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# Globe

April 2006 Volume 77, Issue 9 **CLAYTON HIGH SCHOOL** | Mark Twain Circle Clayton, MO. 63105

## Arts Fair has monopoly on fun

With a theme of St. Louis Monopoly, students from CHS, Neuwoehner and Litzinger schools united to take part in a universal activity: creating memories.

MEGHAN BLISS

The Butterfly House, Mississippi River, City Museum and Ted Drewes are just some of the attractions St. Louis has to offer. On April 6 the area locations were brought even closer together as CHS classrooms were decorated and transformed into the local venues for the annual CHS/Special School District (SSD) Fine Arts Fair – St. Louis Monopoly style.

After months of planning that began as early as October 2005, Student Government (StuGo) and Steering Committee members were able to watch their hard work pay off as the event unfolded and was dubbed a success.

"I thought it was a fantastic, spectacular day," Principal Louise Losos said.

Many echoed Losos' sentiments and StuGo and Steering Committee Members were proud of what they accomplished.

Despite rain, all agree the day went well and the hard work paid off.

"The day was wonderful and it ran smoothly," StuGo president Jennifer Pierce said. "There was some controversy with buddy captains not showing up at the beginning of the day and other people trickling in later than they were supposed to, but once everyone was there it ran smoothly, until we got a weather forecast that called for hail. There was a petting zoo set up in the quad and it was supposed to start hailing so we had to get the animals out of the quad, which was a little tricky, but overall it went very well."

StuGo sponsor Annie Etling added the rain was more of a disappointment than an obstacle.

"We were obviously disappointed about the weather," Etling said. "The petting zoo had to leave and the students didn't get to hang out and listen to music in the Quad. My favorite part of the day was watching the Neuwoehner and CHS students dance together in the Commons to the DJ's music."

Had the weather been more cooperative, musical entertainment would also have been available in the Quad.

After completing the event in its entirety, Steering Committee members and sponsors have ideas of what to change to make the event run more smoothly and efficiently in the future.

"Next year I would love to get more people involved in planning the event," Etling said. "Two representatives from each participating club could join the Arts Fair Steering Committee, choose a room and activity consistent with the theme and purchase the decorations for their own room."

Co-sponsor Dee Blassie agreed with Etling and added that new Steering Committee members would allow for the variety of activities to increase.

"I'd like to change some of the activities in



Laura Teter

the different rooms," Blassie said. "Some of the activities have been done for two years in a row and the kids from Neuwoehner have done the activities and so they didn't keep their interest throughout the day. I'd also like to get more people collaborating and working together to help plan the day."

Junior Alex Johnson helped in the Baking Club room and noticed students becoming bored with their butterfly making activity.

"I was in the Baking Club room where we were helping kids make butterflies," Johnson

said. "Lots of kids looked like they were having fun in most of the rooms, but there were kids who walked out of our room because they were bored and that was a little embarrassing."

Despite some perceived boredom, the smiling faces were much more predominant and observed by all.

"I saw a lot of happy faces throughout the day, which was great," Blassie said. "The mayor stopped by for the first time this year and he

ARTS FAIR, 5

**FRESHMAN LISA EINSTEIN** digs for jewels in the sand with her Arts Fair buddy. The theme for the room was the Jewel Box, located in Forest Park. The Jewel Box room was hosted by both TRI-M and the Rock Climbing Club. The Jewel Box room fit into the larger theme of St. Louis Monopoly, which allowed students to rediscover St. Louis. The City Museum, Ted Drewes and the Butterfly House were other St. Louis landmarks who hosted rooms.

## Glenridge installs new, easily accessible playground

GILA HOFFMAN

Elementary school students always dream of what they will be doing at recess. For some, it is playing on the playground equipment, and for others, it is playing four-square on the blacktop. Lately, a large pile of dirt awaited Glenridge Elementary School students at recess. Soon, a new state-of-the-art playground will be installed.

The old playground was approximately 15 years old and was showing significant signs of wear and tear. "It was actually rotting away and we didn't know how bad it really was until we tore it up. It was supposed to be there for 15 years and it was there for just about 15 years," Glenridge playground co-chair Susan Casteel said.

Casteel became involved with the project when the PTO asked her to chair the committee to be

in charge of the renovation and any other matters concerning the new playground.

"The first time [the PTO] asked me was last spring and I said no and they asked again and I said no because I was going to be out of town for the entire summer," Casteel said. "Then they called at the end of the summer and asked to talk to me again about possibly chairing the committee. Somehow, they talked me into it. I called one of my friends Flora Dulle and asked if she would co-chair it with me."

From the safety perspective, the playground did not comply with



Becca Gutmann

**CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN** on the new playground at Glenridge Elementary School. The playground is scheduled to be completed by the week of April 24 and will be accessible to children with disabilities.

the standards.

"Lots of changes have been made recently to try and make playgrounds more compliant for

disabled children," Glenridge playground co-chair Flora Dulle said. "We felt that to get the safety issues fixed, but also to create a playground that was safe for the elderly, toddlers and children with disabilities, we needed to build a new playground."

The new playground is an inclusive playground. Not only does it go over and above the safety standards, but it is safe for all children. The special surfacing on the ground makes it much easier and safer for wheelchairs.

The overall look of the new playground is very different from the old one. The playground equip-

ment is made entirely of PVC and absolutely no wood. The new plastic playground is expected to last 30 years.

"There's lots of new equipment, for example a type of new swing," Dulle said. "A child in a wheelchair can actually get on and sway back and forth and play right alongside the other kids and they don't even have to get out of their wheelchair."

The playground also includes an area with a climbing wall, which is also a transfer station where the children can climb onto different levels. Activities are also available underneath the equipment, such as playing with different fossils engraved in the ground. "The purpose of these alternative activities is so that if you are in a wheelchair or you are a toddler,

GLENRIDGE, 5

## News Briefs

### Journalism Awards

#### Hemingway Writing

Congratulations to seniors Annalise Shumway and Caroline Bleeke. Shumway is a finalist in the Hemingway Writing Awards, one of four students nationally in the category of feature writing. Bleeke was a semi-finalist in the commentary category.

#### Crown and Gold Circle

On Friday, March 17, the Columbia Scholastic Press Association announced the Crown and Gold Circle awards. First, second and third place and three certificates of merit are given in each category among a total of 9,000 entries. The contest covers material from Nov. 1, 2004 through Oct. 30, 2005. The 2004-05 Globe received a Silver Crown. The Gold Circle awards are awarded to individuals. The Globe, Clamo and the Works all received individual awards. The 13 awards the Globe received is the highest number of awards that it has ever won. The following students won awards in 14 different categories:

- Sam April
- Caroline Bleeke
- Erin Blumer
- Whitney Bruce
- Lisa Elbert
- Micah Fredman
- Tristan Hummel
- Isaac Katz
- Cori Lefkowitz
- Lily Kurland
- Caitlin Ly
- Jack McClellan
- Sarah Murphy
- Claire Saffitz
- Max Shapiro
- Katherine Sher
- Annalise Shumway
- Rebekah Slodounik

#### Gold Key Winners

In the Quill and Scroll International Writing Contest, senior Kate Waterbury and juniors Rebecca Katz and Qing Zhang won National Gold Key awards. Waterbury won in the news writing category, Katz won in editorial writing and Zhang won for feature writing.

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# Clayton alum fights Mid East opium

ROLAND REIMERS

In the current war raging in Iraq and Afghanistan, it can be easy to ignore the daily deaths of U.S. soldiers, civilians and insurgents because this laborious battle is being fought thousands of miles away. However, a local St. Louisan and CHS graduate '78 (Yale '82, Harvard Law '85) has climbed the country's political and diplomatic ranks to rise to the top of the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), the largest division of the Department of State, in order to conduct his own battle against the rampant narcotics trade in the Middle East.

In his recently acquired position as deputy assistant secretary of state, Thomas (Tom) A. Schweich is spearheading a \$2.4 billion effort with a large international membership base to eliminate the lucrative narcotics production and trade in Afghanistan, Colombia and other countries around the world. INL also is responsible for police training in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo and other hotspots around the world, as well as anti-corruption initiatives in Africa and Asia. With nearly 4,000 employees worldwide, Schweich helps to organize the counter narcotics, police, and "rule of law" projects alongside other countries and international organizations.

After visiting parts of southern Afghanistan in January and March of this year, Schweich gained firsthand insight into the laborious process and intricate details that go into actually erasing opium from this war-torn country. He will return to Afghanistan next month to assess the progress of the counter-narcotics operation.

"The most difficult part is the complex politics of the countries in which we are trying to help with the drug eradication and drug interdiction efforts," Schweich said in a recent interview. "All of the counter-narcotics efforts have to be carefully coordinated with the government that you are working with as well as some of the other countries



AN AFGHAN FARMER, who did not want to be identified, searches through dried poppy pods for seeds outside of Kandahar, Afghanistan, August 17, 2005. The resin was harvested from the pods during the spring months and was sold to opium dealers. Southern Afghanistan is a hotbed of the illegal drug trade that has plagued Afghanistan for many years.

that are involved."

In addition to a prominent NATO force established in Afghanistan, many countries such as Italy, Britain, and Canada have sent troops, diplomats and experts to this area to aid efforts in rebuilding the national economy and government authority. Italy and the United States have especially emphasized expanding and improving Afghanistan's legal and judicial systems.

"Other INL justice programs provide support to the government of Afghanistan to improve the administration and enforcement of the rule of law," Schweich said in an address to a House of Representative subcommittee on March 9. "[One] program is helping to improve the capacities of the permanent justice

institutions by supporting organizational reform, standardization of policies and procedures, and by providing equipment and supplies to the Ministries of Justice and Interior and the Attorney General's Office."

Schweich added that the programs also include United States criminal justice experts who train judges and prosecutors in criminal procedures.

Despite these efforts, Afghanistan's democracy remains in a developmental phase. According to Schweich, southern provinces in the country have been hotspots for insurgents to continue their operations, in direct confrontation with the government's limited authority.

This activity may be in part

spurred on by the voluminous drug trade that has increased in recent years. A Post-Dispatch article in March claimed that Afghanistan reaps approximately \$2.8 billion through the drug trade, more than half of its legal economic production of \$4.6 billion.

"[The drug trade] jeopardizes the ability to build a modern democratic government that Afghanistan has resolved to build," U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Ronald Neumann said in the March Post-Dispatch article. "It is not possible to build democratic institutions on the base of large amounts of drug money."

Yet, other experts are unsure whether a direct relationship between insurgent organizations and poppy production exists. Schweich

maintained that there is very little evidence suggesting that monetary transactions or contracts involving narcotics traffickers and Taliban members are in effect.

"What is clear is that the narcotics trafficking and the terrorists have a commonality of interest," Schweich said. "They want to prove that the central government cannot enforce its authority in the south. Our approach in the United States government is to defeat both the narcotics traffickers and the Taliban whether they are related or not because they have a common objective."

Schweich stressed that a five-pillar plan is essential in the eventual destruction of the narcotics traffic, from which Afghanistan obtains nearly one-third of its gross domes-

tic product.

The first step, known as public information, makes the Afghan people aware of the fact that the narcotics traffic is harmful towards Afghanistan's reputation in the world, is contrary to basic Islamic tenets, and causes rampant addiction throughout the Middle East and Europe. The second pillar addresses alternative livelihoods that are offered to farmers hurt by the destruction of their poppies in the form of short-term and long-term development programs. In the third step, government officials order the actual eradication of the crops. Similarly, the fourth step involves the interdiction of the opium as it is leaving the country. Lastly, the prosecution of narcotics criminals occurs.

"As long as we pursue [the five-pillar plan] aggressively and do not give up the effort, I think that eventually we will be successful," Schweich said.

Problems with opium farmers arise when their entire crops have been destroyed by counternarcotics operations. In order to alleviate some of this conflict, Schweich and other political workers offer alternative livelihoods, or other similar ways of earning a living, to farmers.

"Once you rid the country of opium, you can never make as much money growing other crops or doing other services as you can growing poppy," Schweich said.

Although this appears to be an arduous process to achieve the complete cessation of opium growing, Schweich remains optimistic about the future plans and opportunities.

"The seriousness of the narcotics problem in Afghanistan calls for a long-term commitment on the part of the U.S. Government to combat narcotics production and trafficking," Schweich said. "Only by working together to fight vigorously against narcotics will we be able to help Afghanistan on its road to becoming a fully functioning democracy and to building economic stability." ☺

# Official cooling of government towards global warming may threaten world climate

YIPENG HUANG

Concerns about climate change due to greenhouse gas emissions have intermittently been the focus of news media for many years.

Most recently, new findings on top of the already staggering amount of evidence further indicate that global warming not only is a reality, but is also worse than we had ever anticipated.

For the sake of raising awareness, Time Magazine published an alarming special issue concerning

"Earth is at the tipping point," the headline ran. Despite the general consensus that global warming is indeed an issue, the question remains whether we have any power to revert it.

Public awareness

is arguably the first step to any political action. Only recently, recollections of the record-breaking hurricane season last year and the prediction that this year's season may be just as bad have stirred some concern about the changing climate.

For many years, climatologists have indicated that small increases in atmospheric temperatures may cause significant and disastrous changes in weather patterns.

Yet efforts of oil and auto companies and the Bush administration have prevented scientists from raising the alarm in the general public, for the sake of continuing our current level of energy consumption.

Dr. James Hansen, leading researcher of global warming in NASA and director of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies, was recently barred by White House

officials from disclosing alarming results in his research.

"In my more than three decades in the government I've never witnessed such restrictions on the ability of scientists to communicate with the public," Hansen said in an interview with CBS. "Should we be simply doing our science and reporting it rigorously, or to what degree the administration in power has the right to assume that you should be a spokesman for the administration? I've tried to be a straight scientist doing the science and re-

porting it as best I can."

The administration has also fought widespread concern by claiming that research data is not conclusive enough to cause alarm.

According to CBS, President Bush remained ambiguous concerning global warming policy in a speech in 2001.

"We do not know how much our climate could, or will change in the future," Bush said. "We do not know how fast change will occur, or even how some of our actions could impact it."

But scientists familiar with the research believe otherwise.

"Few scientists are skeptical of whether global warming is real at this point," science teacher Nathan Peck said. "I would say that more than 99 percent of scientists believe that global warming is a direct result of human activity."

To be sure, according to the Washington Post, a study conducted by the University of California at San Diego concluded that, of the 928 peer-reviewed papers they an-

alyzed, not one contradicted the general consensus.

If global warming is such an obviously pending catastrophe, why is there so little action in response to it?

From an economic standpoint, it is much cheaper to continue our current methods of energy consumption, which results in increasing carbon dioxide emissions. Only when conventional sources of energy become too costly would industry and consumers respond with more efficient measures and lifestyles.

"People do respond to incentives," social studies teacher Mark Bayles said. "If you reward people for certain economic behaviors they'll do more of it and if you punish them they'll do less of it."

But oftentimes economic dynamics do not account for the price tag of environmental damage that comes along with greenhouse gas emissions.

One method to account for the hidden cost of emissions is to implement a cap-and-trade system, in which a government agency sets limits on emissions.

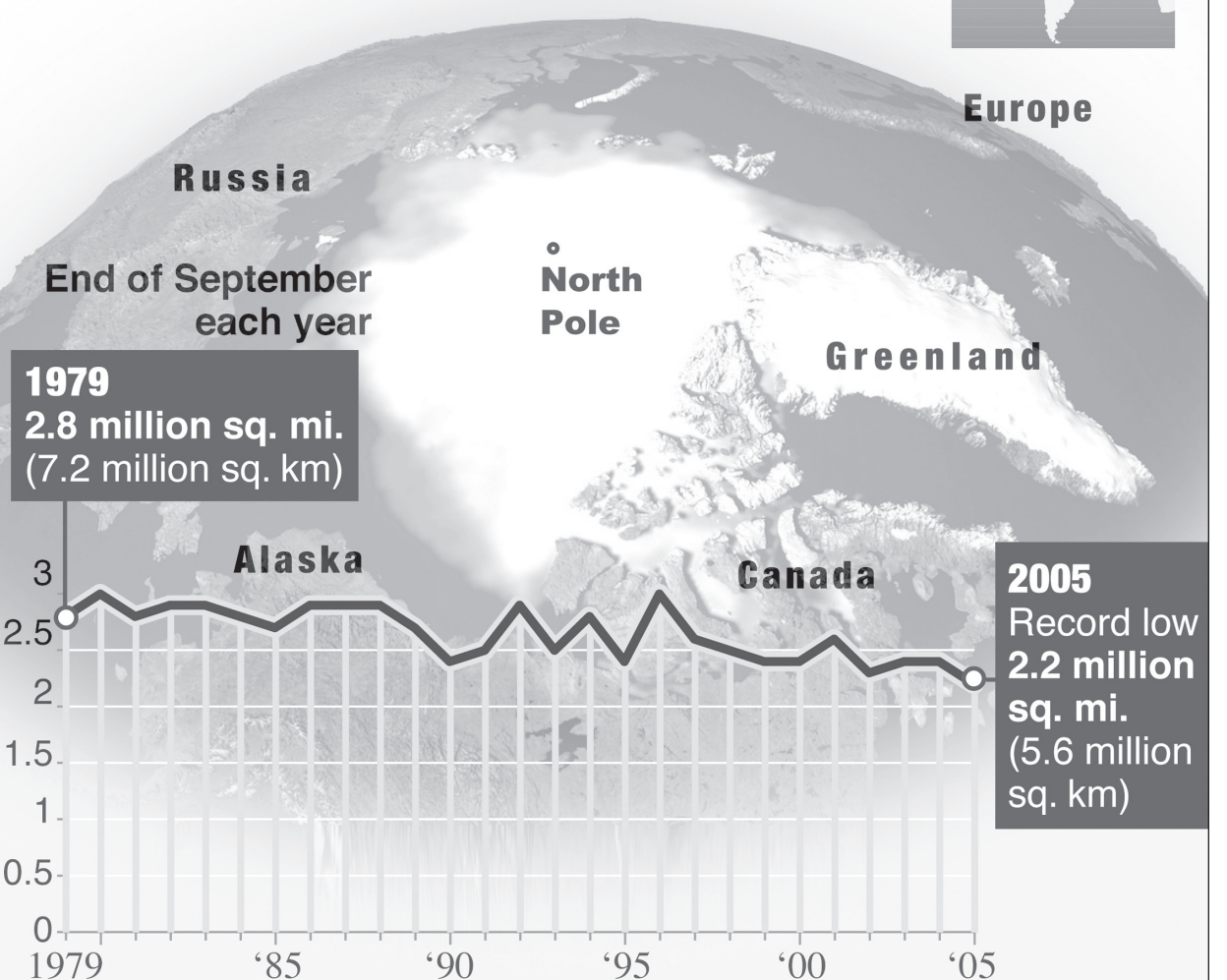
Subsequently, companies that exceed that limit must purchase emissions credits from companies that remain below their limit.

