



clayton high school
theglobe
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1 Mark Twain Circle, Clayton MO 63105

[snapshots]

Professional Development Day

No school for students Feb. 15. Enjoy the long weekend!

President's Day

No school for students and teachers Feb. 18. Celebrate the lives of the Presidents while you relax.

Late Start Day

Students don't forget to set your alarm later on Feb. 27 as classes won't begin until 9:20.

AP Registration

Registration will end on Feb. 22. Cost is \$87 per test.

Al Neuharth Scholarship

Senior Kelly Moffitt recently was awarded this prestigious journalism award. She received a \$1000 cash prize, a free trip to D.C. and a chance to compete for an even larger scholarship.

Join Globe Newspaper

Newspaper is challenging and fun. Pick up an application for next year in the Cottage.

Spring Fling Dance

Last dance for underclassmen for the year. Tickets will be on sale in Commons. Come and have a fun night with friends.

Summer School Registration

Registration begins March 12.

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Liberstein retiring after three decades

[Hyrum Shumway]
Senior Managing Editor

The district will soon miss the presence of retiring Assistant Superintendent Mary Jo Liberstein. Liberstein has performed many roles, often at the same time and has established a lasting legacy that will be remembered by many.

"I have worked 31 years in Clayton," Liberstein said. "When I first came to Clayton I started an early childhood program and also counseled parents. I have also taught at Wydown while I counseled teachers. In the eighties, I became Director of Student Services and organized programs that benefit students. For the last six years I have served the district as Assistant Superintendent."

Clayton will feel her loss, especially Superintendent Don Senti who will lose a vital assistant.

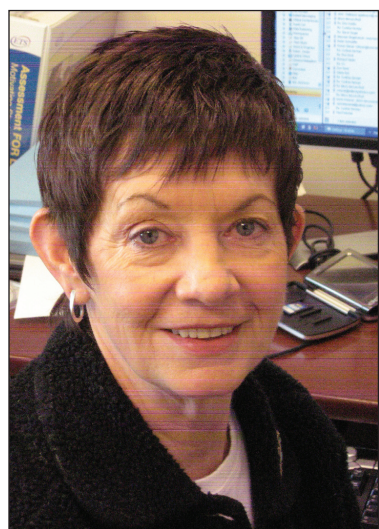
"She is a terrific listener and because of her vast experience, she is able to make good decisions," Senti said.

One of the many reasons why Liberstein has been able to be such a positive force for Clayton is her education philosophy.

"I believe public education should serve all students really well," Liberstein said. "I have a passion for helping kids who struggle to be successful. The way to do this is to accomplish this is by having a strong district characterized by a strong curriculum, accurate assessment of learning and professional learning."

Liberstein has proven herself to be a strong administrator as she has tried to make her ideals into reality while being open to new ideas.

"I feel really proud of the fact that I was able to establish an Early Childhood Center for Clayton and try to make a difference for youngsters so they are prepared for kin-



Mary Jo Liberstein

dergarten," Liberstein said. "I am also happy that I have helped CHS and Wydown see the need for a collaborative school to find ways to teach all kids."

"Mary Jo has provided sound and thoughtful leadership," Language Arts Curriculum Coordinator Jim Lockhart said. "Her sense of class and clam demeanor will be missed."

Retirement will bring adjustments that will change the dynamic of Liberstein and her family.

Her husband Jerry Liberstein is looking forward to it.

"I know one of the nice things that will come with her retirement will be freedom from school scheduling so we will be able to plan trips and such," Jerry Liberstein said. "We have been married for 40 years, and I have seen her maybe six. She works very hard and will have a lot more free time after this."

One of the many things Mary Jo Liberstein has worked so hard on is to prepare students for the real world.

"While we need to be accountable for basics we also need to prepare students for a global society there is more to be learned than arithmetic and English," Mary Jo Liberstein said. "What makes Clayton great is that teaches students to be problem solvers and interact with all kinds of people. A way that this is shown is that we are going to teach Chinese next year in high school and middle school."

Liberstein will be missed by individuals all across the district as well as in central office.

"It has been a great experience working with Mary Jo," Senti said. "I have learned a lot about special education. I have been a better superintendent because of her. She is a legend. There will be someone who comes after her, but no one will be able to replace her."

She contributed much to Clayton in her many years of diligent service. 🌟



Jackie Wilcher

Drama students huddle up before the show. Even though the cast is diverse, the students have bonded as they tackle challenging experiences together to make a moving musical.

Captivating musical is modern, fun, engaging

[Caroline Stamp]
Staff Reporter

As all the lights shine down on center stage, the cast of 'Company' is ready to go. The theatre department really stepped it up for the CHS musical.

The winter musical this year is "Company", a story about a single guy named Bobby (portrayed by sophomore Nick Oliveri) and all of his friends who want to see him happy.

"This is an early Stephen Sondheim musical," band director and pit orchestra director Charles Blackmore said. "It's a lot of fun and has some very creative and fun lyrics."

Last year, the musical was "Grease". Compared to the bubble gum pop music and acting of "Grease", "Company" is a much more challenging musical.

"I think 'Company' is really realistic, unlike 'Grease,'" sophomore Ellen Spann said. "It kind of shows how messed up people can be."

With every musical and show, people have to audition for them.

The auditions this year were run a little bit differently than past years. There were three songs with different note ranges (low, medium, and high) and the students who were auditioning sang the ones they could.

"Around 30 girls and 20 boys auditioned," Oliveri said. "Then the next day there are call backs."

This year, the cast is small and selective. People from all different grades were chosen to be in the cast, including three freshmen.

"I think it's really good to let freshmen in because it's good for the theatre department," Oliveri said. "And they will be the ones with the big roles in a couple of years."

The cast has been working hard to prepare for the musical, and this includes learning to adjust to some different parts.

"I play a 35-year-old man, so it's kind of a big stretch," Oliveri said. "It's a really hard and intense role."

Not only having to adjust to the roles, the entire musical had to be adjusted to make it more appropriate for high school students.

"Last year for 'Grease' we had to cut out some inappropriate lines," Spann said. "In 'Company' we had to cut out whole scenes."

After cutting out scenes and working on parts, the cast had to practice with the pit orchestra. This was a tricky task for both the cast and the members of pit.

"The first time working with the pit is hard because they have to change their keys and stuff," Oliveri said. "It's hard for everyone. But the pit is awesome and a huge asset."

Pit members also find "Company" and extremely difficult musical, but a lot of fun.

"Pit this year is a lot harder," sophomore Alexa Boulton said. "And there are also a lot more freshmen doing it this year."

In "Company" the pit plays a variety of songs for the show. There are dance numbers, love songs and jazz.

"It's really hard music this year," Boulton said. "There are slower 'Company', 16

Rugraff leaving after success at CHS

[Gila Hoffman]
Senior Managing Editor

With several key administrative figures in the district leaving at the end of this school year, the high school will greatly see these changes when Dr. Don Rugraff heads to Brentwood High School as their new principal for the 2008-2009 school year.

Rugraff will succeed David Faulkner, a past principal at Clayton High.

Faulkner will become the Brentwood district's assistant superintendent. During Faulkner's years at Clayton, Rugraff worked closely with him and mentored him as well.

Rugraff came to the Clayton district in 1986 as the industrial arts teacher and football and wrestling coach.

He has also served as the Assistant Athletic Director and has also worked with the C-Club and CHS Club.

"In the 1990s I was an intern administrator and I was mentored by Don Hugo and Al Burr, who were previous principals at CHS," Rugraff said. "In 1998 I left CHS to become an assistant principal at

St. Charles High School and then in 2000 I came back as an assistant principal."

In 2003 Rugraff moved to central office as the director of student services and later, in 2005, returned to the high school as the assistant principal and director of student services.

Rugraff did not always intend to become a principal, but with the advice of his mentor, he decided to take up the challenge.

"I decided to become a principal in the early 90s when Dr. Al Burr advised me that I should consider getting a masters certification in administration," Rugraff said. "I shadowed him and did an internship with him and shortly after that I took on the job of assistant principal at St. Charles."

The Brentwood principal opportunity only arose for Rugraff a little over a month ago when the job was posted.

"Faulkner contacted me and then we met and talked and the more he shared with me the culture of the building I became more interested, so I ended up applying and got the job," Rugraff said.

The principal position at Brentwood is a unique one.



Hyrum Shumway

Don Rugraff will move to Brentwood after long stay at CHS.

"There are only 280 kids in the building and the staff is only 30 people," Rugraff said. "They focus on the kids and what is in their best interest. It is similar to the way we handle matters here. Philosophically, the policies at Brentwood are a good fit for me."

Despite the many unique opportunities that lay ahead for Rugraff, he will always remember his years as a teacher and administrator in Clayton. For Rugraff, what he will miss the most about Clayton are

the people.

"Clayton is a great place, whether you are a student, or a teacher, or a member of the community," Rugraff said. "There are lots of opportunities for professional development and there are a great number of people who take a lot of pride in what they do. It's a very healthy and unique environment for students. I am going to miss the individuals I have worked with over the years. I'm only three miles down the road so I hope to

continue the relationships I have and continue to network and build partnerships with Clayton."

Rugraff hopes that he can build a relationship between the two high schools, much like the existing one between Clayton and Ladue. Brentwood has already agreed to partner with Clayton for the Summer Academy.

For Spanish teacher Teresa Schaffer, Rugraff's departure from CHS will be difficult.

"He is consistent, caring and dedicated and he always puts people first," Schaffer said. "He is a great listener who always stood up for what was right. I will miss his ongoing support, uncompromised sense of fairness, charismatic and fun loving nature and also just the fact that he always made everyone feel comfortable."

Because Rugraff is nearing retirement, he feels this opportunity is a good way to bring closure to his career.

"Clayton is a great place and it made the decision one that I had to really think about," Rugraff said. "This is a fabulous opportunity for me and I know that Clayton has really prepared for me the challenges that will be forthcoming." 🌟

Economy holding out against possible recession

[Ellie Bullard]
Editor

You've probably heard, by one way or another, that the economy is not nearly what it used to be. Unemployment's up, the stock market's having problems, not to mention the concerning housing slump that started last year during the summer. There's been an alarming amount of talk about the state of the economy in the last few months.

What's even more alarming, however, is the subject of the talk about the economy—that of a possible recession.

A recession is defined as a period of two consecutive quarters of negative economic growth. This means that if, over a period of six months (an economic quarter is three months), the economy not only fails to grow but starts to produce less than in recent quarters, the economy is officially in a recession.

What makes a possible recession an even bigger problem is the amount of prosperity and security that

the '90s and the first part of the 21st century brought to the United States. The security that economic prosperity provided for Americans is possibly disappearing—this will be a major issue for those who have never experienced a recession, like current high school students.

But should Americans really be so worried? It is, of course, important to remain grounded in reality. But at the same time, it's also important to rationally evaluate the indicators of a recession, and not to panic. The stock and housing markets are only two small parts of the economy and could easily be overpowered by other economic elements.

Economics teacher Mark Bayles is one of the seemingly few who believe that the U.S. economy is powerful enough to overcome the housing slump and other problems in order to remain prosperous.

"The continuing predictions of a recession are not surprising given recent events in the domestic housing market (both new and existing) and the now familiar 'sub prime mortgage crisis,'" Bayles said. "It seems to many analysts that those occurrences combined with the high price of energy will be enough to divert the U.S. economy from its upward growth trajectory. I continue to be hopeful that other robust elements of our economy will keep our head above water, staving off recession, contributing to slowed but positive growth. If we do go into recession, we should all hope that the downturn is both brief and shallow."

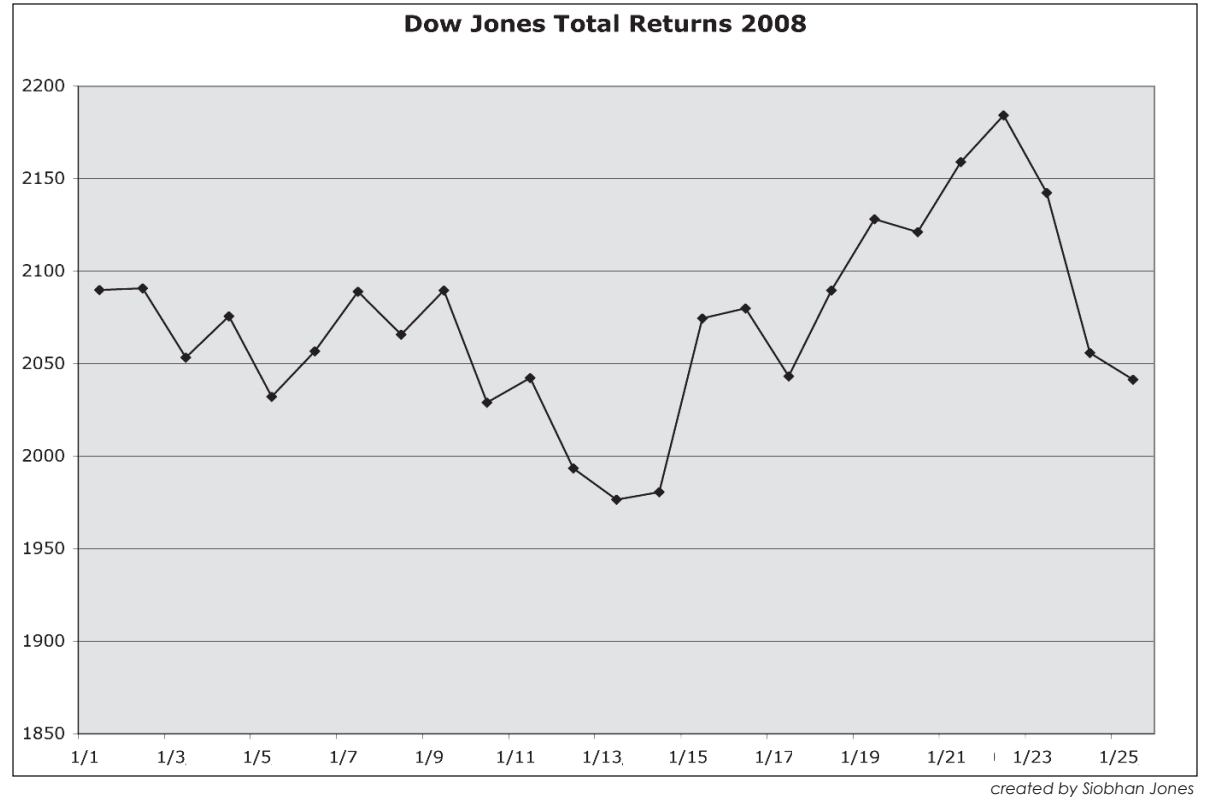
Ken Matheny, Senior Economist at Macroeconomic Advisors in Clayton, shares this point of view.

"Based on available economic data available, the United States does not appear to be in a recession, but there are reasons to be concerned that we might transition into a recession or something similar during 2008," Matheny said. "The risk of recession this year is significant, but probably less than 50 percent."

Matheny believes that the housing problem will not be able to cause a recession by itself.

"Home construction, home sales, and home prices have fallen over the past year or two in many regions around the country," Matheny said. "With fewer homes under construction, fewer are able to find work building homes. Meanwhile, lower house prices are lowering the wealth of homeowners, and restraining the overall pace of spending growth by consumers. By itself, however, the reduction in home-building and lower home prices are insufficient to push the US into recession."

There have been many efforts, to increase consumer spending, productivity and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the economy. For example, The Federal Reserve Bank (the Fed), the central bank of the United States, has lowered the federal funds rate (raising and lowering the federal funds rate is one of the Fed's many powers). The federal funds rate is the short-term interest rate that banks charge one another for loans, and is controlled by the Federal Open Market Committee, or the FOMC. Raising the federal funds rate reduces overall money supply in the economy, and decreasing the rate increases the money supply. In this situation, the Fed has decreased the rate in order to increase



created by Siobhan Jones

money supply.

The Fed has decreased the federal funds rate from about 4.25 a month ago, to 3.00 recently. It is debated whether or not this was a prudent move on the part of the Fed.

"While the Fed has made a strong case for rescuing credit markets, I tend to side with those who believe that that federal funds rate was already a bit on the high side and that recent inflation numbers are cause for concern, notwithstanding the FOMC's expectation that 'inflation will moderate in coming quarters,'" Bayles said. "Note St. Louis Fed President Poole's recent 'No' vote on [the Fed's] emergency FOMC action. We'll see before long if the Fed's drastic rate cut was warranted, or if hindsight shows that the Fed would have been better off taking a more deliberate course."

In addition, other parts of the government have made some preparations for a potential recession. Congress recently introduced a bill that proposed increased tax rebate. The purpose of the bill would be to increase consumer spending as well, but the possible effect of the bill is debated.

"The tax rebate will be a relatively minor issue from a macroeconomic standpoint. Because it is temporary, it will have a relatively short-lived impact on aggregate consumer spending," Matheny said. "Furthermore, because it is temporary, there will be a brief period of 'payback' when spending and output are likely to grow at a below-normal pace, perhaps for a couple quarters."

The Fed and congress are doing what they can to improve the situation. In the meantime, the general public can try to do what they can to improve economic education for high-schoolers and all citizens of the

United States.

"While the current trend is to add a greater stress to economic education, most students do not take a dedicated course on economics, and not surprisingly, their understanding of basic and intermediate economics concepts is stunted," Bayles said. "The 'economic crisis' faced by your generation is growing global competition, as Americans now have more rivals than ever." Matheny suggested that the average student look for opportunities to look for economics wherever they go.

"On the one hand, those who learn economic principles in high school are at a tremendous advantage," Matheny said. "The single best thing most young adults should do is get the best possible education. Saving (for college and graduate school, for example) is also important and a wonderful thing to do. The better prepared one is, the less likely they are to suffer serious financial harm when the economy weakens."

Above all, however, it's important to remember that recessions are just a part of the economic cycle—if things are looking down now, they'll eventually start looking up.

"Recessions are 'normal' in the sense that we are likely to experience several of them during our lives," Matheny said. "They are painful, especially for those who lose their jobs and find it difficult to obtain similar ones quickly. But recessions can have a silver lining because some times they help to correct imbalances in the economy, thereby setting the stage for stronger growth in the future and permanent improvements in productivity and living standards."

So should we be worried? Maybe not as much as we thought, but we should start getting prepared because a recession is probable. ☺

Talk like an Economist:

Macroeconomics—the study of the economy as a whole

Scarcity—basic economic problem; there aren't enough resources to satisfy the wants of all people

Economic quarter—a period of three months of the year

Recession—a period of two consecutive quarters of negative economic growth

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)—the total market value of all final goods and services produced within a country in a given period of time

Federal Reserve Bank (the Fed)—central bank of the United States; duties include maintaining maximum employment, stable prices and moderate long-term interest rates

Federal Funds Rate—the short-term interest rate that banks charge each other for loans

Federal Open Markets Committee—part of the Fed composed of 12 members that control monetary policy (which includes controlling the money supply)

Bush looks to the future with State of the Union Address

[Leah Eby]
Editor

In the midst of an economic crisis and an incomplete war, President Bush gave his final State of the Union Address on Jan. 28.

The President spoke before both the House of Representatives and the Senate, Supreme Court justices, members of the president's Cabinet, and the diplomatic corps, in addition to numerous Americans via television cameras and radio stations.

Since Jan. 8, 1790, when President George Washington gave the first address, the President of the United States has recited the annual State of the Union Address which presents goals for the future as well as the accomplishments of the current administration.

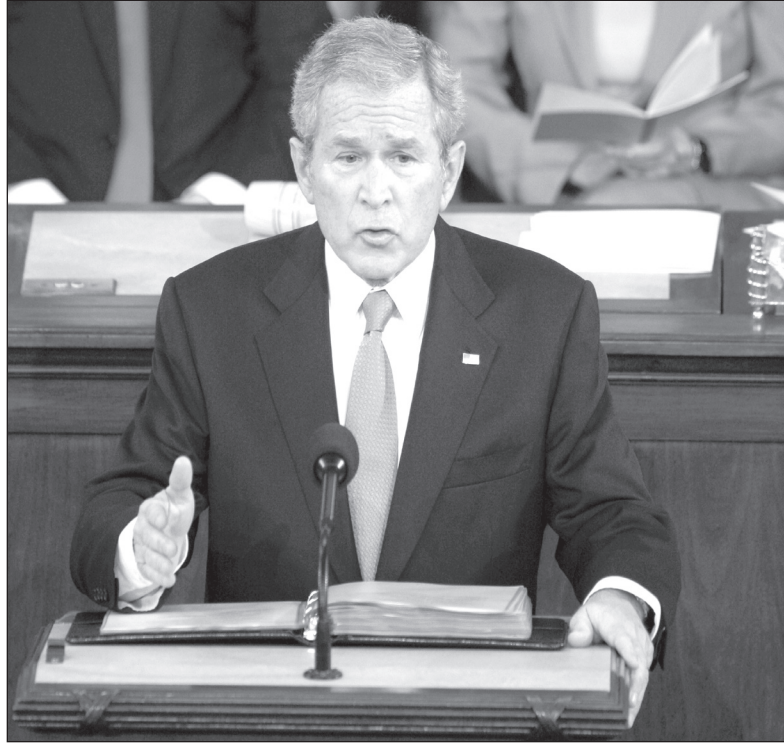
This speech is mandated in the U.S. Constitution under Article II, Section 3, and requires the president to "...from time to time give the Congress Information on the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient..."

Due to the recent economic recession, home foreclosures, and other economic troubles, Bush's first order of business was to address the economic status of the United States.

First, Bush commanded that the recent tax relief be made permanent and warned Congress that if any bill raising taxes were to reach his desk, he would veto it. However, junior Diane Martin does not believe this will work.

"I think that it's a policy that obviously hasn't been working the past seven years if you look at the state we're in now," said Martin. "Before Bush took office, we were taxing the wealthy who could comfortably afford that and the economy was doing well. When we cut taxes on the wealthy and increase spending, we face a recession."

On another economic issue, Bush strongly stated that since his previous efforts to cut earmarks in half have not worked, he would issue an executive order directing federal agencies to ignore future earmarks not voted on by Congress. Lastly, the president pushed



MIF Campus

Bush gave his State of the Union Address Jan. 28. Bush emphasized problems such as health care, education and the War on Terror.

to extend government aid to Americans struggling with home foreclosures. The current HOPE NOW alliance, numerous legislative reforms, modernization of the Federal Housing Administration, and allowing state housing agencies to issue tax-free bonds to aid homeowners facing foreclosure are all efforts by Bush to secure the homes of many Americans.

Overseas, Bush hopes to improve the economy by passing free trade agreements and opening new trade markets in countries such as Peru, Colombia, South Korea, and Panama.

"Today, our economic growth increasingly depends on our ability to sell American goods and crops and services all over the world," said Bush.

After outlining his agenda to aid the recovery of the economy, President Bush introduced a number of domestic programs to build a strong future for America. First on his agenda was healthcare.

To make healthcare more affordable and accessible to Americans, Bush urged the expansion of consumer choice as opposed to government control. To instigate this healthcare reform, Bush proposed

an expansion of health savings accounts, the creation of Association Health Plans for small businesses, the promotion of health information technology, and a confrontation of the epidemic of junk medical law suits.

"With all these steps," said Bush, "We will help ensure that decisions about your medical care are made in the privacy of your own doctor's office -- not in the halls of Congress."

In another effort to maintain the prosperity of Americans, Bush emphasized the success of his No Child Left Behind Act that was passed six years ago and his hope for strengthening the program. Last year, said Bush, the math scores of fourth and eighth graders reached record highs. Reading scores are rising as well, and African-American and Hispanic students received record scores as well.

For those schools which have not seen improvement, Bush proposed a \$300 million program called Pell Grants for Kids, an extension of Pell grants already available to college students.

"Together, we've expanded the size and reach of these grants," said Bush. "Now let us apply that same

spirit to help liberate poor children trapped in failing public schools."

The president also stressed the importance of environmental conservation, energy efficiency, and cleaner technology. Specifically, Bush called for funding for new technologies that can generate coal power while capturing carbon emissions, investment in the use of renewable power and emission-free nuclear power, in addition to advanced battery technology and renewable fuel-powered cars.

Bush also proposed the creation of an international clean technology fund to aid developing countries such as China and India in making better use of clean energy sources.

However, throughout his speech, Bush dedicated relatively little time to issues regarding the environment.

"I think Bush should have devoted more time to the environment," said junior Diane Martin. "It is a major issue that will definitely affect future generations if no progress is made."

In further efforts to advance technology, Bush advocated the doubling of federal support for basic research in the physical sciences that is critical to maintaining America's status as a leading nation in this world.

In addition, Bush pushed for the expansion of ethical medical research and legislation that bans on "unethical practices such as the buying, selling, patenting, or cloning of human life."

The president also pushed for advancement in entitlement spending and immigration. He called for a bipartisan solution to the entitlement spending for programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. On the issue of immigration, Bush advocated for the security of America's borders, including fences and advanced technologies to prevent illegal crossings. Illegal immigration, Bush believes, can be resolved.

Though Bush presented many solutions to the domestic troubles facing America in his speech, the majority of his 53-minute State of the Union Address was devoted to foreign policy.

In recent news releases regarding the upcoming presidential election, the economy seems to be the

most important issue to most voters. Yet, the president concluded his address with what he seems to believe is the most pressing issue in American politics: the War on Terror.

Bush outlined past U.S. successes in the war as well as further procedures for pacifying the regions he deems most threatening to the American way of life. He prided the people of the United States on their increased volunteer efforts and aid to troops, their families, and veterans.

Bush also supported his belief that the spread of American ideals such as democracy and peace have greatly benefited areas of the world.

"Our foreign policy is based on a clear premise," said Bush. "We trust that the people, when given the chance, will choose a future of freedom and peace."

Bush used the examples of a number of "oppressed" people to demonstrate the success of this policy: the citizens of Georgia and Ukraine who stood up for their right to fair elections, the people of Lebanon and their fight for independence, the end of the tyranny of the Taliban in favor of a new Afghan president and parliament, and the Iraqis reveling in freedom to vote.

Bush also summarized the successes of his anti-terrorist efforts and troop surge, as well as the progress that has been made during his administration. In addition Bush outlined a plan for the conclusion of the War on Terror.

"The objective in the coming year is to sustain and build on the gains we made in 2007, while transitioning to the next phase of our strategy," said Bush. "American troops are shifting from leading operations, to partnering with Iraqi forces, and, eventually, to a protective overwatch mission."

So long as we continue to trust the people, our nation will prosper, our liberty will be secure and the state of our union will remain strong.

[George W. Bush]
President of the U.S.A.

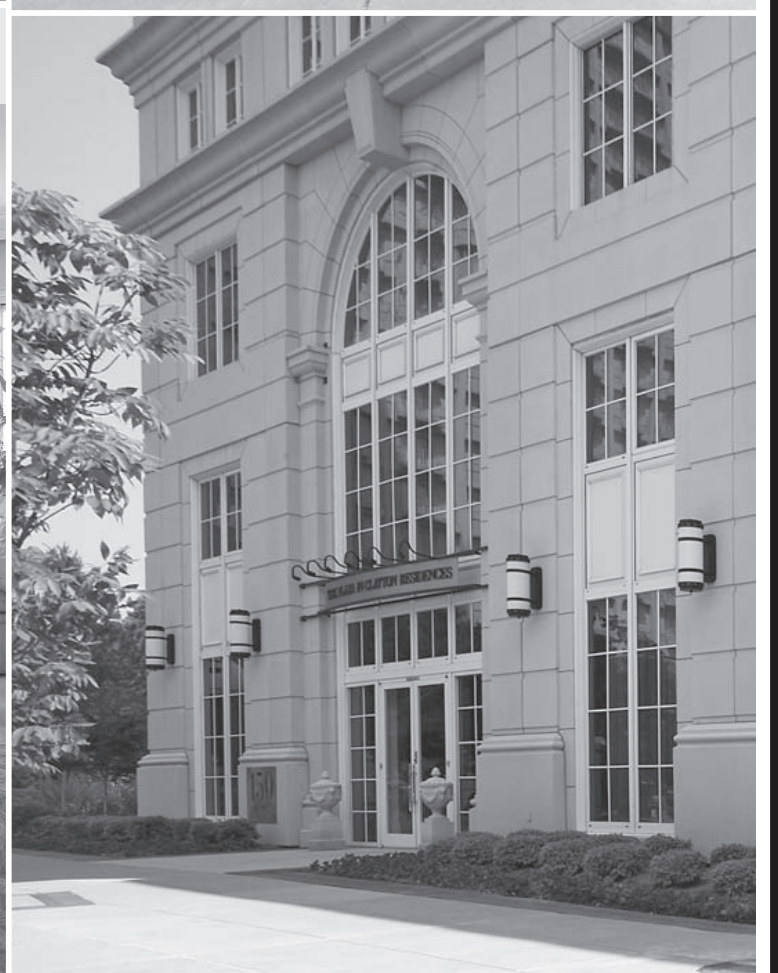
In the first stage of this plan, Bush announced a permanent troop withdrawal of about 20,000 troops from Iraq. However, he failed to offer a timeline for the complete removal of U.S. forces, and even hinted toward an extended stay in Iraq.

"Any further drawdown of U.S. troops will be based on conditions in Iraq and the recommendations of our commanders," said Bush. "General Petraeus has warned that too fast a drawdown could result in the 'disintegration of the Iraqi security forces, al Qaeda-Iraq regaining lost ground, [and] a marked increase in violence.' Members of Congress: Having come so far and achieved so much, we must not allow this to happen."

In addition to Iraq, Bush suggested increased attention be paid to conflicts in the Holy Land and Iran, in addition to

securing America from foreign terrorist threats. In order to protect the United States, Bush asked Congress to renew the legislation that allows the government to listen to private conversations of terrorist suspects. In conclusion, the president emphasized the importance of trusting in the strength of America -- the spirit and determination of its many people.

"By trusting the people, our Founders wagered that a great and noble nation could be built on the liberty that resides in the hearts of all men and women," said Bush. "By trusting the people, succeeding generations transformed our fragile young democracy into the most powerful nation on Earth and a beacon of hope for millions. And so long as we continue to trust the people, our nation will prosper, our liberty will be secure, and the state of our Union will be strong." ☺



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China's population, pollution issues increasing

[Jiyoun Kahng]

Staff Reporter

As China is emerging as a major industrial power, it is facing serious environmental pollution. The pollution in China has made cancer the leading cause of death in China, and the air pollution alone caused hundreds of thousands of deaths each year. Almost 500 million people don't have access to safe drinking water, and the European Union said that only one percent of the 560 million Chinese residents breathe air that is considered safe.

