

clayton high school theglobe

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1 Mark Twain Circle, Clayton MO 63105

[snapshots]

Homecoming 2007 Events

Friday, Sept. 28
Spirit Dress Up Day
7:15--9:00pm Class
Relay Competitions
Saturday, Sept. 29
11:00am Parade
12:00pm Football
Game vs... Jackson
8:00--11:00pm
Dance @ Stuber

Don't be early on Late Start Day!

School begins at
9:20am on Oct. 3

The Center of Clayton gains new sculpture

Abstract art was
installed in front of
Center on Sept. 18.
Artist Alice Aycock
will make public
presentation on
Oct. 4 at 7:00pm.

National Merit Semifinalists Announced

Nick Conradi, Whitt
Downey, Mark Heil,
Sonya Gierada,
Liza Schmidt, Dakin
Sloss and Adrienne
Stormo received
recognition
for excellent
performance on
the PSAT last fall.

Sixth Grade Camp soon commences

Sixth graders and
high school camp
counselors will be
at Sherwood Forest
from Oct. 1 until
Oct. 5.

Standardized testing dates:

SAT Oct. 6
PSAT Oct. 17
ACT Oct. 27

First quarter draws to close

No school for
students and
teacher have a
grading day on
Oct. 19.

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Principal Louise Losos and assistant principal Dan Gutchewsky discuss changes to the alcohol policy, which they hope will decrease alcohol use at school-sponsored activities.

CHS buys Breathalyzer

[Meredith Redick]
Staff Reporter

The night is young. Girls, draped in taffeta and silk, and boys, clad reluctantly in clean shirts and dress pants, step onto the dance floor. A DJ fills the gym with music. And somewhere near the back of that writhing mass of exuberant people, a sophomore girl passes out from alcohol poisoning.

This is no longer a rarity at CHS. According to CHS principal Louise Losos, last year at least one student was suspended for possession of alcohol or intoxication at each dance.

"The number of drinking suspensions [at CHS] now is higher than at other schools," Losos said. "For dances alone the number [of students suspended in the past six years] is roughly 50 students."

In order to deter students from drinking before dances, CHS has instituted a new policy allowing some students to be breathalyzed before entering a dance. Schools all over the country have experimented with Breathalyzers including Saint Louis University High. "It's only going to be used as an investigative tool," CHS activities director Eric Hamylak said. "If chaperones suspect that a student is under the influence of alcohol, we will breathalyze if necessary."

The consequences for students found under the influence of alcohol at school dances have increased this year. Regulations for the School District of Clayton state, "A student who is found to be in possession of or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs at school

or at a school-sponsored activity will receive a minimum of five (5) days suspension from school." Additionally, students suspended for reasons pertaining to alcohol or drug use will not be able to attend school dances for the rest of year.

"Beginning this fall, students suspended from school for violating the alcohol and drug use policy at a dance will be barred from attending dances for the rest of the school year," Losos wrote in a letter sent out to parents last week. "A student suspended from Prom will be barred from attending Homecoming the next fall. However, students who have previously been suspended, may attend the Prom and/or Homecoming dances only if their parent or guardian serves as a chaperone for that dance."

Administrators' goals for the new program are ambitious.

"What we're trying to do is change the student expectations at school dances and change the culture of the dances," Losos said. "Far too many students have stated that drinking before a dance is a common and expected practice, and that needs to change."

Last spring, members of the school community met to discuss underage drinking and school-sponsored activities.

"The discussions culminated in an open forum Town Hall Meeting last May involving parents, and administrators," Losos wrote in the letter to parents. "The discussion and feedback from that meeting were important and informative."

Sophomore Alex Kasnetz feels that the meetings did not allow students enough of a voice in the matter. *Breathalyzers, 8*

The number of drinking suspensions now is higher than at other schools. For dances alone the number is roughly 50 students.

[Louise Losos]
CHS principal

Wydown renovations discussed

[Jeremy Bleeke]
Editor

Since the beginning of the school year, students, teachers and administrators at Wydown have been talking seriously about renovating the building. High enrollment, expanded educational programs, and limited teaching space have made it clear that something must be done.

"It is critical that Wydown be enlarged and remodeled," math teacher Terri Lawrence said. "This building was designed for a seventh and eighth grade class. We were over-crowded immediately when the sixth graders arrived 15 years ago. If we want to stay on the cutting edge of education for the future...our needs must be addressed."

While student-teacher ratios have been maintained at their previous level, finding a place for everyone to teach or meet has been challenging. Each grade level is divided into three teams, whose core classes are all taught in the same general area. Team space is necessary for addressing group issues, celebrating student achievement, and discussing upcoming events

and projects. However, as the academics of the school have grown, team meeting places have been compromised.

"Over the past 10 years Wydown has at least doubled the number of electives, which has been wonderful for all of the students," english teacher Robert Maesaka said. "The problem, of course, is that so many additional classes create space issues. Where do you house all of these offerings? Space is limited and the building is cramped."

Since many elective teachers don't have their own rooms, they have to share with core teachers.

"Room sharing has become an issue," math and science teacher Jessica Johnston said. "Teachers don't mind sharing their rooms, but they are losing more and more time in their classroom to have meetings and to do planning. I only have one free period in my room."

Other teachers don't have classroom space at all.

"Having classes in hallways, closets, regularly in the library, the cafeteria and the auditorium is not ideal for learning," enrichment specialist Janet Baldwin said. "There are many things that teachers at Wydown would do and should do



Wydown choir teacher, Jerry Estes, conducts choir class in theater lobby due to space constraints at Wydown building where student population has outgrown classrooms.

be found somewhere."

Principal Mary Ann Goldberg has recognized the issue of space for a long time. Goldberg came to Clayton nine years ago, when the middle school had a population

similar to its current size. She was told that the influx of students was just a population bubble and that it would go down with time. It didn't.

Wydown, 5

ACT increases Students achieve high ACT, MAP and AP scores.

[Kelly Moffitt]
Co-Editor in Chief

Every year, students can be seen hunkering down over their desks, number two pencils in hand, poised to begin when the timer starts on a variety of standardized assessments in the school district of Clayton. This cycle is a fact of life from the third grade on, whether the tests are the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests, ACT/SAT, or Advanced Placement Exams. So what made this year so different from last year in terms of the test scores for the School District of Clayton?

For College bound juniors and seniors, the ACT looms as one of the deciding factors for college acceptance. The ACT is not an aptitude test, it is an achievement test, to see what students have learned, not what your potential is. It tests the effectiveness of what has been learned in class.

The composite ACT score went up for the students who took the test last year, the class of 2008, from an average of 25 to a 25.3, on the 36 point scale. CHS is ahead of the state average in both 2006 and 2007, of 21.6.

"With the ACT, which went up, this year's score were the first class that everyone was asked to take it," Principal Louise Losos said. "The school district bought one for everyone. It was the Board of Education's (BOE) decision, they felt that the ACT was a better measure than the MAP score of the high school students' achievement." Part of the reason for giving the prepaid test was for the school district to complete data on "linkage reports," which will help to connect curricula in the middle school to the high school in terms of college preparation.

"We now do the Educational Planning and Assessment System provided by ACT: the EXPLORE in the eighth grade, the PLAN in the tenth grade, and the ACT in the

eleventh grade," college counselor Carolyn Blair said. "The ACT provides benchmark scores, or basic requirements for students to reach success in college, these help us determine if our students are on track."

The ACT benchmark for college readiness in 2007 for English Composition was 18, Reading was 21, Mathematics was 22, and Science was a 24. CHS surpassed all the benchmark scores with averages of 25.6, 24.8, 25.5, and 25, respectively.

"Everyone expected that the average ACT score would go down with everyone taking the mandatory, prepaid test," Blair said. "I think it speaks to the level of intelligence we have at this school. I think that motivation would certainly be a factor in how the students worked on an exam. Students know that the ACT is a high stakes test that could determine if they get into college—they want to do well."

Motivation is part of the reason the ACT was chosen to assess CHS students' abilities.

"There was a movement to replace the MAP with the ACT, the theory being that the ACT counts and the students know it counts," Losos said. "The MAP test is important but doesn't get sent to students' prospective colleges. This means students don't give as much effort to the test as they may have otherwise."

Another explanation for why the average test score elevated is that people who normally score well on standardized testing were opting to take the SAT only.

"A piece of it, a small piece, is that our students who scored high, scored really high," Blair said. "Those students would normally have taken the SAT because more selective schools accept it. Now, students took the ACT because there was no fee. Their scores add in to a higher overall average."

Test scores, 7

Students know that the ACT is a high stakes test that determines if they get into college—they want to do well.

[Carolyn Blair]
College Counselor

Presidential campaigns heat up

[Sarah Horn]
Editor

The race for the White House is getting started, and already the competition is hot and heavy. With more than a year to go until the actual elections, the contest for who will be the official candidates, and which party will win in the end, is fiercer, tougher and starting off much earlier than any previous election.

Already during the pre-primary period, with about 14 months until Nov. 7, the candidates are building the foundations and raising astronomical sums of money. The divisions between the nominees, both within and outside the official parties, are being publicized and scrutinized.

Eyes are all focused on the early states, where primaries are starting much earlier than usual. These states are Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina.

Still the 2008 primary calendars are liable to change, as New Hampshire is not going to set the date of its primary until later in the year and many states are moving forward to February 5, 2008. Each state wants to get the votes in earlier and the candidates are forced to start campaigning earlier and raising the appropriate amount of money to stay in the game.

Whatever the reason for the shift, the U.S. is tuned into this campaign more than ever, waiting to see if the Democrats will take over office and if one of the leading two minorities, Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama, will be nominated.

As of July 4, according to the New York Times, Obama raised \$32.5 million, while Clinton raised about \$27 million altogether.

Clinton also is facing a scandal as one of her most important donors, Norman Hsu, is in trouble, and there is a possibility he will be arrested, for misconduct and illegal practices with money. Hsu also has a reputation as a fugitive. However, Clinton did return Hsu's \$23,000 donation by giving the money to charity.

The Internet, which was never truly used as a campaigning tool, has taken front stage as a means to reach out to the younger voters, raise more money, and expand the



Democratic frontrunners Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, along with other candidates, are campaigning fiercer and earlier than in past elections. MCT

candidates' campaigns. From web-sites such as www.barackobama.com, Obama's official website, to Clinton's www.hillaryclinton.com, candidates are employing the Internet more than any previous race.

In addition, citizens are also using the internet to get their opinions across, such as the phenomenon of "Obama Girl", an attractive woman singing about her crush on the ever-so-dreamy Illinois senator. The video, "I Got a Crush on Obama," further verified how the democratic nature of the Internet, especially popular and beloved sites like YouTube, is influencing politics in very strange and unprecedented ways.

In the beginning Obama Girl was viewed as a joke, but the video

has helped the Obama campaign in many ways, such as recognition. However, it also represents how out-of-control campaigns are getting and how difficult it is to get the proper message across, as Obama had nothing to do with the video.

Teacher Debra Weins warns about the dangers of the Internet.

"The web also poses a potential danger for office-seekers," Weins said. "Now an ordinary web writer can praise or criticize a candidate without accountability or adherence to journalistic standards of fairness. It is truly a free marketplace for political ideas. It is easy to expose, defame and denigrate candidates. Likewise, it is easy to promote, endorse, and sanction. In order to become well-informed

voters, web readers need to cross-reference claims made on a web site by visiting other web sites to determine what is fact, opinion, and just plain nonsense. The Internet is becoming the new "watchdog", "scorekeeper", "information gatherer", and perhaps even "gatekeeper" for presidential candidates. It requires that the public be savvy and discerning."

However, Weins also believes that the Internet is a way to connect to young voters.

"What impact will the Internet have upon young people?" Weins said. "Only 38 percent of 18- to 24-year olds voted in the 2000 presidential election compared with 70 percent of age 45 plus. Candidates like Obama know that they can ap-

peal directly to the masses of young voters on the Web. But will those young voters actually show up to vote in larger numbers?"

Students at CHS all get their information from different sources of media, and many are very involved in the presidential race.

"I get most information from TV," junior Daniel Shore said. "Mostly from the news and sometimes from the New York Times"

Junior Josh Oberman gets his information from all different aspects of the media.

"I get my information from three mediums: newspapers, television, and the internet," Oberman said.

And while Oberman and Shore rely on the media to receive attention, junior Paige Meneses receives

her information in a different kind of way.

"At diving practice, we used to get really bored and my friend and my coach are on completely different sides of the political spectrum," Meneses said. "My friend is essentially a genius, and my coach is a lawyer, so I always used to listen to them argue about candidates and elections and whatnot. But I also occasionally watch the news, and I sometimes ask my parents how they feel and why, and I occasionally skim through the paper."

Whatever their means of receiving information are, CHS students also have different viewpoints on who the strongest candidate is right now.