"This idea of trading credits is one that economic theorists have sponsored as a method to control pollution," Bayles said. "In place of government regulation and bureaucracy you have market forces to regulate industry."

The United States has been reluctant to implement this system at a federal level, however. Nonetheless, according to Reuters, eight northeast states, with the addition of Maryland this month, have established the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and plan to cap pow-

## Thinning Arctic ice

How floating Arctic ice, a major factor in global climate change, has been shrinking in recent years:



Source: National Snow and Ice Data Center, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Graphic: T.G. Tso, Judy Treible

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krtcampus

er plant emissions at 1990 levels by employing a cap-and-trade program.

In addition, 200 U.S. mayors have signed the Mayor Climate Protection Agreement and committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their cities down to 1990 levels by 2012, the same standard set by the Kyoto Protocols.

Such standards are only the be-

ginning of the necessary curtailing of our emissions.

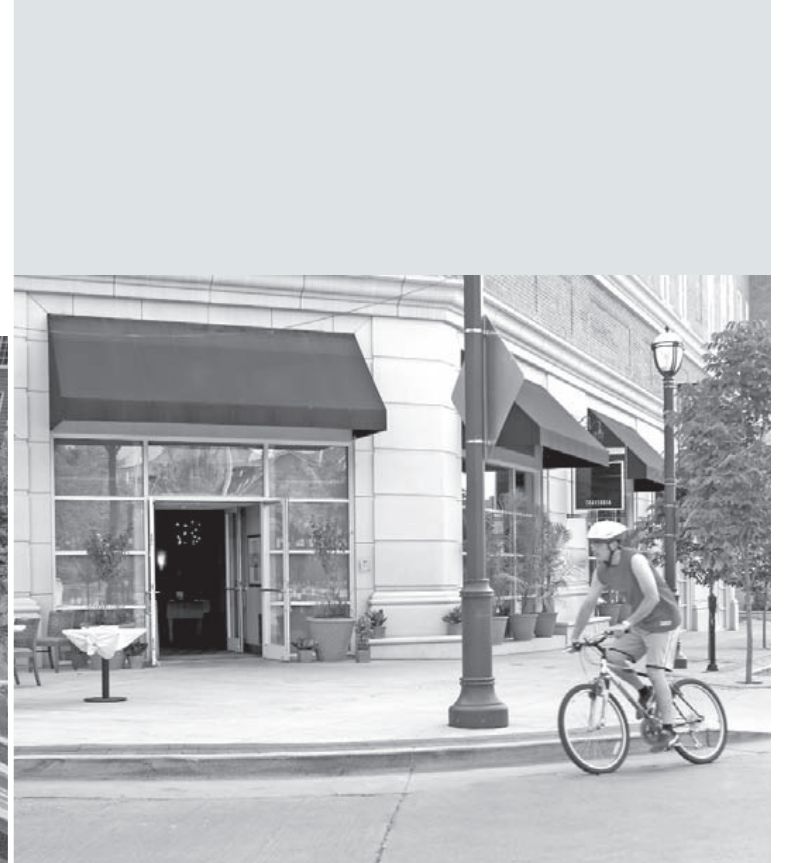
"We have to, in the next ten years, get off this exponential curve and begin to decrease the rate of growth of carbon dioxide emissions," Hansen said. "And then flatten it out. And before we get to the middle of the century, we've got to be on a declining curve."

Hansen's research indicates that

the next ten years are critical in preventing global warming from becoming uncontrollable.

"We'll be looking back in 2050 and kicking ourselves for our stupidity," Peck said. "There's so much we can do right now to minimize the damage, but we don't have that type of foresight nor do we have the belief in foresight to actually do something." ☺





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# Republicans remain few, far-between at CHS

Despite their minority status at CHS, Republicans find an outlet for their political beliefs in the Young Republicans Club.

by SARA RANGWALA

Junior Matt Schlessman doesn't like to call himself a Republican, but finds that overall his opinions seem to match those of many Republicans. This is fairly uncommon at Clayton.

Clayton is considered a very liberal school, and the majority of both teachers and students, associate themselves with the opinions and beliefs of the Democratic Party. However, there are a few voices that often go unheard because of their small number.

This often-overlooked population of people feel their views seem to be more Republican than anything else.

Schlessman started to take an interest in politics during the early days of the Bush administration. He recognizes that his views are different than that of many other students, but thinks that Clayton students are generally open-minded.

"The best thing I find is to educate myself so that I can respond in the best way I can," he said.

One of the most recent controversial issues is that of the government being able to wiretap phone lines without court approval.

Many people are against this, saying it invades people's right to privacy. However, Schlessman disagrees.

"I support wiretapping and the Presidential NSA (National Security Agency)," he said. "Even if it is invading privacy, security comes before privacy."

Senior Whitney Bruce supports the idea that America has responsibilities as a superpower.



PHYSICS TEACHER GABE De la Paz and senior Whitney Bruce share a laugh about the trials and tribulations they face as conservatively-minded people in a dominantly liberal community.

Kate Waterbury

This idea is controversial and many people think that just because the United States has power to interfere

in other countries for peacekeeping purposes does not mean it should actually do so.

"With a lot of people dying in Africa, I don't know whether to send money or send troops to help," Bruce said. "I just think something

should be done."

Other students are still formulating their political opinions. "I'm still trying to find my ideas," sophomore Hyrum Shumway said. "But from what I have read and heard about I agree with more Republican politicians."

Shumway's religion has much to do with his beliefs. He is a part of the Church of Latter-Day Saints, also known as the Mormon church.

Shumway considers himself conservatively-minded on social issues.

Shumway agrees that Clayton is a liberal school and many people are pretty tolerant.

"I like going to a liberal high school because I know I will go to

a conservative college [Brigham Young University]," he said. "It's good to experience the other side."

Bruce also agrees that her religion plays a big part in her political beliefs.

"I'm Lutheran," she said. "I'm pretty religious and a lot of beliefs stem from that."

Senior Erica Jantho first recognized her political beliefs during the 2000 presidential elections, and she felt her opinions reflected those of her parents.

"I started to learn more about Gore vs. Bush during seventh grade," she said. "My parents leaned towards Bush. Freshman year, however, we read Lord of the Flies and it got me thinking."

Now, she says, she is the most liberal in her family.

For the most part, many of these students don't feel especially singled out because of their different political beliefs. However, there was some controversy over the more conservative students last

year before the presidential elections.

"As a non-Kerry person, I got hammered," Jantho said. "A lot of people assumed that as a Republican I believed in the death penalty and was pro-life etc."

According to Bruce, people came up to her and started arguing with her just for the sake of arguing.

Jantho and two former seniors formed the Young Republicans Club as a way for people to befriend other Republicans.

Although the 2004 elections are over, and there now is less debate, Bruce still feels some differences.

"There are some days when Mr. De la Paz and I have conversations and we're like 'Oh, we're all alone!'" Bruce said. ☺

*I support wiretapping and the Presidential NSA (National Security Agency). Even if it is invading privacy, security comes before privacy.*

**MATTHEW SCHLESSMAN**

junior

*I'm pretty religious and a lot of my beliefs on political issues stem from that.*

**WHITNEY BRUCE**

senior



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# Arts Fair proves successful under new leadership

ARTS FAIR, 5

said he cannot wait to come back next year. He said he was empowered to see the CHS students mingle with SSD students and that he'd never seen anything like it."

In addition to the mayor, many others had their first encounter with the Arts Fair this year including freshman, new teachers and administrators.

Losos noted the experience was different than other activities she had seen completed in collaboration with SSD in the past.

"It was different than the special school district days that I have been involved in the past," Losos said. "At my previous schools we had done basketball and volleyball tournaments. I believe that our students had a more personal, more meaningful experience than I have seen in the past."

Learning Center Intern Katelyn Eustis enjoyed her first Arts Fair and was surprised by the number of CHS students who chose to participate.

"I thought it was very nice to see CHS students interacting with SSD kids," Eustis said. "I got to see a different side of CHS students that I don't normally see. I was surprised by how many students were involved and who took the time to come in and help on their day off."

A large percentage of students have been coming in on their day off to volunteer at the Arts Fair since it began with former StuGo sponsor and Associate Principal Mike Musick.

This year, despite Musick's absence, his influence was still felt throughout the day and planning process.

"Dr. Musick received many phone calls from us throughout the planning of the event," Etling said. "He was here in spirit and he came by during the Fair to check things out."

Pierce noted that the hard part of Musick's absence was the planning process.

"The hard part about not having Dr. Musick here was up until the day of the Fair," Pierce said. "We had lots of questions and we just worked out the answers as we went along, we were improvising. We could have done it more easily had Dr. Musick been here to answer all of our questions, but we pulled it off. Ms. Etling and Ms. Blassie did a wonderful job. It was their first time as the directors of the Steering Committee and they did great. I think we felt Dr. Musick's absence, but it definitely didn't hinder our abilities to have a great Arts Fair."

Blassie added that in addition to Musick's absence, the number of advisers significantly decreased this year making the task even

*I think the experience kids have at the Arts Fair is a good one. And I think it's good for students to be able to experience working with kids who have disabilities*

sophomore  
**DANIEL WATERBURY**

more challenging.

"It was a lot of responsibility for Annie and I to take on this year," Blassie said. "It went from Dr. Musick and three advisers last year to just Annie and myself, which was a lot."

Nonetheless, the event was successful and touched many.

"I think the experience kids have at the Arts Fair is a good one," sophomore Daniel Waterbury said. "And I think it's good for students to be able to experience working with kids who have disabilities."

The interactions that occur as a result of the day touch many and all have favorite stories to tell.

"I saw one student, a very small girl, she came into the movie room and stuck her hand straight



Laura Tetri

out from the shoulder to shake our hands," Losos said. "She didn't speak much but had such a beautiful smile. Later in the day, as the students were walking towards the closing ceremony, I saw the same girl turn to her buddy and give her this look, and her buddy smiled, laughed, and picked her up to carry her down the stairs. It was quite touching and special."

For others rewarding moments came as they realized their hard work and dedication paid off.

Watching the students enjoying themselves and bonding with each other from all three schools was incredibly rewarding.

"At lunch time I was in the commons standing on the staircase with some teachers and stu-

dents and I think the stress and all the stuff that had been going on all week caught up with me at once," Pierce said. "I was watching the people in the commons and I saw this buddy pair - a student from CHS and someone from SSD - and they were having a dance off in the middle of the commons and they looked like they were having a lot of fun. I just started laughing and crying, both at the same time, and it was just so funny. There was also a student government representative from Neuwoehner who gave a speech at the end of the day and that had me and Ms. Etling really choked up."

Once again CHS students were successful in joining with the SSD to create a special, rewarding day of community. ☺

*SENIOR SARAH TISDALE takes a break from painting a masterpiece on a buddy's arm. The Arts Fair was a success, thanks to both the student steering committee and the teachers that helped to organize it. It was Dee Blassie's and Anne Etling's first times as the sole teacher advisors to the Arts Fair.*

# Mock Trial team defeated following long, hard season

After winning the Mock Trial State Competition last year, the CHS Mock Trial team sprung into action months ago, working hard and preparing for their trials. Unfortunately, the team was overcome by Rockhurst at the recent State competition.

☺ **KATIE WEISS**

On March 30, four mock trial lawyers dressed in black suits and five well prepped witnesses stepped into the unfamiliar territory of the Columbia, Mo. courtroom.

Fresh from a team pep talk, the nine students were ready to compete. After remaining undefeated for months, Clayton's Mock Trial was about to face their hardest challenge yet, the state competition.

"When I first stepped into the court room I immediately noticed how different everything looked," sophomore lawyer Marta Toczylowski said. "The courtroom looked so professional, like something you would see on TV."

Toczylowski is just one of the

five new members of Clayton's mock trial team and like most, was well aware of the high standards set by last year's state champion team.

"Last year's team was really good," Toczylowski said. "They not only won state but placed thirteenth in the national competition."

That is a lot to live up to and since most of our team this year was new, I think that the state competition was more of a learning experience than anything. I hoped that we would do well but I

sophomore  
**GILA HOFFMAN**

also realized that it was a rebuilding year.

But while this year may be considered a rebuilding year, the team's stats are nothing to be ashamed of. After winning every trial in regionals, CHS was awarded the number one seat for the region.

But that seat did not come easy.

"As the weeks went on, and we got closer and closer to the state competition, we would spend more and more hours working on Mock Trial," senior co-captain Karen Wong said. "By the end we were spending at least two hours a day, 7 days a week in meetings for Mock Trial."

While Mock Trial meetings may be time consuming, they are a necessary tool for success.

"We spend our meetings prepping with our partners," Toczylowski said. "We go over our direct examinations, making sure that the lawyer is able to make their witness look as good as possible."

Other than commitment and hard work, what makes the Clayton mock trial team so good?

"The team is very polished," Toczylowski said. "We went up against a lot of teams that competed with note cards and teams that just weren't as well rehearsed as we were."

Wong also adds that Clayton's true strength relies in the team effort.

"Everyone's dedication is what makes our team so good," Wong said. "Everyone worked really hard and had fun at the same time. Not to mention everyone on the team is

really talented."

Sophomore Witness Gila Hoffman also agrees that the team's successes came from everyone's dedication.

"Everyone was really dedicated and committed to Mock Trial," Hoffman said. "Everyone made Mock Trial their first priority."

And it was the team's talent that led it all the way to state where it faced off against the number one Columbia team and the number one Springfield team for its first two trials. Clayton came out on top for both trials. It wasn't until its third trial that the team faced its first bump in the road.

"For our third trial we went up against Rockhurst," Toczylowski said. "They used note cards and were clearly not as well prepared as we were."

However not long after the trial ended, the results were posted and Rockhurst had beaten CHS out by one point.

Hoffman recalls the moment she heard the news.

"I was really nervous when they were listing off the teams that would advance to the next level," Hoffman said. "In the back of my head I really thought we had won. But then they called off Rockhurst



Whitney Bruce

*JUNIOR ERIC EINSTEIN, sophomore Leigh Katz, sophomore Gila Hoffman, sophomore Rebeccah Singer, junior Hannah Longmore, senior Erica Jantha, senior Karen Wong, sophomore Marta Toczylowski and senior Elad Gross at the mock trial state competition after winning their first round.*

the team we had competed against and my head dropped."

Hoffman was not alone in her surprise.

"No one could believe it when the results were posted," Wong said. "Even a kid from the Rockhurst team told us they had thought we should have won."

Despite a distressing loss at state, the CHS mock trial team is far from defeated.

In fact, some team members have already begun formulating plans for next year, thinking about the season.

"Since we're losing three seniors, it's going to be really hard to bring next year's team back up to the same level we are at now," Hoffman said. "It is going to take a lot of hard work, but I think in the end we will really be able to go far." ☺

# Specialized playground comes to Glenridge Elementary

GLENRIDGE, 5

you can do activities behind and underneath the equipment without having to climb up something," Dulle said.

To be able to exceed the ADA standards, the total cost of the playground ended up at around \$190,000.

"We decided to make the park available for all residents and not just for the school so we were able to apply for a grant as a County park," Casteel said. "We worked with Patty DeForest to get a grant from the St. Louis County Grant Commission. We applied in October and we found out we received the grant in late December. The grant was just under \$120,000. We obtained the rest of the money from fundraising."

During construction, there were alternative activities planned for recess.

"The principal worked with the PE teacher and they had some extra activities planned for recess," Dulle said. "The kids could still play on the black top and around the playground area and they could also play on the grassy field."

Although there was not an actual playground for the children, just watching the construction was a fun activity.

"The kids had just as much fun because they thought it was cool to watch the workman and see all of the tractors," Casteel said. "They had fun watching the daily progress of the construction."

The playground was scheduled for completion the week of April 24. A grand opening ceremony and debut of the park will take place at the Strawberry Festival in May.

A contest was held at the school for a name for the new park. Three first graders won the contest with the name 'Panther Park.'

There has been a ground swell

of support for the new playground.

"The reaction to the park has just been amazing," Dulle said. "It has given the community something to get excited about, which we haven't had in a while. Everyone has just been so excited to better the neighborhood and benefit the disabled."

The city of Clayton has also responded positively to the new playground.

"The city is so excited because now so many more kids in the neighborhood can play there and they were excited to see such a great type of inclusive playground," Dulle said.

Most feel that the inconvenience of construction is well worth the wait, the benefits far outweighing the costs.

"We hope the kids will have a great time on the playground for 30 years to come," Casteel said. ☺

## Border's Book Fair to support Clayton High School

Fri. May 12 ~ Sat. May 13  
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# First phase of Gay Field renovation nears completion as second phase awaits funding

☛ KELLY MOFFITT

As one walks along the edge of Clayton High School's newly refurbished Gay Field, one can hardly miss the looks of astounded awe plastered to the opposing teams' faces. The look is not that big of a surprise. After all, what athlete wouldn't be bewitched with a field of plush green synthetic turf, sizable playing area and perfectly drawn lines that yearns to be played on?

"Girls," one soccer coach yells, "Don't be afraid to get rough on this field!"

This proclamation is not the outburst of an overly violent coach but a testament to the strengths of the new Gay Field.

"I think people who attend sports events now, will be both surprised and delighted," President of Friends of Clayton Athletes, Frank Hackmann said. "They'll be pleased by how nice it is and how great the playing field is for our athletes. It's come a long way."

Yes, the field has come a long way since this time last year, when plans were just coming to a head in order to make the project of redoing Gay Field a reality.

"Everybody's really happy with it," Director of Communications Chris Tennill said. "When the board approved the guidelines for the field, we worked hard to make sure it wouldn't be overused. Now, people are coming from all directions to use the field because it has been such a success. I'm glad we made those stipulations when we did. The popularity of this field has been explosive."