"China has the largest population in the world, but until recently, the average Chinese citizen used much less resources than citizens of developed countries," AP Environmental Science teacher Chuck Collis said. "Now that more Chinese are consuming at rates that are approaching those of developed countries, they are having a much greater environmental impact."

As more industrial cities are built around the country, the people are surrounded by exhaust gas belching from the factories, killed or sickened by lead poisoning and other types of local pollution. The expansion of industry and urbanization are required for China's economic growth, which demands enormous amount of energy, mostly from coal, that is very harmful to the natural environment.

The coal greatly contributes to air pollution, and the problem is that China relies on it for about two-thirds of its energy needs. The country has rich sources of coal, and burns more of it than the United States, Europe and Japan combined.

"When I visited China last summer, I suddenly had problems with my eyes because they were infected," freshman Philip Zhang said. "I never had any optic problems when living in America, but I think that the contaminated air in China caused my eyes to react that way."

The population growth in China has caused expanded car ownership and combined with heavy traffic and low-grade gasoline, automobiles have become

the leading cause of air pollution in major cities. Emissions of sulfur dioxide from fuel oil and coal, which can cause respiratory and cardiovascular diseases as well as acid rain, are increasing each year. In 2005, the State Environmental Protection Administration reported that China became the leading source of sulfur dioxide pollution.

Moreover, the International Energy Agency has come the leading source of sulfur dioxide pollution. The Agency said China could be emissions leader by the end of this year, and the

Netherlands Environment Assessment Agency said China had already passed that level. An even more serious challenge China is facing is water. The industries and agriculture use nearly all of the water flow of Yellow River, and in many parts of China, factories and farms dump waste into surface water with few repercussions. China's environmental monitors say that one-third of all river water, and large sections of China's great lakes, the Tai, Chao and Dianchi, have Grade V water, which is the most decomposed level, making it diffi-

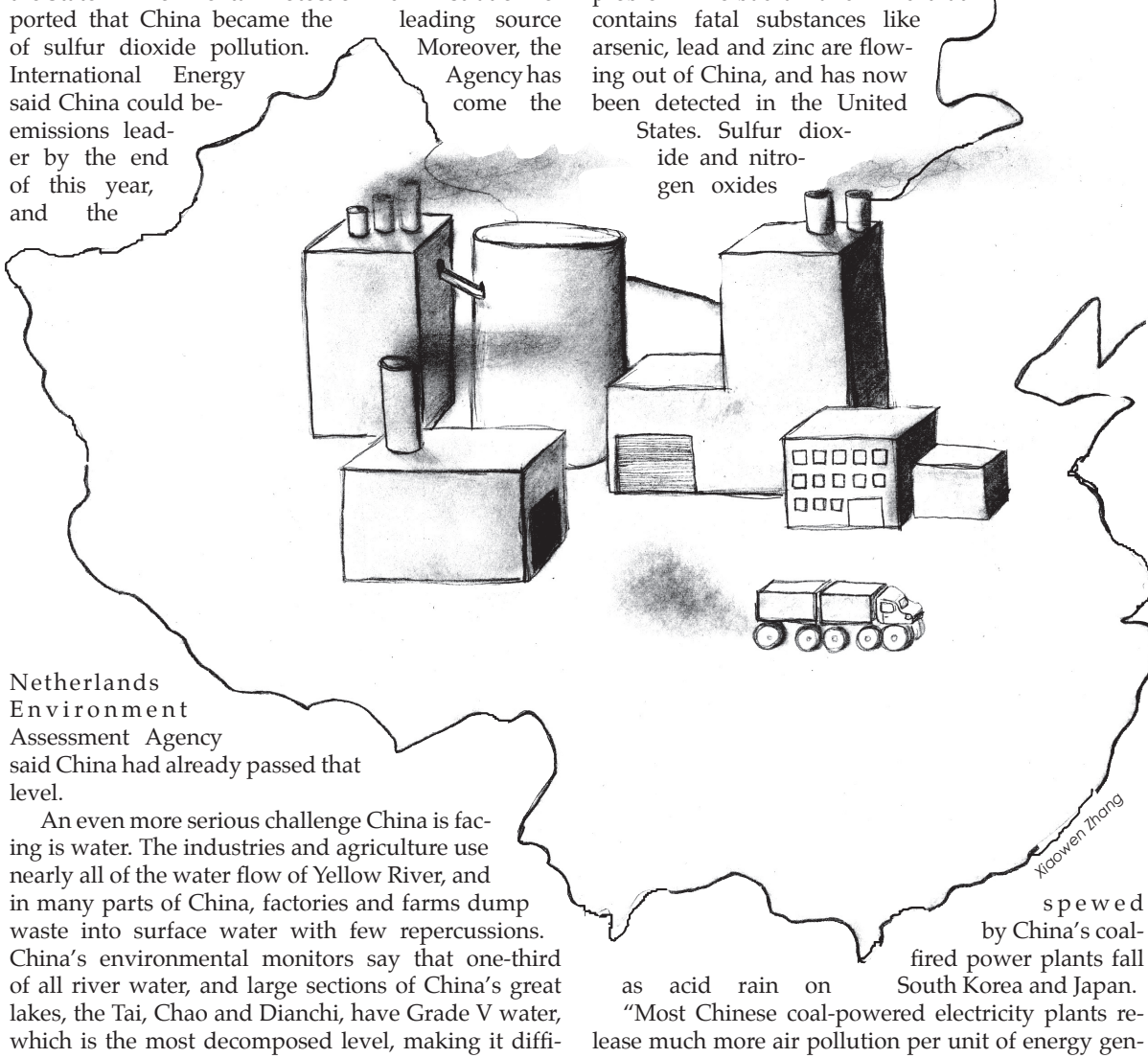
cult for people and even the plants to drink.

China's pollution is not a problem just for that country. Its environmental problems have become the world's problem. The bad air and wind that contains fatal substances like arsenic, lead and zinc are flowing out of China, and has now been detected in the United States. Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides

erated than in developed countries, and sometimes air pollution from China makes it all the way across the Pacific Ocean to the U.S. west coast," Collis said.

The Chinese government is working on reducing emissions and conserving energy. Export financial supports for polluting industries have been cut down. Many campaigns have been started to close illegal coal mines and close some heavily polluting factories. Major projects are planned to build up clean energy sources like solar and wind power. In the city of Chengdu, Sichuan province with about 3 million inhabitants, people are not allowed to drive gasoline-fueled cars and mopeds within the inner two rings of the city to reduce smog and exhaust fumes. Also, the environmental regulation in Beijing, Shanghai and other leading cities has been tightened for the approaching 2008 Olympics.

"I think that to minimize the pollution, China's electrical plants need to be modernized so they emit less pollution, but that is a tall order for a developing country," Mr. Collis said. "Historically, all nations have polluted pretty badly as they develop, and the U.S. is no exception to this because we still pollute more than we should. Ideally countries should fund research into new technologies for energy production that are low or zero emitters of pollutants, but the trouble is that we tend to become concerned when it's too late to prevent the damage."



For More Information, check out:

- www.wired.com/sciencediscoveries/news
- www.whiskeyandgunpowder.com/chinapollution.html

New marriage overshadows Sarkozy's fledgling presidency

Ten months after Nicolas Sarkozy began his presidency in France, he divorced his wife and married an Italian supermodel. His recent marriage has changed the way the people of France view him.

[Nina Oberman]

Staff Reporter

Ten months after his inauguration as the President of France, Nicolas Sarkozy has managed to divorce his wife of 11 years, hook up with an Italian supermodel, and completely alter France's international image. He has had little success, however, in the area of economics.

"Sarkozy based his 2007 campaign on increasing buying power in France, making things less expensive for consumers," said senior Lo-Ann Dubreuil, a French native. "This has yet to be done."

As the Euro remains stagnant, Sarkozy's private life has come into public focus. After divorcing Cécilia Sarkozy in October 2007, photos of the President with singer and ex-model Carla Bruni were published. Under the media's spotlight, they married on Feb. 2. Freshman Maï-Ly Dubreuil disapproves.

"He lives his life like a rock star," Dubreuil said. "He doesn't keep his promises. His divorce and new marriage are most likely distractions from the fact that he has yet to raise the buying power in France."

Henri Ghosn, a sophomore at the International School of Nice, finds the actions of his new leader off-putting.

"He's becoming a jet-setter instead of a president," Ghosn said. "This has divided France in two. I don't think it was a good thing that he shared his affairs with the rest of the world. It makes him like a celebrity who is followed by paparazzi, and takes the focus off of his political decisions."

Sarkozy's "distractions" are evidently doing more harm than good. According to an Ipsos poll released in January, his popularity dropped from 55 percent to 49 percent only 1 month after his divorce.

"Changing his wife so quickly shows his instability as a leader," Lo-Ann Dubreuil said. "It's just as big of a deal in France as it would be in America. I think it has had a big effect on the way people see him."

Although the French are rather sexually liberal,



French President Nicolas Sarkozy addresses the U.S. Congress in Washington D.C., November 7, 2007. Sarkozy's address to Congress, the first by a French leader in eleven years, comes amid improved relations between both countries. U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Sen. Richard Byrd (D-WVA) are seen in the background.

Sarkozy was the first French President to divorce during his time in office. His behavior with the media has also differed from that of his predecessors.

"Sarkozy takes up the American candidate habit of getting out in front of the press," French teacher Elizabeth Caspari said. "This isn't exactly expected in Europe."

Caspari sees Sarkozy's openness with the media

as a step that France won't be able to retrace. Just as fast food has rooted itself into American culture, the French may never disregard their President's private life again.

Sarkozy also differs from previous French leaders in his relationship with the United States.

"He is pro-American in a specific way: he is pro-Bush," Caspari said. "One of his first official visits as

President was to the White House."

Speaking at the French-American Foundation in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 12, 2006, Sarkozy denounced what he called "French arrogance" and said with regards to the war in Iraq: "It is bad manners to embarrass one's allies or sound like one is taking delight in their troubles." Sarkozy's foreign policy is not necessarily popular in France, however.

"Many French people think that Iraq is an American story, not a French one," Lo-Ann Dubreuil said. She sees France's past foreign policy not as arrogant, but wise.

Controversy also surrounds Sarkozy's policy with immigrants. Two days before the 2005 Paris riots, he referred to the youth of the Paris housing projects as *voyous*, or thugs, and *racaille*, a slang term that can be translated into English as rabble, scum or riff-raff.

"Though he is the son of immigrants, he is way too radical and judgmental in his politics of the immigrant population," French teacher Yolanda Johannes said. "You would never have known he comes from an immigrant family."

Sarkozy certainly had a religious upbringing, however. After his decision on Jan. 15 to set up a military base in the United Arab Emirates, he delivered a speech infused with more than a dozen references to God—a highly un-French thing to do, since France prides itself on a strict separation of church and state. Sarkozy seems to be losing touch with his own nation as he competes internationally alongside the U.S.

"He may appeal to more Americans, but in the process he may not have the support of the French that don't agree with American politics," Johannes said. "Whoever Americans elect for the next president, he or she will have to deal with Sarkozy in a careful way, I think. Sarkozy's image of the U.S. is Elvis and Marilyn Monroe. How do you deal with that?"

Since his election, France's new President has seemed vague and reckless in his policies.

"Those who like him keep saying 'just wait and see,'" Maï-Ly Dubreuil said. "It's been almost an entire year. How long can we wait?"

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TEAMS forges its way to competition with science, snacks

[Kelly Moffitt]
Co-Editor in Chief

They may be 48 of the most scientifically and mathematically gifted students at CHS and they may be spending over four hours a week for five weeks preparing for a national engineering competition, but members of the elite "Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science" (TEAMS) team have one thing on the brain: snack time. And it's not to calculate the amount of joules speedily consumed in a bag of Doritos.

"Undoubtedly, everyone's favorite part of TEAMS practice is the snacks: whenever Mr. Rice announces the snacks are available there is a huge stampede to get the Cracker Jacks or Dr. Peppers or whatever it is before they're gone," senior Liza Schmidt, member of the Varsity A team, said.

Ask any member and they will agree, for TEAMS members, snacks are serious business.

"Mr. Rice distributes problems, we solve them, and he reads the correct answers," senior Michal Hyrc, Varsity A member, said. "Much more important, however, than Mr. Rice's mentoring is the snack time aspect of TEAMS. For \$8 for a season per person, Mr. Rice provides one sweet and one salty snack as well as soda. Snack time really gives us a reason to come to TEAMS and helps us get through the long school day. I'm pretty confident in saying that at least half our team is primarily motivated by the snacks and their attendance would be dubious to say the least without them."

Even TEAMS sponsor Rex Rice doesn't completely understand the fascination.

"I'm not sure why there is such a fascination with food," Rice said. "But it became apparent very quickly after TEAMS started at CHS in 1993 that the kids had to have food to do any sort of work after school. So we always bring something to eat now."

Though members of TEAMS may be motivated to come for snacks, they stay for the science.

"I've learned about some engineering things that most people don't see in regular physics or chemistry," senior Adrienne Stormo, Varsity A member, said. "I also know the relationship between the angle of the thread on a self-locking screw and it's friction coefficient, which is pretty cool I guess."

TEAMS is a competition put together every year by the Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS). Their website describes the competition as "math and science applied: an academic competition challenging students with real-world engineering issues."

The CHS TEAMS team goes into a five-week intensive preparation for this competition and the time in has yielded impressive results in the past.

"We have two practices a week: one in which we do an hour and half worth of multiple choice questions and one in which we do an hour and a half of free response," Schmidt said. "The test itself is just that, but the twist, the 'TEAMS' twist, is that you are scored as a team. So, each individual team member gets a situation and for their situation they are given a lot of background information and equations that they must analyze and use to answer their 10 multiple choice questions."

Luckily, for free-response parts, team members can

partner up to answer follow-ups.

"The multiple choice questions can be passed between team members if a person is having difficulty, so although there is one problem for each person there is a lot of collaboration," Schmidt said.

The teams are organized by experience, aptitude, and ability to work with one another. Varsity A, consists of seniors Sonya Gierada, Liza Schmidt, Dakin Sloss, Paul Orland, Adrienne Stormo, Michal Hyrc, Ka Suen, and Whitt Downey and Varsity B consists of seniors Michael Root, Drew Lefkowitz, David Sherby, Steven Schilmeister, Phillip Levine, Mark Heil, Tatiana Birgisson, and junior Puhuan Zhou.

"[On Varsity A] we're all seniors, and generally the format for teams is that Varsity and A & B are seniors, C & D are juniors, and Junior Varsity A & B are sophomores," Hyrc said. "It's important to note that most schools have juniors on their JV teams, so the fact that we have sophomores that can compete at that level and excel says a lot about our TEAMS squad and science education at CHS."

Students get involved after receiving an invitation during December of their sophomore year based on interest and aptitude shown by students in freshman physics and chemistry.

"It's a torturous process of deciding who should come onto TEAMS," Rice said. "We try to keep in mind what we already know about their abilities in science, problem solving, math, reasoning, and writing. We also keep in mind how we think the students will function with the frustration of facing hard problems, how well they work in a group, and ability to take and give help."

The teams work together on engineering problems dealing in science and math. But the problems aren't the kind a student learns in any regular science class.

"The TEAMS problems cover everything from improving the environment to stuttering to nuclear problems," Lefkowitz said. "Most of the topics aren't covered in classes, but the math and science we use to solve the problems are from previous knowledge."

The wealth of knowledge that develops as a student advances through four years of science and math also helps them compete better with each passing year: calculus, dimensional analysis, and AP sciences all help create this foundation.

AP Physics teacher and team sponsor/organizer Rex Rice is available to help but tries to get the students to complete problems without much of his input.

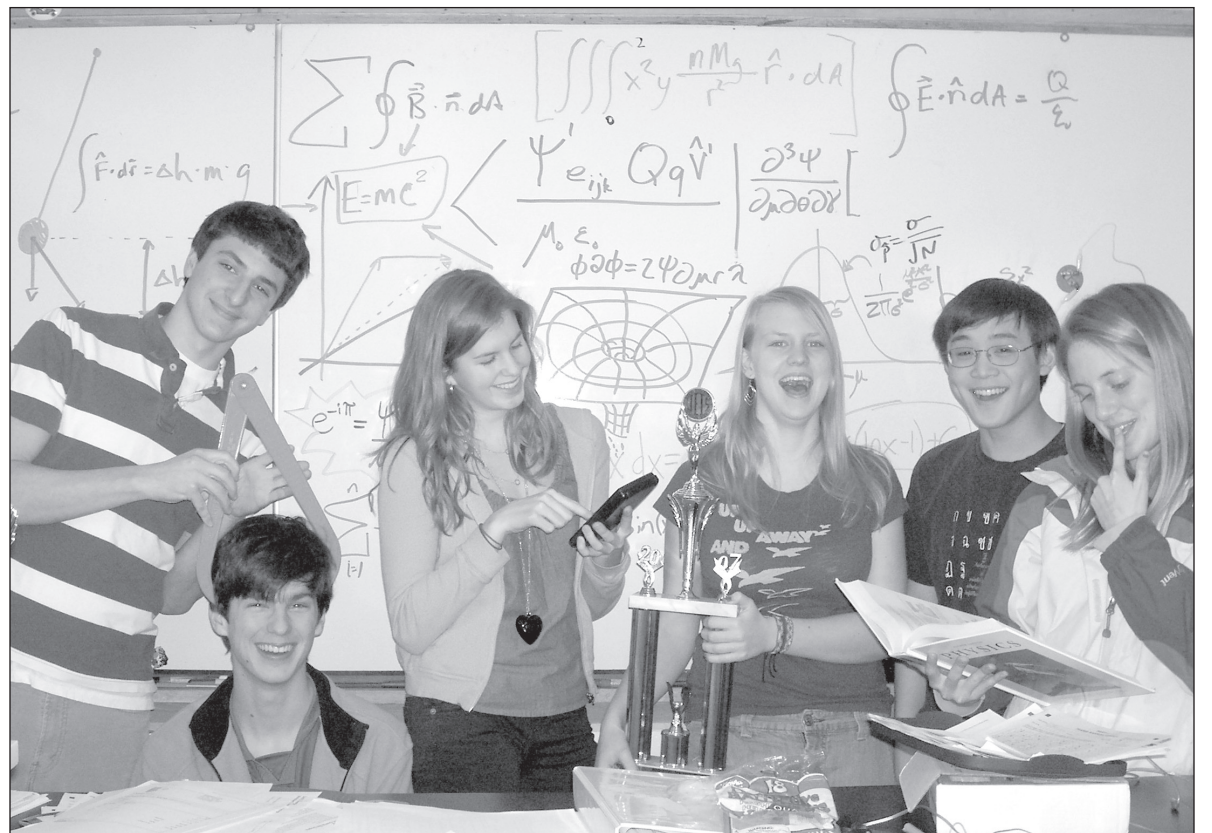
"Since this is [my team's] third year of TEAMS, we don't need to run to Mr. Rice with every question anymore," Stormo said. "We're pretty self sufficient, but he can explain weird concepts or engineering units that come up sometimes."

However, it is always good to know Rice is there to help.

"Mr. Rice doesn't do any real teaching," Schmidt said. "There's not a lot he could teach. We just practice to get used to the style of testing and analyzing. After our practice tests we can ask him questions and he'll answer, but he mostly organizes and oversees things."

[Michal Hyrc]
Senior

I would say that as far as team bonding goes, we've gone beyond covalent and would probably be best classified as ionic. Three years of competing together have really knit us together into a close-knit group ready to tackle the most difficult problems.



Leah Eby

Seniors Paul Orland, Michal Hyrc, Liza Schmidt, Adrienne Stormo, Ka Suen and Sonya Gierada, all members of the TEAMS Varsity A team, prepare for the TEAMS competition on Feb. 15. During after-school practice sessions, members practice multiple choice and free-response engineering questions. This year the problems will focus on engineering as it pertains to the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

That, however, is no small task. There are always scheduling issues and snack fees to be collected. Mr. Rice does a great job, and just the fact that he makes it available for us is awesome."

This year, for the first time in the history of TEAMS, the eight problems during the competition will have a focus on engineering as pertains to the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"I think the biggest thing TEAMS does is gives us a taste of what engineering is like," Orland said. "Some people really like the type of problems we do, and some find them really annoying."

As the competition, which will take place on Feb. 15 at Florissant Valley Community College, nears, the preparation is becoming more intense.

"I guess TEAMS is time-consuming," Schmidt said. "Three hours a week, and then the week of the competition we have an additional short meeting, and then the competition itself, which is probably about seven hours worth, but that includes lunch and awards from the schools who competed at the same test center. We don't get the actual results (national/state) back until April or something. But, it's worth it. I really enjoy it."

The pressure is on and with past years' exemplary performance, everyone is feeling the need to step up; especially for the underclassmen coming up in the ranks.

"Last year, Clayton TEAMS placed highly nationally in both the JV and Varsity level. We are trying to repeat that feat this year," junior Yiliu Zhang said.

The need to win gets pretty intense amongst the teams.

"Ultimately, we want to win the national championships—anything short of that is failure," Orland said.

This year, monetary motivations have entered the picture as well.

"Our goal for TEAMS is to win the competition in our division at the regional, state and national levels," Hyrc said. "Beating Ladue is also nice, but isn't very difficult so we try to set our standards higher. Also, this year JETS (the organization that creates the TEAMS test) has announced a several thousand dollar prize for, I believe, the team with the highest over-

all multiple choice score. Seeing as we were only one question (out of a total of 80) from tying that score last year, we have a decent chance and could surely utilize the money."

Rice foresees a good end for the competition. "It is hard to predict how the teams will do because the practice environment is so different from the situation the kids are in for the competition," Rice said. "When kids have been at school for seven hours of mental work and come after school for two more hours of intense problem-solving, it's hard to make results of practice tests indicative. If practice results are indicative, the sophomore teams are looking better than usual, the junior teams are a little worse (because of practice issues), and seniors, the best, are doing well. I think they will all do well this year once everyone puts their brainpower together at the competition."

However, at the end of the competition, no matter how CHS TEAMS does, the members will be able to look back at the experience as one that taught them science and math in a whole different realm from normal class work, as well being an experience for making friends with similar interests.

"We have a good time hanging out together," Lefkowitz said. "You'll always find us laughing about some stupid comment or how impossible one of the problems is."

The camaraderie of the self-proclaimed "science geeks" can be seen in the banter, gossip and genuine fun they have over every problem set.

"I definitely think it's healthy to be able to 'nerd out' every once in a while," Orland said.

Hopefully, this ability to collaborate, their training, and their aptitude will take TEAMS far in competitions this year. And if nothing else, there is always snacks.

"TEAMS is an excellent bonding experience for the scientifically gifted (nerdy) students at CHS," Hyrc said. "I would say that as far as team bonding goes, we've gone beyond covalent and would probably be best classified as ionic. Three years of competing together have really knit us together into a close knit group ready to tackle the most difficult problems, no matter how argument-inspiring they may be." ☺

Clayton Summer Academy joins up with eight area high schools

[Fontasha Powell]
Editor

Although the summertime is more than four months away, the administration has already begun to lay the foundations for the Clayton Summer Academy, a comprehensive summer school experience involving up to eight surrounding school districts.

The high schools that have come together to be part of this Summer Academy will be University City, Ladue, Brentwood, Affton, Kirkwood, Webster, Hancock and Bayless.

CHS Assistant Principal Don Rugraff is in charge of organizing the summer academy and insists that no drastic changes will occur.

"As far as classes go, there will be no major changes," Rugraff said. "We will still offer credit recovery and remedial classes. Mainly, we are allowing those schools to come to our summer school and get credit, and our students will be able to go their schools to take classes."

Counselor Dr. Ann Barber thinks that Clayton Academy has potential to be very beneficial to

CHS students.

"Generally, the school district supports decisions that they believe to be good for Clayton students," Barber said. "In comparison to other districts, we only offer a limited number of summer courses. The new program will give our students opportunities to take classes not offered here."

Although she will not attend summer school, senior Shizuka Tomatsu believes that in the long run, the new program will most likely not be beneficial for Clayton.

"I think that we're at a disadvantage because we have the best education program out of all of these schools," Tomatsu said. "There's an obvious advantage for those students because they can come here, but I don't think many of our students will be going to schools like Brentwood and Bayless."

Tomatsu always believes that as far as teacher knowledge and student intellect are concerned, Clayton surpasses the other schools.

"I know people from Brentwood who take the same courses as me and they say that their teachers are bad," Tomatsu said. "Brentwood

doesn't even offer AP courses. This could hurt the summer school classes, because overall, I think the average student at Clayton is smarter than the average student there."

Junior Katie Poplawski, however, disagreed with Tomatsu. She thinks the Clayton Summer Academy has the potential to be successful.

"I think the academy could be a good idea because students would get the opportunity to meet other students from other schools," junior Katie Poplawski said. "My only concern is how easy the other schools will

be to get to. Ladue's pretty close, but otherwise, the other schools are pretty far away."

In reality, both Brentwood, which has an excellent academic rating, and University City High School is closer to Clayton than Ladue High School.

Brentwood is 2.5 miles; University City High School is less than 2 miles and Ladue High School is located over 4 miles away from Clayton.

Tomatsu said that Clayton students are more likely to go to closer schools like Ladue to take courses, rather than farther schools.

"Students would go to Ladue

I think we should continue to explore opportunities for students and staff and look outside our boundaries to network and take advantage of the resources of outside entities.

[Don Rugraff]
Assistant Principal

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JOSEPH C. WELSCH

Pepper's Prom exceeds expectations of those who attended

[Phil Levine]
Editor

High school dances have always been a quintessential fun event for Clayton students. After the recent breathalyzer fiasco, the complete failure of homecoming, and the cancellation of the Halloween dance due to lack of interest, many students were doubtful about the turnaround dance, Peppers' Prom.

However, the administration realized their wrongs and mistakes from Homecoming and tried to change them in order to make Peppers into a fun dance for all.

Activities Director Eric Hamylak is deeply involved in STUGO and the planning of most major extracurricular events at CHS.

"We knew that the students had a number of concerns after homecoming, and I feel as though we addressed them all adequately," Hamylak said. "We gave students more input into the songs that were played. We tried to streamline the check-in process by setting up as much as we could. We changed the lighting which was a great compromise from homecoming. Overall, I think that the dance was a great success."

Many students who were hesitant of coming to just another homecoming put away their doubts and decided to give this dance another try.

"I honestly had a really good time and had a lot of fun," senior Liza Schmidt said. "I went because it had been a while since homecoming and I think that the

fact that the Halloween dance had to be cancelled from lack of interest made an impression on administrators. I figured that they would make the changes to get more kids to come which would ultimately make the dance more fun. I noticed a difference too. The dance just felt more relaxed than homecoming did. In addition to the fact that everyone knew what to expect in terms of the amount of staff, I think that the dance was toned down a little. The lights were better and there weren't as many coaches and teachers who greeted me as I came in."

Although many students did give the night a try, there were others who either left very soon after arriving or who didn't even bother coming at all.

"I didn't go to Peppers because I didn't have fun at homecoming and I wasn't expecting to have fun at Peppers," senior Katie Borges said. "I still thought that even if maybe the lights weren't on, that would only be a small change compared to the normal atmosphere of dances this year. I thought that it still wouldn't be fun."

There were still a relatively large turnout at Pepper; however, Hamylak was disappointed at the number of juniors and seniors who had been coming to the dances since they were freshmen and who suddenly decided not to come or to stay for less than a half hour.

"I really wish more of the juniors and seniors came, but they missed out," Hamylak said. "I also knew a lot of people, especially older kids, who did leave especially early. Part of me knows that dancing for three hours can be tiring and gets boring, but I heard many

juniors and seniors were going to other parties which must have interested them more where many would be able to drink afterward."

The drinking problem and breathalyzer problem is certainly one of the major issues concerning the dances.

Although coming to dances intoxicated was against school policy in the past, it was not until this year that the administration announced that they would use a breathalyzer on any suspicious students. The use of breathalyzers has deterred many students from attending.

"There are many things that the administration could do to change my motivation to go," Borges said. "Primarily, they should take away the breathalyzers. Not that I really want to drink but it changes the history of Clayton and invades students' privacy which is not the way Clayton philosophy used to be. It takes away the responsibility for the students to make decisions. Yeah, a few people got suspended in the past but it wasn't that big of a problem. There were a few outrageous people who were extremely drunk but the only reason why more people were caught in this administration was because the administration was trying harder to catch them."

Hamylak agrees that the alcohol situation is definitely one of the larger problems. "We need to do our responsibility to have safe dances and substance-free events," Hamylak said. "The message has been sent that these dances will be alcohol-free."

Some respond stating that if students don't come to dances, they will simply drink in even less safe atmospheres.

"We are doing our responsibility to provide alcohol-free dances and what happens outside of school is no longer our responsibility but the parents'," Hamylak said. "This is not to say that we don't care for our students, but we are only able to control events inside of school."

With the recent success of Peppers' Prom, STUGO and the administration are planning another dance in the spring and obviously Prom.

"Peppers was a good test and we were satisfied with the behavior of the students having no suspicious students," Hamylak said. "STUGO is planning a 'spring fling' especially after hearing the good news that most students who attended enjoyed themselves." After hearing how Peppers was more fun from their friends, other students who didn't attend are reconsidering their position.

"Some people left early like I expected, but a surprisingly large number of people said they had a lot more fun than homecoming," Borges said. "I still don't know about the spring fling but I will probably go to Prom since it is my senior prom and my last dance of high school."

Schmidt realizes that she can have a good time at the dances.

"It has definitely showed me that the dances can be fun even with all of the supervision and changes from years past," Borges said. ☺

Parents ponder open campus

[Helen Wiley]
Staff Reporter

Students at Clayton High School tend to forget how lucky they are to have open campus. Some parents wish that there was more limited freedom, while others are fine with the current policy. One mother, Jackie Militello, was not comfortable with the open campus policy when her child first came to the high school. Militello went to a parent talk organized by the PTO when her son, Matthew Militello, was a freshman. Another new parent brought up the open campus policy and asked why it was in place.

"One of the parents who'd had children go through the high school already replied that you could look at it this way: you aren't going to be going off to college with your child and they are going to need to learn how to handle the freedom," Militello said. "High school is a good time for this loosening of controls, with the school and parents there to help out if a student can't handle the freedom yet."