Shore is definitely on new-comer's Obama's side.

"Obama, because I think he cares more about the greater good of the American people by fighting poverty and providing better health care for Americans," Shore said.

However, while Shore has a definite opinion on who is the best candidate, Oberman still hasn't decided, while Meneses is interested in John Edwards, Obama and Clinton.

As the elections close in, the issue of young people voting is more important than ever.

"I think it's very important [that young people vote]," Shore said. "People always say that their one vote won't count, but it really does add up. The next president will be here for four years so it's really important to vote for the best candidate."

Nevertheless, Oberman foresees possible dangers when young people vote.

"I think it can be dangerous for young people to vote because they might not be well-educated on the issues and may not have yet developed their own philosophies yet," Oberman said. "On the other hand, I don't want my generation to end up completely apathetic towards politics since that can be dangerous in the long run."

Whatever the opinion, it is undeniable that this presidential campaign will be intense, close, and will take center stage as the Democrats battle the Republicans and the candidates within parties vie to be nominated. ☺



Development in Clayton is trending toward larger, more elaborate projects. While property value has increased, some believe that the higher prices are deterring families from moving in. Scott Shapiro

Trend toward larger houses affects neighborhood character

[Mary Blackwell]
Staff Reporter

Nancy Alderson has lived in the same Clayton neighborhood for 16 years now, and she's seen the houses around her go through major changes. The houses have gone from modest to immense, a trend that has been common in Clayton and other St. Louis area counties.

"In the last 10 years we've had several properties torn down and replaced with large oversized houses on small lots," Alderson said.

In the last 10 years, over 60 houses in Clayton have been torn down and rebuilt. In the past five years, 55, and in the last year, 11.

Most of these teardowns have been in the Clayton Gardens and Old Town neighborhoods.

Alderson lives in Hanley Place, a subdivision in Clayton, which has seen its share of teardowns and new houses. Marguerite Bliss has lived in Hanley Place for 13 years.

"We had smaller houses and older looking houses, many of which were in need of repair or updating and now we have more attractive homes, bigger homes,"

Bliss said. "But the negative is, it appears to me, we have fewer young families moving in, and more empty nesters."

Alderson described the houses in her neighborhood when she first moved in as "similar with a lot of character."

Now most of the smaller houses in the neighborhood have been knocked down and in their place are larger, more elaborate houses filling the lots. This not only changes the appearance of the area, but also the type of people living in Clayton.

"It's definitely changed the character of the neighborhood from middle class to upper middle class," Alderson said. "And it seems like there are less families with lots of children and more wealthy professionals coming in with a less children."

Several long-time Clayton residents commented on the changing nature of the newcomers to the city.

"I think overall the problem is that young families are not able to move into Clayton and we're becoming a community more filled with senior citizens and empty-nesters as opposed to a community with young families," Bliss said.

The reasons for the teardowns vary. Some find the older houses outdated or inadequate while others are just looking for a lot to build on.

"My husband and I, but especially my husband, loves building things or rehabbing things," Clayton resident Teri Deering said. "We moved into Clayton when Ryan turned five to get into Clayton schools and the house we were living in was the first house that he never had anything to do with. We never built it or rehabbed it. So he had the itch to do something."

Teri's husband Leo and their son Ryan Deering moved from Clayton Gardens to the new house they built for themselves in the Hanley Place subdivision, one door from the Aldersons.

"A realtor was looking for us for quite a while in terms of finding a lot that would be a buildable lot also at the right price," Deering said.

But demolition in Clayton is not approved easily. Someone hoping to rebuild in Clayton must get a demolition permit and appear before the Plan Commission/Architectural Review Board.

A few of the many requirements to get a demolition permit include copies of consent from the utilities, a waste disposal permit, a tree protection plan, and a plan of all structures to be removed.

"You have to go to the architectural review board in order to build anything in Clayton," Deering said. "It's a very strict, thorough process."

One of the main concerns of the city of Clayton as

well as the local residents is that the house fit in with the design and appearance of the surrounding houses.

"When we went to the architectural review board, we obviously had the plans to build this house which is stone and stucco," Deering said "We had taken pictures of the different houses on the block that had both stone and stucco in them in order to validate the style."

After much questioning and reviewing, the board approved the Deerings' plans the first time. In order to insure that only high quality housing is built and that developers have the right motives, the architectural board is severe and careful.

With the more expensive housing going up, property taxes are increasing. When the assessed value of housing in an area rises, the property taxes of the residents rises.

"It helps the property values because typically the houses that have been torn down were in need of repair and weren't very appealing to look at. Our property taxes have definitely gone up," Bliss said.

Although the construction of new homes and new people moving in is an adjustment, many Clayton citizens seem to embrace the change. "I think it's a positive effect. The houses are nice and the people are nice and they're good neighbors," Alderson said. ☺



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Centene's plans abruptly halted due to last-minute decision

[Maddy McMahon]
Staff Reporter

Anyone walking by Centene Corporation's offices in downtown Clayton, located at Hanley and Forsyth, has probably seen the poster of Centene's proposed \$210 million expansion project for their headquarters.

However, over the summer, on June 12, Centene's plans came to an abrupt halt due to a decision by the Missouri Supreme Court.

Several years ago, Centene Corporation bought the property, including the building, at the southwest corner of Forsyth and Hanley. This became Centene's corporate headquarters.

While in the process of attempting to purchase the garage to its immediate south, it learned the City of Clayton was seeking a request for redevelopment proposals for the entire block in which the Centene property is situated.

Centene, through Centene Plaza Redevelopment Corporation, submitted the only proposal, which the City approved. Further, the City declared the area "blighted" under Missouri statute. This declaration thereby enabled Centene to acquire through eminent domain any properties within the blighted area which owners were unwilling to sell to Centene voluntarily.

Certain owners were unwilling to sell to Centene voluntarily, and Centene then initiated eminent domain proceedings in St. Louis County Circuit Court to acquire the properties for their fair market values. The property owners in question contested those proceedings, but the Circuit Court found in favor of Centene Plaza Redevelopment Corporation.

The property owners appealed to the Missouri Supreme Court, which found that the evidence was insufficient to show that the area was blighted, and reversed the Circuit Court decision.

"I feel like it was unexpected because it is unusual



Staff Photo

The Centene Corporation's plan to develop a major retail and corporate venue at this corner of Hanley and Forsyth has been derailed after the proposal to use eminent domain to gain control of some of the property was overturned by the Missouri Supreme Court.

to have them reverse the City's decision, but I support whatever our state laws require," said Michelle Harris, one of the aldermen in Ward II in Clayton.

According to Gerald Carmody, the attorney who represented the three property owners, David Danforth, Debbie Pyzyk, and Dan Sheehan, "money was

never the issue." Instead, the problem was Centene's approach.

"Centene's approach was: 'here is the project we're going to do, and here is what we're going to pay you.' It was like a neighbor saying, 'here are the plans to remodel our house, and our swimming pool is going to

go on your land.' Or, 'I like your car, and here is what I'll pay you for,'" Carmody said.

Having this leading healthcare organization's headquarters in Clayton would provide "sales tax from the retail aspect, additional property taxes, and would bring vibrancy to our central business district," according to Cynthia Garnholz, the other alderman for Ward II in Clayton.

"The project is a good thing--- all the owners agree--- it was just that the attitude that the City and Centene took was a 'cram-it-down-your-throat' approach," Carmody said.

"I respect the property owners' right to litigate, all the way to the Supreme Court, and I respect the fact that they won," Garnholz said.

Carmody agreed that respect by the City and Centene of the property owners' rights is critical.

"In order to successfully obtain property, even in a project that has universal appeal, you must treat your constituents with respect and acknowledge that they have a right to have different views about things such as their property rights," Carmody said.

Harris said Centene had already invested time, effort, and money in this proposed location.

"It would be better if they could utilize that investment," Harris said. "They like Clayton, they care about it, and they want to stay here ideally, but can't make a terrible business decision to do it."

"I feel now that if Centene wants to build this project, in a gesture of community spirit, these owners are willing to negotiate in good faith," Carmody said.

Mayor Linda Goldstein continues to mediate between Centene and the property owners in an effort to achieve a deal upon which all sides could agree. However, even if Centene does not build their headquarters in Clayton, they will keep their current offices.

"They're going to keep their existing property and maintain a presence," Goldstein said. ☺

Y.E.S. office still in full force

[Elizabeth Sikora]
Staff Reporter

Students looking to earn some extra money may have to look a little harder since the Youth Employment Service (Y.E.S.) office has been reduced to just a bulletin board this year.

"The school was looking for a location for the bookstore, and we decided that we would like to try a new approach in bringing students the information they wanted concerning jobs," Y.E.S. volunteer Fay Sher said.

This year, Y.E.S. will communicate with students through a bulletin board located outside of the Student Activities Office in the Commons. Another reason Y.E.S. moved is because it became difficult to staff the office on a regular basis. Christy Breckenridge, the new chair of Y.E.S., further explained why Y.E.S. is trying a new approach.

"The office became a social hang-out for the kids rather than a place to look for a job," Breckenridge said.

Although the location of the program has changed, the goals of Y.E.S. have stayed the same. They aim to help students who are looking for part-time job opportunities, and members of the Clayton community in need of part-time workers.

"The Y.E.S. program has been a part of CHS for at least 25 years," Sher said. "We help provide interviews for community-wide jobs for CHS students."

Students interested in finding a job need to check the bulletin board, as jobs are posted frequently. Various community businesses or residents call in with jobs, and Breckenridge posts them on the bulletin board with details about the job, as well as contact information.

"To date, I've gotten requests from parents for baby-sitting, tutoring and for help picking up their children from the elementary schools," Breckenridge said. "I've had several requests to help with yard work, landscaping, cleaning and maintaining condos. These kinds of requests generally come from people in the area."

Y.E.S. also receives inquiries from various businesses for part-time workers. A tuxedo rental company and Kennelwood have recently contacted them.

Any parent or business interested in posting a job, or who needs help with something should contact Y.E.S.

"High school kids are great for helping with dinner parties, or in the event that you are injured or cannot get around," Breckenridge said. "It's okay to request help for running errands."

The Y.E.S. program has a dedicated phone line for businesses and parents to call with jobs. The number is 854-6619. The messages are checked daily, and if there are any new jobs, they will usually be posted on the bulletin board within 24 hours of the call.

Y.E.S. is depending on word of mouth to find businesses or parents in need of help from students. Even with their relocation, Y.E.S. is still in full force. ☺



Sarah Horn

Jim Lockhart's AP English class in Room 2 discusses Ralph Ellison's "Invisible Man" in one of the newly renovated English classrooms. The carpeting was replaced with tile over the summer.

New floors make English rooms shine

[Nicholas Andriole]
Staff Reporter

The English classrooms, located on the lower level often felt dark, musty, and unwelcoming last year. However, recent efforts by the maintenance department have taken steps to refresh some of the classrooms.

Over the summer, maintenance staff removed old, torn, and stained Berber carpeting and replaced the flooring with simple, bright, white tiles.

"The district has an ongoing plan for maintaining the buildings throughout the district, and they have funds set aside for that purpose," Principal Louise Losos said. "Our rooms are renovated on a needs basis. These particular rooms had ongoing problems with water leaks in their rooms. There is not intent to replace the carpets in the building with tile, only those rooms that necessitate such a change."

In addition to the recent renovations of the English classrooms, several Foreign Language classrooms were also restored.

"Prior to the renovations, several of the English classrooms seemed to have problems," English Teacher Emily Grady said. "Whatever the cause, the rooms often smelled musty, like a damp basement. The carpets were also stained, despite the best efforts of the maintenance staff to keep them clean."

These changes appear to be welcomed by CHS students and staff.

"I think those rooms were boring, but the white floor gave it a more exciting feel," junior Mariah Hatcher said. "I like it because before I used to drift off. The [new] floors help keep my attention a little bit."

Teachers consistently agree the changes make the rooms brighter and eliminate the concern of stained carpet.



Staff Photo

Wydown Middle School is facing a space crunch and is investigating the possibility of an addition.

WMS investigates space concerns

Wydown, 1

"Our programs have grown, and with those programs growing our needs have grown," Goldberg said. "So I just think that for the teachers here to feel that they can do their job the best they can, we do need some classrooms and different kinds of space."

Goldberg thinks that, in addition to classrooms, students need a specific place to gather and socialize.

"[I would like] a place for kids to go, similar to the [CHS] Commons, where they're supervised but they're not guarded, where they feel comfortable and its sort of their place in the building," Goldberg said. "And there's no way with this building the way it is now that we can provide those kinds of spaces for kids to just be together."

Three groups of seventh and eighth graders, totaling about 40 students, have been meeting with the Clayton-based architectural firm Bond & Wolfe to discuss what they believe needs to be done in the school.

"[The architects] agreed to have the kids come in, because they live it every day, they're in those spaces, they know what it's like," Goldberg said.