Because the field has become so popular, Clayton High School can now rent out the field for outside events that won't use the lights. So, the field is already making profit. And the project still has more to go.

"We're continuing to move forward with the field and we are really pleased with what had happened so far," Hackmann said. "However, we are continuing to work to raise money."

The renovations on Gay Field are divided into two sections: phase one and phase two. Right now, phase one is just about to come to a close. Phase one includes the installation of the new synthetic field, track, and lights.

Lately, the lack of lights for the field has been a problem for some sports games. However, there is light, literally, just around the corner.

"We've had to cancel several night games already because we thought the lights would be in already," Athletic Director, Rich Grawer said. "However, we just received word that the lights will be going in next week, the week of April 23, and we will be able to use them."

Some may have also noticed that the track encircling Gay Field has not yet been completed either.

"The track won't be in use until the summer," Hackmann said. "We have the underlying base of the track but we need at least ten full days of above 50 degree weather, sun, and no usage. So far, we haven't been able to obtain these three things at once."

This has caused some major



Whitney Bruce

THE VARSITY GIRLS' soccer team is addressed by assistant coach Eric Gruenfelder after a 10-0 victory over Normandy on Gay Field, which is still undergoing renovation. The new synthetic field has improved the performance of many athletes, including soccer players. "A lot of times when you play on grass the field is not even," freshman Diane Martin said. "There are a lot of bumps and it is all torn up. On the new turf field there is a perfect surface. It's a lot easier to play soccer knowing that the ball isn't going to take a sudden jump because of the uneven surface."

problems for the CHS Track and Field team.

"Our track team tried to run on the base layer of the track but the track coaches say it hurts their legs," Grawer said. "However, members of the community can still jog on it if they aren't doing heavy training."

Yet, if there is no track for Clayton's track team to practice on at Gay Field, where do these athletes go to practice?

Depending on the day, Clayton's track athletes can be found at Maplewood High School, John Burroughs High School or Washington University.

This change of practice place leaves some track athletes bewildered.

"There are so many things we can't practice on the track," sophomore Sam Jewett said. "We can't even warm up on it, and we end up using the field. It's hard and it's hot because it's black. We pretty much all out avoid running on the base of the track."

However, moving from track to track can be trying as well.

"It takes a long time for the buses to get to the track to take us where we're going to practice," Jewett said. "It is unreasonable that we have to practice like this. I feel our chances of winning are slimmed because we have to move around so much, our practice time is limited. We need a track soon."

Sometimes, hardship must be endured to receive a better product.

"The track team is a group of nomads this season," Grawer said. "And I feel really bad for them: they're definitely being hit the hardest. The coaches understand though because they are going through this tough season in order

to receive a top flight track."

With the completion of the track this summer, next year's Track and Field will be revolutionized.

"CHS does have a yearly boys' track meet, the Marion Freeman track meet, in which 42 schools participate," Grawer said. "The meet has been sponsored by Clayton for 73 years. The past couple of years we've had to have it at Washington University. Next year, we will be able to have it proudly at our new track, at home."

In addition to the track, some field activities have been moved around creating more sports opportunities.

"By moving the long jump, pole vault, and high jump to the ends of the field behind the goal posts, we were able to widen the field to NCAA regulations for soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse," Grawer said. "This is a great advantage for our high school athletes because it really prepares them for college sports and games on other fields."

The new synthetic field is being taken to, happily.

"Everyone who plays on the field seems to love it," Hackmann said. "It looks beautiful and training is going really well on it."

For sports players, the community and any spectators, there are many positives to the new renovations that weren't visible earlier in the school year.

"The new Gay Field has so much to offer," Grawer said. "It's a safe field, a field that games will never get rained out on, a place people can come for a sense of community, a field that will be able to be played on for a long time."

For soccer, the synthetic field is a blessing compared to the old grass field.

"A lot of times when you play on

grass the field is not even," freshman Diane Martin said. "There are a lot of bumps and it is all torn up. On the new turf field there is a perfect surface. It's a lot easier to play soccer knowing that the ball isn't going to take a sudden jump because of the uneven surface."

This spring, with the unpredictability of the weather, the rain resistant field has been a big advantage: not one game has had to be cancelled on account of the weather.

"Back in March, we had three inches of snow on the field on Tuesday and were able to play lacrosse on Wednesday," Tennill said. "You can't ask for much more than that and it certainly wouldn't have been possible on a grass field."

However, the field does have one downside, to some players, in the heat.

"The field does retain heat a lot because of the rubber and blacktop surface it's on," Martin said. "When the weather was hitting the 80s and 90s the past few weeks you could feel the heat coming up off the field."

Yet, the pros outweigh the cons in Martin's mind.

"It's really big which takes some getting used to, but I love playing on it, and the things you're able to do with the soccer ball that you couldn't do on a grass field," Martin said.

Beyond the field, track, and lights, there are still more additions and renovations to be made to the Gay Field Complex.

"The next phase of the project will focus on making Gay Field more aesthetically attractive," Hackmann said. "We will be working on a plaza for eating, admissions and donation bricks. As well, we will be redoing and adding bleachers, renovating the press box

and reworking the parking."

One plan involves adding bleachers, where the current CHS logo resides on the hill at the head of Gay Field and around where the food stand is currently located.

This will create a dome affect for the Gay Field complex that will allow nicer seating and viewing. On top of these additions and renovations a new scoreboard will also be installed this summer.

"The new scoreboard is state of the art," Grawer said. "In addition to the regular scoreboard there will be a message center that will have the capacity to advertise, show player's names, and maybe, eventually, their pictures."

However, in order to receive some of these restorations, the project still needs contributions.

"We've had such great support from the community and we're still reaching out," Hackmann said. "The main thing is that we have to pay off the loan from Bank of America to continue more work."

And don't be fooled by the completion of the field. An estimated \$600,000-700,000 is still needed to complete phase two.

"The common perception is that prospective contributors see the field and think, 'There's grass, so they must be done with the field,'" Grawer said. "We're not done at all, we still need their help."

So far, community fundraising and private donors are keeping everything on an upbeat note.

"The fundraising is going really well," Tennill said. "We're optimistic about our prospects because there are couple of things in the works that could really boost this project. We should be hitting some major goals sooner rather than later."

According to Tennill, Hack-

mann and Grawer none of the field would have been possible without the help of the community.

"The Clayton community has been a real help," Grawer said. "These dedicated donors have funded this field on their own. We've had no monetary help from the school district."

In addition to members of the community local business leaders have contributed greatly to the renovation of Gay Field.

"Michael Steenberg of THF Realty has contributed a great deal to the success of this project," Hackmann said.

Volunteers really made the Gay Field 'of dreams' become a reality.

"It's been a great project for everyone to come together," Tennill said. "An inordinate amount of work has gone into this on the backs of a few volunteers. I think we are really lucky and should be thankful for those who made this a possibility. This field will be a great addition for years to come."

What Clayton has done and will be doing with the complex is an inspiration to all other schools in the St. Louis area.

"We are the first public school to have a field of this kind come in," Grawer said. "I'd have to say that at least two dozen athletic directors and maintenance men from other schools have come to me, asking to tour our field. They are all amazed. This type of the field is the coming thing, in five to eight years they'll be seen everywhere."

According to Grawer, the complex is saving the district a lot of money.

"We used to spend anywhere from \$25,000-30,000 a year to maintain one field," Grawer said. "The new synthetic field just makes fiscal sense: we don't have to water, fertilize, hire maintenance for lawn mowing, and hire maintenance for painting lines for every game. Now that money and maintenance (that was spent on athletics) can go to help building maintenance at the other schools in the district."

And if prospective installers of synthetic field complexes are worried about the effect on the community, Tennill assures that the results are mostly positive.

"The general response in the community is one of contentment," Tennill said. "From what I hear, they love it. They still have the same use. As well, parking and drop offs for the Family Center have become a lot easier with the widening of the road."

Gay Field is on its way to becoming a key part of the Clayton community and the spirit of Clayton High School. With a new field to rally around, sports events will become an essential part of CHS.

"We view athletics as an integral and vital part of CHS," Hackmann said. "We are pleased that we can finally add to and help that part of CHS through this field."

Gay Field surely has become a 'Field of Dreams.'

"Build it and they will come," Grawer said.

To make a contribution, see the ad on page 20, contact the Athletic Department or go to the Friends of Clayton Athletes website (<http://www.claytonathletics.org/>) for more information. ☛

## New policy to help struggling freshmen to be enstated next year

☛ PHILLIP LEVINE

For years, Clayton High School students have had the opportunity to choose their own classes. While this is still going to be true in most cases next year, certain incoming freshmen will not have the right to pick what classes they are taking when doing poorly in the core subjects. The entire concept of "Learning Center" is to be changed around as well as the way that failing students are to be handled.

"We are reconfiguring our Learning Center structure to make it more intentional and less optional," Principal Louise Losos said. "Rather than having one learning center, there will be three, a separate area for math, English, and history. You will be assigned to one particular area, and that is the work that you do, no work for a different class. In addition, there will be a study center for students who want a quiet place for homework but do not need as much support."

Most teachers and students completely agree with this policy and feel that it will create a strong learning environment.

The problem that certain teachers have with this policy is the other part.

"Freshmen, and only freshmen, who are fail-

ing a subject at the quarter mark will be required to be assigned to the Learning Center for support," Losos said. "We want to find students who need help as early as possible and it may be even earlier than the quarter. It is extremely important to the rest of my staff and me that the freshmen are put on the right track as soon as possible. After looking at all of the freshman with D's and F's at the quarter, most are already in Learning Center, and few would actually lose a class."

In any case, it is clear that students and teachers have differing opinions on this topic.

"I think that it is good that they don't want us to fail," sophomore Sam Bader said. "The only problem would be if they made me drop my art class. If they can give the students support without taking away a class that they are talented in, then it is fine. If not, they shouldn't change the schedule."

Although all teachers want students to succeed in high school, many elective teachers do not feel that only certain classes should be emphasized or that some are more important than others.

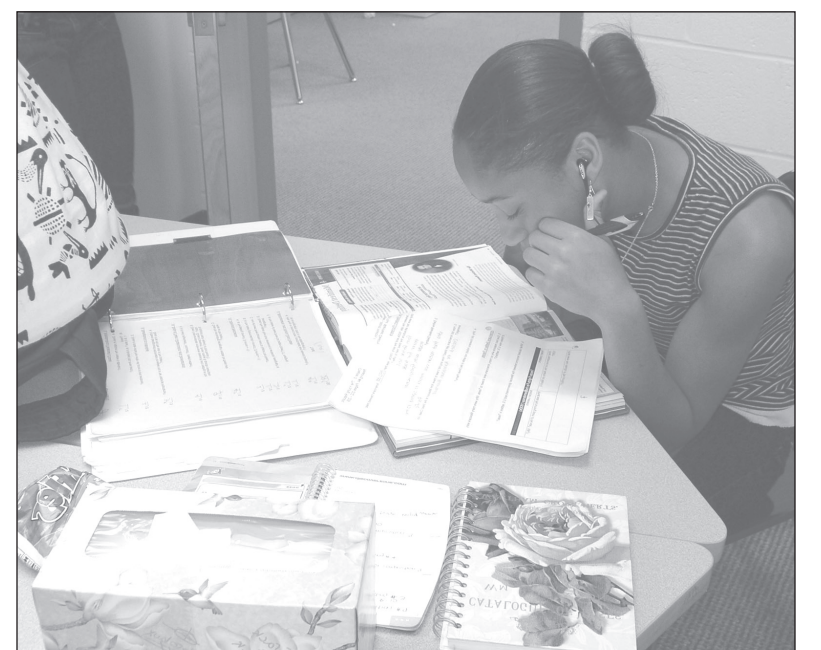
"I don't want students to fail," practical arts department chair Marci Boland said. "I want to

look at the big picture. Students should leave with the best education possible, and I favor anything that helps students pass. I don't feel that certain classes are more important than other classes though. If you have a student that really wants to be an engineer, but they are failing history, you shouldn't just pull them out of engineering because history is 'more important'. If a student is gifted in one area, that is what should be the important class for them to be in. How can a student get credit in a class that they can't finish?"

The teachers opposed to this reiterate how important success is to them.

"Our school should not be an elite school where only required classes are taught," Boland said. "We need to be a more well-rounded school. We need to identify these students beforehand and give them a light load. Give them Learning Center but don't pull them out of a class they are already in. Pulling them out in the middle is just worse for the student, creating more labeling, and we don't want that. I am totally for anything to help a student but not pulling them out of a class they have already started."

The new policy should decrease the number of students failing dramatically. ☛



Whitney Bruce

FRESHMAN BRITTNEY BYRTH works in the Learning Center. Next year, the Learning Center will undergo changes in order to accommodate a new policy aimed to help freshmen who are failing classes.



# Early birds get the worms, or in this case, the gigs

☛ MATTHEW MUSLIN

Four days a week, bleary-eyed students stagger into the room at 7:30 a.m. ready to make music for their leader: jazz band director, Charles Blackmore.

Despite their fatigue, the students carry on and the result is that the Clayton High School Jazz Band is one of the most accomplished bands in the state of Missouri.

Recently, the band won third place in the Missouri State Jazz Band Contest, was invited to play at the Finale Music Club in Clayton, played at a ground-breaking for a hotel being built near the Ritz-Carlton, and had the privilege of playing with legendary trumpet great Maynard Ferguson.

The Clayton Jazz Band consists of two alto saxophones players, two tenor saxophone players, one baritone saxophone player, four trombone players, six trumpet players, one electric guitarist, one bassist, two drummers, one xylophonist, and one pianist.

They are all led by Blackmore who is also director of the high school band.

Blackmore is also an accomplished saxophonist.

Blackmore has been teaching the

jazz band since 1996 and could not be happier with the current situation.

"[The band] keeps getting better and better every year and we have some amazing students too," Blackmore said. "The reputation of the band is really starting to precede itself. We've been getting a lot of calls to do outside jobs. We just do a lot of things and have fun."

The band is different from many other bands as it offers a lot more independence than the average school band.

"There is a lot of freedom in the band," senior saxophone player Mark Goldman said. "Everyone gets a chance to solo, and we get to solo anyway that we want."

Sophomore alto saxophone player Clayton Von Dras is proud of the jazz band's achievements.

"Jazz band is far superior to any other high school band," Von Dras said. "Everyone can solo and a lot of people like to solo."

Junior trumpeter Krishaun Doston-Orange loves playing jazz.

"My aspiration is to become a [professional] trumpet player, which the jazz band has [encouraged] me to do," Doston-Orange said.

The band plays a wide variety of



JAZZ BAND DIRECTOR Charles Blackmore conducts a piece in the band's repertoire as the band plays with apt attention. CHS Jazz Band is one of great acclaim, boasting a third place ranking in a Missouri State Jazz Band Contest.

music, more than 30 pieces ranging from classic jazz ("Impressions"), Latin ("Mambo Swing"), ballads ("A Child is Born"), and Avant-Garde ("Dangerous Precedent").

The real epic music the band plays is a little song called "Channel 1 Suite," a monstrous jazz symphony that is so intense that it could be a rock song.

The schizophrenic qualities of the piece could be divided into four or five separate songs.

The band's performance of this piece may be responsible for their placing in this year's state jazz competition, think some of members of the saxophone section.

The jazz band isn't all fun and games though. The band is one of the few classes that requires an audition to get in.

The band is serious work and it starts early in the morning, every weekday except Wednesday. Waking up early may be the

band's one drawback.

Sophomore trumpeter Sean Barber agrees that the early mornings are hard to deal with.

"It stinks because I have to get up really early since I live in St. Charles, but I have become used to it," Barber said.

Junior guitarist Michael Franco agrees

"Getting up is kind of a bummer, but it's worth it because I have a lot of fun in jazz band," Franco said.

# S.U.R.E promotes awareness

☛ CALEAH BOYKIN

An idea is just a thought in someone's head until someone puts that idea to work. That is how the club S.U.R.E, (Students United for Racial Equality) came to be.

It started with an idea from art teacher Russell Vanecek, who had worked outside of school with another program to help eliminate racism in the St. Louis area, and wanted to bring a program like that to Clayton High School.

"Three years ago, I was talking to Mr. Skillman (he was the principal at the time) about an issue around African-American achievement and why it was low," Vanecek said.

They wondered if the social life of students had anything to do with the achievement gap.

"I was looking at what I like to call the 'bigger picture,'" Vanecek said.

Vanecek suggested a racial dialogue workshop that would bring students and staff from different ethnicities together. The students could talk to other students from a different background to try to understand one another.

Skillman accepted the idea so a workshop was designed, and the racial dialogue workshop began to take place with a group of hand-selected students. At the end of the second year, the students involved in the workshop wished to go a step beyond and form a club.

S.U.R.E is a voluntary group that works as an umbrella organization with all efforts at CHS to create a safe environment for students of different backgrounds - racial, ethnic, social, and economic. They want a diverse and aware learning environment that promotes and sustains support for student achievement in all areas of CHS.

"This started as a workshop on race relations and how it affected achievement of mostly African Americans," Vanecek said, "But the students wanted the workshop to continue, so it turned in to a student organization with the 50 students from the workshops."

Students have a good reaction to both the workshops and the club.

"The students mostly just talk," senior Ebonie Joiner said.

But Vanecek hopes that talk leads to understanding and acceptance.

The decision to end the Voluntary Student Transfer program will affect the club in the future. The population won't be the same and the social background won't be as diverse. If that should happen, Vanecek proposes that the club continues by having a sister school in the city with the same program. For now, there is still much to be accomplished at CHS.

"Next for the S.U.R.E club we will be getting more people involved so that we can start building racial bridges and motivating people to befriend someone different from themselves," Vanecek said.

If any students would like to be part of the S.U.R.E. program next year they can contact Vanecek, CHS counselor Carolyn Blair, T.J. Jared, or Reshara Brown.

# Possible new AP class applicable to everyday life

☛ SOPHIA AGAPOVA  
☛ MIA HARLAN

Students often complain about the irrelevance of much of what they learn in school, wondering how Euler's triangle theorem will apply to their futures and what significance understanding the life cycles of fungi and plants will play later in their lives.

However, one cannot deny the prominence of global warming and energy issues in the media and impact of these issues in everyday life, which will be covered in AP Environmental Science, a new class that is pending approval for next year.

