



# clayton high school theglobe

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1 Mark Twain Circle, Clayton MO 63105

## [snapshots]

### Peppers approaches

Peppers Prom is Jan. 2 in Stuber Gym from 8 to 11 p.m. This year's theme is "Candyland." Tickets will be on sale Jan. 28 to Jan. 31 for \$10 each.

### CHS students selected for All-Suburban Honors Ensembles

The following students made it through the extensive All-Suburban audition process: seniors Drew Lefkowitz, Paul Orland and Jack Callahan; juniors Ben Portner, Brian Fleischer, Abby Williams and Yiliu Zhang; sophomore Nina Oberman; and freshmen John Orland and Cooper Minnis.

### Don't forget the next late-start day!

Students begin school at 9:20 a.m. on January 30.

### Yearbook deadlines

The deadline to order a yearbook at the discounted price of \$53 (\$60 for a name stamp) is Jan. 25. After that day, the price rises to \$60 and name stamps are no longer available. Order forms are available online and in the Cottage.

### School Board Recognition Week

Take time to thank the Clayton School Board. January 27 through February 2 is School Board Recognition Week throughout the state of Missouri.

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Jenna Wonish

Roosevelt High School is one of the many public schools in the city of St. Louis. The St. Louis Public Schools lost state accreditation last year and still face many challenges.

## Ongoing struggle plagues city schools

[Nava Kantor]  
Co-Editor in Chief

Anger, controversy and uncertainty are still roiling through the St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS) almost a year after the Missouri State Board of Education revoked the district's accreditation.

In a highly disputed decision last March, the state board also voted to switch authoritative power from the locally elected SLPS school board to a three-person Special Administrative Board (SAB), with one member appointed by the governor, the mayor and the president of St. Louis's Board of Aldermen, respectively. This transitional leadership is meant to intervene in the SLPS in order to raise below-average test scores, improve graduation rates, reorganize the district's academic agenda, and manage the nearly \$25 million in debt the district currently owes.

To accomplish these goals for the over 30,000 students attending St. Louis schools is a colossal task. Thus far, several members of the district's disenfranchised elected Board of Education (BOE) are not satisfied with the progress of the SAB in rehabilitating the SLPS.

"The State BOE has done nothing but take away our accreditation," Katherine Wessling, a member of the SLPS Board of Education, said. "Prior to that they did not offer assistance to avoid that happening, and after that they have done nothing. The SAB appears to have been given carte blanche over the district."

Open communication about the plans of the transitional board has so far not been established.

"The SAB has not released any timeline for rebuilding the schools, to my knowledge," Wessling said. "I have seen no successes related to them since their takeover."

St. Louis BOE member William Purdy is also disappointed with proceedings.

"As an elected board member who no longer has authority over the district, I have not seen any

positive changes since the state takeover," Purdy said. "Many city residents are offended at the idea of politicians replacing the representatives who were elected by the voters."

Wessling believes that the effects of the recent upheaval in the district will continue to be felt by all members of the St. Louis community, most especially by the teachers.

"The instability created has affected our greatest asset - our teachers," Wessling said. "Many of them left because they did not feel confident in their job security under the SAB, or because the constant changing was just too much to deal with."

According to Wessling, problems with teacher-administrator relations in the SLPS have been escalating for several years.

"From 2003 until the April 2007 election, the St. Louis City BOE has been dominated by members

who have put the blame for student failures squarely onto the teaching staff," Wessling said. "Most of our teachers work very hard in some tough schools, and when they are micromanaged by non-teachers and their curriculums are changed frequently with no training, it makes it very difficult for them to do their job to the best of

their abilities. Our loss has been the gain of many neighboring districts who have hired away many of our teachers. This, in turn, creates quite a morale problem for the staff and students left behind."

Though they have been assured that the district's loss of accreditation shouldn't be a problem in regards to admission into colleges and universities, "high school seniors were extremely alarmed at the prospect of graduating from an unaccredited district," fearing disastrous effects on their futures, Purdy said.

The state involvement in the restoration of the SLPS could potentially affect the Clayton School District (CSD) in the future.

City schools, 6

## Lafayette law suit debates student's freedom of speech

[Fontasha Powell]  
Editor

Nearly a month ago, after sophomore Logan Glover and three friends took seven pictures of his language arts teacher during class at Lafayette Senior High and uploaded them onto Facebook later at home, they were given three days of out-of-school suspension, and Glover was barred from ever returning to the class. In turn, Glover's father decided to sue the principal and two associate principals for violation of the First Amendment right to free speech.

Wendy You, a junior at Lafayette High School, said that not many students at Lafayette know about the incident.

"I heard about the incident while I was eavesdropping," You said. "Then, I searched the Internet and found an article about it on a website."

In fact, when questioned about the ordeal, only six out of 25 Lafayette students knew what had occurred, and even fewer knew the details.

Because the pictures were taken using a cell phone, the only school rule that Glover broke was having a cell phone, because Lafayette has a firm cell phone policy.

Junior Laura Hamrick thinks that the cell phone rules at school

are strict and consistently implemented.

"We are pretty strict about the cell phone rule at Lafayette," Hamrick said. "We can't have people texting in class and stuff."

You disagreed with Hamrick. She doesn't believe that the school is stern concerning the cell phone policies.

"Although the administration is strict about having cell phones in the hallway and during class, the severity varies from teacher to teacher. Sometimes if a phone rings in class, rather than turning the student over to the grade principal, they let them off with a warning."

However, among the students who know about the incident, the majority believes that the administration overreacted.

"There's a general consensus around the school that the administration overreacted," You said. "I'm pretty sure that every kid in the school recognizes that cell phones aren't allowed to be used during school hours. A lot of kids post pictures of teachers and stuff on Facebook. It's a bigger issue this time because the teacher had no clue that the student was doing it in the first place. Logan was just unlucky because he got caught," You said.

Sophomore Austin Goodman agreed with You.

"I think that the punishment Lo-

gan got was really severe," Goodman said. "It was weird that he got in trouble for doing that. This happens all the time; people post stuff on Facebook usually without consent. I don't understand why the administration acted the way that it did."

Junior Zeke Dieckhaus thinks that the entire incident was pointless.

"From what I know, the whole ordeal was pre-planned on the kid's part," Dieckhaus said. "I think that the kid involved is a nerd and just wanted attention. I don't know why he did it, but I thought that a lot of people were shocked that a kid would take pictures of his teacher and put them on Facebook."

Despite the student's motives, Dieckhaus thinks that the ordeal got out of control.

"My dad is part of the administration and though he had little to do with the suspension decision, I think that the administration did overreact because he was suspended for almost no reason," Dieckhaus said. "The only rule that he broke was having his phone out in class."

Hamrick, however, disagreed with both You, Goodman and Dieckhaus. She believes that the administration did not overreact

Lafayette, 7

## BSU offers cultural unity

[Kelly Moffitt]  
Co-Editor in Chief

While most clubs at CHS seem to have been around for an eternity, a new face this year is the Black Student Union (BSU), which was created this fall as a conglomeration of the different African-American-targeted clubs.

"It is the collapse of a program I was doing through the VICC (Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation) program for freshmen called I Choose Success and the girls' 4As (African American Academic Achievers)," counselor and club sponsor Caroline Blair said. "Due to the fact that the boys' ABA (Academic Black Achievers) club was no longer in existence we felt the need to have a club which encompassed both genders at all grade levels."

BSU is not like most clubs, as it is an open-forum with no set positions.

"We don't have positions in the club but everyone takes a part and has different assignments," senior Hillary Stuckey said. "All can come to BSU, everyone's invited...we've even had students of different races and ethnicities other than African Americans come to meetings. It's really just a place for students to come and appreciate diversity, value differences, and learn to understand one another."

Meetings happen every Wednesday after school in the Greyhound room.

"We're all on equal footing and can talk about anything," senior Reshara Brown. "We talk about stereotypes, careers, academic success, sports, and how to thrive as a minority. I feel BSU gives black students a chance to discuss issues that affect us and a chance to let the community and the school know we're a strong group of successful students who aren't just trouble makers."

Goals of the BSU include creating a place where black students have a voice, feel safe and accepted, set standards for African American students, discuss current issues affecting African Americans, change how people view African Americans.

Having successful adult role



Blair Klostermeier

Junior Brittney Byrth walks with the Black Student Union in the homecoming parade in September 2007.

models as sponsors of the club is a great help.

"A lot of the black faculty have formed together and have all taken a role in helping us in BSU," Stuckey said. "We don't have one sole sponsor, many people help out: from Mrs. Blair to the new Biology teacher, Mr. Sankey, to Mrs. McCoy to Mrs. Rogers-Beard...and many others."

Besides meeting-to-meeting discussions and activities, the BSU is working on creating other opportunities for black students.

"We had a Career Symposium where we had several African American professionals come in and speak with students about their career and the route they needed to pursue to get into their field," Blair said. "We have also begun a division of BSU called Club Med. This is open to all students. This is for any student interested in entering any medical field and responsive to what the member wants to see and do. There are field trips and speakers available to all members."

Also, a mentoring program is

being offered through Mr. Sankey's fraternity.

For Black History Month, the BSU plans to have facts and quotes read over the announcements as well as a weekly contest.

And don't worry: there will still be a talent show sponsored by the BSU in place of the 4As. It will take place April 18 and tryouts will be coming soon.

All in all, the club is achieving its goal of African-American unity. "We run a pretty tight-knit crew," senior Patrick Brown said. "The group isn't as big as it should be, but those who come are really committed to making African American achievement a success."

Ultimately, the fate of BSU rests on the shoulders of future CHS generations.

"Because BSU is new this year and I'm a senior, I just hope the people following me will build BSU up as strong as the foundation is because this is a great organization that offers great opportunities," Stuckey said. "I hope that they stay together because the goal is so noble." ☺

# Underdogs claim victory in primary

[Katharine Weiss]  
Senior Managing Editor

They called themselves the “underdogs,” a black man from Hawaii with the middle name Hussein and a former Evangelical preacher with a passion for guitar. On Jan. 3, Democratic sen. Barack Obama and Republican gov. Mike Huckabee went against the odds and won Iowa, the first caucus of the 2008 election.

What propelled these two unlikely candidates into front-runners? Young voters. With a reputation for laziness when it comes to voting, young voters silenced the cynics and on Jan 3, and stood up for change. Young people participated in Iowa with record numbers, making up 22 percent of caucus-goers. The Iowa event broke records with 346,000 participants, many of whom were young first time caucus goers.

According to a poll done by Newsweek, 57 percent of democratic voters between the ages of 17 and 29 caucused for Obama next to 14 percent for sen. John Edwards and 11 percent for Senator Hillary Clinton. For the Republicans, 30 percent of voters between the ages of 17 and 29 caucused for Huckabee, while 28 percent caucused for gov. Mitt Romney and 21 percent for sen. John McCain. Obama and Huckabee seemed like the obvious pick for the young voters, being the youngest in their respective parties.

Others attribute the allure of the two candidates for young people to their message of change. Obama and Huckabee reject the road of “blue” v. “red”, “Democrat” v. “Republican” and instead stress the importance of uniting as a country. Obama’s message of people not just wanting to be against something but for something was proved right by young voters in the Iowa caucus. Young people have begun to stand up for better health care, a cleaner environment and a safer country.

Obama’s appeal to young voters is quite obvious. He is young, handsome and completely different from any former presidential candidate. From the beginning, the Obama campaign has made it a point to reach out to young voters. Obama targeted young people



Brian Baer/Sacramento Bee/MCT



Mauricio Rubio/MCT

**Above left: Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) addresses supporters at his Caucus Night Rally held at Hy-Vee Hall in Des Moines, Iowa, January 3. Above right: Presidential candidate Mike Huckabee greets supporters at the Veterans Memorial Building in Grinnell, Iowa on January 3.**

not just by phone and e-mail but also through social networks such as Facebook, as well as face to face confrontations. The Obama campaign has 175 student chapters in Iowa. Most campaigns avoid spending too much money on targeting young voters, mostly because of their history of not turning out on Election Day, but the Obama campaign put a lot of resources into identifying who the young voters were and getting them involved.

Being a former preacher, Huckabee isn’t your obvious young voter magnet. However, Huckabee was able to sweep young voters off their feet by speaking their language. He appeared on night shows such as

“The Colbert Report” (in which he promises Steven Colbert the position of his running mate) and “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno.” He has also been known to “rock out” on his electric guitar every now and then. And it probably didn’t hurt that he was able to get an endorsement from action hero Chuck Norris.

After their unprecedented wins in Iowa, Huckabee and Obama, as well as the other candidates moved on to New Hampshire. While Huckabee only received a slight bump in the New Hampshire polls, Obama’s Iowa win carried him to as high as a ten point lead in front of Senator Hillary Clinton. And

Clinton took notice.

Instead of campaigning with only former President Clinton, she brought her daughter Chelsea on the campaign trail. She began to place more emphasis on her message of change, stating that she had the experience to bring change to Washington. And when Clinton took the stage to give a victory speech after winning New Hampshire, her crowd of supporters were all young and fresh faced (Clinton received a lot of flack for her Iowa concession speech in which the backdrop was filled with old advisors of President Clinton’s.)

Along with Clinton, McCain also came out on top in New

Hampshire. Just as Iowa spoke out for change, New Hampshire sided with experience.

As with Iowa, New Hampshire saw a large young voter turnout. Forty-two percent of voters under the age of 30 came out to vote for the Tuesday primary, more than double the amount in 2004. Obama easily beat Clinton among 18- to 24-year-olds in New Hampshire, 60 percent to 27 percent. But Clinton surprised observers by edging out Obama among 25- to 29-year-olds, 37 percent to 35 percent. Among the Republicans, voters under 25 also split with the over-25 voters. Like Republican voters as a whole, voters 24 to 29 chose John McCain

with 37 percent, followed by Mitt Romney with 33 percent; they gave Ron Paul 15 percent. Among under-25 voters, Ron Paul came in second with 19 percent, not far behind McCain’s 35 percent, and just ahead of Romney’s 17 percent.

Many have attribute Clinton’s success with young voters in New Hampshire with her five day appeal to young voters, in which she made a point to answer their questions and visit college campuses.

While the results in Iowa and New Hampshire have been anything but clear, one thing is for sure; young voters will play an integral part in the selection of the next leader of the free world. ☺

## Iran continues to enrich uranium despite its halted nuclear program

[Ting Lu]  
Staff Reporter

In December, United States intelligence agencies concluded that Iran halted its nuclear weapons program in 2003 and that the program is still frozen. The reports contradict the accusations made by the Bush Administration that Tehran was working persistently toward creating a nuclear bomb in the immediate future.

The assessment, a National Intelligence Estimate that represents the unanimous view of all 16 American spy agencies, reports that Tehran is likely to keep its options open with regard to building a nuclear weapon but that intelligence agencies do not know whether it currently intends to develop nuclear weapons.

Despite the recent reports that Iran halted its nuclear program nearly five years ago, Iran has continued to enrich uranium. Although the Iranian government has insisted that the program is intended for peaceful purposes, the new estimate states that the enrichment program could provide Iran with enough raw materials to amass a nuclear weapon sometime by the middle of next decade, a date unchanged from previous esti-

mates.

The new report essentially renounces a judgment that the intelligence agencies issued in 2005, which concluded that Iran had an active secret weapon program and that its purpose was to renovate the raw material into a nuclear weapon. The new approximations claim instead with high confidence that the nuclear program was stopped in 2003, and concludes with moderate confidence that the program remains halted. The report believes that the shutdown was imposed by Iran “primarily in response to increasing international scrutiny and pressure.”

The estimate does not specify when intelligence agencies learned that the arms program had been halted, but officials said new information obtained from concealed sources over the summer had led to a reassessment of the current stage of Iran’s nuclear program and a decision to delay preparation of the estimate, which had originally been scheduled to be delivered to Congress in the spring.

The 2007 report on Iran had been requested by members of Congress, emphasizing that any conclusions could affect American policy toward Iran at a crucial time. The new estimate brought American assessments closer with the opinions and examinations

of international arms inspectors.

Democratic presidential candidates stressed that Iran’s long-term ambitions were still a great concern to the United States and that Iran still remains a threat to US interests.

Although the report regarding Iran’s nuclear program was of “moderate confidence”, administration officials expressed skepticism about the conclusions reached in the new report and said they doubted that American intelligence agencies had a firm grip of the Iranian government’s motives.

Sarah Comer, a graduate student at Columbia University who majors in international relations, believes that Iran could be a potential threat to the United States’ well-being.

“I think that it [Iran] is still a threat,” Comer said, “but it is not as much of a threat as the intelligence is making it out to be.”

Emily Grady, a teacher at CHS, agrees that Iran may be a threat.

“We should be open-minded but cautious in our relationship with Iran,” Grady said. “We have a complicated history with them.”

David Jenkins, also a CHS teacher, does not believe that Iran is a threat.

“I don’t think Iran ever was,” Jenkins said. Jenkins also said that he believes that US intelligence did not act appropriately in response to the Iran issue.

“The US intelligence published information that was incorrect. The government should not distribute information that they do not know for certain,” Jenkins said.

Comer said that she believes that the US government officials acted somewhat appropriately.

“I don’t think they’re using the intelligence in the best of ways, but there has been some progress concerning the Iran issue. I think that the fact that US intelligence was courageous enough to admit that they made a mistake was a positive thing,” Comer said.

Ultimately, the administration officials concluded that the intelligence findings would not decrease the White House’s concern regarding a nuclear-armed Iran.

The fact that Iran continues to refine its abilities to enrich uranium, they said, means that any decision in the future to resume a nuclear weapons program could lead Iran to a bomb. While the new report does not clash with previous assessments with respect to Iran’s capabilities, it does make new judgments about the motive of the Iranian government. ☺

## Benazir Bhutto assassinated amid Pakistan’s power struggle

[Phillip Levine]  
Editor

Benazir Bhutto, the first woman prime minister of an Islamic state, was assassinated while leaving an election rally on Dec. 27. While in the car, she stuck her head out of the window and a gunman shot her in the neck and chest and set off a bomb nearby. She was pronounced dead hours later.

Benazir Bhutto was the leader of the Pakistan’s People Party (PPP) and has served as prime minister twice before. She first served from 1988 to 1990 and then served a second term from 1993 to 1996. While serving her terms as prime minister, she was charged with corruption. She was accused of stealing large sums of money from the Pakistani people and while the corruption case was pending in the Pakistani courts, she opted for self-exile. For the past eight years, she lived in London and Dubai but recently returned to dispute the power of Pervez Musharraf.

Musharraf has been the ruling

general of the army of Pakistan and has been in power since 1999 when he effectively completed a coup d’etat against the then prime minister, Nawaz Sharif. Sharif was then exiled and lived in Saudi Arabia until November 2007. Sharif, after hearing news of Bhutto’s return, came back to Pakistan as well. Musharraf, with a push from the United States, scheduled free elections for Jan. 8, 2008. Both Bhutto, leader of the PPP, and Sharif of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) were to contest Musharraf on the general elections on Jan. 8. After the assassination, the elections have been postponed indefinitely.

Prior to the assassination, Bhutto had given her power as the head of the PPP to her husband, who had also been charged with corruption and was strongly disliked by the majority of Pakistanis.

“I really can’t believe Bhutto had the audacity to name her husband as successor,” senior Sara Rangwala said. “Her husband was charged with the same crimes as she and he wasn’t in a good position with the

Pakistani people to begin with. I suppose that is why he then gave the power to their son.”

Although Bhutto was up for prime minister, Rangwala is unsure if she really would have been elected.

“I don’t know whether she would have been elected or not and I’m not sure if she would have been good for the country,” Rangwala said. “She has been elected as prime minister twice before and took a lot of money from the Pakistani country and government and people. It is extremely sad, and the terrorism was horrible for the country but at the same time, I believe that she wouldn’t have been elected and if she had been, wouldn’t have made a good prime minister.”

Regardless of what would have happened, the assassination of Bhutto and the existence of terrorism demonstrates the problems in Pakistan. Pakistan is one of the few nations in the world that has nuclear missiles, and with the presence of Islamic extremism, many new issues may arise.

History teacher Debra Wiens realizes that something must be done.

“The situation clearly demonstrates the crisis they are under,” Wiens said. “I don’t know how to keep a lid on the volatile Pakistan. Most citizens, as complacent as we are, don’t pay attention to these critical places.”

Wiens believes that only through education, are students as well as citizens able to fully appreciate the delicate global threats as well as come up with a solution.

“A successful democracy like the United States depends on a knowledgeable citizenry,” Wiens said. “That is why my job is so important. We need to train people to think beyond our own border and begin to think more globally. The only problem is the lack of information coming out of Pakistan. You feel like you know so little. It’s the frustration that we are not really given the whole truth.”

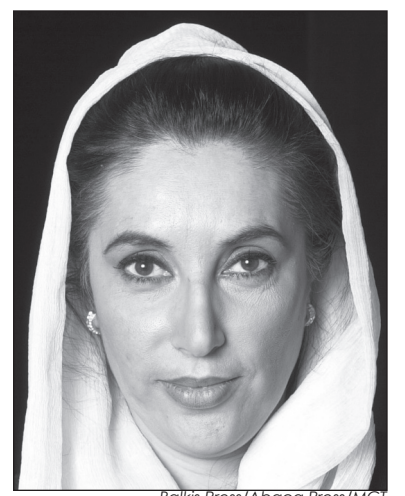
At the same time though, a government and president that concentrate on global issues is unquestion-

ably essential.

“It’s good to think about health care but in a world of chaos, that doesn’t matter,” Wiens said. “It demonstrates the need to choose a president who will be wise in establishing foreign relations. We need a president who understand the history of the region and who will choose advisors that can really get their finger on the pulse of the Middle East. We’re dealing with a potential crisis since Pakistan has nukes, and it needs to be handled with skill and delicacy. I really don’t envy the person in that position.”

The problem in Pakistan could certainly evolve into a global crisis if the wrong people get possession of nuclear weapons; however, Rangwala believes that this will not happen. “I don’t think that the Islamic extremists hold much power over the Pakistani people,” Rangwala said. “They are not going to come to power, and they certainly won’t get a hold of the nukes.”

The situation in Pakistan, the Middle East and the world is a se-



Balkis Press/Abaca Press/MCT

**Benazir Bhutto was assassinated Dec. 27.**

rious one. It will take an effort by the citizens and governments of the world to handle the situation. With terrorism and assassination as strong possibilities, it is difficult to rule such a large and split nation. A world crisis could potentially occur in Pakistan with the power struggle between support for Musharraf, Sharif and Bhutto’s son. ☺



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# Cuba's future uncertain as Castro's health status declines

[Phillip Levine]

Editor

The communist dictator Fidel Castro has been ruling Cuba for almost 50 years. He came to power after overthrowing the United States backed capitalist, Fulgencio Batista, in 1959 and has been ruling ever since.

Although Castro certainly came to power with socialist and Marxist ideals, he did not initially call for the extreme communism that he would later embrace. He began with democratic ideas of freedom.

"Castro was very smart about how he went about gaining power," AP Spanish and Cinema and Literature teacher Teresa Schafer said. "He didn't initially show true dedication to communism, but instead demonstrated his democratic principles in his first campaigns. He promised democracy, change, the abolition of a tyrant and equality. He told the masses what they wanted to hear."

Things then began to change. Castro began ruling with extreme communism and cut himself off from the majority of the rest of the world.

The situation in Cuba became even more unfriendly when the United States imposed a trade embargo with Cuba.

Absolutely no goods could be exported to Cuba. Absolutely no goods could be imported from Cuba. Absolutely no economic relations existed between the two nations.

AP World history teacher Donna Rogers-Beard sees these economic sanctions as unnecessary and wrong.

"Since the 1840s the entire relationship with Cuba has been ridiculous," Rogers-Beard said. "We have continued to trade with China and they are communist. Hopefully the next administration will stop the economic sanction so that we will be able to once again trade with Cuba."

Although the economics ties with the United States were nearly non-existent, Cuba continued to keep close ties with the other communists backed nations of the time, especially the USSR. Throughout the Cold War, Cuba experienced masses of economics subsidies that greatly improved the economic status of the nation. The Soviet Union annually imported about five billion dollars worth of sugar from Cuba which helped the Cuban economy greatly.

"Castro's regime was strongly supported by the Soviet Union," Schafer said. "In Spanish, we say that Cuba was the *ahijado* of Russia; the godchild. As the godfather, Russia gave enormous economic and political support."

When the Soviet Union fell in 1991, the aid and trade that Cuba once had from Russia stopped.

Since then, Cuba has continued to stay communist and Castro has continued to say in power. This all changed on July 31, 2006, when Fidel temporarily

transferred all of his power to his brother Raul, then vice-president. Fidel was simply too ill to rule. He underwent numerous surgeries for intestinal bleeding and stayed out of the public for about 16 months. He made his first appearance when he met with Venezuelan president, Hugo Chavez.

This year Fidel announced that he would be running for the National Assembly, but did not state any plans on whether he would return to power or not. If Raul stays in power, the political and economic scene may change.

"If something happens to Fidel, Raul will just carry on because he definitely has the people's support," Rogers-Beard said. "The only question is how long will be go on living."

Raul has definitely continued to try and involve Cuba in foreign affairs with other friendly communist powers.

"Raul has been in charge for the past year and a half and he's going to China, Venezuela and many other nations," Schafer said. "He is trying to reestablish the foreign relationship that Cuba once had."

Although Raul has gained power and will unquestionably try to retain his power, many question what exactly will happen after the Castro family is through. In the 1950s Cuba and more specifically Havana was a great place for foreign investments, especially with United States capital. Many wonder if Cuba will stay communist with such a large opportunity for foreign investments.

"There is entirely too much money out there for them to stay communist," Rogers-Beard said. "It is all going to be about commercial interest. Cuba will not be about politics; it will be about business. Unfortunately, it probably will be the new Las Vegas but I hope that it does not lose its momentum as one of the most educated populations in Latin America and having the free medical program that it has. I hope that they don't lose that, so then it can't be simply business as usual."

Schafer agrees that although there are definitely many problems of a communist state, Cuba has demonstrated that it has some of the many advantages of communism.

"We have to be the devil's advocate," Schafer said. "He has done a lot for education. They have one of the highest literacy rates in the world. We can commend Castro for that. They have social medicine. Although it is by no means the best, people can get medical care. They have lost a lot but have reaped some of the benefits of a socialist state as well."

The possibility of a new Cuba that would have economic advantages both for the citizens of Cuba and the investors of America would be amazing. At the same time, they must maintain their education and medical program that currently represent the positive aspects of Cuba. If Cuba wants to better their position, they must find and create a balance between economic affluence and social equality. ☺



Handout/Miami Herald/MCT

Fidel Castro stands with revolutionary commanders Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo and William Morgan (right) shortly after the first big anti-Castro plot was smashed in 1959. Castro's recent illness has caused him to relinquish power to his brother, Raul. The fate of Cuba has yet to be seen.

## New no-loan policies at top schools leave graduates debt-free

[Abby Eisenberg]

Editor

Fifty percent of students will graduate from college and enter the real world with an average debt of \$19,237. With the average cost of college increasing at twice the rate of inflation, and public schools costing an average of about \$13,000 a year and private schools costing \$28,000 according to a survey recently done by The College Board, this debt is bound to go through the roof within the near future.

To remedy this grim situation, top schools such as Princeton, Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, Duke, Swarthmore, Haverford and Davidson are all moving to guarantee a debt-free graduation for all undergrads

by replacing all loans with grants which don't need to be repaid.

Providing tuition every semester is becoming increasingly hard for families as the price of tuition alone has mounted to as much as \$40,000 per year. This pressure doesn't allow for much choice for post-undergraduate activity. It often forces undergrad students to bypass opportunities to study abroad or participate in internships so they can maintain debt repayments. Thus, to encourage a good education and getting the most students can out of it, colleges are trying to discourage bypassing opportunity in fear of falling too far into debt. Haverford, one of the first universities to adjust their financial aid feels very strongly about the importance of this.

"I believe this is a vital and necessary step for Haverford families

and the College," Haverford president Stephen G. Emerson said in his public address on the school's website. "Our new program both reduces the barriers to a Haverford education and helps unburden our graduates of debt. In addition, it will free our students to consider career choices that they might have overlooked while under pressure to repay student loans, and will have a transformative effect on our community."

The new policies not only serve to reduce debt for students, but to add to school's diversity.

"Offering more scholarship to replace loans in out aid awards is another tangible way to help our families," Swarthmore's financial aid department said on the school's official website. "This stronger financial aid program is expected

to ensure access for all admitted students and to further encourage diversity"

But programs such as this are very expensive for schools, and rare amongst small liberal art schools such as those who recently adopted it.

However, schools such as Harvard who rake in a hefty \$35 billion endowment can afford millions of dollars of financial aid. But not all schools are so lucky. Haverford is finding the funding for their new program creatively. "As part of this change, the College is chartering a new endowment fund -- called the Next Generation Fund -- to help pay for the plan," Emerson said. "All students who receive such grants will be asked to make a pledge to support the Fund throughout their lives as their

means allow and the spirit moves, with no pre-set expectation of how much they contribute. We believe that the Next Generation Fund will have broad appeal and will be supported by alumni and friends who may themselves have been the beneficiaries of grants-in-aid."

Some experts doubt that this change will be positive for colleges or students in the long run.

The recent boost that wealthier colleges have made in their financial aid may cause poorer college to cut finances from other parts of the school to try to compete with the Harvards, and the Penns of the world, which would certainly cause a decrease in the quality of the schools. This new technique may also solely give middle to upper class people more of a chance to go to the best schools easier, leaving

even less room for the lower-income students. However, the intentions of these schools are undeniably noble.

"These changes are vital to our larger goal of making Haverford accessible to the most talented and deserving students regardless of economic circumstances," Emerson said.

Equal chance and improvements are the goals for all of these institutions.

"We want to ensure that no student admitted to Princeton feels that he or she cannot attend because it would present a financial hardship," Princeton University president Harold T. Shapiro said in a letter posted on the school's website. "We have made all of today's improvements with that goal in mind." ☺

## New Jersey statute erodes case for capital punishment

[Ugochi Onyema]

Editor

For centuries, from crucifixion to disembowelment to lethal injection, capital punishment has been viewed as a firm institution that seeks to punish offenders at the highest degree.

However, this method of maintaining law and order may be buckling under the pressure of 21<sup>st</sup> century morals.

In the United States, the presence of capital punishment continues to attenuate state by state. The use of the death penalty was officially abolished in one of the 37 states that retain capital punishment when the governor of New Jersey, Jon Corzine, signed a bill that replaced capital punishment with life in prison without parole on Dec. 17, 2007.

This change in law marks the first state in the United States to renounce capital punishment since the reemergence of the death penalty in 1972, according to Amnesty International, a human rights organization. This move by New Jersey is viewed by many as evidence of a potential descending trend in the number of executions in the United States.

Junior Josh Oberman, a member of the CHS debate team, conducted extreme research on capital punishment and now believes that this trend will not affect American law and order.

"Law and order can definitely exist without capital punishment," Oberman said. "There haven't been that many executions since it was reinstated in the 1970s, and I don't think that law and order really suffered without it."

According to the Missouri Department of Corrections, capital punishment is prohibited in Missouri, with the exception of 14 extraordinary situ-

ations, including committing murder for pay, committing murder via hijacking public transportation vehicles and committing murder with the intent of obstructing justice. The death penalty is utilized in order to maintain justice, however, Oberman believes that capital punishment is efficient idealistically rather than realistically.

"I believe that the case is more appealing philosophically as a just punishment, but the way that [capital punishment] is administered worldwide isn't always just," Oberman said. "There are some states that make sure that they only prosecute the worst criminals and others where minorities are being discriminated against. From state to state, the death penalty varies. It is actually less expensive to prosecute [criminals] and sentence them to life in prison rather than to execute them."

On a worldwide scale, capital punishment is seen by many as an old-fashioned method of punishment. According to Amnesty International, a human rights organization, nations, according to their status of the abolishment of capital punishment, is divided into four groups: abolitionist for all crimes, abolitionist for ordinary crimes, abolitionist in practice and retention.

Nations that are abolitionist for all crimes do not permit the use of capital punishment for any crime, and 91 countries abolished the death penalty under this classification in 2007.

Meanwhile, 11 nations abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes only, meaning that those nations prohibit the use of capital punishment except when the case concern extraordinary circumstances. Thirty-three nations abolished capital punishment in practice in 2007 as well. This category refers to the 33 nations that maintain the right to administering the death sentence, but have not executed any criminals within the

last decade.

The combination of the nations that are abolitionist for all crimes, abolitionist for ordinary crimes and abolitionist in practice results in a total of 125 nations that have abolished capital punishment, as of September 2007. The last category, retention, refers to the 62 nations that still utilize the death penalty.

According to Amnesty International, as of December 2007, a minimum of 1,591 people were executed in 25 of the 62 nations that still use capital punishment. Additionally, the top nations that performed executions of offenders in 2006 are China, the United States, Pakistan, Iran, and Sudan, with a combined 91 percent of worldwide executions.

Opponents of capital punishment, like Amnesty International, believe that it is an institution that is based on discriminatory criteria, and ultimately results in the execution of innocent citizens. History teacher Donna Rogers-Beard agrees with this viewpoint.

"I just don't believe that anyone should be put to death by the state or the government," Rogers-Beard said.