Like many, eighth grader Martha Burke feels that the lack of space is definitely apparent this year.

"It's a lot more crowded," Burke said. "The new lockers are bigger, and the hallways feel cramped. At

lunch there's not enough room: the lines are longer, and there's nowhere to sit."

Several teachers verified that the cafeteria situation has been problematic.

"Lunch is almost beyond capacity, if that is possible," social studies teacher Jennifer Voss said. "At times, students get their lunch with just a few minutes left to eat. The lines are long and there are so many students in the cafeteria at one time, it gets a little confusing and lines get backed up."

However, Goldberg is optimistic that the project is moving forward. The architects returned during the week of Sept. 17 to present initial thoughts and designs to students and teachers. On Oct. 17, they will make a presentation to the school board, at which point district administrators and board members will comment on the project.

While the architects so far have been paid out of Wydown's budget, Goldberg commented that the question of money for the renovation itself has not yet been discussed. The board will decide what to do after seeing the proposal.

"They'll have to have some long conversations about how much that costs and where the money would come from," Goldberg said. "I have no idea about any of those kinds of things. I just have my dream about more space at Wydown. That's where I'm focusing." ☺

Stuber Gym renovated over summer

[Xi Wenren]
Staff Reporter

Stuber Gym got a facelift over the summer. Maybe the lights weren't always so bright and the walls weren't always that shiny. Most of the renovations took place during the summer of 2007.

"Last fall, we got a new floor, and this summer while school was out, they repainted the gym and will have replaced all of the lights," Principal Louise Losos said.

Most of the lights were replaced over the summer, but some are yet to be changed.

Redoing the floor is an expensive proposition, but CHS had some help. Losos said that the money used to renovate the floors came from private donations only and the rest of the money came directly from the district of Clayton.

According to Losos, the renovations are just periodic maintenance. After all, the idea of the renovations

came from the maintenance staff. The one thing that is different this time is that they repainted the gym. Stuber does not get painted very often. So how long might these changes last?

"The renovations of the gym will most likely outlast our time at CHS," Losos said.

Before now, the last time Stuber was renovated was about 50 years ago. It's about time for some change. However, most CHS students don't seem to know what's going on.

Sophomore Yi Guo said that maybe more students would notice a change when the winter sport season starts. The fall sports at CHS are primarily outdoor sports.

"We pretty much never go indoors for Soccer unless the weather is bad," sophomore Brendan Gary said.

"Our new gym should definitely be a more inviting place to watch a game," Losos said.

The winter sports season is arriving soon and the newly renovated gym will be ready for them. ☺

Girls step up in boys' sports

[Maddy Bullard]
Staff Reporter

Girls who play sports at CHS are serious and competitive, sometimes even serious enough to play with the big boys.

Freshman Anat Gross is playing football this year on the CHS freshman team.

"I decided to play football because I love the game and wanted to play on a more competitive level," Gross said.

Although football is traditionally a boys' sport at CHS, Anat wasn't perturbed.

"I'm comfortable, I know everyone on the team, and I'm good with it," Gross said.

Freshman Christian Thomas, who also plays on the team, agrees.

"Football shouldn't be thought of as a 'boy sport'," Thomas said.

She also said that there aren't any differences or discrimination because of her gender. She said nobody expects less of her because she's a girl.

"As we'd say we're all part of the Greyhound family," Gross said.

Thomas agrees, and he praised Gross for her positive, committed mind-set.

"I think we could use more players with her attitude," Thomas said. "No one really thinks of her as a girl, but more of a teammate."

The Greyhounds have shaped up really well.

"We [are] a completely different team than five weeks ago," she said.

Gross plays on the offensive line at tackle, and inside linebacker. Thomas said that Anat adds depth needed at various positions because the freshman team is short of players this year. The team's first game was on Sept. 8. She said she was both nervous and excited be-

fore the game, but she thought she would be pretty nervous by Saturday. Unfortunately, the Hounds lost their game Saturday, but they won against Affton on Sept. 12.

Looking back, Anat said that every minute of her time was worth it. She also pointed out that she's not playing to be the only girl, but for the same reason everyone else is. "We come to practice right after school because we love the game," Gross said.

In addition, Anat had advice for other girls.

"If there are any other girls that love the game and are willing to work hard then yes, I'd recommend they play. It's hard work and you have to be dedicated and like what you're doing."

Thomas agreed.

"Girls should seriously play if they are interested," Thomas said.

Gross isn't the only one willing to play on a boys' sports team. Junior Shannon Harms played on the baseball team last year.

She, too, thought the experience was worth it.

"I definitely learned the differences between softball and baseball in a hands-on way," Harms said.

Harms played third base and had three at bats, rounding the bases once in the season. She said she definitely could've gone for some more play time, but the team had a really big roster.

She also said she was as comfortable as one could get around a large group of guys and it helped that they used different locker rooms.

"It made meetings difficult to attend if they were in the guys' locker room," Harms said. "Other than that it was just fine. [My] favorite part was getting to see the different coaching styles from the baseball coaches to my softball coaches' style."



Freshman Anat Gross one of a few girls in CHS who decided to take on the challenge of playing traditionally boy sports.

However, it wasn't all fun and games.

"My least favorite part was when I was injured towards the end of the season and had to take a trip to the emergency room to get x-rays for my leg," Harms said.

Harms, unlike Gross, had a companion on the team. Junior Mary Barber also played baseball last year. Harms said that she told Mary, "that as long as she did it and we both agreed to never quit, that I was all in."

Harms also encourages other girls to try baseball.

"If other girls want to give it a try, I'd totally back them up," Harms said.

However, Harms would also like to see the girls' sports programs grow.

"It would be pretty awesome if one day girls' sports were taken as seriously as boys' sports," Harms said.

For those girls who are serious and dedicated athletes interested in playing boys' sports, the success of Gross and Harms can help them gain the confidence to make the leap. ☺

Field hockey extends team unity, friendship beyond the playing field

field hockey, 13

The difficult practices and team motivation definitely help the field hockey team to be the best team they can be. However, the team would not be as good as it is without the love for the sport that all the team's members possess.

"I love everything about field hockey, I play year round and never get sick of it," Katz said. "I hope that I can continue to play after high school!"

Some team members especially love the nature of field hockey, or use it as a stress reliever.

"I love how fast paced field hockey can be," Krane said. "It can be really fun and exciting to play. Being on offense and shooting at the goal is lots of fun. Often, field hockey ends up being relaxing for me if I am stressed."

Other team members enjoy being on the field hockey team, and love the team atmosphere.

"I love being part of the team,"

Bliss said. "The field hockey girls are all super sweet and I am friends with everyone, on and off of the field. When we lose a game it's nice to have the whole team with you."

Field hockey is a passion of everyone on the team, especially the coach.

"[I love] the sport—the smell of the field, competition, seeing the excitement of the girls when they win, and helping them get back up when they lose," Dooley said. "I love everything about coaching!"

The team works very hard, and is determined to win future

games.

"We are a team that focus' on playing our game," Dooley said. "The girls go out to WIN every game we play. They know how to dig deep when they are tired, and in turn play for each other. We are a true team!" ☺

The field hockey girls are all super sweet and I am friends with everyone, on and off of the field. When we lose a game it's nice to have the whole team with you.

[Laura Bliss]
Senior

FIELD HOCKEY SCHEDULE

Sept. 26	Lafayette - Away
Sept. 28	Webster Groves - Home
Oct. 1	Rockwood Summit - Home
Oct. 5	Parkway West - Away
Oct. 8	Brentwood @ Parkway North
Oct. 10	Parkway North - Away
Oct. 12	Ladue - Home



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Teens get a crash course in driving

[Carol Iskiwitch]
Editor

Learning to drive and obtaining a driver's license are rites of passage for most teenagers in the United States, and CHS students are no exception. Driving gives teens a lot of independence, but it also demands a high level of responsibility.

Automobiles can be dangerous in any situation, but the risk increases when a young driver is behind the wheel. Teens are involved in a disproportionate number of car crashes compared to other drivers.

Senior Bradford Rolan had a minor crash last year.

"It was after the homecoming bonfire last year, and I was driving my dad's car," Rolan said. "There were two other people in the car. I needed money, so I drove to Regions Bank. I pulled up to the ATM, but I pulled up too close and I knocked the side view mirror a little. So, I backed up the car to get out and see how bad the scratch was. I thought I put it in park, but when I got out of the car it kept going forward right back into the ATM, taking the side view mirror off."

Rolan tried to repair the mirror with super glue and tape, but it didn't hold for very long before it fell off again.

"When I got home my dad didn't believe my story of what actually happened to the mirror," Rolan said. "But the next time he went to the bank he saw a blue stripe on the ATM, and then he believed me."

Luckily only Rolan's side view

mirror was hit, and no one was injured. But car crashes can be a lot more dangerous. Junior Abby Eisenberg was involved in a car accident just last month. She was a passenger in a car and her friend from another school was driving.

"My friend, Gabe, had barely had his license when we got in the accident," Eisenberg said. "It actually happened on my birthday. Gabe, his sister, my sister, and I were in the car. The car had a standard transmission, and he was messing around with the gears. After a few minutes of that, the car started rolling backwards, even though the emergency brake was on because it was on a really steep hill. The car started rolling really slowly, and it all happened before we realized it; the car rolled all the way down the hill and across the road into the garage of the guy who lives behind my mom's office."

Fortunately their car didn't hit the car in the garage, or the owner of the garage would have been owed a lot more money. All the occupants were okay, although Gabe was scratched up.

"We called the police once everyone was safely out of the car, and each of us had to answer a lot

of questions about the specifics of what had happened," Eisenberg said. "They were very suspicious that we had been drinking or doing drugs before hand, and kept asking us if we had engaged in that activity before. But it was nothing like that, and it was kind of insulting that they were so convinced, because we were teenagers, that we had done that."

The [teenage] driver leaned over to pick up the books and got into a minor accident.

[Dan Hegger]
Student Resource Officer

The group went through that same thing with the insurance people, having to tell the story separately over and over. "We all went to the hospital," Eisenberg said. "Gabe was the only one who had to see the doctor, but he was

checked out, and luckily everything was okay. But, the doors were open when the car went through the garage, so they got really messed up and needed thousands of dollars to repair. The garage the car hit collapsed partly in the back, and so that guy got a lot of money too."

In the United States, traffic crashes are the leading cause of teen fatalities, accounting for 44% of teen deaths. Some causes of the high number of teen traffic crashes are inexperience, distractions such as passengers and cell phones, and



Tom Maxim

use of alcohol and other drugs.

CHS Student Resource Officer Dan Hegger has had several years of experience with drivers both on the road in a patrol car and as an accident reconstructionist. Hegger can recall reconstructing at least one fatal car accident involving a teen driver. He also remembers one specific incident of a St. Louis teen crashing.

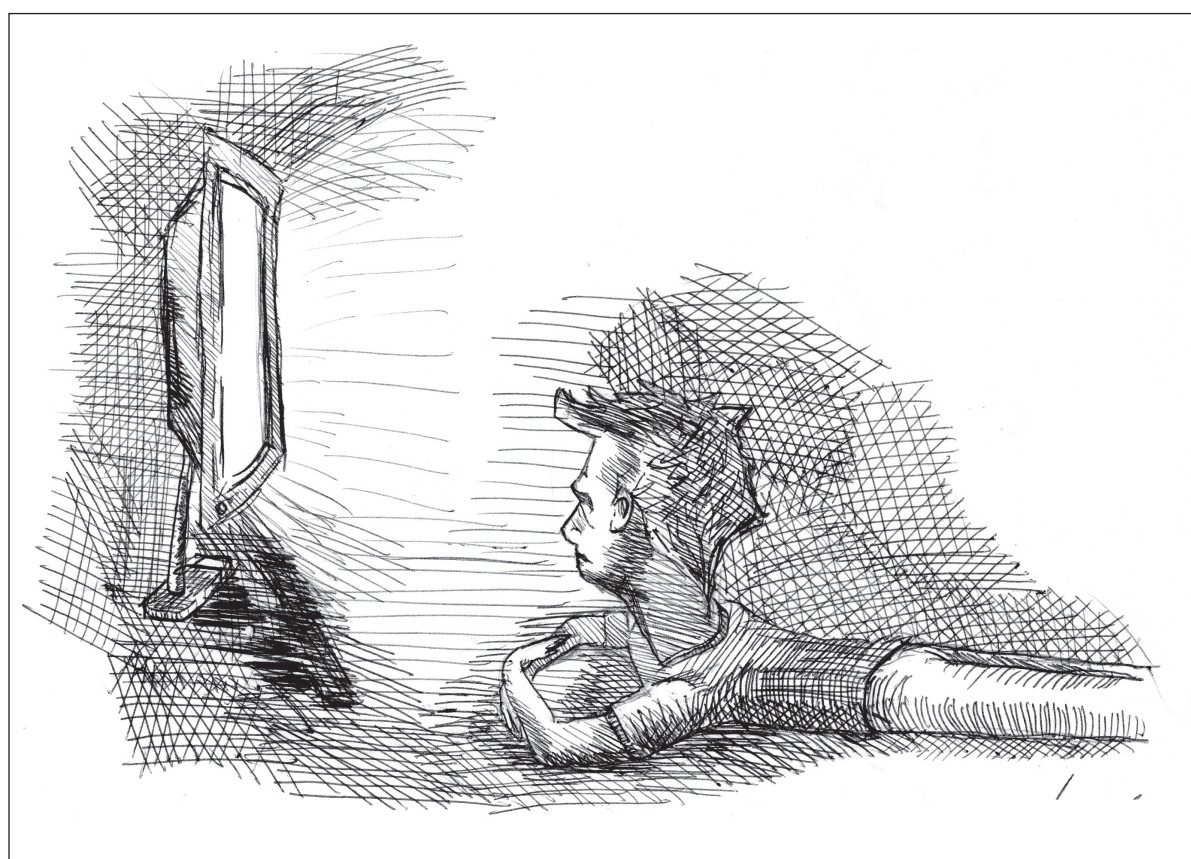
"The teenager had schoolbooks on the passenger seat, and the books fell off the seat onto the floor when the car turned," Hegger said.

