hard because it was instant and out of nowhere. I just keep thinking about he suffered pain in his death and how he was just lying there with no one to help him as he died...for no reason. To have someone kill a person you love, that hurts a lot. I felt angry and sad and I felt really confused. Mentally, I understood, I knew what happened. But, emotionally, I just didn't understand why."

Turner says this need to come to an understanding about why is something that happens to many.

"One response to grief common in teens and adults is a powerful need to make sense of what happened and to understand the whys and hows that led to the loss," Turner said. "This comes from within each of us, the need to restore order and meaning and partially from the hope that understanding this loss will prevent losses in the future. Sometimes, understanding can take years."

In Dobbert's case, the understanding did take years and she realized how many ways people do deal with loss.

"Some families, I know, are just torn apart by suicide," Dobbert said. "But, with ours, we were brought closer...eventually. At first, we were little islands for a year or two after he died. I left for college, and I tried to leave it all behind. We dealt with our pain in different ways. My sister rebelled a little bit, and I ignored it. My mom became a workaholic. My dad, he was just a shell of a man. After we did deal with his death, we became a lot closer."

She especially bonded with her younger sister.

"We made a pact that if we ever felt as bad as he did that we would always come to each other first, that we would always talk," Dobbert said. "We went through so many emotions, I was worried that everyone I loved, that something would happen to them."

Many psychologists cite Elizabeth Kubler-Ross's, M.D. ideas about the "stages of grief" from her 1983 book "On Children and Death." The stages were, denial, anger, bargaining, grieving and acceptance. However, Fleischman has realized over the years that an outline of how a person should feel is not the same as how different people actually do feel.

Turner also has not cited the "stages" for quite some time, however, finds their descriptions helpful in identifying with the person grieving.

"Usually, an individual experiences denial of this most unspeakable act, the death of a friend or peer," Turner said. "Often one feels anger, 'Your friend has left you.' You can be especially angry at yourself, 'Why was I not more caring?' Resentment too is a normal part of grief for some individuals, but not all. As your pain subsides, so will your anger. As you are feel-

ing empty, your world can also feel empty. In your own time, you begin to accept the loss of your friend or peer's death. And even though it is the most difficult thing you have ever done, you begin now to face reality. The depth of your sorrow slowly diminishes over time and at times imperceptibly. You begin to try to strike a balance between a yesterday that needs to be remembered and a tomorrow, which is in the process of creation. Give yourself the medicine of time. For with hope and time, you begin to feel that your feet are firmly on the path again."

However, different circumstances in a peer's death are cause for different reactions. Senior Anthoni Hilliard had a different kind of reaction when his friend since elementary school, Brian Lipsey, passed away on Nov. 13. Hilliard was told when Brian's condition initially got worse, last spring. He said that he ended up seeing Brian a few weeks later, in good shape, while out to eat for Mother's Day.

"We sat and talked and ate, and at that moment I realized that no matter what people would say, he would always spring back," Hilliard said.

This belief made it hard for him to accept Brian's death when it did occur.

"Around the time that he passed, people kept telling me he only had two or three days to live and I kept saying, 'That's crazy, it's not true,'" Hilliard said. "And I just didn't understand why people were lying about him. But then his mom called, and I knew he really was dying. So, I went to go see him and visit with him. And there were people who were there everyday. That really helped me, to see that there were other people who really cared about him too. He couldn't talk much, but he knew we were there."

Hilliard says seeing Brian was hard because he had to deal with seeing him really, truly sick for the first time. However, it did help him to prepare for understanding his death.

"Brian's mom and the way she acted helped me get through losing him," Hilliard said. "And the fact that I got to see him before he died helped too. If I had found out randomly I would have been a lot more broken up. It seemed so different from the way Jazzlyn died. It was like a shock of an accident. But with Brian, I knew it was coming, so I got a chance to begin to brace myself for the possibility he wouldn't be there. My mom helped me as well because she knew Brian and his mother as well."

To Turner there is a distinct difference with how teens view death depending on if it is sudden or long term.

"There are also differences when a friend dies suddenly in a car crash as did Jazzlyn or after a long, terminal illness as with Brian," Turner said. "The shock of a fatal accident provides no time for preparation, and when a youth's life is lost, the tragedy is profound. All that there is time to do is settle into mourning the loss. Day by day activities take on new meaning since the whole world has just come to an abrupt end, stopped, halted. Time prepares us, for it allows us in our own time to come out of our numbness, anger, at our destiny in life, friends, even at our friend who is dying. And then the preparatory grief, which is silent and beyond words, as we finally face the reality that we will no longer see him/her in the halls between classes, never see them at Homecoming, hanging out on the weekends, be part of our graduation class."