The American Civil Liberties Union is conducting a project that aims to eliminate the presence of capital punishment in the U.S. According to the ACLU, of the 20 states that retain the death penalty in 2006, the number of criminals executed increased in only two states, Texas and Ohio. The number of executions in Texas rose from 19 to 24, while the number of executions in Ohio increased from four to five. Dissimilarly, six of the 20 states did not perform any forms of capital punishment.

However, Oberman believes that the death penalty is not always a negative institution.

"I don't think we have a right to judge certain countries by their methods [of punishment] if they are used

within reason," Oberman said. "In Iran, they hang people for being gay, whereas in Rwanda, the death penalty is used on perpetrators of genocide."

Conversely, proponents of capital punishment, according to the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, view the death penalty as a force that violates fundamental rights ordained to humans and devalues human existence. According to the Death Penalty Information Center, 929 lethal injections have been administered since 1976. In addition, 154 offenders have been executed by electrocution, 11 by gas chamber, three by hanging and two by firing squad. Since 1973, 126 citizens have been exonerated.

The May 2006 Gallup Poll results, according to ACLU, displayed the decrease of support for capital punishment.

Only 65 percent of Americans in 2006 supported the death penalty, compared to the 80 percent of Americans who supported the death penalty in 1994. Despite this decrease in public encouragement of capital punishment, the presence of the death penalty still looms over the worldwide issue of law and order.

Nevertheless, capital punishment is gradually fading into history as an outdated institution. History teacher Debra Wiens, feels that life in confinement is suffice punishment.

"The will of the people is expressed through our laws and the rights of individuals are constitutionally protected," Wiens said. "I believe in the democratic process. I also have personal views that grow out of my faith and life experiences, and shape my opinions. Capital punishment is a difficult issue and one that I struggle to reconcile. Having visited inside penitentiaries, I have come to believe that a life of incarceration with scanty material possessions and very limited freedoms can be adequate punishment." ☺

# Protests of election in Kenya spark controversy

[Leah Eby]  
Editor

Uhuru Park in Nairobi, Kenya has long been the site of political expression. In the summer of 1997, CHS history teacher Paul Hoelscher was filming a violent opposition rally against the then-president Daniel arap Moi that took place in the park. Upon seeing him, local police proceeded to bludgeon Hoelscher until he was bruised and bloody. Amid the chaos of tear gas and police assault, Hoelscher escaped from the square to safety.

On Jan. 16, this park again became a place of political protest as opposition leaders attempted to hold the first of a three rallies protesting the election of Mwai Kibaki to his second term as president of Kenya.

Kibaki, the 76-year-old former vice president, was first elected president in 2002 as a member of the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC), succeeding the 24-year reign of President Moi. On Dec. 27, 2007, he was reelected president as a member of the Party of National Unity (PNU) which he formed as a coalition of parties in 2007.

The recent presidential elections are the source of about three weeks of political, social, and economical turmoil in Kenya. In the most highly contested elections in Kenyan history, early election results showed opposition leader Raila Odinga with a sizable lead and his party, the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), with the most seats in Parliament. However, in the last hours of the election, the tables were turned and Kibaki prevailed with the presidency.

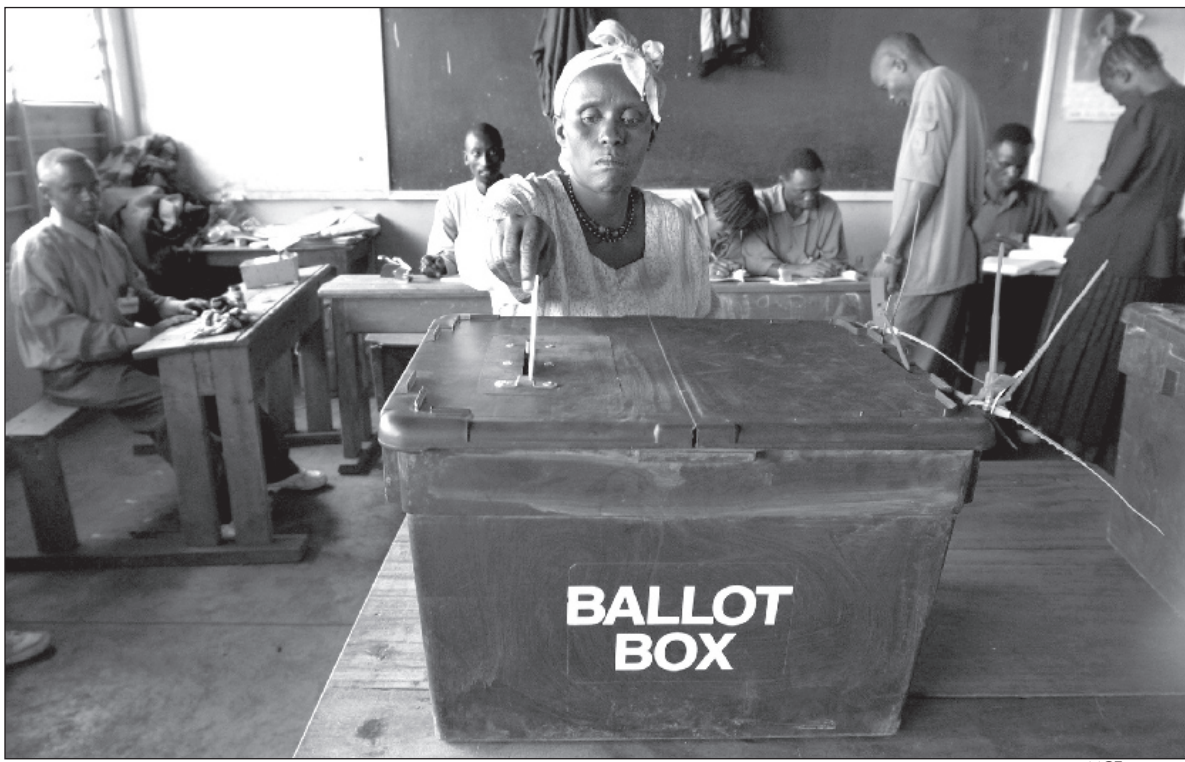
Kibaki's triumphant win by more than 230,000 votes, according to Kenya's election committee, in the last hours of ballot counting has led opposition parties in Kenya, as well as Western leaders, to suspect the ruling party of electoral fraud.

"People woke up so early that day to vote for change," said Bernard Ndede, a high school English teacher in Kenya, in an article published in the New York Times. "They felt robbed."

Controversy surrounding the rigged ballots has sparked intense ethnic rivalry that has long been a part of Kenya's history. While the country was under the colonial control of Britain, large plots of land were owned by the British government. After the country gained independence in 1963, the newly formed Kenyan government, led by Jomo Kenyatta, a member of the Kikuyu tribe, did not redistribute this land to the impoverished Africans who had inhabited that area for centuries. Rather, instead of giving the land to tribes such as the Kalenjin and Masai, the much of it was given to other Kikuyus.

The largest of over 40 tribes, the Kikuyu have since been the privileged tribe in Kenya, dominating the economy – running shops, restaurants, banks, and factories – and politics. President Kibaki, a member of the Kikuyu tribe, faced strong opposition from 63-year-old opposition leader Odinga, "The People's President," who is a member of the Luo tribe.

Following the rigged elections in late December, tribal warfare erupted between the Kikuyu and various other tribes that were angered at the government's corruption. Opposition tribes have since been violently attacking Kikuyus with machetes, rocks, sticks, and fire. According to the Red Cross, the current death toll is over 600 deaths, and hundreds of thousands of Kikuyus have evacuated ethnically mixed areas and migrated into the central highlands of Kenya, the Kikuyu homeland and Kibaki stronghold.



A Kenyan woman places her vote in the ballot box at a polling station, in Nairobi, Friday, December 27, 2007.

"Kenya has changed," said Francis Mwaniki in a New York Times article. Mwaniki is a Kikuyu whose home was destroyed by opposition gangs. He does not plan to return to Kenya.

In Kiambaa, a village west of Nairobi, a gang of Kalenjins attacked the local Kikuyu population at the Kenya Assemblies of God church.

"As soon as we heard the Kalenjins coming, we brought our people to the church," said John Njorge, a Kikuyu, to the New York Times. "A church is supposed to be safe."

Yet, despite the safety of the church, no one was left come morning. Because of the confined quarters of the mud walls of the church, townspeople left their belongings outside of the church. This included mattresses, shoes, belts, pots and pans. Guards stood watch outside of the church, rusty machetes in hand, but when a mob of about 800 Kalenjins and Luos surrounded the church, their rocks and machetes were powerless in comparison to the slingshots, bows and arrows, and spears of the opposition. The guards were quickly attacked, slashed in the neck. Those left standing fled.

Next, the mob descended on the church, piling the foam mattresses against the doors to prevent escape. They proceeded to light the mattresses on fire, causing the mud church to crumble under the flames. Over 50 men, women, and children were killed, including a crippled man who could not run fast enough with his lame leg.

This is just one story of the atrocities that have occurred in Kenya since the fraudulent elections. Riots in the slums of the capital city of Nairobi, brutal tribal warfare in the Rift Valley, road blocks, machete-armed gangs, rapists, and ruthless bloodshed plague the

country.

The government and opposition leaders continue to blame each other for the horrific genocide that troubles their country. In less than a month, Kenya has been transformed from one of the most stable African democracies, to one of chaos. The economy, previously one of the biggest in the continent, has become idle. Shops have closed, factories are inactive and the currency, the Kenyan shilling, is decreasing in value.

Roads have been blocked throughout the country, causing trouble in other African countries that are dependent on Kenya. Gas stations in Rwanda have begun rationing fuel normally imported from Kenya, the production in countries such as Tanzania has slowed due to the scarcity of Kenyan materials, and United Nations relief trucks are not able to get past important checkpoints en route to refugee camps in Uganda, Sudan, and Congo.

The political stalemate between Kibaki and Odinga – each blaming the other for Kenya's violence and postponing discussions of a peaceful resolution – has led leaders worldwide to attempt to reconcile

the country.

John A. Kufuor, president of Ghana and chairman of the African Union, arrived in Nairobi on Jan. 8 to facilitate talks between the two leaders. Though he failed to get the two sides to meet, Kufuor said hope for progress is not lost, and reported that both sides agreed that dialogue is necessary for an end to the violence.

Kofi Annan, former secretary general of the United Nations, planned to lead a discussion panel with African dignitaries in an attempt to resolve the crisis and initiate dialogue between the two parties.

"Political negotiation is not an event," Kufuor said, according to Reuters. "It is a process that can take a

People woke up so early that day to vote for change. They felt robbed.

[Bernard Ndede]  
Kenyan Teacher

# Microbicides promise unprecedented disease protection

[Colleen Layton]  
Staff Reporter

In 2007 alone, an estimated 15.4 million women were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and the number grows every year. Many would say it's time for change.

While AIDS education and awareness is becoming an increasingly pressing issue in the United States, other countries all over the world are not as fortunate. Men and women are dying from a disease that they know very little about. Many organizations have been founded to give donations or spread knowledge about HIV/AIDS, scientists keep searching for a cure and hospitals fight for the lives of their inflicted patients.

The Global Campaign for

Microbicides is dedicated to preventing aids in helping them to understand the deadly disease.

In poorer countries across the globe the options for sexually transmitted disease protection is limited and women are not given the voice to speak out, which means that their sexual activities are left unprotected.

"I remember a young woman from Uganda who stood up and said 'If they can't put someone

The most important thing is for people to talk about how HIV is still a problem.

[Lori Heise]  
Director of the Global Campaign for Microbicides

working together to try to create microbicides. What are microbicides? Not yet an actual product, microbicides will be an effective form of protection that is convenient for all women.

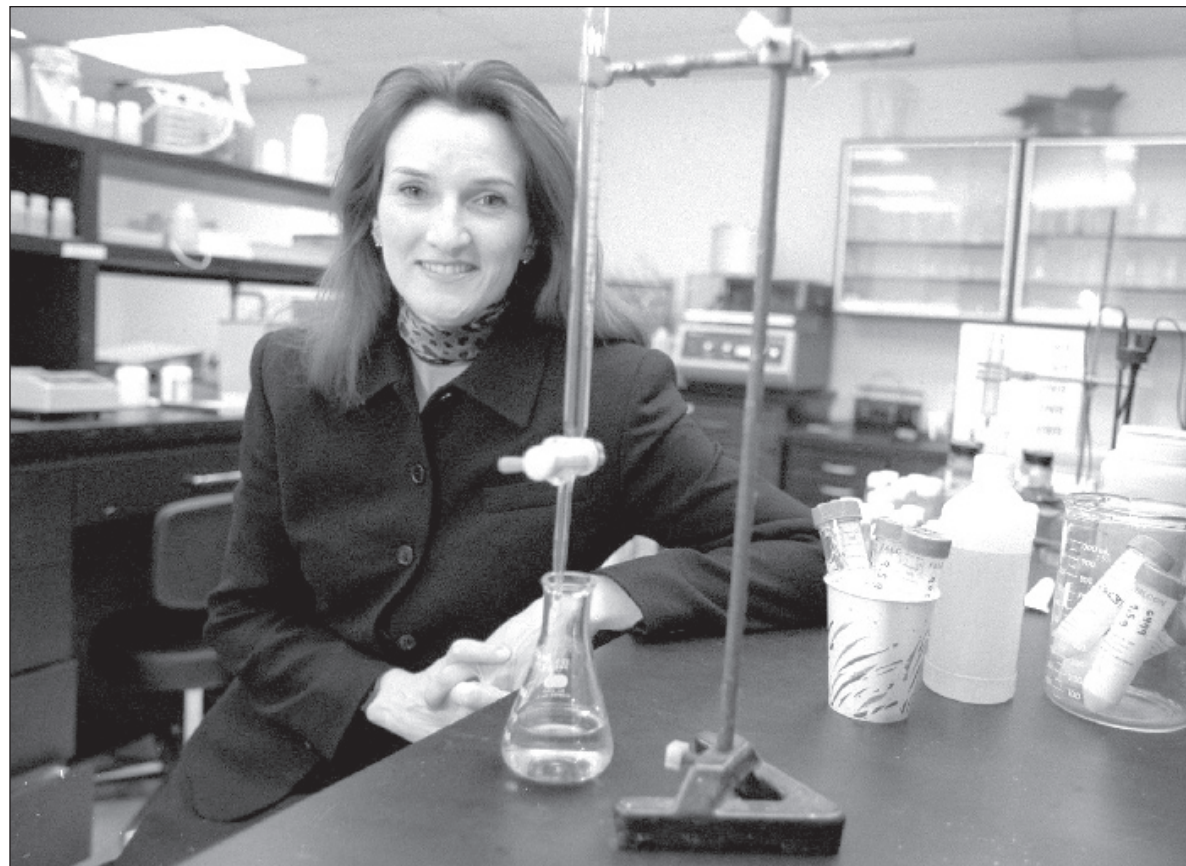
"Microbicides will be a product that women could use vaginally that would protect them from HIV, much like spermicide, although it prevents infection instead of pregnancy," said Heise. "We are at the final stage of the first generation, so we will know in the next couple of years if the first group works. If the first group works, then one would probably see them being distributed throughout southern African countries first, in the next 3-4 years."

Although condoms have shown a very high rate of STD prevention, the website (Global-campaign.org) states, "If even a small proportion of women in lower income countries used a 60% efficacious microbicide in half the sexual encounters where condoms are not used, 2.5 million HIV infections could be averted over 3 years."

Once perfected, microbicides could drastically decrease the amount of men and women diagnosed with HIV/AIDS every year and unlike more expensive protection, the people working with The Global Campaign want to make their product easily obtainable for the less fortunate.

"You would be able to purchase them, but we don't want cost to be a barrier for people to protect themselves" Heise said.

This new product would come



Anne-Marie Corner, a biochemist and cofounder of Biopsy Inc., formed by two University of Pennsylvania researchers that develops anti-AIDS products. The products that they are developing are to give protection against sexually transmitted diseases and are called microbicides.

in many forms to please many customers and would not cause any disruption or even the knowledge of the male partner during sexual acts.

All over the globe, women are often seen as having lesser power due to cultural and societal traditions. In sexual activities, when a male partner refuses to use a condom or any other form of disease prevention, the woman is susceptible to any STD he may have.

Unlike the most popular form of STD prevention, condoms, microbicides can be used by women and would place the power in her

hands, giving females the chance to control what happens to their bodies.

"The problem with condoms is that men wear them, and while you can try to convince them to wear one, you can't make them," Heise said.

Microbicides are being tested with several different designs, one of which prevents diseases but not pregnancies. This would make it possible for couples to conceive with out the risk of spreading illnesses.

Before anything can be released, the campaign requires proper fund-

ing and word needs to be spread. Students can help by contacting state senators and representatives as well as by going to the website, www.global-campaign.org, to find out more about petitioning for the microbicides and a manual for campus and student organizing.

"The most important thing is for people to educate themselves and talk about how HIV is still a problem," Heise said. "For every person that gets treated, six people are still infected and we need to expand the tools we give people to keep themselves safe. Every single person matters." ☺

**Women's Health**

**New way to fight an epidemic**

Microbicides are germ-killing products used vaginally that could protect women from sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), which currently infect 65 million Americans.

**What microbicides are**

- Cream, gel or other form: kills STD microbes or blocks their entrance into body when applied before sex
- Currently not on the market: 60 products in development, with drug company investment, could be available in 5 years

**Could help prevent STDs**

New U.S. STD cases annually:

- HPV (no cure) 5.5 million
- Trichomoniasis 5 million
- Chlamydia 3 million
- Conital herpes (no cure) 1 million
- Gonorrhea 650,000
- Syphilis 70,000
- HIV/AIDS (no cure) 45,000

**Compared to condoms**

- Condoms: Protect women from STDs but men need to cooperate and use them
- Microbicides: Use controlled by women; can be applied without male partner's knowledge

**Microbicides: Use controlled by women; can be applied without male partner's knowledge**

**STDs and women**

- Greater risk of infection due to anatomical differences
- Harder to diagnose; less likely to be treated
- Can lead to infertility, stillbirth, genital cancer

© 2007 NRT  
Source: U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Reproductive Health Technologies Project, World Health Organization  
Graphic: Judy Linderman

## Sugar and SPICE: CHS club anticipates Peppers to be sweet

This year's Candyland theme for Peppers includes extravagant decoration, dimmer lights, more music variety and free candy. CHS club has been working hard to ensure that the night is a success.

**[Fontasha Powell]**  
Editor

After student discontentment with breathalyzers, lighting and music at last fall's homecoming dance, CHS Club has been working hard to ensure satisfaction at Peppers. Under the leadership of seniors president Shaina Kornblum and vice-president Amanda Tran, CHS club, composed of nearly 25 girls of all classes, has been meeting the past few months after school to plan decoration, music, coronation and advertising for the annual girls-ask-boys dance, which is to take place Sat. Feb. 2.

"With Peppers so close, we've been meeting with Mr. Hamylak, talking out ideas, props and decorations," Kornblum said. "We've also been doing a lot of brainstorming on paper."

Tran said that the goal this year at Peppers is that students have fun.

"Our goal is to host an exceptional dance," Tran said. "We've been working very hard and in previous years the leaders didn't work as hard as we are."

The club laid out theme ideas in November, and finally decided on a Candyland theme in December. Included with the theme are bright decorations, possible t-shirts and large amounts of candy at the dance.

"To decide on the theme, everyone brought in ideas and from there we developed them," Tran said. "After weighing the pros and cons of each idea, we had to decide among Candyland, masquerade and an ocean theme. We kept narrowing the themes down until we eventually got just one. At first I didn't like the Candyland idea, but now I do."

Kornblum thinks that one of the best aspects of the theme will be the decoration.

"So far, we've found some awesome decorative items," Kornblum said. "We have 8-foot candy canes, light-up lollipops and huge, bright fabric to hang from the ceiling."

Club sponsor Eric Hamylak has sponsored the club the past 4 years and agreed with Kornblum. He, too,



CHS Club members Ellory Abernathy, Shaina Kornblum, Anna Hall, Marla Toczylowski and Amanda Tran along with club sponsor Eric Hamylak organize Peppers details during a monthly meeting.

thinks that the decorations will be the highlight of the night.

"We've put a lot of thought into the decorations and making the gym a cool environment," Hamylak said. "We rent a lot of decorations from party companies and buy balloons and centerpieces from smaller party stores."

However, Hamylak feels that the club not only has to plan a good dance, but surpass student expectations, so that people will come to future dances.

"Planning Peppers this year is a little more challenging because in the past, it wasn't a question whether students would show up," Hamylak said. "Students

always showed up. This year we have to work harder to get people to come. There's more pressure to provide fun. I think that this dance could set the tone for future dances."

Tran, too, believes that homecoming was a disappointment not because of the new policies that the administration instituted, but because students came to the dance with closed minds.

"I didn't think that the administration's efforts to change dances were that drastic," Tran said. "The only drastic change at homecoming was the music and the lights. I think that homecoming was bad because people came in with the attitude that everything was

going to change."

Hamylak agreed with Tran. In fact, he believes that the fluorescent lights at homecoming offended students the most.

"At homecoming, the lighting was possibly the biggest issue that upset students," Hamylak said. "Now, we're making it our top priority to make sure that lighting is satisfactory at Peppers."

In fact, CHS Club plans to fix the issue of bright lights through applying special gel coverings to the lights.

"We're going to make the lights dimmer by putting colored gels over them," Kornblum said. "The gels diffuse the light so that it's not as bright. Plus, the lights will be in fun colors."

In addition to dimming the lights, the club will also improve the music selection.

"We don't want the music to be similar to homecoming, so we're making a list of music that we like," Tran said. "There will be lots of different songs, but the songs aren't allowed to be too raunchy."

Despite the fresh changes that will take place at Peppers this year, Kornblum emphasizes that the spirit of Peppers will remain the same.

"What we want to say to students is that we really wish that they come," Kornblum said. "This dance is going to be so much better and a lot different than homecoming. We like the fun, free atmosphere of Peppers in the past and wish to maintain that. We just want students to have fun."

Hamylak agreed with Kornblum.

"This could be the best dance that we're planned in awhile," Hamylak said. "I hope people come early and stay late. It's going to be the sweetest night of the year."

All students are invited to help decorate Stuber Gym for the dance. If any wish to help, contact Amanda Tran or Shaina Kornblum. Decorating will occur in Stuber at 9 p.m. the Fri. night before Peppers and also the morning of Peppers. Peppers will take place Sat. Feb. 2, 8-11 p.m. ☺

## New club sparks interest among devoted Jane fans

**[Ugochi Onyema]**  
Editor

Jane Austen, perhaps the most beloved British novelist of the nineteenth century has garnered many fans throughout the years. At CHS, the Jane Austen Club, which is relatively new, has dedicated a significant amount of time to celebrating her works.

Junior Maddy McMahon, president of Jane Austen Club, said that the formation of the club took a while.

"Abby [Williams] and I came up with the idea during the second quarter of sophomore year, and we submitted the idea to Ms. [Emily] Grady, our sponsor," McMahon said. "Our proposal to Ms. Grady included just a bunch of ideas about what the club would be doing. After turning in the form to Mr. Hamylak, we didn't get approval until second semester."

Grady, is also an English teacher at CHS, and said that the members of the club offered her the position.

"Actually, Maddy asked me if I would be interested in sponsoring," Grady said. "I asked them to write out what they planned to do, so they created a proposal. Abby actually planned it out, so all they needed was an adult to sponsor."

McMahon said that both she and

Williams, who is vice-president of the club, came up with the idea of the club through their realization of their interest in Austen's works.

"Well, for me, it was just realizing that so many people shared my love of Jane Austen," McMahon said. "I was just talking to some people about her, and Abby thought that it would be great if we had a club here at CHS," McMahon said.

The members of Jane Austen Club conduct a myriad of discussions about Austen's novels. They also participate in other entertaining activities.

"We do a bunch of different things," McMahon said. "Sometimes we'll have a trivia game with small prizes and sometimes we'll watch a movie and we always have food and tea. This year we're reading 'Persuasion', which is the sixth novel she wrote."

Williams said that the club might submit a national essay concerning one of Austen's novels, in addition to performing their habitual activities.

"We do readings every week and discuss them; what we like about Jane Austen and things like that," Williams said. "Sometimes we watch film adaptations. And this year, we might enter the national essay contest about 'Persuasion'."

The essay contest, sponsored by the Jane Austen Society of North America, occurs annually. The 2008



Juniors Maddy McMahon, Becky Poplawski and Carol Iskiwitch enjoy cupcakes at Jilly's while discussing Austen during a club meeting.

contest requires an essay about one of four film adaptations of Austen novels: "Mansfield Park", "Northanger Abbey", "Persuasion" and "Sense and Sensibility".

The prerequisite for entering the contest is that participants must be students at high school, college or graduate levels of education. For each level of education, JASNA offers first, second and third place prizes, and the contest is open on a worldwide scale.

Jane Austen Club's participation in the essay contest is just one of the activities that set them apart from other clubs at CHS. The member size is also a distinguishing feature of the club, according to Williams.

"We don't have a very big base, but I guess it makes the club intimate," Williams said. "Our discussions could be a bit more opinionated, but I like the small feel of the group."

Grady believes that the mem-

bers' self-reliance is what helps the club to run effectively.

"I like that the students are really motivated about something that's literary-related, and I like that they take the initiative to do everything," Grady said. "I think that it's truly a student club, and that's how I think it should be."

Austen's novels, including two that are not included in the essay contest: 'Emma' and 'Pride and Prejudice', are works that stood as a

window into the lives of women in eighteenth and nineteenth century England, and seemed relatable to many because of their lightly ironic foundation. Williams likes this characteristic of the novels.

"There are parts that are really pretty funny," Williams said. "I really enjoy just the basic plots, and I like the heroines because they are really strong willed. And those are just the small things I like about her writing." ☺

## St. Louis public school system faces obstacles after loss of accreditation

City schools, 1

"The city schools' loss of accreditation mainly affects us at Clayton indirectly," Chris Tennill, Director of Communications, said. "The county school districts are watching to see how this situation shakes out. We all have a stake in the betterment of the city schools. If they don't improve, the state will act by interfering more and more drastically."

A more immediate effect of St. Louis's loss of state accreditation is a lawsuit filed against both the Clayton and St. Louis districts in late October 2007.

"There is a state law here in Missouri that if a student resides in an unaccredited school district, that student may transfer to an accredited school in an adjacent county with the unaccredited district paying their tuition," Tennill said. "The families who filed the suit want Clayton to essentially bill SLPS for the yearly tuition they owe. However, the state has also said that it is up to the discretion of the accredited school district whether or not to accept those transfer students. It is important to remember that the students whose families are suing for tuition money are voluntary tuition students and were attending Clayton schools before St. Louis's loss of accreditation."

Clayton parent Jane Turner is one of four plaintiffs suing the Clayton and St. Louis schools districts. She and her family are residents of the city of St. Louis and have been paying tuition to Clayton schools.

"Our suit is against the district of Clayton and the district of St. Louis," Turner said. "If the court honors the statute, my family will no longer have to pay \$14,000 a year in tuition money to Clayton."

Turner feels that she has been unjustly paying taxes to a city that has not made available a decent public

education for her sons.

"Right now, we are paying taxes to the city, but we are not able to benefit from them because the schools are substandard," Turner said. "The city can't give my kids the education they deserve."

Clayton BOE President Steve Singer deems the CSD's case to be a strong one. Both past experiences and present conditions influenced the board's decision not to accept transfer students or tuition payments from the SLPS.

"There are many reasons why we are not accepting students from unaccredited schools," Singer said. "Some are practical and concern available space. A main issue is that we would have no way to provide special needs services to transfer students who require them. We can't discriminate, but the Special School District would be unable to pay for the needs of these transfer students in our district."

According to Tennill, the St. Louis district has publicly stated that they have no intention of paying tuition for any transfer students.

"They have asked the county schools not to accept any students," Tennill said. "Sending resources out of the district to pay for tuition elsewhere would leave few resources with which to rebuild their own schools, which defeats the point."

The challenge of deciding whether to accept transfer students is not new to Clayton.

"A few years after Wellston lost state accreditation, we accepted a few of their students, as did several other school districts," Tennill said. "In the process, we found out that there is unfortunately no part of the law that allows transfers the forces the original district

to pay for the students' tuition. Wellston still owes us about \$180,000."

Singer agrees that the experience was not a positive one for Clayton and, along with Wessling, believes that accepting students now would not only harm the CSD, but the St. Louis schools as well.

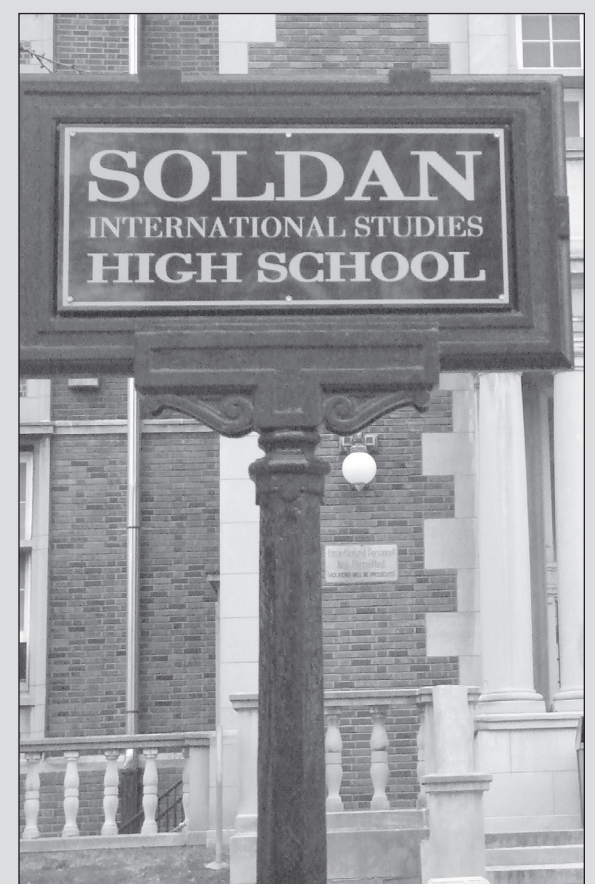
"The tuition money the SLPS would have had to pay to those districts needs to remain with the SLPS budget, allowing us to continue to try to offer educational opportunities that best suit our students," Wessling said. "This lawsuit is exactly what the Board worried about with unaccreditation - that people who would not be attending the SLPS whether we're accredited or not will exploit the situation to take money from our budget."

For Purdy, the county districts' refusal to accept transfer students from the city has had a constructive impact on the SLPS.

"The effect is to maintain the integrity of both the city and county districts," Purdy said. "I believe that the county districts have every right to accept or reject out-of-district students, but a massive number of transfers would bankrupt the city district. Not only could students attending city schools transfer, but so could home-schooled and parochial students, all at the city taxpayer's expense."

Though revitalizing the SLPS has been slow going, the future of the district may well be bright.

"Any time you have to change a system as huge as the city schools will not be an overnight process," Tennill said. "There will be slow, gradual changes. We can only support the people picking up the district by its bootstraps." ☺



Soldan High School is just one of the many city schools to have lost accreditation last year.

# Bosnian population integrates into St. Louis community

[Carol Iskiwitch]

Editor

With the largest Bosnian community in the United States, St. Louis was praised by Bosnian presidency chairman Zeljko Komsic as Bosnia's "best connection" to the American economy. But why did so many Bosnians leave their homeland and come to the United States? Quite simply, as Hasima Zuna said, "We left to save our lives."

1992 saw the beginning of the Bosnian War, a period of turmoil within the area formerly known as Yugoslavia.

"When we left Bosnia at the end of April, 1992, the whole country was torn with

the war in Bosnia, around 1995 to 1996."

Adjusting to a new culture is usually quite difficult, especially in the case of refugees. According to Suzanne LeLaurin, Senior Vice-President for Individuals and Families at the International Institute of St. Louis, common adjustment challenges include loss of homeland and culture, loss of livelihood and educational/employment status, difficulty in learning English and living in poverty initially.

While that last difficulty certainly applied to the refugees when they arrived, the Bosnian population has been dynamic in the past decade-and-a-half in terms of economic condition.

due to the language barrier and other difficulties were unable to get jobs commensurate with their education.

"However, once the language barriers were overcome, and that's still not complete, they were able to advance pretty swiftly in the labor force," Jones said. "It's not as if they had to go through a lot of worker retraining. Now they're still underutilized. There are still, for example, people with engineering degrees in maintenance capacities as opposed to being engineers because of the licensing requirements and so forth. Nonetheless, they have become substantially integrated into our economy and have contributed a great deal to the quality of our workforce."

LeLaurin agrees.

"[Bosnian refugees] are seen by the employment sector as an important part of our economy," LeLaurin said. "Many have gone on to start new businesses as well."

In addition to economic benefits, new

Americans benefit our community by increasing diversity.

"How much diversity brings depends on how much you value diversity," Jones said. "If you look at that demographically and ask well what parts of the population are most eager to have that, the answer is well-educated younger people. And so, to the extent that this metropolitan area wants to be an attractive place for people [like this] to stay, an ethnically diverse community is a very important part of the overall picture in terms of becoming a magnet for well-educated young people, to use the cliché 'the knowledge workers.'"