"The driver leaned over to pick up the books and got into a minor accident."

Hegger thinks that newer drivers do not realize how difficult driving can be, and that they are more easily distracted. The radio

and friends in the car can compound the distraction.

Research from the National Safety Council (www.nsc.org) also shows that the area of the brain that controls weighing consequences of one's actions, suppressing impulses and organizing thoughts does not fully mature until about age 25. Thus, teenagers must always be very diligent while driving. ☺



Sam Bader

TV addiction troubles

[Taylor Stone]
Staff Reporter

With the fall television lineup swiftly under way, there's no question that thousands of American teens will be and are tuning in to such ratings-gobblers as "The Real World," "The Hills," "Heroes," "Prison Break," and "Ugly Betty." And that's just a handful of shows on a few channels. But how much TV is too much?

CHS students see and hear about TV shows almost every day, whether from a friend, on the radio, in magazine advertisements, or just from the television itself.

However, it is apparent that such excessive exposure and addiction to TV is damaging to teens' social, mental, and physical health.

With people commonly feeling mesmerized or brainwashed by the television, some questions are raised as to whether their endless hours in front of the "tube" are birthed from addiction or not.

TV watching could have some qualities of substance dependence. Scientific American magazine said that psychologists and psychiatrists define substance dependence as a disorder characterized by criteria that include spending a great deal of time using the substance, using it more often than one intends, thinking about reducing use or making repeated unsuccessful efforts to reduce use, giving up important social, family or occupational activities to use it and reporting withdrawal symptoms when one stops using it.

All of these principles can relate

to a person who watches too much TV and can affect anyone of any age, from a retired grandmother who watches "Oprah" and CNN every day to a teen who does not miss an episode of "Flavor of Love."

Junior Abby Williams relates to one of these principles.

"I hate to admit it, but I would definitely miss TV a lot if it was taken from me," Williams said. "I would survive, though, after the appropriate period of withdrawal."

It is bewildering that, on average, individuals in the industrialized world devote an average of three hours a day to TV viewing, half of their leisure time and more than any other activity besides work or sleep, as reported by researchers Robert Kubey, a professor at Rutgers University and director of the Center for Media Studies, and Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, Professor of Psychology at Claremont Graduate University. In Gallup polls in 1992 and 1999, two out of five adult respondents and seven out of 10 teenagers said they spent too much time watching TV.

Despite these alarming statistics, some CHS students do not think television is a problem.

"I don't think TV is a problem," junior Dylan Cockson said. "Most students are too worried about homework or hanging out with friends to watch TV."

Sophomore Melissa Kopp said she does not believe that television watching is a problem for most CHS students.

"Most of us get our homework done and study for tests," Kopp said. "Only the real slackers who watch TV constantly get punished for it; just look at their grades."

Freshman Zeina Ziade disagrees.

"I think it's a problem because most people assume they will take a

I hate to admit it, but I would definitely miss TV a lot if it was taken from me. I would survive, though, after the appropriate period of withdrawal.

[Abby Williams]
Junior

5-minute break by watching 5 minutes of the show, but later they get addicted to the show and want to know what happens, and this takes time from their homework," Ziade said.

Whether one thinks that this issue is a problem at CHS or not, there is no doubt that it exists in the majority of today's teens. The trouble is, with the countless number of programs, channels, and shows linked to today's pop culture, this phenomenon is not likely to disappear any time soon. ☺

MRSA awareness raised in schools

[Aaron Praiss]
Editor

In high school and college environments, the danger of disease spreading rapidly and easily among students always exists. Such diseases include hepatitis, meningitis, and now-a-days, a special form of the staph infection.

This new form of the staph infection is known as Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA). It is very dangerous, as doctors don't have many options to treat the disease, and it can sometimes result in death.

"MRSA is a particular strain of staphylococcus," Associate Chair of the Biology Department at Saint Louis University Jack Kennel said.

"In fact, Staphylococcus is commonly found on the human body, even clean human bodies. Staphylococcus is known to be a commensalistic bacterium, as it harbors on a species like the human, yet does no harm until it breaches the first line of defense. The first line of defense is typically human skin."

The fact that MRSA is very commonly found is what makes it especially dangerous. However, humans don't typically carry that many MRSA bacterium around on their skin, and the atmosphere has to be specific for the MRSA to begin to harbor.

According to Registered Nurse Carol Flannery, about 1 percent of the population colonizes or harbors MRSA.

"MRSA is a resistant form of staphylococcus," Kennel said.

"MRSA has developed to resist to the antibiotic methicillin, which is of the penicillin family. This development does not occur often in nature, yet it is more likely in a hospital environment. Bacterium don't reproduce like humans, they simply exchange plasmids, containing DNA. In a competitive environment (a hospital patient) in which bacteria are fighting against medications, certain resistant forms of bacteria thrive. MRSA can potentially spread its DNA to other bacteria, thus producing a serious situation for the patient."

Not only can MRSA rapidly duplicate easily in a competitive environment like a hospital, but also it can easily harbor when a patient has been on antibiotics.

"Also, a person who has recently been on antibiotics for any reason has a higher risk of developing resistant forms of bacteria easier," Kennel said. "With the antibiotics, the environment becomes competitive, and the resistant bacteria form wins over other non-resistant bacterium, since they can resist certain antibiotics. Bacteria like MRSA thrive in these environments also."

With these specific atmospheres, MRSA can duplicate at an alarming rate, posing a serious threat to the patient. Yet, at the same time, in a high school situation, one student could easily harbor MRSA on the surface of their skin without knowing, and spread the disease to many other students.

"At a wrestling tournament or a basketball game, where people come in close contact, bacteria

spread very easily," Kennel said. "If an athlete were to be cut or have an abrasion, and another athlete was harboring MRSA because he had recently been exposed to an environment where MRSA is prevalent, there is a very high risk that an outbreak of MRSA could occur."

Last year, the CHS wrestling team had to be checked for staph infection, because of an outbreak that occurred at one single tournament. That was simply a case of staph, not MRSA, but this event shows the incredibly easy spread of such disastrous diseases.

"Any age group should be aware of MRSA and its danger," Flannery said. "Anybody who comes in close contact should be alert to the spread of MRSA. The common groups include athletes, the military, kids of any ages, people with very poor hygiene, people living in very crowded environments and prisoners."

Simply washing one's hands often can prevent the spread of not only infectious diseases like MRSA, but also illnesses like the common cold and the flu.

"It would be helpful to have athletes shower before tournaments," Kennel said. "This is unlikely, yet it could lower the rate of transmission of bacteria like MRSA."

Showers would definitely help stop the simple spread of bacteria like MRSA. No cases of MRSA have been reported at CHS, yet all students should be aware of how easily spread MRSA and other infectious diseases like hepatitis and meningitis are. ☺

Number of hospital stays for patients infected with MRSA

1995
38,100

2000
128,500

2005
368,800

Data from News and Numbers from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Process of becoming a citizen comes with both difficulties and rewards

[Sneha Viswanathan]
Staff Reporter

America is a nation of immigrants, and many first and second-generation immigrants aspire to be members of the country who can vote, take part in politics, and exercise other rights and responsibilities of a citizen.

Many people who move to the United States and wish to reside in the country in the long run fulfill this goal by applying for citizenships. Among the diverse population at CHS are students whose families are going through the process of becoming citizens.

The process for getting a citizenship begins with a visa. In order to legally come to the United States as an immigrant, an adult must have a visa. According to U.S. Immigration Support (<http://www.usimmigrationsupport.org/>), there are different types of visas: a work visa, which a person can obtain if they work for an employer in the United States, an application for refugee status, a fiancée visa, where a person can apply for a visa if they are going to marry a citizen of the United States, or a student visa, which is for anyone who is studying higher education in the United States (high school, college, etc.). If a person studies in the United States and then gets a job within the country, they can later apply for a work visa if they are sponsored by an employer.

CHS students have varied reasons why their families came to the United States and why they are applying for citizenships.

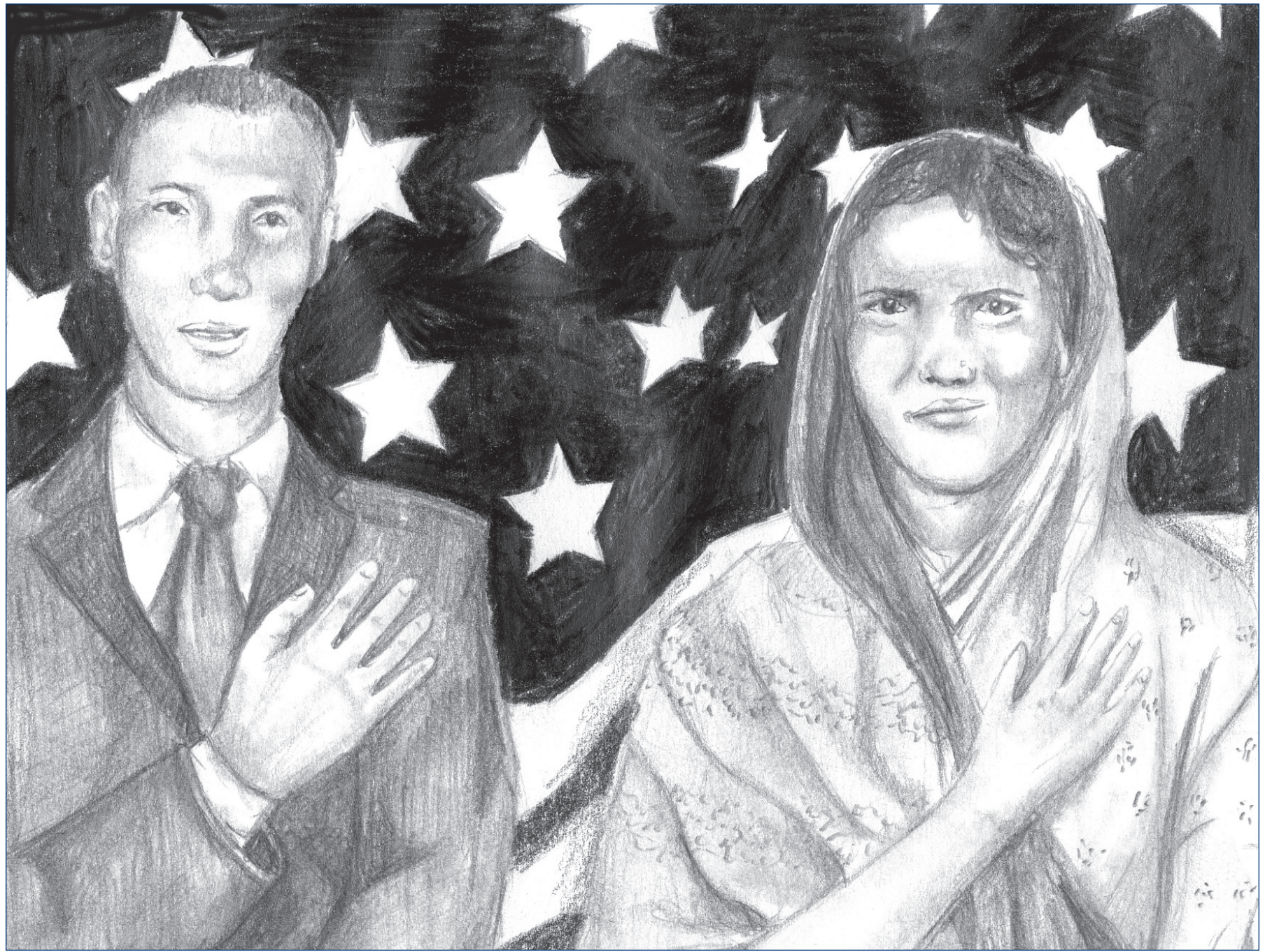
"There were many Chinese immigrants coming to the United States shortly before us, and we kind of got caught up in it and also decided to move here," junior Tianxin Ku said.