The origin of the class, which is still in the stages of being developed, was very sudden.

"One day in AP chemistry, I was joking with Mr. Peck about an AP Environmental Science class," junior Alex Heil-Chapdelaine said. "[Mr. Peck] said 'you and me HC, but we might need 10 people for a broom ball team.' Later, Rebecca Rivard came up to me and said she was really excited about the AP Environmental Science class, and I was really confused because I thought it was a joke."

Although the idea started out as nothing else but a joke, it quickly evolved into a potential class.

"Mr. Peck told me to start a petition and get signatures for the class," Heil-Chapdelaine said. "I turned it in and the science department had a meeting about the class and finally decided to accept it."

Although the class is not yet a definite addition to the CHS curriculum, the department has developed tentative plans for who will teach it and how the course will work.

"We are still not sure if the course will be offered next year," biology teacher Charles Collis said. "If it is, I'm the one who will teach it. It's always exciting to put together a new class in a field that's interesting and relevant."

Unlike other AP science classes, the class will only be one semester long.

"Full-year AP science courses cover the amount of material covered over the course of two college semesters," Collis said. "Environmental Science is typically a one-semester class in college, so it should be possible to cover the related material in a single semester. Like other AP courses, AP Environmental Science will move through the material at a rigorous pace - especially because of the time constraints. It is always my expectation that students will remember what they have learned beyond the week of the latest unit test. There will probably be some form of structured review as the AP exam approaches though."

If it becomes a class, AP Environmental Science will consist of a large scope of issues not previously taught in such depth at CHS.

"[The class will cover] ecology, geology, meteorology, population biology, land and water

use, energy resources and consumption, pollution, global environmental change, plus some economics and sociology," Collis said.

For students like Heil-Chapdelaine, the class will provide a great opportunity to study subjects they are important to the world and everyday life. Collis agrees that students will benefit from taking the class.

"They'll gain an increased understanding of the way the living world works and human impacts on the way the Earth works," Collis said.

AP Chemistry teacher Nathan Peck also believes that this class would benefit a variety of students.

"People with a strong science background who have a keen interest in the environment and in environmental issues [would benefit from the class]," he said.

The prerequisites would be the completion of a full-year of biology and chemistry.

"Another AP science course would give students more choices, especially those who might otherwise not attempt an AP science in biology, chemistry, or physics," Nathan Peck said. "This could be viewed as a plus or a minus, since success in a career in environmental science would require extensive knowledge in all of those other scientific disciplines as well. I guess a question might be which AP Science coursework would be best for high school level students. I personally think that an AP environmental option is a great idea for many of our students."

So far there are around 10 very committed students to the class, and therefore the chances of the class working are not absolute.

"[The possibility is] not good at this point, but still possible," Science department chair Mike Howe said. "The administration will make a final decision. If it doesn't go this year it will be discussed again for next year."

AP environmental science would benefit students any year after it is added to the CHS science curriculum and students would no longer be able to complain about learning useless information.

"It's very interesting stuff and very applicable in everyone's life whether or not they're

considering a science-related career," Peck said. "Our species has essentially colonized all of planet Earth which means that all peoples worldwide share the same single environment. I do not understand how anyone would not be interested in learning more about it. There's real issues to consider and discuss that affect the quality of our lives." ☛

## Sample AP Environmental science test questions:

1. Of the following which has the greatest permeability?

- a) Clay
- b) Loam
- c) Sand
- d) Silt
- e) Humus

2. Which of the following is the best example of environmental remediation?

- a) A species of trout becomes extinct in a eutrophic lake.
- b) The annual volume of sewage following into a stream is decreased by one half.
- c) The height of a factory smoke stack is increased.
- d) A parcel of forest land is declared a state park.
- e) PCB-consuming bacteria are sprayed on an area that has soil contaminated with PCB's

3. A country currently has a population of 100 million and an annual growth rate of 3.5%. If the growth rate remains constant, what will be the population of this country in 40 years?

- a) 150 million
- b) 200 million
- c) 300 million
- d) 400 million
- e) 800 million

Answers:  
1-C 2-E 3-D

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# English teacher inspires students

Although teaching was not her first career choice, Sue Teson found a way to parlay her love of writing and literature into a career that reaches students and meets her personal needs as well.

## BY HYRUM SHUMWAY

English teacher Susan Teson never dreamed of being a teacher. Actually her ambitions at first were in journalism and in writing.

"Originally I was going to be a writer and write the next American novel," Teson said. "I had gotten a job, with the Wall Street Journal. I was not satisfied with journalism and sports writing. It was not the writing that upset me but more the structure. I did not like the constant travel for interviews and always feeling on deadline. My high school principal called me out of the blue and told me that the word on the street was that I was not happy with journalism and that if I wanted to teach I would have a job at Kirkwood. I declined a job for the Wall Street Journal and came back to St.

Louis where my family was."

Teson has always been a hard-working teacher and before marriage a diligent coach of three sports.

"My Kirkwood principal once told me while I was coaching three sports and teaching, which could be a 48-hour job that at the rate I was going I could burn out by age 25," Teson said. "From then on I coached one sport, and finally stopped coaching once I got married to my husband, who is also a teacher. That's the catch-22 of teaching: it is great in many ways, but it can be time and energy sapping."

After working at Kirkwood for 12 years, Teson found new scenery at CHS five years ago.

"I taught at Kirkwood for 12 years before moving to Clayton,"



Caitlin Ly

ABOVE: ENGLISH TEACHER Susan Teson confers with junior Kate Lipstein. Below right: Teson during a graded discussion in her 5th hour Honors American Literature class. Although Teson will always consider Kirkwood High School, where she taught for 12 years, her home, Teson says Clayton has many perks, including getting to teach Honors American Literature, her favorite class. Teson's passion for her subject is evident in the way she inspires a love of literature in her students. "My enthusiasm is pretty contagious," Teson said.

Teson said. "Clayton is much smaller and the discipline and rules are much more enforced at Kirkwood. The stricter rules at Kirkwood made the teaching somewhat easier. I loved Kirkwood High School. The reason I left was because I taught five classes, 120 kids, and had three little kids at home. At Clayton I would teach three classes and also get more money. Kirkwood will always have a place in my heart and always be home, but I really enjoy Clayton students. They fuel my fire and make me want to come to work everyday."

At Clayton Teson is also able to teach something very dear to her heart -- American Literature.

"I was a history minor in college, and I love the connection between history and literature," Teson said. "The way they influence each other is interesting, and the stories and the writing offer up everything I like about lit-

erature and how they reflect what is going on in their time. American Literature starts with life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and that is a common theme that runs throughout all American Literature."

Due to her love of literature she has much strength she can take to the classroom.

"My strengths are that I know my subject well and I continue to learn as much as I can," Teson said. "My subject never gets old because I continue to learn about it. I also think I teach the course so that it makes kids inspired to learn. I also think that my conferences and feedback are very beneficial to students. My enthusiasm is also pretty contagious."

Time management though is a

struggle when juggling so many parts of life.

"Teaching is who I am in good and bad ways," Teson said. "I love making lesson plans and discussing American literature. Sometimes if you talked to my husband

or people who are close to me you may find that I might spend too much time on what my husband defines 'planet school.'

## English teacher SUSAN TESON

In recent years I have had to pull back to put life in perspective and put family first. Anyone who has who had me as a teacher knows that I take forever to grade papers. Whatever is done at school gets done, but not everything I take home to work on gets finished. If my son needs to work on a school project, that is my first priority. My first draft edits, however, are ex-

tensive both in writing and orally. I doubt that many students ever wonder what they need to work on after my conferences, but the grading for the final could take a very long time."

While American literature is great and interesting, Teson knows where her true loyalties lie.

"My family is the most important thing to me and I don't want to regret later on not spending more time with my family," Teson said.

Teson enjoys cooking, golf, birds and reading. Teson's children have followed her example to live a rich life and also have many talents and hobbies that are developing. Her family as well is brought closer together during family vacations.

"My oldest daughter is emerging into a wonderful poet, my son a WWII history buff and my youngest an artist," Teson said. "My kids are emerging into really good, little people. One thing I really love is my summer. My family is really close. We go on family trips. This summer we are going on a trip to California where we will hike and camp along the coast all the way up to the border of Oregon. My oldest daughter is only 11 and she has been to every state except five." ☺



# Breaking with tradition

Some students spend spring break helping others during a church youth group trip to Honduras.

## BY RACHEL HARRIS

Over spring break, juniors Melanie Holland and Will Sommer traveled to Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. They did not lazily bask in the sun for a week as is typical of many CHS students over the break, but built a house and a protective wall in Villa Linda Miller for a community of Honduran children with their church youth group.

"The school was two rooms," Holland said. "It was not big at all. The whole building was maybe the size of two classrooms at CHS put together."

The work was not back-breaking, but extremely rewarding and enjoyable for the entire group. Holland had the impression on her way to Honduras that the work was going to be exhausting.

"It was hard, but really enjoyable," Holland said. "We had a lot of down time so we got to know everyone really well. We ended up playing a lot of indoor soccer in our spare time. They were much better than us because they played all the time, but they were really good-natured about it."

What Sommer found most pleasant aside from the tremendously morally rewarding experience of helping others and of course the soccer games, was surrounding himself with the children he built the school for.

"The kids were really friendly," Sommer said. "If you went up to a kid here to say hi they would be really scared. But there, it was totally different. They would run up behind you and jump on your back when they really didn't know you all the time. They were just really inviting and overall incredibly friendly kids."

Holland agrees with Sommer. She thought everyone, not just the children, were amazing people to spend her spring break with.

"We got to know the Hondurans really well," Holland said. "We worked with them, ate with them, and were pretty much with them all day. They were really patient with the non-Spanish speakers of the group like me. They learned a little English from us and I even learned a few words of Spanish from them. We were all best friends after two days, so it wasn't an awkward situation to be in at all."

Holland and Sommer had a spring break they will never forget. Sommer's most memorable moment of the whole trip was when the group traveled to a near-

by dump where people built their houses out of cardboard boxes and ate food people had thrown away.

"It was a really eye-opening sight," Sommer said. "It put things in perspective."

"My favorite memory was on the last day when we had been working really hard all day," Holland said. "We gathered at an outdoor stage and all the kids did cutest thing ever. They read thank you poems they had written and sang 'We Are the World' in English. It made me feel like we were really doing something for others, not just ourselves. It was one of the best experiences of my life."

Both Holland and Sommer said that they would do the trip again in a second. The feeling of providing for others in a positive manner has even prompted them to seriously consider going on the same or a similar trip next year. ☺



courtesy of Melanie Holland

JUNIORS MELANIE HOLLAND and Will Sommer spent spring break working in Honduras with their church youth group, building a house and a protective wall for the residents of Villa Linda Miller. Both agree that the experience was very rewarding and both left with many priceless memories. "My favorite memory was on the last day when we had been working really hard all day," Holland said. "We gathered at an outdoor stage and all the kids did cutest thing ever. They read thank you poems they had written and sang 'We Are the World' in English. It made me feel like we were really doing something for others, not just ourselves. It was one of the best experiences of my life." Both Holland and Sommer agreed they would go on a similar trip again next year because they both had such positive experiences.



# Cooking up a career

Senior Cole Eastman hopes to open his own restaurant some day, but until then he continues to share his passion for food as a chef at Bar Italia.

by KATE WATERBURY

Risotto one night and brined and seasoned pork the next. While some high school seniors and college students are lucky to throw in a packet of Easy Mac or pour a bowl of cereal for dinner, senior Cole Eastman has many more options available to him.

Eastman, who has always loved cooking, is an aspiring chef. He credits his parents for fostering his enthusiasm.

"My parents are the ones who really got me into cooking," Eastman said. "They would always come home from work and have to throw something together and I would help."

Eastman's passion has led him down an interesting path throughout his career at Clayton High School.

Family and Consumer Science teacher Linda Williams noticed enormous potential in Eastman early on at CHS.

"[Eastman] is extremely talented," Williams said. "He has taken two foods classes and an Independent Study class this year. His motivation is one of his big strengths; he's very focused, and he loves to learn and try new things."

"I've never really liked school and I only have four classes a day, so I figured I might as well work more," Eastman said. "I've always been interested in cooking but in the last year I've become a lot more serious about it."

Eastman began working at Bar Italia his sophomore year. When a chef noticed his talent and love of cooking, Eastman was offered a job as a line chef at the restaurant.

"I work at Bar Italia in the Central West End of St. Louis," Eastman said. "I found the job through my brother who worked there as a food

runner for a while."

Eastman also began as a food runner and worked his way through the ranks.

"I started the job sophomore year," Eastman said. "Since I was a food runner I was always in the kitchen and had time to watch the chefs cook sometimes. I would always ask them questions about the food they were preparing and they noticed I was interested in cooking."

Eastman's passion was apparent, and earned him a higher position at the restaurant.

"One of the line cooks quit around February this year and they needed someone to take his place," Eastman said. "My friend and another chef at Bar Italia, Ali, recommended me for the job."

Although Eastman had had no formal culinary training, he immediately began working as a chef and learned along the way.

"To train me they just put me on the line where the food is cooked and taught me one dish per night," Eastman said. "Each night I had to work on that dish until I could do it perfectly."

While training, Eastman was forced to learn quickly with little room

for mistakes.

"I had to learn everything really fast. Within a couple of weeks I knew how to cook every dish besides pastas, which I am in the process of learning now."

Eastman credits a fellow chef and colleague as an important mentor in his career as a chef.

"Ali has been a chef [at Bar Italia] for five years," Eastman said. "He was the one who noticed my interest and got me the job; I am really thankful for that."

While Eastman does not have one favorite dish to prepare, he finds something interesting in each.

*I'd love to start my own restaurant; it would be ideal to be able to combine my two interests [culinary arts and business] like that.*

senior  
COLE EASTMAN



photo courtesy of Cole Eastman

"My favorite dishes to cook change all the time," Eastman said. "When you have to cook the same dish several times in one night it can get a little boring, I get tired of them easily. Right now it's risotto, which I'm just learning to prepare."

Eastman has contributed his talent to CHS as well, volunteering to prepare the appetizers at the fall fashion show.

"[Eastman] and [senior] Brandon Favia prepared all of the appetizers at the fashion show, which ended up being a couple thousand pieces," Williams said. "He is very flexible, versatile and persistent. He made and remade the petit-fours because we couldn't get the frosting just right; he wouldn't stop until they were right."

Eastman's passion extends outside of the kitchen as well; he has many favorite restaurants around the St. Louis area.

"I love eating out and seeing what other restaurants have to offer," Eastman said. "Right now a couple of my favorites are Terene in the

Central West End and Roberto's in Affton. I love the atmosphere at Terene's and their brined pork is awesome, and Roberto's is just good authentic Italian food, which I have always loved."

Eastman's job provides him with much experience and opportunity, but he finds it difficult to balance everything at once.

"I rarely have a ton of free time," Eastman said. "To manage school and work I usually have to do my homework in the morning before I go to school."

In the future, Eastman plans to attend college and pursue two degrees, combining his love of cooking with that of business.

"After I graduate I'm going to go to Kendall College in downtown Chicago," Eastman said. "It's a four-year college where I can major in culinary arts and also get a degree in business. I don't know exactly what kind of business I'll get into after college, but I'd love to start my own restaurant; it would be ideal to be able to combine my two interests like that." ☺

SENIOR COLE EASTMAN is already a chef working at Bar Italia in the Central West End of St. Louis. He loves to cook as a hobby and wishes to open his own restaurant some day. Eastman plans to major in culinary arts and business while in at Kendall College in Chicago, which he starts this fall. He hopes starting his own restaurant some day will be able to combine both of those interests and skills. He is also taking FACS classes at CHS to focus on mastering his cooking skills.

# Chemistry teacher employs unique methods, continues to find success and win awards after years of teaching

by CAROLINE BLEEKE

In many ways, CHS chemistry teacher Mike Howe is completely unique. He believes tests should be teaching tools, brings his classes into the quad for rousing games about valence electrons and has a notorious sense of humor. But what most distinguishes Howe is his dedication to his subject.

"He loves teaching," senior Erica Jantho said. "He has so much passion for chemistry it makes the class have more."

Sophomore John McAfee, who is currently a member of Howe's Honors Chemistry class, agrees.

"He's interested in his subject and he's always very energetic in explaining it," McAfee said. "He's also very good at what he does."

McAfee is not alone in that belief. The St. Louis section of the American Chemical Society recently presented Howe with their

Chemistry Teacher of the Year award, a prestigious honor that reflects his skill.

Howe, who is currently chairman of the science department at CHS, teaches Honors Chemistry and Systems in Science.

He first became interested in chemistry in high school.

"When I was a freshman, my chemistry teacher Mr. Mills had me help him rearrange the chemicals, and I was fascinated by all the things I didn't know about," Howe said. "I just wanted to know more about them, and look what happened."

After college, Howe soon fell in love with teaching.

"When I got out of college I thought I'd be a farmer, but my father had taught and farmed at the same time and I thought I would do that also," Howe said. "But when I taught, I enjoyed it a lot."

Howe spent his first year of

teaching in Bucklin, MO.

"At first I taught and farmed," Howe said. "Later that year I decided I would explore a bigger school system."

While attending a placement program at Truman State University—then Northeast Missouri State—Howe met Clayton superintendent Don Senti, who was then working in the Parkway District.

"I gave [Senti] a resume but didn't apply, and he followed up with some people at Parkway, and they called me, and I ended up there for 21 years," Howe said.

Throughout his long teaching career, Howe has maintained his passion.

"It seems like when I'm tired or rundown, if I go into a classroom all of a sudden I have a whole lot of energy," Howe said. "It's kind of weird."

For Jantho, who had Howe for Honors Chemistry during her

sophomore year, that energy is one of Howe's greatest strengths.

"He made it fun," Jantho said. "The way he taught me was the best way for me to learn. He got to the point."

In the classroom, Howe has numerous teaching strategies to help students.

"I try to get students to ask lots of questions," Howe said. "I'd rather have them reason through things instead of just memorizing. I try to get students involved in working together, and I like to get students to talk with each other about chemistry outside of class."

According to McAfee, Howe's teaching methods work.

"I think he always finds a very

good way of explaining concepts so that everyone in the class can understand them," McAfee said. "Just

*I try to get students to ask lots of questions. I'd rather have them reason through things instead of just memorizing.*

chemistry teacher  
MIKE HOWE

about everything he does works pretty well."