Despite the fact that new Americans such as the Bosnians often come from cultures very different from that of the United States, Jones has not found there to

**By adding additional productivity to the St. Louis economy, it's a win-win situation. It's a win for the workers themselves, the Bosnians themselves, and it's a win for the rest of the community.**

[Dr. Terry Jones]

Professor of Political Science

now about the Affton community," Jones said.



Carol Iskiwitch

Alen Tanovic is a waiter at the Bosnian restaurant Grbic. Grbic opened six years ago in the former Bailey Farm Dairy building in the Bevo community. The restaurant offers plenty of space for banquets.



Carol Iskiwitch

Bosna Gold is one of several Bosnian restaurants on Gravois, in the South City neighborhood of Bevo.

Increasingly over the past few years many of them have been moving to South St. Louis County. That's why the Affton soccer team beats your soccer team.

Jones said there is no antagonism.

"One of the things we've worked on is having a better understanding, creating a better understanding, and programs that would lead to a better understanding between the new Americans and the Affton community, which are 10 percent of

Jones found people who had lived in Affton a long time were very welcoming.

"They wanted to know more about Bosnia," Jones said, "but getting that first contact established—there's the language barrier, new Americans understandably tend to spend most of their time with their families. The schools have been a terrific force. I think that the leadership in both the Affton and the Bayless school districts have been terrific and have helped a great deal in terms of having better understanding in the community. But it's a job that this goes on every day; you have to keep working at it."

Jones said that in those two school districts, at least one-third of the students do not have English as their first language.

So while immigrants make up a sizeable portion of population of the St. Louis metropolitan area, and the nation, how will this population change in the near future, particularly with a change in national administration in 2009?

"The future is unknown, because it depends on national leg-

islation," Jones said. "As best can be estimated for the foreseeable future, in the next few years there will be fewer immigrants and refugees than there have been over the past 10 to 15 years."

The level of immigration has slowed down considerably in the aftermath of Sept. 11.

"The debate about immigration is so heated now, although it's largely in the context of Hispanic immigration, that we are not going to see a large shift in legislation to open the gates," Jones said. "Given the anti-immigrant sentiment that is voiced so often, I think the elected officials, no matter whether they are Republican or Democrat, are going to go slow in terms of easing immigration into the United States."

Jones said the question is not so much "Are you going to turn the faucet on or not?" as "Are you going to keep it from being turned off?"

"To be more precise the question is not 'Are you going to increase the flow?' but 'How much are you going to decrease the flow?'"

war and destruction," Zuna said.

Zuna, along with her husband and three children, were granted asylum in Germany until 1999, when the war was officially over. At that point, the government insisted that they leave.

"Our town Zvornik belonged to the Serbian Republic, and it wasn't safe for us to move back," Zuna said.

So Zuna and her family chose the alternative available and applied for refuge in the United States.

"We lost everything and needed a new place to begin normal life again," Zuna said. "My brother-in-law moved to the USA in 1998 and told us about life here. We had nothing to lose."

In 1998, after five years of Bosnian resettlement throughout the United States, St. Louis was designated as one of three "preferred communities" for concentrating services for Bosnian refugees. Particular draws for new Americans, a term covering both immigrants and refugees, included the availability of affordable housing and plenty of entry-level jobs.

Since 1993, when the first Bosnian refugee arrived in St. Louis, the Bosnian population here has grown greatly. Current estimates place the population at about 35,000.

"Bosnians are the largest new immigrant/refugee community to grow in St. Louis," UMSL Political Science Professor Terry Jones said.

Jones explained how the large initial wave in the early '90s led to the largest population of Bosnians in the United States.

"Growth begets growth," Jones said. "On the immigrant side of the process, the more you have the more you get because essentially in order to become an immigrant to the United States you have to have a family member here. There are exceptions of course, but that is by far the major sort."

This was the situation for Zuna and also for local high school student Admir Husic. Husic moved to St. Louis in September 1999, at the age of 8, with his parents and little brother.

"Most of my family was already here," Husic said. "They came after

"The

Bosnians are a hard-working community," Alen Tanovic, a server at Bevo-area Bosnian restaurant Grbic, said. "And they know how to work with people. They came 15 years ago. As you can see, there are a lot of Bosnian businesses. I have three or four cousins with their own businesses. One of my cousins, in four years he was making \$200,000 per year in revenue. He is 33 years old and is now making \$1 million per year in revenue."

LeLaurin confirms this trend of upward mobility.

"For the most part, they have moved out of entry-level jobs requiring little English and into higher-paying, more highly skilled positions," LeLaurin said. "Many are now in the middle class or better."

While some might feel that an increase in immigration has an adverse affect on the economy or the availability of low-wage jobs, Jones would disagree.

"It's not a zero-sum game," Jones said. "That is to say, the local economy is not a zero-sum game, nor is the national economy. A zero-sum game is if somebody comes and does a good job, they take the work then away from somebody else; there's only so much on the table. By adding additional productivity to the St. Louis economy, it's a win-win situation. It's a win for the workers themselves, the Bosnians themselves, and it's a win for the rest of the community. It makes the economy better for all of us, potentially, and many of us, actually."

Many Bosnians who came to St. Louis were well educated, but

Lafayette, 1

because they are expected to maintain a learning environment.

"I don't think school overreacted, because it's their job to keep the school organized and not have too many disruptions," Hamrick said.

Journalism teacher Nancy Smith said that the situation is hard to judge because many don't know the details of the incident.

"It's hard to know if anyone overreacted because we don't know exactly what happened," Smith said. "All we know is what was released in the newspapers. Things like the students' personal records and such weren't released to the public."

Yet, despite differing opinions, many are still confused as to whether the school had a legal right to suspend Glover, and if Glover has a legal right to sue for First Amendment violation.

Goodman believes that the incident shouldn't have reached a court level.

"I guess that technically the school had a right to interfere because the pictures were taken on school grounds," Goodman said. "But I think that they shouldn't have just taken it as it was. They weren't fair to him. They shouldn't have made the ordeal so public."

The photos aren't seen as offensive to many because they didn't portray the teacher in a compromising manner, in the suit filed, the administration said that Glover received suspension because the photos were disruptive to the learning environment.

"The pictures weren't harmful," You said. "The teacher wasn't shown in an embarrassing way, but the fact that the student uploaded the pictures to Facebook probably made the matter worse. It is partially the teacher's business to be concerned, because she had no idea that pictures of her were floating around public domain."

Legally, according to the Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier case, which occurred 20 years ago in the municipal of Hazelwood, a 20-minute drive from Clayton, the administration has the right to limit speech of students if it is deemed reasonable censorship. Also, the 1969 Tinker v. Des Moines case asserts that the school may limit free speech if it causes substantial disruption to school activities.

Hamrick believes that Glover's actions were a disruption to the learning environment because his intentions were not noble.

"I think what he did was a disruption because he was trying to put the teacher in a position to embarrass

her," Hamrick said.

Dieckhaus student believes that Glover's rights to free speech were violated.

"Personally, I think that the kid's actions are idiotic, but his right to free speech was pushed to the breaking point, and most likely infringed upon," Dieckhaus said.

You, however, does not think that the school violated Glover's rights.

"I seriously doubt that his First Amendment rights were violated because I'm not sure what exactly he was trying to express in the first place," You said. "It is a school environment and we do have to have obey the restrictions about how freely you use your First Amendment rights. Also, the teacher's right to privacy may have been violated."

For Hamrick, however, there still exists a massive gray area.

"This is a tricky situation Logan posted the pictures on his own time but he took them at school," Hamrick said. "He was breaking school rules in doing so, but I think because he was breaking school rules in the first place, he's probably at fault. There are still questions about in-school and out-of-school issues and where the boundaries lie and what the school can do it."

# Lafayette incident shocks students, confuses administration

# Annual Arts Fair preparation begins

**[Katherine Greenberg]**  
Staff Reporter

The Arts Fair is a 17-year-old tradition at CHS.

"We started it as a Special Olympics event. Special Olympics wanted us to do a sports event and our students' government wanted to do a day around the arts. I believe no school in the nation at that time had ever done one like CHS. The first one was amazing...almost magical," said Dr Michael Musick, a CHS business teacher who later served as vice principal, created the Arts Fair with activities director Mike Cowan at the time.

The Fine Arts Fair is a great tradition. CHS students invite approximately 300 Special School District (SSD) students from Litzinger and Neuwoehner Schools to spend the day with them. The day is optional for CHS students, but nearly 75 percent of students end up participating in the rewarding experience. The day is led by many CHS clubs and students participate in all different kinds of arts and crafts. The day includes performances by the CHS jazz band, the CHS choir, the

Wydown singers, and also a DJ, petting zoo, clowns, caricaturists, balloon artists, face painters and a magician.

"It's really enjoyable to see so much effort and time spent throughout the year come together in a festive and fun day for both CHS students and the SSD students," junior Kate Wheelock said. "The Arts Fair gives CHS students the opportunity to understand what service to the community is about while creating a day that others love. It really makes a lasting impact on the SSD students."

The Arts Fair Steering Committee has already begun to prepare for

the 2008 Arts Fair. The committee is made up of four groups. The Activities Committee is working on planning activities for each of the club rooms and selecting other entertainment.

The Site Logistics Committee is working on taking an inventory of all the supplies, creating a floor plan and organizing the maintenance requests for the day. The Public Relations/Decorations Committee is sending

out invitations to VIP and working on all the decorations and signs for the common areas. They are also creating a logo for the program and the bandanas. The Volunteers Committee is recruiting student

and parent volunteers. They will also coordinate Buddy Invitation Day.

"In the coming months, we will be recruiting students to be volunteer buddies with the SSD students and we hope everyone joins in the fun and rewarding experience," Student Activities Director Eric Hamylack said. "Freshmen don't wait until next year. Ask the upperclassmen - most of them will tell you that the Arts Fair is a great experience that should not be missed."

Senior, Katie Borges thinks the Arts Fair is an extremely important activity at CHS.

"It gives students an opportunity to reach out to the community and help make a child's day," Borges said.

She has been involved in the Arts Fair every year that she has been a student at CHS. "After my first experience doing the arts fair, I felt really good knowing that I put a smile on someone's face, and I wanted to feel that," Borges said.

Hamylack thinks the community admires all the work students do at the Arts Fair.

"Personally, at the end of the day, I'm always so proud of the work our students do in planning and executing the day," Hamylack said. "It's always fun to see our students break some barriers and interacting with the SSD students. My favorite part is seeing our students realizing how much fun it was and how worthwhile it was. Many of our students learn that they have more similarities with the SSD students than they originally thought. In addition to all the 'good' that's going, there is a lot of fun with all the club room activities, the DJ, the petting zoo, the bands, and all the entertainers."

For many students, participating in the Arts Fair every year is an extremely important activity.

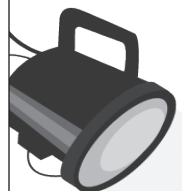
"The Arts Fair is a must for me every year," senior Laura Shoemaker said. "I have never missed it."



Staff Photo  
Juniors Carol Iskiwitch (top) and Aaron Praiss (bottom) participate in last year's Arts Fair.

## Screenwriter walkout

A 1988 walkout lasted 22 weeks and cost the industry more than \$500 million. This year, a major sticking point in the negotiations is residuals, which offer writers a steady income.



### Screenwriters

- 12,000 members
- Represented by the Writers Guild of America

### Writers want

- Residuals for shows and movies streamed over the Web and cell phones
- Doubling of residual payments from home video sales
- Extension of guild pay and benefits to writers for reality and animated TV programs

Source: AP, Writers Guild of America, Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Graphic: Melina Yingling

### Different raises

Media conglomerate revenue	Year	Writer earnings, residuals*
\$63 billion	2000	\$1.1 billion
\$95 billion	2006	\$1.3 billion
↑ 51%	Increase	↑ 20%

\*Residuals are fees for reruns, videos and DVDs, overseas runs



### Producers

- Represented by the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers

### Producers say

- No pay for streaming TV shows on the Web; form of promotion
- Too early to negotiate pay for online shows; technology is still changing
- DVD sales are needed to offset rising marketing and production costs

# Writers continue to fight

**[Preeti Viswanathan]**

Staff Reporter

Beginning on Nov. 1, television and movie scriptwriters from the Writers' Guild of America (WGA) went on strike, demanding higher pay from television studios and a greater share of the revenues from Internet downloads and DVDs. The writers started the strike against the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers when their contract expired on Oct. 31. Currently, there is a large variation in the amount of payment that scriptwriters receive.

Although many Hollywood script writers receive at least \$1 million a year, other writers on the guild make \$50,000 or less per year, and some say their earnings have risen at less than half the rate of industry profits.

Already, several of the most popular prime time shows are unable to air new episodes due to the strike. NBC's "The Office" is showing episodes from previous seasons, and ABC's "Desperate Housewives" had its latest and last episode on Jan. 6. The first shows to be affected were some of the lesser-viewed sitcoms, such as CBS's "The New Adventures of Old Christine" and "Two and a Half Men". Other shows, such as NBC's "Heroes" and The CW's "Gossip Girl", stopped airing new episodes last month and early this month; the last episode of "Heroes" was on Dec. 3 and the last episode of "Gossip Girl" aired Jan. 9.

Popular late-night talk shows such as "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and "The Daily Show" also had trouble airing new episodes due to the lack of writers.

Students at CHS are also beginning to feel the outcomes of the strike. Sophomore Melissa Kopp, a fan of "Gossip Girl," was upset that there won't be new installments of that show and other serials that she watches.

"I used to watch '24', but '24' is not going to be playing this year because of the writers' strike and because the lead actor is in jail, but I think it's mainly because of the strike," Kopp said. "'Gossip Girl' has only been playing every other week, so that's also affected by the writer's strike and that makes me mad because I really like 'Gossip Girl'."

Kopp said that although she thinks "Gossip Girl" has been impacted by the strike, she remains optimistic that the season may continue in the future, or that there will be another season.

Junior Teddy Finn said it is understandable that some talk shows were not able to broadcast as often due to the strike.

"Jay Leno wasn't on air every night because his writers were on strike so he didn't really have new material, and I understand why he didn't have new material, because trying to come up with an hour of

something hilarious to say every night is hard to do - most people just aren't that creative," Finn said.

Finn said that the strike hasn't yet affected most of the shows he watches.

"I know 'The Office' has run out of new episodes, but 'Law and Order' hasn't, and until a TV show runs out of new episodes, it won't really affect me," Finn said.

However, Finn does think that the strike is hindering certain programs.

"It is having a negative impact. They've only taped half the seasons of some shows, so there's half a season and that's it. The writers need to come back to work so the rest of those TV shows can finish up," he said.

With fewer prime-time dramas and talk shows to fill the networks' airtime, many networks have resorted to a greater number of reality and game shows. Standard game shows such as NBC's "Deal or No Deal" and ABC's recent "Duel", are beginning to fill up the prime-time schedule.

Other reality shows such as NBC's "Biggest Loser" and "American Gladiators", another game show, have already replaced many of the usual evening programs. On CBS, a new season of "The Amazing Race" has started, and "Survivor: Micronesia" will premiere soon. And instead of "Desperate Housewives" intrigue on ABC, there is "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition". Critics say that despite the current popularity of reality shows, viewers may soon get frustrated with the influx of them.

This year's strike is not the first one in the entertainment industry - in 1988 the industry lost about \$500 million dollars due to a strike, according to The New York Times. Besides television, films and plays are also taking a blow. Broadway musicals have been cancelled and most recently, the Golden Globe Awards show on NBC was reduced from its typical ostentatious ceremony to a paltry announcement of winners on the newscast. Some Hollywood film productions are stalling as actors join the writers in fighting for a bigger share of profits.

The strike is costing about \$160 million a week so far, and with the scaled-down, unofficial version of the Golden Globes, major television networks are losing millions of dollars in advertising revenue, and will lose millions more if the Oscars are cancelled as well. Without the televised awards show, there will be less publicity for DVDs, films, and even fashion designers, who largely rely on publicity for their proceeds.

For the time being, some actors are working in temporary jobs as media companies fire many of their employees. It is uncertain when the strike will end, and when prime-time television shows can resume their seasons.

# Dreamliner takes off

By the end of this year, the new Boeing 787 Dreamliner will be in service. This is the first new product from Boeing since 1995 when the Boeing 777 was released.

**[Nicholas Andriole]**

Staff Reporter

Commercial airliner manufacturer Boeing will place its newest commercial jet into service by the end of this year. The Boeing 787 Dreamliner, a twin-aisle wide bodied jet is designed to offer improved range of up to 8500 nautical miles while accommodating 210 to 330 passengers depending on model and cabin configuration. The aircraft will also be more fuel efficient, which will result in a more environmentally friendly aircraft.

Another benefit to the Dreamliner is the new health-monitoring systems that could allow the aircraft to report maintenance concerns and issues with ground crew maintenance teams.

Chicago-based Boeing is under fierce competition with European rival, Airbus SAS. In October 2007 Airbus delivered its first A380 'super jumbo' aircraft to Singapore Airlines, surpassing the Boeing 747 as the largest airliner in the sky.

Airbus plans to launch the A350 XWB (extra wide body) in response to the Dreamliner, which is due to enter service in 2013.

However, the Dreamliner is not out to be the largest airliner in the sky. The Dreamliner is designed to allow point-to-point flying on longer routes, which allows carriers to operate routes with less demand that would otherwise be based off a hub-spoke route structure.

The Dreamliner will be Boeing's first new product line to enter commercial service since the Boeing 777 in 1995.

So far, the Dreamliner had 802 orders, including orders from U.S. carriers Continental Airlines and Northwest Airlines. List price for the Dreamliner ranges from \$146 million to \$200 million, depending on model, configuration, and specifications ordered.

According to Boeing, the Dreamliner is unique as its structure will be composed of at least 50 percent composite materials which are lighter than aluminum and allow for greater efficiency. The company has selected a graphite combined with a toughened epoxy resin as the main composite.

"The Dreamliner is a turning point in commercial aviation because the structure of the airplane is made out of a different material and has far fewer rivets," Boeing 787 Communications Representative Kenzie Fisher said. "Composite material allows for 20 percent

greater efficiency [opposed to aluminum] which makes it cheaper to operate."

Another unique aspect of the Dreamliner is that it uses parts from global suppliers that are sent to Boeing's Everett, Wash. assembly plant through a modified Boeing 747.

"We have 43 worldwide suppliers manufacturing parts that go into the airplane which allow for quicker production," Fisher said. "We hope to assemble a 787 in three days compared to about month for a 747."

Global suppliers will allow Boeing to take advantage of globalization while enabling the assembly of a Dreamliner in three days, significantly less than other airliners.

Smaller airline passenger markets may be able to attract new long haul service with the Dreamliner, as it is a smaller jet while offering a longer range. Northwest Airlines has expressed an interest in operating a non-stop route with the Dreamliner from their Memphis, Tenn., hub to Tokyo's Narita airport.

The Dreamliner could help St. Louis gain new transcontinental routes. St. Louis has not seen regularly scheduled transcontinental service since November 2003 when American Airlines suspended their service to London's Gatwick airport from Lambert Field.

St. Louis could also benefit from the Dreamliner as Boeing employs approximately 16,000 people in St. Louis for its defense operations. There could be a military application of the Dreamliner and its technology in the future, similar to the Boeing KC-767 in flight refueling and transport aircraft based off the passenger 767 aircraft. However, such a project would be demand driven.

To compete in the larger passenger market, Boeing has also launched the 747-8i which is a new version of the 747 with some of the technology developed in the Dreamliner program.

Boeing also plans to apply the technology in the Dreamliner to its other product lines, such as the smaller single-aisle 737 or twin-aisle 777.

"Boeing is looking to apply the technology of the 787 to the 777 and 737 family, however further research is necessary and a decision will come soon" Fisher said.

Boeing anticipates the Dreamliner's first flight will take place by the end of first quarter 2008, with the first delivery to Japan's All Nippon Airways in late November or December 2008.

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# THE DEBATE ON TORTURE

## Should the U.S. employ harsher interrogation techniques?

Every argument supporting the use of torture begins with the premise of a vague lead about a terrorist attack that includes enough information to know who can answer questions, but not enough information to prevent the attack without interrogating those suspected of involvement. Although I will argue that even in this situation torture is unethical and thus must be avoided, I reject this premise from the start. I cannot conceive of a situation where the giant bureaucracy of the United States government would be just effective enough to discover notions about a terrorist plot and the people who could provide information about it, yet not have sufficient intelligence to take preventive action.



[Dakin Sloss]

Nevertheless, even if such an unlikely and obscure situation arose torture is not the right option for interrogation. Whether or not torture is more effective in gathering information, which is a debate for experts, it is so highly immoral that it outweighs any possible benefits of the interrogation. Politicians often focus on the unclear threat of a potential attack and arbitrarily declare that torture is the only option while distracting the public from the real issue at hand: is it all right to sacrifice one person who is not necessarily guilty at the expense of only possibly helping others?

First of all, no matter what the odds of a person possessing useful information are, it is never acceptable to sacrifice the individual for the group. This nation is founded on the principles of individual liberties, not on altruism, a perversion of morality, which must be based on the best rational interest of an individual. Even if there were a guarantee of procuring helpful information from the suspect, which there is not, it would be immoral to subject the suspect to cruel and unusual punishment.

A typical argument to justify torture is that the ends justify the means; however, this is a

false premise, for the ends and means are not two completely distinct entities. When evaluating the merits of an action, one cannot simply consider what occurs after the process. That would be analogous to thinking about a noun stripped of its attributes, such as a table without color, material, size or a specified number of legs. By examining the purpose of an action without seeing the action itself, one ignores a significant portion of the concept, the actual torture. Therefore, claiming that the purpose of saving hundreds of lives justifies torturing one possibly innocent individual ignores the fact that one person's rights are being sacrificed. By focusing on the vague potential benefits and pushing aside the clearly defined cost to suspects, advocates of torture take the easy way out and fail to properly evaluate the issue of torture. The ends do not justify the means.

Others accept that torture is immoral, but may even go so far as to suggest that the practical result of protecting others' lives trumps the immorality of torture; however, the moment our nation forms policies that ignore the right decision, we step toward the states of totalitarian murderers, such as Hitler and Stalin, who constantly eliminated opponents in the name of the benefit of the people. If our country's guiding philosophy focuses on ignoring morality whenever it is easier to sidestep individual rights, then the government will stoop as low as every amoral regime throughout history.

When one considers the issue of torture it is important to ignore the complex political rhetoric surrounding a simple topic. Do you value the vague potential benefits to "the people" more than an individual's right to his life? If the answer is no, then torture is clearly not an acceptable national policy. And if the answer is yes, then you must reconsider the basis for valuing the lives of "the people": each individual's right to his or her life. Thus, without valuing the right of a suspected terrorist to his life no rational basis exists for valuing the right of "the people" to their lives.

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Suppose that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has discovered a plot about an upcoming terrorist bombing in the country. The C.I.A. does not know the time or the location of the detonation, but the C.I.A. knows that the bomb will be planted in a busy area and has the potential to detrimentally impact anything or anyone that's within a mile of its radius.

The C.I.A., however, has captured one suspected terrorist and has a decent amount of evidence to link the terrorist to the bombing plot. Related officials have interviewed the suspect, interrogated him, proposed a deal to lessen the suspect's punishment if he gives up valuable information concerning the plot, and tried every possible legal option, but the suspected terrorist keeps his silence.

The C.I.A. is getting desperate in its desire to obtain necessary information to thwart the plot. The related officials have only one option as a last resort in trying to get lead—to subject the suspected terrorist to increasing degrees of physical discomfort until he provides the C.I.A. with the information it needs. However, this last resort may be considered as the cruel and unusual punishment prohibited by the constitution.

Should the C.I.A. go on with the last resort anyway in their attempt to prevent a catastrophic bombing? I believe that the affirmative answer will be the most desirable.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, it has been clear that the U.S. is on the front line in fighting the war against terrorism. With the Central Intelligence Agency's advanced technology, the U.S. is able to actively intercept messages concerning information related to terrorist activities and take appropriate actions. However, most of the time, this information comes in bits and pieces, and, many times lacks key components that make it difficult for the related homeland security departments to figure out the specific danger the

public might face.

When the C.I.A. can only intercept so many messages, its hope often depends on the many suspected terrorists it brings in. However, although these suspected terrorists may have strong links to certain terrorist plots, most of these suspected terrorists have been trained to not comply with standard interrogation and do not reveal the valuable information the United States needs to protect citizens.

So what exactly should the United States do in those cases? Well, allowing the use of harsher tactics against suspected terrorists is probably the best thing, and one of the only things that United States can do before some magical truth serum is discovered.

First of all, when standard interrogation has been rendered futile in extracting important information from suspected terrorists, harsher tactics have proven to be useful.

A 2006 report by the New York Times states that after Abu Zubaydah, Osama bin Laden's henchman, was captured, he was subjected to standard interrogation first but gave up little useful information. However, when the C.I.A. employed more aggressive interview techniques that included blasting loud music in Zubaydah's ears, and letting him sleep on the floor in cold temperature and such, Zubaydah revealed important information to the C.I.A. by identifying the chief planner of the Sept. 11 attacks along with an American citizen who was charged with terrorism-related crimes.

The Zubaydah example proves that harsher techniques are helpful, and sometimes necessary, in extracting valuable information from terrorists in efforts to ensure national security.

However, many oppose the use of harsh interrogation because they believe that certain techniques are immoral. Although the question

of morality is prevalent among opponents, the United States must weigh its priorities and determine the necessity of utilizing harsher interrogation tactics.

For instance, Winfried Bruggar, a professor of law, believes when "there is a clear, imminent and severe danger to the bodily integrity or life of an innocent person," and "the danger has been caused by an identified individual," a lawbreaker, who "is the only person who can eliminate the danger, by moving back into the parameters of lawful behavior," and "had a duty to eliminate the danger" but "is unwilling to do so," "forcibly extracting the information, that is, application of torture, is the only promising means of eliminating the danger."

Furthermore, if the United States goes along to appease the opponents of harsh interrogation techniques and retain its image as moral and humane, if necessary means

aren't taken to eliminate the dangers in national security, the United States can also tarnish its image through establishing itself as a weak country for tolerating terrorist attacks and appear as an easy target for more attacks.

One of the United States' utmost priorities is to protect its population. While the on-going terrorist activities pose a serious threat to the United States, it's extremely difficult for the United States to extract valuable information from suspected terrorists and give its country protection because many terrorists are trained to resist standard interrogation. Thus, the United States needs to focus on its objectives and priorities of protecting itself and look away from related distractions such as the talk of morality and image in order to guard its country against danger. Harsher tactics must be employed in order to accomplish these objectives.



[Tian Qiu]

**Advocates of torture take the easy way out and fail to properly evaluate the issue of torture. The ends do not justify the means.**

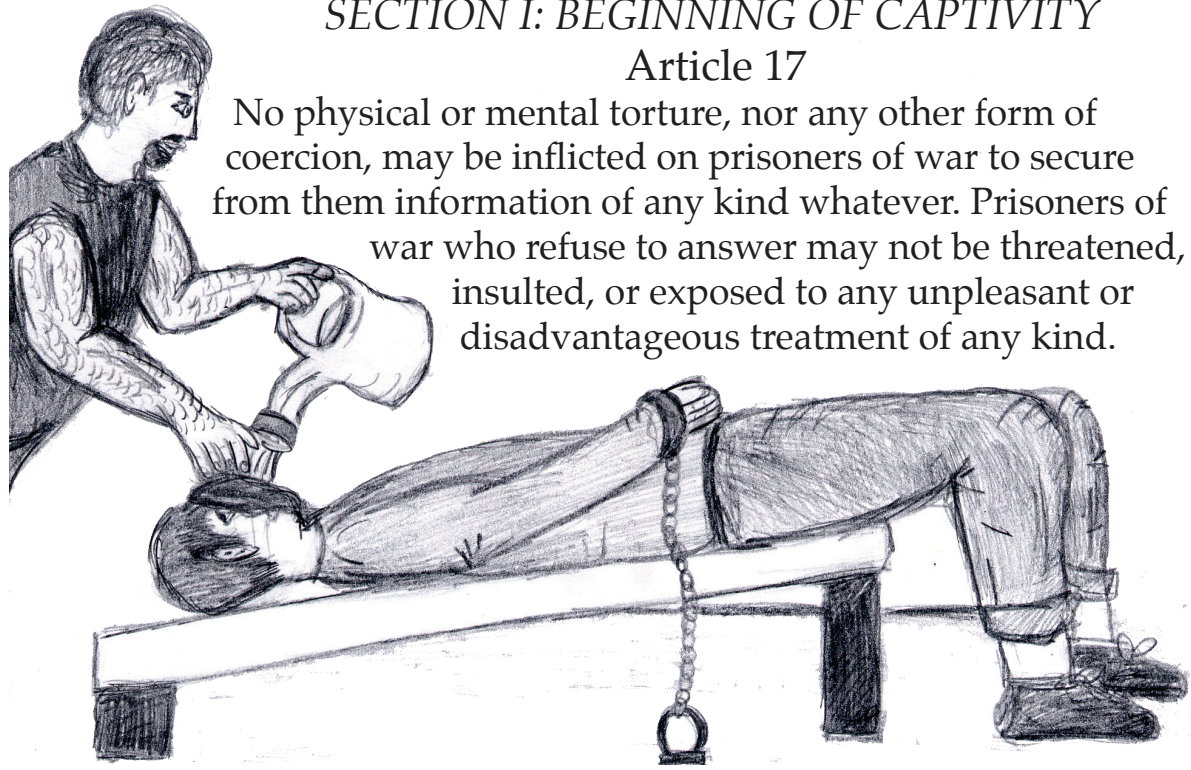
## Geneva Conventions

### PART III: CAPTIVITY

#### SECTION I: BEGINNING OF CAPTIVITY

##### Article 17

No physical or mental torture, nor any other form of coercion, may be inflicted on prisoners of war to secure from them information of any kind whatever. Prisoners of war who refuse to answer may not be threatened, insulted, or exposed to any unpleasant or disadvantageous treatment of any kind.

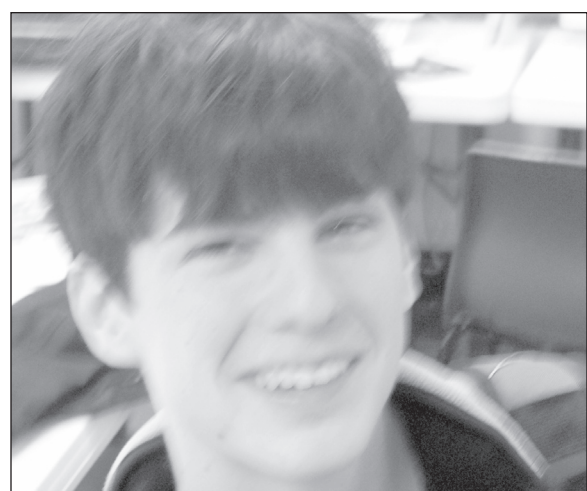


Tom Maxim

## Student Opinions

*"No matter what, torture should not be used. The U.S. has signed the Geneva Conventions, which prohibit torture, and causing pain is immoral."*

-Senior Michal Hyrc



*"Torture should not be legalized, but it is necessary in some cases. In those situations interrogators should torture suspects and accept the consequences."*

-Senior Whitt Downey

## Teacher Opinions

*"We must interrogate suspects in hopes of obtaining information, but we should not engage in inhumane behavior. These are people, not animals."*

-Art Teacher Kellye Markowski



*"Anything that brings about permanent physical or emotional harm should not be in the repertoire of techniques, but you do have to give suspects a reason to give up information. As long as the interrogation does not enter the realm of what I just defined as torture, the technique is acceptable."*

-Science Teacher Rex Rice



*"Aggressive interrogation and causing discomfort in the case of enemies is appropriate, but inflicting prolonged physical pain is not. We have been misusing torture and we should act as we did in World War II following UN guidelines."*

-English Teacher Dave Jenkins



*"I think torture is inhumane and we should not stoop to the level of abusing prisoners."*

-Math Teacher Kurt Kleinberg

# The dark confessions of a little sister

In the fifth grade, my sister signed up for the grade school science fair. The title of her project: "Who's Smarter my Sister or my Dog". This was the high point in our relationship.

What follows is the grizzly account of an abused, neglected and shunned little sister. You may need Kleenexes, you might gasp at the horror, and you may even call child services. I learned at an early age that when it came to dealing with my sister there was only one fool proof method--drop, duck and play dead.

Some speculate that my sister's aggression came from the pent-up anger of a middle child seeking attention. I say that it had something to do with the bowl-shaped haircut that had strangers complimenting my parents on their adorable son.

I idolized my sister. And she took full advantage by over using the phrase "I'll be your best friend if you (fill in chore here)." Of course I obliged. If only to spend two seconds in my sister's palace of a room. Her room had everything mine lacked: a bunk bed, a bean bag chair and a computer. These moments of "friendship"

lasted just long enough for me to pick up some "off limits" item or open some "secret" drawer, before I was pelted with stuffed animals or body checked into the hallway.

During the days when I wasn't lucky enough to receive an invitation into her room, I would stand outside the door, centimeters away from where the carpet turned from the red of the hallway to the blue of her room, awaiting an invitation to enter.