Fay Sher is another mother at CHS. She agrees with Militello's statements about teenagers learning to act responsibly when given freedom. "As a parent of a CHS graduate and a current junior I have no issues with an open campus policy," Sher said. "I feel that it helps prepare students for college life."

Ann Gold is the mother of sophomore Graham Gold. "Initially I was hesitant about the open campus. I grew up with a totally closed campus in high school," Gold said. "After talking to other adults, most seemed to like the fact that the kids learn to manage their time during high school instead of waiting until college to deal with all of the new freedoms."

Parents may have some more concerns on the policy when their children begin to drive. "When Matt first started driving, like most parents, I was generally worried any time he took the car," Militello said. "I was particularly worried during lunch time that as one of the first drivers in his grade, he'd be taking a car full of kids out to Burger King."

New drivers should only have one non-related passenger in the car during their first six months after getting a license. Extra people add to the distractions, increasing the chance of an accident.

"I'd have felt more comfortable with the open campus policy if I could have been reasonably assured that my son would only have one passenger," Militello said.

Gold hopes her son will always be safe while driving.

"We trust our child's driving and hope that he makes smart decisions while driving including seat belts and no phones or texting," Gold said.

While she likes open campus overall, Gold thinks freshmen should have more limited freedom.

"Restrictions might be good for freshmen and then they would earn more freedom as they move up to the next grade level," Gold said. "I am not sure if it really makes a difference though and might be too hard to control." Like most students, freshman Sarah O'Brien enjoys open campus.

"I really like being able to go off campus because of the freedom," O'Brien said. "Most schools don't allow students to go off campus, especially as freshmen."

Although it is O'Brien's first year at the high school, her parents have put full trust in her.

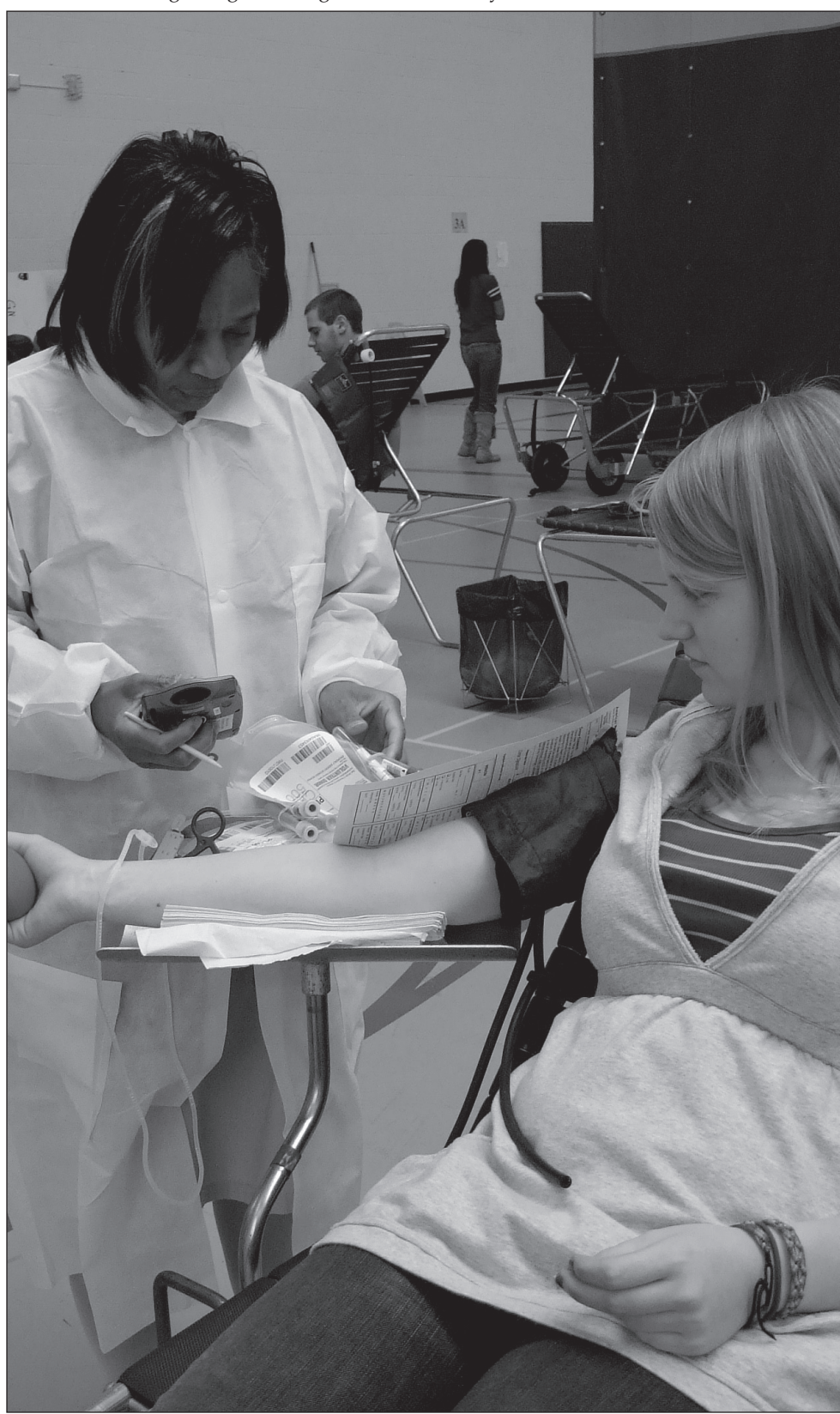
"My parents don't care whether I leave school," O'Brien said. "They know I won't do anything stupid."

Many parents and students agree that there should be restrictions on open campus for students after alcohol and drug use, vandalism, fights and similar infractions.

"I don't think anyone abuses the policy, but some restrictions should be created if people do," O'Brien said.

Militello believes that open campus should be a privilege only for students who earn it.

"I would love to see open campus as a carrot out there for grades and other conduct as well," Militello said. "Rather than lobby to have the school change its open school policy to accommodate my views, I would advocate a dialogue among all of the members of the CHS community, students, teachers, administrators and parents, to see what we all feel about this, gather opinions and come up with something that works." ☺



Senior Adrienne Stormo (right) is prepared to donate by a Red Cross Employee.



Senior Phil Levine donates blood at the STUGO-sponsored event.

CHS Blood Drive

The annual STUGO Blood Drive took place on Fri., Feb. 9. Many students eagerly signed up to participate in the event.

The results:

- 68 people presented to donate
- 36 were first-time donors
- 44 total productive units were collected



Senior Sonya Gierada (left) donates as friends, senior Laura Bliss (middle) and Sarah Zimmerman (right), hold her hand in support. Many STUGO members stayed and assisted the Red Cross employees all day by signing donors in and keeping them company throughout the donation process.

Unique club keeps students up-to-date on Japanese trends

[Ijeoma Onyema]
Staff Reporter

Have some extra time on your hands? Wanting to learn about a different culture? Or have you always desired to be welcomed to a benevolent chorus of konichiwas? Then listen up to the intercom every week in order to know when to meet up with the Japanese Pop Club on Thursdays. The club's meetings are always announced on the intercom, letting the CHS community know what movie they are watching in Room 7.

"The Japanese Pop Culture Club is basically a place for people to go to hang out and watch Japanese films," club president, junior Nichole Burton said. "It's really fun and it's a great way to relieve stress."

Burton has been a frequent member to JPop club since her sophomore year and was chosen to be club president soon after by club sponsor Rebecca Taylor. Taylor's job is to keep an eye on the members and discuss the films with them.

"Plus I watch them—and their ever-energetic president—run the meetings," Taylor said.

Taylor has a long history with the study of Japanese Pop Culture.

"I spent a couple of months in Japan a while back and I have been interested in the culture for a long time," Taylor said. "I used to live in Oregon, and there are many Japanese visitors there. Also, I have had two Japanese roommates, a number of Japanese students and many Japanese friends."

According to Taylor, three Honors English students, Rachel Cohen, Mimi Li and Michelle Alderson, founded the Japanese Pop Culture club.

"I like JPop because I like the culture of Japan," Burton said. "Plus, I like exposing others to different cultures and viewpoints because a lot of Americans rely on stereotypes, which isn't something to be proud of."

During the meetings, the members discuss many

branches of Japanese pop culture and bring in comic books and films from home. They also usually order pizza and watch Japanese films.

"About 80 percent of the time we watch Japanese movies, television shows and anime—the Japanese word for animation," Burton said. "However, once in a while, we take a field trip to a restaurant."

The members have watched a vast amount of Japanese films, varying from J-Horror like "The Grudge" to Anime like "Howl's Moving Castle".

Their last field trip was to the Japanese restaurant Sansai, located in Clayton, at the beginning of the school year. Their next field trip is to Noba's, another Japanese restaurant.

Occasionally, the club hosts have a video game day.

"We bring in a lot of popular games," junior Dominic Graham said. "We bring in anything, from DDR—which is very popular in Japan—to Guitar Hero."

Although it may seem like the members watch TV and eat fast food, they are also working on improving their Japanese.

"Junior Wen Zheng knows Japanese and she helps us out," Graham said.

Although the club does not attract as many people as other clubs do, the members still encourage students to join or stop by to relax.

"JPop is really fun," Graham said. "There's a lot more to the pop culture of Japan than Howl's Moving Castle."

Junior Jessica Lefton, who is also a frequent member, agreed with Graham and said that the club is basically a place where people who left the culture of Japan get together and embrace the culture even more.

"It's not a gathering of geeks, we don't sit around and do stereotypically 'geek' stuff, we just do what we like, and that is discussing Japanese pop culture," Burton said. "This club is not about an obsession, but instead a hobby that we all love to do." ☺



Jenna Wonish

Japanese Anime comic books are displayed during a Japanese Pop Culture Club meeting. In addition to reading comics, the club watches movies, speaks Japanese and takes occasional trips to restaurants. JPop club meets Thursdays after school in Room 7 and has a devoted following.



Brian Griesbaum

Clayton on the Park, located on 8025 Bonhomme Ave. near Shaw Park, is planning to close March 2009 and open again in September 2009 as an assisted living facility for active senior citizens.

Clayton on the Park scheduled for close in spring of 2009

[Nick Andriole]
Staff Reporter

Clayton-based Conrad Properties and McLean Virginia-based Sunrise have announced plans to convert Clayton on the Park, a mixed-use hotel and apartment complex into an independent living facility for active seniors.

The 23-story tower opened in 2000 and currently offers 109 hotel room units and 104 apartment units for lease.

The building also featured the Finale Music & Dining and Nutrifitness Fitness Center. Finale closed on Jan. 1 after its final night on New Year's Eve. Finale plans to reopen shortly in another Clayton location, however the location is still in the works.

Conrad has formed a partnership with Sunrise Senior Living, which currently operates separate three facilities in the St. Louis area.

In fact, one of the buildings is

located on Clayton Road adjacent to the former Layton's restaurant.

As of now, senior living options and availability are limited in the Clayton area.

"Currently the Gatesworth is full and has been for many years, and we have maintained a waiting list for prospective residents,"

Gatesworth director of marketing Erin Swanson said. "We are adding 38 more apartments, which are due to open in the spring of 2009."

According to data from the 2000 Census, 14.3 percent of Clayton residents are 65 years of age or older. However, estimates from the City of Clayton in 2006 indicate the percentage has risen to 19.61 percent.

"Clayton on the Park will become Clayton on the Park, a Sunrise Senior Living Residence," Jenny Rupp, a Sunrise director of sales and marketing, said.

The exterior appearance of the building will remain unchanged, however renovations of common

areas will take place.

"The residences will stay the same, however, each apartment will be upgraded to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act along with slight modifications to apartment fixtures," Rupp said. "Major renovations will take place in the common areas, to create a formal dining room, casual dining room, bistro, fitness center, salon and spa, and we will add common space for a library, art studio and theater."

Once renovations are completed, the building will have 208 senior living residences ranging from studio apartments to 3-bedroom units. The first of the new residents are scheduled to move in September 2009.

Conrad Properties also has plans to offer both luxury rental apartments in the Clayton area. However such a project remains in the planning stages.

Additionally, Conrad plans to renovate and operate The Danielle hotel under a major hotel brand. However, the two projects are separate and lack the hotel/apartment set-up offered at Clayton on the Park that is unique to the St. Louis area.

"Conrad currently has plans to renovate The Danielle," Amy Moss, Sales & Marketing Director, Conrad Properties Corporation said. "We also plan to offer a boutique select service in Clayton that could potentially be part of a major hotel brand." ☺

Clayton on the Park will become Clayton on the Park, a Sunrise Senior Living Residence. It will stay the same, but every apartment will be upgraded to ADA standards.

[Jenny Rupp]
Sunrise director of sales and marketing

Kaldi's provides steamy coffee during chilly winter months

Kaldi's has been a favorite coffee shop in the Clayton community for nearly 14 years and continues to delight devoted local customers with their quality coffee and baked treats.



Abby Eisenberg

Kaldi's, located 700 Demun Ave., across from Captain School continues to delight customers and has even expanded the franchise as close as downtown Clayton and as far as Springfield and Columbia.

[Ugochi Onyema]
Editor

Since its inception in 1994, Kaldi's Coffeehouse has remained a staple establishment in the Clayton community. Whether to meet up with friends or curl up with a favorite book, Kaldi's has always been a choice location.

The original café opened in 1994 at 700 Demun Avenue, near Ralph M. Captain Elementary School, and juniors Julia Hartel and Lily Hirst like the café because of its location.

"I go to the Kaldi's on Demun because I can walk there from my house and the food is really good," Hartel said.

While Hartel and Hirst prefer Kaldi's because of the convenience it provides, junior Becky Poplawski likes Kaldi's because of the goods sold at the stores.

"I've only been to the Demun Kaldi's, and I definitely like it better than Starbucks and Northwest Coffee," Poplawski said.

Kaldi's Coffeehouse has expanded throughout the years beginning with the café in Kirkwood became the second Kaldi's in the St. Louis area, and five other locations followed suit, including cafés in downtown Clayton, Chesterfield, Springfield, Columbia and a Roasting Plant and Barista Education Center in South City.

The coffeehouses that are farthest away from the original Kaldi's are in Columbia, Missouri and Springfield, MO, and though their atmospheres differ, the quality of the products remain similar.

The café in Columbia is accessible to students and residents near the University of Missouri-Columbia campus, while the Springfield café is more upscale than its predecessors. Hartel approves of Kaldi's expansion and prefers the store to other notable coffee

shops in the Clayton area.

"I am all for their expansion, and I especially like that they are now in downtown Clayton because their coffee is better than Starbucks and Northwest Coffee in my opinion," Hartel said.

Hirst likes the other Kaldi's shops but believes that the original is the best place to get coffee.

"I have been to the other shops but I've always gone to the original one, so I'm used to that one, and I like it more, but the new one is nice too, they're all just different," Hirst said.

Hartel likes the atmosphere of the café, and for her, Kaldi's is a place to relax.

"Kaldi's has a slow, relaxed pace and the setting is cozy," Hartel said. "The coffee is also very good and their drinks are creative and original."

Hirst appreciates the variety of goods that Kaldi's offers, and just like Hartel and Poplawski, she enjoys Kaldi's Coffeehouse products more than those offered in other cafés in the area.

"I really like the drinks, I think they're better than Starbucks, and I like that it has food too," Hirst said. "Also, the atmosphere is really nice and good to study in."

Poplawski's favorite item that Kaldi's offers is the hot chocolate, and she enjoys consuming the goods in the café on Demun because of its calm atmosphere.

"The thing that I like the most about Kaldi's is their hot chocolate," Poplawski said. "They have really good Aztec Hot Chocolate. The atmosphere is really nice too and it's a really cute shop."

Although Poplawski has not shopped at any of the other Kaldi's Coffeehouses, she looks forward to doing so in the future.

"I would definitely go to the other stores, especially if I was in the neighborhood, and I was looking for a place I knew was of good quality." ☺

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We also remind students that as the Globe is a student publication, all compliments, opinions, complaints, warnings, threats, sabotage attempts, arrest warrants, and libel suits should be forwarded to the Globe Office (see contact info below), not the Superintendent's.

--the Globe editors

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Bottled water pollutes, brainwashes America

It is no coincidence that one of the first major bottled water companies is called Evian-Naive backwards. Naive is exactly what the American people have been for the last decade. Whether they are bringing it to the gym, drinking it at restaurants or taking sips from it at home in front of the TV, the American people have allowed themselves to fall victim to the flawed perception that bottled water is healthier, cleaner and tastier than tap water.

For years, consumers have been drawn to bottled water, especially over the "dirty" and "bacteria filled" alternative of tap water. But what most consumers don't know is that tap water adheres to stricter purity standards than most bottled water and 40 percent of that "natural mountain spring" water comes from you guessed it--tap water. So then the question begs, why is it that Americans prefer to spend \$8 on a gallon of water when they can get the same, if not better, water for free from the easily accessible faucet in their kitchen?

Perhaps it is because of what the World Wildlife Fund found out in a 2001 survey that claimed consumers associate bottled water with social status and healthy living. It certainly isn't for the taste.

When Good Morning America conducted a taste test with their studio audience, they found that most people preferred the New York City's tap water to brands like Poland Spring and Evian. And St. Louisans really have nothing to worry about. The Washington Post ruled St. Louis as being in the top five of cities with the best tap water in the nation.

A broadening array of water types has been crowding the market in recent years. Including: spring, purified, distilled, carbonated, flavored, all of which have drawn in consumers like moths to a flame. The American public's naiveté to the different water types isn't nearly as bad, as their gullibility when it comes to the container that the water comes in. Customers are willing to spend \$2.29 for a bottle of Fiji water that comes in a unique container over Aquafina that is 50 cents cheaper but less attractive.

If America's fetish with bottled water was only a risk to their own wallets and dignity, perhaps it would be ok to let it go.

But the risk goes far beyond stu-

pidity and cash.

While the EPA is in charge of regulating the water that comes out of your kitchen sink, they have no control over bottled water. The sanity of water is subject to the FDA which does not mandate that bottled water be bottled in sanitary conditions using food-grade equipment.

And then there is the environmental impact of bottled water. The Earth Policy Institute estimated that to make the plastic for the bottles burns up something like 1.5 million barrels of oil, enough to power 100,000 cars for a year. Nearly 90 percent of the bottles are not recycled. The creation and transportation of the bottles in itself is a detriment to the earth.

So this is a call to the people, a call to end the stupidity of the American people. It is time to stand up and say that our health, earth and income are far too important to be degraded by the false facts being peddled by the bottled water industry.

Instead of buying individual bottles of water, buy Nalgens. If the taste of water bothers you, put a filter on your tap and if you long to purchase something "cute," get a puppy. ☺



Staff Editorial

Agree **95%**
Disagree **5%**

'Big Apple' meaningful, fun

I feel that my family believes I am dying. I constantly hear words like, "I don't know what we are going to do without you" and my favorite "The family is going to lose you soon, Hyrum." While my immediate family believes me to on a type of deathbed rather than on my way to college, I still try to communicate to them that I will keep in touch, I will still be their son and, for goodness sake, I don't leave for months. Although I have historically hated to and make up hardly refuse asked me to her on a recent apple. She joy me before I

EL CUATRO



(HYRUM SHUMWAY)

The trip real until I was my baggage is ironic that pounds of and 30.5 pounds of luggage and that I was "unable" to start my work until the plane ride home. When I was offered the choice of seeing Times Square or working on the derivative of $\ln(x^2)$, the opportunity cost of doing schoolwork seemed to be very steep. As I walked the streets of NYC, with an old resident, I realized that my mom seemed to know the subway system better than the highway system of St. Louis. Although I was missing important instruction in my native land, I was receiving a different type of education that was impossible to receive in familiar CHS.

I am an Eagle scout, however, in my 15 minute packing, I evidently did not live up to my oath. One of the first lessons I learned while walking the streets is to be prepared. While we had both brought large coats neither of us thought to bring an umbrella. It was amazing to me that before I even had time to get wet from an onslaught of New York City sleet, we were able to purchase two \$3 umbrellas off the street. I would soon learn that I lead an excessively convenient life and while I complained about the highway construction, New Yorkers spend hours of their day in subways.

Little did I know that my affinity for the subway would exponentially increase, when I learned the art of sliding the metro pass. By the second day of the trip I started to realize the benefits of commuting in trains where I could read, write, or even sleep as long as my mom and I heard our stop. While the trains seemed inconvenient, they made much more sense than having millions own cars. For the money America spends on cars, gas, highways and spinning rims, I am confident we would have been able to create a state of the art cross-country public transit (excluding Wyoming of course because that would be the definition of a market failure). Instead of pitying the New Yorkers, I now envy them. As I am paying for the fixing of my car, they are able to spend income typically set for car insurance or new radiators and instead spend it on education, H and H bagels or paying down their apartment.

New York amazed me simply for being New York. There was always a concert going on, somewhere someone was singing, another dancing, and in the West side there might be an art exhibition. I was stunned at how many opportunities there were to be cultured. As I walked through the Met, the Natural History Museum and the Finance Museum, I was able to make connections to my classes at CHS and life in general.

It was neat to see fiat money from China, paintings I have learned about in American Literature, and view

ionic bonds in rock that directly relate to the bonding unit I had just finished in Chemistry. I loved walking around, soaking up the city, the life and the people.

While I still had my doubts about medieval culture, even after having Mrs. Rogers-Beard for a teacher, it is hard not to believe in specialization after seeing medieval treasures at the "Cloisters" museum. I could not have believed the creativity, skill and patience of medieval craftsman carving intricate relief work into wood pieces smaller than your fist. I feel like I have really seen great human art and pieces not only from Europe, but also from all corners of the world.

New York is a melting pot of cultures and I was able to appreciate "American" style hot-dogs, crab cakes, Italian gyros, Egyptian falafels and European chocolate. Beyond tasting international cuisine, I was able to see the New York Fed and the New York Stock Exchange where a staggering amount of world finance is going on. After studying beginning Economics for the last few months I felt as if I was able to appreciate a sliver of what great mega finance was occurring within.

I also saw the global economy while walking around Times Square. I never thought that I would see advertising as beautiful, but after seeing Times Square at night, while a Peruvian couple played Incan music, as it was snowing, I never would have guessed how gorgeous Snapple, Coke, Hershey and Lacoste advertisements could be. While any other place in the world would have been dark, New York was lit up and never seemed to slow.

While I trick myself into thinking I live a busy life, I have nothing on some New Yorkers. I saw them conduct business, eat lunch, commute and read the Times all at once. While I might have decent time management, somewhere someone in New York has a productivity possibilities curve that extends far beyond my present one.

Finally the greatest truth I came to was that all good things come to an end and I had to come home to quaint St. Louie after enjoying New York immensely. Ultimately, however I have come to realize that everything works out if I do my part and keep my priorities straight. I was able to make up my work--going to New York did not ruin my chances of doing well on my APs.

Even more importantly I am at a time in my life that I will never be able to enjoy again. Although I appreciate the classes I am in, I sometimes ponder if I should really be working so hard when this might be my last time to go to Ted Drewes for a while or my last time to appreciate the plunge into the pool after sliding down the Center chute.

Perhaps, however I am now the one that is getting too sentimental. I should be able to lead my last year of high school with no regrets which is why I am going to attend my grandparents fiftieth anniversary next week even if I come back to get a 50 on some test--some things, like family, are more important than a possible failure. I would be willing to trade in 2s on all my AP tests for the wonderful time I had with my mom on my New York weekend.

I will be able to learn history later, but the experiences that I choose not to engage in with people this year will be lost forever. Although I am not dying, (in opposition to popular belief), I am intent on making my last semester meaningful. This is possible if I rearrange my priorities. If my brother wants to play soccer, I will go play goalie. My homework can wait. Everything will turn out, I will get it done--I have done it before. ☺

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.

Student reflects on voting rights

My birthday was on Feb. 4. Usually this didn't mean anything special for me besides the fact that I had a birthday. This year was different. In addition to the fact that 18 is a big birthday, I realized about a year ago that I would be able to vote in the 2008 elections. Then about two months ago I realized that I would be able to vote in the primary. I saw on the news that Super Tuesday was on Feb. 5. Exactly one day after my birthday.

I have always been envious of my parents, along with every other adult, that they had the opportunity to vote and make an impact on the election. Although this recent Super Tuesday primary was not for president, but simply who will be the candidates, it still meant a lot to me actually be able to vote as an adult. I had my bar mitzvah when I was 13. I got my driver's license when I turned 16. I became an adult in the eyes of the law when I turned 17.

However, the ability to vote and actually take a role in government means so much more. Voting and choosing a candidate are two of the primary responsibilities and rights that make people actual citizens. I feel as though I am now a true citizen of the United States of America. This country was founded with the idea that citizens would choose the elected officials in government. I feel that I am now represented as a citizen of this great nation.

I come across some students who really could care less about government. I get a variety of justifications of why they didn't vote. Some are really pathetic while others seem at least a little reasonable. Some students "forgot" to register. Others couldn't decide or didn't know the issues well. One student, on the other hand, who is a college freshman who graduated from CHS last year stated that he wasn't going to send in an absentee ballot from his school to vote in the Missouri primary or possibly even the election. His excuse was full of many faulty reasons. First, he said that he really didn't care.

Second, he said that it would be too difficult. Third, he stated that the government would be corrupt anyway and that it really wouldn't matter who was in office. Now I have to say that I strongly disagree

with everything he said. How can a person not care who is elected to the most influential position of leadership in the country in which he lives. How can a person not care who will potentially be the most powerful man (or in this election possibly woman) in arguably the most powerful nation in the world. This is outrageous. Secondly, it is not difficult at all. It is one of the simplest ballots to fill out.

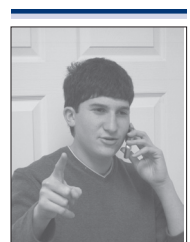
The form consists of your name, address, telephone number and a checkmark to the reason that fits why you are voting absentee. This is yet another outrageous justification for not voting. Thirdly, the corruption idea doesn't work out. Even though there is obviously some corruption in Washington, it can be lessened and someone who thinks it is a problem should take the small amount of time to vote for a candidate that is less corrupt and who has the ability and desire to decrease dishonesty and fraud.

I registered almost immediately after I was allowed to at the age of 17 and a half. Including four a half minutes of waiting in line, it took me less than five minutes to register to vote, and the office to register is located right in the middle of downtown Clayton or you can simply sent it in by mail. There is no excuse why someone simply "forgot" to register to vote.

Besides the fact that I actually wanted to vote and voice my opinion and choice in the election, it is also a responsibility that every citizen has and must perform. We would have no democracy if people failed to vote. We would have no United States of America if people choose not to vote.

Now back to why I was extraordinarily happy that I was able to vote. In both the Democratic and Republican primaries, the margin between first and second place was extraordinarily small, and I think that my vote really impacted the election. Even in a race that is 4,000 people different, which sounds like a huge number, that number is out of over 600,000 or 700,000 voters.

I feel that my vote actually had an impact on the primary and helped the Democratic candidate that I dislike lose Missouri. ☺



(Kelly Moffitt)

[Thumbs Up]

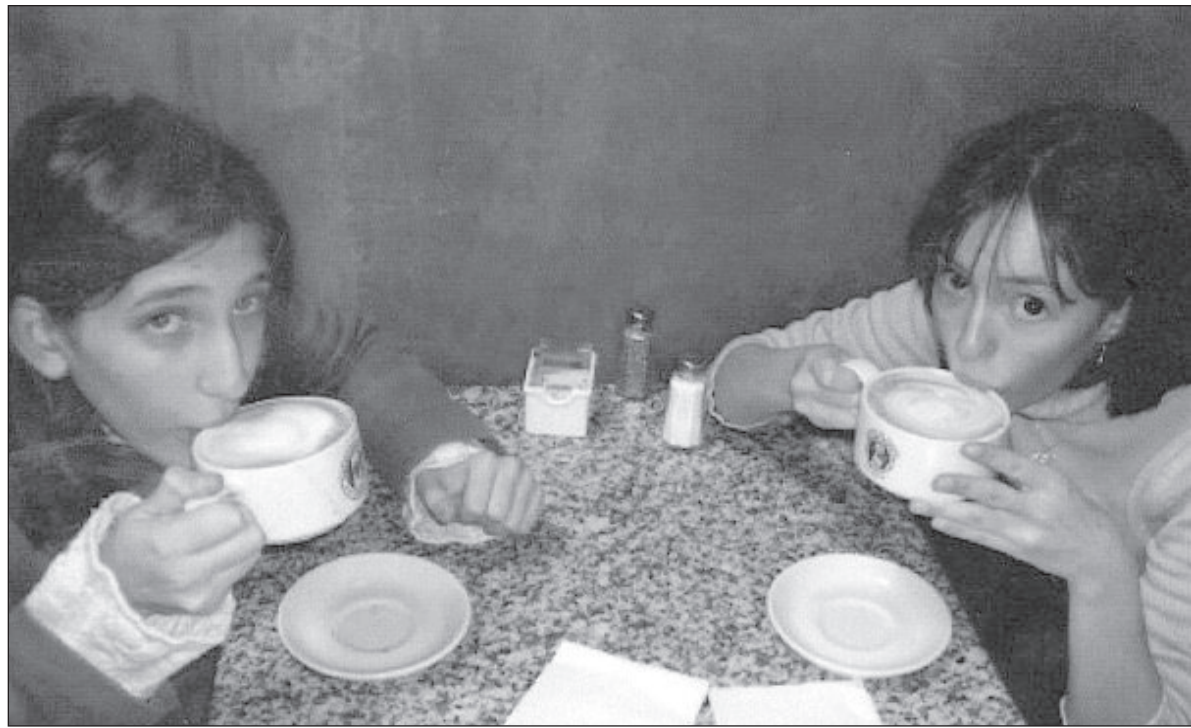


- Valentines Day
- Spring Training
- Grammys
- Four day weekend

- Author Project presentations
- Waiting to hear from colleges
- AP registration
- Leap year
- End of winter sports
- Heath Ledger's death

[Thumbs Down]





Kelly Moffitt sips her "adult" cappuccino with her friend Kelly Lane in Chicago, spring break 2004.

Caffeination proves vital to coming of age

Coming of age rituals have been enacted among families since the beginning of human existence. Children all over the world have walked over burning coals, grinded corn all day in their father's mother's home, and stayed out all night in the snow with only a toothpick and a gum wrapper to prove their maturity. Vastly more treacherous than the above mentioned, the sign of coming of age in my family comes in the form of a coffee cup. Preferably filled with coffee.