One of Howe's most unique strategies is letting his students retake tests to get a higher score.

"I believe that students who

want to learn can learn, and that's why I give a lot of second chances," Howe said. "I assume that if they want to they'll get the information and they'll master it, given time and effort."

Along with many Honors Chemistry students, McAfee is a proponent of Howe's testing system.

"I like his opinion that a test is a learning experience and that it shouldn't destroy your grade; instead, it should help you," McAfee said. "Letting people retake tests, I think, is a very good idea."

Howe's retake policy reflects his belief that in the classroom, the most important thing should be learning. As a teacher, he most enjoys instilling in students the same passion that his high school chemistry teacher instilled in him.

"I love getting people interested in things they've never heard of or thought about," Howe said. "I enjoy the interaction with people." ☺

# CHS alum faces second battle with cancer, finds way to give back

by AMY BROOKS

CHS alum Jason Brightfield has already been through cancer once. In May 2004, during the week of his graduation from Mizzou, Brightfield was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. During the following months, Brightfield underwent surgery, radiation treatments and chemotherapy, with his cancer finally going into remission in February 2005.

Brightfield was ready to move on with his life, and spent the summer working as a program director at Taum Sauk summer camp and the fall looking for jobs. On the day he decided to accept one of these job offers, he learned his cancer had returned.

"I was really disappointed, angry and frustrated that I was going to have to go through all of this again," Brightfield said. "I was just ready to move forward with my life."

But despite this disheartening news, Brightfield is keeping his outlook positive.

"Everything is going extremely well, the only major side effect is the low energy from chemotherapy, which makes it really hard to do normal things," Brightfield said. "But I'm finished with my fourth round of chemotherapy and then I will hopefully be starting my stem cell transplant in mid-May."

Brightfield's stem cell transplant removes his stem cells to protect them before he undergoes a severe dose of chemotherapy, necessitating a hospital stay of over a month before his stem cells are transplanted back into his body. After that, his expected recovery time is six months to a year, but Brightfield is optimistic.

"I think I'll bounce back quickly," Brightfield



staff photo

CHS ALUM JASON Brightfield poses in the shirt his team will be wearing in the Wellness Community's 8th Annual Cancer Survivorship Walk on Saturday, April 29.

said. "I'm young, otherwise healthy and it all starts with a positive attitude."

This positive attitude extends throughout the community, fueling Brightfield's quest to give back to an organization that has helped him through his difficult times – The Wellness Community.

"I got involved because I've benefited so much from the Wellness Community and I just really wanted to give back because all of their services are free," Brightfield said.

So, Brightfield decided to walk in the Wellness Community's annual Cancer Survivorship Walk, held this year on Saturday, April 29 at Creve Coeur Park. And not only is he going to walk, his team, currently with over 75 people, will most likely be the largest in the group's 8-year history, according to Director of Marketing and Communications for the Wellness Community, Sally Huff.

"It's absolutely fantastic that we have such a wonderful reception and this support for Jason is amazing," Huff said. "The goals of the walk are two-fold: first, for people like Jason to gather with family and friends and celebrate cancer survivorship; and second, as a fund-raiser for our organization so we can continue to provide our services for free, so it's great to have teams the size of Jason's participating."

Many of Brightfield's friends, including team-leader Gavriel Wiener, are also pitching in to help and lend their support to Brightfield.

"He inspires me all the time because of the way he is handling everything," Wiener said. "He is making this walk such an energetic and joyous thing despite his circumstances," Wiener said. ☺

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2006

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For more information go to:  
<http://www.wellnesscommunitystl.org/%2006.html>



# Teacher-led study sessions ease student AP anxiety, fears

by RACHEL DICKENS

With the end of the '05-'06 school year rapidly approaching, many CHS students have taken the initiative to review for Advanced Placement (AP) exams. AP exams, which commence during the first week in May and conclude the following week, are offered predominantly to CHS juniors and seniors in each core area of study, in addition to more specialized academic fields such as music, art, and foreign language. Although many teachers center their curriculum around sufficiently preparing students to take AP exams, certain courses offer extracurricular review sessions.

CHS English teacher Sue Teson conducts review sessions for the AP English Language exam. Although CHS does not currently offer an AP English Language course, a select group of juniors and seniors opt to take the exam each year.

"Preparation for the AP Language exam is fairly different from the preparation for other AP exams because we do not yet offer an AP Language course to more readily prepare students for the test," Teson said. "Because of this setback, I organize two review sessions for students preparing for the exam."

To fully prepare students for the exam, Teson has created a two-step system, complete with handouts, in which she describes various aspects of the test.

"The first session acts as a general prelude to the exam itself," Teson said. "During our initial meeting, I provide a handout that lists test-taking strategies, as well as a complete set of sample multiple choice questions, which students are assigned to complete before the next session."

Teson describes the ultimate means of preparation offered to students before the exam.

"The second and final review session is a comprehensive overview of the timed essays on the exam," Teson said. "During this session, I supply an additional handout, which describes rhetorical style and analysis, persuasive writing techniques, and sample essay prompts for students to complete. After students have finished their sample essays, I offer them both written and oral feedback, so that they become more accustomed to writing expository essays."

Unlike the AP English Language exam, most other AP exams offered to CHS students correspond with a course of the same subject. For example, the AP Spanish Language exam corresponds with the AP Spanish Language course at CHS. In AP Spanish, students are required to

attend one morning review session per week for the entire month prior to their exam.

"As students, we have the choice to attend one session per week, generally on either a Tuesday or Wednesday at 7:20 a.m.," Sophomore Tatiana Birgisson said. "During our sessions, we typically work on oral and listening response exercises in the language lab. We also participate in a fair amount of group work, which allows us to put forth a collaborative effort in our preparation."

Birgisson has found the sessions most helpful in familiarizing her with the exam itself.

"Because I've never taken an AP exam before, I was initially unclear about the structure and style of the exam," Birgisson said. "The review sessions have allowed me to become more comfortable with the composition and administration of the exam, in addition to demonstrating test-taking techniques and methods of performance."

English teacher John Ryan also conducts AP review sessions for his students.

"Mr. Lockhart and myself are holding two review sessions for the AP English Literature exam throughout the month of April," Ryan said. "These sessions are generally 1.5 hours in length, and are held at school."

Like Teson, Ryan and Lockhart make good use of handouts and sample exams to familiarize students with the exam.

"In the review sessions, we give students a handout, which offers a detailed overview of the exam," Ryan said. "We also give students many released tests, which allow students to get a feel for what taking the exam is going to be like."

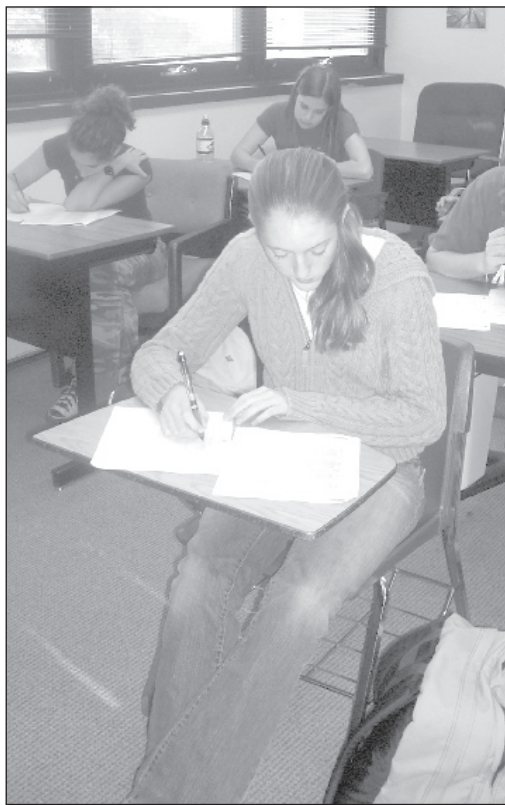
Ryan also notes the emphasis he and Lockhart place on the structure of the exam.

"In general, Mr. Lockhart and I follow the structure of the test itself," Ryan said. "In the first meeting, we cover the objective and multiple choice sections of the exam. In the second, we have students outline two sample essays, which mirror the form and style of actual AP essays."

Although this is Ryan's first year teaching AP English, he has received positive feedback regarding his review sessions.

"I've received a considerable amount of informal, positive feedback from students," Ryan said. "After the AP, however, I'll definitely have a better idea of how well students were prepared for the exam."

Overall, AP review sessions have proven extremely beneficial in the past, in subjects ranging from English to Foreign Language.



photos by Katherine Sher

TOP-JUNIORS ALLYSON Golden and Zoe Liberman do a practice AP Biology essay. On the AP Biology exam there are three essays that must be done in one hour. The AP Biology test also includes a large section of multiple choice. Left- In AP US History junior Alyssa Hartel works on an assignment in her AP US class. Left-Students in Mr. Aiello's AP US class discuss.



## How to study for the AP tests



"I'm going to read the Princeton Review book, probably the day before the test."

-senior Aaron Harper



"To prepare for the AP tests I have gone to review sessions and have been reading books."

-senior Chelsea Denlow



"During the first semester I made a review sheet for every unit in AP Psychology so I definitely use them."

-senior Jenn Pierce

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# iPod headphones to hearing aids: the future of American teens

The popular must-have now faces controversy over sustained hearing loss.

☛ **MADDIE HARNED**

What comes with you wherever you go? Your breath, your heart, your blood and your iPod? Almost everywhere it is possible for a human to go, so can a portable music device. In the halls and classrooms of CHS the faint sound of a song someone is blasting on their iPod is just as commonly heard as a pencil writing across a piece of paper.

However, more and more research is being done that suggests iPods and other portable music devices that involve the use of headphones can do serious damage to one's ears.

"When we hear sound vibrations, or sound waves, they actually funnel through the outer ear and down the ear canal, where the sounds hit the eardrum, and causes the eardrum to vibrate," said pediatrician Dr. Kelly Ross. "These vibrations are passed through the small bones in the middle ear. Then from the middle ear, the sound vibrations are transmitted to the inner ear. Tiny hairs in the cochlea transform the sound vibrations into nerve impulses. The impulses go into the brain."

Classical music has variety of decibel levels therefore it is usually played at lower volumes Rock music however is the same pitch so it is seen as necessary to turn up the volume.

"If the sounds are too high, or too many decibels, they move the bones in the middle ear too much and over time that can really diminish their effectiveness," said Ross.

Manufacturers of portable players recognize that their products are potentially hazardous. Sony includes a hearing-loss warning with all its players, but they still leave their users to determine a safe listening level. With ear buds and iPod and Sony walkman can go up to 130 deci-

bel, equivalent to a jackhammer, shotgun and military jet. In Europe a law has been passed making the legal limit for an iPod 100 decibels. No such law has been passed in the United States mainly because hearing loss related to listening to loud music is still a relatively new problem in the medical field.

While there is a limited amount of specific research on the effects of loud noise exposure on the ears, which could result in damage, the importance of the issue is growing. Evidence of the risks for musicians and music fans is beginning to appear, as researchers and doctors are becoming aware of the problem.

"I've definitely had young patients who come in with damaged hearing and I wonder if listening to loud music or other exposure to loud sounds, like going to a concert, is the problem," said Ross.

More than 28 million Americans currently have some degree of hearing loss, according to the National Institute on Deafness. The number is expected to climb as high as 78 million as people born during the baby boom grow older. For the iPod generation, trouble may be on the horizon. Currently 22 million Americans own an iPod or other digital-music player, and studies show that sustained listening, even at a volume that appears not to be very loud, can damage hearing.

"A lot of exposure to loud music can definitely lead to deafness," said Ross. "Damage can especially happen when the noises are at higher frequencies. As we get older and age we naturally begin to have some difficulty hearing and it's very worrisome that people are starting to have damage at such a young age."

Ross says that younger music fans seem especially unaware of the risks associated with

loud noise exposure, like at a concert.

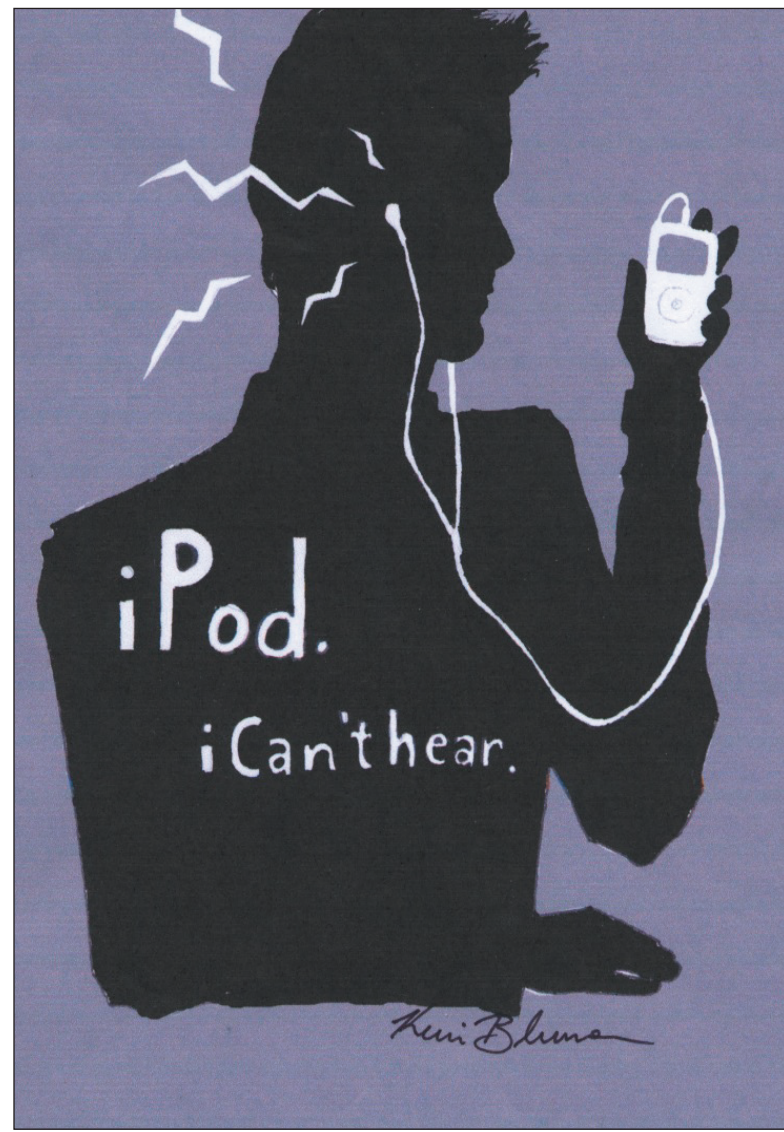
"I think that they [younger people] aren't thinking at the time they are listening to loud music that they are really putting themselves at risk," said Ross. "That may be because in our culture noise in our environment goes up every year. People are putting their TVs on louder and everyone has the radio on or is on their cell phone. People are so used to having loud noises in their environment that they don't know how loud their music, TV or cell phone even is."

Not only are concert-goers experiencing damage to their hearing, but musicians are as well. The Who guitarist Pete Townshend has publicly admitted to sustaining severe hearing loss. Former President Bill Clinton has also said he has hearing damage due to playing the saxophone in a childhood band. Other musicians who have admitted to sustaining hearing damage are Sting, Phil Collins, members of Blondie, Garbage and Pearl Jam.

However, there are ways to protect one's hearing from damage without giving up concerts and music.

"I would advise that if someone goes to a concert to wear ear plugs," said Ross. "They'll still be able to hear the concert beautifully. When listening to an iPod I would suggest that you should turn the volume up just loud enough to hear the singer's voice. I wouldn't advise turning the bass on either. If the person next to you can hear your iPod then you are way too loud and putting yourself at risk."

In March iTunes reported they had broken the 1 billion downloaded songs mark, and iPods are one of the highest selling music products on the market. However, their possible consequences if not used cautiously are proving not to be as hot of an item. ☹



## Students take working break

Spring Break college visits help juniors with upcoming decisions.

☛ **FENG SHUANG STAMME**

As many of her classmates slept late or watched television, junior Christine Ford spent three days of her spring break on college visits. Ford is not the only one who is an early planner when it comes to college selections, some of her junior friends also went visiting prospective universities.

"It was a great experience," said junior Anna Goss, who visited Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. "We were just going to visit my grandma, but Rhodes was on the way, so we stopped and did a quick campus tour. I liked Rhodes, the campus was really nice, and the people were really friendly. My mom liked it too, her only criticism was it lacked diversity."

Although some students visit college that are just on their way to a certain destination, Ford, who is very organized, actually planned which colleges she was going to visit. Ford set down with her mom and planned the road trip weeks before they were actually going.

"My mom has a list of colleges that we made with my counselor. She divided them into four or five different trips, like the East Coast trip, West Coast trip, basically all the trips that we could drive to."

Over the break, Ford visited

three universities.

"I visited Indiana University for their music program, then we drove up to the University of Chicago and Northwestern," Ford said. "I liked Northwestern the best. I felt the tour guide at Northwestern was most like me in case of academics. The University of Chicago was sort of intense. The kids there were very serious. University of Indiana was more of a party school. So Northwestern was a better balance, more intense than Indiana, but also less intense than Chicago."

Junior Eric Einstein looked at 14 different schools in seven days and he particularly liked about five of the schools.

"My parents and I planned this college visit to Massachusetts and Connecticut during spring break. We first flew to Boston, where my grandmother lives. Then we drove to schools around Boston, and looked at different colleges around the region. I wanted to look at a diverse variety of schools, to see what I like and narrow down my list of possible colleges."

Einstein does not know for sure what his perspective college might



THE CAMPUS OF Northwestern is located in Evanston, Illinois on the shore of Lake Michigan. The University is medium-sized and private.

be. "I really don't know where I want to go or what kind of school I like to get into," Einstein said. "So this trip was helpful, it helped me to decide what I ultimately want to do."

Goss who has trouble deciding where and what kind of college she wants to apply to, prefers a mix of fun and challenging college experience.

"I want to get into a good university or college," Goss said. "But I don't feel I can handle the pressures of an Ivy League university."

Junior Rosie Pandolfo already knows which university she would like to attend, and that is Truman University in Truman, Missouri.

"Truman is where I really want to go, it's my first choice," Pandolfo. "But I am looking at other universities and colleges, like Creighton in Omaha, Nebraska, Evansville in Indiana."