My sister's rules of privacy and division did not just apply to her bedroom but to all events and locations involving her and her friends--especially birthday parties. For my sister's 6th grade birthday party, my mom rented out the school gym and filled it with an inflatable jungle

gym. To a nine-year-old, it was a dream come true. However, this 9-year-old didn't get within 10 feet of her dream after being banished to the hallway of the school for the entire party. There I sat for hours-listening to the yelps of joy coming from my sister and her friends.

For several spring breaks during my early adolescence, my family and I would travel to the town of Breckenridge, CO, with close family friends. This family had a daughter who was my camp best friend, as well as an older daughter who was my sister's camp best friend. And just like me, my friend, Nicki, idolized her older sister. Of course during the vacation neither my sister nor Nicki's wanted anything to do with us. One day after we (nicely) stalked our sisters to the outside pool, they finally agreed to play with us. The game went like this: They throw a penny into the pool and Nicki and I dive for it. Who ever retrieves the penny gets to spend the rest of the day with them.

We were in. My sister threw the penny into the water and Nicki and I dove to the bottom. Neither Nicki nor I were particularly fond of swimming, or water for that matter, but in that moment all we cared about was retrieving that penny. After Nicki had finally won, and we had resurfaced, we looked and found that our sisters were gone, our hotel keys were missing and we were without towels and clothes.

Flash forward a few years; it is the day of my Bat Mitzvah. My sister and a friend decide that it

would be fun if they locked me in the human-sized rental cooler that temporarily resided in the hallway of my house. After 32 hours (or 31 seconds- it's a fine line) of begging and pleading, and many laughs on their side of the cooler, they released me.

Moving on to the summer of 2003: I was at camp and it was the first boy-girl get together of the summer. I was sitting next to a desirable young lad, trying my best to act cool when my sister comes up to us and introduces herself as the sister of the girl who has a "huge crush on you."

Need I say more? I think I have done a fairly good job convincing you of the torture I have suffered and the satanic characteristics my sister portrays. The girl is the devil in the form of a skinny young Jewish girl. I still have scars from where she punched me and there was definitely a time or two when she chased me around the house with a knife. She makes Stalin look like a humanitarian.

Ok, ok, before you begin to dial the number of child services or FOX News, I must be honest. My sister isn't all bad. There could have been a time or two when she helped me with my homework, gave me advice or answered my phone calls at 7 in the morning. She might have



Katharine poses with her older sister on the first day of school. Don't let the smiles fool you, their relationship was anything but joyful.

also bought me some of the best gifts I have ever gotten. She was also the girl who would sit with me while I cried, singing "Don't cry for me Argentina." Okay I admit it, I like the girl. After years of abuse, I

still have the same desperate desire to be her best friend. You may think I'm crazy, gone completely mental, one step away from being fitted for a straight jacket--but then you're probably not a little sister. ☹

### Taking It In Stride



[Katharine Weiss]



Sam Bader

## Administrators suspend student for in-class photo

When Logan Glover, a student at Lafayette High School, photographed his language arts teacher during class, neither she, nor any other member of the Rockwood School District's staff noticed; however, more than three weeks later Glover received a letter suspending him from school for three days after he posted the picture on Facebook.

Although the incident had passed unobserved, the school administration cited Glover's disruption of the learning environment as the cause for his suspension. The principal has even admitted that no school policy explicitly prohibits photography at school, only the use of cameras on cell phones.

"The taking of photographs and posting them on the Internet is not necessarily wrong," Rockwood Superintendent Craig Larson said in the Saint Louis Post-Dispatch on Dec. 14, 2007. "It's the disruption that this caused that prompted us to act."

Despite the district's attempts to portray the suspension as a response to class disruption, the facts clearly demonstrate that no such problems arose. The three-week delay between the event and the punishment serves as the most striking evidence against the school's claims.

If Glover's actions disturbed the classroom, why did the school wait more than 15 days to respond? The answer is simple: the teacher and the district were unaware of the occurrence until it reached the Internet. Since no one knew about Glover's pictures, he could not have disrupted the school's learning environment by taking them.

Therefore, the reason behind the school district's actions must be different from their stated justification. The Lafayette administration is not attempting to promote the noble goal of a classroom in which students can learn, but rather the school is pursuing a malignant objective: violation of students' free speech rights. The Rockwood School District is not attacking disruptions to the classroom, but rather Glover's constitutional right to express himself by taking an innocent photograph and putting it online.

The school's behavior is not isolated. Administrators throughout the country continue to hack away at student rights in all forms, whether it is the right of a university student in Florida to speak out at a John Kerry

forum, the various rights being disposed of by authoritarian Clayton High School policies, or the right of a student to take a photograph during school and post it on Facebook in the privacy of his own home. Each of these situations shares certain similarities, such as the claims of administrators that the school's actions benefit students by improving the learning environment. However, this language is purposefully vague and can be used to describe any change in the school's atmosphere, including negative shifts.

Abridgement of free speech is certainly an undesirable alteration to a school or any institution and for this reason none of the moves against constitutional liberties are identified as such. By painting assaults on student free speech as necessary policies to guarantee students opportunities to learn, administrators pervert the issue and distract people from the tremendous threat of taking away students' basic rights.

In order to combat the current trends restricting first amendment rights in schools, students—and parents who care about their children's well being—need to stand up and protest to prevent principals and superintendents from removing the rights of free speech that others would be outraged to lose. If someone took a photograph of a colleague at work and then placed the photograph on the Internet, no one would dare challenge the employee's right to act as he wishes at home. The phrase "protecting a school's learning environment" must be heard with caution, remembering that it is a blanket statement that can be used to justify a wide variety of actions, both positive and negative.

As parents and students encounter administrators using these words, they must evaluate if the school is actually benefiting anyone, or just taking away student's rights for the sake of taking away rights. No school administrator has the right to determine what a student posts on the web in the privacy of his or her home.

It will not be easy to turn back the onslaught on student rights, but it can be done if those who value liberty choose to defend it, not just in schools, but wherever it is under attack. ☹

### StaffEditorial

Agree **98%**

**2%** Disagree

## How to drop the flab and look fab

It's 2008 and most of us have our own New Year's Resolution. To some, it is finding the answers to life's deepest question; to others it is reaching a state of complete inner peace. Those are pretty much cake in face of my resolution: getting into shape. Yes, busting that flab may be one of the hardest tasks anyone can tackle- but believe me- it's not out of reach. With my 9 tips and motivations, working out will seem just as doable as the Honors or AP Literature Author's Project...okay, maybe not the best example.

But, in no time you'll transform yourself into a lean, mean, staying-up-all-night-sleep-deprived-worrying-about-that-grade-on-the-last-test-you-just-took-but-looking-darn-good-while-doing-it machine. CHS, let's whip it into shape.

### 9) Just hop your butt on that treadmill

Now, if working out is as foreign to you as the causes of temperature and salinity changes in coastal estuaries, don't stress- we all have to begin somewhere. My advice: just decide to walk into a gym one day, work out and count that as day one. Let your desire to get into shape spark your initial steps on to that elliptical, and know that from that very first day, things will get easier. One day turns into two, which turns into three, which eventually will turn into a week, which will turn into a routine; moreover, working out eases over time, as you become more motivated. In no time, you'll be running in and out of that gym like Brittany and Lindsay run in and out of rehab.

### 8) Eat fear and self-consciousness for breakfast

Despite your deepest desire to get into shape, your brain and self-consciousness might initially work against you. You might have visions of all the already fit people gawking at you while you're lifting weights or running. Or, you might imagine yourself getting on a treadmill, pressing START, and pulling a major Humpty Dumpty in front of everyone. Don't. None of these things happen. No one stares at anyone because A) that would be creepy, and B) if you're focused on your workout everyone else seems to disappear. Let your fears and self-consciousness go, because in the long run, they, along with that fat, will dissipate.

### 7) Exercise, and stay out of the Principal's office...or jail

At CHS, we ALL have one of "those days," and you know exactly what I'm talking about. You were up till about 3:00 AM the night before, doing countless hours of homework. You possibly accidentally slept in and missed a zero or 1<sup>st</sup> hour class, for the third time. You totally bombed a test that you thought you aced in one of your hardest classes. Imagine having all of this on your shoulders and having someone come up to you and say or do precisely the wrong thing to set you off. Yah...not pretty. Working out can solve this. As we all know, working out releases happy drugs (endorphins) into our bodies, making us feel much better in light of a horrible day. As observed in "Legally Blonde", exercising makes happy people, and happy people just don't commit murder. So work out, and be happy.

### 6) Exercise your body, not excuses

If you really are committed, excuses are out of the question. Once you set up a routine, get yourself to stick to it. Don't make excuses as to why you can't work out one day when you know darn well you can. Now you may wonder, "Exactly what IS an excuse?"

Well, if you were supposed to work out and someone asks why you didn't and your answer starts with "What had happened was..." that's an excuse. If you can't come up with a genuine reason, it's an excuse.

With this in mind, don't become a workout freak. Know your limits. When you're in pain- you rest. If you know you have a 300 point assignment due, you work out those fingers on a keypad. It is all about prioritizing- making working out a top priority but not THE top priority

### 5) Let your friends shove you onto a treadmill

You never want to undergo a change alone. It's nice to have friends as a good support system to push you to keep going when you feel like you can't. A real friend will see you about to eat one of those huge chocolate chip cookies from the cafeteria, snatch it away, and say "NO!" A real friend would talk about and yell at you so badly, that you have no choice but to go work out (I'm totally kidding about this-if your friend acts like this, find a new one quickly). If possible, find a friend to work out with you. This way you can act as a team and support one another. Know that you don't have to do it alone.

### 4) Snatch that cookie back!

Now, if you know that you put in a good, hard, 700 calorie burned, and 200 crunches type work out, you can go ahead and have that cookie. Turn around to your friend and snatch it back. Don't be afraid to reward yourself along the process. If you like food, gon' ahead and eat (moderately). If you like clothes, get to shoppin' (again, moderately). Whatever serves as a just reward for your hard work, go and get it. Just remember to keep rewards in check.



[Cameron Davis]

### 3) Get sexy in the mirror

Monitoring your success can be one of the biggest sources of motivation to work out. When you look at yourself in the mirror and you see that one muscle is bigger, or your abs are more defined, or some of those Pillsbury rolls are gone, I want you to say to yourself "Damn, I look good!" I want you to walk down the halls of CHS struttin' like John Travolta in "Saturday Night Fever" singing "Sexy Back" in your head. You deserve it and don't let anyone else tell you different. The more you work out, the more results you will see, the more your own self image will increase.

### 2) Keep on truckin'

When you start trying to get into shape, make small goals. By making checkpoint goals, you eventually achieve your overall goal. However, once you get to a checkpoint don't lose motivation-keep pushing. Also, if you fail to reach a checkpoint, and you might, don't let that get you down. I've had multiple set backs, but simply knowing that I'm striving towards betterment is enough to sustain me and to keep me motivated. Don't give up.

### 1) Take it slow baby, take it slow

Know that you're not going to see results over night. Take your time and stay focused. If you try to do it all at once in the beginning, you will quit- mainly because you'll die if you try it all at once. Believe me, seeing a transformation over time is mind blowing, and also is one of the best feelings ever. Take your time and before you know it, your body will be bangin'.

Hopefully, with these tips and insights about working out you'll find the motivation deep down to get out there and accomplish your goals. However, working out isn't just about the positive physical changes you'll undergo, it is about the positive mental, self-esteem changes, and emotion changes that will occur. Anyone can do it; and if you need that extra motivation, stop by the Center 4<sup>th</sup> hour, you'll catch me whippin' myself into shape too. ☹

### [Thumbs Up]

- Ellen Page
- Registering to vote
- Early caucuses
- MLK weekend
- Broomball

- 70 degree weather in winter
- Hannah Montana ticket prices
- Class registration
- Highway closing
- Fruit out of season
- Katie Couric online

### [Thumbs Down]



# Pet python proves charming, fascinating, funny

While snakes have been portrayed as evil beasts from the Bible to Indiana Jones, I have found my 3-foot pet ball python, Guess, to be fascinating, fun and ultimately didactic. While the Bible proclaims the snake to be somewhat devilish—Lucifer himself took the form of a snake—I have found my snake to be docile and requiring little maintenance for the satisfaction and lessons he teaches me.

I had reading ex-weeks ago. 3, a few Guess loop-of my shirt, and sliding pages as the apple. I puritanical have thought home if I had playing with

## EL CUATRO



[HYRUM SHUMWAY]

an interesting perience a few I read Genesis weeks ago, with ing in and out around my neck across the Bible Eve was eating wonder what a preacher would in a quaint cabin been caught sin.



Senior Hyrum Shumway's 3-foot-long reptilian friend Guess gives him a squeeze.

Courtesy of Hyrum Shumway

Guess is a "great tempter" as he persuades me often to engage in frivolous activities with him. Like me, he spends most of his time under his homemade deluxe shelter, which is similar to me spending inordinate amounts of time studying. During finals week in between massive crunch sessions, I often easily succumbed to his silent pleadings and took long, meaningful breaks with him. I would let him crawl around me or even play on my desk while I wrote economic and literary essays. Sometimes it is difficult to be on the phone with a friend, discussing life, and have my snake try to wrap himself around the phone to steal the heat radiating from the battery.

Perhaps the coolest part of owning a snake is brag-

ging rights. I jump at every opportunity to tell people I own a python which I feel is orders of magnitude more hip than any dog, cat or fish. My pet has come up in English class when I was asked what I was thinking about at that second and I responded, "My snake". It took some explaining after class as I discussed with a friend that I was speaking of my python and not subtly stating a sexual innuendo.

While I would love to boast that I was never afraid of snakes, this would be a partial lie as I have always been, let's say, anxious around them. The first time I

picked up Guess I was on the phone with my personal snake mentor who has had a snake since she was a decade old. As I carefully lifted my prize out of the cage, I realized the truth of facing fear. I am presently totally unafraid and sometimes even yearn for my "snake time." This is simply to me another fear that I have conquered, and it is deeply fulfilling to know that I have something on Indiana.

There are sad Shumway stories of a beautiful retriever that I loved, which was given away due to allergies; a gerbil that ran away from my brothers; a

large tarantula lovingly named Joseph after my dad; 15 birds which were returned for "excessive" breeding; and a fish that my sister "disposed of." Thus, Guess is my first "real" pet and the first animal-member that has had any lasting presence in the Shumway rook as he is silent and requires little day-to-day cost or time. I have learned to take care of something besides myself, which does not include a younger brother. I have also gained an insight into the deep bond that can exist between pets and their owners, which I had forgotten in the folds of time from the time I was my dog's best friend.

While I have always treated animals with respect, I now see more life, maybe even more value to their purpose on the earth. It seems ironic to me that the beast I choose to nurture was one shunned in ancient times. In Genesis 3 the Lord states to the serpent, "Because thou hast done this (tempted Adam and Eve), thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shall thou eat all the days of thy life."

Contrary to scripture, my snake enjoys warm mice weekly and far from being cursed was placed in an environment where he or she (I still don't know) will be able to excel and grow. Perhaps curses carry blessings as I have been changed for the better by Guess. It is easy to go through life, in this modern world, not interacting with animals at all. As I am a steward of an animal's life I perceive myself to have a greater appreciation for my life and the lives of all organisms. I've gained understanding about how life is sacred and special. Although I do not consider myself a snake expert, I believe most snakes have something to offer to certain people of all ages. I feel a deep link between Guess and me—now all I have to do is learn Parseltongue. ☹



Freshman Jiyoun Kahng smiles with friends. Moving from Korea to the US was a challenge for her.

Courtesy of Jiyoun Kahng

## Culture change challenging

The most extraordinary and craziest experience of my life so far has been moving to America. This experience has affected me in many ways.

In January 2006, my family and I made a long journey to the United States of America. Just few months earlier, I was a bright, hard-working, and very sociable student in seventh grade at Bu-Seol Middle School. In Korea, moving from elementary school to middle school is a huge event for the students and for the parents because it means that we have to study a lot harder and become more academically focused.

My seventh grade year was very successful because I had excellent relationships with my friends, who were always there for me, and was even elected to be the Student President of the class. I learned from the best teachers, who really loved and supported the students, and also studied hard to compete with other top students of the grade.

After seventh grade was over, I was thrilled to move on to the eighth grade year. My friends and I had built even closer friendships after the first year and many amazing school events were supposed to be held in the upcoming year. I also planned many academic goals to prepare for the second year of middle school.

On Christmas Eve, my father announced that we would be moving to America and live there for about three years. My parents were extremely happy and excited about it because my dad, a test pilot of the Korean Air Force, was chosen to be the representative of the Korean government and military for the business with America.

This unbelievable and chaotic news started to swirl around my mind. "Our family...moving to America? No way, I'm not going anywhere. I love it here and I don't want to give up all my plans and expectations I had for my new year in Korean middle school!" was all I could think of. I was very disappointed about the news.

But, as I listened to my parents explaining how helpful and meaningful the experience would be for us, I started to think positive about moving to America. It is definitely the best way for me to learn and speak English, and it could also be very cool to experience a whole new world.

After all, not anyone gets to have a chance like this in their lives. I also knew well of the fact that most Korean people are so eager to be able to live and study in the United States. Soon, I changed my mind and felt special about going to America. I imagined my life in America to be as great as the life in Korea and that school would be a lot of fun. I was also very thrilled to make new American friends and to meet cute American boys like the ones I'd seen in the Hollywood movies.

Life in America welcomed me with a fresh reality. First of all, it was very hard for me to fit in. Different

language, culture and appearances between me and other American teens created huge obstacles to building friendships. The first day at Wydown Middle School was awkward and strange for me. The fact that I moved in the middle of seventh grade and was from a foreign country made it quite difficult for me to get involved with the American teenagers and become close friends with them.

Everyone had their own group of friends and had been known each other since they were very little. Very few people were open and nice to me, and the majority of people didn't really care about my existence. These realities replaced all my imaginations about living in America.

Day by day, I was very upset and couldn't believe how my life could totally reverse from being popular to being unknown. It felt as if the way American kids treated and looked at me were very different from the way they looked at each other. I felt out of place and lonely. In class discussions or chats between friends, I could not express everything in my mind, and a lot of the times I wouldn't understand what others were talking or laughing about.

It was extremely frustrating, and I had to work as twice as hard to get my homework done in time. Writing essays and reading hard textbooks took me such a long time that it was unimaginably stressful for me to turn in completed and well-done work on time. Many things seemed unfair and disadvantaged for me. I cried everyday after school for the first few weeks and wanted to go back to Korea desperately.

Two years have passed, and now I am a freshman in high school. I have cried, suffered, struggled, endeavored, and pushed myself to be strong and confident, but to also be recognized as a part of the American society.

Nowadays, I have changed and adjusted enough to the new environment that it makes a lot of people feel like I am a Korean-American born in America. When I tell people how long I've actually lived in this country, everyone admires how fluently I can speak and how well I am doing at school with English as a second language. I always search for chances to be involved in as many sports, activities, clubs and classes because I love learning and working with other people. This is who I am, and I want to live my best to reach for success.

What I learned from this phenomenal and rich experience is that nothing is easy to begin with, but how it will end up depends a lot on how we choose to manage, resist and recover from hardships with a positive attitude. I also realized how America is still struggling with a lot of racial conflicts and tensions since there are so many different races living in one nation. I think no matter what skin color, culture, or religion people have, everyone is special and should equally be respected as human beings living in one world. ☹



[Jiyoun Kahng]

## Writers' strike inspires new activities

I have recently been watching the comedy television show "The Office". I love it. I got hooked on it over winter break, and finished all three seasons in about three weeks, which must be some kind of a record.

Being beyond even obsession, I immediately went to the NBC website after finishing the third season to watch the fourth season, but to my dismay I found that only some of the recent shows were online—there had only been twelve episodes so far, and the fourth season of "The Office" had been discontinued due to the Writers Guild of America strike. I was devastated.

I had, of course, heard of the strike but had never before been affected by it. After all, season four of "Lost" still starts sometime in January, America's Next Top Model is still on all the time, and Gossip Girl only has reruns once in a while.

It was only after my infatuation with "The Office" that I realized how profoundly the writers strike had affected United States television.

Unfortunately, "The Office" is not the only TV show that has been purely running reruns. "Saturday

Night Live" and "Desperate Housewives" are some of the many shows that did not complete their seasons because of the writers strike, and are not currently airing new shows. Not only that, but there are still more with only one episode left, like "CSI", which only aired half of the shows that were originally planned.

In addition, the Golden Globes—which have previously been a several hour event—have been reduced to a mere one-hour press conference in which the winners of the Golden Globes will be announced. Many people are now expecting the Oscars—an even larger event—to be seriously effected by the writers strike, judging from the fate of the Golden Globes this year. It is remarkable that the television industry has been so drastically affected in such little time. The writer's strike has been going on for only about 10 weeks.

However, unfortunately for us television lovers, this strike is nothing compared to the last Writer's Guild of America strike, which lasted more than 20 weeks. And it doesn't seem like this strike will run out of steam any time soon.

TV stations have been struggling to fill time that has been previously filled by various TV shows, which have started to run out of new shows. Shows like "American Gladiator" and "Rock of Love II" have started to fill screening time, and increasingly, only reruns have been on.

It seems that as a direct result of the writers strike, the quality of TV has decreased somewhat dramatically—shows have had to cut their seasons in half, the Golden Globes have been reduced to a news conference, and second-tier shows have been playing in the stead of first-tiers.

Some people, including myself, should maybe take the decrease in quality as a sign that we should spend doing other things besides being couch potatoes. There are so many times when I've heard myself say to myself that I have to relax, and so I watch some TV. The writer's strike is encouraging me to start being more open to other stress-free activities. Trying photography, learning to cook or even reading a book instead of watching TV are all possibilities.

In any case, although the strike has seriously and unfortunately affected television, it has also driven me to rediscover the importance of not being stuck to the couch. ☹



[Ellie Bullard]

## Mastering math malevolence

At the infantile age of one and a half, I proved myself a mathematical prodigy.

That's right. In just my first 18 months of existence, I had my family completely convinced that I was on track to become the next Einstein or Descartes. (Minus the strange hair. And the jowls.)

My dumbfounding abilities were put to the test at each and every family function; one of my uncles took the lead in probing the extent of my genius. His favorite method was to simply pose mind-boggling questions to me and allow me to immediately display my dazzling knowledge. For example:

"Nava! What is 18,999 - 18,997?"

And my response, inevitably, would be spot on:

"Two!"

"How many leagues are there in major league baseball?"

"Two!"

"How many mainstream political parties are there in this country?"

"Two!"

Clearly, I had a bright future ahead of me.

My proudest moment arrived when my mother was about eight months along in her pregnancy with my brother Eitan - who, as it happens, is TWO years younger than me.

Being a dance teacher, my mom had quite an extensive collection of cassette tapes. (This was, of course, during the technologically inept early 1990s.) I liked her tapes so much that one day, I felt the need to discover - *again* - exactly how they worked.

When my mom walked in and discovered the inches and inches of ripped-out tape ribbons trailing all over the room, she was, to say the least, irate.

"NAVA! HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU NOT TO TOUCH MY TAPES?!?"

"Umm...two?"

Unfortunately, that peak of mathematical mastery arrived early in my life. Through elementary school, I was competent, but no longer showed my former exceptional talents. After all, how much aptitude does it take to count how many red M&Ms are in the pile?

My math troubles began to rear their ugly heads in middle school, specifically in eighth grade. Over the course of one academic year, I suffered through three different math teachers, none of whom I warmed to, to put it mildly. Adding to my arithmetical angst was the increasingly difficult material we studied, supposedly preparing for high school honors tracks.

I began to hate math in earnest when we began to learn how to factor polynomials. For some unknown reason, factoring just did not jive with my brain that year. I spent what seemed like hours poring over my worksheets, toiling away to find seemingly nonexistent solutions to the problems. It didn't help my self-confidence that all of my friends were breezing their way through the class.

That fateful year began my complete disillusionment with everything related to mathematics. I so dreaded math that when I started in the Clayton district freshman year, I had the option to test into the honors track and chose not to even take the test. Talk about giving up before you've started. I threw myself into English, history and language courses. I had zero confidence in my mathematical abilities and zero desire to fix the situation.

Up until senior year, I continued to nurse my loathing for math. (No offense intended to my teachers. The problem was definitely ME, not you.) When we were re-introduced to factoring those darn polynomials this year, I felt a little wave of apprehension wash over me.

This was the very subject that made me split paths with the world of mathematics! Would I taste failure this time around, just as I had in middle school?

I succeeded at mastering polynomials the second time around, as a high school senior. It wasn't even very hard for me. Even though we worked on similar problems to the ones I did in eighth grade, I didn't struggle with the numbers. I kept my cool, and I proved to myself that I CAN do math, and do it well, by golly!

I have reached a watershed moment in my history of hate. This year, I don't dread going to math class or sitting for exams. I'm not exactly sure what factors helped me overcome my abhorrence; all I know is that now, I actually feel positive when I walk into math class each day. I may not be in AP Calculus or AP Statistics. However, I am not only learning a vast amount of material, but growing to appreciate mathematics as well.

Okay, so maybe my childhood arithmetical genius didn't quite carry me through to the status of the great mathematicians. But I'm okay with that. And even considering my newfound truce with math, I know one thing for certain.

For how many more quarters am I required to take a math class?

TWO! ☹



the last word  
arithmetical  
[Nava Kantor]

## LIFE WITH A BAD BREAK

With 30,000 patients and 5,600 new diagnoses each year, it's not just Lou Gehrig's disease. It can affect anybody, anywhere, anytime. It's random, destructive and incurable to date. But with acceptance and hope, people with ALS strive to live life as normally as possible despite the tragic odds.

[Sarah Horn]

Editor

On May 2, 1939, New York Yankee's famous baseball player, Lou Gehrig told his manager Joe McCarthy "I'm benching myself". Gehrig took the lineup card out to the umpires before the game, as the stadium announcer told the shocked fans: "Ladies and gentlemen, this is the first time Lou Gehrig's name will not appear on the Yankee lineup in 2,130 consecutive games." As Gehrig sat down on the bench with glistening tears in his eyes, the opposing Detroit Tigers gave him a standing ovation. Gehrig would never play baseball again.

It wasn't until a month later that Gehrig finally understood the reasoning behind his sudden loss of energy. The diagnosis was grim: Gehrig had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). With rapidly increasing paralysis, difficulty in swallowing and speaking, and a life expectancy of fewer than three years, playing baseball again was out of the question. Gehrig was told there was no cure and his nervous system was being destroyed but his mind would remain intact to witness his body weaken.

In 1941, Gehrig died and in the 60 years since then the disease has been a source of mystery for scientists and doctors. Now in the United States, ALS is often referred to as "Lou Gehrig's disease": the incurable illness that brought down baseball's "iron man".

But how exactly did ALS bring down the Yankees superstar? ALS is known as motor neuron diseases (MND). MND is when the muscles progressively get weaker and atrophy, the wasting away or loss of muscles, occurs. There are several kinds of MND. In primary lateral sclerosis only the upper motor neurons (which originate in the brain) are damaged. When only the lower motor neurons, which come from the spinal column, are damaged it is called progressive muscular atrophy. If both regions are affected, it is classified as ALS, which is the most common form of MND in adults.

Beth Barrett, a Patient Services Coordinator for the ALS Association-St. Louis Chapter, deals daily with this disease.

"What happens is that the motor neurons die, and they cannot send messages from the brain," Barrett said. "The brain is telling your hand to move, but the message is not received."

The inability of the muscles to receive messages is what causes the weakness of ALS. Without the ability of motor nerves to send the messages to the muscles, the muscles cannot work properly and the patient becomes weak. ALS only affects voluntary muscles, but not muscles that cannot be controlled. For example, ALS cannot make the heart beat any faster since the heart is not a voluntary muscle.

Unfortunately there is little hope for patients.

"The body parts begin to be non-functional, and while the process itself is not painful, it is painful to watch the muscles atrophy," Barrett said. "Most patients generally have only between two to five years to live. Although, I've had a patient who died within nine months and another who lived for 30 years, so you never know."

With at least 30,000 patients suffering and 5,600 new diagnoses each year, ALS is rapidly becoming one of the most formidable diseases in the world. Every 90 minutes a person in this country is diagnosed with ALS, and every 90 minutes another person will lose his or her life from the disease. Doctors are unsure of how the disease originates and there is no cure, and little medicine to slow down the effects.

"ALS is such a hard disease to deal with because you never know what's next," Barrett said. "It could be your voice or your legs or your hands...And every patient progresses at a different rate. Some start slowly and then suddenly dip while others progress rapidly and then hit a plateau. There is no way doctors can determine what is going to happen next or how soon."

There are three areas of the body that ALS affects: the lower limb area, the upper extensive area and the Bulbar onset. Around 25 percent of people with ALS begin with a weakness in their legs.

"In the lower limb area patients will often experience what is known as the 'foot drop,' where they begin to trip," Barrett said. "It often affects the ankles or knees. You could be standing in the kitchen one day and suddenly fall. And particularly in this region it's hard to diagnose it as ALS."

In the upper extensive area the arms and hands are affected.

"People will suddenly not be able to open a jar or turn a knob," Barrett said.

The final region is known as the Bulbar onset. The bulb area of the central nervous system is in-between the brain and the spinal cord, also known as the medulla. Bulbar refers to the motor neurons that are situated in the bulb region of the brain stem, which controls the muscles of chewing, swallowing and speaking. When these muscles become very weak the diagnosis of bulbar is made. This condition leads to ALS, and the other two areas are affected later on. About one third of ALS patients start with bulbar weakness.

"First your words will slur, and you sound like you are drunk," Barrett said. "Your swallowing becomes affected too. There are two big risks that follow: first you have a risk of choking, which is an immediate safety concern. Patients often have to use a feeding tube, a big medical decision. Secondly, when the diaphragm is affected, it becomes harder to breathe. Out of the 60 patients I help, around five are on a ventilator, which helps the diaphragm, but it doesn't stop the disease."

Eventually, if ALS patients live long enough, they become what is known as "locked in", or in a complete condition of paralysis.

"I have one patient, and this is one of the worst case scenarios, who can't even blink his eyes," Barrett said.

There are many signs and symptoms of ALS. The largest sign is when the muscles become smaller and progressively become weaker over time. This weakness causes difficulty with daily activities, including moving around, speaking, caring for oneself, swallowing, chewing, lifting and carrying objects and breathing. Some patients have fasciculations, which are twitches under the skin, other have "charley horse"-like muscle cramps. Other common signs are weight loss, poor coordination and stiffness. Some patients may experience urinary urgency, where they feel as if they have to go to the restroom immediately, but only because the signal is very late.

The cause of ALS is still undetermined, making a cure impossible to find right now. However, many research studies are being conducted. While ALS is a very serious disease, it is not hopeless. Since the disease is non-contagious and often happens very spontaneously, it's hard to trace its roots. A very small percentage of ALS is called familial ALS, meaning that it occurs multiple times in a family. In the 1990s a major breakthrough occurred in which the identification of the mutant SOD1 gene was found, which is associated with around 20 percent of familial ALS cases. The genetic research has found other mutant genes that are now associated with the other 80 percent of familial ALS patients. However, only around 5-10 percent of ALS patients inherited the disease, but scientists hope that discoveries in the familial ALS will lead to findings in sporadic ALS as well.

Due to the limited knowledge about ALS, treatments are rare as well. There is no medication that can stop or cure ALS, but some offer to help manage the symptoms. Rilutek, which is approved by the FDA, has been

proven to increase survival.

Although the search for a drug that will slow down the progression of weakness and increase survival is great, there is not much out there right now. There are medicines that can help with symptoms such as cramps, exaggerated laughing and crying, forced yawning and urinary urgency. Procedures and equipment can also help patients with speaking, swallowing and breathing problems. However, it is important to note that all of these aforementioned medicines and equipment are very expensive. And for this reason, nonprofit organizations, such as the ALS Association, try to help patients, find a cure, and get the word out about ALS. Their mission statement is: to help people live with ALS and to leave no stone unturned in the search for a cure.

Sharon Gacki, the Education, Awareness, and Advocacy Director for the ALS Association-St. Louis Chapter, works with public and private education and advocacy. After her mother was misdiagnosed with ALS, Gacki began to work with the St. Louis Chapter.

"There are a number of ways that we help out and spread the word about ALS, especially through the legislature" Gacki said. "We have a mailing list and newsletters as well. The ALS Association meets yearly to discuss issues with patients. We also have educators and state conventions to speak and spread the word of how we can help improve the patient's quality of life. For the general public we try and have booths at health fairs and we also have fundraising events. One of our most popular events is the walk in which all age groups can participate."

The walk Gacki referred to is known as the Walk to D'Feet ALS. In 2006 the Walk to D'Feet ALS raised over \$298,000, their most successful year to date.