Practically every family event I remember has coffee in it: whether it be from my mom's endless cans of the frou-frou Café Français, or my dad's constant need for coffee mugs that fit in his car's cup-holders, or even just the countless family dinners that evolve into living room chats that require a mug of something hot to hold on to when opinions differ.

I remember a certain one of these get-togethers over Thanksgiving when I was seven or eight. We were eating at my Aunt Karen's, and as we slumped into the usual tryptophan slump, my Grandpa got up to get coffee. He asked who wanted some and my cousin Eric, who is the second youngest before me by five years, somewhat timidly expressed his interest. It was as if the air had been sucked out of the room. These things were just not done like this.

"It's okay," my Aunt Karen said. "He's been drinking coffee for a bout six months now."

And with that, the air came back into the room. But it was a different kind of air. An air that said Eric was becoming a man. My grandpa came back with the biggest mug of coffee and with a look of pride, slapped it on the kitchen table, "Drink up" he said.

Hating being the youngest and doubly despising being left out of anything, I immediately prostrated my arm in the air, demanding my own cup.

I was greeted with a "not till you're older." Finding this unfair, I promptly threw a tantrum.

But my time would come to take my place as a woman of the family (a highly caffeinated one that is) but not until many years later when I was no longer so eager to grow up anymore.

I was in sixth grade, and I had stayed up late the night before working on my World War II project on Anne Frank. I had had a rough time of it because I was not yet the seasoned all-nighter-master that high school has ground out of me.

Of course the all-nighter had been of my own doing—I had overextended myself again with ballet, basketball, piano, and I had continually forgotten my project materials at mom's house for three days straight while I was at my dad's. My dad offered to let me stay home from school, and I remember turning him down: why would I not go after spending so long trying to finish?

And with that, out of thin air, he pulled a mug and filled a cup of coffee for me.

"Here, you'll need it," he said.

Remembering the momentousness of Eric's coffee drinking, I graciously accepted the cup and took a sip...ready to speed the process of being considered a woman, no matter what.

And it was all I could do to keep from spitting it back out: black, strong, and disgusting. My dad just laughed, "It's an acquired taste, I guess. You have to ease yourself into it...try some milk and sugar."

How right my dad was to be: like coffee was a taste I'd have to get used to, I'd have to acquaint myself with growing up as well.

In middle school, it became the fashion to walk down Wydown and "grab a coffee" at the Starbucks at the corner of Wydown and Hanley. Whoever got there first could stake out the space for their friends on the cool, comfy chairs, thereby solidifying social status as the hip prepubescent kids we thought we so weren't. Of course there wasn't much coffee in our Mochalattefrappuccinos with caramel sauce, but that, of course, was besides the point.

Still trying to force ourselves to grow up I remember sipping my caramel frappuccino and playing "spin the hairbrush," feeling pretty hardcore as we would carefully spin the brush and give a hug (hey, at least we still weren't in the cooties phase) to the person it landed on. We would then proceed to talk about gossip way beyond our years, pretending we'd all done way more than we ever could have imagined and acting like school was just no big thing.

My grandpa, upon hearing of my newly acquired taste for coffee pulled me aside (naturally with a mug-full) to tell me a story...it's one of my favorites to this day.

When he was in high school and working to save for college and help his family, my grandpa's mother packed him hot cocoa in a thermos everyday. But, one day, he left the thermos at his work and, the next day went to take a sip out of it, only to find a lovely sour

surprise inside. The milk had spoiled. From that point on, he drank straight black coffee and he still does to this day.

I didn't realize what he was trying to tell me at the time, but I think I do now: you can't force yourself to like coffee; it will just happen to you. Once again, much like the concept of growing up that I'd never seem to get used to.

I just couldn't seem to get used to the taste of pure, stark coffee most exemplified by my experience with Cappuccino in Chicago: during spring break of eighth grade as my friend, Kelly and I sat in a shady café in downtown Chicago, we ordered hot drinks. She, intelligently, ordered a yummy cup of hot cocoa. I, wanting to be up with all the café-lingo ordered a cappuccino which ended up in the trashcan during Kelly's sojourn to the bathroom. When she came back, I was all smiles, "Man, I just wolfed that down, too good!" I said. I was to continue this role-play with coffee until I actually started to enjoy it.

By high school I actually began to get along well with coffee at my side. I was getting used to the strange tang, the strong wave of energetic change the caffeine rolled over me, the formerly suffocating blanket

of comfort the hot mug felt like in my hands. And, I'm not going to lie, it did serve as a nice pick-me-up as I started to learn about how to do those all-nighters right.

Soon I would start honing my taste for coffee, knowing exactly the right amount of sugar to be stirred in, the best coffee shops for intense conversations, the best aroma for the mood I was in. I would try my own hand at making coffee and burning half my tongue off from the acidity of way overshot measurement of coffee grinds. I'd bring friends who visited to Kaldi's, conduct Chem study sessions in Starbucks, and bathe myself in the lovely hominess of Folgers.

I didn't really realize how much I'd come to rely on coffee until this year, when stress levels got to their highest they'd ever been with college applications, AP classes, Globe, work, family, friends, my boyfriend, etc. I looked around and suddenly realized that all those caffeine-addict jokes my friends were telling were about me, and it was I who was drinking two cups in the morning at home, a large Mocha from Northwest second hour, and a cup after school almost everyday.

Suddenly I was spending \$9 dollars a week on coffee, and I wasn't even sure why. After all, the caffeine didn't seem to be working as fast anymore, and I hardly registered a different taste between a mocha and a hot cocoa.

I'd try to slow down on the coffee, but I just couldn't do it. My friends would no longer accompany me to Northwest, they would no longer feel bad for my perennial lack of money.

But it was only after the day that I only had enough money for food or coffee and I chose the coffee that I decided the obsession needed to end. So I cut out Northwest cold turkey, began drinking only one cup a day (if that much) and decided to try and start anew. Since November 8, 2007, the only thing I have bought from there was a cup of hot tea and a chocolate croissant.

For awhile it was heartbreaking to see, hear, or smell coffee; that feeling of being bone-tired and not being able to do anything about it was shattering emotionally. It physically hurt after getting a whiff of that nectar of the gods passing by in the hallway.

But I had recognized coffee had become my crutch, my safe place, the place I fall into when times get hard...so I had to do something about it.

When I love something, just like I love coffee and just like I loved my childhood, I get obsessed with it and try to bring it in closer just to make sure it never leaves. That is what happened with coffee for me. I realized that coffee a sign of growing up for me like everyone else in my family, it would actually turn out to be a sign of my childhood. The "coming of age" part would be my ability to let the coffee go...to let my childhood go.

And that's when I really began to understand what this coming of age stuff was about: the things my father, grandfather, and experiences had been trying to tell me all along. It wasn't that I got the chance to drink the coffee at the table with the others, it wasn't the fact that I was deemed "of age," it was that coffee would be the way I eased into growing up, acquiring a taste for it. I wouldn't be ready to grow up and it wouldn't happen when I wanted it to but it would come for me when I needed it most.

And, from my own experience, I learned that sometimes you've got to stop growing up and just grow. You've got to leave those coffee mugs behind in the sink and get a good night's sleep. That's when you know you've actually grown, when you let yourself do it. ☺

Snow day brings back childhood memories

As the weather man says with complete confidence in his voice, "there's a pretty good chance for snow on Friday," I wonder to myself, is this true? Will school be canceled? The adrenaline starts pumping. Should I study for the big biology test tomorrow and do my homework, or just go to bed early? All these questions race through my mind, even though I slightly doubt the whole idea. But, just like every other student enrolled in school, snow days truly are magical and widely appreciated. From kindergarten to high school, students are always dreaming of snow days in the winter time.

When I was in kindergarten, global warming wasn't as pressing an issue, and snow fell over St. Louis much more frequently. I estimate that there were two or even three snow days a year throughout my time in elementary school.

These days were simply the best. My dad would wake me up later than usual, surprising me by announcing that school was canceled. I immediately would run to my bedroom window, and stare outside with my mouth wide opened and a gleam in my eye.

My brother and I would run down the stairs, still in pajamas and step outside, just to make sure the snow was real. Then, we would race back upstairs to change into warmer clothes.

The rest of the day was spent outside in the fluffy, white snow. We would sled at Shaw Park, make the biggest snow man possible and then have a huge snowball fight with other kids in the neighborhood. Pretty much, the whole day was spent outside in the snow.

In middle school things were slightly different. I started to sleep in later. My dad would still wake me up, announcing that school was canceled, but this time, instead of running down the stairs or even looking out the window, I just rolled back to sleep.

Once up, I spent more time around the house, watching T.V. or finishing some extra homework. I would always make it outside into the snow and usually make a point to build a snowman.

However, things began to really change as time went on, and especially when I got to high school. First of all, I feel as if St. Louis seems to be getting hotter in general. There are fewer snow days; and, when there

is a snow day, I spend more time sleeping in later and then being lazy around the house.

If I am in a more energized state of mind, I might get out of the house and mess around in the snow for a little while. Typically though, snow days are spent recuperating from homework, catching up in extra work and more importantly, sleeping.

As I reflect on snow days throughout history, I have come to realize the importance and the magic they contain. Kindergarten was when I truly understood the purpose of snow days: to get outside and have fun.

Just this past Friday, we had our year's first snow day. For many students and teachers, it was truly a miracle. Through all the turmoil of getting back into school after Winter break, a snow day was greatly needed.

And on this snow day, I made a point to get outside. After sleeping a little later, since I drastically needed to catch up on sleep, I went sledding with a few friends at Forest Park for about three hours. And, instead of driving everywhere, we hiked.

We walked so far, and through so much snow. But, the experience was totally worth while. Without any worries, and really nothing to complete, I could for an entire day enjoy being with friends, and playing in the snow like a little kid. I have to admit, it is nice being a little kid even if it's only for a day.

When it snows, almost every person gets this feeling of nostalgia. It isn't every day that enough snow falls to make a snowman, even if it is only a one-foot tall snowman.

Who doesn't want to jump into a pile of snow, or sled down a steep and icy hill? It's just that in Kindergarten, there were no worries, and we innocently spent the day in our own snow-filled worlds.

Now, as high school students, when we find out that it's a snow day, most of us go back to bed. Then, when we wake up, it's time to eat, catch up on homework, and then sleep some more. For the students that make it outside to build a snowman or go sledding, I commend you. If there is anything we should learn from snow days, it is a reminder of our past and the innocence we once had. And how even during difficult weeks of school, snow days provide an opportunity to really have some fun. ☺



[Aaron Prais]

If there is anything we should learn from snow days, it is a reminder of our past and the innocence we once had.

Censorship inhibits expression

It was early June, and the transition from eighth grade to high school was about to begin.

The commencement would be the long awaited end-of-the-year Hawaiian Dance. At arrival, the floor was decorated with the essence of beaches: balls, pool toys, fun colors, even a snow cone machine. However, the most anticipated part of the dance was of course the music.

The first thing on my agenda was to go make a request for my favorite song at the time, "Get Low" by Lil'John. To my surprise the DJ tells me that he is not allowed to play any rap music at all. Of course my response was "why?" The DJ tells me that it was at the request of mothers that there be no rap music or music with offensive language. In other words the mothers were censoring our dance.

Never in my life have I heard of a dance being censored. I was outraged. This ludicrous censorship had caused me to spend my night listening to old Temptations songs and old 1990s music that was not suitable for a dance for our age group. I was infuriated at the fact that the privilege to dance to my hearts content was the price to pay for a few mothers who find the words "ass" and "damn" inappropriate.

This would come to vex me for many years and led to one question: "What's the big problem?" The topic of censorship within our society's media is too complex of a subject to simply have one clearly cut answer to the question. Censorship thrives inside of the media and slowly finds its way into the harmless environments of a middle school dance.

The type of censorship that occurred the night of the dance was the ever-so-popular censorship of music that plagues radios and televisions everywhere. Frankly the type of censorship that I find most intolerable is the kind when I listen to my favorite song on the radio and one word is taken out or changed. It has been proven that

this editing of the words causes a quick and unpleasant disturbance of the rhythm of the song and thus enrages the listener.

Another argument of mine is the plain reason that my musical experience must be hindered as a result of the biased opinions of a disproportionately small group of people. A third ground of discontentment is that the placement of censorship on an artist's song is an infringement upon their artist genius and constitutional right to freedom of speech. How can people justify this?

The common person would say that the problem simply exists in the fact that directors, writers, and music artists include offensive material in their works and that these pieces need to be altered to be acceptable in public. Another might

say that they do not want their children subject to the material in the media today, and that it is their job as a parent to shield the children. It is explanations such as these that help make the problem of censorship so illogical, yet they reflect the common attitude and views of Americans today.

The truth is that everyone in America is so sensitive to everything and everyone that we lose the ability to differentiate the obscene from the artistic and influential. As for parents trying to shield their children, that presents another problem. By trying to shield children from the world, parents usually end up doing their child a disservice.

The constant protection from every little bad thing causes the child to become socially ignorant, and by time they face the real world, life for them would be like going from playing a plastic toy car to finals in professional race car driving. They

are bound to crash.

Parents such as these exhibit another quality of American society: the unwillingness to face truths. Americans have lots of trouble coming to terms with the ugly and unpleasant truths that affect our society.

Issues such as racism, sex, and religion - all of which are very evident in modern society - are taboo subjects that Americans refuse to confront. Is it coincidence that it topics such as these that appear in the music that is being censored in the media? I think not.

These issues that Americans have make the issue of censorship what it is. A nuisance. Granted that pornographic material is too raunchy and obscene for the public and crosses the line. People know when the line is crossed.

However, simple words and subjects discussed in the media make the society confront things that it tries to hide, which is 100 percent appropriate. In fact, discontinuing censorship could be a method of taking American society out of the darkness and bringing to light true issues that need to be realized and talked about.

The cure all to this issue would first be for people to grow a backbone and second to learn not to cower at the sign of taboo or risqué, but to confront and talk about the issues that people want to sweep under the rug. This opens the door to communication that is all too often shut in an ominous fashion and ultimately would prove to be a positive change.

Even more important, thousands of middle school and high school students would be spared from the tyranny, and oppression of mothers controlling their dances. Plus they would possess a deep gratitude if every other word in their favorite songs were not skipped or changed. ☺

the last



caffeination
[kelly moffitt]

Americans have lots of trouble coming to terms with the ugly and unpleasant truths that affect our society.

Corrections from the January issue

On page 17, in the "Tattoo" article, Parker Rawdon's father passed away in 1994, not last year.

A call to young voters everywhere

I am the person who all the pundits and pollsters have been trying so hard to define. They used to call people like me "lazy," "uninterested" or "uninvolved." I am a first time voter. Now they are changing their tune.

Since I was born, my family has been whispering liberal ideas into my ear. I have grown up listening to NPR and MSNBC; I have spent my life with pictures of my grandmother shaking hands with well known politicians like Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. As a child I would spend hours looking at the memoirs and biographies of the great liberals of the 20th century that were stored on my grandmother's and parents' book shelves. I witnessed everyone in my family, from my mother down to my older sister, challenge people to debates over their conservative ideals, and I shook hands with Bill Clinton during his 1992 race for the White House.

Now it is my turn and my chance to vote. I knew for certain that it would be a Democrat, and at the time of my 18th birthday I was pretty sure it was going to be Hillary. I was somewhat familiar with her politics. I knew she was smart, liberal and my grandmother liked her — all what I looked for in a future president. But what I didn't know was why I liked her. I had always considered myself politically savvy but in all truthfulness, I was lost.

I knew I that I didn't want Bush,

but I didn't know why. I knew I was supposed to like a Democrat, but I didn't know why. And I knew that I wanted to vote, but I wasn't sure for whom. And then I found myself at a Barack Obama rally, and I found something that I had been searching for: the inspiration to get involved.

I was compelled by his tall demeanor and his soulful voice. I found his big ears and his even larger smile endearing. But most of all I was entranced by his enthusiasm and strong message of hope. Last year I wrote a column about my own struggle with hope, and here before me stood a man who was openly telling me that it was okay to embrace hope, in fact that it was necessary.

He said that it was time that the American people weren't just against something, but for something. He explained the need to boost the economy, clean up our schools, bring our country together, and give each kid the same opportunities I have been blessed with all my life. And I found myself being uplifted by his words, his passion, and the energy of the crowd in front of him. When Barack went down on the floor to shake hands with his supporters, I reached out my hand and our palms connected, as my small white hand slipped inside his large rough one. It was with that same hand, on that same night, that I registered to vote.

Over that weekend I took my first steps to get involved with Barack's movement for change. I picked up Newsweek and I read the magazine cover to cover. I started with the story featuring Barack Obama and worked my way from Clinton to Romney to Huckabee to McCain. That was the start of what my friends sometimes refer to as my "sickness"—the addiction I have formed to politics. CNN, MSNBC, The New York Times, Newsweek, you name it and I am watching and reading it. When people ask why I do it, I smile and say, "Have you not seen his smile?"

But the truth is that I had finally been given a reason to open myself up to the incredibly intimidating and confusing game of politics. I once felt as if I needed a PhD to vote and a law degree from Harvard to read the New York Times.

Politics didn't come off as a means to helping people, but as a game between the Democrats and the Republicans. News reports bombarded me with word of the deaths of soldiers in Iraq, shootings in the inner city, and the struggling schools around the country. And yet, while all of this was going on, all I heard was people on TV arguing about taking back the White House and getting "the majority."

And then I went to the rally and I was introduced to a new kind of politics — a kind of politics where my voice counted, where public officials were supposed to care about what happened to the middle class and how many kids got to go to college.

There has been a lot of talk



Katharine Weiss at a Barack Obama rally at Union Station when Obama came to St. Louis back in October. It was Obama's message of hope that inspired Katharine to get involved in politics.

about Barack Obama's ability to bring out the young vote and many explanations from pundits for why. People say that it is his youth, his charisma, and his message of hope. I say that it is his ability to untangle the ideas of what politics are supposed to be about and put it into words that young people as well as adults can understand.

Politics is not a game; it is not about who is up and who is down,

or who can get more people appointed from their party. Politics is about making a difference and bringing hope back to the American people.

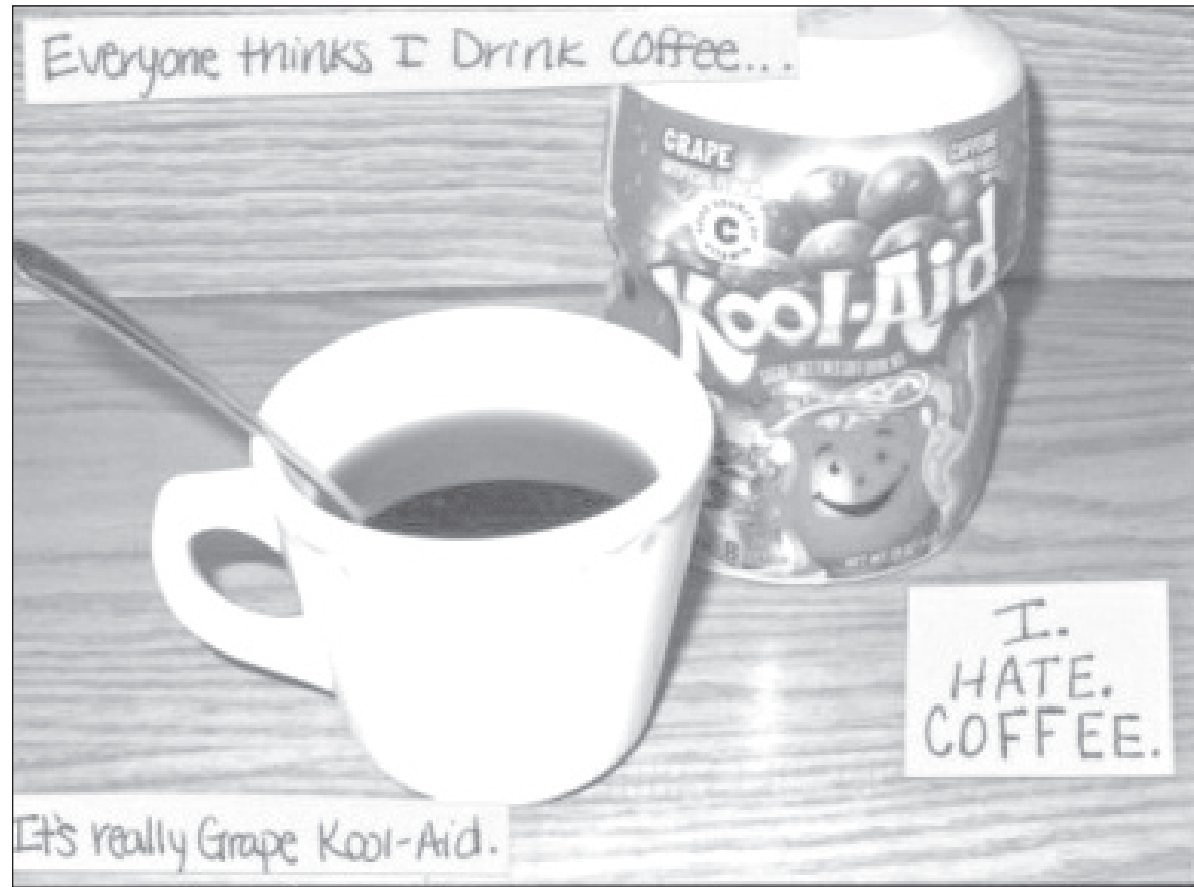
I am not writing this column as some sort of endorsement for Barack Obama or to assert the superiority of my political beliefs over others. I am writing this column as a call to my fellow young voters to get involved. Find what

inspires you. Don't allow yourself to be told what to believe or that politics is a "game" only for adults. It is time that we stand up as a group and say that we are tired of only being against something and are ready to be for something. Let's remember that politics is not about "them," but us. We are the future and it is about time we start having a say in it. ☺

Taking It In Stride



[Katharine Weiss]



An example of an entry in the popular book, "A Life Time of Secrets: a PostSecret Book," the book is filled with anonymous post cards that people send to the author sharing their deepest darkest secrets.

Book of secrets proves insightful

"There are two kinds of secrets: those we keep from others, and the ones we hide from ourselves." This quote, by Frank Warren, has inspired people across the globe to anonymously submit their deepest secrets to 13345 Copper Ridge Rd., Germantown, MD, otherwise known as Post Secret.

The project began in 2003 with Warren, three "Little Prince" postcards, and a wild dream (don't ask me how it all fits together!). The project has since become a worldwide art project of self expression.

When I first came in contact with the Post Secret project, I was wandering aimlessly through the Brentwood Borders Bookstore. Out of the corner of my eye, sitting serenely on the new arrivals table near the front door, I noticed an intriguing hardback.

The cover was decorated in a scrapbook-like manner, with numerous extravagantly decorated postcards positioned among the title: "A Lifetime of Secrets."

On the book jacket, I read: "For the past three years, Frank Warren has invited people of all backgrounds and nationalities to send him creatively decorated postcards bearing secrets they have never before revealed."

Interesting, I thought to myself, and proceeded to flip through the scrapbook, laying my eyes upon some of the most disturbing, heart-wrenching, and truthful words I had ever seen. Page after page of shocking revelations and intense confessions captivated me, so I bought the book and read all the secrets in one night.

Spawled across the pages, amidst drawings and pictures that illustrate the thoughts and fears of the many authors, are essentially bits and pieces of the people's identities. It's not too often that one is presented with the deepest, darkest secret of another, and the secrets of Post Secret are indubitably deep and dark.

Many of the secrets are indescribably hopeful and innocent that it is difficult to imagine a person with such profound emotions and thoughts.

"I wish life was like a VCR, so I could rewind and replay good memories."

"I always thought that if you ran really fast, you could jump up and fly away."

"When I was fourteen, someone told me: 'I'm excited about your life!' Thank you. Those words have stuck with me. They keep me going. I won't disappoint you. And I keep passing them along to others."

These merely a few of the inspirational and ingenuous secrets that have been submitted to Post Secret over the years.

However, not all of the entries in Warren's book produced a feeling of hope and innocence. Others, exceedingly disturbing and scary, caused me to pause and marvel in the shocking truth and purity in which they were written.

"My mama bear - Thanks you for never, ever leaving me alone with him. I wish Grandma had protected you."

"I still can't believe you died so I pretend you are away on a very long vacation having the best time ever."

"I wonder if my dad ever thinks, 'I'm home,' when he pulls into the driveway to get me, here at my mom's."

It is not difficult to find a postcard within Warren's masterful work that speaks to you. Though simple and pure, the splotchy, finger-painted postcard that merely displays the words, "Some day," is the one I found to be most meaningful.

The unimaginable truth that is conveyed through each postcard is an experience in its self. The sincere secrets of these people and the reality that someone I know may be one of the authors gives me an incredible sense of independence and purpose.

The life-altering words that I read throughout the pages of "A Lifetime of Secrets" prompted me to send my own postcard to Warren. Maybe my secret will be published in his book some day, but until then, I won't tell it. After all, if I told my secret, it wouldn't be a secret anymore, now would it? ☺



[Leah Eby]

Teachers and classmates illuminates student's day

Student reflects on the top ten students and teachers who help brighten her days at school.

It's a common fact that most of the people included on the list don't consider themselves especially intriguing or noteworthy. In fact, they serve to illustrate that everyone is special to someone and even the slightest joke or smile has the ability to brighten a person's day.

10. Mr. Moody

Moodylicious is perhaps the most sarcastic and cynical math teachers I've ever had. In our AP statistics class, he enjoys drawing smiley faces after he writes long homework assignments on the board. Most enjoyable, however, is the fact that we eat large amounts of candy during that class for educational purposes. Starting with the very first day of school, Moody's provided the class with candy on at least 4 occasions.

9. Katherine Cliffton

Although she's a freshmen and I've known her but a short while, Katherine achieves the perfect balance of hyperness and tranquility. She's surprisingly athletic, down-to-earth and has a unique personality and look. Unlike other girls I know, she doesn't feel the need to wear mini skirts or makeup to school, but remains true to herself.

8. Ryan Walden

Of all the people included on this seemingly random list, Ryan is probably the one who offered the most objections. After insisting countless times that he is indeed not fascinating, I figured that the coolest thing about Ryan is that he is so refreshingly normal and chill. The little known fact that he's half Italian and has lived in Italy during the summer is also interesting. Most significant, however, is that he's the one of the most genuine people I've ever met. Ryan is always pleasantly, typically Ryan: politically conservative, constantly laughing and telling jokes. Also, his extreme knowledge about the devices under the hood of cars is quite impressive.

7. Jack Callahan

After meeting Jack when I was a sophomore as we composed music for the 24-hour musical, I was stunned to discover that he plays virtually every instrument. Furthermore, I've seen him play percussion solos, and his passion for music is visibly apparent and somewhat contagious. Also, his knowledge concerning philosophy and the fact that he's a bit radical and certainly not the typical high school boy makes him all the more intriguing.

6. Jacob Goldsmith

How to describe Jacob? Firstly, he does NOT like the nickname Yacov-Bear. Admirably, he also identifies quite strongly with his Jewish heritage. Jacob's eccentric mix of band shirts in the winter and hemp "Moses" sandals during the summertime keeps him fashionable. He brightens my day because I don't think I've ever seen him upset. Furthermore, Jacob's

always talking, laughing and socializing with different people.

Indubitably, I will always remember his most noteworthy advice: "Drop yo shoulda and get your pimp walk on!"

5. Will Schedl

When I see Will during jazz lab or in the halls, he makes me smile. His quirky intelligence and calm, endearingly nerdy demeanor adds to his charm. In fact, I shall make the following profound, philosophical statement concerning him: Will is Will.

4. Kerrin Ast

After meeting Karen last volleyball season, she quickly became the team's source of amusement. Her easygoing attitude added tremendously to our team's dynamic. Distinctively, nothing could cheer the team up more when she held her volleyball in her outstretched hand, wiggled her fingers then talked to it before she finally served it over the net. Karen had one of the hardest serves on the team and was a beast when she played the middle position up at the net.

3. Mrs. Rogers-Bear

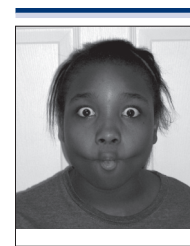
I immediately decided within 3 minutes of meeting her, that I didn't like her. She greeted all of us new freshmen with a speech about the importance of working hard. However, after the first complete class, I was enchanted with world history and the teacher who actually made it interesting. Her passion, extensive knowledge, and intellectual mentality makes everyone admire and respect her. Also, her unique sense of humor makes eighth hour fun because she always keeps our AP World class laughing. To date, I definitely consider Mrs. Rogers-Bear the smartest person I know.

2. Becca Steinberg

Not only did Becca skip a level of math, but she also won first place in the last novice debate tournament. In fact, I began to admire her after meeting her on an impromptu book run to Barnes and Nobles during a debate tournament. She read Mack Su a pink Barbie book in the children's section as she lied down serenely on one of the midget benches. Becca gained the nickname "Corrupted" from one of my friends after we realized that her word game talents were much too developed for her to be considered a normal freshman.

1. Mr. De La Paz

I don't think I've ever reacted to a teacher more strangely than my initial reaction to Mr. De La Paz: It was a mixture of fear and hilarity. Although De La Paz did indeed scare many of us honors freshmen physics students, he also made freshmen year truly unforgettable. Making noises as he drew force diagrams on the white board, throwing markers and breaking pencil cases, De La Paz's classes were in perpetual, euphoric free-fall. I still laugh each time I see him in the halls: he greets me with the customary "FonTAYYshhaa". ☺



[Fontasha Powell]

Hope for the Homeless

Gateway Homeless Services, located in downtown St. Louis, has garnered a number of awards and recognitions over the 35 years that it has served the St. Louis region. But in the wake of an embezzlement scandal, Gateway is seeking new leadership. Martin Rafanan is looking to restore the accountability of the organization, and forge ahead in its fight against homelessness.



[Jeremy Bleeke]
Editor

The easiest way to understand Martin Rafanan's commitment to social justice is to look at his past.

Rafanan is the son of immigrants, "one of German-Jewish ancestry who survived the Holocaust, and the other, a Filipino who experienced racism and xenophobia when he came to this country." Rafanan enrolled at the University of California Berkeley in 1969, where he spent more time in demonstrations than in classes his freshman year. Although Rafanan was originally in pre-med, he quickly switched his focus to comparative literature, and after he left Berkeley began studying for the ministry. He eventually came to Christ Seminary-Seminex in St. Louis, and was ordained in 1978.