Pandolfo pointed out that Truman is a small college town, and that she particularly likes the campus, the setup and the policies of the university. ☹

## Humane Society helps Missouri's forgotten animals

☛ **QING ZHANG**

Abuse: A person is guilty of animal abuse if they intentionally kill, injure or cause suffering to an animal, or if they knowingly fail to provide adequate care or adequate control of an animal in their care.

Neglect: A person is guilty of animal neglect if they fail to provide adequate care or adequate control of an animal, resulting in substantial harm to that animal.

Dedicated to end the cycles of animal abuse and neglect since 1870, the Humane Society of Missouri diligently labored towards building a safe haven for all animals in need.

Their organization's mission states, every animal deserves a second chance.

"When I entered our proud, but tattered, 50-year-old building in 1979, I had the dream to build a better world for animals," director of education Sue Gassner said. The animals kept coming, the injured, the sick, the bruised, the bloodied, the broken, the forgotten, and the unwanted."

All were in need.

The fierce passion to help the animals in their current plight, the ardent want to give the animals the gift of hope and voice compelled the members of the Humane Society to surmount overwhelming tasks in order to fulfill their purpose.

"I often felt that I was chipping away on an iceberg with a toothpick," Gassner said.

The motivated members achieved their goal as the Humane

Society of Missouri matured from a small, one room office and an old, weather-beaten shed for the animals to rescue ranches and several headquarters that features separate exam rooms and skylights for the animals; it expanded from a group of a handful to a community of dozens of employees and volunteers.

And with the increasingly accommodating facility and staff, the efforts to aid the animals also grew from the first tentative attempts to daring rescues.

From the Great Flood of 1993 to Hurricane Katrina, from Franklin County to Dunklin County and from horses to dogs, the Society's caring footprints lay to be seen.

"People who haven't done this before think that after you drive through the area and treated a couple animals, OK now we're done," director of rescue and investigation Debbie Hill said. "Well, no, that's just the first run-through. We've still got to do two or three more sweeps to make sure we get all the animals."

The meticulous care exhibited in the rescues, combined with professional Humane Officers who are on call 24-hours-a-day, and 365-days-a-year to assist animals in distress, led to incredible achievements as the most recent rescue in Dunklin County saved 137 dogs suffering from mange, sores, hair loss, low body weight and heart worms.

While the efforts of the Humane Society remains commendable, the task to educate an American public with approximately dog owner-

ships of 77.6 million appeared daunting.

"The community seemed unaware of the awesome task that was being performed, Gassner said. "Isolating was the feeling that this burden was carried solely by the people working within the walls of the Humane Society of Missouri."

But as the problem of pet overpopulation grows, the cases of neglect and abuse became sobering concerns. The Education Department of the Humane Society designed classes and programs to progress the solutions. The Pets for People program pioneered by Gassner, for example, pairs older pets with senior citizens.

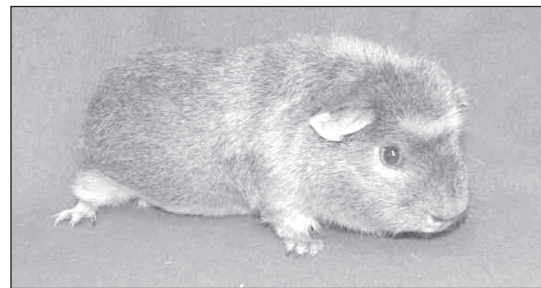
Their endeavors proved successful.

"Schools are coming by the bus load to learn about humane education," Gassner said. "Volunteers can be seen each morning walking the animals in our care."

Although progress has been being made, although amazing milestones have marked the Humane Society of Missouri's 136 year journey, more cases of underprivileged animals await the Society and still require the continuing commitment to their guiding principle every animal deserves a second chance.

"Yes, we may still have some fixing on the world to do, Gassner said. But, if just one animal has been given a fresh drink of water or one chained, forgotten dog has been given a reprieve from his bondage and a pat on the head. Our efforts are not in vain." ☹

## Animals up for adoption in the St. Louis area



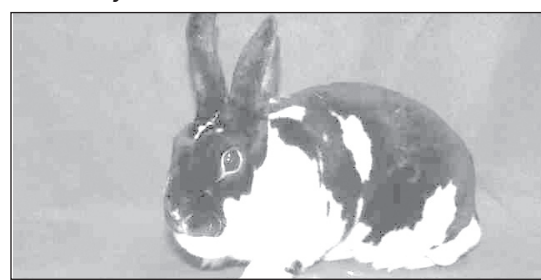
**Scooter**

-male  
-brown and black Guinea pig  
-one year and three months old



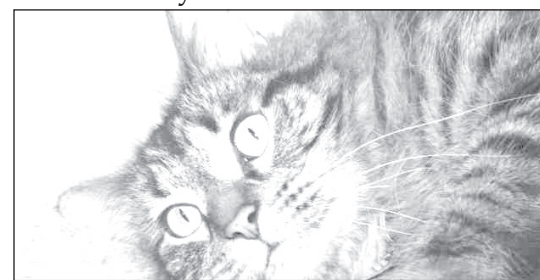
**Ginger**

-female  
-cream Chow Chow mix  
-About 5 years old



**Momma**


-female  
-white and black rabbit  
- about 1 year and 8 months old.



**Ben**

-male  
-brown tabby Domestic Shorthair  
-about 3 years old

photos courtesy Humane Society of Missouri




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# Playing with death

For a rising number of American children, the choking game means an artificial high without drugs. But as the game increases in popularity and danger, more and more families are faced with the tragic consequences of the sometimes-fatal game.

by TIAN QIU

**W**hen Jeff Espey woke up on Jan. 24, 2006, he knew it would be a life-changing day. He had no idea the events of that day would alter not only his own fate but also the lives of everyone around him.

## THE TRAGEDY

Espey, a sophomore at Seckman High School in Barhart, Mo., had turned 16 just two weeks before the incident. Like many 16-year-olds, Espey had waited long enough to get his driver's license. The morning of Jan. 24, while Espey was still asleep, LaSheryl Hackenwerth, Espey's mother, left for her doctor's appointment and planned to take her son to his driver's license test afterwards. However, when Hackenwerth returned home at approximately 11:30 a.m., instead of finding Espey excited and ready to go, she found her son sitting in his closet floor, strangled unconscious by ropes tied around his neck.

After cutting Espey down from the ropes, a horrified Hackenwerth held her son and immediately called 911. When the police arrived within 10 minutes of the call, they told Hackenwerth that her son had committed suicide.

That same fateful morning, Jamie Sears, Espey's girlfriend for a year and half, also a sophomore at Seckman High School, had just gotten home from school when she decided to call Espey. But she found Espey's older brother on the phone instead of her boyfriend.

"I remember being really confused because [Espey's brother] was being kind of vague and saying [Espey] was gone," Sears said. "I said 'Ok, just have him call me when he gets home.' Then it really sunk in, and I remember screaming and crying. I was really sad and really upset. Then I started to get angry. It was a whole mixture of emotion all at once."

Because Espey was ill from severe asthma and spent much of his sophomore year at home, Mike Depung, a teacher at Seckman High School, had become Espey's homebound teacher. Depung describes Espey as a very bright student who was interested in a variety of topics, such as science, health, philosophy and especially computers. Together, they would sit at Espey's kitchen table and have discussions on topics inspired by those subjects. Depung never thought that his discussions with Espey would come to an end on Jan. 24.

"I was in my classroom at school and actually putting Jeff's work for the day in a folder when an intercom announcement asked me to call one of the secretaries," Depung said. "When I dialed the number and Denise answered, she said that I shouldn't go to Jeff's and that his grandmother had just called and said Jeff had died. I stumbled back against the wall in shock and started crying."

David Potts had been best friends with Espey for nine years ever since they met in first grade. It was impossible for him to imagine that at the age of 16, he would be attending his best friend's wake.

That same January morning, Potts called Espey in his car, but instead, he found Sears on the other end crying and telling him about Espey's death.

"I freaked out and didn't believe it and hung up on her. I thought she was playing some sick joke on me," Potts said. "I called back [Espey's house] and talked to his dad, and he sort of explained everything to me. After that night, I called Jamie back, and she told me what actually had happened. It was hard for me."

According to those who knew him, Espey was smart, funny, polite and stood up for what he believed in. He was a straight A student and a good person who would be the first one to defend anyone who was being bullied. Espey aspired to work with computer graphics one day. He developed interests in building websites, fixing computers and could type 120 words per minute, which made his mother proud. Because of all his qualities and according to his mother's instincts, Hackenwerth couldn't believe it when the officials told her that it was a suicide.

"I said there's no way - he was too happy," Hackenwerth said. "They ended up bringing in a detective, and the detective told me that it was a game. It's called the choking game or pass out game. We had three [cases] in our area that week. That's what they ended up classifying it as, the choking game."

## THE KILLER

The choking game, blackout game, fainting game and the pass out game are a few of the many names given to the dangerous trend in teens that killed Jeff Espey.

Dr. Thomas Andrew is New Hampshire's Chief Medical Examiner, a pediatrician and a holder of several other degrees. Andrew has become somewhat of an expert on the subject on the choking game. He has been featured in various publications and media, such as NBC's

20/20, as an expert concerning the topic.

"The choking game as it is played presently is a game where young people will put some sort of pressure around their necks usually, with a dog leash or a bungee cord or some sort of constricting band," Andrew said. "They put pressure on their necks to the point of nearly passing out and then release the pressure. This is done to achieve a high. The effect that the player is aiming for is obviously different from the effect I end up seeing players for."

According to Andrew, the players of the choking game aim for two kinds of sensations. One is lightheadedness that "feels like an altered state like a high" when pressure is applied to the player's neck; the other is the feeling of blood rushing up into the player's head after the pressure is released.

The particular danger in this game, according to Andrew, is the "extremely fine line between the lightheaded feeling and unconsciousness."

"If you actually do lose consciousness, and there's nobody around who knows you're playing this game, your own body weight will finish the job of asphyxiating you literally within about two or three minutes," Andrew said. "And there's no turning back after you lose consciousness if there's nobody around."

CHS student Patricia Smith\* learned about the choking game from friends when she was out of town. When Smith's friends told her that they could make themselves pass out for a few seconds, Smith was pressured into playing the game and passed out her first time. She didn't enjoy the experience and didn't think it was safe, so Smith stopped playing the game. She did not deem it to be extremely dangerous because nothing bad had happened to her.

"It was just a few seconds, passing out," Smith said. "I didn't think it would really carry on into the future."

Although more research is needed to determine long-term effects of the choking game, Andrew strongly disagrees with Smith's assessment.

"Any time you're depriving the brain of oxygen for any period of time particularly if you go so far as you lose consciousness, you are damaging brain cells and it's inconceivable to me that that would not have long-term effects," Andrew said. "It may be subtle, it might not have you wheel-chair bound. It may be subtle effects on the brain dealing with things like memory and the way you process information, and it certainly can't be good."

Furthermore, Andrew has heard reports from co-workers that some children who have played the game frequently have also complained about chronic headaches.

Deaths directly attributed to the choking game are still considered to be rare because relatively few cases are carefully investigated and found to be connected to the choking game according to John Howard, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer of the National Association of Medical Examiners. However, the "Deadly Games Children Play" website has generated rough statistics from victim lists they accumulated over the years from many sources. It displayed one statistic which showed that in 2005, 53 victims were killed by the choking game across the U.S. while there were only 20 deaths in 2004 (the website states that there may still be more deaths unknown to them, especially when many choking game related deaths are ruled as suicides). Although the number of deaths caused by the choking game may seem to be insignificant in many people's eyes, the numbers are increasing along with the dangers.

## THE AWARENESS

"He was a great kid," Hackenwerth said. "I was 20 years old when I had Jeff. I have three other children. Jeff was my baby boy. Jeff was my easiest child to raise. He was a mommy's boy."

Much to a mother's chagrin, it was after Espey's death that Hackenwerth found various signs of her son playing the choking game, such as shoestrings tied in knots lying in the closet where Espey died.

"I knew nothing of the game before," Hackenwerth said. "His [Espey's] girlfriend told me that he asked her a week before about playing the game, so apparently he wasn't playing it long. I signed on to his computer and the night before (his death), he was at the pass out site on

the computer. I don't know he did it for research but it was a horrible site. It (the site) tells the kids exactly how to do it and that it's the greatest thing in the world, and it doesn't tell him he was going to die from this."

Although the choking game itself has been around for many generations, the execution of the game has slowly evolved. Andrew revealed that in the earlier times, although it was still incredibly dangerous, the game was seldom played without a group or at least two people. Moreover, the pressure on the player was exerted by another's hands so someone was there to rescue the player immediately if the game suddenly went awry. However, more kids are now playing the game alone with extraneous objects, such as ropes or belts, and greatly increasing the risks in the game without any help around.

"My group of friends and most people I talk to know about it (the choking game)," Smith said. "Since my friends have done it and nothing bad has happened, I just see it as a rebellious game that could be harmful in the future, but to be honest, I still don't really think of it as something that's dangerous really."

One of the biggest dangers in playing the choking game is still the public's lack of awareness of it. Andrew believes that while kids are far more aware of the existence of the game than their parents, the majority of whom are still in the dark about it, the kids are still not aware of the dangers the choking game puts in front of them.

"I think they (players of the choking game) fall into two groups at large, one group is much larger than the other one," Andrew said. "The smaller group are kids who don't have easy access to drugs and alcohol that they may normally turn to self-medicate their symptoms so they may use this game. The larger group are pretty high achieving, action-oriented, athletic kids. These are kids who generally do not use drugs or alcohol. The reason they succumb to this is they are deceived into thinking it's safe because it doesn't involve a drug."

Sears has been putting efforts into raising awareness about the choking game because of her boyfriend's tragedy. Through learning about the choking game through websites and books, Sears is determined to spread the awareness beginning in her school by making a PowerPoint presentation concerning the game and putting it on her school's website.

"I just want people to know that it is something that is dangerous, and it can kill you and harm you," Sears said. "If people know, even if it can't bring Jeff back, it could save somebody else."

As for public prevention, Andrew believes that instead of preaching the kids, organizations such as schools and church groups need to impress upon them the dangers of the choking game just as kids learn about the risks of things like drugs and alcohol.

Furthermore, families and members or people and acquaintances should check for signs that might reveal one's practice of the game and take appropriate actions such as getting them help.

"If it's not deemed a violation of their child's privacy, I guess reasonable people can disagree on this, I would check the family computer or if the child has his or her own notebook or computer," Andrew said. "See what kinds of websites they are visiting. Are they going to chat rooms where they talk about this? Are they going to websites that talk about the games? The biggest prevention is just like for tobacco and drugs, it's just talking about it and keeping those lines of communications open. Obviously, that's not possible for every kid out there. They don't all have that kind of relationship with their parents that allows them to do that, but that's the best prevention measure there is."

As Hackenwerth has gotten in contact with other parents who have lost children to the choking game, she and these parents have started a campaign to raise awareness about the game by sending flyers and contacting schools to talk to students and share their stories with the media and on websites.

"I honestly believe 100 percent in my heart, if my son knew that he could die from it, he wouldn't have done it," Hackenwerth said.

## THE AFTERMATH

"The loss of a child is the most difficult thing any family can face," Hackenwerth's family doctor David Kantor said.

Hackenwerth now resents Tuesdays because it was the day she witnessed the end of her child as she had witnessed his beginning in this world.

Without Espey by her side, Hackenwerth has now lost her "mini-me" and her best friend.

"We did everything together [such as] housework, gardening, cooking," Hackenwerth said. "We played Super Nintendo every night before he went to bed. [Espey] always acted like he was just doing this for me, but I know he enjoyed it. He had a dog named Woozle that he loved very much. You can tell that Woozle misses him. I believe his illness (asthma) and all the time we spent together at the hospital is what made us so close. I never left the hospital. He spent over three weeks in November, and I stayed the whole time. Jeff was not just my son. He was one of my very best friends."

In addition to her everyday routine, Hackenwerth now also visits Espey's grave in Shepard Hills Cemetery daily, as well as going to a grief counselor for an hour on every Thursday and checking on Sears to see how she is doing. While Sears is seeing two different grief therapists, she and Potts are both in a group counseling recommended by their school, playing it day by day.

Though a few months have elapsed since the tragedy, Potts still cannot get the images of his best friend out from his head and misses Espey as dearly as the moment he found out about his death.

"[I miss] everything," Potts said. "From the way I would do his homework, to just talking to him. Not a day goes by I don't think about him."

At the same time Potts is missing all the things he and Espey used to do as best friends. He can't forget the moment when he looked at Espey's body at his funeral, so angry at him for trying something as stupid as the choking game.

"When you die, it really does affect other people," Potts said.

"There are more effects than just you."

[The tragedy] put everything in perspective. You never think what you're going to lose until it's gone."

As Hackenwerth continues her awareness campaign, she hopes all children can acknowledge the fact that playing the choking game can destroy an entire family.

"I will never forget finding my baby boy dead for such a senseless reason," Hackenwerth said. "All I can hope is [that] my story will save another child's life and no mother will have to feel with the pain I feel everyday. He was my baby." ☹

\*Name changed to protect student anonymity

## Possible Symptoms of the Choking Game

1. Inexplicable marks or bruises on the throat
2. Unexplained cuts or bruises from falling
3. Disorientation after spending time alone
4. Locked bedroom doors
5. Straps, ropes or belts lying around without reason
6. Unexplained headaches, loss of concentration, or a flushed face
7. Bloodshot eyes
8. A thud in the bedroom or against a wall
9. Changes in personality, such as overly aggressive or agitated
10. Questions about the effects, sensations or dangers about strangulation

www.deadlygameschildren.play.com

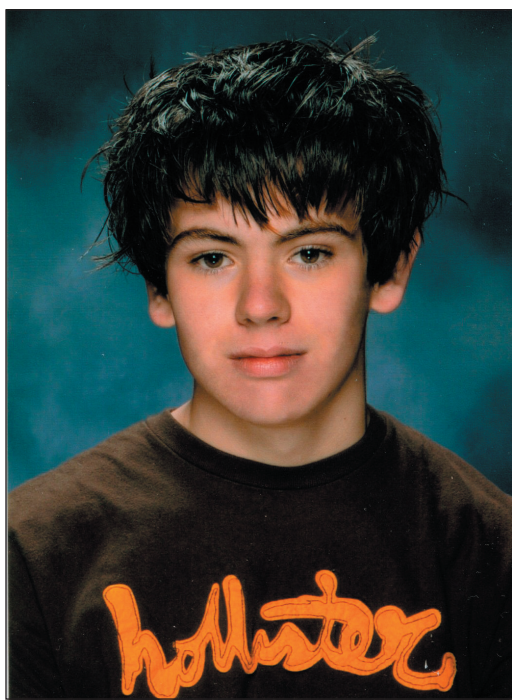


photo used with permission of LaSheryl Hackenwerth  
SECKMAN HIGH SCHOOL sophomore Jeff Espey was only 16 years old when his life was cut short in January by the choking game.