Freshman Ikshu Neithalath said that he had to have a medical procedure in the United States when he was younger, and his family decided to settle here. The common thread in the stories of citizenships is that many students' parents were offered better work and education opportunities in the United States. After obtaining one of the types of visas, a person can apply for a Green Card (permanent residency status). U.S. Immigration Support defines a person with a Green Card as someone who "has a right to live and work permanently within the United States."

"Before getting a Green Card, you have to see a physician to make sure you're in good health, and you need to fill out basic information forms about your background," Ku said. "There aren't really any restrictions except that you can't do anything illegal (drugs, crime, etc.) and you can't leave the United States after you apply for a Green Card before you get it."

After becoming a permanent resident, a person can travel freely outside the United States and change jobs more easily. The main restriction of having a Green Card is not being able to vote. In order to apply for a citizenship, a person must be a permanent resident for at least five years. After applying for a citizenship, a permanent resident must pass tests that test their knowledge of U.S. government and history, and English language skills. Most CHS students aren't worried about the citizenship exam.

"The test will be over basic U.S. history, so I don't



Kerri Burner

think it will be difficult," Neithalath said. "Also, once parents are citizens, their children automatically become citizens."

Most students look forward to becoming citizens, however their reactions about how close they feel to being citizens are mixed.

"I already feel like a citizen because most adults that I know, like my teachers, treat me the same as anyone else who is born here," Ku said.

Others don't feel as close to citizenship as Ku does. "I don't feel like a citizen of the United States because I'm a citizen of China, and most of my family lives in China," sophomore Ting Lu said.

Neithalath agrees that he doesn't already feel like a citizen.

"I don't feel like a citizen because I don't affiliate

with either the United States or India, my country of birth," Neithalath said.

There are several advantages to having a Green Card, and other than lacking the right to vote, the rights and responsibilities of a permanent resident are not very different from those of a citizen. Lu feels it is not essential to become a citizen.

"I go to China every summer to visit my relatives," Lu said. "I can go to China and back easily enough with just a Green Card, whereas if I become a US citizen it will be harder to go to China."

Although she feels strong ties to her country of birth, Lu thinks it might be useful to have a citizenship.

"If there was dual citizenship available between China and the United States, I would get it," Lu said.

Many students moved to the United States from an-

other country at a young age, and some have mixed feelings about becoming a citizen. They feel close to both countries or to neither one in particular. To young people who are going through the process, the main benefits of becoming a citizen are that it enables them to exercise certain liberties, live and travel freely to the United States, as well as giving them more opportunities for scholarships and jobs. Immigrants still miss some aspects about their native country.

"I miss the food from the roadside stalls," said Neithalath.

Lu agrees that she misses not only local food from China, but also her family and the overcrowded cities.

Ku misses her family the most.

"I miss my relatives, especially my grandparents, and my heritage," Ku said. ☺

Parent-teen relationships vary greatly

[Maddie Harned]
Editor

Whether they are chock full of fighting or exceedingly courteous, relationships between parents and their teenagers are as varied as the individuals themselves.

As teenagers change, so do their relationship with their parents, and vice versa.

Adjusting to such changes can sometimes take a toll on both the parents and teens.

"Over the years I've just hit the normal teenage stage of wanting to go out with friends instead of staying home with the 'rents," junior Alison Magee said.

Several reoccurring problems are found in relationships between parents and teens, sometimes not even recognized by either party.

"Some typical problems I see in parent/teen relationships are a lack of mutual respect, lousy commu-

nication, arguments, not listening to each other's point of view and behavior that irritates the other person on purpose,"

relationships expert Diana Sterling said. "Mostly the parent not understanding or appreciating the unique struggles that come with being a teen at this time."

Another common issue is the competition to get into college.

If the pressures of college become too intense, a sense of mutual

respect between parents and teens may be damaged.

To have a healthy relationship both the parents and teens must be mutually respectful.

[Diana Sterling]
Relationships Expert

"I often see parents drive the college application process according to what they want, not what their child wants," college counselor Bari Norman said. "They forget that this is not their life to live, and that their child may actually have preferences and ideas that are not identical to their own."

However tumultuous the teenage years may be, some teens find themselves becoming closer and getting along with their parents.

"I feel like my parents have more



courtesy of Emilie Harris

Junior Emmy Herman, pictured with her mother and sister, has a close relationship with her parents, able to speak openly with them about anything.

of a sense of who I am and are less concerned with how they play into my life now that my personality has been formed by various instances," CHS senior Laura Shoemaker said. "I love my parents very much, and I know they care about me; they love me no matter what."

Junior Emmy Herman has a similarly loving relationship with her parents.

"My relationship with my parents. I think it is different from anyone else's," Herman said. "I'm able to tell them anything and not worry about their reaction because I know they will still be there for me. Over the past few years my parents and I have become closer, I'm able to talk to them, and not have to be embarrassed when I am with them."

Nevertheless, both teenagers and parents agree that there are definite boundaries that come with

the relationship between parents and teenagers.

"The key is to be mutual, and the parents must be the role model of healthy boundaries if the child is to learn to model that," Sterling said. "It starts when the kids are small. If the parents are conducting themselves showing healthy boundaries with all other adults including emotional, physical, financial and mental boundaries, based on self respect, then the child learns to copy these behaviors."


A mutual respect for each other's privacy is a common boundary brought up by teens," Herman said. "There are definitely boundaries between a parent and a teenager, one being parents shouldn't pry into a teenagers business all the time expecting to get answers because in reality we will come for their advice at some point."

Shoemaker agreed that such prying destroys trust.

"I think it can be bad when a parent has to go snooping to find out stuff about their children," Shoemaker said. "Parents should never snoop."

Overall, both parents and teens agree that there is no such thing as a perfect parent-teen relationship. However, there are several keys to developing a friendship with healthy boundaries, even in the oftentimes turbulent teenage years.

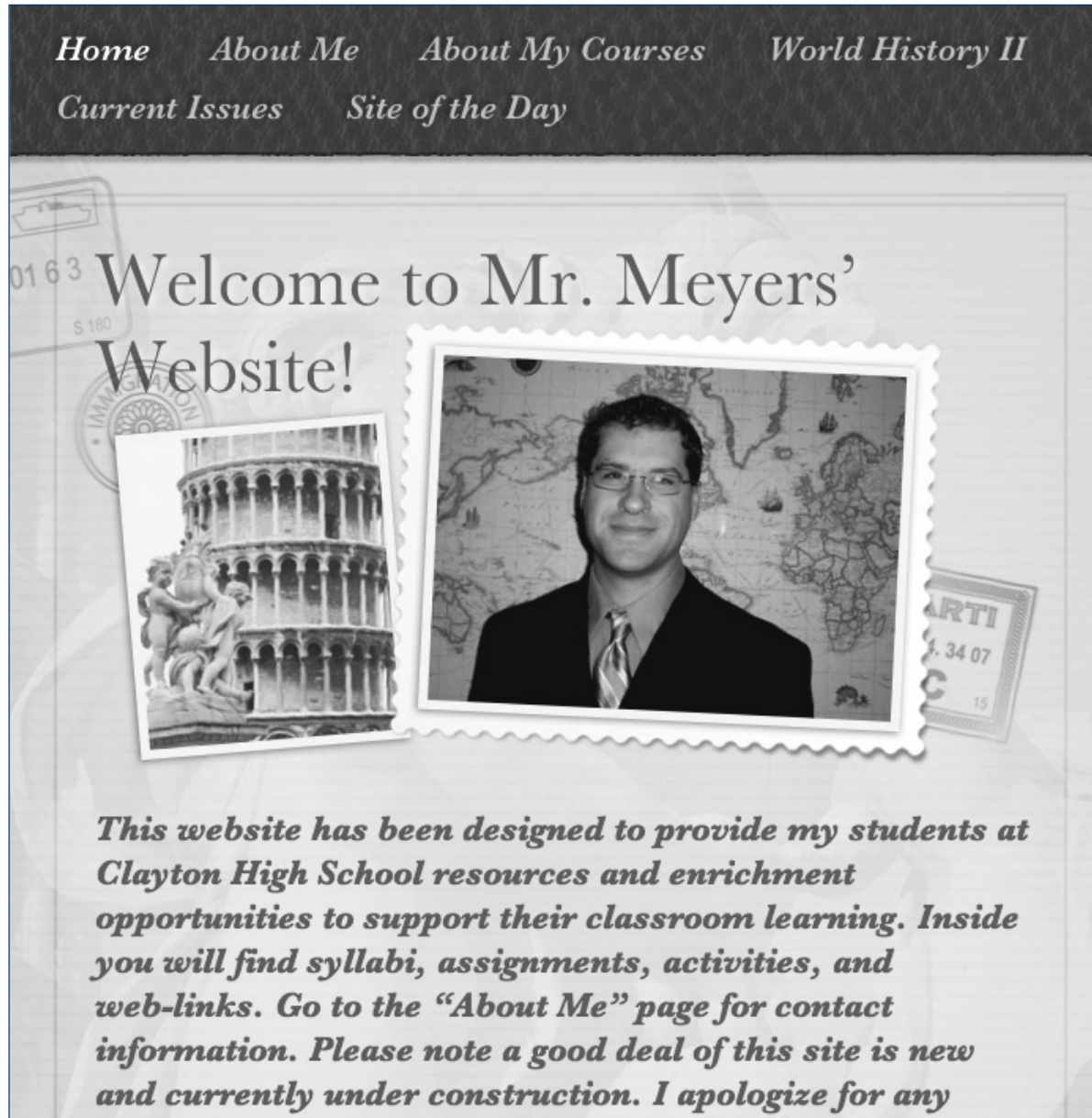
"To have a healthy relationship both the parents and teens must be mutually respectful, enjoy positive and open communication, be supportive of each other's time and agendas and be full of unconditional love," Sterling said. "It's great when they are able to speak about difficult topics or difficult things that they are experiencing." ☺



METRO IMAGING

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New teacher websites provide resources



Courtesy of the Clayton website
Very enthusiastic about his webpage, Mr. Meyers has added not only course information and resources but a powerpoint about himself.

[Simone Bernstein]
Staff Reporter

It might be a far cry from the typical Facebook pages that high schoolers are used to viewing online, but now students can access their CHS History Class syllabus or find their second period teacher's contact information online.

For the 2007-2008 CHS academic year Clayton faculty will post websites that include contact information (name, phone, e-mail, schedule, office, etc), a course syllabus, course expectations, resources and/or academic links.

"As of August 29 (only the second week of school), three out of every four teachers in the District had posted information on their Web pages," said Chris Tennill, Director of Communications for the School District of Clayton.

While viewing the Clayton High School web page, students may notice the new changes to the CHS website. To access a teacher's website from the Clayton High School website click the "Staff" button and browse through the alphabetized list to find a teacher.

Clicking on the teacher transfers a student to a different page where links made by the designated teacher are available on the left of the computer screen.

While some teachers keep their webpage ornamentation to a minimum, others include many resources and links to other academic websites. Some teachers also include homework help and extra practice worksheets. Many teachers update their website on a regular basis and advise their students to use the website as a learning tool.

"Any Web site, whether it's the District site, a club page or a teacher's Web page, helps provide an additional source of information and an additional line of communication for those surfing the Web," Tennill said. "They are yet another way that we can facilitate home-school communications, but should never be

seen as a substitute or replacement for one-on-one contact between teachers, students and parents."

Josh Meyers, a World History II teacher and Academic Director, includes a syllabus for the class, exam preparation sheets, links to interesting websites, lecture notes and a power-point with background information about himself on his website.

"My website, I believe, is a good resource for students and parents, and I think the more teachers look at this as a good resource the more they will take advantage of this opportunity," Meyers said. "We live in a 'brave new world,' and as long as technology enhances and supports great instruction, instead of replacing it, the state of education in this country should improve."

Mike Howe, an Honors Chemistry teacher, also updates his website frequently, with homework assignments, online readings and worksheets. He advises his students to check the website on a daily basis.

"Mr. Howe places practice problems on his website for tests and quizzes," sophomore Nicole Turza said. "This conserves the use of paper and

helps me study."

Numerous students like Turza check their teacher's websites on a weekly basis for the extra benefit.

Although many teachers agree that web sites improve students learning, some believe they are difficult to maintain and revise.

"For some of us, creating a website is difficult, because we're technically illiterate," Music teacher Alice Fasman said. "That's the only drawback."