For close to 20 years, Rafanan served an African-American congregation near O'Fallon Park in the northern part of the city, while participating in a variety of other organizations and initiatives as well. For the past 12 years, he held the position of Executive Director at the National Conference for Community and Justice of Metropolitan St. Louis (NCCJSTL).

However, a few weeks ago, Rafanan felt called to leave his post at NCCJSTL. He will be taking over as Executive Director of Gateway Homeless Services in downtown St. Louis, where he plans to repair the damage of serious former mismanagement. Rafanan will be coming to Gateway to strengthen the organization's accountability, and restore a sense of trust which recent actions have left compromised.

The Trauma

Robert Nelson founded the Christian Service Center in 1975 to provide programs for the youth living in nearby public housing projects. Activities included a 4-H club, softball and basketball teams, year-round field trips and camping, an on-site library, after-school tutoring, and art therapy courses.

During the 1980s, in response to the growing problem of homelessness, the organization shifted its focus to providing aid for St. Louis' population on the streets. The agency opened food pantries, partnered with other organizations in drives for toys and school supplies, and in 1989 began the 24-hour shelter which today is the largest of its kind in Missouri.

In 1992, the agency was honored by the Grassroots Foundation of San Francisco as being "one of the top ten best-managed homeless service organizations in the nation." In 2004 and 2005 the organization was designated a "Four-Star" agency by Charity Navigator, a distinction higher than any other social service organization in the area.

But in November of 2007 things went terribly wrong. Nelson, the director of almost 35 years, was caught embezzling money from the organization. The board of directors confronted him about his behavior, and in the aftermath Nelson took his own life.

Nick Clifford has been filling in as interim Executive Director until a replacement (Rafanan) could be found. Clifford said that although Nelson's death was sudden, the signs of misconduct had been evident for awhile.

"There were...cash flow problems cropping up, the board not being kept very well-informed about what was happening, lots of personnel problems," Clifford said. "I was very fearful that we were going

to lose three or four of our top management people in the shelter."

Unsurprisingly, Clifford says that immediately after Nelson's death, "things were left in turmoil." Since then, Clifford has gotten the shelter back on its feet operationally, but says that the deeper financial problems left by Nelson must still be dealt with. When Rafanan takes over as Executive Director he plans to address not only those fiscal concerns, but the issue of personal recuperation as well—an area for which his years in the ministry have prepared him well.

"This is an organization that has gone through some trauma over the last couple of months," Rafanan said. "And certainly there needs to be a lot of healing done—people need to find a way of moving forward

from this very tragic episode.... But also there needs to be some pretty hard-nosed management of the situation simply because it's fallen upon hard times, and much of that could have been avoided if there was stronger accountability and stronger infra-structure, and management.

The Recovery

Rafanan believes that to move forward, Gateway has to first fix the mistakes of the past, and then look toward strengthening the organization to make sure that those mistakes aren't repeated in the future.

"If money was stolen, then we have to pay it back," Rafanan said. "That's all there is to it. We need to find out whose money was stolen and we have to give it back to them...I don't know of any other way to do this other than come clean, tell people we made a mistake, give them back their money, and say we're going to do a better job next time, and say here's how we're going to do that—here's how every one of us is going to account for every penny that comes into this operation."

If anyone can get this done, it's Rafanan. He worked as the Executive Director of the Berkeley Food and Housing Project for about three and a half years, from 1980 to 1983. While he was there, Rafanan increased funding from private sources by 600 percent, and transitioned the board from church management to community management. That organization now runs the Bay Area's largest food and shelter program.

India Gray, Director of Development for Gateway, is looking forward to following Rafanan's lead in the months ahead.

"I know that he has a plan, and we are ready to follow his plan," Gray said. "But he's got to give that plan to us because it's going to take a team effort....We understand the severity, the seriousness of the situation and we are really ready to look a lot more credible so that the clients here can really benefit. And I know that Martin's reputation precedes him, and I'm sure that he'll be able to handle any obstacles we have in our way right now."

With experience as a pastor, a director, and a campaign organizer (he led an initiative which successfully opposed legislation that would limit gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights), Rafanan is a practiced leader. He is confident in his abilities to work toward personal healing and greater overall stability.

"I would say that my job in this particular situation is to be helpful in the healing process, but the other thing is that I just need to kick people's asses too," Rafanan said. "This is an important change process, and obviously they dropped the ball, leaders dropped the ball, and they need to be accountable for it."

The Mission

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), the problem of homelessness

in the United States took off during the 1980s. Now, over the course of a single year, 2.5 to 3.5 million people will live on the streets or in an emergency shelter. Approximately 1.35 million of these will be children. NAEH also reports that only 20 percent of homeless families report they receive help finding housing.

Gateway Homeless Services' stated goal is "to serve homeless and impoverished people through productive and innovative programs to help them become stable and self-sufficient." As its name would suggest, Gateway is more than just a shelter, it's a window onto a whole range of opportunities and services as well.

The organization offers refuge for a period of 90 days while staff members work toward assisting the clients in stabilizing their lives.

"In that period of time they have the opportunity to take advantage of support services and meet certain goals," Rafanan said. "For example, getting themselves prepared to find work, or making sure that their children are in school, or hooking up with social services."

Life skills classes that Gateway offers include Resumé Writing, Office Etiquette, Job Retention, Nutrition, GED Review, and the Successful Look. The program Career Realities—Investing in Homeless Women encourages participants to apply those skills in practical situations.

Serving Our Sisters, which is sponsored in part by Washington University, focuses on empowering underserved women. Nutritional classes are conducted four days a week through the University of Missouri Extension Family Nutrition Education Program.

Gateway shelters 110 people, serving women, children and families, and husbands. Clifford estimates that of the women, 80 percent are in their 20s, and that 50 to 60 percent of the people in the shelter are kids. However, the organization services men as well, through a lunch program that provides over 100 meals a day.

"The way we do service single men is through a food program from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. seven days a week," Gray said. "We run this program called Operation Brown Bag. And in that program we offer nutritious, convenient sack lunches...They sign the book when they come in, and that's how we try to serve the transient population, the transient population being those individuals who are on the streets. And often times, they're the hardest to reach, of the homeless population."

Often, people are referred to the shelter through the Homeless Hotline, which is run by Catholic Charities.

If Gateway has room, then the family is sent over, the proper papers are filled out, and the process of moving those individuals into more stable housing begins. This includes establishing a savings account, getting any addictions under control, and working toward financial independence.

"[We place] them into a variety of courses on job-seeking skills, on getting their GED if they don't have a high school diploma, parenting skills, just a whole range of financial courses on bank accounts and simple stuff," Clifford said.

Gateway places a strong focus on ending generational homelessness. The organization was founded to help disadvantaged youth, and it still has strong youth programs in place. The Montessori program is for children between the ages of 3 and 6, and is designed to help kids tap into their potential to succeed from an early age. The PAWS program uses dogs as a tool to motivate kids to read and write.

Volunteer groups also are an important part of the youth service. Various groups come regularly to the

shelter to conduct programs specifically for kids.

Gray believes that addressing the problems of generational homelessness is important because people can easily get caught in a cycle of poverty from which it is hard to break free.

"Many of them grew up in homeless situations, so many have never known stability, and that's a huge challenge," Gray said. "And then, they could be third generational homeless people, and that's a huge challenge for us because only with time will we find out 'Wow, their parents were homeless, and their grandparents were homeless, and now they're here with children, and then they may have been here four or five times'....They grew up in homelessness, so when they got into trouble, when they lost their home, they knew where to come."

The bottom line is that it isn't easy. There are many reasons why people become homeless, and it is difficult to address them all.

"It depends on the individual, but I'd say on the whole their challenges come from just not knowing how to manage their family. They may not know how to manage their finances, or the relationships in their lives," Gray said. "We have people living here who have dual diagnoses. They may have an addiction, but they may have a mental illness, they may even have triple diagnoses, it just depends on the person and their situation."

The Future

As Clifford looks ahead, he believes that a central objective for the organization will be reducing its dependence on public money.

"Over a period of time we've moved from about 90 percent public funding...down to about 80 percent," Clifford said. "And we've got to get it down to about 50 percent."

For Clifford, it's an issue of stability.

"We need the support of the community because government funding is a changing thing," Clifford said. "It's hard to count on it because if you rely too heavily on it, you can find all of a sudden that they've changed course and you haven't, and their money goes away. And we have a lot of people relying on

us, and we have to come up with more stable sources of funding. We're not going to go away from public funding entirely, but we do need to broaden our bases so that we're more stable."

Given Rafanan's track record with regards to increasing private funds, Clifford shouldn't have much to worry about.

As Director of Development, Gray is looking toward an increase in volunteer service and activity within the organization.

"There are volunteer opportunities to mentor the adults as well as the youth, there are volunteer opportunities to help around the shelter," Gray said. "We have church groups who come in to clean, we have people to work with the kids on Saturdays, we had volunteers at one point who were running our life skills classes for us on the weekends. And then we have volunteers who help with our special events for fundraising."

As for Rafanan, he is still focused on getting everyone at the organization to, as he puts it, "row in the same direction."

"This is an organization where change must happen," Rafanan said. "It's not so much on the operational side—although I need to assess that—but on the management side. The board and the key leaders, the volunteer leaders, and the key staff leaders, all have to get on the same page to create change." ☺

We place them into a variety of courses on job-seeking skills, on getting their GED if they don't have a high school diploma, parenting skills, just a whole range of financial courses.

[Nick Clifford]
Interim Director
Gateway Homeless Services

[ourview]



staff playlist

1. "Tune Out"
The Format
2. "Cigarettes and Chocolate Milk"
Rufus Wainwright
3. "Where is my Mind?"
Pixies
4. "Good Day"
Tally Hall
5. "Window Pane"
Mad Larry
6. "If She Wants Me"
Belle & Sebastian
7. "How Do You Do?"
Roxette

Top Three...

Disney princes

1 Shang
"Mulan"

2 Prince Eric
"The Little Mermaid"

3 Prince Phillip
"Sleeping Beauty"



phlegmatic adjective

1. not easily excited to action or display of emotion
2. self-possessed, calm, or composed
3. of the nature of or abounding in the humor of phlegm

What you didn't know...

- no square piece of paper can be folded more than seven times in half
- a "jiffy" is an actual unit of time: 1/100th of a second
- the world's oldest piece of gum is 9000 years old!
- in Tokyo, toupees are sold for dogs



website of the month

www.theonion.com

America's favorite spoof-newspaper... online! Browse satires from every category: entertainment, election '08, features, international, local... name anything, the onion satirizes it.



St. Louis Area Polo offers off-season practice for all skill levels

[Kelly Moffitt]
Co-Editor in Chief

Water polo season may be just around the corner, but what many people don't know is just how much some of these water polo players are preparing for their pool debut. Under the tutelage of Coach Miguel Figueras, seven CHS water polo players have been participating in club water polo in the off-season in the organization St. Louis Area Polo (SLAP).

"I had been an assistant coach with the Daisy Water Polo club for several years working under Coach Don Casey," Figueras said. "For a number of years, Daisy was the only club around. Don had been

pushing some coaches to start other clubs. As a teacher, I was off during the summer and was looking for a "summer job". So in 2002, I branched out & began my own team."

And branch out he did: since 2002, SLAP has expanded to include middle schoolers, high schoolers, and even collegiate water polo players of both genders and any experience level.

"It is no different than high school water polo except that team members are a mix of local schools, and you pay money to play," senior, SLAP A member Kevin Johnson said. "Most of the Clayton kids play for SLAP."

SLAP is divided into two levels of play: Senior Team (High school age & older) and Junior Team (8th grade and younger).

"For the senior team, practices

during the school year are on Monday and Wednesday nights at Summit High School from November up until the start of high school season in February," Figueras said. "Games are played on Saturdays. During the summer, the team practices at Clayton Shaw Park every weekday morning and plays games on Monday and Wednesday nights."

Over the past six years, the program has expanded to include players from Clayton High School, DeSmet Jesuit High School, John Burroughs, Lafayette, Parkway North, Parkway West, St. Peter's in Kirkwood and University City High School. For an organization of originally ten members, the program has almost sextupled in size in the past six years, now including over 60 players. Seven of these players are CHS students.

"Our senior team has both an A and B squad," Figueras said. "The A squad are the best players (mostly juniors and seniors) and our B squad is made up primarily of sophomores and freshman. Occasionally we bring up an eighth grader with this group."

Being a member of a club water polo team such as SLAP has many advantages and is why many CHS students have joined up.

"Players playing club get the opportunity to work with different coaches and different players," Figueras said. "Players know going into high school season which players to look for and what they are capable of because either they played with or against the player during club season. Also, players have the opportunity to play almost year round. If a player takes

Club Water Polo, 15

Players know going into high school season which players to look for and what they are capable of because either they played with or against them during club season.

[Miguel Figueras]
Club Water Polo Coach



Scott Shapiro

Junior Mary Barber (left) and senior Erin O'Neal (right) vie for the ball in a winning game against U. City on Feb. 7.

Girls' basketball works toward winning season

[Sarah Horn]
Editor

The girls' varsity basketball team has rebounded from a 6-game losing streak and is ready to finish off the season strong.

The Lady Hounds placed third in the 27 annual Hillsboro tournament this past weekend out of eight teams. The new coach, Steve Lanter, thinks the tournament was a success.

"I thought it was successful,"

Lanter said. "We placed third overall and won two games. We lost in the semi-finals to the eventual champions, Rockwood Summit. But we played them tough, we were actually ahead most of the game. We had a lot of opportunities to win, but things didn't seem to go our way."

Junior Mary Barber agrees. "We did really well in the tournament," Barber said. "Originally we were seeded fourth in the bracket, after Rockwood Summit, Ladue, and Affton, which we were not too happy about. But, we won our first

game against the fifth seed team, which was a great victory for all on the team. Then, we moved on to play the first seed team, Rockwood Summit, and we lost that game by three points after leading for most of the game. That loss was disappointing, but we came back for the third place game for the tournament and beat Affton High School to win the trophy. This win was extremely exciting because we had lost to Affton early in the season and every one was ready for some pay back."

After having a record of 5-1 before winter break, and then losing six consecutive games, the Hillsboro tournament managed to raise the spirits of the varsity team.

"The season started off really strong," senior co-captain Laura Bliss said. "We were 5 and 1 before winter break. When we came back, we had a little trouble, and lost 6 games in a row; some that we should not have lost. We then went into the Hillsboro tournament, fired up and ready to get revenge on the teams that we had lost to. We played really well throughout the whole tournament. Hopefully we will be able to use the tournament as motivation to set the tone for the second half of the season."

With six games left, Lanter has high hopes for the remainder of the season.

"We have six games left and we are 8-9," Lanter said. "We want to go 4-2, and finish 12-11 before districts."

The Lady Hounds also have great expectations for the rest of their season.

"I hope that the team continues to work hard and not get pushed around on the court by other teams," Bliss said. "If we go into games wanting to win more than other teams do, then we have the skills and athleticism to be able to do so. It would be really nice to see the second half of the season be more successful than the first."

Junior co-captain Diane Martin also believes the varsity girls' basketball team can be successful in the second half of their season.

"I think as a team we would really like to get some momentum in the end of the season and end on a high note," Martin said. "We still have 8 games left and I think if we play hard we can end with a strong record going into the district tournament."

However, the road ahead is not going to be easy.

Girls Basketball, 15

After unpredictable season, boys' basketball looks towards districts with hope after win over MICDS

[Evan Green]

Staff Reporter

The Clayton boys' basketball team has had quite the unpredictable year so far, but it is starting to take a turn for the better as the Hounds are coming off of a win over a good MICDS team.

"The MICDS game was our best game recently because we really handled their pressure and did well to find the open man," junior forward Syd Warner said.

The Hounds most recent victory, a 55-52 thriller at MICDS, has given the team and its fans a sign that the Hounds can hang with the best of them.

This was an especially big win for the team because MICDS is 14-6 and beat the Hounds earlier this season in the consolation finals of the MICDS holiday tournament. Warner led the team with 15 points and 7 rebounds, while freshman forward Christian Thomas added 8 points and 15 rebounds.

Overall, the team has excelled in several areas of play.

"Our defense has made it very difficult for teams to score, and in turn, that has been a large key to many of our victories," head coach Ryan Luhnning said.

While winning games are a team effort, several players have stood out for the Hounds.

"(Senior Center) Zoe Veale has really done well rebounding, Syd Warner has been a key offensive player, and (sophomore guard) Devonte Bell has really been our go to guy this season," Luhnning added.

Bell, who has averaged 13 points



David Luten

Left: The varsity boys' basketball team battles on defense against Ladue at game Feb. 8. Right: junior Ben Stamp shoots the ball. The game ended with a loss for Clayton 27-43 but the team is still looking towards districts with optimism.



David Luten

a game, to go along with 2.5 assists a game, has been a leader for the 9-12 Hounds.

As well, Warner has averaged 13 points a game and 5 rebounds in the Hounds frontcourt to go along with Veale's 5 rebounds a game.

However, Warner still feels that he has something to improve on.

"I still need to crash the boards and get better at moving without the ball," Warner said.

While the team has won three of their last seven games, they obviously feel as if they have much more to improve.

"We really need to continue to

value the ball and compete at a higher level," Luhnning said.

Other members of the team agreed with Luhnning.

"We just have to keep working hard and getting better in practice," Veale said.

A pleasant surprise for the team has been the outstanding play of Thomas, who is averaging 5 points and 7 rebounds a game, despite not playing very much at the beginning of the season.

"Christian is just really athletic and a very good rebounder," Veale added.

Coming up for the team is the ri-

valry game against Ladue at home on Feb. 8, then the team takes on an extremely quick and high-scoring Maplewood team that is led by junior sensation Bryant Allen, who averages 24 points a game, and a Blue Devils team that averages 75 points a game, tops in the area. Following the Hounds' Feb. 11 showdown with Maplewood, the team travels to Wellston (Feb. 15) before entering district play.

"The game I am most looking forward to is the Ladue game, but the Maplewood game will be our toughest challenge left heading into districts," Warner said.

The Hounds' first game of districts is a rematch against the Rams of Ladue at MICDS on Feb. 18 at 7.

"I really feel that we're on our way to being ready for districts and by the time they roll around, we will be ready to go," Luhnning said.

The Hounds and their fans will enter the district tournament with high hopes for the team to do well, especially after beating the top seed in districts (MICDS).

With all of CHS watching, the big question is whether or not the team can run the table for a district title, and anything less would be a disappointment.

Girls' swim team unites to enhance season

The CHS girls' swim and dive team is comprised of accomplished swimmers who have bonded together, improving their season as well as forming new friendships.

[Nava Kantor]

Co-Editor in Chief

The night before their swim conference, the members of the CHS girls' swim and dive team could be found loading up on carbs and laughing away nerves at the team's annual pasta party.

The girls certainly deserve to reward themselves. Led by captains Lisa Ast, Kerri Blumer and Natalie Turza, the Hounds were undefeated before winter break and about one-third of the 26-member team will be competing at state on Feb. 15 and 16.

"All together, we have a really strong team," Turza said. "With swim teams, there are usually only a few outstanding girls, but our team has tons of really strong swimmers. Last year, only a few people in a couple of events qualified for state. This year we have many."

Junior Caitlin Bladt is impressed with the team members' individual accomplishments.

"Kerri Blumer is pretty much our beast," Bladt said. "She made state in almost every event."

Blumer indeed qualified for state in every event except diving, 100-meter breaststroke and 50-meter freestyle. Despite these credentials, she is still "very nervous" for the competition.

"Since the age of eight, swimming has been my life," Blumer said. "It is necessary for me to function."

Blumer, who will be swimming for Washington University next year, has been "breaking records and just overall having a terrific season," according to Turza, who will be swimming for Tulane University next year.

"I've mainly been working on trying to keep my fitness level as high as possible, because I came into the season with good technique," Blumer said. "I train with weights and do morning practices,



The girls' swim team has improved their season through easing the dynamic among the teammates. Approximately two-thirds of the team is going on to compete at state on Feb. 15 and 16.

and I'm on a club team as well. But I have a lot more fun practicing when I'm with the CHS team."

The enjoyment Blumer gets out of practicing with the Hounds stems from the closeness and support of the team.

"We are all really supportive of each other, always cheering," Bladt said. "You don't want to let the team down. Every point you earn individually helps your team, and you could get those few extra points that give your team a victory. That's my motivation."

The season has not been without challenges for the team. The girls have had to overcome interruptions like winter break and the epidemic of infirmity that is currently sweeping through CHS. These have led the team to a record of 8-6 at press time, breaking its former winning streak.

"It's been really hard," Turza said. "If the whole team doesn't come to every practice, so much mo-

mentum is lost. Our coaches [David Kohmetscher, Jill O'Sullivan and Katelyn Eustis] started off pushing us really hard during practice at the start of the season. We saw the results right away."

Those rigorous practices led the team to a series of victories early in the season.

"We even won the Ladue invitational, beating 12 or 14 other schools," Turza said. "But then winter break disrupted our practices, and we were back where we had started. I think that can be hard for any winter sport."

Bladt and Blumer agree.

"Everyone got kind of burnt out and sick at the same time," Bladt said. "It was hard to keep everyone happy and coming to practices, which made it hard to win meets."

Other issues have arisen that are entirely out of the team's control.

"It was a major problem when the skylights in the Center of Clayton were blown in by a wind-

storm, messing up our practices," Blumer said.

However, as the season ends, Turza feels confident about the team's accomplishments.

"This season, we've faced a lot of tough, private, all-girls schools with cut policies, which we don't have," Turza said. "I'm proud of how our team stood up to that and of our season overall."

A less-than-perfect ending record has not diminished the team's excitement for the state competition. State will be held at the St. Peters Rec Plex. In order to qualify, swimmers have to beat a certain "unbelievably hard" time in a specific event, according to Turza.

"In most sports other than swimming and track, seconds aren't seen as a big deal," Turza said. "But for us, every millisecond counts. You compete against the most intense girls. I once saw a girl get out of the pool, start talking to her coach, lean over to puke, and just continue talking. You think you're awesome, and then at state you see hundreds of girls that are 10 times better than you."

Bladt, who will continue swimming as a senior next winter, is optimistic when it comes to the future of the team.

"I hope we can keep a big team next year and that we can improve our record," Bladt said. "And we can't have any more mid-season fall-outs. Everyone should come out and swim."

As she wraps up her final season of swimming for CHS, Blumer is appreciative of what the girls' swim team has taught her about collaboration.

"The highlight of my time swimming at CHS has been how closely knit our team is," Blumer said.

"We've developed into a really team-oriented group of girls who are excited about swimming. We work not only for ourselves, but for the team." ☺



Corinne Dubreuil/Cameleon/Abaca Press/MCT

Switzerland's Roger Federer hits a shot against the Czech Republic's Tomas Berdych a fourth round match at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, January 21, 2008. Federer defeated Berdych, 6-4, 7-6, 6-3.

Student reflects on stunning loss during Australian Open

[Dakin Sloss]

Senior Managing Editor

The night of Jan. 24 I got up in the middle of the night to see the greatest tennis player of all time, Roger Federer, pull out a tough semifinal victory, but instead I witnessed the unbelievable... Federer lost.

At 2:30 a.m. Central Standard Time—7:30 p.m. in Melbourne, Australia—tennis players Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic took the court for the second men's Australian Open semifinal. The previous semifinal had already shocked audiences as unseeded Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga defeated the number two-ranked player in the world, Rafael Nadal; however, no upset could have prepared tennis fans for what was to occur on Rod Laver Arena in Federer's brief two and a half-hour match.

Entering the tournament, Roger Federer had reached 10 consecutive slam finals, winning eight. He holds three total Australian Open titles, four consecutive US Open titles and five consecutive Wimbledon Championships. For 208 weeks he has maintained the world's number one ranking, barely ever facing a threat at a major other than the French Open. He has won a total of 12 grand slam titles, only two short of the all time record, which many predicted he would capture this year. He is undisputedly the greatest player currently, and many agree that he is the most talented person to step foot on court in the history of the game. Needless to say, he is a strong favorite in every match he plays, particularly on hard courts, the surface at the Australian Open.

Despite Federer's impressive resume, 20-year-old Serbian Novak Djokovic unthroned the Fed-Express, leaving the tennis world flabbergasted. Furthermore, the victory was a complete trouncing. After Federer missed an early opportunity, two points from claiming the first set, Djokovic dominated Federer in all aspects. Instead of the graceful and elegant tennis that Federer usually produces, Djokovic reduced him to a flustered and lackluster game with more unforced errors (mistakes) than winners (good shots).

In many ways Federer was correct in the post-match conference that it was only one match and that people make too big of a deal out of his losses, but at the same time, his defeat represents a major shift for the game of tennis. He will still enter tournaments as a favorite, but he can no longer be seen as invincible or a god. Djokovic's victory proved that Federer is a human being, an extremely talented human being,

but a human being nonetheless.

For three years now, anyone facing Federer in a slam has seemed hopeless and without a chance—now that will no longer be true. There will no longer be an insurmountable gap between the top two players—Federer and Nadal—and everyone else. Now, when players draw Federer, they can begin the match with a small glimmer of hope that Federer will be just enough off his game that they can beat him.

As a huge Federer fan, his loss meant even more than the end of his utter dominance, which still may continue, only slightly interrupted. For three years, I have watched him take the court and massacre the entire field, seemingly effortlessly. I have watched only one slam match that was not on a clay court, in which Federer appeared to be struggling.

Seeing him play the semifinal on what was admittedly a bad day was more than disappointing; it was disheartening. To see my tennis hero not be simply beaten, but appear powerless to do anything about it, served as a significant jolt into reality. He had always seemed unbeatable, the near epitome of perfection, yet against Djokovic Friday he delivered none of his usual spark. Instead, he was missing easy balls and allowing opportunities to pass him by. Djokovic did deserve the win, but Federer missed many chances to fight back and never found a rhythm.

Commentators cited the slower surface that was instituted this year and the fact that Federer had a virus shortly before the tournament, but I don't think he lost because of either of those excuses. He simply lost because everybody has to at some point. I still think that he is the greatest player of all time, but being the greatest player of all time simply means that you lose less than everybody else; it does not mean you are perfect.

His loss is still a huge upset and a surprise for tennis, but it is by no means the end of Federer. What I saw early Friday morning may have been a pivotal moment as the pack catches up to Federer, but if his play over the last five years is any indication of what he is capable of, I am sure that he will bounce back and continue winning slams for a few more years. The lesson of this Australian Open is not that Federer is out of the picture, but simply that a lot more players are in the picture.

Still, he only needs three more to break Pete Sampras's 14 grand slam titles record and even if he loses a few matches here and there, I have no doubt that he will surpass the record soon. ☺

Boys' tennis team prepares for upcoming season

[Katherine Greenberg]

Staff Reporter

"I was very happy with how far the team went last year," said boys' tennis coach Susie Lutten. "Our players definitely played to their potential and worked very hard to make it a good season."

Boys' tennis starts in the third week in February, but the team has all ready done a lot to prepare.

"I have done a lot to prepare for the season," senior Philip Levine said. "I had been playing a lot of tennis with Dakin [Sloss] because he had free court time at Frontenac, but there are no longer open courts so there is less court time. Now I do a private lesson usually once a week and try to scrounge court time wherever possible."

There will be a strong addition to the team this year with long-time player, senior Jon Pang.

"I love tennis and playing on a team is always fun," Pang said. "Other people depend on you to win your matches in high school tennis, not just yourself. This calls for interesting and hard fought battles with very enthusiastic spectators. It's fun to play for something bigger than yourself."

Lutten said a difference in the team this year will be a sense of camaraderie because many of the boys have been practicing in anticipation of the season.

"Dakin Sloss has really done a great job with calling potential varsity players and has played with them and encouraged them to play tournaments to prepare for the season," Lutten said.

One problem for the team is that the number one player from last year, sophomore Orion Wilkinson, has been injured.

"I've been injured for the past five or six months so I haven't been able to play, but I have been going to the weight room three times a week to prepare for the season," Wilkinson said.

Lutten thinks the team will be able to go even further than they went last year.

"I expect to win a majority of the matches, I think that we will lose only a few to very strong schools but we benefit from our district assignment, and I think this year we could beat out Burroughs and make it into the final four in state," Lutten said. "I think we can make it as long as everyone plays the way I think they can play."

Levine also thinks CHS will



Courtesy of Philip Levine

Senior Philip Levine conditions for the spring season. Levine is just one of the team members who are exercising for the season.

have a really good team.

"Honestly this isn't one of those 'oh yeah, the team will be great,'" Levine said. "I really think that we will win districts. We have Jon Pang, Orion Wilkinson, Dakin, me, many returning sophomores and juniors and a few good freshmen. Two years ago, MICDS got moved out of our district, and so the only teams left that are good are John Burroughs and Ladue. Burroughs lost a lot of their varsity team and so did Ladue, so we have a very

good shot of winning and going on to state."

This year the team schedule is different with the team playing in two new tournaments in Illinois and a new team—Triad—that the team has never played before.