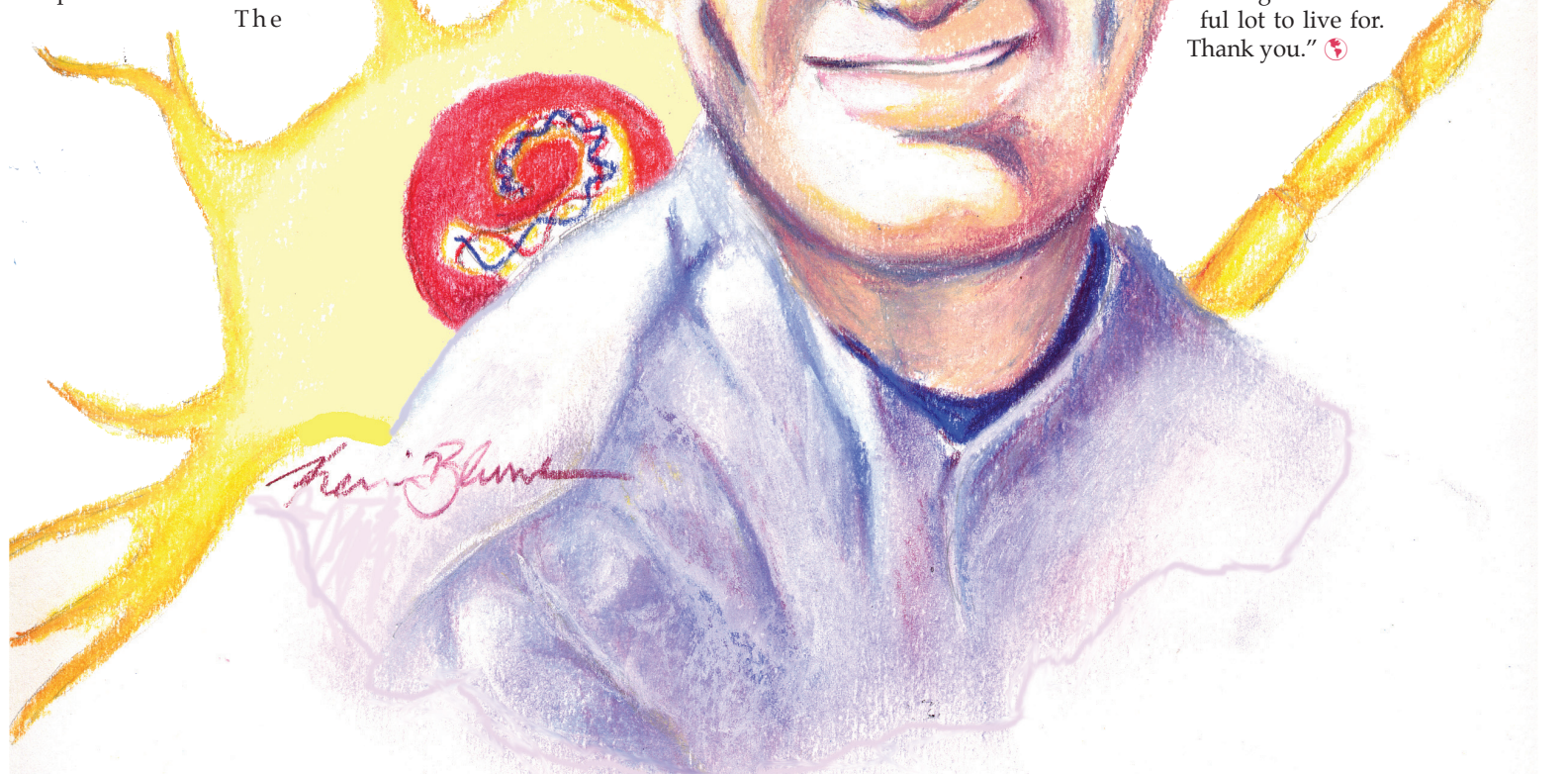
This year, they hope to raise \$318,000 for continued programs and services on both a local and national level. To participate in the Walk to D'Feet ALS or to see other volunteering opportunities visit the website <http://webstl.alsa.org>.

"We can also really use volunteers in the office," Gacki said.

"There is a wide range of activities for volunteers. There is an activity book for children and mailings as well. And if students are interested they can go to the legislature and talk to the state representatives. There are a lot of organizations in St. Louis that students can volunteer in to help out patients with ALS. They can even work in the home of a patient and become a mentor who works with them. Small groups even go to rake leaves or play with the younger children whose parent may have the disease. There is a whole variety of options to choose from."

Besides fundraising and advocacy, the ALS Association also helps with research, medications, working with patients and many other options. "There are several things that we do," Barrett said. "We have a development team that helps with fundraising. There are six walks each year to raise funds. About eight percent of those funds go to the national ALS Association for research, since we don't locally conduct research. The second thing the national ALS Association does in terms of research is try to find ways to slow down and stop the disease."

The



## The Face of ALS

"I am accepting the worst which is the fact that I may be able to do nothing, but I have chosen to *live* with ALS, rather than to die from it. If I would choose to feel sorry for myself and remain bitter about having this disease, it would be a "living death." What I *can* control is myself and my outlook. Probably the easiest part of this thing is dying, it is much harder, but more important to live well."-Joe Frey.

"Now I "take time to smell the roses." ...Just because you're in a wheelchair doesn't mean you can't do anything...It's not how much you've got; it's what you do with what you've got that counts."-Jim Grant

ALS Association-St. Louis Chapter also helps with patient services, where people like Barrett work with patients and their families to learn how to cope with and live with ALS.

"The first thing we do when we get a new patient is send out a packet and manual that explains what ALS is," Barrett said. "In this manual, we help them learn about the symptoms and the management of them and what the patient may face in the course of their disease. The third section deals with family issues, which is designed to help with loss and grief. We also offer, free of charge, resources and services the agency provides. There are twenty-eight programs that patients can choose from that will help them the most."

After Barrett has sent out the manual, she pays a home visit to the patient to meet with both the patient and their family members.

"I assess what is going on and what they need immediately," Barrett said. "We have what we call the loan closet which is full of DME, or durable medical equipment. That is the problem with ALS, it requires a lot of very expensive equipment, especially if it develops quickly. We try to help them not have to buy the equipment, so they can borrow from us."

The DME can be anything from assistive equipment such as utensils with big handles, non-skid plates, and even book holders. However, it can also be larger things like speaking devices.

"There is one type of assistive technology that is very interesting," Barrett said. "There is a way patients can use email even if they cannot use their hands or a mouse. There is an Info-red dot that can be placed on their head, or even their glasses. On the computer is an on-screen keyboard and when the dot is pointed at it, it becomes a mouse. When the dot dwells on a certain letter, it clicks it. For patients who can't speak or move their hands, this technology really helps give them a voice and be able to communicate."

Barrett also explains how the ALS Association can help with augmentative communication devices.

"There are devices that can speak for you," Barrett said. "You can type, not talk, with a hand-held portable. You can imagine that all of this equipment is very expensive and many people can't afford it or their insurance doesn't cover it. But we try to offer a way to help patients communicate."

Although ALS is a terminal and grim disease, patients still hold out hope for a cure and even just a good day.

"For the patients I work with sometimes it only takes a good day for them to feel better," Barrett said.

"I think you'd be amazed at the hope you can still hear in their voices."

As Lou Gehrig famously said to his team and fan on the day of his retirement announcement:

"Fans, for the past two weeks you have been reading about a bad break.

Today, I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth. I have been in ballparks for 17 years and have never received anything but kindness and encouragement from you fans...So I close in saying that I might have been given a bad break, but I've got an awful lot to live for. Thank you." ☺

[ourview]



staff playlist

1. "Won't Go Home Without You"  
Maroon 5
2. "Anyone Else But You"  
The Moldy Peaches
3. "Foundations"  
Kate Nash
4. "House Fire"  
Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin
5. "Lola"  
The Kinks
6. "Save Room"  
John Legend

Top Three...  
coffee shops

1. Kaldis
2. Northwest Coffee
3. Kayak's

weird



honeyfuggle  
verb

1. to deceive by flattery or sweet-talk
2. to swindle or cheat

What you didn't know about...

The electric chair was invented by a dentist.

The plastic ends of shoelaces are called aglets.

website of the month

glassbooth.org

On glassbooth, answer 40 multiple choice questions about political issues and the site will determine which presidential candidate best fits your beliefs.



# Girls' swim team takes positive strokes

[Simone Bernstein]  
Staff Reporter



Julia Reilly

**Sophomore Izzy Fratt swims the butterfly during swim practice. The Lady Water Hounds have made a promising start this season with a remarkable 7-1 record. In addition, two individual swimmers and three relay teams have qualified to compete in state, and coaches David Kohmetscher and Katelyn Eustis anticipate an exceptional end to the season.**

With a tremendous turn out and a talented team ranging in ages, the future looks enticing for the Lady Water Hounds. The girls' swim team has already made huge accomplishments this season, including a remarkable 7-3 record and team members qualifying for state. Although experiencing their first loss against St. Joseph's Academy was tough, the team recognizes their achievements.

"I love the feeling of winning a swim meet," freshman Mariah Olschansky said. "Although winning is not the only part of being on the swim team, it is one of the benefits of working out and practicing."

The coaches this year are math teachers David Kohmetscher and Katelyn Eustis. They are energized for the remainder of the season.

"We have a lot of depth on our team," Eustis said. "We have a few freshmen who have come in with previous swimming experience."

Paige Meneses and Kerri Blumer have qualified for state individually, while three relays, with four girls on each, have also qualified.

Qualifying for state signifies that the swimmer beat a specific record time. Swimmers are allowed to compete in state for many events. Junior Caitlin Blatt and senior Captain Natalie Turza agree that qualifying for state is extremely difficult.

Sophomore Gabby Inder is one swimmer whose two hundred meter relay has made it to state.

"I was very excited to qualify for state in the medley relay this year," Inder said. "The whole team was

very excited because the medley relay has not qualified for state in a few years."

With many new swimmers on the team, the team is very hopeful for the conclusion of its season.

"The team is very grateful that so many new girls came out for the swim team this year," senior Captain Lisa Ast said. "All the girls on the team are very close. It is nice having such a close-knit team to

rely on for extra swimming gear when we forget our own."

There are some members of the team who come with previous swimming training.

"Two new swimmers on the team, freshman Elizabeth Sikora and sophomore Anna Krane have really stood out this season," Kohmetscher said. "Anna has hurt her shoulder so she may be out the rest of the season."

Next year three seniors will leave the team.

"Seniors Kerri Blumer, Natalie Turza and Lisa Ast will be major losses for the team next season," Kohmetscher said. "They are all great leaders and swimmers."

To keep the girls in shape, the coaches lead strenuous two hour practices every day after school. Over winter break and finals, practice time was offered to keep the

swimmers in shape. Although these practices were optional, they were recommended to anyone staying in St. Louis for the holidays.

"I'd like to see the strong effort up to winter break continue in the rest of the season," Kohmetscher said. "We came into break undefeated. The team was affected when only six out of the twenty five girls on the team showed up for winter break practices. I would like the team to gain back momentum. We have a strong group of swimmers all the way around."

Many members of the team recommend the swim team to girls who would like a refreshing workout after a stressful day at school.

"The nice thing about swimming is that there is very little sweating involved," Olschansky said. "It is a very refreshing sport."

The team is preparing for their final meets in January and February.

"The big meet we are focusing on is our Conference meet, Feb. 7 and 8," Eustis said. "Our goal at that meet is to get the girls their personal best times."

Swimming is an excellent overall workout since it works most of the major muscle groups. There is less impact on joints and bones when swimming. Swimming is an ideal lifetime sport.

The girls' swim team is looking forward to the remaining weeks of its winter season. Although many swimmers are involved in spring sports, some plan to use their swimming skills to earn income as lifeguards.

Other girls plan to stay in shape by swimming the rest of the year, to keep in shape for next season. Positive strokes are well earned for the CHS girls' 2007-2008 swim team. ☺



Puhan Zhao

**Junior wrestlers Michael Henry and Daniel Shore try to take each other down during practice.**

## Wrestlers grapple with small numbers

[Michael Root]  
Editor

Few sports are decided in a matter of seconds after weeks of hard training and practice, but wrestling is one of them.

Flying under the radar, the wrestling Hounds face the tough task of participating in a season with under 60 percent of a full roster.

Out of the 14 weight classes ranging from 108 to 285 pounds, this year's team can fill only eight weight classes during each of its matches.

Consequently, the team finds itself at an extreme disadvantage as they forfeit the remaining six matches.

Regardless of the uphill battle faced during matches, the team has achieved success in tournaments this year as three players won medals in the John Burroughs Tournament: senior Kevin Johnson, sophomore Colin Fried and freshman Jordan Henry.

Head Coach Doug Verby attributes a number of factors for the few people participating in CHS wrestling.

"Unlike other programs like in St. Charles, Clayton doesn't have a little league wrestling program which puts our kids at a 10-year disadvantage to some kids," Verby said. "Also, most kids at Clayton are already committed to other winter sports, there is a certain unwillingness to try new sports, and the stereotypes against wrestlers all hurt the number of participants."

Johnson also commented that the combination of the coaching change from Coach Boris to Verby and assistant coach John Howard as well as the loss of several key senior wrestlers from last season may have added to this year's difficulty putting a complete team together.

For the kids who choose to wrestle, Verby, with 20 years of experience around the sport, insists that they

are subject to one of the hardest practices of any other sport bar none.

"In other sports you have a lot more time sitting around not doing anything, but even when you're doing something fun at wrestling, it's a much harder workout than any other sport," Johnson said.

Even if the team has not experienced the measurable success they hoped for, their dedication has proved sufficient.

"I've been extremely happy with the effort these guys have shown throughout the whole year as they have shown up to work hard at every practice, which is not easy to do knowing we may not win a single meet," Verby said. "We just want to compete and win each match we have on the mat and not worry about the ones we have to forfeit."

This year's wrestling team has faced additional challenges as three students, two seniors and one junior, quit the team early on in the season.

"It's a tough sport to catch on due to its extreme difficulty and playing against kids with a lot more experience," Verby said.

Even though this year was extremely difficult for the CHS program, Verby and the entire team are optimistic for the future.

"We need to gain little victories with the people we have and get more good people to come out with a winning attitude in order to build a program like we had in the mid and early '90s," Verby said.

The Hounds have a home meet on Jan. 24 at 4 p.m., where they are hoping to gain awareness of the program and their hard work, as well as attempting to get other people interested in the program.

Additionally, the Hounds have a goal of trying to place people in the top four places in the district tournament held at MICDS on Feb. 8-9. ☺

## College admissions for athletes proves complex process

[Gila Hoffman]  
Senior Managing Editor

For some high school seniors the college admissions process can begin as early as freshman year. Those who wish to play sports in college begin the recruiting process at a young age, joining select teams and contacting college coaches so that coaches can scout potential athletes.

"At the beginning of high school I was planning on playing soccer in college," senior Emily Anderson said. "I had played select soccer for years, so I started researching schools. Then I decided to switch to field hockey because I really needed an athletic scholarship to be able to afford college and I knew that I

would have a better chance getting scholarship money for field hockey than soccer."

The first thing Anderson did to help her case was to play on a select field hockey team called Gateway St. Louis.

She made a resume that included her athletic awards, academic awards, her academic classes, grades and extracurricular activities and a letter of recommendation from her coaches. She sent this resume to all the schools she was interested in.

Anderson started the process at the end of her field hockey season junior year.

"This is considered a late start because normally people start looking after their freshman year," Anderson said.

"Over the summer I went to a few camps of the schools I was interested in and made college visits so I could meet the coaches and display my skills," Anderson said.

"During my senior season of field hockey I made sure to stay in touch with the coaches about my season and our record. I also created a video of me playing to send with an updated resume."

For Senior Mark Heil the process started during the summer before his senior year.

"I had been talking to several baseball coaches who I had met at showcases and tournaments during the summer, and after talking to them I was invited to visit two schools to meet with the coach," Heil said.

In addition to Clayton baseball, Heil plays on a select baseball team that travels on the weekends to various tournaments around the country.

Senior Leigh Katz is also inter-

ested in playing field hockey in college. Katz has participated in many field hockey programs in addition to her role on the Clayton field hockey team. She participates in Futures, an Olympic development program that serves as good preparation for students trying to play sports

in college. Katz has also attended the National Field Hockey Festival.

"Festival is one of the best things you can do if you want to play in college," Katz said. "Almost every single college has one of their main coaches there. Before the festival I wrote some of the coaches letters so they knew to watch me."

Anderson also attended Festival, which takes place in California over the Thanksgiving weekend every year.

"At Festival this year I attended Admissions, 15

*It's a lot more work than applying because you don't just write essays... You have to sell yourself in a different way.*

[Emily Anderson]  
Senior

# Runners sprint through cold and rain to stay in shape

[Mary Blackwell]

Staff Reporter

Cross-country is in the spring and track is in the fall. So what do these runners do in the winter? They keep running of course.

Jessica Chen and Katie Poplawski lead the running club. Dylan Cockson, Krishna Vemulapalli, and Lewis Kopman are also involved.

"The main people in it, I guess you could say are really obsessed with running, so we're just kind of crazy, and that's our motivation," junior Poplawski said. "It's a stress relief, and it passes the time. Life is short, running makes it longer."

This is the first year in four years that track pre-season has started in the winter because in the past, track coach Barry Ford was coaching basketball during the winter months.

Now available, he and coach Michael Rust are preparing a group of about 15 boys and girls for track season. Pre-season track starts in the winter this year so runners can get ready for the regular season and stay in shape.

"The goal of pre-season track is to get in shape for outdoor track and to give runners a different experience to know what it's like to run indoors as well as outdoors," Ford said. "It will make everyone better. Everyone that participates in pre-season track will probably be a lot better than those who just show up for track in the spring."

Most runners prefer training outside, but when weather is bad, everyone is forced to train indoors.

Not much stops the running club; they will even run in the rain.

"We run in pretty much anything, the exception being under 20 degrees," Poplawski said.

The pre-season track group runs in Shaw Park, Gay Field track, the track in the Center of Clayton, and even the basketball courts depending on weather and availability. Some teams get creative with practice places. Coach Al Johnson coaches a group of high school aged boys from various local high schools.

"We practice on the bottom floor of the St. Louis County parking garage because it's one of the few in St. Louis where there aren't any cars at night," Johnson said. "We go down there because it's usually 20 or 30 degrees warmer there when it's really cold out."

There are many individuals and groups from numerous high schools in the area training for the regular track season including Berkeley, Jennings, Ladue, Parkway North, and more. Many realize the value of training in the off-season.

"Well, I think particularly in a sport like track in the middle distance and distance running you've got to keep yourself in condition all year and then intensify your training once the season begins," Johnson said. "More and more athletes even at the high school lev-

el are specializing in one sport and if you want to be competitive at the statewide level you've got to pretty much train year-round."

"I'm doing it because I don't have to go to every practice because I work," sophomore Nicky Turza said.

"It's flexible and I want to stay in shape before track season starts."

All of the members of the running club are in cross-country, but the main objective of the running club is not to train for cross-country.

"Long distance training it helps keep you in shape but it really is the wrong type of training for cross country," Poplawski said. "Cross country is only three miles and the races we're training for are 13 miles."

Poplawski and Chen are training for two half marathons and Chen hopes to run a full marathon.

"One of our members, Jessica Chen, is planning on it (marathon) next year," Poplawski said. "I can't, I'm not old enough, but maybe in college."

Also, the club sponsor has raised some money to cover entry to a half marathon in New Orleans but the trip is not final.

*Jessica Chen and I run together. It is the best motivator ever because when someone is running right next to you: you cannot stop running.*

[Katie Poplawski]

Junior

# Cardinal legend is traded to Padres for minor league prospect

[Nina Oberman]

Staff Reporter

The Cardinals are retooling this off-season with an eye towards making a run in 2008. Older crowd-favorites have been let go or traded in favor of younger, cheaper new talent. Jim Edmonds, an all-time Cardinal great, is now a center fielder for the San Diego Padres.

A Southern California native, Edmonds enjoyed no-trade protection with 10 years of MLB service, but offered to put his right aside if the Cardinals traded him to a West Coast team.

Recovering from operations on his right shoulder and left toe, Edmonds' performance in 2007 was under par. According to Sports Illustrated, he batted only .222 in April, and was costing the Cardinals over \$9 million a year.

"Unfortunately, Edmonds is not the player he once was, and I think it would have been another frustrating year for both Edmonds and the Cardinals while his productivity fell off," varsity baseball coach Craig Sucher said. "So, I think his trade will have a positive effect, but I personally, and I think many others, will miss watching Edmonds when he was at his best."

Although plagued by injuries last season, the eight-time Golden Glove winner recently pronounced himself fit.

"Everything is gone now, and I'm feeling really good," Edmonds told Sports Illustrated. "I'm feeling the best I've felt in five or six years. I'm already working out and already running and doing some things that I need to do."

In exchange for Jim Edmonds and cash, reportedly by the Padres to be \$2 million, the Cardinals will receive minor-league third baseman David Freese. At 6'4" and 200 pounds, Scout.com ranks Freese as the number 10 prospect in San Diego's system.

Sucher sees the trade as suitable for what the market will allow.

"To move a declining veteran player with declining productivity, you can't expect to have a lot of leverage," Sucher said. "Being ignorant of all the options, I trust the deal was the best one available. In concept it makes sense as it seems that the Cardinals are following through on their promise to invest in younger players as they rebuild."

Junior Daniel Shore, however, sees the trade as unreliable.

"Trading for Freese was not a good idea," Shore said. "The Cardinals simply got a prospect in return, and we have no idea if Freese will amount to anything in his career. It would have been nice to see Jim Edmonds traded for someone of more value or for the

Cardinals to allow him to retire as a Cardinal."

Sophomore Danny Steinberg, on the other hand, thinks that the trade was good not only for the Cardinals, but for Freese himself.

"Being around the other great players that the Cardinals have will help further his game quality," Steinberg said.

Edmonds' trade leaves room for a new centerfielder. Many believe his replacement will be Colby Rasmus, a young player who excelled in the Double-A Texas League last year but has yet to play in a Triple-A game.

"Colby Rasmus should fill in at centerfield, and in my opinion he'll do better than Jimmy," sophomore Matt Militello said.

Sophomore Connor Dougan, however, thinks that the Cardinals should have waited.

"I don't think it was time to trade Edmonds yet," Dougan said. "We should have kept him for one more year in St. Louis so we could develop Colby Rasmus more."

Sucher agrees that Rasmus is ill prepared.

*To move a declining veteran player with declining productivity, you can't expect to have a lot of leverage. Being ignorant of all the options, I trust the deal was the best one available.*

[Craig Sucher]

Varsity baseball coach



MCT campus

**Jim Edmonds, former Cardinal's center-fielder, was recently traded to the San Diego Padres after a frustrating past season.**

"I'm a little confused as to what is so exciting about a .275 hitter at Double A," Sucher said. "I can get my brain around him showing potential and developing further but to project him to make such a significant jump is unrealistic at best. Also, I haven't been able to watch him very much but in the video I've seen, he looks raw."

But as much as fans may lament this trade, Shore doubts it will have sizeable ramifications.

"I don't think that losing him will have a huge effect on the upcoming season," Shore said. "He was probably going to lose a lot of playing time this year be-

The pre-season track group has a chance to put their hard work to use and compete with others in local pre-season track meets.

"Usually they take place at places like Mizzou where they have an indoor track," Ford said. "It's a combination of college and high school but they run in different divisions."

To participate all you need is to pay the \$5 entry fee, participants don't even have to be a part of a team.

The track group has a coach to push them but the running club doesn't. They have to find ways to stay motivated, decide distance, and push themselves on their own.

"We're pretty laid back so we'll just be like hey let's run this far today," Poplawski said. "Jessica Chen and I run together. It is the best motivator ever because when someone is running right next to you, you cannot stop running. We'll be running 13 miles and there's the point where there's one mile left, and she'll sprint, so I have to try. It really helps me to push myself, and I think it helps her to push herself."

The running club meets twice a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and welcomes new members. Their training techniques include setting a destination and running left and right routes (turning randomly on streets and turning back when the distance seems far enough.)

Track pre-season meets four times a week but lucky for the runners, coaches aren't as tough as they are in the regular season.

"Pre-season track is more laid back it's a little bit intense but not at the same intensity level as the regular season," Ford said. ☺

cause of his age, so it's nice that the Cardinals are going younger and thinking about the future."

It is evident that with the acquisition of David Freese and Colby Rasmus, the Cardinals are moving toward a rebuilding phase. Yet the memories of Edmonds endure.

"He was always a crowd favorite because he was always one of the most exciting players to watch," Shore said. "My favorite memory of Jim Edmonds was when he hit his game-winning walk-off home run in the bottom of the 12th inning of the 2004 NCLS against the Astros to force a game seven and an eventual World Series berth. I was lucky enough to be at that game, and it's one of the best Cardinals memories I have."

Sucher recalled the same home run.

"Edmonds pumped both fists immediately after he hit it because he knew it was gone," Sucher said. "I had a very good feeling as he was approaching his at bat, I think the pitcher was Russ Springer and Edmonds had a lot of recent success against him. It was a no doubter and huge for the Cardinals because it was an elimination game for them. The next game he had a huge catch on a ball hit by Brad Ausmus that was a game saver. Those two offensive and defensive plays really epitomized what Edmonds brought to the Cardinals when he was at his best."

Junior Shannon Harms also remembered this series.

"I think that Jim's best catch was when he saved two runs from being driven in by the Astros," Harms said. "It was a spectacular over-the-shoulder diving catch deep in center field."

Dougan's favorite memory was a game-deciding catch in 2004.

"One play that really stuck out in my mind was against the Cincinnati Reds where he climbed the wall in the deepest part of the ballpark and robbed a home-run in the bottom of the ninth," said Dougan. "It was one of the greatest catches I have ever seen."

Although he is no longer a Cardinal, there is no doubt that Edmonds' leaps and bounds in the outfield will remain in fans' minds for years to come.

"Edmonds has been on the Cardinals for quite some time and has definitely become part of the Cardinal family," Harms said. "It will be sad to see him leave us." ☺

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# Hounds paw their way toward victory

[Evan Green]  
Staff Reporter

The Clayton High School varsity boys' basketball team has slowly turned around a season that appeared to be headed for the gutter after the first several games. By taking advantage of the strong play of junior forward Syd Warner and sophomore guard Devonte Bell, the Hounds have risen to 7-9 record after beginning the season 1-4. Bell, who has averaged 13.5 points, three assists and two steals a game, has been a prominent cog in the Hounds' backcourt.

"Devonte Bell and Syd Warner have really stood out on the offensive side of the ball, while seniors Whitt Downey and Zoe Veale, as well as freshman Christian Thomas have done exceptionally well from a defensive perspective," varsity boys' head coach Ryan Luhnning said.

Warner has been a force to be reckoned with in the lane for the Hounds. Warner has averaged 15 points, six rebounds and six steals a game for the team.

"I started off slow, but I have gradually picked up the slack, and I've also been crashing the boards a lot more," Warner said.

In the home opener against Lutheran South, the Hounds won 61-52. Bell had 25 points and went 10-10 from the free throw line, while Warner added 16 points to go along

with Veale's 12 rebounds. Warner exploded in wins over Kennedy (25 points, 11 rebounds) and Trinity (25 points, 13 rebounds). Warner had a game high of 21 points and seven rebounds in the loss to St. Mary's in the MICDS tournament.

"I really feel like the Trinity game was my best performance of the year," Warner commented.

The Hounds showed their potential in the MICDS Holiday tournament. They Hounds lost a heartbreaker to St. Mary's on free throws (50-47). The Hounds then proceeded to fight through the consolation bracket to the consolation championship against the host, the MICDS Rams. In a game in which the Hounds did not play their best, the team fought hard, only for MICDS to pull away at the end for a victory of (58-51).

Bell and Thomas both had 16 points in the loss.

The Hounds played in the CBC tournament where they competed with several large schools and had varying amounts of success.

The Hounds played the host, the CBC Cadets, in the opener. Although the Hounds lost (66-49) the score looks worse than the actual game.

Nevertheless, the Hounds beat the Lutheran North Crusaders 43-39 in their second game, in which Warner led the Hounds with 18 points. In the third place game, the Hounds took on a much bigger



Sophomore Alex Kasnetz takes a shot in the game against Lutheran South. The Hounds defeated Lutheran South 61-52.

opponent, McCluer, and lost 57-46. Bell led the Hounds in a losing effort with 16 points.

In the team's victories, the Hounds have excelled in several aspects of the game.

"We have really defended well and are holding teams to around 50 points a game, which is good," Luhnning said.

While the team has greatly improved, there is always room for development.

"We need to improve our game intensity in order to maintain our winning ways," Warner said.

Other members of the program also believe that there are ways the team needs to improve.

"We need to have better court vision and be stronger with the ball because we've had way too many turnovers," Luhnning said.

In the upcoming month the Hounds have key matchups with Normandy, Berkeley and a conference showdown with the Ladue

Rams in a game that always seems to bring the best (or worst in some cases) out of everybody. The Hounds battle the Rams on Feb. 8 at 5:30 at home in the Stuber Gym.

While the Rams have struggled this season (their record is 1-12), both teams always come out flying in the rivalry match up.

"Our hardest opponents left are Normandy and Berkeley because they both are loaded," Luhnning added.

The Hounds have a fairly easy district this year, which they will try to take advantage of when districts roll around the week of Feb. 18.

"Our team goal at the beginning of the season was to win our district and that goal is drawing ever more possible as the season continues," Luhnning said.

As the Hounds have made a remarkable turnaround, a district title on Feb. 22 would make the season absolutely magical. ☺

# The 'steroid era'

Dec. 13 marked an important date in baseball history as 89 Major League Baseball players were named in the Mitchell Report linking them to the use of illegal performance-enhancing drugs. The report was issued by former Senator George J. Mitchell and outlines many suggestions for the MLB to pursue to remedy the "steroid era" in baseball.

Among the 89 players listed are a number of the top players in the game including Yankees pitchers Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte, San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds (not a shocker), and many others.

The difference between these players, however, is how they handle the situation. After Pettitte admitted using HGH to recover faster from an elbow injury in 2002, Clemens took a different approach by declaring his innocence against the statements made by former strength and conditioning coach Brian McNamee. Clemens has been holding press conferences and has even gone on "60 Minutes" to prove that he never used any performance-enhancing drugs but I don't buy it.

The simple fact is that this is the steroids era in baseball and most of the players are probably taking some form of performance-enhancing drug. Why? Because people want to see a 450 foot homerun and they want to see 70 homeruns per season.

So, only naturally, this massive power surge from the plate inspired many pitchers to resort to performance-enhancing drugs such as Clemens, Pettitte, 2003 Cy Young winner Eric Gagne, and Brewers closer Derrick Turnbow.

What's not to like? Bottom of the ninth, two men on, two out, full count and you have juiced-up batter X and juiced-up closer Y. The formula is perfect for exciting baseball that is overly criticized for playing too many meaningless games in their 162-game season.

The fans came back to baseball in the 1998 season while Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa chased Roger Maris' single-season homerun record (then a wimpy 61 homeruns) for the first time since the 1993 MLB strike. I am not arguing that baseball should turn a blind eye just because the fans want to see this new style of baseball. I think that the MLB needs to

designate this era with an asterisk because of how many records are being broken.

In the past, controversy was made because the length of the season was made longer thus giving players more games and at-bats to break records. It only makes sense for Major League Baseball to admit its failure to administer drug testing and stop the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

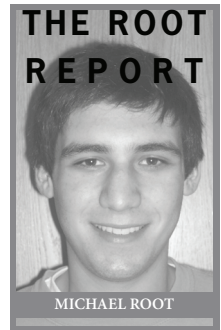
I do, however, have some questions about placing an asterisk by the entire era with the simple fact that I still have a slight—very slight—hope that there are a few who do not use any drugs and thus should not be penalized. Every day this controversy continues, I become more skeptical and lean towards my initial reaction that most players are juiced, and we should all accept that fact and move on.

I have no doubts that the players named in the report used some kind of performance-enhancing drug—yes, including Rafael Palmeiro even after his great acting and finger-pointing in front of Congress. I don't believe that the ex-players and coaches had any reason to lie in the report, and I think that the players named should admit their use of the drugs in order for baseball to begin its long road to regain the trust and legitimacy it once held.

I also think that Major League Baseball should listen to the Mitchell Report and enact some of its suggestions, ranging from additional unannounced testing of players to educating players and prospective players.

Like all sports, baseball has changed drastically from the old-time baseball with our parents' heroes of Hank Aaron and Stan Musial. Maybe this steroids era is not good for baseball, but then again maybe it is.

As a baseball fan, I hate to see players cheat, but the fact is that they would still be amazing baseball players without the drugs they take. Even with performance-enhancing drugs, a normal person could not hit a baseball out of a stadium or throw a 90-plus mph fastball with pinpoint accuracy. These guys are extremely talented, and that much should not be taken away from them regardless of their actions. ☺



# Athletes ponder admissions possibilities

CHS athletes have been working hard to make connections with college athletic coaches for the chance to play at a higher level.

Admissions, 13

the senior night that the tournament holds," Anderson said. "They book a hotel where colleges can go and set up booths and players can go around to the colleges and talk to them about how they played and where the schools stand on recruiting."

After Festival, Anderson made sure to keep in close contact with the coaches she invited.

"I didn't want them to forget about me," Anderson said.

Heil has also kept in close contact with several baseball coaches. In particular, he is looking to play

baseball at Columbia University.

"I told the coach that I wanted to go there and he said he was going to help push my application and advocate strongly on my behalf," Heil said.

Anderson is deciding between Ball State University and Miami of Ohio, who both said she could be a walk on player.