Teacher websites provide benefits for both students and parents offering up-to-date class information and resources. Finally, websites provide a human face to your CHS faculty member. Maybe not your typical Facebook version of a webpage, but where else can students catch a glimpse of Mr. Meyers holding his adorable twin baby girls? ☺

Any web site, whether it's the District site, a club page or a teacher's web page, helps provide an additional source of information.

[Chris Tennill]
Director of Communications

Game designing becoming a popular major

[Kevin Johnson]
Staff Reporter

They are not mind-altering drugs but video games are yielding increasing numbers of addicts: both teenagers and adults. More and more gamers are turning their hobby into a career in the \$40 billion industry.

Exploding numbers of U.S. universities and technical colleges are offering video game related majors, but industry insiders question the merit of these programs for non-technical segments of the industry such as design and production.

"You need a four-year degree," Tom Sloper, a video game producer said. "The diploma is one of the strongest tools against those barriers to entry in the game biz. After

you have your Bachelor's degree, maybe then go to a game school. If you have to choose between one or the other, go to the regular college, not the game school."

The video game industry encompasses a broad spectrum of technical and artistic skills. Graphics, programming, sound and marketing mostly require specialized degrees, while design and production are much more abstract and flexible, but are not entry level jobs.

Video game testing is a common way for future designers and producers to break into the industry and doesn't require a specific degree.

"To become a "game designer," you will need a broad education," Sloper said. "Major in just about anything that interests you, espe-

cially if it relates to computers or entertainment - just get a degree. If you can find a school that offers a program geared for game design, fine - go for it."

Otherwise, Sloper suggests a list of courses to take for video game design, all of which can be found at almost any college or university. Among them: physics, math, psychology, history, acting and marketing.

"The point is that game designers, as creators of worlds for players to inhabit, need to have a solid understanding of what worlds are made of," Sloper said. "They are not just made of stone, metal, dirt, and water -- they are also made of people with an extensive body of knowledge."

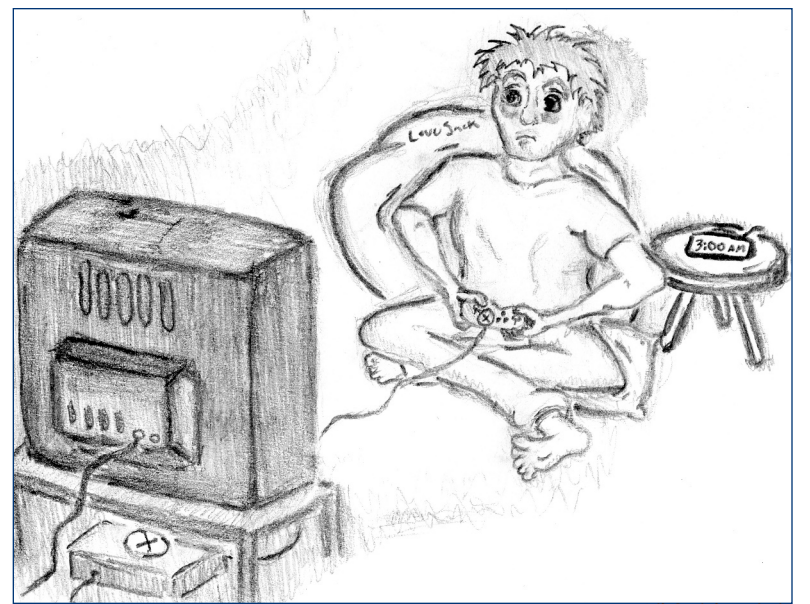
For some, video game design of-

fers a perfect blend of art and science, creativity and collaboration. It's one of the few professional careers that can be entered with any type of bachelor's degree, yet offers opportunity to advance to positions of high prestige and salary.

Salaries in the industry average over \$70,000 and peak at well over six figures according to Game Developer Magazine's yearly salary survey.

Because the Industry is new and growing, its hierarchy is not as rigid as the film industry.

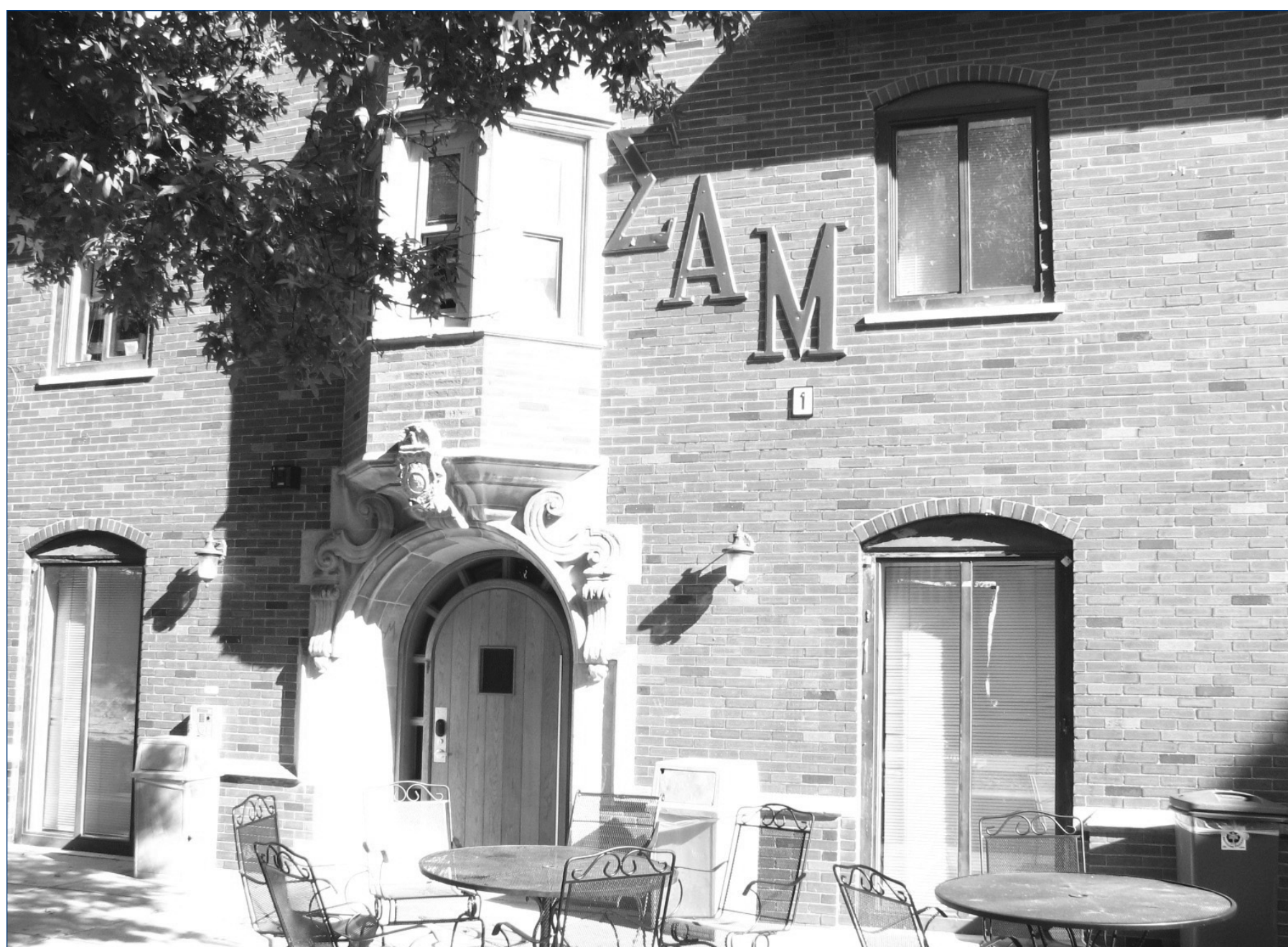
"Typically, a successful game designer might move up into a creative director role or a producer position (and eventually even higher), or might strike out on his own and start his own game company," Sloper said. ☺



Ali Sehzadeh

Greek life helps some freshmen transition to college

Recent CHS alums reflect on their experiences with the rushing process.



Sigma Alpha Mu is one of Washington University's numerous fraternity houses.

Julia Reilly

[Caroline Stamp]
Staff Reporter

Kappa Kappa Gamma, kappa Alpha Theta, Beta Theta Pi.

Is Greek life beneficial for college students? "Greek" is a television show just finishing its first season. In the show, the viewers join the characters as they go through the rushing process and live in fraternities and sororities.

In college, freshmen can choose to go through the rushing process to be in a sorority or a fraternity. This process can be very tedious and extensive.

"The rushing process is a lot different from what I expected," CHS alum Ali Sandler said. "You visit all of the sorority houses, then you preference them. The next day, you get a list of the houses that wanted you back, and you preference them again. On bid day, you get an envelope with the house that wants you to join."

Influences to join a sorority or fraternity can come from television shows, movies, from friends, and from parents. Josh Carlie, CHS alum currently attending the University of Southern California, said his influences are from family and from people at college.

"A large part of the social scene happens on fraternity row. Many people at USC say it's hard for guys to have a social life without being in a fraternity," Carlie said. "Also, my dad was a fraternity guy and he kind of wanted me to join one."

Sandler joined to make new friends. "I decided to rush is a way to meet new people. I think rushing helps ease the transition into college," Sandler said.

The television show "Greek" depicts Greek life as being one big party. Other movies and television shows also make sororities and fraternities seem like a fun place to be.

Carlie agrees that Greek life is fun. "The best part about being part of a fraternity is always having a place to go when you want to have fun," Carlie said.

Although Greek life can be depicted as all fun and partying, Sandler says that it can be more than that.

"The best part is meeting other people involved in Greek life," Sandler said. "It's also a good way to get involved with your school since sororities and fraternities have events and do charity work." ☺

Noodles & Co. offers fresh, fast pasta

[Kelly Moffitt]

Co-Editor in Chief

I first happened upon Noodles and Company under strange circumstances. I was visiting a friend in Colorado, and I first partook of the glory that is this restaurant in an altitude-sickness haze. Needless to say, my judgment was a little off because I felt like I was periodically about to collapse from lack of oxygen, but I remember being wowed by the selection of carefully prepared pastas, soups, and salads. I also remember feeling heaps better once my dose of carbohydrates and pasta sauce had been replenished.

So I came back to St. Louis, and after many months had past, I heard a rumor that N&C had moved here too. I thus began my search to find it. After a carefully strategized drive, a little past the Creve Couer 12 movie theater at 10925 Olive Blvd, I came upon N&C once again. This time, under my normal ravenous condition, the food tasted just as good, if not better.

N&C is not a restaurant for those wary of carbs. However, if you eat pasta like a religious zealot, this restaurant will become your Mecca.

N&C was started in 1993 by Aaron Kennedy, who was living at the time in Greenwich Village, New York. Everyday he passed different kinds of noodle places, and he thought it would be a good idea to throw them all together in one fast, comfortable, and tasty atmosphere.

Their self proclaimed mantra, "Fresh. Wholesome. Balanced. Fast" is a testament to how wonderful their food tastes, no matter what you're in the mood for. Every visit to N&C is like coming home to mom's homemade macaroni and cheese (or, as the case may be, Pad Thai), every bite encapsulates you in comfort.

The menu has three categories: Asian, Mediterranean, and American, as well as a convenient section, for the picky eater, to customize your own dishes.

Within each category, there are a variety of pastas, salads, and soups. Conveniently, they can be arranged in a "Trio" which allows for an entrée of soup or pasta,



Patti Giandonato, left, takes a tray of food to a table to be served to customers at a Noodles & Company outlet in La Grange, Illinois. The chain restaurant is a newcomer to the quick-casual scene, which also includes Corner Bakery, Panera Bread Co. and Chipotle.

a salad, and your choice of meat or tofu, for the reasonable price of \$6.95. You pick noodles, soups, and salads in sizes ranging from a small portion, \$3.95, to a regular, \$5.25.

I, personally, am a fan of the Mediterranean section of the menu. I adore the Pesto Cavatappi, and find it hard not to finish no matter how full I am. The amalgamation of wine, olive oil, parsley, and tomatoes with a hint of cream makes this dish filling and satisfying. Mixed with either chicken or shrimp, and with a side of a Caesar salad, this combination trio easily pleases.

For those with a need for a little adventurous spice, I would also recommend the Penne Rosa; a dish made with penne and a marinara-like sauce, with a little kick to it.

Of all the soups on the menu, the Tomato Basil Bisque is the one I am constantly craving. This dish tastes great with a Rustic Roll (the delicious peasant bread offered upon request) and is great on those chilly, rainy fall nights which are fast approaching.

Of the Asian menu, I highly tout the Pad Thai, which is a traditional stir fry containing all the usuals, as well as the addition of tamarind spice. All together, this is a good segway for amateurs in the world of Asian noodles, as it is fairly sweet.