"Although this year we have many seniors on the team this year, I am very excited by the new talent that I have seen in some eighth graders and I think the team will continue to get stronger in the years to come," Lutten said. ☺

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Fast Facts: Roger Federer

-Born in Basel, Switzerland on Aug. 8, 1981

-Has won 12 Grand Slam Titles

-Throughout his career, Federer has won 53 singles titles and seven doubles titles

Ping pong draws interest

[Ting Lu]
Staff Reporter

Table tennis is the fastest growing sport on earth. It is also the national sport of China, as well as other countries. Ping pong is an unofficial name which comes from the sound made by the ball hitting the table or the paddle. Although there is not a table tennis team at Clayton, many CHS students enjoy playing ping pong during their free time at school. In early December, DECA hosted the first annual Clayton Open Tournament, which included cash prizes. Micah Goodman, from Wydown Middle School, took first place. Two CHS players finished in the top three: sophomore Eitan Kantor took second and senior Scott Belsky finished third. Proceeds from the tournament went to leukemia research. Sophomore Eitan Kantor enjoys playing ping pong at school as do many other Clayton students. "A bunch of guys that play with us participated in the DECA tour-

namment this year," Kantor said. Nearly everyday of the week during fourth, fifth and eighth hour, as well as after school, CHS students play at the ping pong table in the Center of Clayton. Official table tennis rules are followed in these heated matches, but a relaxed atmosphere is ever-present. "We started playing regularly since the beginning of this year," Kantor said. "Table tennis at CHS is basically a continuation of table tennis club at Wydown Middle School." Kantor plays ping pong at school whenever he has a free period. Kantor said that the order of who gets to play is determined by a system of challenging the winner of the previous match. "Whoever wins the match gets to keep the table," Kantor said. Kantor said that although table tennis at CHS is not an official club, all members play regularly. All students, staff and parents are also welcome. Kantor believes that playing ping pong at CHS is not

only rewarding, but an honor. "I've been playing in my basement forever," Kantor said. "But playing ping pong at school is fun because you get to play against other students. Playing ping pong helps me engage not only physically but intellectually because of the element of strategy." Senior Ka Suen agrees that ping pong is not only enjoyable but also strategic. "It's fun," Suen said. "You get to move around a lot, and hit the tiny ball." For Kantor, it's about the social aspect. "I would recommend others to join CHS ping pong or even St. Louis table tennis club," Kantor said. "It's a good way to get in shape and it's fun - you can socialize with others and challenge them to games." Suen agrees that table tennis is competitive. "You get to exercise and beat people," Suen said. "That's the best part."



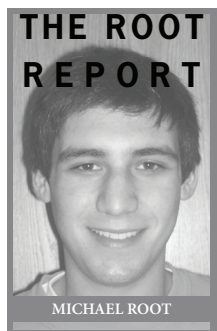
Sophomore Eitan Kantor, who placed in the top three in the Clayton Open Tournament, plays ping pong after school. Many students play regularly during the day at the table in the Center of Clayton.

Many ping pong players at CHS also participate in St. Louis table tennis club. Kantor has been trying to endorse the club. The club meets at the Twelfth and Park recreation center downtown on Saturdays from 12 to 5 p.m. and at the Creve Coeur Government Center from 6 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Guests can play for free their first time, but every time after that, it is suggested that players become members. The fee for a student membership is \$20 per year. Table tennis is a hobby of many students, both inside and outside of school. Even without an official club, the table tennis players enjoy themselves and compete against one another in heated matches. ☺

Superbowl proves to be surprisingly pleasing

The only thing that comes close to your team winning is seeing your biggest rival lose, especially on the biggest stage and in the biggest game. For me, seeing the New England Patriots fall to the New York Giants in Super Bowl 42 was just about as good as it gets. And to top it off, the Giants stopped the Patriots from going 19-0 throughout the entire season, matching the only other undefeated team in history, the 1972 Miami Dolphins. Another reason I am extremely glad the Patriots failed to complete their undefeated season is the overall attitude of the team, which was exemplified when their coach Bill Belichick decided to rush off of the field with one second left on the clock and thus avoid the usually classy handshake between the two coaches and the players after the game. I think that Belichick's move was one of the most classless moments in sports especially during a time where his reputation is under extreme scrutiny with the 'Spygate' issue.

During the weeks preceding the Super Bowl, new talk surfaced about another 'Spygate' issue involving the Patriots. This time, the accusations are that the Patriots filmed the Ram's final walkthrough in Super Bowl 36 (2002), which the Patriots ended up winning on a field goal. If this is true, which I believe it is, the Patriots should have their Super Bowl trophies revoked and severely punished with monetary fines and loss of draft picks. Additionally, I think that the Patriot coaching staff should be fired for cheating. In this day and age where everyone is so worried about the players cheating with performance-enhancing drugs and steroids, why should the coaches' cheating be any different? It shouldn't. The coaches should be held to the same set of standards, if not higher, than the players, and they should be monitored and checked by the league just like the players. There is absolutely no excuse for coaches to delib-



THE ROOT REPORT
MICHAEL ROOT



The Lady Hounds come together to talk during one of their breaks in a game. While the team went through a rough patch during the middle of their season, they are looking forward to making a come back at districts. The team is also looking forward to playing Ladue in an upcoming game in Feb.

The Lady Hounds come together to fight Ladue

Girls' basketball, 13

"Two of the harder games will be against Visitation and Burroughs, and I think they are games that we really want to win in order to gain our confidence back and reassert the fact that we can compete with good teams," Martin said. After all of the changes and rough patches the team has been through, Lanter believes the team is still successful and strong. "I'd say a strength has been the defense," Lanter said. The girls have played really hard. We have adjusted to three different defenses which gives us the ability to confuse the other teams. Were holding teams under 40 points, which is great. An area we need to work on is shooting and offense. We just haven't shot the ball as well as we have hoped to." Barber also thinks the team has pulled together despite numerous difficulties. "I think that we have done well so far," Barber said. "This team has gone through so much this year, including getting and all new coach and it has been quite the season. We started out with 16 girls, and

by mid-season we were down to 8. Then, we got some new players up from the JV and freshman teams, which took some getting used to. All the girls on the team are good at basketball and are committed, but we had never all played on the same team before so we had to get used to each other. We have lost some close games that we should have won, but this is a building year. Our record may not reflect it, but we are certainly playing some good ball and I have enjoyed every moment of the season." With districts coming up, and the first game against Ladue, the Lady Hounds are gearing up for the remaining eight games of the season. Coach Lanter is excited about taking on the Ladue Rams in the first round of districts. "We have drawn Ladue in the first round of districts," Lanter said. "It is going to be a fun game and we are the underdog. But I think anything can happen in districts. Hopefully we will have a full house because we are playing at MICDS, which is close to both teams." Bliss is also thrilled to be play-

ing Ladue again. "I am most excited for the Ladue game," Bliss said. "It is senior night, and even though I cannot play because of my broken pinky, it should be a fun game. We lost to them once already this season, so now it is our turn. The game is at home on Friday, Feb 8th at 7 pm. The championship game of the Brian Lipsey 3 v. 3 tournament is during half time of the game. The more fans there to support us, the better." Barber also agrees that the Lady Hounds need and deserve a supportive fan base. "I really just would like to say, that we need student support," Barber said. "The girl's team is just as exciting as the boy's team and we could really use the support. It is always nice to play in front of a crowd and there are still some exciting games coming up, so I would encourage as many students as possible to come out to our games and cheer on the Lady Hounds." As the season draws to a close, the Lady Hounds are ready to finish with a winning record and succeed in districts. ☺

erately thwart the rules in an attempt to win a game. Granted, this is the first team to be accused of such a crime. It would be a shame if information leaked that other teams have been performing similar actions in the past. Personally, cheating by videotaping other teams in certain situations is ridiculous since that is exactly what your scouting reports do for you in a legal way. As a fan, I can go online and find out what the Rams, or any other team, usually do in the red-zone or any other situation in a game. There is absolutely no need for videotaping illegally. Anyway, back to the Super Bowl, I thought that the Patriots were simply outmatched in terms of desire, speed, physicality and overall strength. The aging offensive line and linebackers of the Patriots were exposed in the game leading to pressure on Brady for the first time all year and open receivers for big plays in the second half. Oh, and blown coverage in the secondary never hurts. With the Giants recording five sacks on Brady and forcing one fumble, the Giants defense set the tone for the game and gave the offense momentum to score

when they needed it most. Eli Manning, who everyone doubted due to inconsistent play and way too many interceptions (including me for most of the season) played like a veteran quarterback as he led his team down the field with time winding down to win the game. Manning's pocket presence and fight was remarkable as he avoided a huge sack and threw the ball downfield for a catch by David Tyree which I believe will go down as one of the greatest catches in NFL postseason history. For me, the best moment in the game was seeing big defensive tackle Jay Alford, all 6-foot-4-inches and 304 pounds, fly through the Patriot offensive line and crush Brady for a sack with under 40 seconds left to practically seal the game for the Giants. Overall I was extremely pleased with this year's Super Bowl considering that most year's games are either disappointing match-ups or blow outs. The underdog story is always a good one, especially when the favorite is trying to make history. So, here's to you 1972 Dolphins, the only undefeated team in NFL history. Cheers. ☺

Club water polo prepares CHS polo players, offers excitement

Club water polo, 13

advantage of these opportunities, regardless of which club he or she plays for, they will only get better provided the put the effort in at each practice." Sophomore Eve Brumley, who plays on SLAP B, joined up to hone the skills she needs to keep up as a girl in a male-dominated sport. "SLAP helps so much because I've gotten to work on techniques and skills before the season starts," Brumley said. "Because I'm a girl in a mostly-guy sport I'm smaller than most players, so I have to make up for strength with speed." Sophomore JB Garfinkle who also plays for SLAP B thinks its gotten him prepared for the spring. "It definitely will prepare me for regular season, to get all of those practices in and experience along with staying in good shape," Garfinkle said. However, preparation comes with a price. For students involved in a winter sport and have a homework load, getting a team together to competitively play can be "a challenge" as Figueras said. "During the summer we run into vacations, internships, jobs," Figueras said. "During the winter, there is schoolwork, winter high school sports, school functions (clubs), homework, sickness. Usually we have around 2/3-3/4 present at our practices." This may cause irregularities in their workout schedule but Figueras has honed his coaching technique to best help the players. "In the past I tried to cover too much during the season," Figueras said. "The last two seasons, I took a step back and really focused on one to two aspects of our teams system. This winter our focus was really on our counter attack and handling pressure. So the players that are really consistent about coming to practice get to fine-tune these skills." Johnson, who was out most of the off-season for a wrestling injury found it hard to keep up. "It is very impossible to do a winter sport, a club sport, homework, and sleep," Johnson said. "I usually just pick two or three of my favorite on water polo practice nights." Brumley has found it is worth it, however, because of how enjoyable practice is. "I got involved with water polo because I've always been involved in water sports, including swimming and synchronized swimming," Brumley said. "This has been my first winter season, and practices run pretty late on school nights. But because it's fun I go as much as possible, homework permitting." Garfinkle also finds himself permanently waterlogged. "I play club water polo in the off seasons along with club swimming," Garfinkle said. "So I go to all of the water polo practices and games and then do swimming every other day or time that I don't have water polo. I am almost always in the pool." This club season, the SLAP team is doing respectably well. "Currently our team is in the winter league hosted by the Daisy Water Polo club," Figueras said. "Our A team went 2-4 and our B team went 4-2. This week we are in the Kuppa portion, which is the tournament. All

the teams this season split their teams into even squads for this tournament. I am coaching SLAP 2 & we are 2-0 in the tournament, with a sudden death 8-7 victory over a Daisy squad. SLAP 1, coached by my assistant, Josh Bell, is 0-1 so far." Figueras, who has had a chance to survey seven of CHS's old and new water polo talent, has gotten to understand their personal styles and believes the coming season will be a great one for Clayton. "Currently we have seven CHS players on the squad: seniors Alex Phillips, Paul Orland and Kevin Johnson, juniors Tom Maxim and Paden Dubois, sophomores Eve Brumley and JB Garfinkle," Figueras said. "They are all doing fantastic." He foresees the seniors leading the CHS team well this year. "Alex is one of our A team captains," Figueras said. "He is our best defender and has stepped into his role nicely. He is extremely strong and doesn't back away from any challenges. Paul Orland is a strong offensive threat. He is really our only center forward. Paul does a great job getting position. His speed is a big asset. Paul has really worked on his game and being patient with his shot/pass selection. Kevin, unfortunately, got hurt wrestling this season. He has very quick reflexes and worked his legs very hard to get them in shape for playing goalie. If he stays healthy, he and Alex will work very well together to anchor the defense this season for Clayton." As for up and coming talent, Figueras also sees improvement. "Paden put a tremendous amount of extra time in the pool this past summer and you can see it paying off," Figueras said. "He is physically getting bigger and stronger and becoming more vocal in the water. His ball handling has improved. Tom Maxim, or T-Money as the team calls him, is playing only in the games this winter, as he is focusing his efforts on swimming. Tom is a lefty and gives our team an important element we have really lacked, an attack from the right side of the pool. He understands the importance of being a great passer as most of our assists come from passes from Tom's side of the pool." Dedication amongst the underclassmen involved in SLAP will also be an asset to the Clayton team. "Eve Brumley has a tremendous work ethic. Eve will go to swim practice and then show up at water polo practice later. She battles each day she shows up to practice and in a sport dominated by boys, she isn't afraid to mix it up and play physical. JB is a strong outside shooter. He has a very quick release and a good sense of where he is in the pool." Needless to say, involvement in SLAP has paid off and this season for CHS water polo is bound to be splashing. "If you haven't seen a game, come out and watch the Clayton team play this season," Figueras said. "They will have their best team in years and should be fighting for a spot in the top eight. On April 25th we (DeSmet) play at Clayton. I am looking forward to this game. It is always fun to see how well the SLAP players are doing during the season & see if they are using what the learned during the off-season. This will be a tough challenge for us, as it is our last game before our conference tournament begins." ☺



The cast of 'Company' strikes a pose at the curtain call of one of their four performances. After months of preparation, the show was a hit. The musical starred sophomore Nick Oliveri as the bachelor Robert. Leah Eby

"Being Alive"

The CHS spring musical, 'Company,' impresses students and adults.

Company, from page 1

songs, jazz, and a lot of brass." First year pit member and sophomore Will Schedl also agrees that the music is hard and has some tricky stuff in it.

"In the music there is a lot of undertone stuff," Schedl said. The pit orchestra has to work very hard to know the songs really well.

They have to be able to follow with the actor or actress. If the actor messes up or slows down, the pit orchestra has to follow.

"Everybody in the pit has to bring their A game," Blackmore said. "Because we are never quite sure of what is going to happen."

With such a fun musical filled with different styles of music, solos, and a funny love story, each member of pit has found a favorite song to play.

"My favorite song is 'Side by Side' because I have a solo in it," Schedl said.

Boulton has a lot of favorites, but she really enjoys hearing all of the songs and watching the actors in the

musical.

"More of my friends are in the musical this year so it is more fun," Boulton said.

Each year, the members of pit change, the musical changes, and the audience changes. But one thing that stays the same for pit orchestra is the difficult practice schedule.

"We practice every weekday after school until 6," Schedl said. "And later [towards the last weeks of practice] we practice from 6 to 10 at night."

Although the rigorous practices stay the same, the members of the pit orchestra and the types of instruments change every year. One year they might have a rock band, and the next they could have more of an orchestra.

"It's really different this year from last year," Boulton said. "I sit right in front of the guitar and I have to adjust to the sound as opposed to the sound of symphonic band."

Through all the work in pit, the group still has lots of fun with it.

"Pit is just a lot of fun and always has a great group

of students," Blackmore said. "The excitement of doing a show comes from a lot of different places."

The energy at shows are always high for both the members of the 'Company' cast and the members of the pit orchestra.

But the actors and actresses in 'Company' get the light shining on them most of the time. This doesn't seem to bother most of the members of pit, though.

"I don't think it really matters," Boulton said. "And people would notice if we weren't there so that's important."

With all of the different styles of music and dedicated actors and actresses, "Company" is a CHS musical not to miss.

"The acting is really great, and even if you're not into theatre you should come see it," Spann said.

After spending so much time rehearsing and working together, tensions are high sometimes. But in the end, everybody brings it together for a great show.

"There is a lot of hitting and yelling sometimes," Oliveri said. "But on Friday, after 30 hours of rehearsal in a week, we are like family." ☺



Jackie Wilcher

Senior Ellen Hinkle performs as Marta, Robert's hip girlfriend who loves New York.



Jackie Wilcher

Seniors Jacob Blumenfeld and Clayton Von Dras were members of the 'Company' pit orchestra.



Jackie Wilcher

Sophomore Nick Oliveri and senior Ellen Hinkle, as Robert and Marta, were two stars of the show.



Jackie Wilcher

Some of the male cast members of 'Company' line up for a song.



Jackie Wilcher

Junior Susie Wirthlin, senior Nava Kantor and senior Ellen Hinkle played Robert's three girlfriends.

How to add length to an essay

[Ken Zheng]
Staff Reporter

You're up at 2 a.m. and your eyes can barely stay open. Everyone in your house has gone to sleep, but you have diligently decided to stay up and finish the essay that is due the next morning. The teacher had set a length for it, what was it again? Warily, you remember that the essay is supposed to be at least three pages. Glancing at your essay, you see it's merely two.

Most people at this time would groan, and just give in with the hopes that their teacher will extend the due date the next day, but don't be one of them! There are many subtle ways you can change your essay so that it appears longer.

Let's get the obvious stuff out of the way first. The first thing most people do is increase the size of the title in order to create a flourishing mess on the page which most teachers think of as your attempt to make the paper longer, or your incredible originality. Most think of the former option.

Most AP and Honors classes require that the title be the exact same as the rest of the essay. So unless you think your teacher won't mind, I suggest you stay away from that option.

While many teachers are observant enough to notice 14-point font, a subtle increase from 12 to 12.5 is normally unnoticeable by unsuspecting teachers. This will generally increase a three-page essay by about three lines.

It doesn't stop there though.

Generally, MLA standard format requires that the margins of a paper be one inch on both sides. But honestly, do you know any teachers who whip out a ruler and measure the side lengths of the essay you've turned in?

I know I don't, so let's just drag that little indicator for the margin a little bit closer in. To be on the safe side, drag the marker in the top left corner to the right about 1/4 of an inch (two tick marks) and the marker on the right about 1/8 of an inch to the left. This causes the text to get a bit more

scrunched horizontally, which gives you more vertical length.

You can also squeeze the margins together vertically in order to force your text on to the next page. Simply drag the indicators on the left side margin down from the top and vice versa for the bottom. Be careful not to overdue it though. If you're not careful, it'll look obvious that your paper has been tampered with.

Not enough, you say? Well there's even more.

Fonts are another tool that you should utilize when trying to maximize paper length. When comparing the amount of vertical space fonts take up when kept at the same size, Times is actually a fairly small font. Arial is generally a safe bet to use because it is widely accepted by teachers but is noticeably larger.

However, if you're feeling daring then use the font called Lucida Grande, which is available on most school computers. If your teacher is looking for a reason to bump you down, using this font might mean bad news for you.

If you thought that the above was too much already, then I doubt you'll want to keep reading. The next step is even more obvious.

Normally, teachers require or should require that official turn-in

In Microsoft Word, when you access the window which you normally use for changing the spacing of your essay, select the line spacing button and look at your choices. Go down to the bottom and use "Multiple." To its right, type in "2.5." Now your essay is 2.5 spaced.

One of the more subtle ways to add some bulk to your paper is to use a header and footer. Under the View button, click "Header and Footer," now in the top right, type in your name, class, the date and whatever other information you think you need. Then go to the footer and click the button which puts the page number there.

This information goes on every page so every line you use in the header and footer is multiplied by however many pages you have. I personally find that this is one of the least noticeable and most useful methods.

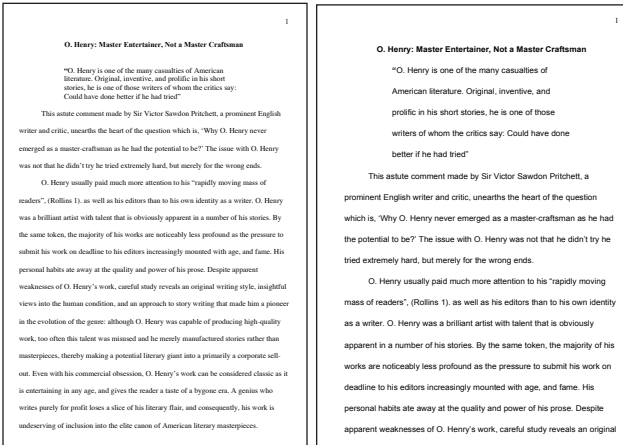
These are all the major steps that you can use to turn a shorter paper that needs some artificial length to it. Of course you might be thinking, "if I'm going to bother with all these steps, wouldn't I just be better off typing some more content?" Well... that's for you to decide. Besides, using all of these methods would not be advisable. Pick and choose which ones seem the most useful to you.

Always remember this though, double check your "handiwork" after you print out the paper and see if it looks too obvious. If you think it looks too obvious, then there's a fairly large chance that your teacher will as well.

As you can see, the process of creating a longer paper from a shorter one is almost a form of art. Just be careful when doing it.

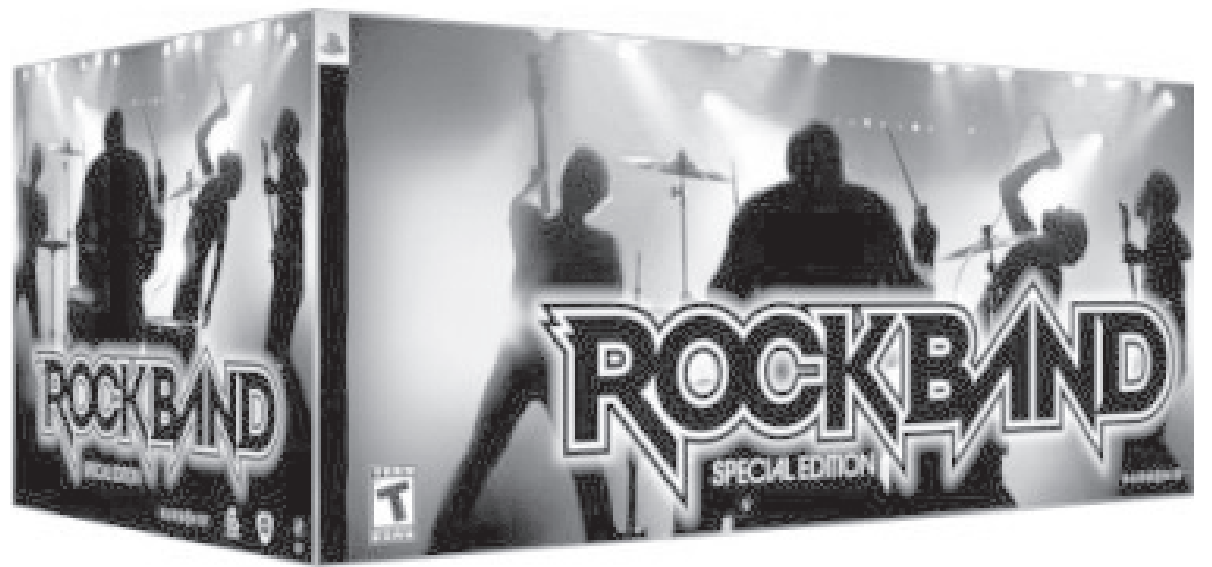
Once everything's done, congratulations, these steps have turned your two-page paper into almost double the length!

Caution! Use the contents of this guide at your own risk. This guide is not a substitute for real essay content and should be used only in dire emergencies.



After changing the margins, font, font size and spacing between lines, two pages of text easily fill three pages.

papers be double spaced. If they don't require it, most of the time you should assume it, even if you don't, use it to your benefit. Double space on every computer means the same thing. It's always the exact distance apart from each line.



Students rock out on Rock Band

[Sam Jacus]
Staff Reporter

Costing over \$160 to purchase, Rock Band is one of the most expensive games currently on the market. However the price is not a detraction to many people who feel that the game is well worth it. Although many students have not purchased the game, those who have are putting good use to it. Those who have Rock Band feel that it is a center of entertainment.

With the opportunity to impress up to four people at the same time, Rock Band can fuel any gathering. Rock Band allows you to play the lead and bass guitar, drums, and vocals. It has game modes ranging from a collective game in which all instruments are being used to individually, in which you can unlock bonus songs and characters. The Special Edition of Rock Band includes the guitar controller, drum controller and microphone giving you everything you'll need. Other features of Rock Band include the possibility of using a guitar hero controller.

"It helps a lot to have had Guitar Hero prior to getting Rock Band because of the practice and skill you already have; not to mention the extra guitar you have," sophomore Casey Lawlor said.

After playing Rock Band for a while, players begin to adjust to the change.

"I started a band with my brother and sister over winter break and it was a lot of fun just hanging out with them," Lawlor said. "It's more of a group game, but in order to improve you need to practice."

The music in Rock Band envelops all genres of rock, featuring recordings from legendary artists. Some of the artists featured in Rock Band are Nirvana, The Who, Weezer, David Bowie and much more.

The music in Rock Band is also a big attraction to many of its players. With the chance to play alongside some of your favorite musicians, who would want to miss it?

"My favorite part of Rock Band is that most of the songs on there are popular, and its sweet that you can play some of your favorite songs; even if they aren't as well known," sophomore Tom Evashwick said.

Evashwick enjoys playing Cherub Rock by the Smashing Pumpkins, which is one of those songs that is not well known, but still featured on Rock Band.

"I played in the beginning only with other people, but once in a while I will play solo and unlock the songs for some fun and a little more of a challenge," Lawlor said. "Before I played Rock Band, I used to play Guitar Hero so there wasn't much of a jump; except when I play drums or sing."

If you are musically challenged then Rock Band is no great challenge. Rock Band's tutorial mode will turn even a beginner into a rock-and-roll superstar. This helpful practice mode lets you break down any part of any song at your preferred speed.

Another game mode called quick play makes it easy to jump into any unlocked song and start rocking. Other game modes such as solo tour or the ultimate band give players the opportunity to jam either locally or online.

Other features of the game include create your own rock, in which you mold a unique rocker using the character creator feature to start a journey for stardom.

The journey for stardom doesn't usually get the attention of many of the players, but those that do pay attention really enjoy it.

"I like that there are a lot of songs and the story element is very present," Evashwick said.

Overall the opinions of Rock Band are very strong with many people recommending the game, however some feel that large price tag is a major downside.

"I think Rock Band a lot of fun, however, I don't feel that it is worth the money," sophomore Daniel Iken said. "I personally wouldn't spend the money on it, but I have no problem playing it."

The reasons for liking or disliking a game can be obvious, but reasons for recommendation are not always as clear.

"I would recommend it because more people can play it, and it really does feel like a rock band when everyone is playing, just for the fact that there are so many different roles," Evashwick said. "However its really hard to get it to work, and its frustrating at some times; because the songs are either really easy or ridiculously hard."

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Students follow an artistic path at CHS

[Abby Eisenberg]

Editor

Go in to the CHS art wing, and one will see professional-looking pieces of art adorning the walls and ceilings. From photography to pottery to painting, CHS offers a wide variety of art instruction. From these classes spring many different artists with a desire to be creative and succeed in the art world. For some, this desire has existed since childhood.

"I have always been interested in art and creative projects ever since elementary school," Senior Laura Shoemaker said.

Senior Kerri Blumer got into art early as a result of her mother's influence.

"I really started getting into art in fourth grade," Senior Kerri Blumer said. "At the time, my mom had recently graduated from art school after she had decided that practicing law was not for her. She always would give me and my sister art supplies to occupy our time instead of sitting us in front of the TV. Because of that, I found out how enjoyable art is."

What is so enjoyable about art? In a schedule packed full of AP classes, in-class essays and graded discussions, art is a nice way to relax, and work on furthering a different part of student's scholastic credentials.

"Art is nice because it's a good break from the usual academic schedule," CHS alumnus Jensen Smith said. "You don't have to think and it's very relaxing."

Junior Jessica Morse agrees that the break that art provides is welcome and rewarding.

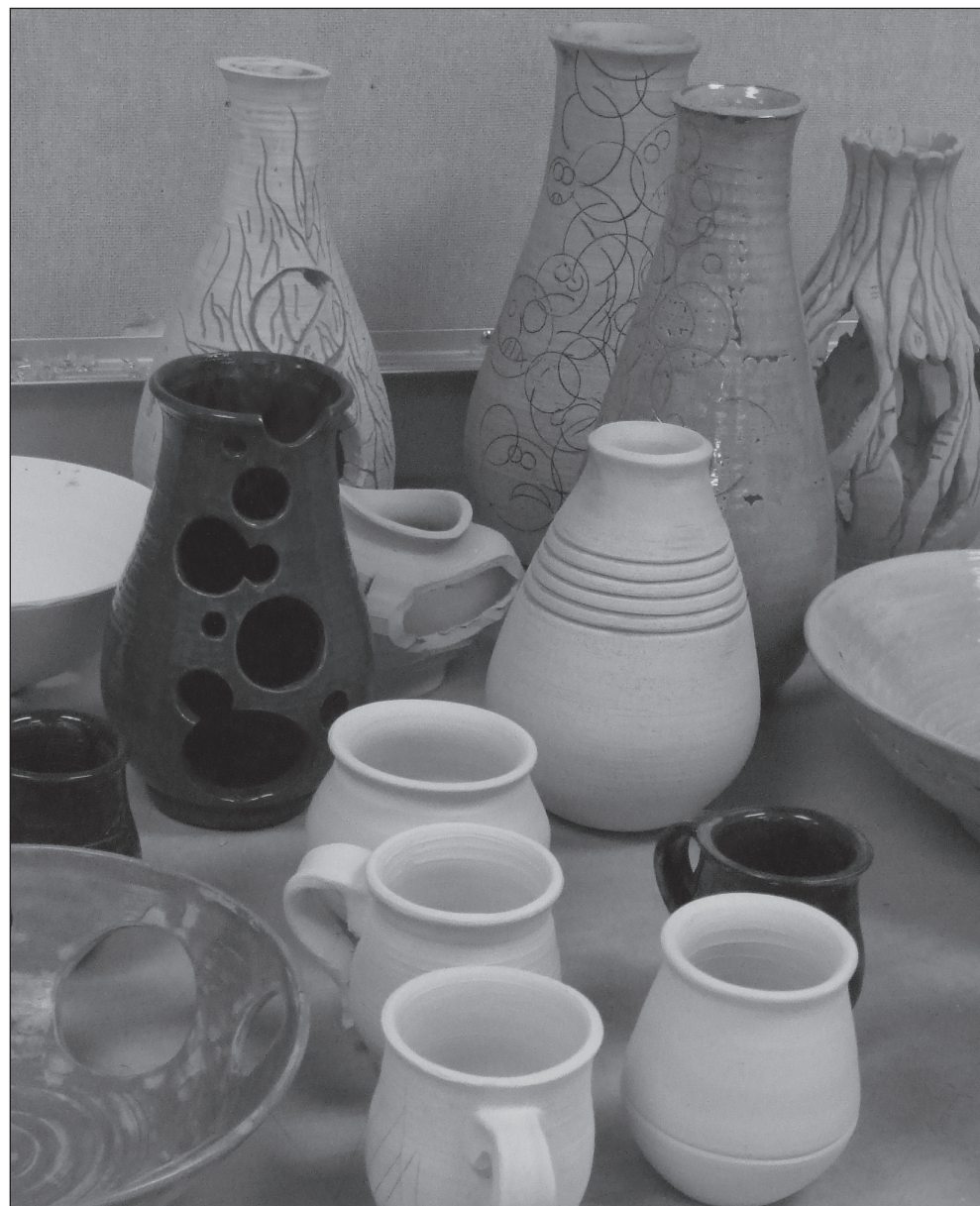
"I love art because I can express who I am through many different ways," Morse said. "It's also a nice way to get away from all the problems of school and drama."