"I am taking a college visit to both schools soon to pick between the schools and talk about other scholarship opportunities," Anderson said. "Both visits are official visits, which means the school is paying for me to come and I will

be staying with the team and meeting with trainers."

Not only do students hoping to play sports in college have to go through this grueling process, they also must complete all of their applications.

"The process has been so much more stressful for me than it has been for other kids applying to schools because I have had to go out and talk to coaches and make them interested in me," senior Parker Rawdon said. "I provide the coaches with my schedule and try to get it so that they can see me play."

Rawdon hopes to play soccer in college.

The college admissions process for student athletes is much more personal. For many students a college will never have face to face contact with a student, but for athletes the process is all about showing your skill and making contact with coaches.

"It's a lot more work than applying because you don't just write essays," Anderson said. "This process has been more about contacting people. You have to sell yourself in a different way than when you apply normally." ☺

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# Girls' basketball aims to rebound after losing streak

**[Katharine Weiss]**  
Senior Managing Editor

"She shoots she scores!" is not a phrase the girls' varsity basketball team has been hearing as much as they would like in the second half of their season.

After achieving a record of 5-1 in the first half of their season, the team has hit a rough patch. Coming back from break, the team has been on a continuous losing streak, losing 5 games in a row.

However, the team is not letting their losses get in the way of their spirit or their goals for the rest of the season.

"We started off strong but since the break we have hit a rough patch," senior captain Erin O'Neal said. "I hope we can get back to being on a winning streak for districts. I am ready to stop losing."

Junior co-captain Diane Martin agrees with O'Neal that another winning streak is not out of the question.

"If we go back to playing fundamental basketball, we can get back on track to winning," Martin said. "I am looking forward to getting back to our style of play. I hope that we can get back our momentum for

districts. I would really like to have a run at districts."

O'Neal also agrees that it would be great if the team could make it to districts.

"I really want to enjoy my last month of playing basketball," O'Neal said. "It would be great if we could compete in districts."

Senior co-captain Laura Bliss is looking forward to ending her final season with CHS basketball in a big way.

"I'm looking forward to having more games as well as winning a few games," Bliss said. "I am really looking forward to playing Ladue. It is going to be fun to beat up on them a second time. Playing Westminster is also going to be exciting because we lost to them last year. Their old assistant coach is now their head coach and it should be a really good face off."

O'Neal is also looking forward to finishing out her last season on the team before college.

"I do not have any plans to play in college because I am going to a really big school," O'Neal said. "I will probably play intramural basketball in college."

Bliss also doesn't foresee a professional basketball team in her future.

"I am going to miss the team because it is such a big part of my school life," Bliss said. "I am also going to miss the games although I might play intramural in college."

Martin, However, still has one more year left and is looking forward to playing as a senior.

"Playing as a senior will be fun," Martin said. "Next year we will be more used to the coach's style as well as each other. This year because of our new team we have had to working on creating a new team dynamic."

However, It doesn't seem as though the team has been having a hard time creating a team dynamic. After losing many varsity players last year this year's team has worked hard to bond and create a new team style for the new year.

"This year the whole team gets playing time, there isn't just one good player," Bliss said. "Everyone is dedicated."

Bliss attributes much of the team's success to their pre and post game traditions.

"Before every game we go around and say what we want to accomplish in the game," Bliss said. "After the game our coach talks to us about how the game went."

While the team is fairly young

this year, Bliss believes that the underclassmen are an integral part of the team's success.

"We have four sophomores on the team," Bliss said. "They are a good addition to the team. They all contribute to the team really well. We couldn't do it with out them."

Martin also agrees that this years teamwork is very strong.

"We all get along very well," Martin said. "We have suffered a few losses of team members this year, but now we are a small as well as close team. Everyone who is still on the team really wants to be here and works really hard."

O'Neal who has spent three years playing varsity, says that while there have been many changes, they are a better team for it.

"This year, there is a whole different staff, different players and a different approach," O'Neal said. "I thought that the switching over process was going to be a lot harder adjustment, but it ended up being a lot easier than I thought. Our team gelled really quickly."

While weather or not the team will make it to districts is still just a question mark, one thing is for sure: with high hopes and lots of spirit this team is going to end their season with a bang. ☺



Senior Erin O'Neal concentrates on a free-throw during the Hounds' 32-27 win over MICDS on Dec. 11.



During the first game of the season, freshman Cory Cannon shoots a goal over the shoulder of the Rockwood Summit's goalie on Nov. 11. Clayton won the game 3-2.

## Hockey shoots to end season on high note

**[Evan Green]**  
Staff Reporter

To say the least, the Hounds season has been rocky. As the team has currently lost six games, the team has hit rock bottom, but their success in the beginning of the season balances their current struggles, and the team's upcoming opponents are definitely not the best the team has seen or will see this year.

"The best team we've played so far is probably MICDS," sophomore defender Sam Jacus said.

The team lost that game 3-1 to MICDS, but their overall record is still 7-9, and the team is 6-6 in conference play.

While the current losing streak is on many Clayton hockey fans minds when thinking about the team, often overlooked have been the high points of the season.

The team has really gotten a major boost from sophomore goalie Michael Vishnevetsky, who leads the area in minutes played (765), solo shutouts (2), and saves (427), as well as second in the area in goals against average (GAA) with a 43 goals allowed in 765 minutes), as well as second in save percentage with 91 percent.

"Vish(nevetsky) has really stepped up for us so far this season," Jacus added.

Offensively, the team has been

led by forwards senior Pat Rafferty, sophomores Connor Dougan and Jordan Stern, freshman Cory Cannon, and defensemen Sam Jacus and Michael Root. Rafferty is seventeenth in the area in points (16), and eleventh in goals (11).

As well, Cannon and Dougan are tied for fourteenth in the area in goals with eight apiece. Dougan also had a hat trick in a 4-4 tie against Fox earlier in the season.

Another bright spot for the team was their victory over Ladue in December 5-0.

"That was a really satisfying win for us, to keep the streak going against them (Ladue)," Vishnevetsky said.

While the team also pounded John Burroughs 6-0, they obviously have several weaknesses.

"We still need to score more and lower our amount of shots allowed per game," Jacus said.

Even though the team has a couple of glaring holes, the team has performed well in other aspects of the game.

"The intensity has been there consistently, and the fans have been amazing, as always, Vishnevetsky said.

Indeed the student turnout for games has been great, and the Hounds faithful will soon be rewarded as the team returns to its winning form. ☺

## Poms pump it up

**[Caroline Stamp]**  
Staff Reporter

As the buzzer sounds for half time, girls in black pants and sparkly tops run out. The CHS poms team takes the floor.

"Poms is a dance team that performs at half time at basketball games," Poms coach Maureen O'Brien said.

The poms team uses all different types of dance in the routines. They use hip hop, jazz, staccato, poms, and kick lines to make their dances.

"When I was a freshman, it was all hip hop," senior Preshus Jones said. "But now Coach Dana is trying to get us to do all types."

Over the past couple of years the poms team has gone through a makeover. The dances are different, and there is talk of going to competitions.

"The dance routines have changed," junior Brittney Byrth said. "They aren't as wild this year."

The team as a whole has also improved.

"It's really improved over the years, like in the routines," Byrth said. "How we are as a team also, like there is more unity."

With all the changes, the poms team hopes to start going to competitions.

"We are hopefully going to go to some pom competitions next year," O'Brien said. "We just need to keep building up and get to that point."

The types of music are also changing in the poms program. While you are watching the team, you might hear some of the current hip hop songs, but also some unex-

pected stuff. "The coach we have makes us dance to some old school," sophomore Rebakka Johnson said. "But we prefer more of the up-to-date songs."

Seeing the girls dance at the basketball games, it looks like a lot of hard work to learn the dances and make them perfect.

"Sometimes poms is hard because we have to dance a lot," Johnson said. "We can't fall behind because then we have to repeat dances at games instead of new ones."

As with any sport, dancers improve when they practice outside of school. Taking dance outside of school makes poms a little easier.

"Poms isn't hard to me because I've taken a lot of dance outside of school and I've had the experience," Jones said.

Even though poms is hard work, the girls still have a lot of fun with it.

"My favorite part of poms is just being there with all of my friends," Johnson said.

Other girls really like learning all of the cool dances.

"I really like learning all of the dances and the kick routines," Jones said.

After practice the dances and making sure every move is perfected, it's time to perform. Some of the girls get nervous, but you can tell by their bright smiles that they are having a blast.

"Right before, we all get a little nervous, but when we get out there it's like dancing at home in front of the mirror," Johnson said. "And it's fun to hear the crowd cheer for us." ☺



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# All-nighters obstruct student's academic lives

[Aaron Praiss]  
Editor

It seems as second semester rolls around, the work load builds up a bit, especially right after winter break. And, of course with this more intense work load, students are staying up later and later. Almost every student has pulled an all-nighter themselves for school work or knows friends who have. Many students define an all-nighter in different ways.

"To pull an all-nighter is when a student stays up all night to see the sunrise," junior Mack Su said. "Also, students stay up all night sometimes to catch up on academic work, which they have procrastinated on for months."

Nurse Carol Flannery shares a similar definition, "I would define an all-nighter as a night when a student spends most of the time doing homework, and not as much time sleeping or resting."

For every student it may be slightly different, but the name lends itself pretty closely to its meaning: staying up later than usual to finish academic work.

"I would consider a night in which a student gets less than one hour of sleep an all-nighter," freshman Elle Jacobs said. "Usually I have to stay up all night finishing a big project or if I have a lot of homework."

Typically, with high school students, all-nighters are times to finish procrastinated work or projects.

"I have pulled all-nighters several times," senior Paul Orland said. "I stayed up to finish author projects, a physics project and a bunch of science labs."

Either way, it seems that all-nighters have been a part of the high school atmosphere, and will continue to be in the future. However, the affects aren't always amazing or even helpful.

"A continued lack of sleep has a snowball effect," Flannery said. "I don't think students get as much sleep as the need to. They get on this cycle in which they constantly don't meet their sleep requirements. It can lead to using stimulants to stay awake, falling asleep in class, irritability, falling grades and being less alert when driving."

This is observable in any high school, as the work gets harder, the later students stay up, and the bigger the snowball gets.

"The next morning I don't want to wake up," Jacobs said. "I sleep in a bit later, which means I don't get as ready as I would like to be, and I'm tired for the rest of

the day. Usually I'm hyper in the morning and crash by the end of the day."

Besides the overwhelming sense of exhaustion, students need to realize the dangers of continuing their day without getting enough sleep.

"Almost everyone has a car," Flannery said. "A student does not want to be sleepy behind the wheel. Students also become more susceptible to disease or becoming sick."

"I always feel really bad the next morning," Orland said. "I have either a stomach or head ache, and I'm on the verge of falling asleep in class."

Of course, the next morning students will be very tired, which can cause a lack of focus during class, and an overall bad day. Also, it seems that the sleep or energy lost is gone forever.

"I don't think it is at all possible to compensate for the sleep and energy lost from an all-nighter," Su said. "Students will try to make up for the sleep lost the next day or during class, but I think that the sleep is lost forever and will never be seen again by the student."

Even if the sleep seems to be made up, by whatever means, it is an unhealthy cycle to join.

"You can make up the lost sleep," Flannery said. "But, it's not a good pattern to make up sleep on the weekend. It isn't good for the body.

All-nighters interrupt sleep patterns. Maybe a student does want to go to bed early, but they can't sleep because they stayed up so late the night before. You have to redevelop a healthy sleep pattern, almost like training the body to go to sleep and wake up at normal times."

Typically though, this is where the coffee comes in, as a means of rebooting the system. Yet, coffee can only last so long. Some students, who don't drink coffee, resort to soda.

"I don't drink coffee," Orland said. "So, I usually drink like a soda, and go to sleep right away the next night."

Even candy does the trick.

"I usually have a soda or some kind of coffee candy to make up for the lost sleep," Jacobs said.

For now, all-nighters seem to be useless, and a terrible means by which to get work done, since the student is left both trying to catch up on work and sleep.

"I feel like I'm getting work done throughout the night," Orland said. "I get caffeine high around three in the morning and my productivity is once again good."

After a full night's work, is the grade the same as

it would be if the work was done ahead of time, or is it better?

"When staying up late, chances are you aren't going to do as good a job on the assignment," Flannery said. "It might be better just to get some sleep, and wake up earlier to finish the work."

Even if some students can in fact complete quality work late at night, to insure a focused and well energized day to follow, sleep is the best solution.

Work just cannot be done the same way when a student is practically falling asleep.

However, there will always be times in life when everything is going on at once, and the only solution to keep doing everything is to stay up later and later.

"All-nighters aren't uncommon for me," Orland said. "But, I think that teachers put too much emphasis on work and deadlines. Teachers need to recognize that students are involved in other activities, sports, clubs and classes. If a student has to stay up all night to finish homework, the teacher needs to rethink things."

Especially at a school like CHS, where students are spread very thin, pulling an all-nighter is the only answer.

Yet, it becomes an unhealthy situation when the students is consistently staying up late throughout the week, and not getting enough sleep.

"There are some weeks which are packed with later nights," Jacobs said. "But there are also weeks with much less work and earlier nights."

At CHS, all-nighters are definitely prevalent throughout the week, but what about in the future?

"I may have to pull an occasional all-nighter in college," Orland said. "Hopefully not; I've learned my lesson in high school."

Hopefully students have now realized that all-nighters only worsen the situation, since everything falls behind. Rather than stress out more than necessary and lose sleep, simply get the work done ahead of time.

"I will probably have to pull more all-nighters," Jacobs said. "But I won't want to."

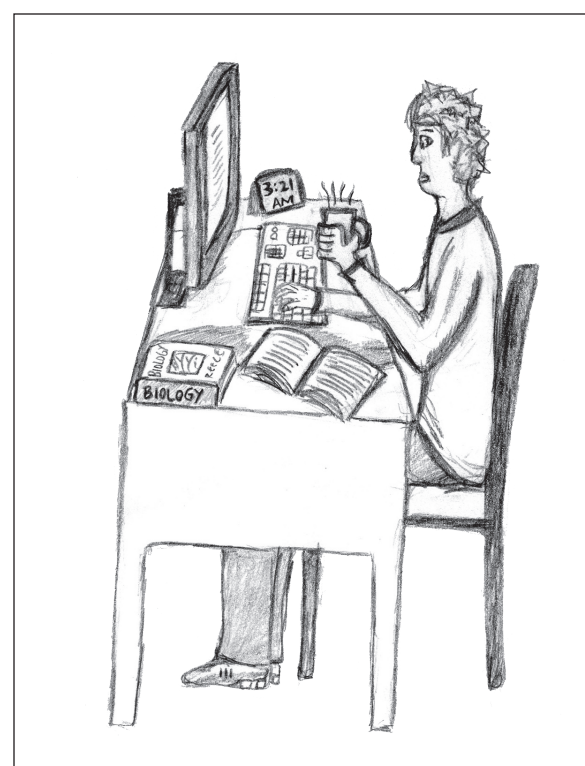
Even for the students who haven't had to pull many all-nighters, at CHS, the academic work load still forces students to stay up late.

"I have not pulled an all-nighter," Su said. "But I have sacrificed the majority of my nights to academic work."

So what does this all mean? All-nighters certainly have their positive effects, mainly a solution to get work done in desperate times.

But, once the negative effects are realized, students try to get work done before they have to pull another all-nighter.

"I would agree that students who sleep more, have slightly higher GPA's," Jacobs said. "My friends who go to bed at ten are more on top of it, organized and do



Tom Maxim

## I think teachers put too much emphasis on work and deadlines...If a student has to stay up all night to finish homework, teachers need to rethink things.

[Paul Orland]  
Senior

all of their work ahead of time. Whereas, the students who stay up later and more frequently, sometimes forget homework assignments and are more worn out throughout the day."

Other students agree that the earlier sleepers do better in school, but bring in the point that those students might not also be as committed to rigorous courses or other activities.

"I would agree that students who stay up all night working probably have lower GPA's as compared to students who get more sleep," Orland said. "I guess that's because the student who sleeps more is more organized and has less stuff to worry about; as in activities and other classes."

Leaving the grade behind, a healthy lifestyle is most important to maintain throughout life.

"A student should know his or her own body," Flannery said. "They should know their strengths and weaknesses. The amount of sleep a student gets is just as important as what they eat, or how much they exercise."

No matter the opinion, all-nighters are pulled constantly, and by many students. But, it is important to realize that even in hectic times, when too much is going on, it is important to get a good nights sleep, since one homework assignment truly won't make or break grades or GPA's.

"Listen to your body," Flannery said. "Getting sleep is just a component of maintaining a healthy lifestyle." ☺

# Tattoos offer personal meaning, pose risks to teenagers

[Kelly Moffitt]  
Co-Editor in Chief

One of the undisputed cultural universals of the human world is the concept of body adornment. Whether to display authority, rank, individuality, identification, stories, self-expression or simply for beauty, the idea of ornamenting one's self with piercings, markings, and tattooings has appeared to populations from Samoa, to Polynesia, to Japan, to Europe, to South America, to North America and back again since 4000 B.C. Basically, the art and ritual of tattooing can be found anywhere from prehistoric times to today, even in the CHS commons.

Mo Malone, a tattoo artist at the Loop's Iron Age Studio who has been tattooing for five and a half years, has learned the mistakes not to make with tattoos.

"First, you make a choice of what design you want," Malone said. "It doesn't have to be specific; a general idea is fine. Once you have made a choice, find an artist: every tattooer is different styles and skill level. Be picky; paying more for a good tattoo is better than spending more money trying to fix a bad cheap tattoo: you will regret it. Trust me: talk to the artist, if you do like their attitude, go to someone else."

In a 2003 Harris Interactive National Poll, 16 percent of all American adults had at least one tattoo. The age bracket 18-24 holds 13 percent of the total tattooed population of the United States.

Malone says about five percent of Iron Age's clients are high schoolers.

"Most parents don't want to sign

off on them using their body as a canvas," Malone said. "There are more kids willing to get pierced." Senior Malcolm Robinson isn't sure why he initially got a tattoo, but he's sure he wants more.

"I just came up with the idea to get one...I've always wanted one, so I just went and got it done," Robinson said. "I consider it artwork."

A St. Louis Arch, boxing gloves, the letters "STL," and Malcolm's name all intertwine to make his symbol.

I'm glad I got the tattoo, but I want to do better on the next one," Malcolm said.

Senior Parker Rawdon got a tattoo at Ironage Studio in April 2007. This tattoo holds special significance.

"I got the tattoo in memory of my father who passed away last year," Rawdon said. "It is just a reminder every time I look at my chest and see my father's initials, of what he meant to me."

Rawdon's tattoo is on his chest, in black ink. His father's initials are almost an inch tall and the date of his birth and death are in small writing below them.

"I have not had any strange experiences with people reacting to my tattoo," Rawdon said. "People are usually shocked that I have a tattoo and then I tell them what it is

and they understand why I got it. My mom seems to like it."

Math teacher, Kurt Kleinberg, who currently has two tattoos, got one of them after he graduated with three of his high school friends.

"The first one is a symbol of my friendship with three friends in high school," Kleinberg said. "All four of us got one. The second tattoo is a symbol of the bond between my father, brother, and me."

Though Kleinberg is sure of his own choice to get the tattoos, he hopes teens will put serious thought into the decision before getting a tattoo.

"It's your own body," Kleinberg said. "Do what you want to it: but keep in mind the possible repercussions."

The process of tattooing has changed quite a bit over recent years and can also be known by the name of "dermal pigmentation."

Today, the most common process of getting a tattoo is through an electric tattoo machine which is comprised of needles attached to soldering unit which repeatedly stabs into the skin, leaving pigment. If this sounds painful, imagine the original version created in 1891, which worked as a rotary engraving machine.

Right now, the most popular tattoos people get, according to

Malone are: stars, names, kanji (japanese symbols), and tribal symbols.

"The most popular spot as of late, has been rib tattoos on the side," Malone said. "I don't know why, but this trend is really picking up."

Most who have gotten tattoos seem only to remember the pain of the procedure.

"The pain was pretty bad but, luckily, the tattoo artist got it over pretty fast," Rawdon said.

Theatre Arts Director, Kelley Ryan got a tattoo last year and finds the happiness her first and only tattoo balanced out the pain.

"They hurt like heck," Ryan said. "I totally want to get more. It's addicting, but my husband's limited me to one per year."

Ryan's tattoo is an inspiration from the play she co-wrote and directed last year, "And Carl Laughed."

"It says 'Laugh,'" Ryan said. "I've wanted to get a tattoo for a long time, but I never felt there was anything significant enough to tattoo on myself. Last year, though, I met Carl Kabat, and writing this play about such an amazing person; it was a huge, huge event for me."

Ryan's tattoo is relatively small and did not take that long to get done. Time it takes to get a tattoo varies based on the amount of area covered and complexity of the tattoo.

It is possible to remove "permanent" tattoos through dermabrasion or lasers, however results may vary.

After getting a tattoo, special precautions must be taken to ensure the hygiene of the tattoo as

well as the aesthetics of it.

"After I got the tattoo I had to put lotion on it every day for a couple of weeks," Rawdon said. "I could not let water hit it directly and I could not go in chlorine or in the direct sun with it for a while. It took about three weeks for it to completely heal and feel normal."

Malone adds that keeping a tattoo from sun exposure could help preserve the pigment.

In addition to the possibility of an infection of the tattooed area, other health risks must be assessed.

People with skin allergies, or allergies in general should look into specifics before obtaining a tattoo.

Because tattoos require the breaking a skin barrier, its puts people at risk for blood-borne pathogen infection: the scariest of which is AIDS/HIV.

In the United States there are health codes that require licensure of tattoo parlors but it is always a good idea to check the license and steer clear of unknown/reputable establishments.

However, many simply think the benefits of getting a tattoo are far greater than the risks posed.

Malone says to watch out for parlors that charge too little, which at first might seem counterintuitive.

"If the minimum of the tattoo shop is not at least \$40, walk

out," Malone said. "On average it is \$100/hour. (If you are getting charged less than \$80/hour you need to question why). Remember that artists don't keep all the money, they need to pay for supplies, licensure, and pay large fees to the parlor."

For highschoolers older than 18 or with parental permission, tattoos can offer a growing experience for the individual. This is especially the case with Rawdon, who has grown as a person being able to remember his father.

"I thought it would be good to have a part of him on my body forever," Rawdon said. "It was a big personal step for me because getting something put on your body that will stay there forever is pretty big."

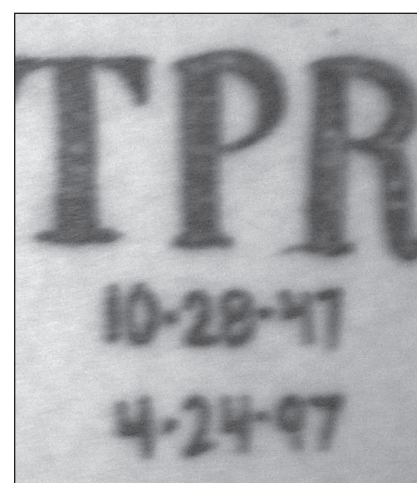
However, getting a tattoo is always a big decision and require thought.

"Take your time on thinking of a tattoo," Malone said. "If you still want it in a year, get it. You have your whole life! I had friends in college who were almost completely covered by age 25. I always thought: if you like tattoos so much and your skin is almost filled up at 25, what do you do when you run out of space? Take your time: you have nothing but time to decide." ☺



David Sherby

Senior John Goodfellow's tattoo of a maple leaf represents his love for Canada.



David Sherby

Senior Parker Rawdon's tattoo is in memory of his father who passed away last year.

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# TRAVEL ABROAD

Direct exposure to foreign culture is one of the most effective paths to international understanding. Recognizing this truth, two organizations have made it their mission to work toward world peace through cultural exchange.

## Hostelling promotes understanding through travel

[Jeremy Bleeke]  
Editor

In 2002, Richmond-Heights resident Mark Cockson and his then-80-year-old mother traveled to Europe together to see Pope John XXIII. While in Europe they stayed in hostels to save money and interact with other travelers. While hostels focus on young people traveling the world, they open their doors to the young-at-heart as well.

"It was totally awesome because there were all these people you got to meet and interact with," Cockson said. "And they were all traveling throughout Europe, so you could always find someone else who was traveling to a part of the country that you were, and you could talk about travel experiences with people who had been to a part that you hadn't been to."

Cockson knows a lot about hostels—he is the executive director for the regional Gateway council of Hostelling International USA. HI-USA is the American branch of the international nonprofit organization Hostelling International. There are 30 regional councils in America, with the Gateway council containing all of Missouri, and parts of Illinois, Kansas and Arkansas.

Hostelling International's stated mission is "to help all, especially the young, gain a greater understanding of the world and its people through hostelling." HI has more than 4,000 hostels in over 60 countries around the world. There are about 80 hostels in the United States.

Hostels are low-budget accommodations with dormitory style sleeping, a common kitchen, and a common room where people congregate and interact. Increasingly, hostels also offer private rooms for families or couples traveling together. They are located in cities from New York to Nairobi, but are out in the countryside as well. Depending on how big a city is, nightly prices can range from \$10

to \$35.

According to HI, "hostels are as varied in their looks as in their locations. Some are in modern, multi-story buildings and historic buildings that have been totally renovated. You can stay in a lighthouse on the California coast, a castle in Germany, a 19th century sailing ship in Sweden."

In 2007, Cockson and the Gateway council attempted to get a hostel established in St. Louis.

"A year ago we entered into a lease agreement with the University of Missouri St. Louis hoping to open a hostel in the old Incarnate World Convent," Cockson said.

The building, which had been a dorm for UMSL students, operated briefly as a hostel, but there were complications getting a business license so it had to close. Although Cockson says that there are no current prospects, he hopes to open another hostel eventually.

According to Cockson, formal hostels have been around for nearly a century.

"Hostelling got started in 1909 in Germany," Cockson said. "A school teacher and his wife—Richard Sherman—wanted to get German youth into the countryside. Students stayed in schools that were closed for the summertime. Hostelling got started in the U.S. in 1934 in New England."

Since then, hostels have begun cropping up all over the world in cities as varied as Sidney, Tokyo,

Rio de Janeiro, and Berlin. But they aren't everywhere yet.

"We have very few hostels in Africa, for example, because Africa is a continent that is still trying to catch up to the rest of the world," Cockson said. "There's a lot of poverty, a lot of diseases, a lot of endemic things—it's just not tourism connected. But many of the European countries, the Asian countries, Thailand, China, Vietnam and Korea all have hostels. The Philippines have hostels.

So you can literally travel around the world by staying in hostels very inexpensively.... Hostelling International has more beds in their hostels than Conrad Hilton has in his hotels."

Cockson believes that by making world travel more accessible, people will be able to go experience other places more readily, and ultimately will have a better understanding of cultures other than their own. He asks that when Americans travel abroad, instead of being "loud and obnoxious" and wearing "wild t-shirts, with all those logos and slogans on them," that they dress discreetly; rest like others in the country they're visiting; and try to learn 10 or 12 phrases in the language.

"Each culture has a different way of dealing with people who come to visit it and Americans are no exception to this," Cockson said. "We hope that Americans will be quiet, kind, and will listen... Americans traveling abroad are often loud and rude. Hostelling seeks to teach cultural competency. Cultural competency is the acceptance of another

culture and another culture's way of doing and looking at things that may be very different from the American way of life."

Cockson works to spread this message to youth locally as well, through various initiatives organized by the Gateway council.

"In October I [went] to Parkway South-West Middle School to give a presentation to about 300 seventh graders about hostelling and about what it means to be kind to others and to accept other cultures and be a world-wide citizen," Cockson said.

The Gateway council's main fundraiser for these regional programs is the now-famous Moonlight Ramble. The Moonlight Ramble is a 20-mile-long bike ride through St. Louis, which begins at midnight on the Saturday nearest the full moon in August. It has been held every year for the past 44 years, and now attracts about 10,000 riders.

"It raises money to pay for our educational and recreational programs," Cockson said. "The educational programs encourage people to go hostelling internationally and teach them to be good citizens when they visit other countries."

Cockson encourages high school students to get a membership with Hostelling International and start traveling.

Membership is free up to the age of 18, and is then \$28 a year. It includes a reduced rate for staying in hostels, as well as travel insurance, phone card, and access to Hostelling International's database which contains many resources for travel. Cockson believes that if more people would travel the world, it would be a much better place to live.

"The best part of hostelling is having a one on one conversation with people you don't know from other cultures and getting to understand that there's a common ground there," Cockson said. "Hostelling breaks down barriers. We'd have a lot more world peace if more people would hostel." ☺

*The best part of hostelling is having a one on one conversation with people you don't know from other cultures and getting to understand that there's a common ground there.*

[Mark Cockson]  
Executive Director  
Hostelling International



Courtesy of Jeremy Bleeke

Clayton students visit a building in Germany on a study abroad trip. During their month long stay, the students learned about German culture and daily life. Hostelling seeks to foster cultural understanding by making overseas travel more accessible for all.

## Organization sends students overseas for study



Courtesy of Jeremy Bleeke

Clayton students practice fencing in Germany on a study abroad trip. AFS connects American students with a host family in a foreign country where they live together for a year.

[Jeremy Bleeke]  
Editor

The years spent in high school often feel like some of the most important in life. Students discover where their interests lie, they form life-long relationships with people around them, and they do work which will largely determine where they go to college.

But every fall, thousands of high school students make the decision to leave all that behind and study for a year in a foreign country. The American Field Service (AFS) is a non-profit organization that places high school students from around the world in study abroad programs overseas.

Kate Raadt is a Regional Hosting Coordinator for AFS in the Midwest. Raadt's region includes Oklahoma, Missouri, and the Kansas City metropolitan area; she says that about 100 students will be coming to Missouri for the next school year with AFS.

"The way it works is a student goes abroad, or comes to America, and they are connected with a local volunteer who is a liaison for the student," Raadt said. "And so that liaison checks in with the student, makes sure things are going okay, and then the group of volunteers also does orientations, and mid-year events, and activities for the students."

Despite the fact that Kansas City is its own area, Raadt says that it still has more AFS students than either Oklahoma or the rest of Missouri. Raadt attributes this to the city's strong volunteer base.

"It depends on the strength of the volunteers," Raadt said. "Because although I'm the hosting coordinator, I'm the only person, and I'm in St. Paul Minnesota. So we have a volunteer base in Kansas City, and in Missouri, and in Oklahoma, and these volunteers are active community members who work with the schools and the host families and the students to do that. So if there's a lot of volunteers and a welcoming attitude of schools and host families then we can place

more students there."

AFS currently has over 30,000 active volunteers working in more than 50 countries. There is also a paid support staff, to ensure that the student is safe and taken care of in the country he's visiting.

But despite the many measures that AFS takes to keep its students secure, there are still countries where it can't send them. Other times, the restrictions might be country-specific.

"There are some countries that have better relationships with each other than they might have with the United States," Raadt said. "So if there's AFS in another country, for example Germany, then Germany sends students to America, but they also send students to China and India and Africa. And then those countries as well exchange students all over the world, so there could be certain countries that might choose not to host with other countries."

AFS seeks to mitigate tension or misunderstanding between cultures by putting people from different countries together in student-host relationships.

Through this direct communication, the participants hopefully will grow to appreciate and reconcile each other's similarities and differences.

"It's centered on learning about other cultures, and a way for us all to understand each other better," Raadt said. "AFS has a mission statement, and it's to create a more peaceful world by providing a learning experience across cultures. It's creating peace through understanding each other."

But despite the valuable cultural exchange, AFS provides a host of benefits for the student abroad. Of these, Raadt sees the most significant as being the high level of proficiency students attain in the foreign language.

"[Study abroad] is always a good benefit to a student if they want to better their language skills," Raadt said. "If you send an American student over to Germany or Spain, they'll be fully immersed in the culture and the

language, and so they're going to come back with phenomenal language skills."

Raadt says that although the prospect of spending a year abroad is daunting to many students, the benefits from such a program vastly outweigh the intimidating time commitment.

"It can be kind of hard to even imagine missing a whole year of high school and going to a foreign country all by yourself, but it's also empowering," Raadt said. "I think that's what youth realize when they come home, is that they've learned a lot and learned to be more independent and have gained some maturity through their experience."

Of course, there are students who know for certain that they don't want to spend an entire year of high school away from home. To accommodate these people, AFS offers summer programs as well.

However, for all of its programs, AFS stresses total immersion, which means not visiting home for the duration of the study period, not even during the holidays.

"They're actually encouraged not to go home during the holidays so that they can stay and experience an American Christmas or Thanksgiving," Raadt said. "Those are big times during the year that you can really learn a lot about a culture, by watching their traditions."

Deciding to spend a year abroad, living in a stranger's home, takes a significant amount of conviction. But Raadt believes

that the experiences gained through study abroad are highly valuable in a student's future.

"Even if it seems challenging, and they're worried about missing their friends and their family, a year goes really fast," Raadt said. "And when you come back you are just a very different person, and you've learned so much, and it will just enhance your future as far as college, as far as careers, as far as what goes on your resume. It's just a great experience." ☺

*I think that what youth realize when they come home is that they've learned a lot and learned to be more independent and have gained some maturity through their experience.*

[Kate Raadt]  
Regional Hosting Coordinator  
American Field Service

# Guitar Hero provides much distraction, entertainment

[Meredith Redick]

Staff Reporter

Dance Dance Revolution and Wii baseball are being rivaled by a new video game on the market. Guitar Hero, an interactive video game simulating guitar play, is sweeping the nation.