For those not accustomed to the wonders of pasta, I also recommend the Chinese Chop Salad which offers a variety of colored vegetables, and an interestingly tangy dressing. It is worthwhile mentioning that the dressing is not ladled on as many have come to expect



Actor and screenwriter Leonardo DiCaprio poses during a photocall for his film "The 11th Hour." It was presented out of competition at the 60th International Film Festival in Cannes, France, on Saturday, May 19, 2007.

'11th hour' denounces global climate change

[Jeremy Bleeke]

Editor

Midway through this year's Academy Awards, Leonardo DiCaprio and Al Gore announced that the ceremony had been produced and organized using environmentally-friendly methods. Gore's film "An Inconvenient Truth" would later win the Oscar for best documentary, and it came as no surprise that he was onstage touting the new environmental practices. But for many, the presence of DiCaprio might have been surprising.

As it turns out, the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, formed in 1998, is dedicated to promoting awareness for environmental issues and supporting other eco-friendly organizations and projects. DiCaprio himself is a self-described environmentalist, a fact which became obvious with the release of his film "The 11th Hour" this past August.

I didn't expect "The 11th Hour" to just be another "Inconvenient Truth," and it wasn't. The two films differed in many ways.

"An Inconvenient Truth" set out with the mission to convince people that global warming was real, and that it was caused by humans. With that goal in mind, Gore spent much of his time with facts and figures, analyzing graphs and trends over time. He showed models of what would happen in the future if current patterns continued, and he discussed what the effects of those scenarios would be on humans.

On the other hand, DiCaprio came to "The 11th Hour" with the assumption that the majority of his audience, having seen Gore's film, would believe that human-induced climate change is already in effect. His focus, therefore, is much more centered on the human aspect of global warming.

The film draws on interviews from dozens of experts to represent the vast range of human perspectives. Among the more notable figures were physicist Stephen Hawking, 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai, journalist Paul Hawken, former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and former CIA director James Woolsey.

The film begins with a long meditation on the capacities of the mind to create. It looks at the most important qualities that make us human—the ability to reason, to think through problems, and eventually

come up with a solution. The message is clear. If we could land a man on the moon, then we can solve the climate crisis.

With those seeds planted, the film moves into a study of the interconnectedness throughout all life. The varied living systems on Earth are all co-dependent, and if one system goes down it takes many down with it. The idea is that we are not detached and separate from global warming. When we talk about reducing carbon emissions, or fixing the hole in the ozone layer, we do so because the entire natural world's livelihood, including our own, is at stake.

The film also stresses that there is not much time. As the title suggests, this is the last moment that we can act before irreparable damage is done. As one person in the film put it, "Not only is it the 11th hour, its 11:59, and 59 seconds."

This brings us to the final part of the film, in my opinion the strongest. A significant portion of time here is devoted to what has already been done to stop climate change, and what can still be done with existing technologies. Highlights include "green architects" discussing a carbon neutral city, and engineers highlighting plans for low-emission technologies, such as a dance floor that uses the motion of the dancers to create electricity.

Though the film's many interviews offered a diverse range of thought, they prevented DiCaprio from assuming a central role as narrator. He would occasionally pop up to conclude one subject and transition into another, but unlike Gore in "Inconvenient Truth" he was not the one telling the story.

Structurally, I found "The 11th Hour" to be somewhat lacking. Again comparing the two films, "An Inconvenient Truth" centered on Gore's elaborate powerpoint presentation which gave it a sense of unity. Gore gives facts, then tells an anecdote, then gives some more facts. DiCaprio's film on the other hand seems to meander. Its scope is so broad that it isn't often clear where one train of thought ends and the next begins.

Overall, "The 11th Hour" did not resonate with me as powerfully as "An Inconvenient Truth." Although the speakers made interesting points, I did not feel that their collective message was as powerful as Gore's. But for viewers who felt that "An Inconvenient Truth" was nothing more than a hyped-up powerpoint, "The 11th Hour" may offer a welcome alternative. ☺

Dark, British comedy abounds in 'Death at a Funeral'

[Abby Eisenberg]

Editor

The comedy of the year, "Death at a Funeral" written by David Craig, and directed by Frank Oz (The Stepford Wives, Bowfinger) takes place in a quaint cottage in Great Britain, where Daniel (Matthew Macfadyen) and Jane (Keeley Hawes) are hosting the wake of Daniel's recently deceased father. The film opens up with the couple burdened with the preparations for the funeral.

The wrong coffin is delivered to the house hardly before a word of the script is delivered, a funny mishap which sets the tone for the rest of the movie.

Hidden love, blackmail, drug scandal, and a big secret all plague the gathering commemorating a farewell to the protagonist's father. His big city brother comes to town, and the tension between the two is broken when a mysterious guest comes, baring a big secret: the deceased father had a secret lover, who came to the service, demanding a share of the deceased's will money.

If the brothers do not comply, he threatens to reveal the unflattering, secret affair to all of the loved ones at the wake.

As they were trying to strike a deal with the man, many subplots ensue. Daniel's cousin, Martha brings her new fiancé, Simon to the wake in attempts to impress her picky and critical father. Simon's nerves get the best of him, and Martha gives him what she believes is a Valium from her pharmaceutical student and drug dealing brother's apartment.

The pills, in fact, turn out not to be Valium at all, but a drug sending him on hilarious fits of drug induced craziness thus setting the stage for the uncanny mishaps which plague the wake.

Every aspect of this movie is genius. British humor can sometimes be difficult to understand for

in American chain institutions.

The Wisconsin Mac & Cheese is the American corner's best bet. In fact, it gives even Wisconsin a run for its money in creamy, fresh-tasting dairy products. This luscious pasta of elbow noodles, cheddar cheese, jack cheese, and cream is to-die-for. It's especially good reheated and eaten over that *really* long chapter of World History.

Small children may also enjoy the safety net of the buttered noodles also offered.

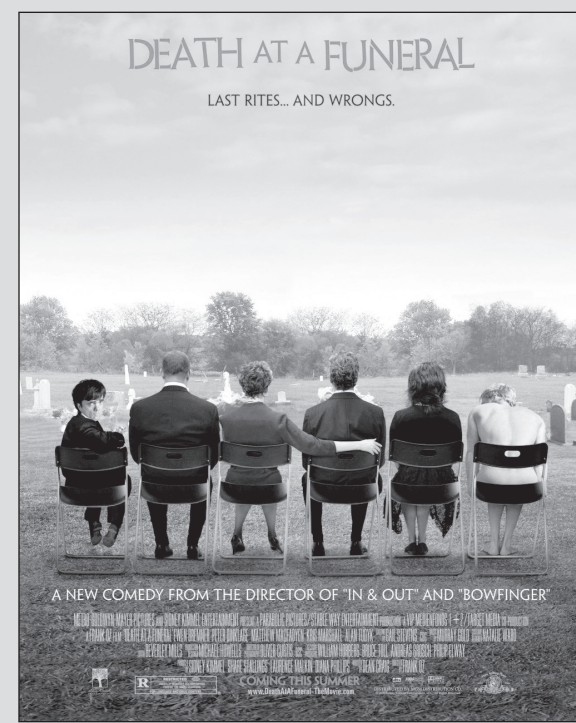
The service at N&C is the perfect combination of helpfulness and self-reliance. You walk in, step up to the register, and order (the register operators are more than happy to give suggestions). They prepare your food quickly and, in this age of paranoia about cleanliness, quite sanitarily. You can tell, because you can watch them as they prepare your choice of pasta.

Within five minutes, your food is ready and the waitresses will serve you, asking if you need anything else. However, at the same time, you are able to get up for your own refills, erasing the annoying possibility of having your 2/3 full Coke, refilled over and over. There is also a lovely offering of bottled drinks, such as Arizona Iced Tea, Izze carbonated beverages, and milk.

For the amount, quality, and promptness of service, this food is very fairly priced. The atmosphere can morph for most casual gatherings: taking the family out for a quick dinner on a school night, a rendezvous with a friend, a quick predate-at-the-movies dinner, or even a nice place to relax while meeting in a study group.

For a chain restaurant, this is a nice, casual, and quick option that offers healthy alternatives for the most worried of calorie-counters, vegetarians, sodium watchers... let's not even deny it, carb counters can eat here without a worry as well!

Just think: if N&C can cure me (the girl who once broke a table fainting from altitude sickness) than it most certainly can satisfy you and your need for delicious pasta. ☺



Americans, but nothing is lost in translation in this comedy, where the viewer won't stop laughing from the time opening credits finish to the time that the closing credits begin.

Within all of the different subplots that are going on at any one time, the comedy is never ending, multi-dimensional and irresistible.

The chaos that ensues during the course of the movie is so funny because it really echoes what may very well happen at a family gathering of any kind in any family.

On top of the drugged up Simon and the blackmail scandal, many of the guests at the funeral cause their own trouble along the way, such as old Uncle Alfie who stirs up trouble, and causes ruckus in the way only a crabby old man can, hitting all with his cane, and demanding absurd assistance from Daniel's friend.

Though some of the jokes are juvenile and expected, the humor isn't compromised, because of the superb acting, and new twists, or perhaps because of all the actors' deep English accents.

Highlights of the movie include the uncontrollable nudity, and other drug induced antics committed by the once eager to please, new-to-the-family, Simon, who is so caught up in pleasing his horrible future father-in-law that he completely and hilariously loses it.

Incidentally, all of the family becomes involved in some scandal or another, hilariously going through the motions of the wake all along, earning laughs the whole way through.

Though many of the jokes are ones you will feel ashamed to laugh at, the movie is irresistible, and the audience will leave wanting more. ☺

Patrick Park's poetic songs soothe listeners

[Kelly Moffitt]
Co-Editor in Chief

Lovers of language, admirers of acoustics and fans of folk: the oasis in a dry patch of meaningful lyrical songs has been found in Patrick Park's newly released indie rock album "Everyone's in Everyone," Park's third release.

His first album "Loneliness Knows My Name" (2003), was a beautiful taste of Park's ability but admittedly a bit raw and spotty in some tracks. The album did not garner much attention. After a hiatus of four years, his reassessment has paid off: "Everyone's" has not one dull or shy track and can be played on repeat for days.

The gorgeous, thick layers of acoustic instruments and Park's lush strong voice coax the listener to release the poet within. Grass-roots strumming of the guitar and harmonica/organ cameos are reminiscent of a young Bob Dylan.

"Everyone's" has a distinctly nostalgic feel, filled with characters you seem to have known your whole life as well as ones you want to know more about. Park's lyrics, filled with beautiful and creative language, make listeners pause to think of their own lives. Many may know Park from his popular debut on the television soundtrack "The OC: Mix 2," which features his song, "Something Pretty." The OC stayed loyal to Park, as his song "Life is a Song" was featured in the finale of the series. But listeners should not let any preconceptions of the show get in the way of their views on Park. His music isn't mushy or perfect; his songs are relatable and true, washing over listeners, slowly pulling them into their richness. The edges are a little rough, sometimes pushing for notes he doesn't yet own, but this only contributes to the undeniable reality his music conveys.

"Life is a Song," also happens to be the first track on this 11-song album. Among melodic, brave vocals, he croons: "Tell me what good is saying that you're free/ in a dark and storming sea/ chained to your history, you're surely sinking fast... Won't you tell me why you live like you're afraid to die/ you'll die like you're afraid to go." This song, though a lovely 'camp-

fire-esque' tune, is not nearly up to the par of the other tracks in this album in terms of depth of lyric and complexity of harmony.

This album has the running themes of being chained to personal history, walking through life not really alive, and interconnectedness, which makes the synthesis of tracks even more unbelievable.

I recommend "Here We Are," with its hypnotizing, repetitive guitar riff, with hints of banjo and bluegrass. Park nails the idea of being trapped by your own inhibitions: "We can't see past our own sad stories/ and wonder what we're missing/ We can't see past our own sad stories/ and forget how to listen."

As well, the brooding "Pawn Song" and "There's Darkness" offer cause for contemplation (not to mention, a good background for homework or falling asleep).