Some students have a less deliberate motivation for working at art.

"I really don't have any cool or eloquent reason," Junior Alice Lehmann said. "I just do it for fun."

Some artists crave the sense of accomplishment finishing a work of art.

"Honestly, it is impossible to give a single reason why I like art," Blumer said. "I enjoy the freedom of expression it provides me and the sense of accomplishment I feel when I complete a project that I've worked on for hours on end. The process of creating an idea and then translating that concept onto paper or canvas is unlike anything else in



Left: The CHS art room is full of beautiful artwork made by student artists ranging from sculpture, to pottery, to pastel drawings, to oil paintings and more. Right: Senior Jack Barcheck showcases some of his artwork; he plans to study art in college and pursue his artistry as a career.



the world."

The Clayton art program has helped many art hopefuls to grow and succeed in progression toward their goals.

"I really grew as an artist in seventh and eighth grade with Mrs. Cobillas," Junior Elliot O'Dea said. "She really helped me figure out what I was good at and expand upon it."

Smith shares this enthusiasm. "High school art was awesome. You could just relax and talk with people and pretty much do whatever you wanted," Smith said. "The classroom atmosphere was very laid back and fun."

Students interested in art may strive to take AP art sometime during their high school career. The class culminates the high school art sequence, or may be entered earlier by the recommendation of a current art teacher. "Not for the casually interested," Russell Van-

ecek's students work to create college level work which may, at the end of the year, be submitted to the AP board for possible college credit or advanced placement. The class expects an original piece to be created every two weeks at the highest quality possible, with frequent critiques and analyses. Vanecek's class is a very independently driven class, but clearly not lacking in expectations, requiring at least six hours of work per week.

"We spend time working on our breadth pieces, which is a range of pieces using different mediums and subjects," Lehmann said. "We also work on our concentration pieces. We choose a concentration in the beginning of the year. We use those pieces for our college portfolio if you submit one."

The freedom that the class provides aspiring artists to pursue what they want.

"Currently in AP Art, I am work-

ing on my concentration," Blumer said. "It is a series of 12 pieces that can be liked by a common theme or medium. I chose St. Louis as my theme because the city is a constant source of inspiration for me and I wanted to capture the unique spirit of the city through my artwork."

In class, Shoemaker feels "free to do [her] own projects and create whatever I want."

The freedom also raises the student's excitement about their pieces, and allows them to realize their strengths and weaknesses in order to ultimately be the best artist that they can.

"The AP class has made me realize that I have so much room to grow as an artist," Blumer said. "My style is extraordinarily tight and detail-oriented, and it really shows throughout all of my pieces. I know that in order to explore my full potential, I will have to break free from this style and experiment

with others, which I plan on doing once I finish my concentration."

"I really like working in a more focused AP environment, and doing pieces that I can get excited about and be proud of," O'Dea said.

Not all students are as content with the college-style class.

"It's not what I expected it to be," Lehmann said. "I expected to have more freedom than you're given, but it really challenges your artistic ability. Unlike other art classes, if you're not doing well you're definitely approached about it."

The high level and college-like atmosphere forces students to contemplate their futures as artists.

"This fall, I will attend Washington University in St. Louis to study art," Blumer said. "I realized that I need to study art in college; it is too important for me to give up. I hope that my education at Wash. U. will allow me to pursue a career in art, or at least a career that I enjoy

and provides enough money and enough time to allow me to continue my art."

Smith also plans on continuing with her strong art foundation based at CHS.

"I'm absolutely pursuing art further," Smith said. "As of now, I'm planning on majoring in studio art. I'm in a studio art class in college which is really cool. In my college art class we draw from live models a lot and we always draw from life."

The class may also make students realize that a future in art really isn't for them.

"It made me realize that I didn't want to pursue art later in life," Lehmann said. "I realize what a commitment it is, and I just like doing it for fun. It's not something that I ever expected to be judged or critiqued the way it is in higher levels. It's just something that I do for fun." ☺

CHS teachers pursue personal interests through local organizations

[Sneha Viswanathan]

Staff Reporter

Students are frequently encouraged to become involved in local organizations that help, promote or support a certain sport, form of art, or profession. However, the teachers who encourage us are often themselves involved in local or national organizations that aren't as run-of-the-mill that one would expect. From equestrian groups to Civil War-era dance performances, the organizations that some CHS teachers are affiliated with are assorted and interesting.

English teacher Deana Tennill is a member of the Arabian Horse Association as well as the United States Equestrian Federation. The Arabian Horse Association promotes the Arabian horse as a breed, while the American Equestrian Association sponsors several different types of equine events.

"I'm mainly in it for the competition," says Tennill. "I do about one to two shows a year. It's a good way of

making contacts with other people with similar interests. I also get discounts," Tennill says.

Chemistry teacher Sarah Reiter is involved in organizations relating to one of her main interests, dance. As a member of the International Folk Dance Association of University City, as well as being chairwoman of Hevrah of Young Persons through Temple Israel, Reiter is very active in dance programs. The International Folk Dance Association teaches international dances to people of all ages, and dances recreationally on weekends. Reiter is also part of the IFDA Performing Troupe, which performs in various venues in St. Louis.

"As a leader of HYP, I am in charge of all social and

religious activities for young professionals in their twenties and thirties," Reiter says.

In English country dancing, the dances and tunes go together, and the music is so beautiful. I love to dance.

[Rebecca Taylor]
English Teacher

In addition to the dance programs, Reiter is also part of the CISTL Cadre Program through the University of Missouri St. Louis Doctoral Program, in which about twenty-five to thirty teachers work simultaneously on their doctorate of science.

"It's tough to find time to balance my social, professional, and extracurricular activities, kind of like a high school student," Reiter says. "I love what I do as a profession and what I do outside of school."

Another teacher who is an active member of an unusual association is English teacher Rebecca Taylor, who is on the board of the St. Louis English Country Dancers and Dance Discovery groups.

The STL English Country Dancers is a social dance group, while Dance Discovery was formed in 2003 and celebrates the Louis and Clark expedition of 1804.

"Right now we're doing Civil War dances in honor of the Lincoln Bicentennial at Dance Discovery," says Taylor.

Taylor says her passion for English country dancing comes from the harmony of the dancing style.

"In English country dancing, the dances and tunes go together, and the music is so beautiful. I love to dance!"

Taylor also attributes the interest in country dancing to the recent film versions of Victorian-era classic novels, as well as to the rich history of St. Louis, with its Louis and Clark connections and influences from European countries.

"The English country dancers are very creative, energetic people," Taylor says. "I enjoy it because it is an unusual form of dabbling in history and a good way to exercise." ☺

Prom committee works hard to finalize dance plans



Class of 2007's "Prom Court" poses with Queen and King Molly DuBro (left) and Alex Glaser (right) at '07 Bond-themed prom last year at the Crown Plaza in Clayton.

[Anya Veremakis]
Editor

As the end of the school year is drawing more rapidly near than many students are realizing, especially the seniors who are overly anxious to leave CHS, one of the last major high school events is already being planned.

High school Prom is one of the most timeless high school traditions that many students will remember for their whole lives. With all that pressure on this year's Junior Class Officers (Abby Eisenberg, Lean Eby, Rebecca Symons and William Kass), activities director Eric Hamylak and math teacher Kurt Kleinberg, the group is beginning to plan early.

This year Prom will be held a bit later than usual. The new date is Saturday, May 3.

"We started planning a couple of weeks ago, really informally, just by talking about possible theme

choices," junior class president Abby Eisenberg said. "So far we like masquerade, a black and white affair and le bonne vie."

Aside from the minor date change, prom will also be held at a different location this year due to a number of obstacles the planning committee faced.

"Crown Plaza was not available for the date that prom is planned to be on and they increased the price for the ball room in May because it is peak wedding season so we really could not get in there for a number of reasons," Hamylak said.

With the usual prom location out of the picture, the committee decided to try a different setting.

"We wanted to switch and do something different," Hamylak said. "We found that it was tough to find a place within the price range and that fit a crowd our size. After researching a bunch of places though, we decided Union Station would be the best place to have

prom. I think Union Station will be a nice change and something different because it is downtown. Also, it is easy to access because it is right off of highway 40."

Union Station seems to be an optimal place to have prom this year; however, the committee did come across one problem.

"We also found out that Eureka is having their prom there [Union Station] on the same night, so that could prove to be an issue," Eisenberg said. "We will probably end up having to wear some sort of ID bracelet for each school so we don't all get mixed up."

Although no planning is completely finished yet, the parent-run committee planning After-prom may be changing the location as well. The committee is leaning towards making After-prom at Tropicana Bowling Alley with a tropical theme.

Along with planning all the details as to where prom will be held,

what food will be served, etc., it is the prom planning committee's job to raise money for the event.

"A big part of the planning is raising enough money for the Prom," Hamylak said. "We had a trivia night in the fall and raised about \$2,000 which is nice. The junior class has also been doing fundraisers throughout the year to raise money for Prom."

If all the fundraising goes well, the ticket prices for Prom will most likely be the same price as last year (between \$55 and \$65).

The committee seems to be off to a good start in creating a very memorable night for all who attend and continues to optimistically plan the event.

"Prom is such a huge tradition that I don't think the issues we had with the other dances will effect prom," Hamylak said. "I hope the senior will come and enjoy what will really be one of their last big events as high school students." ☺

High school relationships deeper than superficial labels

While some doubt the longevity of high school relationships, those who date in high school believe in taking their relationship day by day, enjoying the unique and fulfilling companionship their significant other offers them.

[Maddie Harned]
Editor

The four years that make up high school come with their fair share of social labels, cliques and stress. While there are many constants in the high school experience, one of the most prominent ones is that of dating.

High school dating can be the cause of both turmoil and happiness for those involved.

Despite having a reputation for not being able to last, many believe that relationships can last past high school.

"It can be a lot to handle especially with everything else going on in high school," junior Kate Wheelock said. "Sometimes I can't experience things with other people."

During the often tumultuous high school years, juggling a relationship along with school and home responsibilities can be a trying task.

"I'd say the hard part of dating in high school is still going out together and making time for each other when we have all of these other activities going on at the same time," junior Shannon Harms said. "We both play sports during the same season, and have different extra curricular activities."

For the most part, dating high school students believe that every relationship is different. Therefore, many believe that each relationship should have its own standards.

When free time can sometimes be hard to come by for busy high school students, compromise on 'date night' occasionally may have to happen, as junior Jessica Morse understands.

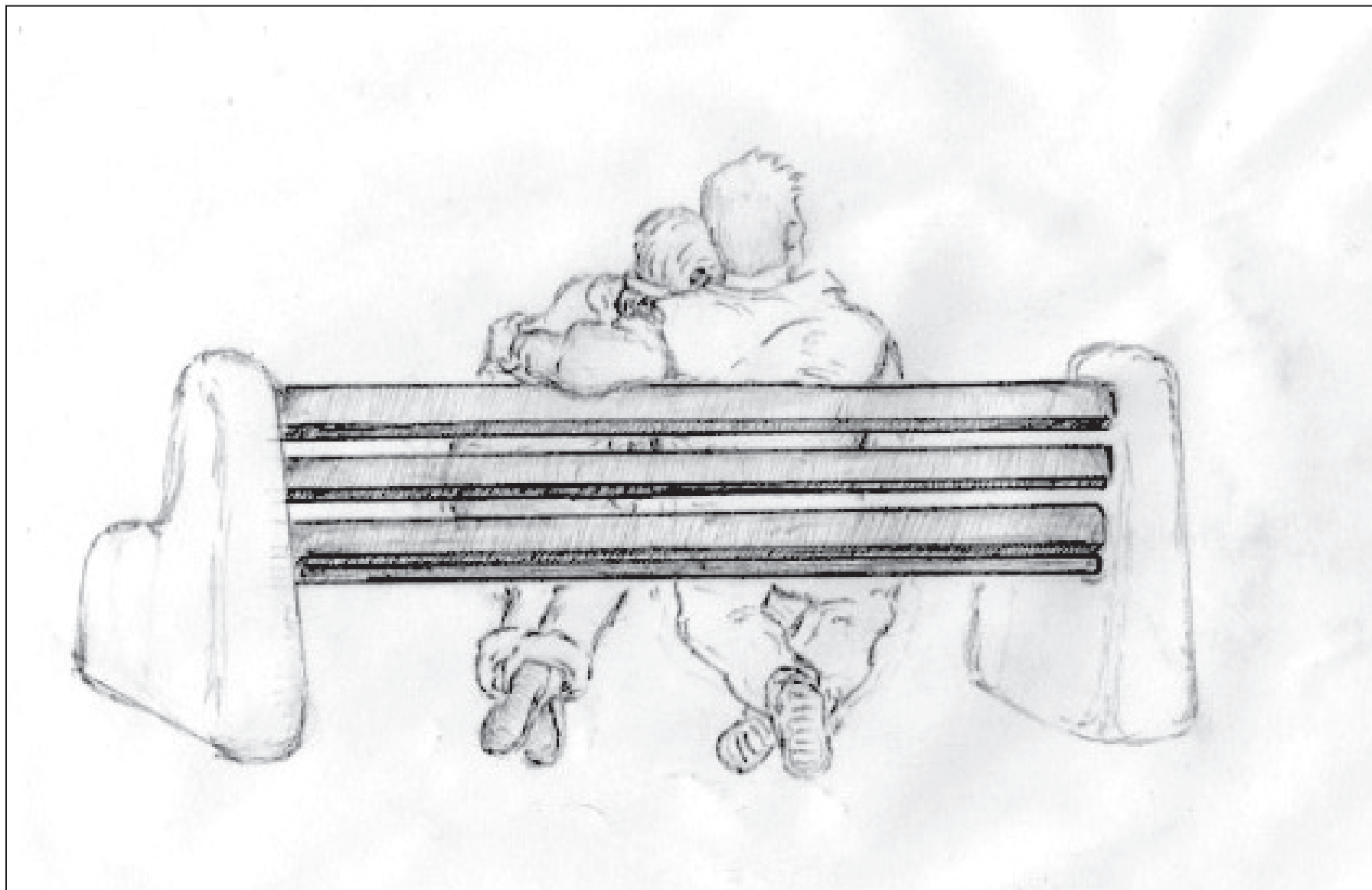
Morse and her boyfriend, Webster High School junior Alex Maldonado's relationship has both its ups and downs.

However, the couple has a connection that is both satisfying and enjoyable for both.

"Alex, my boyfriend, and I started dating around April in 2006," Morse said. "We've been going out for close to two years now. We met through one of my friends who goes to Webster. At first we didn't want to meet each other but once we met, we hit it off from then on."

While Morse's relationship has successfully lasted for a significant time, Harm's relationship with boyfriend, junior Dylan Cockson, is more recent. Harms and Cockson's initially were friends before they began dating.

"Dylan and I met when I moved to Clayton just before freshman year, and became good friends because we're both part of the same group of friends," Harms



graphic by Ali Sehzadani

said. "He started going to FCA meetings last year, and that's what I think brought us closer together because we were able to learn more about each other. We started dating about two months ago in late November."

Whereas Harms' relationship is in its beginning stages, Wheelock's relationship with junior Jacob Waldman began in the middle school years.

"We started dating, even though I wouldn't call it that at the time, in seventh grade," Wheelock said. "We met at school, in class."

To most couples, the length of their relationship makes little difference. Instead they prefer to focus

on the unique companionship their significant other offers.

"We actually love to play video games together and we go out to lunch a lot," Morse said. "Our other favorite activity is to go to the park on a nice day and to just walk around. I think the best times we have together are always the simplest."

Harms shares a similar sentiment concerning her relationship.

"Just day to day we're able to have lunch together and sometimes meet up early at school," Harms said.

"On the weekends we have a good time going out with

our friends or to see a movie and have dinner."

Overall, high school relationships seem to be relaxed and casual.

In essence, dating in high school is quite similar to dating in real life. Each relationship has ups and downs, but in the often demanding high school experience, the company a relationship can provide often outweighs the daily stresses.

"We like playing rock band and eating junk food together, we also like sledding and cleaning my room," Wheelock said. "It's really nice to have a close friend to count on." ☺

Seniors find it hard to maintain focus

[Tian Qiu]

Senior Managing Editor

While many students are still adjusting to the second half of the school year, many seniors, especially those with the tedious college application process out of the way, have already been long plagued with the notorious case of senioritis.

Senior Dennis Zhang describes his last year at CHS, with a light homework load along with a dose of senioritis, as very relaxing.

"I skip classes like there is no tomorrow," Zhang said. "I skip piano, Latin, English, math, physics, and, oh yeah, lunch."

Like Zhang, senior Jack Callahan has also found himself slacking off at school.

"I have forgotten to do some assignments and have not been able to turn them in," Callahan said. "I also turned in most of my AP Biology labs (that were each due throughout the first semester) a few days before semester finals. I am often distracted by my music activities and prioritize them above my schoolwork."

However, not all seniors' symptoms from senioritis include skipping classes and dodging homework.

Senior Vanessa Moore, who still regards school as one of her main priorities, feels the presence of her senioritis in another way.

"This year, I feel a little detached from the school," Moore said. "Because I won't be here next year, so I'm not as worried about making good grades as I was my former years at CHS. When you're a senior, you just really want to get out of here and pursue greater things. So you're just itching to graduate, to finish things, to not have any more finals and homework. Of course, you'll have all sorts of things like that in college. But, I think that everybody, myself included, can't wait for the glorious moment of crossing the stage on graduation day."

Instead of being stressed about school this year, Moore finds her-

self devoting more thoughts to planning her life beyond CHS.

"I find myself daydreaming about college during my classes," Moore said. "I decorate my future dorm room in my spare time. I calculate costs of tuition, food, and books in math instead of trying to find the natural log of some unfortunately large number. My thoughts and conversations are plagued, in subject matter, with worries about classes I'll have to register, and college auditions, and if my major is really what I should be doing."

Realizing some negative effects of senioritis, Callahan tries to put a little more order into his senior year.

"Through self-discipline, I have been trying to regulate my time better and follow a more productive work schedule," Callahan said.

However, Moore prefers to let her case of senioritis to take its own course.

"I don't repress my senioritis," Moore said. "Of course, I'm not going to drop all of my classes. I'm just going to go with the flow and keep doing the things I'm doing. It's working out pretty well for me."

Despite the drawbacks of being diseased by senioritis, some seniors uses senioritis as an excuse and opportunity to enjoy their last year in high school by doing more of what they like.

"I opted this year not to participate in the Spring Musical," Callahan said. "Instead, I am devoting the time I would have spent rehearsing to compose. This year, I will try to develop the focus and studying skills that I should have had throughout high school to better prepare myself for college."

As the rest of the school year seems to be slowly dragging along, Moore, like many seniors, have already been looking forward to the end of their high school career.

"I have a lot to look forward to," Moore said. "I'm counting down the days until graduation in my planner. Plus I just really can't wait to get out there in the world and do stuff that'll make a difference!" ☺

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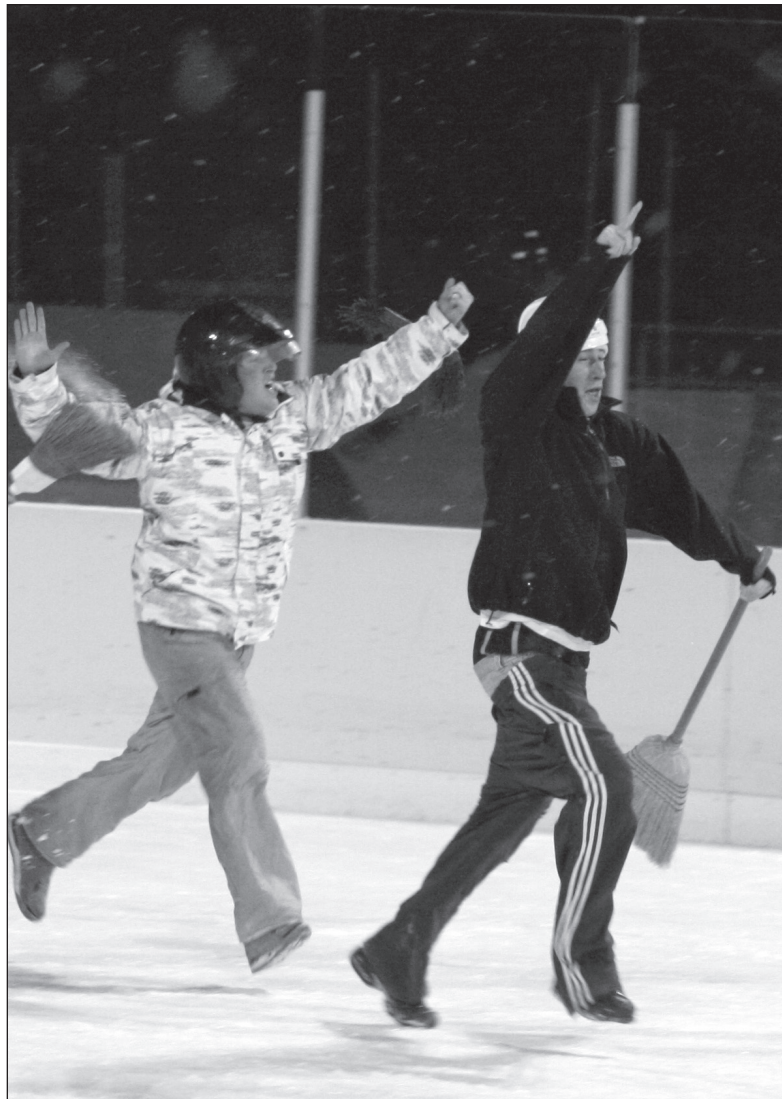
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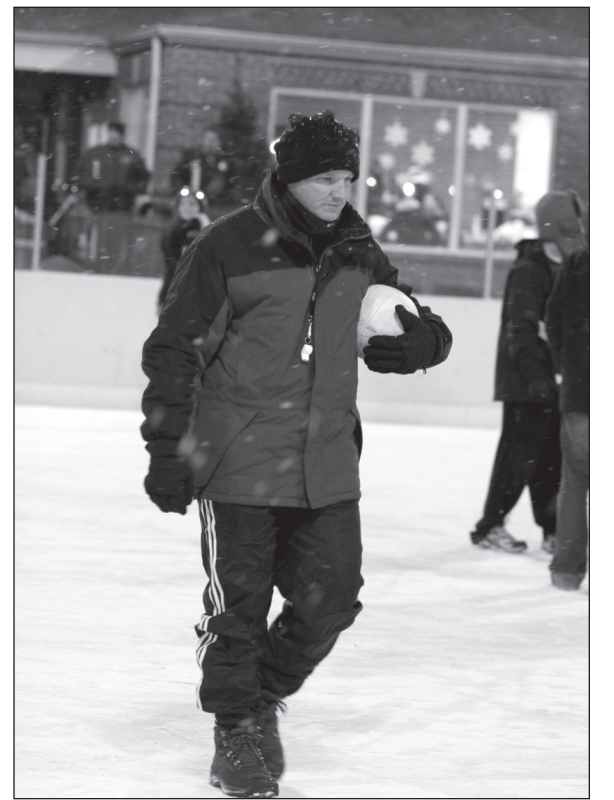
STUGO sweeps up victory in Broomball



Taylor Obata



Courtesy of Dave Kohmetscher



Courtesy of Dave Kohmetscher



Courtesy of Gila Hoffman



Courtesy of Dave Kohmetscher



Courtesy of Dave Kohmetscher

Clockwise from top left: 1. Matt Reznick part of the AP Broomball team dribbles down the ice to the goal. 2. Sam Ryan and Alex Hill cheer after scoring a goal. 3. Assistant Principal Dan Gutchewsky walks to the center of the ice to set down the ball to start the next game. 4. Cole Rosenblum and Rebecca Symons cheer on their team from the bench. 5. Students fight for the ball in an intense broomball match. 6. Jackie Wilcher, Chiara Corbetta, Leigh Katz, Anya Veremakis, David Sherby, Tracy Einstein, and Mark Heil pose for their AP Biology team picture just before going out on the ice to play the championship match against STUGO. STUGO won the golden broom.

Forest Park continues to attract Clayton students

[Sam Jacus]
Staff Reporter

Since its opening on June 24, 1876 Forest Park has been one of the largest urban parks in the United States. During the parks opening the Louisiana Purchase Exposition brought nearly 20 million visitors from around the world to Forest Park. Today the park contains 1,293 acres; it is 500 acres larger than the more commonly know Central Park in New York City and attracts slightly more than 12 million visitors yearly.

The architectural style of Forest Park reflects the many years of service to the community after the \$100 million face lift of the park. Forest Park plays host to not only rich green space in the well developed city of St. Louis, which is 80 percent developed, but is home to cultural enriching places such as the Zoo, Art Museum, History Museum, Science Center and the Muny Opera. In addition to the culturally enriching places, Forest Park serves as a center for activities, such as golf, tennis, baseball, bicycling, boating, fishing, handball, ice skating, roller blading, jogging, rugby.

The wide variety of entertainment in Forest Park allows for a distinctive experience that can spark everyone's interest. It not only hosts activities in the summer,

but also grants visitors the chance to educate themselves in the world of art and history.

"It's big, clean, and nice plus it's outside," junior Ben Peipert said. "There's always something going on there whether it's Frisbee, golf, or tennis. I like FoPo or Forest Park better than most parks, because of its size, bike accessibility, location, and things it has places like the Boat House, which has great food."

Forest Park or known to many as the jewel of St. Louis provides an enriched environment in which visitors can view a wide variety of monuments, historic buildings, wildlife, waterways, and landscapes that combine to incorporate a unique Saint Louis experience.

"There's stuff for everyone there like; golfing, museums, plays, and fishing," sophomore Taylor Freeman said. "It's beautiful with fountains, Greek statues, and bridges."

Many students find Forest Park an ideal place to play Frisbee.

"It's a nice atmosphere," sophomore Orion Wilkinson said. "The atmosphere along with the size and amount of activities make Forest Park an ideal choice to go. The amount of space there is incredible."

Peipert agrees. "There's always room to play and is convenient and close by," Peipert said.

With majority of the events in Forest

There's always something going on there whether it's Frisbee, golf, or tennis. I like FoPo or Forest Park better than most parks, because of its size, bike accessibility, location, and things it has like the Boat House, which has great food.

[Ben Peipert]
Junior



Staff Photo

The Spanish Pavilion is one of many attractions found at Forest Park. This historical monument was built during the Saint Louis World's Fair and has remained a landmark. Other attractions in Forest Park include the Boat House, the Muny, the Art Museum and History Museum and acres of green space.

Park being free, people from all different parts of St. Louis. The Saint Louis Zoo offers free admission to America's third ranked zoo.

"I used to go to the zoo a lot as a kid, but I don't have as much time now and the weather is pretty cold still," Wilkinson said.

Although many of the activities in Forest Park can be held all year round many of them are specific to yearly seasons.

"In the winter I enjoy ice skating at Steinberg Ice Rink and sledding at Art Hill," Freeman said.

Not everyone goes for the winter sports in Forest Park, with some students preferring the warm weather attractions.

"I usually don't sled at Forest Park, but I have heard many good things sledging there," Wilkinson said. "I usually play tennis or golf there from the spring to the fall."

Yet another reason that many St. Louisans attend functions at Forest Park

is the reduced cost of activities. For \$6 you can enjoy all the wonders of Forest Park during the winter. Although, the cost of many activities in the summer is higher, Forest Park has remained reasonably priced: \$28 for a round of golf to the cost of a meal at the Boat House.

Many Clayton students feel that the most notable attraction in the park is the Muny amphitheater.

"I have seen a lot of plays at the Muny, and they are really good," Freeman said. "The fresh air of the theatre is a real attraction especially during the summer when the stars are out."

As the years role by Forest Park continues to remain the jewel of Saint Louis with numerous people feeling that forest park is fine in its current condition.

However some people like Justin Elliot feel that slight improvements could be made.

"If Forest Park were to make any improvements, it would be easier to get around in your car," Elliot said. ☺

'Eastern Promises' promises harsh reality

[Anya Veremakis]
Editor

If you are looking for a movie with a love story or quirky humor that will leave you delighted at the end, "Eastern Promises" should not be on your list of movies to see. However, "Eastern Promises" does provide a harshly realistic view of the Russian mafia in London, a simple plot that is executed perfectly and various scenes that will keep you both on the edge of your seat and completely interested.

Among the batch of movies released this year, "Eastern Promises" is an exceptional one. Although it is not being as widely recognized by the film industry as movies like "Atonement" and "Juno," it is a much more memorable one.

Within the first two minutes, the audience is introduced to the corruption, immorality and atrocities of life in London when the Russian mob is involved. The movie expertly enthralls the audience by displaying a horrifying scene of a man's throat being violently slit with a barber's knife, setting the stage for the horrors that are to be revealed later in the movie.

"Eastern Promises" begins by showing Anna Khitrova (Naomi Watts), a British midwife, trying to deliver the baby of a fourteen-year-old girl. Although Anna successfully delivers the baby, the young girl (Tatiana) dies on the table. It is soon revealed that Tatiana is Russian girl who came to London to find a better life.

In an effort to find the baby's extended family, Anna seeks help in translating Tatiana's diary. She soon winds up at the door of Semyon (Armin Mueller-Stahl), the owner of a trans-Siberian restaurant. Despite Semyon's pleasant facade, it soon becomes apparent that he is a leader of the Russian crime ring in London who has committed a series of vile and cruel acts.

It is there that Anna meets Nikolai (Viggo Mortensen), the family's driver, and Kiril (Vincent Cassel), Semyon's son, each who seems equally as terrible as Semyon.

By trying to find out about Tatiana's past, Anna enters the dangerous world of Russian crime where sex trafficking, rape and murder are all common.

With help from a brilliant screenplay written by Steven Knight, David Conenberg directed "Eastern Promise" with almost no flaw. Each aspect of the movie, from the acting to the effects is completely believable and sometimes too harshly real to watch.