From the Back Field



**JACK MCCLELLAN**

## Girls' lacrosse gains respect, another fan

Recently, I discovered something new. It was an unexpected discovery for sure, but a pleasant one. And, as this is a sports column, if you were betting that my new discovery is a sport, then - ding ding ding - you would be correct.

But even for those of you who have guessed right so far, the rest of my confession may surprise you.

I have recently become a fan of girls' lacrosse.

Yeah, you heard that right. Girls' lacrosse. With no disrespect, I did not really expect to like the first game that I went to. I don't really like boys' lacrosse, and from what I had been told, the girl's version was the same thing, only toned down a little. Not my idea of a good time. It is this type of flawed thinking, however, that steers people away from the sport.

"People think it's not a real sport," senior Stephanie Cooper said. "But it takes a lot of skill."

For those of you who just scoffed, shame on you. While maybe I would have counted myself in your numbers just a few weeks ago, after seeing the girls in action, my mind has been completely changed.

My first experience came in the always-important Clayton vs. Ladue match, although I didn't even realize what I was walking into. I just sort of waltzed into maybe the most important game of the year.

There was nothing toned down about the sport either. The score was tied 4-4 when I got there, and the game wound up 8-7.

I love high scoring sports. What's better than an NBA team putting up 140, a football team hanging 60 or a girls' lacrosse team posting 8?

The athleticism of the girls was impressive.

Anya Fisher weaving through Ladue's defense easily was incredible. Amy Hill anchored the defense well. Natalie Thomure was a scoring machine. The overall skill of the girls on the field was readily apparent as they outclassed the girls from Ladue.

I could understand what Cooper was talking about when she says that the game takes a lot of skill.

The girls have had some other impressive games this season. Two wins over Hazlewood Central, one an 11-5 win and the other a 13-5 win.

Since that first day, I have been back twice, and even though one game was a disappointing loss with an under-matched Greyhound team, it was still enjoyable. The sport is even worth the drive all the way out to Busch Soccer Park to see a game ending in a loss.

However, not everyone shares my opinion of the sport. A senior boy who wished to remain anonymous had this to say.

"I just don't think it is that exciting," the senior said. "There is no hitting, it is less fast-paced than boys' lacrosse."

Wrong, wrong, wrong. It is true that there is no hitting in the girls' game, but when you see one of those girls come down with a tomahawk chop on the stick of another girl, it really doesn't matter.

As for less fast-paced, all I know is that I couldn't keep up out there.

Girls' lacrosse is maybe the most underrated, under-appreciated sport at Clayton High School. And unfortunately, it will probably stay that way. But it shouldn't be.

"Girls lacrosse is definitely over-looked," Copper said.

Girls' lacrosse has, completely out of nowhere, began to rival field hockey as my favorite girls' sport to watch. And trust me, I love field hockey, so that is saying something. I encourage everyone to get out to a game this year and see what I am talking about.

You won't be disappointed, I promise.

### Boys' Lacrosse

The boys' lacrosse team is having a strong season with returning talent

**15**



### Illegal Music

One student's opinions of music piracy and illegal downloading

**17**



### Arts Fair

Once again the CHS tradition proved to be fun for all involved

**24**



## Thriving on young talent

### Despite overwhelming numbers of underclassmen on the squad, the varsity girls' soccer team is anticipating another successful season.

**KATHERINE SHER**

So far it's been a season to remember for the varsity girls' soccer team. They get to brag about how they were the first ones to call the new Gay Field home. They have started off 6-3, scoring ten or more goals in two games already. They are ranked as "on the bubble" in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch girls' soccer rankings. Oh yeah, and it's a team with more underclassmen on it than any other team in recent history.

Comprised of five freshmen and five sophomores on the varsity roster, the team is experiencing a burst of fresh air as well as unquestionable talent.

"The young girls bring a new potential," senior captain Kate Shoemaker said. "In previous years we focused on channeling mental focuses on winning and effort. This year we are better able to do this because the younger girls have talent and we can spend less time working on basics. They bring a raw talent that was not prevalent in past seasons."

Soccer coach Paul Hoelscher agrees. "The young kids are talented and that is never a negative," Hoelscher said. "They are enthusiastic and love to play. They may have a little less experience than some older players, but it is not a major problem."

Freshmen Olivia Hayes and Kate Wheelock have proven themselves to the team, and have earned two of the starting slots. Through eight games, Hayes has scored eight goals and is credited with five assists. Wheelock has proven to be a solid defenseman.

Hayes believes that the experience is the best part about being on varsity.

"The best part of being on varsity is the girls and the experience itself," Hayes said. "All of

the girls are so awesome and make you feel welcome. I also like the competition, and I think I can learn a lot from everyone. I just look forward to a good season and the bonding we get to do."

Wheelock agrees, but also gives credit to the upperclassmen leadership that the team possesses.

"Being on varsity is really great because every one is so supportive," Wheelock said. "We have fun, but we're also intense for practice and stuff. I really like all of the people and getting to know them. I think that the underclassmen add a lot to the team skill-wise, but the upperclassmen are the ones who take control and help us all work together."

Sophomore Sonya Gierada and Hayes lead the team in scoring with eight goals each. Junior captain Alex Johnson and Hayes lead the team with total points at 21. Freshman Diane Martin and sophomores Emily Anderson and Leigh Katz have also added to the success of the team as underclassmen.

Hoelscher stresses the importance of being a family to his players.

"Our program prides itself on teamwork and soccer family," Hoelscher said. "We have spent a considerable amount of time bringing together members of various classes both formally and informally and it has worked to build a cohesive unit."

The team as a whole has put in the extra effort to overcome the age difference and has become one of the best teams in the area.

"I think that every player has really put in the extra effort to play their best, especially because the majority of our team is so young, and we



TOP: MEMBERS OF THE varsity girls' soccer team defend a corner kick against Webster. Middle: freshman Oliva Hayes challenges two Webster athletes. Bottom: Junior Alex Johnson goes for a 50-50 ball in the April 12 game. The Hounds lost 2-3, although they managed to maintain their winning record.

## Varsity baseball shows potential, continues to improve



MEMBERS OF THE varsity baseball team watch the action at the plate. Although the team's record does not show success, the team has adopted the label of "potential" this year, showing much improvement since the rough start to the season.

**JACK MCCLELLAN**

So far this season, the key word for Clayton baseball has been potential. And, as always, the word potential can be both a good and bad thing. Potential realized and unrealized. Potential to be great and the potential to be less than stellar. The baseball team is dealing with all of these variations of potential so far in their young season.

The team has all the tools it needs to compete; Clayton has a strong, fundamentally sound defense and they run the bases well (almost everyone in the lineup is a threat to steal every time they reach base). The team can hit, with five of their nine regular starters hitting for above a .300 average.

"When we play our best we can be good," said senior first baseman Chris Peck.

Peck himself is an exercise in the word potential. Expectations coming into the season were that he would be a team leader in hitting, and yet so far he is batting a lowly .071. This, however, is sure to change as Peck gets more at-bats. And even with the low batting average, Peck is a leader in the Suburban East in walks and stolen bases, a perfect microcosm for the team's season so far.

One of Clayton's strengths as a team is their chemistry. The team is very close, and has an attitude that every player is important. This attitude comes directly from Coach Craig Sucher, who, instead of appointing senior captains as in most sports, told the team that every person was a captain. He even told them to all put "baseball captain" down on their college application. This unorthodox move has paid off in the eyes of the players.

"We don't just look to certain players when we are down or need a boost," said Peck (who freely admits to marking baseball captain on a few applications). "Anybody can make the play that gets the team going."

This attitude, and the sum of this team's potential, can best be marked in a 15-5 win over Priory, who was ranked number five in the area at the time. It was a game where everyone committed and everyone contributed. It was a wake-up call to just how much this team can accomplish when it sets its mind to it.

But that, the focus and determination it takes to play at a high level, is also one of the biggest problems for Clayton.

"It's a lot easier to get motivated when

**BASEBALL, 14**



# Girls' soccer team dribbles to success



all photos by Sarah Powers

TOP: SENIOR JOCELYN Wagman with junior Alex Johnson defend against Webster. Bottom Left: Senior Kate Shoemaker finishes a high kick in the game against Webster. Bottom Right: Sophomore Emily Anderson battles with a player from Webster for a loose ball.

## SOCCER, 5

know we are going to have to work that much harder to beat teams like Whitfield, Rosati Kain and MICDS," senior Caitlin Ly said. "Also, I think that we have a lot more natural talent than we've had in past years."

With the difference in age, team bonding would seem to be a problem. However, for this team, they have overcome the age difference to form a team.

"We have bonded really well this year," senior captain Jocelyn Wagman said. "It's hard to tell who is best friends off the field; everybody meshes really well. The young girls feel comfortable enough so everyone gets treated the same way."

Shoemaker said the older girls understand that it is important to view the team as a family.

"We organize dinners, ice cream

socials and we do spontaneous things like getting smoothies after practice or driving to practice together even though we can drive ourselves," Shoemaker said.

With the focus more on winning than team unity, the Hounds have been able to come up with team goals, and have been able to accomplish them for the most part.

"Our goals this year are to beat Ladue, successfully play our 3-5-2 system and to play the full 80 minutes of a game," Wagman said.

senior soccer player  
**CAITLIN LY**

*I know the Clayton-Ladue rivalry is always strong in every sport, but it is especially important to our soccer team.*

All of the girls agree that the Ladue game will be one to remember.

"I am really looking forward to our game against Ladue," Ly said. "I know that the Clayton-Ladue rivalry is always strong in every sport, but it is especially important to our soccer team."

Although the Hounds don't play Ladue until April 25, they

have been able for the most part to accomplish their last two goals. They have had trouble with close games towards the end, and suffer from losing their focus during crucial times.

"After we score a goal, we have a really hard time keeping the intensity up," Wagman said. "A lot of times we'll score a goal and the other team will score one pretty soon after."

Wheelock said the season has been going well so far.

"We've won games, but lost a few games too," Wheelock said. "The games we have lost though, have been only by one or two goals. That makes it exciting to know we can win each game, but also frustrating because we are so close to winning each time. We all know we are capable of having a winning season, so I'm really looking forward to seeing how it all works out."

Despite the problems the team has faced, they have adopted a motto, embroidered on everyone's game shorts.

"Our motto this year is 'shudoh,' which means master of soccer," Wagman said. "It's a combination of soccer skills and the desire to win."

## Athletes of the Month

Boys' Golf:  
Daniel Limbert

Girls' Swimming:  
Paige Meneses



MAX SHAPIRO



Meghan Bliss

REBECCA WALL

Senior Daniel Limbert chose to play Clayton baseball his freshman, sophomore, and junior years at CHS, but his senior year he decided to make a switch to the Greyhound golf team. A decision that he nor the golf team regrets him making.

"I've always been a golfer at heart," Limbert said. "My roots were in baseball, but in the back of my mind I always knew that I wanted to play golf."

Limbert flirted with playing golf his junior year, but decided that baseball was better.

But going into this spring Limbert was 100 percent sure that he wanted to part of the Clayton golf team.

"I'm really glad Dan decided to go out for golf," senior Michael Musick said. "He has made an instant impact on our team and is a great golfer and teammate."

In only his first year on the team, Limbert is already at the top of the team, playing either one or two in every match, and outanding achievement for the first year on the team.

"I didn't expect to be playing one or two going into the season," Limbert said. "There are a lot of good guys on the team and it's an honor to be playing at the top."

Limbert has proved that he deserves to be at the top Clayton's line-up with dazzling early play.

Limbert medaled in the first match of the year by shooting a low round 41 against Trinity and continued his great play in the Ritenour Tournament, where he shot an 84, and placed third out of 38 entrants.

"Daniel is a great asset to our team," senior Sam Golembieski said. "We lost a lot of good players last year and Daniel is doing a great job of filling their voids."

The team lost impact players such as Pat Cohn, Maxwell Ryan, and Brian Belsky all to graduation.

"When Daniel goes out and shoots a 38 against MICDS, and beats the state champion from last year, it really makes it easier for the team to forget about the loss of last years' seniors," Musick said.

The match against MICDS solicited the fact that Daniel Limbert wants to be around come state playoff time.

"I really hope we can qualify for state as a team," Limbert said. "Qualifying individually would just be an added bonus."

Several players have a good chance of making the state tournament this year, but Limbert looks to be one of the favorites from Clayton as his great season continues.

Limbert will be attending Western University in Colorado next fall where he will continue to improve his golf game.

"I'm not sure if I'm going to play," Limbert said. "I'm taking golf one day at a time." ☺

Wealthy and brainy are all adjectives which come up when describing Clayton High School students, but athletic is infrequently used. Sure, we can hold our own against Ladue in those seminal matches, but it is a rare day when CHS athletes transcend district play, let alone make it all the way to state competition. However, freshman Paige Meneses is an exception to this trend. At the first meet of the season, this diver, analogous in skill to certain sea mammals (dolphins come to mind), qualified for state.

This alone sets Meneses apart in ability from your run of the mill diver. A further testament to her skill is the fact that Meneses took up diving well later than most of her competitors.

"I got into diving late at age thirteen," Meneses said. "Usually divers start at age nine."

Meneses, who was introduced to diving by her current coach "TuTu Bonanza" and her mom, had background in gymnastics and swimming which helped her achieve relatively quick success.

Easy positive experiences of diving spurred Meneses' enthusiasm for diving.

"I got into a really, really fun team, the Clayton Diving Alliance (CDA)," Meneses said. "Everyone was like a great big family and it was more low key and less competitive than some other sports."

One could easily concentrate solely on her achievements in diving this season. However, this would not give the whole picture. Despite not practicing swimming during after school practices, Meneses also excels in swimming events, holding her places as one of the strongest swimmers on the team.

"I really like to swim in the 400 free relay as well as butterfly and 100 backstroke," Meneses said.

In a highly competitive world, people often turn what they love into what they hate inadvertently. Pressured, whether by themselves or others, to not only succeed but dominate, markedly negative connotations are formed around prior skills and passions.

However, Meneses' apparent experience with diving bears none of these tragically prevalent traits. Her unabashed enjoyment of diving makes her achievements in the sport all the sweeter.

Even better is her nonchalant attitude when it comes to her achievements. When it comes to her favorite part of the sport, it would be reasonable for Meneses to say, "Dominating the competition." However, Meneses says none of these self-elevating things, rather pointing to her teammates.

"The people I dive with and the people I get to be friends with on the team are my favorite parts about diving," Meneses said. "And being able to have fun and do something for the school at the same time." ☺

## Baseball proves success as underdogs

### BASEBALL, 13

you're playing as the underdog and trying to prove something," Peck said. "Unfortunately we haven't brought that fierce attitude to all of our games and we've lost some we shouldn't. We need to make it a priority to always come out gunning."

This attitude can be easily marked, just as the team's potential can be marked with the win over Priory, in a recent loss to University City, the first time Clayton has lost

to U-City in ten years. However, the team still has a winning record at 7-5.

"Any cliché you can think of," Peck said when describing what the team needed to do to bounce back from the loss.

Drive, focus, determination...

But all of those things will come together. All of those things are coming together. The team followed the U-City loss with a win over Affton in a must-win situation.

Early in the season, Coach

Sucher told the team that they had no goals. Instead, they would play to win every game, just like they should.

"If you are not playing to win each game then you shouldn't be playing," Sucher said.

That is a lesson that this team with so much potential is learning, slowly but surely.

Once this team learns to approach every game like that, maybe they should rethink their stance on goals because a District championship might be well within reach. ☺

## Girls' LAX scores, as success continues with new coach

### DAKIN SLOSS

'Come on in here for a second,' coach Emily Hartong calls to begin each girls' lacrosse game according to team co-captain Anya Fisher.

"We come into a huddle and she asks us a question, 'Who is gonna win this game?' or 'who is gonna give 110 percent?' We say back, 'we will.' Then we keep shouting and getting pumped for the game."

Hartong has brought energy and inspiration to the team and pushed them hard.

"Our new coach has a great deal of knowledge about lacrosse," co-captain Leigh Mehlman said. "Her guidance has helped us improve so much and set a strong base for the future."

So far the team is 3-2, and they feel good about how they have played.

"When we went up against Ladue, it was a tough and intense match, but we pulled through," Hartong said. "We really want to beat them at their home field on the April 26."

The Ladue game was very important and everyone put forth a great performance.

"Everybody on the team is giving 110 percent and that showed against Ladue," Fisher said. "In particular, Emily Owen made some key defensive plays. She knew what was going on and she did not let anybody through. She has been a big help to the team on defense."

The team also beat Hazelwood 11-5 and played against Parkway South, Nerinx and Kirkwood in a tournament.

"We have had our best season by far," Mehlman said. "In the first game alone it felt like we made and caught more passes than in the my other three seasons combined. We really wanted to improve and grow as a team and I believe that has happened."

The team's goals this year were to set a base for the future by building a strong and connected team. The girls agree that with the new coach, work from the four senior co-captains - Nathalie Thomure, Amy Hill, Mehlman and Fisher - and good underclassmen the future is bright.

"The girls are better friends this year, so we have done much better," Owen said. "We are also better because our coach has taught us so many things."

Everyday Hartong works on basics and does different drills to improve passing, catching and movement.

"We work on the basics and lots of practical things," Fisher said. "We practice catching on the run, and coach is always there to motivate us and harness all our efforts."

Hartong also feels positive about the team's current season and future.

"The team is doing a fantastic job," Hartong said. "They have grown together and worked hard. We need to work on groundballs a little more, but the team is doing great overall. It helps that we all practice together, so the junior varsity team can learn from the varsity girls."