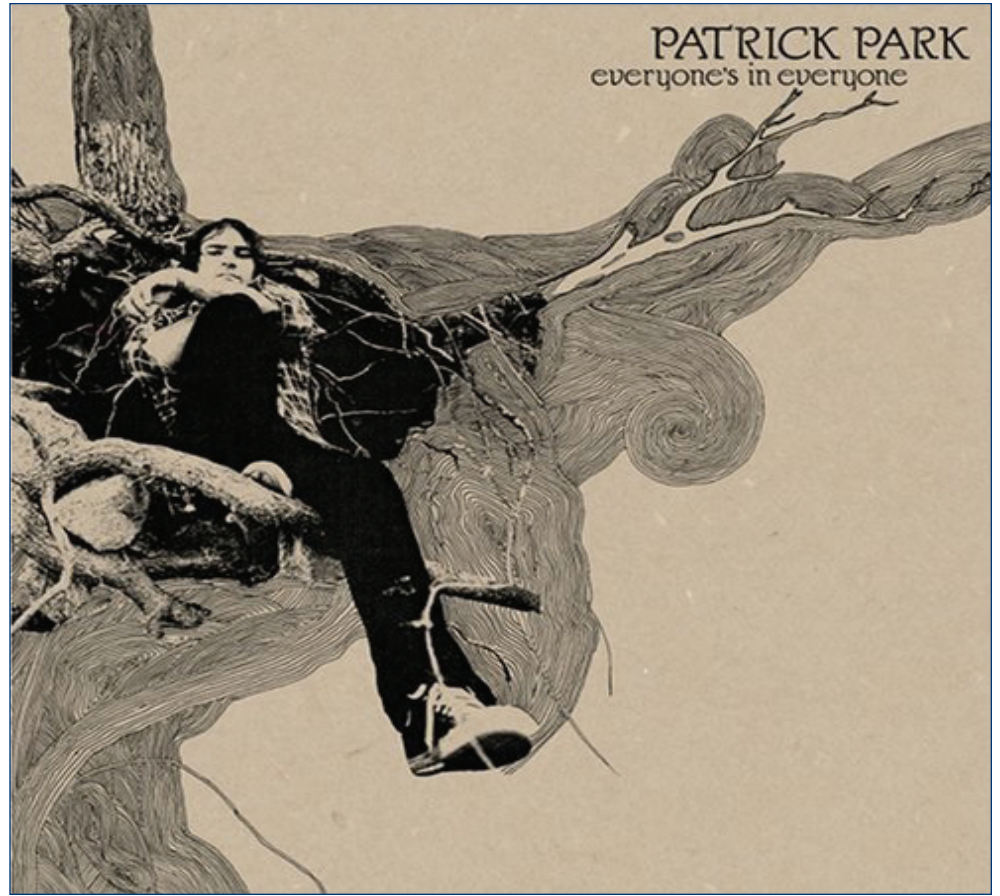
And the title track "Everyone's in Everyone," is not to be forgotten in the midst, representing the interconnectedness of all people. This track offers the utmost in synthesis with Park's haunting plucking of the guitar, mystic water dripping in the background and cathartic lyrics, as well as the occasional addition of choral vocals.

Though many of the songs on "Everyone's" sound similar, they seem to flow into one another, creating an almost story-like feel. This album is one you can put on repeat for hours and hours and never get tired of it (believe me I tried it when attempting to read 500 pages for an English assignment, and it kept me going).

The length of songs is neither too lengthy nor too short, most coming out at about three to four minutes. The album is available on iTunes for \$9.99 and is also for sale on amazon.com for 12.99. Although his album is hard to find in stock in stores, I happened upon a copy at Borders and Fye as well.

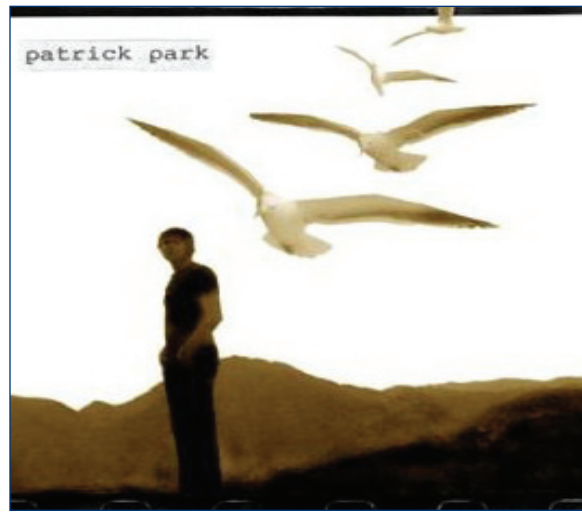
Lovers of Jeff Buckley, Bob Dylan, Iron & Wine and lyrical American folk-rock will fall in love with this album. For those who connect with poetic lyricists and need quiet soundtracks to their quasi-angst, this wistful and reflective album will fulfill.

Park has achieved a musical masterpiece, true to the art of folk, and living up to all a troubadour like Park must be. ☺



Patrick Park released his third album, "Everyone in Everyone," this August. Park had two previous albums titled "Under the Unminding Skies" (2003) and "Loneliness Knows My Name" (2004). Park's music offers a blend of acoustic instruments and mellow lyrics, reminiscent of Bob Dylan and other folk-rock stars.

Courtesy of Amazon



Courtesy of Amazon



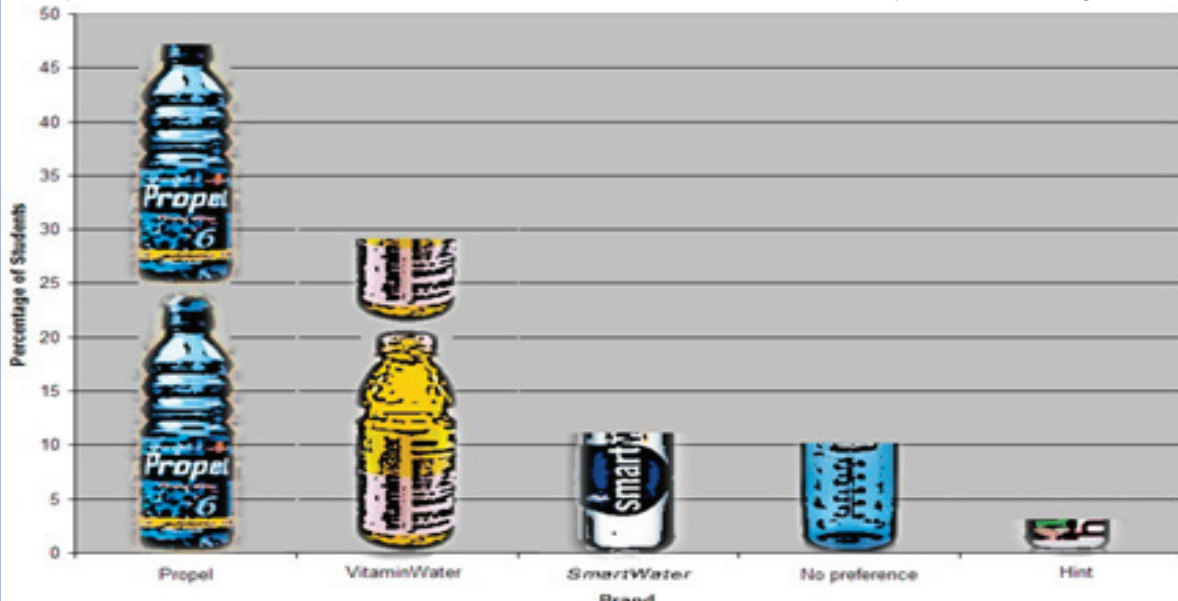
Courtesy of Amazon

Perspectives by Amber Idleburg



And the number one answer is...

A poll of CHS students about their favorite flavored waters reveals Propel with a strong lead.



Siobhan Jones

fall play

the good times are killing me

by Lynda Barry

October 25 - 28

In rambunctious John Waters style, the rituals of growing up converge with increasing racial tensions on the streets of a "changing" urban neighborhood.

winter musical

company

music by Stephen Sondheim
book by George Furth

February 7 - 10

Company follows 5 urban couples and their mutual friend, Bobby, a bachelor unable to connect in a long-term relationship. Eventually, Bobby learns that relationships are necessary for "Being Alive."



courtesy Nava Kanfor



courtesy Sarah Horn



courtesy Jennifer Golden

Around the World in 80 Days

From Scotland to Hong Kong, Mozambique to Poland, Honduras to Iceland, Costa Rica to Israel, Canada to Germany, students from CHS witnessed sights, sounds, and culture from around the world in exactly 80 days, the length of summer break.



courtesy Ka Suen



courtesy Sarah Horn



Where in the world? (Clock wise from top)

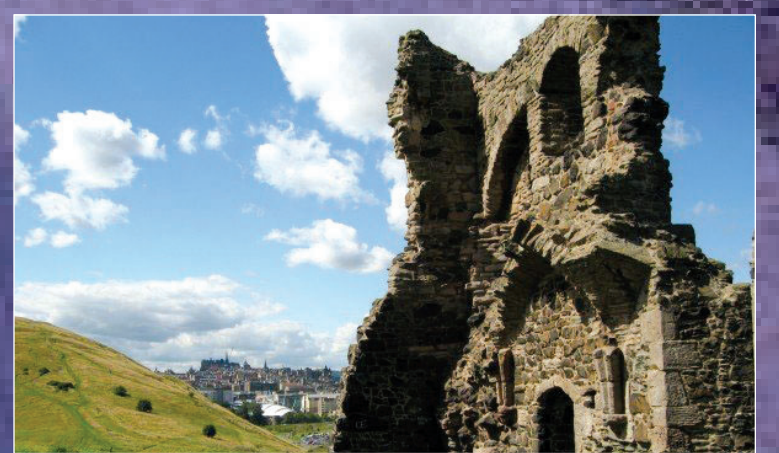
1. Tea at the Machaneh Yehudah Market in a Jerusalem, Israel
2. Cliff diving on a hike in La Criba, Honduras
3. White water rafting in Costa Rica
4. A sky-line view of Hong Kong, China
5. Soccer tournament " Campo Arriba" in La Criba, Honduras
6. Traditional row houses in Warsaw, Poland
7. A marching band on the streets of Germany
8. Castle ruins near Edinburgh, Scotland
9. A traditional *dhow* fishing boat in Chicuque, Mozambique
10. Scuba diving in Costa Rica
11. The afternoon sky in the mountains near Godafoss, Iceland
12. Overlooking the Sea of Galilee from Arbel mountain, Israel
13. Background: on the road to Ontario, Canada



courtesy Nava Kanfor



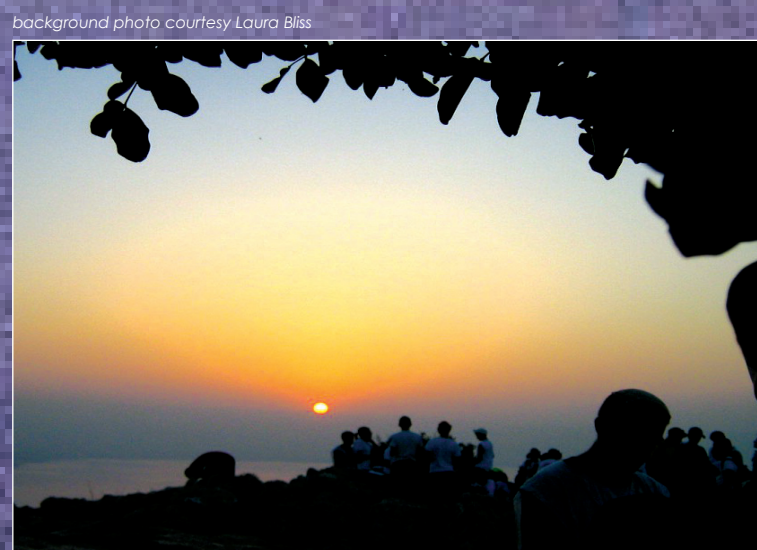
courtesy Shelby Sternberg



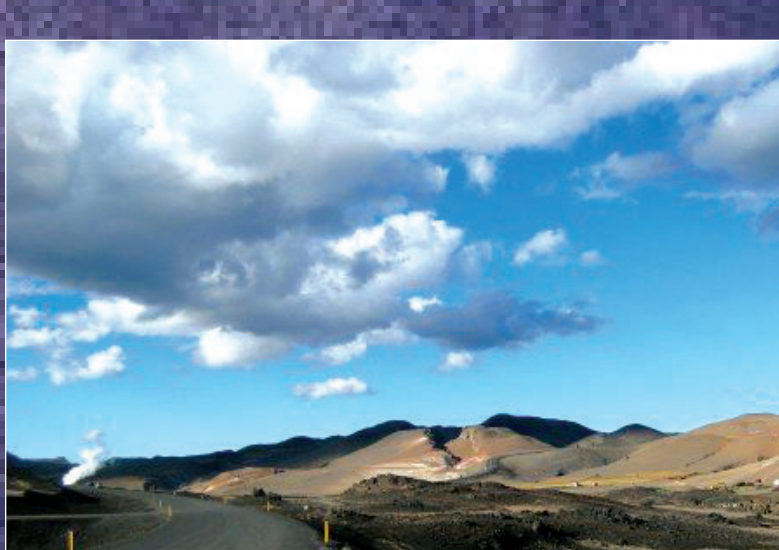
courtesy Jacob Blumenfeld



courtesy Kelly Moffitt



courtesy Nava Kanfor



courtesy Tatiana Birgisson



courtesy Jennifer Golden

background photo courtesy Laura Bliss