Although the plot is simple, it works throughout the movie and provides space for the various twists



Naomi Watts and Viggo Mortensen star in "Eastern Promises", a film that illustrates the horrifying story of the Russian mafia in London.

that keep the movie interesting.

Also, the acting gives the story dimension and allows the audience to see the movie in a more complex way.

Naomi Watts plays the somewhat too curious and charismatic midwife, Anna, very believably and lays the plot of the movie beautifully. The real praise, however, must go to Viggo Mortensen who played Nikolai. Mortensen masterfully used a Russian accent and spoke Russian frequently throughout the film despite his American upbringing. He also captured the two-sided character of Nikolai, a character who has the appearance of a cold-hearted mobster who invokes fear but shows glimpses of compassion.

Equally as memorable is the acting of Vincent Cassel and Armin Mueller-Stahl, who each capture the fear evoking appearance of Russian mobsters, which lays the foundation of the movie.

Additionally, both prove that most characters in the movie are not one-dimensional. Cassel is able to show the struggle of his character to follow his father's expectations of him, but to also be his own man. Similarly, Mueller-Stahl expertly portrays his character as the grandfather-type but is quickly able to turn his character into one of the most horrific ones.

Although the movie is not overly violent, the gore is definitely worth mentioning. The movie only has a couple violent scenes; however, because the scenes are so harshly graphic, they will stay engrained in your head (that is if you didn't have to turn away).

The violence does not take away from the movie though. Rather, it adds to the realistic perspective and keeps the audience captivated.

Every aspect of "Eastern Promises" is good, from the acting that brings the simple plot to life to the blood and gore that keeps the audience awake.

Sundance film festival beneficial for independent films

[Colleen Layton]
Staff Reporter

Utah in January is cold, freezing cold. The harsh winter weather of Park City should be enough to deter anyone away, let alone the movie icons that arrive there every year. Yet they keep on coming to see their films, to watch the reaction, get the word spread and maybe a Hollywood studio might make a purchase.

Founded in 1978 by the Utah Film Commission and later renamed "Sundance" in 1991 after the new owner Robert Redford's most memorable character, the purpose of the festival is to bring a larger audience to independent film. Independent or "indie" films are movies produced outside of the major film studios, often on a lower budget and with a more artistic approach to a plot.

Over the course of 10 days, over 100 films are shown to a crowd that grows larger and larger every

year. Film categories represented at the Sundance Film Festival include short films that are not often released on the big screen and premieres as well as several other sections that artists can submit their movies to. Competitions are held in the area of national dramas and documentaries as well as international dramas and documentaries. The winners of the contests are decided by a panel of judges, such as Quentin Tarantino and Sandra Oh of the Dram Competition Panel. The films chosen are up for several awards.

The 2008 Sundance Film Festival award winners were announced on Jan. 26 and included a wide range of film genres from more serious and touching documentaries to laugh out loud comedies. Some of the bigger wins were "Frozen Winner" in the dramatic competition, a story of two mothers who smuggle items across the Canadian border, and the audience award for a documentary film, "Fields of Fuel," which is the true tale of one mans fight against big oil companies.

But winning a competition isn't the only thing filmmakers have to look forward to when they enter their

work into this ever growing movie event. Just a few years back "Little Miss Sunshine," a film most have heard of and have probably seen, was a little-known entry at Sundance. After being bought by 20th century Fox for several million dollars and released in theaters nation-wide, its success was so large that in 2007, it was nominated for several academy awards. And won.

"Clerks," "Napoleon Dynamite" and "The Blair Witch Project" all owe a big thanks to the Sundance Film Festival as well.

So while fans of independent films shown in Utah every year, wait for 2009 to roll around, there might be a way to sustain their want for creative flicks. Sundance has a channel, with interviews and showings as well as a popular Youtube channel with a behind the scenes look at films and an environmentally friendly project that emphasizes "going green." Movie trackers might also be intrigued by the thought of one of this year's winners making it big. Who knows, one might become the next "Clerks"?

Goodbye Park City, hello Oscars.

'Persuasion' fails to perform

[Taylor Stone]
Staff Reporter

The Masterpiece network, after recently shedding the "Theater" in its name, has grabbed hold of the Jane Austen frenzy and claimed it for its own.

The network on PBS announced that their new season would kick off with "The Complete Jane Austen", featuring adaptations (four of which are new) of all six Austen novels and a biopic of the beloved author.

The first in this series, "Persuasion," premiered in the United States on Jan. 13. The novel was the final book that Austen wrote before she died in 1817, and arguably one of her finest.

Masterpiece has always been known to produce top-notch adaptations of novels and biographies. This version, however, neither lives up to the past standards of Masterpiece nor the even more elite of the novel itself.

As I sat down on my couch, I convinced myself that the made-for-TV, hour and a half movie was going to be excellent. Being a faithful "Austenite," I had already read the book and fallen in love with the characters.

The story itself has few faults. Anne Eliot, played by the convincingly grief-stricken Sally Hawkins is introduced as the ignored middle sister. At 27, she is well past typical marrying age in this time period, and lives to submit to the wishes of those around her.

After a family financial crisis, she is forced to leave her home to live with her younger sister Mary's (Amanda Hale) family. Her vain

father (Anthony Head) and hoity-toity older sister Elizabeth (Julia Davis) choose to ignore the sticky situation and lounge in Bath, England.

Circumstances lead Anne to run into her love from eight years ago, the handsome Captain Wentworth (played by the polished Rupert Penry-Jones). She was persuaded by her friend and mentor Lady Russell to reject his marriage proposal, because of his "lowly" status as a sailor.

Now that he has gained a fortune and title through the Napoleonic Wars, Captain Wentworth is surrounded by potential wives, while Anne broods in deep regret.

The actors themselves played their parts well. It seemed that each actor almost fully captured the mood needed to portray their character. Penry - Jones was quiet, but not so much as to not understand his character's pains. Head was delightfully superficial, and Hale was convincingly ridiculous.

However, there are many aspects of the movie that I am sure left fellow Austen addicts shaking their teacups in rage.

Though Sally Hawkins' portrayal of sadness was spot-on, it was often outlandishly exaggerated. When there could have been vital character development, there was overdone weeping while staring pitifully into the screen. Though Anne Eliot's character was not meant to be beautiful, Hawkins was far too slight to be considered attractive during the time period.

The editing was altogether extremely choppy. Some important scenes in the book seemed to be either missing or placed in the incorrect order. Though movies made for

television shouldn't have the same standards as large-budget major films, Masterpiece should have been more careful while dealing with the transition between scenes.

The movie was not as faithful to the adored novel as other adaptations. Masterpiece's 1995 version of "Pride and Prejudice" has been renowned for being almost entirely faithful to book, and almost six hours long. I wish "Persuasion" would have been equally as lengthy to include more scenes, and it is ludicrous that it was as short as one and a half hours. As complex and renowned as the plot is, Masterpiece should have seen that such a condensed time slot would only harm the production.

On a more positive note, the cinematography was excellent. The beauty of nature was greatly emphasized and facial expressions of the pain characters felt were dramatically focused on, adding to the tragic feel of the movie. The film score was also beautiful, with both sweeping and darker classical music.

The costumes were also done very well. It was evident that a lot of time was put into designing the outfits, as they were appropriate for the time period and were dripping in detail.

It isn't easy to please Jane Austen junkies, as particular as they are. Her novels are extensive and detailed, so some straying should automatically be excused. However, this movie strayed slightly too much.

Overall, "Persuasion" was like an overdone, yet beautiful painting. It had the appearance of being remarkable, but somehow got lost in muddle of different colors.

TV commercial inspires musical interest

[Maddie Harned]
Editor

TV commercials have very little meaning to me, and when they assault my television screen between shows I take it as my cue to zone out. Usually my eyes remain focused, rather hypnotized by the amusing randomness commercials often have, yet very little is retained from each fifteen-second advertisement.

However, one commercial caught my attention for all the right reasons. Sunday night, the thought of another week of school was diminishing any enjoyment I was getting from the theatrical masterpiece that is Law and Order SVU.

When the commercials began to run, my dismay became even greater because I knew, for the next three minutes, I would not have the distraction of the thespian super-performances found in Law and Order.

Then, the new ad for MacBook Air, the latest Apple laptop computer, flashed before my screen. Yet it was not the computer that grabbed my attention, it was the song playing in the background.

"I'm a new soul / I came to this strange world / Hoping I could learn a bit about how to give and take," begins the quirky pop song.

I instantly focused on my screen and listened to the song with persistence. The song was simple and unpretentious, a breath of fresh air compared to the usual bashing and abrasive sounds found in commercials.

Essentially, the song had grasped my attention and wouldn't let go until the commercial ended and was followed by a talking squirrel trying to sell me car insurance.

I quickly realized I had limited time to find out what this mystery song was before I would get distracted and forget. After a brief Google search I found out that the singer of my new favorite song, which at the time still had no title to me, was Yael Naim.

Born in Paris, France, Naim spent most of her life in Israel, where she learned Hebrew and trained as a pianist. Further adding to her interesting life story, Naim served in Israel Defense Forces, serving as an Air Force Orchestra soloist.

Still, I was completely unaware of the name of the unidentified song, and had only heard about fifteen seconds of the opening verse. Somehow, to me, that was all I needed to know - that I liked this song and artist. On a whim, I purchased the song, which I learned was called New Soul, before ever listening to the rest.

I knew that this impulse was a success after listening to the song for the first full time. New Soul featuring a hint of jazz and a touch of indie pop, and is sung by Naim with a natural, unforced passion. Her slightly gravelly voice is captivatingly mysterious, and matched with the simple piano in the background, commands the song.

Perhaps the part that fascinated me the most about New Soul was the fact that I had never heard a song quite similar to it before. Naim does not try to conceal her accent in her singing, which only adds to New Soul's unique charm.

Ultimately, New Soul is a testament to the capacity of interest one song can spark in a listener. The song epitomizes the idea that sometimes, less is more. In times when music is considered big business, an unpredictable and eccentric song is a refreshing break from the often impersonal current pop scene.

The Pageant
Upcoming Shows

- Angels and Airwaves Feb 28
- Built to Spill March 15
- Explosions in the Sky March 29
- Feist April 15
- The New Pornographers April 19
- Tegan and Sara May 4
- Panic! at the Disco May 30
- Ladytron June 16

graphic by Siobhan Jones

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THE GLOBIES

As Voted by the Editors and Reporters of The Globe

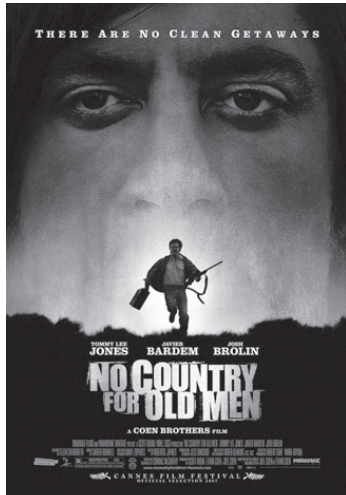
WORST MOVIE



WINNER:
"Bratz"

Runners Up:
"The Golden Compass"
"27 Dresses"
"Cloverfield"

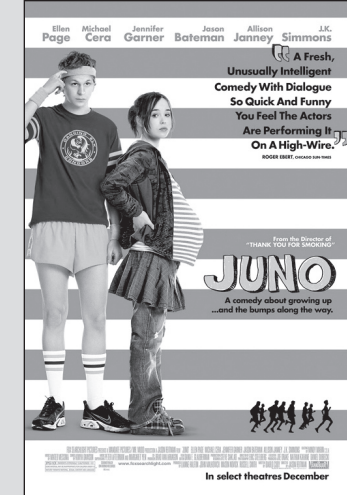
BEST DRAMA



WINNER:
"No Country
for Old Men"

Runners Up:
"Into the Wild"
"Persepolis"
"Atonement"
"Eastern Promises"

BEST COMEDY/MUSICAL



WINNER:
"Juno"

Runners Up:
"Across the Universe"
"Knocked Up"
"Sweeney Todd"

BEST T.V. COMEDY



WINNER:
"The Office"

Runners Up:
"Curb Your
Enthusiasm"
"Family Guy"
"Pushing Daisies"
"30 Rock"



Kelly Moffitt

WORST MOVIE TO SEE WITH PARENTS

WINNER:
"Superbad"

Runners Up:
"Knocked Up"
"Rocket Science"
"Black Snake Moan"
"Norbit"



BEST T.V. DRAMA

WINNER:
"Law and Order: SVU"

Runners Up:
"One Tree Hill"
"The Closer"
"Lost"
"Gossip Girl"

WORST REALITY

T.V. SHOW
WINNER:

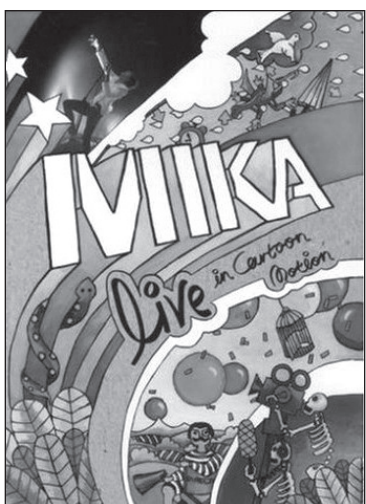
"A Shot at Love with Tila Tequila"

Runners Up:
"Rock of Love"
"America's Best Dance Crew"
"The Real World"
"I Love New York 2"

BEST SONG

WINNER:
"Grace Kelly"
-Mika

Runners Up:
"Love in a Crazy
Way"-Peyton James
"Stronger"-Kanye
West
"Soulja Boy"-Soulja
Boy

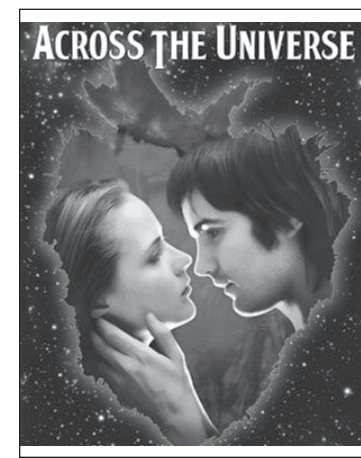


MOST ANNOYING SONG THAT GETS STUCK IN THE HEAD

WINNER:
"Umbrella"-Rihanna

Runners Up:
"Bubbly"-Colbie Caillat
"Best of Both Worlds"-Hannah Montana

BEST ALBUM FOR A ROADTRIP



WINNER:
"Across the
Universe"

Runners Up:
"Juno"
"Mika: Life in Cartoon
Motion"
"Hannah Montana"

DREAMIEST MALE

CELEBRITY

WINNER:
Patrick Dempsey

Runners Up:
Jim Sturgess
James McAvoy
Will Smith

MOST ANNOYING

DISNEY SHOW

WINNER:
"Hannah Montana"

Runners Up:
"Wizards of Waverly Place"
"Suite Life of Zach and Cody"
"Cory in the House"

DREAMIEST FEMALE

CELEBRITY

WINNER:
Emmanuelle Chirqui

Runners Up:
Mischa Barton
Kate Hudson
Evan Rachel Wood

photos courtesy of imdb.com and amazon.com

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Student reflects on the untimely death of Heath Ledger

[Kelly Moffitt]
Co-Editor in Chief

Almost every memorial written for Heath Ledger, 28, after his untimely death on Jan. 22 has started by proclaiming that ever since his Oscar-nominated role in "Brokeback Mountain" he had been more than a pretty face. I disagree: Heath Ledger was more than a pretty face since he began acting; he is the face of a generation, our generation.

That's why his death is so shocking and should be a wakeup call to all of us.

I remember when I first heard that Ledger had been found dead in his bed on that fateful Tuesday. I couldn't believe what I had just read...I didn't want to. How many times had I watched "Ten Things I Hate About You" at friends' parties and wished Heath would jump singing off those bleachers and into my living room? How many times had I rocked out to "A Knight's Tale" and wanted to take up fencing after? How many times had I watched "The Patriot" and wanted to cry just as much as Mel Gibson did at Ledger's fictional death in the movie?

Every movie that came out with Heath Ledger in it since those days caught my eye. I was surprised to find that I'd seen all but one of Ledger's movies since then and own three of them as of now.

From the feelings I've picked up from my friends, their sentiments are the same: Ledger was representative of our generation in more ways than just being around our same age.

Ledger didn't die of a freak plane accident, from cancer, or in a shooting; he died from an overdose of six prescription medications: two sleep-aids, two sedatives, and two painkillers. Tragically symbolic, his death stands as a testament to what could happen to any of us as we try to make our way in an increasingly stressful, anxiety-ridden society. Like most of us, he did things too fast: he grew up too fast, he took on fatherhood too fast, he got involved in the Hollywood drug scene too fast, he worked too fast. Admittedly, Ledger made some mistakes by driving himself headlong into that kind of lifestyle but like most people with great talent, they compensate with destructive activities.

Ledger also served as a voice for my generation by always picking spontaneous and out-of-the ordinary roles.

Even from his breakout role in "Ten Things I Hate About You," the 90s teen flick based on Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew," in which he played Patrick Verona the loner-bad-boy-weirdo-that-everyone-thinks-is-cool-but-can't-admit, he was acting in off-kilter roles. What the brat pack and "The Breakfast Club" did for the kids of the '80s, "Ten Things I Hate About



Michelle Williams, left, plays the role of the wife of the gay cowboy Ennis del Mar (Heath Ledger) in the Academy Award winning film, "Brokeback Mountain". This particular film launched Ledger into a high profile movie career, where people began to consider him a serious actor, despite the fact that he had many great roles before "Brokeback Mountain". Ledger died on Jan. 22, 2008 due to an overdose of six prescription medications: two sleep-aids, two sedatives, and two painkillers.

You" did for my generation, and that's mostly attributed to Ledger with his sweet Aussie-accent and crazy antics.

Ledger worried even after the offbeat "Ten Things I Hate About You" that he would be typecast as the blond, hunky, heartthrob he had been in earlier television work, so he made a conscious effort to try out for more intense roles.

A bit of this intensity is visible in 2000's "The Patriot" with Mel Gibson as Ledger played "Gabriel" a teen who wants desperately to go to war against the redcoats in the Revolutionary War. It's a movie I watch every Christmas Eve (don't ask) and every time Ledger dies, I cry. His talent was already visible from such an

early point in his career.

From there he would move on to the cult-object that is 2001's "A Knight's Tale" in which Ledger plays a young squire trying to prove his worth with forged genealogical documents and a jousting pole after his master's death. Though the movie is riddled with historical, geographical, chronological inaccuracies, it still managed to boom at the box office and in people's laughter. It was the offbeat, crazy, teenage take on medieval times we had always wanted to love but never could because we were bored to death.

The same year, Heath's true intensity would come out in "Monster's Ball" and would continue as he took up roles in "The Four Feathers" and "Ned Kelly." All of

which weren't spectacular movies but his performance in them proved him capable of making the leap from teen-idol to credible adult actor.

His performance in "The Brothers Grimm" was of a new kind for him: he was starring in a children's film but somehow managed to maintain an adult attitude that drew all ages to movie theaters.

And, of course, after that role came his most famous and most heralded performance as Ennis del Mar in the movie based on Annie Proulx's "Brokeback Mountain." Somehow his Oscar-nominated performance managed to make the movie transcend any stereotype it could have fit under (anti-macho cowboy, homosexual love) and turned the film into a shattering love story that could apply to anyone throughout space and time.

This role set him on his way to becoming a Robert Redford-like actor with potential to go down in history as one of the greats. After he didn't win the Oscar, it seemed as though he'd have an eternity to hone his craft and to perhaps win one in the future...unfortunately, that possibility is gone.

His roles afterward in "Casanova" and "Candy", though his role as junkie in "Candy" was a bit disturbing in light of his death, continued to prove his wide range of acting abilities.

I hope to see Ledger's role in the revolutionary biopic of Bob Dylan in 2007's "I'm Not There" soon—I heard he is phenomenal, especially in such a confusing role.

Ledger's dedication to revealing a darker, or at least different, counter-culture side of humanity always led him to meaningful roles.

And he seemed like an interesting person, from his childhood in Perth, Australia, his dedicated relationship to his family (especially his sister), and his devotion to his daughter all seemed so out of the ordinary from the typical actor. Even his frizzed out hair (which, admittedly, sometimes needed to be brushed) seemed like a sign that he was the breath of fresh air Hollywood had been lacking in both personality and acting talents.

I'm not sure exactly how to explain how I felt when I heard about his death. I don't really understand it myself—it's not like I don't hear about young people dying who are my own age. I think his death made such an impact because our celebrity culture has grown to believe that no matter what crazy and downright stupid things young people do, they'll never feel repercussions for it. Think of Britney Spears and Paris Hilton-type people. When a celebrity finally did feel the repercussions of living on the edge, it was someone we'd never suspect...someone who actually had talent...someone whose life had seemed so together and mature. That someone just happened to be Heath Ledger. ☹

'American Idol' seems a little idle in seventh season

[Simone Bernstein]
Staff Reporter

Hard to believe that "American Idol" has kept television audiences glued to the screen for over seven seasons with the same fatigued concept. Yet, thousands of people still audition for the show hoping to become the next American pop star. Every week the Fox hit show draws in millions of eager viewers.

This season is no different than past years with lots of dreadful and dire vocalists still auditioning, and being weeded out, for one of the 24 coveted spots. But after seven long seasons this reality television show is getting a little stale and worn-out. The first few weeks of the season involve numerous auditions. Only 30 of the thousands of auditions are featured in each episode. After narrowing down contestants for Hollywood, the show finally showcases some possible idol contestants. The remaining portions of the show are filled with advertisements and background information on the contestants. "American Idol" can shatter one's dreams and humiliate them in the audition process. A lifelong dream and passion for singing could be destroyed in a matter of 20 seconds. Attacks are made on the contestants' voices, personalities, and even their appearance.

Some individuals are later impersonated and mocked on various internet sites. The judges often go overboard degrading the contestants.

Some individuals hear encouraging remarks from the critical judge Simon Cowell during the audition process. In a Dallas, Texas audition viewers met Kady Malloy, who Cowell said was "...the best so far..." Others have been left crying and confused by the judges' decision to send them home. Judges Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson offer softer criticism towards the contestants. The host, Ryan Seacrest, comforts individuals as they leave their auditions and narrates the show. His commentary adds a different and colorful perspective to the show.

There can be a few entertaining moments. Fortunately, after "American Idol" airs on television the most memorable parts from that episode are placed online. Watching these short segments is most entertaining since they capture the best moments from that episode. Not all winners end up as stars. Few of the "American Idol" winners have sold millions of records. Some previous winners were released from their record company contracts. Past winners Taylor Hicks and Katherine McPhee failed to sell the desired numbers of records. Although, their have been a few huge successes among the idols and finalists. These successes include Kelly Clarkson, Carrie



Fox's "American Idol" has returned for its seventh season, with the judges from left Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul and Simon Cowell.

Underwood, Chris Daughtry, and Kellie Pickler. Changes will be made this year to the original format. According to the show's official site, this year will focus more on the contestants. This season will feature less televised time with the interactions between the music legend mentors, and spend more time on their singing abilities. "American Idol" is a huge money-making machine. They make money off the winner's albums and tours at the end of the season.

Despite everything, I'll probably give the show another try when it gets down to the final 12 contestants. Since the writers' strike has eliminated many shows from numerous networks, "American Idol" is becoming a show I end up watching on television. I have to admit there is something still appealing about an unheard of individual getting his or her big break in the glamorous world of show business. ☹

The Fatted Calf beefs up lunch restaurant options

[Maddy McMahon]
Staff Reporter

Like many Americans, I am used to 99c hamburgers wrapped in paper and shoved through rolled-down car windows.

So it was a shock for me to go to the Fatted Calf, located at 12 South Bemiston Avenue, since the first thing I saw after the English-pub inspired decorations was \$4.99 written at the end of "Calf Burger" on the menu. Not just the price of the burger seems expensive: toppings are 65c each.

But it was worth every cent.

The Fatted Calf prides itself on having the best burgers in town, and they work hard to ensure their epithet. The .33lb burgers are made to order, and, depending on when you go, can take anywhere from one to 10 minutes. During the week, the Fatted Calf caters to a lunch crowd of regulars, and they have large number of burgers already charbroiling. However, I went on a Saturday night. The round wooden tables were empty, but the restaurant was still well staffed and ready to cook my order.

The restaurant prides itself on its soft cheddar, an ice cream like consistency cheese that can be added on top of a "calf burger" for an extra 65c. Pepper cheese, mushroom, or bacon lovers beware: these toppings cost extra (85c for the pepper cheese or mushrooms, \$1.25 for bacon).

Besides calf burgers, the Fatted Calf offers charbroiled chicken breast sandwiches (\$5.95), the deluxe fish sandwich (\$5.75), the swordfish steak sandwich (\$8.25), and the tuna steak sandwich (\$7.75). The charbroiled chicken breast sandwich is marinated in white wine, olive oil, and herbs. The deluxe fish sandwich is simply deep fried cod served with their famous cheddar cheese. Both the swordfish steak and tuna steak sandwiches are served charbroiled with homemade tartar sauce.

For vegetarians, the Fatted Calf offers little: just a tossed salad, with a choice of French, Lite Ranch, Bleu Cheese, 1000 Island, and Parmesan Vinaigrette dressings. Although fresh, the salads alone are not worth coming for, and are intended more as sides.

Other sides include steak fries, onion rings, fried mushrooms, chips, and coleslaw. The fries and onion rings are served hot, but are much different than any of the fast food variety: don't expect slender sticks of potato drowning in salt. These are fried chunks of potato, and the salt is left up to the customer's discretion.

While the price tag may seem enormous, the Fatted Calf prepares sit-down restaurant-quality food ready for take-out or a quick lunch within 10 minutes. The calf burgers absolutely live up to their name as the best burgers in town.

The Fatted Calf adds variety to Clayton's typical lunch places. Instead of Bread Company or Chipotle, try the Fatted Calf for great burgers in an unusual atmosphere. ☹

Kayak's Coffee unites unique outdoorsy atmosphere with peaceful study environment, tasty beverages

[Mary Blackwell]
Staff Reporter

As you walk through the doors into Kayak's Coffee, the first thing you'll notice is the interior design - after all not all coffee shops use snowboards as light fixtures or place stuffed animal huskies on the rafters.

The outdoorsy atmosphere is reflected through the exotic masks and photos of sled dogs on the walls, which are made of wood or stone, the potted plants, fireplace, and the pinecones on the bathroom doors. The name of the coffee shop ties in with the theme, and yellow kayaks hang from the ceiling, complimenting the green and yellow Kayak's Coffee sign on the exterior placed over the wooden double doors.

Kayak's is primarily a coffee shop, which explains why my hot chai latte was superior to my cheese pizza or corn bread.

The whole-wheat cheese pizza, made with pesto sauce due to a shortage of marinara sauce, was tasty and slightly over cooked while my corn bread was enjoyable but on the dry side. The meal was fair priced and the coffee is most recommended. A small black coffee is \$1.57 while my small chai latte was \$2.75. Cheese pizza was \$8.95 and corn bread \$3.18.

But the service was not as pleasing as the food. The cashier seemed hurried and was abrupt although there

were only a few customers behind me in line. There seemed to be no employee dress code, seeing as one of the employees wore an athletic t-shirt and beaded necklace while another male employee sported what seemed to be a long gold skirt and large earrings. That the employees were free to express themselves through their attire somehow seemed to fit right in with the surroundings.

The self-expression carries on to the bathrooms, where chalkboards are mounted on the walls. Kayak's definitely has a do-it-yourself approach.

If you desire a dash of chocolate, honey, sugar, half and half, or other additives in your drink or if you need a cup of water, near the counter is a surface containing these refreshments and supplements. Customers are also expected to clean up after themselves and pick up their food and drinks at a counter.

The menu has been recently expanded, and Kayak's now offers sandwiches, pizzas, salads, wraps, waffles, soups, smoothies, and of course a wide variety of iced, blended, and hot coffee drinks in addition to their signature drinks. And if you're craving s'mores but lacking a campfire, no problem, Kayak's offers s'mores. Ready to roast over a sterno flame, complete with chocolate and graham crackers.

Although the expansion of the menu was a success, the expansion of location failed as the Kayak's

Coffee on the Boulevard near the Galleria closed. For now, their only location is on the corner of Skinker and Forest Park Parkway, near Washington University and Forest Park.

Late afternoon on a Sunday, Kayak's was packed, and it was hard to find a chair, even though the store has a fairly large seating area. Maybe a result of the nice weather as many customers looked as if they had stopped for coffee or a snack after a jog around the park, bike ride, or walk. Many customers were clad in sweatpants, sweatshirts, and tennis shoes, adding to the relaxed environment.

There were also many college students looking for a quiet study spot, some seemed like they had been camped out there for hours. The free wireless Internet and good lighting made for a great study environment. Most conversations were somewhat hushed, and no rowdy groups or obnoxiously loud customers disturbed the peace.

Seating may have been hard to find, but parking wasn't. There is street parking and a free parking lot behind the store, although limited to one hour.

Kayak's may not be the most elegant or flawless coffee shop, but its cluttered and outdoorsy character appeals to the environmentalist looking to buy organic and fair trade products, students looking to do school work, or anyone in search of a great cup of coffee. ☹

Messy PLAY



Blair Klostermeier



Blair Klostermeier



Liza Schmidt



Liza Schmidt



Liza Schmidt

On Jan. 26, the Clayton Family Center and the CHS Community Service Club teamed up for their annual day of 'Messy Play.' Students helped pre-schoolers with their crafty creations using shaving cream, melted crayons, sand, clean mud, and more.



Blair Klostermeier



Liza Schmidt



Liza Schmidt

- 1 A CHS student paints a younger buddy's hand in preparation for decorating a paper plate.
- 2 Junior David Denlow smiles with his new friend.
- 3 Sophomores Jeanette Nguyen and Ijeoma Onyema work on their own artistic creations.
- 4 Sophomore Mary Blackwell assists a few kids with one of the day's more gooey projects.
- 5 Junior Romina Groisman discusses options with some Family Center girls.
- 6 Several participants pause from amusement with water toys.
- 7 Four boys confer intensely over an art table.
- 8 Senior Laura Bliss aids one of the youngest artists in attendance.
- 9 Senior John Goodfellow lends a friend his expertise in sculpture-building.
- 10 A pre-schooler experiences the joys of shaving cream.
- 11 Sophomore Sonja Petermann molds shapes with her buddy.



Blair Klostermeier



Blair Klostermeier



Blair Klostermeier