One common denominator between most teens that experience the loss of a friend their age is the realization they are not invincible.

"I think what makes it so difficult when a peer dies is that no longer can you deny your own mortality," Turner said. "It is too close to who you are. When it is your peer who has died, it is close; it breaks through your own sense of denial. You begin to think, 'If this can happen to him/her, it can happen to me.'"

Crall learned a lot about his own mortality from going through his stepsister's death.

"Before, I had thought I was indestructible but now I know you're really not," Crall said. "Death can take the most undeserving person at any time, you've got to be prepared for that."

Everyone goes through grief at a different pace and time, Turner assures, and there are many ways people find the positive through all of the sadness.

Religion and belief in God have helped many.

“
Brian deserved to be here, he lived his life 100 percent. I need to live my life 100 percent if not for me, at least for him.”

[Anthoni Hilliard]
Senior

“
I felt guilty after [my brother] died, so I didn't talk to my parents...I didn't want to add to their pain by making them see my pain.”

[Barbara Dobbert]
Math Teacher

“
She was completely innocent. You'd think after three years I'd be able to talk clearly about [my stepsister's death] but I can't: that she lost her life and did nothing to deserve it always gets me.”

[Nathan Crall]
Junior



graphic by Keri Blumer

"Being a Christian helped me cope with losing Brian," Hilliard said. "I knew death was a part of life and I also knew that the way Brian lived his life was a guarantee he was in heaven. When he was at school, he was ready to learn and when he was at home, he took care of his mom. He was such a good person, and it made it easy for me to realize he was going to a better place when he died."

Being able to communicate memories with friends also helps.

"I still talk about my brother and Jazzlyn with my friends and family," Williams said. "I like to think about all the funny memories I have with them. I just wish I had the chance to make more memories."

Dobbert wishes she had not extracted herself from her group of friends.

"I completely abandoned the core group of friends my brother and I hung out," Dobbert said. "I made new friends because it was too hard to see my old friends' faces everyday and know he wouldn't. Now, three of those friends, I have come in contact with again and we talk about it more, as adults, than we did as kids. Being able to talk about it with them helps me to remember my brother even better. I wish I would have talked at the time."

After his stepsister's death, Crall found he was able to cope by realizing he had a duty to his younger stepbrother to be the role model that his stepsister was to him. It helped him learn to talk about her death.

"You've got to talk about their life and their death," Crall said. "I certainly wasn't ready to talk about it for almost six months after she died. It wasn't until my middle school teacher just sat me down for lunch with her one day and simply asked. And I just started talking. I guess something felt lifted off me, and suddenly felt like I was able to come to grips with exactly what had happened."

According to Williams, talking to her counselor, Carolyn Blair, helps as well.

Though Williams still feels pain today, she knows that her brother and Jazzlyn wouldn't want her to be sad.

"I get really sad sometimes, when it's just unbelievable to me," Williams said. "I know they would want me to be happy and they'd want me to succeed. It does get better. After my brother died all I could think was, 'I hate being here. I hate life.' But after Jazzlyn died, it was a turning point in my life, and I changed. I started trying my best to be nice because you never know when someone will leave you. I take every moment of my life into great aspect now."

Brian's death brought the understanding of a person's mortality back to Hilliard.

"Because of Brian's death, I now take advantage of the time I do have," Hilliard said. "If I don't it can be taken away from me. I need to stay focused with God and my life and getting everything together. Because, if I don't, it's like I'm living for nothing. Brian deserved to be here, he lived his life 100 percent. I need to live my life 100 percent if not for me, at least for him."

No matter who is lost or how they are lost, sadness will always come with death at any age. The loss of a friend or peer is a life altering change and it will take time to come to terms with.

"In real life, you don't just let go of something once and for all, a loss if permanent and when you love somebody you have a little copy of them inside of you," Fleischman said. "They're in you. Many times through life you'll think about that loss and it will come back to you. But you have to be ok with that. You'll still miss the person, you'll still have moments of being sad, and you'll still have thoughts about them but if you can become okay with feeling those you're on the track to learning to deal with the loss." ☺