"Realize a true rock concert experience with all new venues, incredible lighting effects, authentic instruments and sick character moves," Guitar Hero's website reads.

The game features animated characters and colorful scenes, and the interactive aspect keeps it appealing for players. Participants hold a small plastic "guitar" featuring, among other things, five colored buttons and a tab with which to strum.

Each version of Guitar Hero—Guitar Hero, Guitar Hero II, Guitar Hero Encore Rocks the '80s and Guitar Hero III—offers 30 to 40 popular rock-and-roll songs. Easy, medium, hard and expert versions of each song allow players to gradually increase the difficulty of their game as they progress.

"I've beaten every song on medium, and I'm working my way through hard," sophomore Jack Harned said.

While progressing all the way to expert level takes time and energy, some avid players consider it to be worth the effort.

"It is a very worthwhile investment of your time," sophomore Allie Lake said. "It improves your musical skills."

Lake has played guitar for three years, but believes that her mastery of Guitar Hero II has not improved her guitar playing.

"It probably makes it easier to play Guitar Hero when you know how a real guitar works, but it doesn't work the other way around," Lake said. "Guitar Hero makes you more aware of the different chords, though, and it makes you appreciate the difficulty of some guitar parts."

Senior Steven Glynias believes that guitar skills cannot be transferred onto Guitar Hero.

"I don't play guitar and I don't think playing guitar gives a significant advantage once someone has

been playing Guitar Hero for a while because you just get used to playing the controller," Glynias said. "Sometimes my friends that play guitar even say that just having the five keys bothers them."

Junior Hope Clarke agrees. "I actually play guitar, but there's absolutely no advantage," Clarke said.

Players of Guitar Hero often get caught up in the intensity of playing concerts on the game.

"I don't play every day, but when I do, I play for like three or four hours," Lake said.

Guitar Hero also monopolizes Glynias' attention at times. "It can be a waste of time because I will play for much longer than I really should," Glynias said.

Like other forms of entertainment, Guitar Hero can distract students from schoolwork. "I play at least once a week, every Sunday afternoon or evening, instead of doing homework," Glynias said. "It doesn't distract me, I just don't want to do my homework."

Some students avoid playing on school nights.

"I try not to play when I have homework to do, because I probably wouldn't put it down for a couple hours," Lake said.

Although Lake owns both Guitar Hero II and Guitar Hero III, Guitar Hero II is her preference.

"Guitar Hero II songs are amazing, but Guitar Hero III songs kind of suck, because they're a lot of 80's songs that I don't like," Lake said.

Most students, though, are satisfied with the variety of songs.

"I think that there is a good mix of songs that I know and like, songs that I have heard and liked but didn't really know their names, and good songs that I had never heard of before," Glynias said.

Harned also likes most of the songs.

"They are very good songs, except the ones I can't beat," Harned said. "Those ones are terrible."

The most difficult songs on Guitar Hero require an adept hand and knowledge of the song.

"I beat Expert on Guitar Hero 2, but it took me a while," Lake said. "I am currently trying to beat Expert on Guitar Hero 3, but that stupid Slayer song is a pain."

Lake has mastered every Expert-level song on Guitar Hero except for Metallica's "One" and Slayer's



Julia Reilly

Student plays Guitar Hero, the game that has captivated millions of other teens in the United States. Guitar Hero has rivaled other wildly popular games such as Wii and Dance Dance Revolution.

"Raining Blood."

"They're both impossible," Lake said. Although Lake continues to work towards mastery of these songs, she plays easier songs for fun.

Players can choose a character to represent themselves, with options ranging from the cartoonish stereotype of an AC/DC "rawk" god to a hardcore goth rocker.

"I like Clive Winston because he just looks like he is chill and like someone that I would want to rock out with," Glynias said.

Junior Nichole Burton plays with more than one character.

"It's a tie between Xavier Stone, a punk-rock version of your classic funk guitarist, and Slash, a member of Velvet Revolver," Burton said.

Clarke doesn't have a specific character she sticks with, but prefers a certain look.

"My character of choice is anyone who looks like they could kill someone with their bare hands," Clarke said.

Different guitars are offered so that players can

choose an instrument that matches their character, although the guitar options are less extensive than characters.

For Guitar Hero enthusiasts who are interested in the other aspects of a band—vocals, bass, and drums—a Guitar Hero-style game has been created by Harmonix Music that includes a microphone, bass guitar, and drum set as well as a guitar. The game, which is called Rock Band, has attracted fans of Guitar Hero.

"I just got it a few days ago but I can't keep myself from it," Glynias said. "I love playing it. I like it so much because I can play with my friends and it offers so much variety through the drums, vocal, guitar, and bass options."

For Clarke, though, Guitar Hero is sufficient to meet her entertainment needs. "Who needs any other game when you've got 'the Hero'?" Clarke said.

All in all, Guitar Hero seems to be a popular choice in video games for CHS students.

"Guitar Hero is one of those games that anybody can play...it's highly addictive and unreasonably fun," Burton said. ☺

# From New York to Marrakech, students explore the world



Over winter break junior Mary Barber and her mother, counselor Ann Barber, flew over the Atlantic to visit the city of lights: Paris, France. Top: Mary poses with the famous Eiffel Tower in the background. Bottom: Mary with a statue in the Louvre Art Museum.

[Maddy Bullard]

Staff Reporter

Winter break has come and gone, but for some CHS students, special memories remain. Although many feel as if the break gets shorter and shorter with each passing year, these students made the best of their 13 days of break.

Freshman Erin Bax traveled to New York City with her family this winter break. Bax did lots of sightseeing in NYC. Battery Park, the Statue of Liberty, Wall Street, Ground Zero, Central Park, 5th Avenue and Rockefeller Center were big hits. Perhaps the best part of Bax's trip was the Giants game she saw. The Giants lost to the Patriots, making the Patriots' record 16-0 for the regular season.

"The New England and New York fans were crazy!" Bax said. "The tickets were even selling for \$2,000."

And as if the exciting football game wasn't wild enough, Bax said some rowdy fans were thrown out of the stadium.

"We saw two fights... [one in] 20 people were kicked out," Bax said.

Sightseeing in New York is always fun, but this unique part of her trip really made Bax's vacation memorable.

"The game was definitely my favorite part of the trip," Bax said.

Another freshman, Elle Jacobs, also took a unique trip over winter break. She, too, visited NYC, and then turned around and headed for Atlanta. The trip was a surprise for Jacobs and her siblings.

"It was awesome," Jacobs said. "I went to two plays, 'Jersey Boys' and 'Legally Blonde'." "Jersey Boys" had some amazing singing and "Legally Blonde" was really cute!

Jacobs did a lot of shopping on her trip, including 5th Avenue and SoHo. She also saw Times Square.

"I loved all the lights in Times Square and all of the clothes!" Jacobs said.

But her trip wasn't over yet.

"In Atlanta we drove 10 hours in a car with four people," Jacobs said. "We shopped a little bit."

There were also some sights to see in Atlanta.

"We...went to CNN and took a tour," Jacobs said. "There was an escalator that went up eight stories!"

Overall, Jacobs enjoyed her cross-country vacation.

"It was sooo cool!" Jacobs said.

One of the most unique trips was junior Mary Barber's vacation to Paris with her mom.

"It was a surprise Christmas present from my dad and I found out the last day of finals and I left for France the next morning," Barber said. "I basically visited all the really touristy stuff, like the Eiffel Tower, the Arc du Triomphe, a

boat tour on the Seine, the Champs-Elysees, the Louvre, the Musee d'Orsay and the Musee de Rodin. I went shopping a lot, and I saw the Moulin Rouge, Notre Dame and Sacre-Coeur."

Barber has a favorite memory from her trip.

"My favorite part was definitely going up into the Eiffel Tower on Christmas Day," Barber said. "It was a breathtaking view, and I thought it was an extremely special way to spend the holiday with my mom."

Another very unique trip was senior Matt Katzman's vacation in Morocco. Morocco proved to be a very interesting and fun vacation spot for Katzman.

"We spent time in one of the craziest cities in the world, called Marrakech," Katzman said. "In Marrakech there were different types of souks, which is a market with an individualized specialty. For example there is a spice souk, leather souk, [and a] fish souk... oftentimes all these places are right next to each other and very compact."

Morocco was at times confusing for Katzman.

"There are so many back alleys and small streets that it is easy to get lost," Katzman said. "One day we spent a while just trying to find our hotel, or riads as they are called."

Katzman spent time in other cities besides Marrakech as well.

"Another city I liked was called Essouira which is a mini-Marrakech on the Atlantic coastline," Katzman said. "Jimi Hendrix lived there for a while and Cat Stevens now lives there."

A small portion of the Sahara Desert is also located in Morocco.

"We also spent time in the desert," Katzman said. "...we went sand boarding and rode camels into a tent camp to spend the night."

Katzman noticed that Morocco had not only diverse geography, but also diverse culture.

"One thing that was really cool was the way that the culture in the desert (nomad, darker skin) differed from that in the northern cities (modern, lighter skin)," Katzman said.

Katzman's favorite sights in Morocco were riding camels through the desert at sunset and the main square in Marrakech at sunset.

"I think my favorite part was the desert, messing around in the dunes and just hanging out or trying to find my way around the intense souks in Marrakech," Katzman said.

Regardless of the trips taken or the sights seen over winter break, it is undoubtedly a great time for CHS students to relax and have a good time right here in Clayton or elsewhere in the world. ☺

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**JOSEPH C. WELSCH**

# Student magazine displays creative writing

[Ken Zheng]  
Staff Reporter

One of CHS's best-kept secrets is The WORKS, a nationally recognized student literary magazine, but this year's staff wants to give it more exposure.

While the literary magazine has gone through several sponsors and different names, it has been known as The WORKS since 1994. At that time, it was sponsored by former English teacher, Nick Otten. From the creation of The WORKS, students under Otten's guidance have put out 19 magazines in 11 years, plus dozens of postcards, broadside posters and bookmarks.

Before that, the high school had a very small-scale Xerox magazine called Inkblot, pretty slapdash, that came out once at the end of the school year or not at all. Inkblot went on-again, off-again for over five years.

John Ryan, current sponsor of The WORKS said the magazine publishes original work by CHS students such as poetry, short fiction, essays, photographs, digital images and photos of 3-D artwork such as sculpture and pottery. There are a total of nine members currently on the staff of The WORKS. They include Jeremy Bleeke, Maddy McMahon, Mack Su, Anca Grindeanu, Rhiannon Jones, Caitlin Bladt, Maggie Minton, Leah Eby, and Andrew Dowd.

"Roles are beginning to cement," Ryan said. "Some students are just interested in reading manuscripts, others doing design and layout, others serving as editors, still others who generate concepts for contests, getting submissions, etc."

The WORKS is funded through the Student Activities Office and costs up to \$1,500 dollars a year to publish. Each issue generally has somewhere around 30 total literary and artistic entries. The WORKS normally is published at the end of the year, but this year the staff is aiming to have it ready to go by April.

Students may submit their own work or have it recommended by another student or teacher. Student readers and editors make decisions on acceptance, but Ryan has final say.

"It fits with the policy that the school board upholds," Ryan said. "I use my discretion about the appropriateness of an item for publication. Sometimes that's a matter of taste, sometimes it's a question of inflammatory language or even pornographic material. If a student wants to submit a story about systematically killing other students and then blowing up the school, we won't be interested: for aesthetic reasons and for moral ones. I have a high tolerance for all kinds of art. But there are real-world limits to freedom of speech; nor is speech that could lead to threats to people's safety (the famous prohibition against yelling 'Fire!' in



Dakin Sloss

The WORKS sponsor John Ryan discusses design ideas for the upcoming issue with junior Leah Eby.

a crowded theater, for example). Generally, we don't have a problem with rejecting student work on this issue; we just plain don't get this kind of writing."

Ryan also personally enjoys writing. "I write poetry and fiction myself," Ryan said. "I worked on Natural Bridge, the literary magazine of UMSL's graduate writing program, as an editorial assistant several years ago. I have submitted my own work to literary magazines for years and have numerous poetry publications. I love to identify student work that deserves a wider audience than the classroom generally provides."

The process for publishing The WORKS is long and grueling. Most teachers know that when they see a promising piece, they will ask the student to send it to the magazine.

Ryan describes The WORKS' goals this year as being laidback.

"This year our goals are pretty modest: we want to produce a quality magazine that demonstrates the range of CHS students' creative capabilities in the visual and written arts," Ryan said. "We may add one or two short pieces, such as postcards and bookmarks. Long-range, I'd like to see us produce a consistently

good, readable magazine that gets into the hands of the larger CHS community—and beyond."

Junior Anca Grindeanu who moved here this summer, sees her job as a member of The WORKS as not only editing, but also an adventure.

"It's not just editing," Grindeanu said. "It's coming up with ideas, creating a book and being allowed the privilege to use amazing work from other students to do so. It's a challenge in itself. I just wanted to work with what other students write, and I was told of a few clubs. The WORKS just happened to be the best."

Grindeanu is optimistic about the purpose of The WORKS.

"I think The WORKS was intended to bring out the voice of high school students," Grindeanu said. "Its purpose is to let others know that there is a lot of great work produced by teenagers. And somehow it all falls together neatly in a magazine. I see not just a group of students putting together a magazine, but a collection that shows life, students, and experiences which is something that everyone can learn from. I see art, poems, creative writing pieces being squished together

*We want to produce a quality magazine that demonstrates the range of CHS students' creative capabilities in the visual and written arts.*

[John Ryan]  
The WORKS Sponsor

# Radio station's effort crafts fine news

[Hannah Novack]  
Staff Reporter

When you listen to KWMU 90.7, you often hear the phrase "In-depth news and intelligent talk," and this is definitely an accurate statement.

KWMU is different than most St. Louis radio stations in that it's a public station licensed through the University of Missouri-St. Louis and a National Public Radio station.

NPR is a national news organization that provides commercial-free programming to about 800 stations nationwide, including KWMU. These radio stations offer a mix of both national and local news as well as discussion and entertainment shows.

KWMU spends about \$250,000 a year in order to provide St. Louis listeners with popular programs including "Morning Edition," "All Things Considered" and "The Diane Rehm Show," as well as many others. It is a difficult task to raise that kind of money while remaining "commercial free," but KWMU gets funds from many different sources.

Fifty percent of funds are received from listener donations, 10 percent is received from the government through the Corporation of Public Broadcasting, and the remaining funds are raised from businesses in exchange for "soft sell ads," which is some of the only advertising done by the radio station, which includes reporters telling listeners about different local businesses, advertisements in trade publications and posting available positions on the KWMU website and the UMSL website.

Having no commercials isn't the only thing that distinguishes KWMU from the other stations. The station's broadcasting tends toward more news and analysis, and also offers a more journalistic

approach to news.

"There aren't a lot of opinion shows, so listeners don't hear just one side of the spectrum," KWMU reporter Maria Hickey said.

Hickey adds that KWMU listeners prefer information and news rather than listening to a shock jock.

Another distinctive characteristic is that there is more focus on international news, for instance BBC World Service is broadcasted nightly.

"We have hundreds of stories on our station everyday," KWMU News Director Bill Raack said. "Those that are produced by KWMU reporters number from two to five, however."

Raack has many various responsibilities in his position as a news director. "I assign stories for reporters to cover, edit their stories, cover news stories myself, oversee the news department, and report to the Program Director on the activities of the news department," Raack said.

His days starts at around 8:00-8:30 a.m. when he consults with the morning newscaster about any important stories that need follow-up. Next, he checks for any new emails and faxes about news releases or media advisories.

"I also touch base with all of the reporters as they arrive to determine their day's activities," Raack said.

The six reporters, including two newscasters, two general assignment reporters, a science reporter, and a legislative reporter in Jefferson City, are very busy throughout the day preparing to go on air.

"I work Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sometimes I

have to work longer, but typically my hours are pretty set," Hickey said. "I do have to be 'on-call' every fifth weekend, which basically means that I'll cover any huge breaking stories."

Hickey says that in her line of work there is no "typical day," but her day usually starts off with her news director calling her at home to attend a press conference or meeting, or she arrives at the station around 10 a.m. and discusses any potential story ideas.

"I find stories by a combination of keeping my ear to the ground—hearing what's happening around St. Louis and keeping a day file," Hickey said.

KWMU reporters as well as news directors, like Raack, maintain a day file, which is a file for each day that includes

press releases and any important events that are occurring on any given day.

When Hickey goes on the air she usually reports "spot" news or feature stories. These two different types of stories are prepared in different ways.

"For a spot news story, I do quick, taped phone interviews and use 'bites' from this conversation in the story," Hickey said.

"Spot" news is short, brief, and usually lasts only about 40 seconds.

Feature stories, however, last about 3 to 4 minutes, so they involve a lot more work (they can take days or even weeks to produce). Also, feature stories give reporters more of an opportunity to connect with a listener by using "nat" or natural sound.

"Nat" sound is used, for instance, if I'm doing a story about an ice rink—I'll record sounds such

as skates on the ice, someone buying hot cocoa, and other sounds that you'd typically hear at an ice rink," Hickey said. "This technique can get someone who's listening to visualize the story."

Hickey says the majority of her time is spent writing and producing a story rather than in the field.

"If it's a big story I'll 'wrap' it," Hickey said. "This means I'll voice the story so that it can be played on other public radio stations in Missouri and Illinois and for our air the next morning."

Hickey has six newscasts each day ranging from two minutes to three minutes.

"Before going on air, I talk to my co-workers to see what they're working on and when they'll have the stories done," Hickey said. "I also look at the AP wire, and I check the Missouri and Illinois Public Radio FTP sites to see if there are any stories that would be of interest to our listeners."

Hickey attended the University of Iowa where she majored in journalism and history.

"[While in school], I worked for the college newspaper and interned at a daily newspaper, where I eventually got a full-time job," Hickey said.

Hickey worked on the daily newspaper for about a year, and for the past 9 years she has been in public radio.

Hickey sees many benefits from working at a public radio station, like KWMU.

"I found daily newspaper somewhat constricting," Hickey said. "Usually each person has a beat that they cover, and they don't get to do stories about other things they might be interested in. In public radio, I cover everything from politics to arts to environmental issues. And the bonus is that I can pitch stories to NPR and get my stories played nationally." ☺



Katharine Weiss

Senior Dakin Sloss and junior Jeremy Bleeke hold their scholar quiz tournament trophy.

# Club tests knowledge

[Ting Lu]  
Staff Reporter

Picture yourself on the set of a game show. The game show host is about to ask you the last question, and depending on who answers the final question correctly, your team could lose hours of hard work and practice.

The CHS scholar quiz team is a student group that competes in academic competitions with other high school teams in the surrounding area. High school scholar quiz competitions are very much like the game shows that are on television.

English teacher Dave Jenkins started the scholar quiz team at Clayton in 2006. The team typically meets Tuesday and Friday mornings and after school a few days a week to help students prepare for the competitions.

Although there are no cash prizes, many students believe that participating in scholar quiz competitions are rewarding. Junior Joshua Oberman said that he participates because he enjoys the challenge.

"I participate in scholar quiz because I enjoy competing academically," Oberman said. "Also, it encompasses some of the same elements as an athletic competition. The atmosphere is intense and everyone has to be work as a team in order to win."

Students agree that the one thing that makes scholar quiz interesting is the variety of questions that are asked.

"Scholar quiz is fun," senior Michael Hyrc said. "We compete in tournaments and we win trophies. It's fun to show off how much you know."

During a typical scholar quiz competition, each team sits at a table with a button to press if they wish to answer a question. When a question is asked, the team that presses the button first will get to answer the question. Answering questions correctly scores points,

and whichever team earns the most points wins.

Some competitors say that often times, the same questions that they prepare will be asked in competitions. Memorizing the questions and the answers is a technique that many scholar quiz students employ. Once a question is asked enough, students automatically memorize the answers.

Oberman said that he prepares for competitions by using quiz books.

"Jenkins gives us quiz books and we quiz each other before competitions," Oberman said. "This helps me prepare a lot."

Quiz participants not only enjoy the educational value, but also like to win trophies and feel proud.

"I would highly recommend it to other people," Hyrc said. "We have done well at regional tournaments and they are usually always a lot of fun."

Oberman also strongly recommends scholar quiz to students.

"If you are academic and you are interested in competing, you should join scholar quiz," Oberman said.

The Clayton team has been doing well at tournaments and hopes to win more trophies.

"My goal is to facilitate a competitive team that recognizes honors," Jenkins said. "This is the kind of things that schools are about in the classroom."

Jenkins thinks that one of the best aspects of the scholar quiz is the positive atmosphere. "This is a sense of comradeship among the team," Jenkins said. "It's always fun to test against other teams and hope to come out on top."

Overall, most participants agree that scholar quiz is worthwhile and that they have learned a lot from it. New members are always welcome to come share their wealth of knowledge and gain academic competition experience. ☺

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James McAvoy and Keira Knightley star in "Atonement", an English film set during WWII

## Film 'Atonement' needs atoning for

[Anya Veremakis]  
Editor

The literal meaning of atonement is the "reparation for a wrong or injury." After seeing Director Joe Wright's version of "Atonement," I have a new understanding of the word. As I sat through two long hours in the movie theater, all I could think was that Wright and the others who contributed to the production have a lot to atone for.

"Atonement" has been receiving excellent reviews and even won the Golden Globe for best picture; however, I must disagree with the Hollywood buzz.

The acting was mediocre, the characters were poorly developed, the middle was overly long, and the end seemed out of place.

The story begins in 1935 on the estate of a rich English family, the Tallises. Briony Tallis (played by Saoirse Ronan), an extremely privileged 13-year-old girl, is the first character introduced. Briony is an aspiring writer with a great imagination.

Soon it is vaguely indicated that Briony's sister, Cecilia Tallis (played by Keira Knightley) and Robbie Turner (played by James McAvoy) have romantic feelings for each other. Robbie is a very intelligent and hard-working young man who lives off the estate and has ties to the Tallis family because he is the son of the housekeeper.

Robbie is clearly in love with Cecilia and writes two letters to her after the two have an argument. One letter is highly provocative and has some crude sexual language (which is never meant to get to Cecilia) and the other is a true apology.

Of course, Robbie accidentally grabs the wrong letter and asks Briony to deliver it to her sister. Although the letter catalyzes the romance between Cecilia and Robbie, Briony reads it and decides that Robbie is a sex-maniac.

Briony now disapproves of her sister's romance and falsely accuses Robbie of a crime in order to separate the two lovers. The lovers remain separated and as Briony grows older, she begins to feel the weight of her actions.

The great connection between Cecilia and Robbie, the basis of the movie, was underdeveloped and the audience wasn't ready for their professions of love to each other in the first half-hour.

Additionally, there were what seemed to be a few key characters that were not explained or developed at all, leaving the audience in confusion.

Although I thought the film failed on many levels, I cannot deny the fact that the cinematography was brilliant. It was not enough to save the movie, but it was the only aspect of the film that is deserving of an award.

Throughout the film, there were numerous flashbacks, close ups, and scenes enacted in different points of view which were filmed beautifully. The truly artistic and creative manner in which the first hour was filmed was what made the film bearable.

The cinematography and the small bits of intriguing storyline enticed the audience to want to keep watching. However, the hopes that the movie would finally take off were in vain.

With all the rave reviews, I naively expected an excellent film out of "Atonement." However, after wasting a Saturday afternoon on what proved to be a great let down, all I can say is do not be duped by the reviews you read; the film is overrated.

# Debate movie stutters, fails to articulate the true power of speech

[Kelly Moffitt]  
Co-Editor in Chief

I knew "The Great Debaters" was going to be good. I mean, it had everything going for it: Denzel Washington as director, Forest Whitaker, Denzel Washington as an actor, an inspiring storyline, and Denzel Washington as, well, Denzel Washington. But I knew from the moment the credits began to roll that there would be no way I could enjoy the movie unless it was great and, unfortunately, great, it was not.

Though the movie was highly entertaining, it fell flat to me for several key reasons: it rode too highly on the strength of the main characters, had dull writing, a predictable plot, and it tried to twist the plot to achieve an even more inspiring ending than it really had.

The film just seemed to be missing that spark necessary to catapult a movie from good to great. It's not that I didn't enjoy the two hour and three minute I spent in the theater-it's just that I wasn't moved or inspired by it, like I was with Denzel's directorial debut with "Antwone Fischer" (2002).

But I guess I should have expected the over-the-top sappiness and predicatibility as Oprah Winfrey produced the film and her mission in life is to sappyfy everything in the entire world. Not to mention the Oscars are right around the corner.

The movie is based loosely on a true story and it has a obvious "inspirational" plot: small Texas all-black Wiley College in 1935 slowly works its way up the debating ladder to prove its (and black students everywhere) worth in competition with big, bad, all-white (and racist no less!) colleges. Miraculously, and through great personal grit on the part of the debaters, the team catches the eye of the famed and ferocious Harvard Crimson (we'll come back to this later) debate team, who invites them up for some nice, friendly, and nationally radio-broadcast competition.

Behind every awe-inspiring team, of course, there must be an equally awe-inspiring and fiery leader. In this case its famed poet and debating coach, Professor Melvin Tolson who is played by the fabulous Denzel Washington who has never ceased to be awe-inspiring and fiery in any role he's in (be it "Remember the

Titans," "Glory," "The Hurricane"...the list goes on). Tolson takes the no-holds-barred approach to debating, wittling down the team to whom he sees as being the best at the college (or at least the ones with the most potential for oratorical greatness). Though we never really see or understand why these kids are such great debaters, all the hype surrounding them is enough to force us to believe. The team consists of four members, whose prescribed roles never really require a script in order for us to understand their personal struggle for greatness.

First we have the troublemaker cum debate prodigy: Henry, played by Nate Parker ("Pride"), who plays his part exactly the way everyone wants him to. He's got some issues bottled up inside over race, girls, and, yep, you guessed it "the man." But don't worry, he will prevail in the end and become the reformed and learned man we all want him to be.

Secondly, we have driven bookworm cum scorned lover cum debate prodigy: Samantha, who is played by Jurnee Smollet ("Roll Bounce," "Gridiron Gang"). She's the first girl to ever be on the debate team and Smollet does a great job with the material, actually trying to make her character have more depth than a reflecting pool. She and the aforementioned Henry have a little bit of a romantic trauma lost somewhere in the middle of the film so the audience not only learns why racism is bad but also why you should never date a cheating, lying scumbag who you want to reform but simply can't and will have to work in close quarters with...no matter what.

Thirdly we have the seasoned debate prodigy cum man of moral fiber: Hamilton, played by Jermaine Williams ("Stomp the Yard"). I really have nothing to say about the really inconsequential actor in an inconsequential role.

And, fourthly, most importantly we have the genius-in-college-at-fourteen cum little kid left out cum sufferer of neroses by way of strait-laced family cum man who proves he's got the gusto when no one thought he could do it: James played by Denzel Whitaker. Though I've heard people give this young actor flak, I thought he did a really great job both in his monologues and interactions with other actors, all of whom had more experience than this kid could dream of. He was the only

one of the debaters I could actually ever see debating and the only one I really wanted to see succeed.

Oscar Winner Forest Whitaker, who is of no relation to Denzel Whitaker, plays the father of James, theologian, and the president of Wiley College, who is altogether unsupportive of the school trying to step up to the white-dominated verbal sport. Will he changes his mind and joins in by the end of the film? Your guess.

I guess I'm coming off pretty harsh on the actors in this film when really it is the horrible writing/storyline that is at fault for the utter blasé-ness of the film. Truly, the acting was quite inspiring if, at some points, incredibly cheesy and the group worked well together to hold together the unity of the film. If for no other reason, people should see this film for those scenes in which both Forest Whitaker and Denzel Washington are on the screen at once. I had to shut my eyes there was so much raw talent rippling off the canvas at the movie theatre whenever they were interacting with each other in the movie. Two of the greatest actors of our age, together, being inspiring...it was almost too much for me to handle.

Despite two-dimensional character development, Washington does attempt to give a thorough history lesson of black students in the south during the 1930s.

The film was ruined for me because the concept of sticking-to-the-story was thrown in the dirt right along with historical accuracy: in the real story of Wiley college, the final debate was not really against the Harvard Crimson team but actually against USC.

Now, I see why the story was changed from USC to Harvard: the obvious West Coast being a bit more conservative than the East Coast bit and Harvard's preconceived academic prestige is advertised as a bit greater than USC's. However, I find the fact that an already inspiring (and completely true!) story had to be changed in order to gain Wiley College the respect of ignorant and biased Americans to be despicable and unacceptable. Especially when the central theme of the movie is to speak the truth, no matter what/who the opponent is. Next time, maybe the writers should have their characters abide by what they oh-so-willingly and convincingly preach.

## Despite great acting, 'The Bucket List' dubbed unrealistic

[Helen Wiley]  
Staff Reporter

"The Bucket List" may be entertaining to the older generation, but is definitely not a crowd pleaser for the young. Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman star as two men diagnosed with terminal cancer who want to fulfill their list of dreams before they "kick the bucket."

Jack Nicholson plays Edward Cole, a billionaire whose money comes from being the head of a hospital-corporation. Edward has been through four marriages and has never had a real friend. Although Nicholson is perfect for the part, his character is just like the countless others he has played.

Carter Chambers is played by Morgan Freeman, winner of the 2004 Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor. Carter has been a car mechanic for the last 46 years, having a simple life without excitement. As a young man he wanted to become a history teacher, but gave up the idea after his girlfriend became pregnant.

It is hard to believe that Freeman's character is a mechanic. He is dignified and knowledgeable on a wide range of subjects. His knowledge of history is shown throughout their world travels with interesting facts about the places he and Edward visit.

Edward's loyal assistant, Thomas, is played by Sean Hayes.

Thomas brings a nice lightheartedness to the film with his unenthusiastic service to Edward. It is amazing that he would continue to serve Edward, who never treats him decently.

Carter Chambers and Edward Cole are first introduced to one another when they share a room at the hospital. They become good friends after spending months together in their hospital room. After learning that both have only six months to a year to live, the two break out of the hospital and travel the world.

Carter comes up with the original "bucket list" which includes entries such as "laugh until you cry" and "witness something majestic." Edward, with his wild imagination, adds sky diving, race car driving, and getting a tattoo. The two friends visit places including France, the Pyramids in Egypt, the Taj Mahal, the Himalayas and Hong Kong. Edward pays for their trip including a private jet plane.

Edward is an arrogant character for most of the movie, but eventually reveals his love for his estranged daughter.

She has not spoken to him for years after he betrayed her trust. Edward would like to make contact with her before he dies, but refuses to acknowledge this wish and add

it to the list.

One of the most exciting scenes is occurs when the duo ride race cars. Edward thinks that Carter has no chance driving against him, but Carter immediately shows that he can drive in style. He does tricks and stunts leaving Edward with no chance to win.

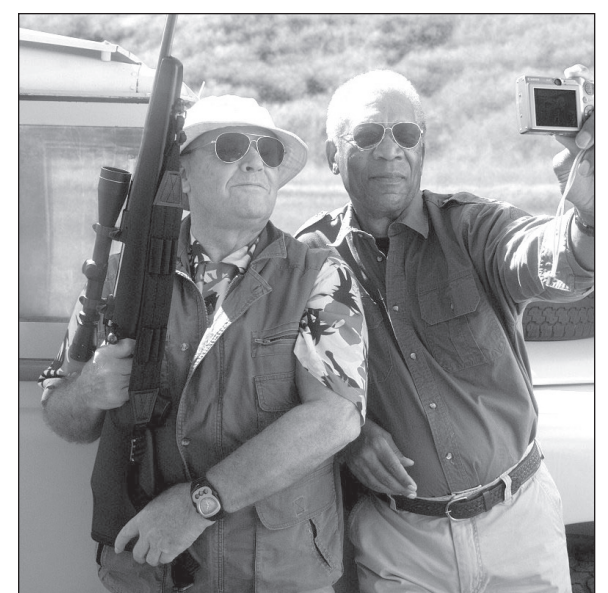
The movie falls to convince the viewer that Carter would abandon his wife to travel without any real regard for her feelings. His wife Virginia (Beverly Todd) is extremely loyal and refrains from anger when Carter finally does return to her. While the actors portray their characters well, it just doesn't seem like the characters would act in the ways they do.

Director Rob Reiner had his work cut out for him. It is not realistic enough to fully captivate the viewer. The sweet friendship developed by Carter and Edward is one of the most heartwarming parts of the film. The movie seems to be designed for an older crowd who can better deal with the reality that death will come.

"The Bucket List" may not be the best movie for students to choose next time they go to the movie theatre, but older adults might enjoy this story of two friends in their final year.



Focus Features/MCT



Focus Features/MCT

Academy Award winning actors Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman travel to exotic locations around the globe in "The Bucket List"

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# SOUNDTREKKIN' DOWN THE HIGHWAY

**[Kelly Moffitt]**  
Co-Editor in Chief

I love movies. No, scratch that, I lurrre movies. And it is this love that taught me about another fixa-

tion of mine: music. From a very young age I began to define my musical tastes from the different movies I watched (imagine that Whitney Houston song from "The Bodyguard" blasting from seven-

year-old lungs...on repeat: luckily, I've moved on). To this day, I find some of my new favorite artists from compilation soundtracks and the most lulling/awe-inspiring compositions from new original

musical scores. As for the following, they are more like a soundtrack to my life...albums which I identify with for many reasons, be it the events surrounding the song in the film which moves me or that I just

genuinely enjoy the music.

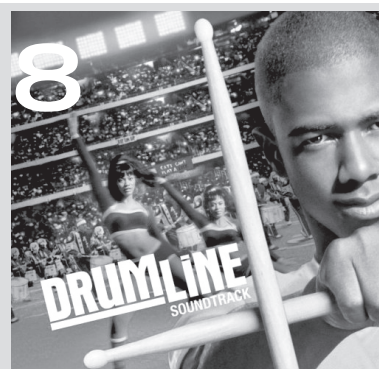
The best part about these compilations is that I can listen to them constantly, (maybe) get tired and forget about them for awhile, and then I am able to rediscover them

once again as totally entrancing.

I'm not claiming to be an expert on music or anything, because I most definitely am not, but these are the compilations that have gotten me through the years. ☺

## TOP 10 MOVIE SOUNDTRACKS:

Soundtracks can make or break a movie depending on the variety of artists, styles and genres of music featured in the mix. A good soundtrack should remind the listener of the movie while still maintaining a musical essence of its own.



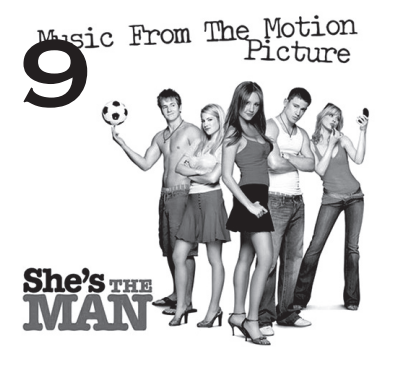
**8 DRUMLINE:**  
Whereas most of my mixes tend to the side of rock, alternative, or just plain random... "Drumline" steps out as the different one among the bunch. A decidedly hip-hop / rap compilation, this soundtrack is one of the first soundtracks I ever bought. I loved the 2002 movie with

Nick Cannon, and I couldn't help but get into the music during the film...though I do admit to originally buying the soundtrack just to have the drum solos on it. Unlike a lot of hip-hop/rap today, this soundtrack isn't inundated with curse words or needless euphemisms, and, as many would find obvious for a movie about drums, it all has a great beat. Though I can't stand behind the JC Chasez solo-attempt track, I do get a kick out of listening to "Shout it Out" by Too Short & Bun B, "My Own Thing" by Raheem Devaughn, and "I'm Scared of You" by Nick Cannon. This song is great for car rides out on Friday nights because no one really knows the songs (and thus can't faux-rap annoyingly to them) but it's still fun to drive to.



**IN GOOD COMPANY:**  
Decidedly somber and a tad more mature than most of the soundtracks on my list, the "In Good Company" soundtrack holds me in its grasp every time I rediscover it. Though there are some instrumental tracks that really aren't that interesting, I discovered one

of my favorite bands, Iron & Wine, from this soundtrack, and the general sampling of indie rock bands is superb on this compilation. Not to mention that some old favorites are mixed in there. I love 'Sister Surround' by Soundtrack of Our Lives, "Reelin' in the Years" by Steely Dan, and "Sunset Soon Forgotten" by Iron & Wine. This soundtrack, unlike most, isn't too long either: it just packs a punch. I recommend this mix for anytime you're in the car with your parents: there's enough new to please you, while retaining enough old to please them...making the car ride enjoyable, altogether lacking in the 'Pleaaaaaaase no more Jefferson Starship' whining sessions that normally go on in these types of situations.



**SHE'S THE MAN:**  
Though this movie is *seriously* under-rated, I hope the same treatment won't go for the soundtrack. Though the movie was set out from the start to be a total chick flick, its soundtrack was not...and it features a wide variety of musical styles to suit everyone's tastes and

sensibilities. Some tracks are decidedly girly, others are rappy, and even others are alternative rock. The downside to the variety feature, however, is that the songs must be downloaded individually according to the International Movie Database's listing of them, because the released soundtrack doesn't have the best songs on it. From the list on IMDB, I always get revved up from tracks like "International" by Chali 2na, "Hey Sexy Lady" by Shaggy, "Wasteland" by Matt White, and "Good Girl, Bad Boy" by Junior Senior. This eclectic soundtrack is definitely a good one if you need to get revved up for something: a dance, a competition, Globe deadline week...



**5 ELIZABETHTOWN:**  
If you're surprised by this pick, don't worry, so am I. I absolutely abhorred this movie (even with my

beau Orlando!) but the soundtrack captured my soul. It's unusual for me to enjoy something that has potentially countrified songs among its various tracks...but like it I do. This soundtrack is a great addition for a road trip or a lazy Saturday afternoon. "To(This Time Around)" by Helen Stellar, "Sugar Blue" by Jeff Finline, and "Square One" by Tom Petty, are all tracks that caught me off guard by how much I enjoyed them. This compilation always makes me nostalgic for places I've never been...and I kind of like that feeling.



**4 GARDEN STATE:**  
Anyone who has seen "Garden State" will tell you it's a revolutionary movie...the same goes for

its soundtrack. With artists ranging from Simon & Garfunkle, The Shins, Iron & Wine, and Zero 7, this soundtrack is surprising in its depth, including songs you know you know while also introducing you to the new. While being lethargic and calming, the soundtrack manages to be reflective without becoming too boring. "In the Waiting Line" by Zero 7, "One of these Things First" by Nick Drake, and, of course, the unforgettable "Let Go" by Frou Frou are among my favorites from this compilation.



**3 ONCE:**  
Not many people have heard of this musical and even if you've never seen the movie, this soundtrack is essential to anyone who sheerly

enjoys music. The sound is a bit raw, but powerful, and it's the perfect mix of songs for a rainy, pensive day. I personally listen to this when I need to sort out my emotions or am attempting to finish an inordinately hard problem set for statistics. Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova, the two artists who comprise this 2007 release are examples of mastery of folk music while maintaining individuality within their range of tracks. "Falling Slowly" is, of course, a classic top pick, but "Lies" and "The Hill" are two tracks hard to pass up in the emotional impact arena.



**MUSIC FROM THE O.C. MIX 1:**  
Okay, so technically this isn't a movie soundtrack but it is the first soundtrack from the beloved, but dead, series "the O.C." This is my ultimate driving-down-the-high-

way mix as it has the remarkable capability of calming me down under any circumstance. Known for the originality of its' unknown artists and wide-ranging alternative tunes, "the O.C." soundtracks never fail to please. Yet, the first one will always hold a place in my heart for teaching me the art of the perfect mix tape. I keep this C.D. in my car at all times (not to mention during finals cram study-sessions!). My favorite tracks are Joseph Arthur's "Honey and the Moon," "The Way We Get By" by Spoon, and "Dice" by Finley Quaye and William Orbit...ouch this is hard, every track I could listen to on repeat for five days straight!



**1 SHREK 2:**  
Let's just say this soundtrack has been on my "top played" list on my iTunes since I received it from a friend back at its release in

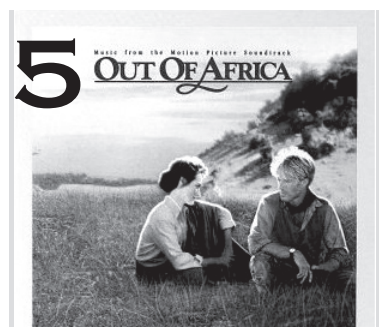
2004. Unlike the original "Shrek" soundtrack, this compilation features a wider variety of sounds as well as crazy-classic singing by Donkey and Shrek. This soundtrack never fails to cheer me up whether it is the happy-go-get-em-world "Accidentally in Love" by the Counting Crows, the timeless "Changes" done up by Butterfly Boucher, to the reflective "As Lovers Go" by Dashboard Confessional...and of course "Holding Out For a Hero," my car-trip-sunroof-down-anthem for many years by Frou Frou. I never get tired of this mix, and it never fails to brighten my day.

### HONORABLE MENTIONS:

- 1) FEVER PITCH:** I seriously debated about having this soundtrack in my top ten. Though many of the tracks are specially suited to those select Red Sox fans out there, many are tailor-made for easy listening no matter what team you root for. My favorites: "Window Pane" by Mad Larry and "Northern Sky" by Nick Drake.
- 2) PRETTY IN PINK:** One word: classic. This movie, which continually reawakens even the most die-hard tomboys to the glories of the color pink also has a soundtrack to die for, of our favorite '80s hits and unknowns. My favorites: "Shell Shock" by New Order, "Please Please Please Let Me Get What I Want" by The Smiths (gotta love the angstiness!), and "Left of Center" by Suzanne Vega.
- 3) 50 FIRST DATES:** Though I do admit I would not normally place reggae beats in the same furrow as Jason Mraz, this mix makes me smile everytime I hear it...maybe because it is so, well, weird. My favorites are: "Slave to Love" by Elan Atlas, "I Melt with You" by Jason Mraz, and "Lip's like Sugar" by Seal.

## TOP FIVE FILM SCORES:

The orchestral compositions that are often thought to be solely backdrops prove to be even better than the motion pictures themselves in some cases.



**5 OUT OF AFRICA:**  
This movie based on Isak Dinesen's classic captured my heart within the first five minutes. It wasn't just the chemistry

between Meryl Streep and Robert Redford that caught my attention: the sweeping and heartbreaking score composed by John Barry in 1985 made me fall in love with rich and luscious music for all time. Every time I hear it, I think of the Africa I know, Mozambique, and how Barry has captured the glory of the land. Romantics will flock to this score as it is awe-inspiring and tranquil all at once. I love "I Had A Farm in Africa (Main Title)," "I'm Better at Hello," and "Flying over Africa" are the reasons why I fell in love.



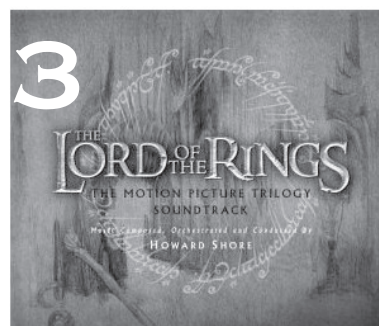
**4 THE PAINTED VEIL:**  
This score from 2007 is the one I turn to anytime I feel like I just need to get away. By no means big

or sweeping like some of the other epics here, Alexandre Desplat's score makes me wish for a faraway escape from normalcy. By the end of the soundtrack I feel as though I have walked the paths through inner China with the characters of the film and novel by W. Somerset Maugham. The score is as elegant as it is urgent and flowing. This soundtrack has gotten me through countless dull days, especially with songs like "The Painted Veil," "The River Waltz," and "Morning Tears."



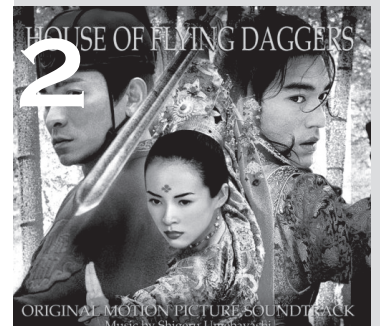
**DR. ZHIVAGO:**  
Who else but the amazingly masterful Maurice Jarre (Lawrence of Arabia, The Year of Living Dangerously) could pull off the score to the film adaptation of Boris Pasternak's Dr. Zhivago about the tumultuous times of the Russian revolution. As a owner of the book, the movie, the original album recording and case, the cd version

of the soundtrack, and a music box of 'Lara's theme' I feel I have the right to brag about the revolutionary (no pun intended) score to the 1965 epic. Only a composer of utmost genius could create a score so hauntingly and chillingly beautiful as Jarre did...he broke musical boundaries in his composition and in the recordings, all of which is evident in the 'Doctor Zhivago: Original Motion Picture Soundtrack - The Deluxe Thirtieth Anniversary Edition' compact disk. Jarre actually used the traditional Russian stringed instrument, the balalika (which is a central part of the story) in his compositions! Even for those who aren't classical music lovers, or Russian history buffs, try out the tracks 'Lara's Theme' and 'Main Title'—they'll change your world.



**3 LORD OF THE RINGS:**  
The three scores of Howard Shore for the 'Lord of the Rings'

movies are going to go down in history as the most epic undertaking and result in film-composing of all time. The vision and genius of Shore is impossible to deny during the 100+ tracks of extended soundtrack that the 'Lord of the Rings' trilogy has to two its name. My music collection would not be complete without these dark and majestic compositions... I find "Gollum's Song (Vocal Version)," "The Fellowship," and "The Return of the King" to be the most fulfilling.



**2 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS:**  
Released in 2005 and composed

by Shiguru Umebayashi, this score is captivating, enthralling, and heart-wrenching. It perfectly speaks of the tortured hearts of the characters in the film. This score is a masterpiece and the first classical soundtrack I ever bought for myself. With a romantic and mysterious feel, this score is impossible to get tired of...it is the perfect counterpart to a beautiful film and an even better counterpart to a cup of tea and a good book. My personal favorite track: "Farewell No. 1." and "Battle in the Forest."

### HONORABLE MENTIONS:

- 1) AMISTAD:** This eerie and captivating score will haunt you long after you've finished listening to it. My favorite tracks: "Dry Your Tears, Africa" and "Cinque's theme."
- 2) GLORY:** The inspiring military-style pieces in this score are enough to make anyone want to start wearing red, white, and blue again. The best tracks: "An Epitaph to War" and "After Antietam."

# Hannah Montana phenomenon sweeps Saint Louis

## [Ijeoma Onyema]

Staff Reporter

You see her on TV, you hear her on the radio, and you can even see her at award shows and in movies. But now that Miley Cyrus—aka Hannah Montana—has launched her first North American concert tour, you can see her live.

The 2007-08 Best of Both Worlds Tour kicked off in St. Louis on Oct. 18, 2007 at the Scottrade Center. The tour was scheduled to end on Jan. 9, 2008; however, an additional 14 concerts will be in the tour (including another stop in St. Louis), continuing in Detroit and ending in Miami on Jan. 31.

In spite of this, a couple of CHS students were lucky enough to go to the concert the last time she came to St. Louis, and were lucky enough to obtain tickets for the next concert. One of those students was sophomore Taylor Stone.

"The concert was awesome," Stone said. "The crowd was so lively, everyone was up dancing, and the performers were really good."

All the numbers on the tour were created, directed, and choreographed by Kenny Ortega, the director and choreographer of the famous High School Musical trilogy and the last two 'Cheetah Girls' movies.

Stone and sophomore Morgan Stoner attended the concert when it came to St. Louis in October. They were unable to obtain tickets beforehand; however, they were one of the lucky ones: They were able to purchase some of the extra tickets, but at a price.

"We waited in a line for 3 hours before the concert started," Stone said.

However, it was worth it because Stone was able to see—in her opinion—the best part of the concert, which was the Jonas Brothers, who were the opening act for the first part of the tour (teen pop duo Aly and AJ will be the opening act for the second part of the tour).

Sophomore Rebecca Swarm got a hold of tickets the same way Stone did.

"Caroline Stamp and I stood in the snow for two and a half hours outside the Savvis Center," Swarm said.

Sophomore Melissa Kopp didn't have to wait in any lines to get a ticket.

"My aunt tried to get my some tickets for Christmas, but they had sold out in an hour," Kopp said, "However, Caroline Stamp had an extra ticket."

Before the tour began, Cyrus portrayed Miley Stewart on her hit TV show "Hannah Montana", a girl who struggles between the daily responsibilities of her pop idol alter-ego, Hannah Montana, and being a normal girl, enjoying the best of both worlds all the while. Ever since her series debuted in spring of 2006, Miley Cyrus has quickly gained stardom alongside her wacky supporting characters and her ever-so-hip alter ego. However, one question remains: How did she get to become so popular?

"I think that she's so popular because she appeals to a variety of audiences," Stone said, "Like to parents because her show is family-friendly, and to kids because it's clean, fun, and so out of the ordinary."

Sophomore Jeanette Nguyen agreed with Stone when she says that Stewart lives the life that every little kid dreams of.

"Plus, the fact that she is a normal girl by day and a teen pop sensation by night is so atypical for Disney series," Nguyen said.

Swarm said that her songs are very catchy and easy to relate to.

Conversely, there has been much controversy about the ticket sales for the concert. Tickets were selling out in five minutes or less, and the sales online weren't any better. All over eBay and other secondary markets, massive scalping of Hannah Montana tickets occurred during the week of the concerts.

"I think scalping is just awful," Kopp said. "I don't understand why someone would buy a lot of tickets and not use them. Besides, there are little kids out there that really want to go to the concert but can't because they can't afford it."



courtesy of MCT campus

Hannah Montana, also known as Miley Cyrus, visited St. Louis for her "Best of Both Worlds" tour on both Oct. 18, 2007 and Jan. 15, 2008. These concerts and her T.V. show have sparked a cultural phenomenon revolving around the 15-year-old in Saint Louis. She has many fans at CHS.

"I think that's ridiculous," Stone said. "Real fans should be able to get tickets, and the scalping ruined some of the fun of the actual concert."

Nguyen agreed with Stone, and said that it is simply absurd to pay over \$2000 for tickets that are not even worth half that price.

During the week of the concerts Cyrus' official fan site, MileyWorld, had a special offer for its members so that they may have a chance to purchase tickets earlier. However, many ended up either buying high-priced tickets or not going at all because MileyWorld's special offer sold out in less than five minutes. In addition, several other daring attempts were made to obtain tickets, such as men competing in races wearing women shoes and an unwise girl and her mother lying

about the death of her father in Iraq. Although the men's race seemed to be successful, Nguyen disapproves of the girl's actions.

"It's so low that when someone makes up lies just to get something they want," said Nguyen.

Cyrus' tour is considered one of the most in-demand concerts of 2007. The tour raked in \$36 million in ticket revenues in 2007, making it the fifteenth highest-grossing concert tour in North America that year.

In addition, one dollar from every ticket sold goes to the City of Hope Foundation in order to help fight cancer.

The concert performed in Salt Lake City is also being transformed into a 3-D movie, coming to St. Louis theaters in February. ♪

# Awkward encounter in the airport provides introduction to strange new recording artist

## [Maddie Harned]

Editor

I am a victim of aggressive advertising by one Peyton James. However, this confession is quite comical considering the circumstances of my victimization.

I was merely waiting in line at Lambert Airport to board a plane to Philadelphia when the incident occurred. In virtual mid-sentence I was interrupted by an enthusiastic, "excuse me," coming from my left. Startled, I sharply turned around and met face to face with Peyton James.

Of course at the time I did not know who the 30-something-year-old man of average weight and height was standing before me. Casually, as if there was nothing peculiar about walking up to a complete group of strangers at an airport and trying to start small talk, he introduced himself.

"Hey, I'm Peyton James and excuse me ladies but my flight to LAX got delayed," was his introduction. Right from the start my impression of him was not a good one.

"I'm a musician," continued James, as the group of people I was with blankly stared at the bizarre spectacle. "I write my own music and I would like to give you my demo CD, Love in a Crazy Way."

Still in a partial state of shock, I mechanically reached out my hand to take the CD.

Then, as quickly as he appeared, James left with a swift, "enjoy" and "good bye now," as if he was a magically musical 30-something balding genie.

Never before had I gone to the airport and randomly met someone, and certainly I had never before gotten a free CD from a musician at an airport. The whole scenario was briefly bizarre, then quite amusing.

Once returning back to Saint Louis my strange fascination with Peyton James grew. I finally listened to his masterpiece of music, Love in a Crazy Way.

The drums sounded on the CD's eponymous only song sounded like 80s pop drums #3 on garage band.

The synthesized piano bits were reminiscent of everything silly about music of the '80s.

Challenging the ridiculously outdated instrumentation were the lackluster lyrics, "It's love in a crazy way / a real holiday / vacation made for two / oh, be with you."

Frankly, the lyrics are redolent of a poem I wrote in the 1st grade entitled "Summur is fun" about my summer vacation trip to Arkansas with my grandma. Peyton James may be many things, but an insightful lyricist is not one of them.

However, the absolute worst part of the song are the unintentionally funny spoken word interludes in French that completely distract from whatever art the song had to begin with. After listening to James' demo CD a couple times I realized that I simply must talk to him about his awesomely entertaining music, his life and his career.

Being the diligent journalist I am, I did a google search of Peyton James. After a little searching I found James' personal website featuring his, yet again, unintentionally

funny autobiography.

"Born in Chicago, no brothers or sisters," is the grammatically challenged opening sentence of James' life story. From there, it just goes downhill.

After some more investigating, I found a contact email address and on a leap of faith I sent out several interview questions. To my surprise, James must have taken a brief time off his grueling touring and recording schedule to answer my questions. However, after reading his answers I was even more confused about this enigmatic figure.

When asked what his inspiration was for the inspiration for the raucous foot-stomper of a tune entitled "Love in a Crazy Way" James responded, "I suppose I was thinking about falling in love on an island 'get away' ... That moment when you meet...your nervous and excited at the same time...your hopeful...everything seems new...the world starts to spin in what seems a new direction... your lost in the moment and the sun is shining...even if it's not. I suppose for most it's a dream...The love letter in

French, is a girl' on the beach hopping her dream is realized."

May I remind you, the reader, that the above passage is a direct quote from the email response from James (this is the original spelling).

Further muddling my opinion of any possible future plans James has his answer to my simple question of, "What does the future hold for Peyton James, the musical entrepreneur?" "Ah yes...the future....Hummmm....well it's difficult to say... you really never know what's going to happen...I hope the best is yet to come..." replied James via email.

Needless to say, James is quite a confusing little man. While his musical genius may never be recognized, I can assuredly say that James' music has made me laugh.

Whether or not that was James' intention when he recorded "Love in a Crazy Way" really does not matter, because James will always be remembered by me as that crazy guy who randomly gave me his CD at the airport, and in the end, at least he's a memorable artist which in itself is a decent enough accomplishment. ♪

## [Peyton James] Recording Artist

Ahh yes..the future...Hummmm... well, it's difficult to say...you rarely ever know what's going to happen...I hope the best is yet to come...

# Cozy atmosphere, high prices at Aya Sofia

## [Sara Rangwala]

Editor

To try something other than the usual fast food dinner, I gathered up a group of friends for dinner on a Thursday night.

We went to Aya Sophia, a Turkish restaurant, located in an extremely small box-like building across from Ted Drewes on Chippewa.

As we stepped into the restaurant, I felt I had been transported to a Turkish lounge. The lights were dimmed, with the majority of the light coming from candles that were sprinkled throughout the restaurant. Each individual booth was shrouded with curtains. There were elaborate swords hung on the wall beside their scabbards which were carved with intricate detail. Additionally, there were multicolored wall hangings, which alone could amuse one while waiting to order. Throughout the meal there was Turkish music playing lightly in the restaurant.

If you've never had Turkish food before it is very similar to the cuisine of the Mediterranean, with very Greek tasting lamb and dolmas as an appetizer.

Aya Sophia's food had a hint of the Middle East with kabobs and a sizeable rice pilaf served with every entree.

Again, Aya Sophia is probably not going to become your habitual lunch stop with the selection of entrees ranging from \$15-\$25.

The arrival of our meal solidified my marvel of the restaurant.

The food was enticing but not too elaborate with decorations to hide, as I find many restaurants do,

the mediocrity of their food.

I found myself to be the last one eating, much to the annoyance of the rest of the group, because I was enjoying my food so much.

Mid-way through the meal the soft music I described earlier suddenly dramatically increased in volume.

I looked around to see if the waiter was going to do anything about it, but he was calmly filling glasses with water. The rest of the diners in the restaurant continued to eat peacefully as if there were not several decibels of music causing the foundation of the restaurant to vibrate.

From behind me I heard a jingling noise and I turned around.

Then I understood.

A belly dancer clad in a bright and beaded belly dancing costume, with small golden finger cymbals in her hands, had whirled into a room.

I always thought that eating with a scantily clad woman dancing around you would be extremely awkward. But it was rather fun to look up from my plate to see her clearly enjoying herself. The addition of a belly dancer to the already pleasant Turkish atmosphere definitely set a positive and enjoyable mood.

Aya Sophia is not where you should go if you want a quick cheap meal.

I quickly realized that this restaurant is not the place you want to take a bunch of teenagers.

It seems more like a cozy place to dine with a date or one or two close friends.

Not 12 close friends. ♪

# Wicked casts spell on audience

## [Maddy McMahon]

Staff Reporter

After selling out the 2005 season, "Wicked" returned to the Fox Theatre again this winter, with similar ticket sales.

On its own, this production, starring Carmen Cusack as Elphaba and Katie Rose Clarke as Glinda, was amazing, with spectacular sets and costumes to enhance a powerful score and clever book. However, in comparison to the 2005 show that sparked a St. Louis obsession with the musical, this year's show paled in comparison.

The musical is based on Gregory Maguire's 1995 novel, "Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West," though the musical deviates from its inspiration in many ways. The idea is the same, however: "Wicked" tells the story of Frank L. Baum's "The Wizard of Oz" from the Wicked Witch of the West's point of view.

Although the musical employs creative word play and amusing allusions to American culture, it also deals with deeper philosophical questions.

As Glinda puts it: "Are people born Wicked? Or do they have Wickedness thrust upon them?" Perhaps it is a combination of the two: Elphaba, the destined Wicked Witch of the West, is born green to unloving parents. Her unusual skin color makes life difficult, but Elphaba has strong ideals and stronger dreams.

Both of these aspects of her character have a profound effect on those around her. However, they ultimately lead to her decision to go against society (a

society that brands her as "wicked") once she realizes the level of corruption in Oz.

The musical downplays the political corruption that much of the novel deals with, thereby lending itself to a focus on individual morality.

The most obvious weakness was Elphaba. Though Cusack possesses an impressive voice, she was surprisingly pitchy, particularly in her duets with Clarke.

Besides this distraction, her voice lacked the sheer power, coupled with exquisite clarity, with which the 2005 Elphaba, Stephanie J. Block, sang, and which made songs such as "Defying Gravity" riveting and unforgettable.

Cusack also failed to slip into the character of Elphaba as much as she could have: Her Elphaba was a little too perky and canned. In other words, she simply wasn't convincing. Cusack spoke her lines without hesitation, thereby missing several opportunities to actually act her green character's emotions.

Clarke, however, made a convincing Glinda, and at times was better than her 2005 counterpart.

Her bubbly antics in "Popular", as well as her evident distress as her character unfolded in much of the second act, made for a convincing and moving performance. On top of her acting, her singing was excellent.

At times, she even aided Cusack with intonation in a few of their duets, including "For Good," a slow song that involves difficult harmonization between the two leads.

Besides the two stars, the rest of the cast was for the most part solid. Alma Cuervo played her part as



The Wicked production came to Saint Louis this past December. The performance was substandard.

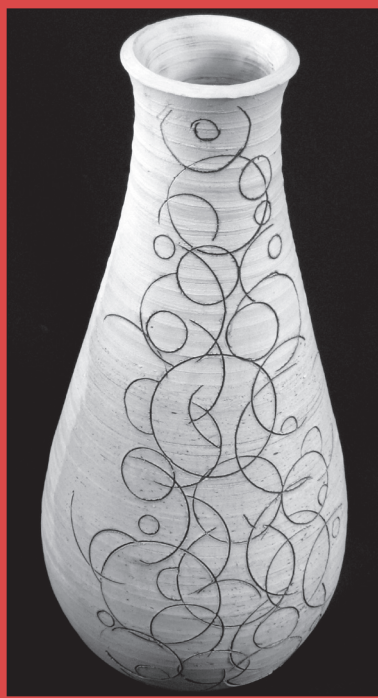
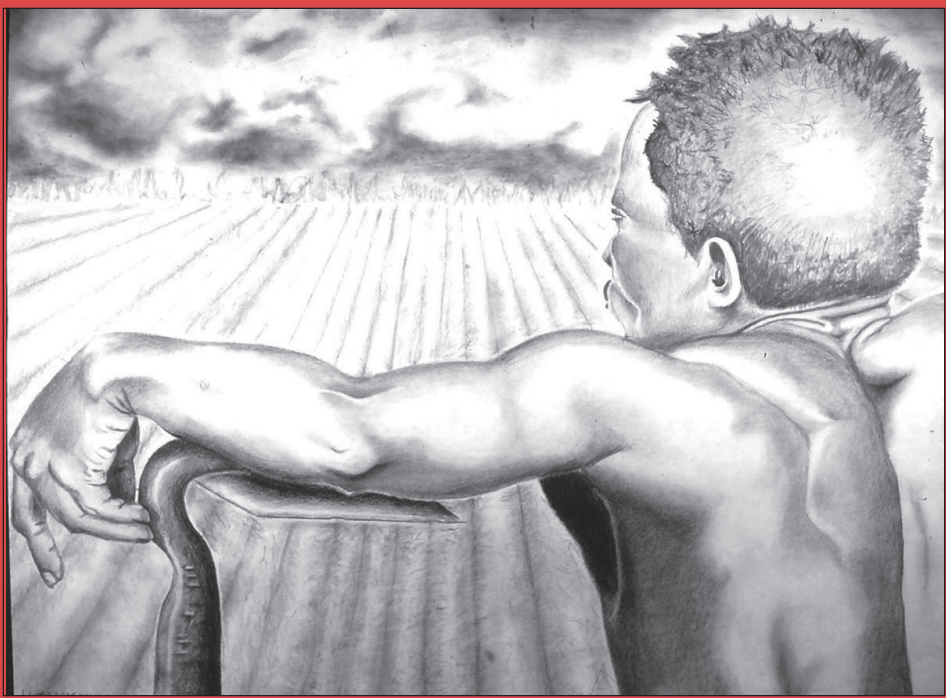
the opportunistic and linguistically creative Madame Morrible with aplomb. Fiyero, played by Clifton Hall, though also not as strong musically as his 2005 counterpart, nevertheless gave a strong performance as he evolved from a self-described "shallow, callow fellow" to a man of great conviction under the influence of Elphaba.

Oz is presented in a magical set, which showed great attention to both smaller details and the general atmosphere of each scene. For example, on top of the entire production, a metal, robotic dragon flapped its wings to emphasize certain events. On the main curtain, the Emerald City literally glowed green. But these details never distracted from the main set, it only added to it.

The show used the most dramatic theatrical effects. Glinda rode in on a circular bubble machine in both the first and last scenes. But the most impressive scene in terms of effect was at the very end of Act I, in the song "Defying Gravity." Elphaba, holding onto her broom, ascended above her fellow Ozians amidst purple smoke, all the while singing the most demanding vocal part of the show.

But although Elphaba was masterfully raised up, the show itself was not.

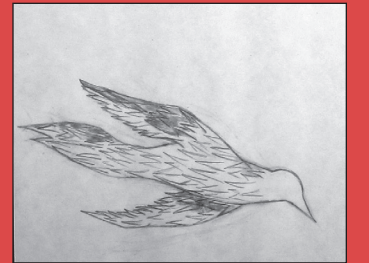
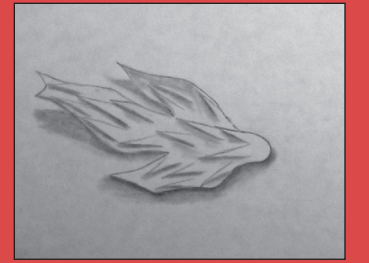
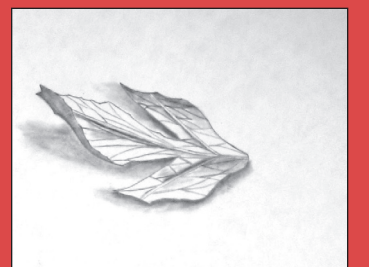
The 2007 production quite simply did not possess the linchpin, however, the stunning performance of Elphaba lifted the 2005 performance to the highest level of theatrical quality. ♪



# Giving Life to Art



Whether the purpose be to capture a personality, create a fantasy land, express an unwieldy emotion or make a statement, the students of Advanced Placement Art breathe life into any piece they set their minds (and their paint brushes) to creating.



*"I've found that with my uses of color and images I really capture the emotion of the person. Bringing that emotion into my pieces really makes them what they are."*

senior Kathrin Nowotny

## Art: Giving Meaning to Life

(clockwise from top left corner):

1. "Farmer" by senior Laura Shoemaker, pencil: "Part of the AP Portfolio is to create a focus, called a concentration. I decided on a theme of working people," Shoemaker said.
2. "Vase" by senior Jackson Barchek, clay with carved design.
3. "Grun" by senior Kathrin Nowotny, charcoal and chalk pastels: "This portrait is based on a photograph taken during the 2007 German Exchange Trip," Nowotny said.
4. (right) "Portrait of Kerri Blumer" by junior Jessica Morse, charcoal.
5. (left, six screens) "Transformation: Leaf to Bird" by junior Ethan Joseph, pencil.
6. "Pixie Dude" by junior Elliot O'Dea, pencil: "The purpose was to create a fantasy scene. I used separate images to create a landscape drawing with a little pixie dude," O'Dea said.
7. "Pageant" by senior Kerri Blumer, oil pastels.
8. "Mother and Daughter" by senior Katie Borges, pencil: "I am creating a series for my concentration and the theme I chose is people who have impacted my life in some way and that I admire. I drew this picture of my mom and I, because she makes such an enormous impact on the person that I am today," Borges said.