The team has hardly enough players for a JV and varsity



Sarah Powers

FRESHMAN CAITLIN RODGERS practices her shots with teammates while others look on.

squad, so many sophomores are swing players, spending half their time on varsity and half their time on JV. JV is 3-2 and playing excellent.

"The younger girls are so connected, and they learn fast," Fisher said. "They are finding success and will be even better down the road."

The sport is currently a club sport so participation is limited.

"I hope we get more girls to join the team, so we can get even better," Owen said. "It is such a fun sport, and we just need some more players."

Due to the player shortage the JV team was alternating goalie until recently.

"We were switching goalies all the time on JV, but sophomore Mary Goodman played the position really well, so she took over," Fisher said. "She is going to be a great goalie."

The team has high hopes for the years to come even though it is only the fifth year that CHS has had a girls' team.

"The girls are starting younger now," Hartong said. "The freshmen will be really good once they are seniors. We will have an even stronger team and it would also be tremendous if we got state sanctioning."

The squad is continuing to train hard and become closer. "We have come a long way because of coach Hartong and with the new plays we are learning, we will be able to win some big games," Fisher said.

They are anticipating the second Ladue game most, but also compete against Webster Groves and Whitfield.

"I am really excited to play Ladue again," Owen said. "We want to beat them at their school too." ☺

sophomore  
**EMILY OWEN**

*I hope we get more girls to join the team, so we can get even better. It is such a fun sport and we just need some more players.*



# Armstrong's absence allows others to shine

SIQBHAN JONES

After his record seventh Tour de France win, Lance Armstrong hung up his bike for good. Although many fans, especially those who were not in favor of the Texan's utter domination of the cycling world, eagerly looked forward to an exciting 2006 season, others are regretting the loss of one of cycling's biggest champions.

Armstrong undoubtedly did wonders for cycling; his influence made the obscure sport more popular in the United States, and his preparation and scientific methods of training affected the entire European peloton. Austin Murphy, a journalist for Sports Illustrated agrees.

"Without Armstrong's Tour de France wins there are fewer bikers on the road in the U.S. and more dangerous roads for them to ride on," Murphy wrote in an article entitled "The Face of Determination".

This year, Tour fans look forward to a clash of contenders in the race; since the Armstrong Era ended at the end of last July, the question of who will dominate in the '06 season has been wide-open. Several big names are lined up, more determined than ever to grab a win.

Ivan Basso, an Italian who finished second behind Armstrong in the 2005 Tour de France is widely considered the best bet to take the '06 race. He has already won the prestigious Critérium Internationale, a two-day stage race in France, this year. He seemed confident after this big win.

"Up until now everything has been perfect this year," Basso said. "I feel more ready and I also feel that the work I'm doing together with Bjarne [team manager] and the team, is the absolute right way for me to achieve my goals this year."

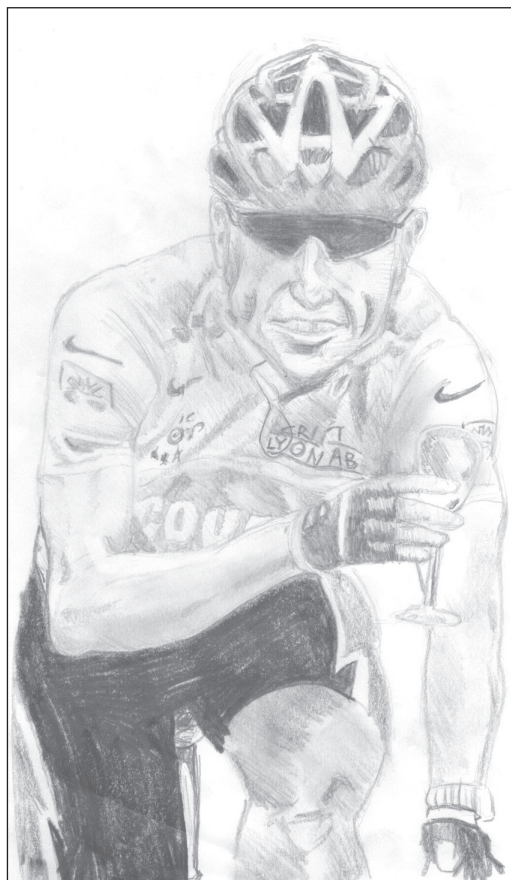
While Ivan Basso seems ready to take the yellow jersey, a few other contenders are not about to let that happen. After a Tour victory in '97, Jan Ullrich has been continually coming up short, unable to beat Armstrong. This year, Ullrich vows not to let another win slip away.

"This year I'll have another shot at the Tour," Ullrich said. "I'm not getting any younger and won't have many more chances to win it."

At the same time, American cycling fans are wondering which Americans will step up and take the torch that Armstrong has left for the next U.S. champion.

Although Armstrong is regarded by the general public as the only American racing in Europe, there are other, less prominent, members of the peloton who are ready to boost American cycling to the next level.

Floyd Landis is perhaps the best chance for an American Tour win in the years to come. A former teammate of Armstrong's, Landis moved to the small Swiss team, Phonak, to chase his dreams. Already the winner of two prestigious stage races this year, the Tour of California and



AMERICAN GEORGE HINCAPIE is one of many contenders hoping to move into Lance Armstrong's place in the Tour de France.

Paris-Nice, Landis is looking to be on target. Although he seems to be spearheading the American quest to win the Tour, he remains unsure of his abilities.

"I don't know if there was a point one day where I decided I could win [the Tour de France]," he told VeloNews last June. "There's more to it than just bicycle racing. Whether I can do it or not, we'll see."

Another contender is George Hincapie. Hincapie is most famously known for being the only man to ride alongside Armstrong in all seven of his Tour de France victories. Although he is foremost a one-day race rider, last year Hincapie showed his versatility with time trial wins in the Dauphine Libere (a mini Tour de France in June). He also showed his skills as a climber, when he won a mountainous stage 16 of last year's Tour de France.

"I do dream of winning [the tour]," Hincapie said of, "That would be great."

So while the Armstrong Era comes to a close, a new wave of Tour contenders enter into the limelight. Although his presence in the peloton will be greatly missed, and his effects on cycling will be appreciated, it is time to turn our attentions to the next soon-to-be champion, and the 2006 Tour de France. ☺



ABOVE: SENIOR EVAN Hammond prepares to pass while senior Jesse Kornblum looks on. Hammond leads the team in goals with 11. Below: junior Bob Maylack runs on the offensive during the game against Parkway North.

## Boys' LAX starts strong

JACK MCCLELLAN

The season started out slow for Clayton's boys' lacrosse team, but that was to be expected. The team had almost an entirely new varsity roster and a new coaching staff.

"We had a little trouble in the beginning of the year because we only had three returning varsity players," senior captain Max Altman said.

The three returning varsity players are Altman, senior Carter Sapp and senior Nick Stolz, who are captains along with fellow senior Jesse Kornblum and junior John Buse. The leadership effect of returning players is obvious, with Sapp and Stolz leading the offensive charge while Altman and emerging star Buse anchor the defense.

"Nick and Carter are clearly offensive stars and the most consistent players," Altman said.

Sapp and Stolz are tied for the team lead in shots. Stolz has eight goals and Sapp has seven, second and third respectively on the team, behind senior Evan Hammond.

The defense, which was an issue over the course of the first couple games, has made a vast improvement. A few positions were shifted around, including Altman moving from the midfield back to defense,

and Buse's play has really picked up.

"John has really made huge improvements from last year and has been a solid starter on defense," Altman said.

The experience that these players bring to the table is definitely one of the strengths of the team.

"We clearly have a few players on the team with a huge amount of talent and experience," Altman said.

The new coaching staff has also been a boost to the team.

"The coaches have worked us way harder than previous years, so we have more determination before," Altman said. "It has made an improvement in how hard we work and how much we want to win. They make us put more heart into our games."

Some of the extra work that the new coaches have made the team do includes more running and also running practices with the team wearing full sweat-suits.

As the team turns its season around and begins its run for the playoffs, their sport is making its push to become a marquis sport at Clayton.

"I feel that it gets the most people out of all the spring sports," Altman said. "I think our Ladue

game on a Friday night will have a lot of fans."

Ah, the Ladue game.

"It's clearly the biggest game of the season," Altman said. "It's the last game of the season and could definitely be the defining game on whether we make the playoffs or not, so it's clearly the pinnacle of the season."

The winner of the Ladue vs. Clayton lacrosse game gets the Ladue Challenge Cup, something that Clayton has won for the past 4 years.

This year's match-up with Ladue is a little more interesting than it has been in the past. Club sport, Friday night, no administrators. This formula has been seen before, but Altman does not think that another fight will occur.

"It's another sport where bad emotions lead to players [to take cheap shots at] each other, but I don't actually see the possibility of another fight," Altman said.

Which is a good thing for Clayton lacrosse. The importance of that last game of the season should not be lost. It is the last scheduled game, but with the improvements the team is making and their push to be playoff ready, the team certainly hopes that it won't truly be the last. ☺

# New baseball season brings excitement, questions for fans

JIM AN

As spring comes into full swing, baseball season arrives as well with all the fun and good spirit of the American pastime as well as the fierce competition and rivalries among the major league divisions. As the season starts, Clayton fans of baseball are caught up in the heat of the moment.

"It's the beginning of a fresh epic journey," junior John Buse said. "Just following [baseball] and the surprises through the season is somewhat of a religion. The statistics and standings are just enthralling."

This season of baseball will almost certainly bring its share of twists and turns, whether from the resolution of the steroids scandals or the ballooning Yankees payroll.

Barry Bonds, who has come under fire recently for his alleged use of steroids, is one of the most controversial figures in baseball today. Off to a lackluster start this season, many have different opinions about him.

"It's not cheating if it's not illegal," junior Zach Miller said.

Currently, the use of steroids is currently not illegal, per se. While Bonds is under legal fire, it is for a possible charge of perjury, not the use of steroids.

Major League Baseball itself tested for steroids in its players until 2002, and only last season did it implement significant punishments for steroids offenses. Some believe

that steroids brought a fan base back to baseball after the 1994 players' strike, which heavily damaged teams' relationships with fans.

"I think steroid use was necessary to revitalize the game post-strike," Buse said. "However, for Bonds to threaten records, like McGwire, is poor etiquette."

However, others disagree with these assessments of the use of steroids.

"Bonds should be banned for life," junior Paul Lehmann said. "[The use of] steroids is cheating and the suspicions [of using steroids] cheapens the accomplishments of all of today's players. Bonds will emerge from this scandal with his reputation deservedly tainted forever."

Far from Bonds and his Giants of the National League West are the New York Yankees of the American League East, whose payroll owner George Steinbrenner has increased this off-season to over \$200 million.

With a literally all-star team, second baseman Robinson Cano is the only starting position player having never been to the Midsummer Classic, the Yankees are expected by both management and players to win, or at least make it to, the World Series.

"We're a team that's built to win every single year," shortstop Derek Jeter said in an interview with The Journal News.

With a strong leadoff batter in Johnny Damon and relief pitching



LEFT: GIANTS OUTFIELDER Barry Bonds prepares for a pitch. Bonds is under scrutiny because of allegations of perjury at a grand jury trial involving steroids.

improvements, the Yankees are expected to do well this season. Nevertheless, the Yankees, who have not won the World Series since 2000, face stiff competition in the tough AL East.

Another notable signing is the

five year, \$47 million contract given to B.J. Ryan by the Toronto Blue Jays, the largest ever for a reliever.

World Series champions Chicago White Sox traded away center fielder Aaron Rowland for heavy hitter Jim Thome, who at designat-

ed hitter is quickly reclaiming his spot as a feared power hitter, which was challenged during his injury-plagued 2005 season.

In contrast to the Yankees, the Marlins, purged by management over the off-season, began with a major league-low \$15 million payroll, with almost a third commanded by their ace pitcher, Dontrelle Willis. This payroll amounts to less than half of the next lowest payroll, which is of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

The Marlins are currently battling it out with the Washington Nationals at the bottom of the NL East, both considerably behind the division-leading New York Mets.

Within the NL Central, however, many teams have bolstered their pitching staffs. Most notably, Zach Duke enters his second season with the Pittsburgh Pirates, and promises to be a new source of wins for the embattled team.

The Cubs have signed the speedy center fielder Juan Pierre to lead off their batting order, and are doing well so far into the season.

The Cardinals themselves have also made a few moves, noticeably the pickup of Juan Encarnacion at right field and Aaron Miles at second base, not to mention moving into their new \$365 million ballpark, where they have sold out their first six games.

"They will be good," Lehmann said. "Probably about the same as last year, because there have been no huge changes."

However, the losses in the Cardinals bullpen, even with the signing of reliever Braden Looper, who was with the Mets last season, have some fans worried about an otherwise good team.

"I think the Cardinals will do well," Lehmann said. "Our starting pitching is solid, we have a solid lineup, but the bullpen worries me, though."

Miller also has his doubts about the Cardinal relievers.

"If the relief is good," said Miller, "then the Cardinals will do well, but that's the problem."

However, the accomplishments of the various players and teams not only affect real-life standings but also affect teams in the world of fantasy baseball, which has engaged a significant number of students.

"It is a pleasant diversion from the daily rat race," Lehmann said. "It has been a rocky start [for my fantasy team] thus far, but I am confident I will prevail!"

Buse also thinks that fantasy baseball is a fun activity.

"Fantasy baseball is like a war strategy game," Buse said. "And, there's also plenty of bragging possibilities and it's a diversion from work."

For many, whether watching the intricacies of the game being played out or managing their own fantasy teams, baseball is a contest of not only athletes, but minds as well.

"It's the chess of sports," Miller said. ☺

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The Globe student newspaper exists primarily to inform, entertain, and represent the student body at CHS to the best of its ability.

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

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

--the Globe editors

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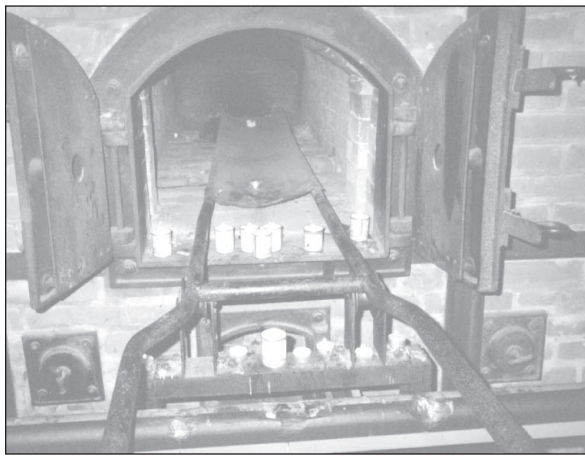
Guest Column

# Emotional pilgrimage to Poland and Israel show time of pain, suffering

I cannot believe that a year has already passed. It seems like just last week I was preparing for my life changing journey, not knowing what to expect or what I would get out of the trip. But it was about a year ago during the last week of April that I participated in March of the Living.

I had been looking for a program all year that would take me to Poland and Israel for a week each, but I had no success for quite some time. No such programs were offered during winter break and all of the programs in the summer were too long. I finally stumbled upon March of the Living and knew that this was the program for me. Once I was accepted to the program, I made all of the necessary arrangements considering school work, buying the needed supplies, and attempting to mentally prepare myself for what lay ahead, but *nothing* could prepare me for my upcoming journey. The night before I left I got less than four hours of sleep, on and off that is. I was anxious. I would be going on an intense emotional journey with people I did not know, I was missing two weeks of school, I did not know what to expect. Nonetheless, I arrived at school the next morning for first period, wearing the clothes I was traveling in and being asked questions about where I was going and why. Why was I going? I was going on this journey for me, for my siblings, for my parents, for my grandparents, and even for my great grandparents who I had never known. I am Jewish and I am very proud of my heritage. My parents are Israeli and so I have strong connections to the country and the people. Having four grandparents who are all Holocaust survivors simply added to my desire and my need to partake in such a journey. I went because I wanted to and needed to see what my people had been through.

After first period, my parents picked me up from school. I said goodbye to everyone and I was more nervous than I had ever been. The only thing I knew while boarding the plane to New York was that I was to meet a large group of teens there and we were to fly to Poland together. I knew that our first destination in Poland was to be Auschwitz, and in all honesty, I was scared. The plane ride was about eight hours long and we were all tired. When we got off the plane, we all got onto three buses, as were previously assigned. On the bus was where we were able to get to know each other and form connections. It was a long bus ride from the airport to Auschwitz and



ABOVE: JUNIOR AVITAL Ludomirsky marches in the March of the Living, a march from the death camp of Auschwitz to the death camp of Birkenau. "Seeing an Israeli flag flying over Auschwitz where close to 2 million Jews were murdered was incredible," Ludomirsky said. Below Left: Ludomirsky visited a crematorium in Majdanek. "[In the crematorium] there is a bathtub." Ludomirsky said. "The head of the camp used to sit in this bathtub, playing his violin, the water in tub heated by the burning bodies." Below Right: A sign Ludomirsky came across in Majdanek which really upset her. "It was something I just don't see everyday," Ludomirsky said.

the scenery was unexpected. We all sat on the bus in awe of the rolling green hills and the nice, quaint little farm houses. We were all disturbed by the sight, though we realized that it was only to be expected. They were not in a time of war anymore, but it was still upsetting for some reason.

Upon arriving at Auschwitz, it was difficult to exit the bus. It was nothing like what we expected. There were houses right on the fence of the concentration camp. There was a couple out walking around the camp on a date.

There were posters and books for sale. Auschwitz was not a concentration camp anymore, it was a museum. The Poles who had at one point murdered the Jews in these camps were now profiting from their visits. It was sickening. After passing through the store, we saw the infamous gate: "Work

makes one free." We saw the platform on which the infamous Dr. Josef Mengele had stood, directing people to their new, dehumanizing lives, or more often than not, directing people to their deaths. We saw the electric fences, the gallows, the torture chambers, the killing wall, and then we saw a chimney stack. The room to which the chimney stack was attached seemed hidden, almost as if the chimney was coming out of the ground. We walked around the chimney to find the door and then we entered the gas chamber that was attached to the crematorium. I still get the chills just thinking about the scratch marks on the walls. Those images will never leave me. Even now, a year after my journey began, the image comes to mind whenever I hear scratching nails. We stood there in the chamber and could not move. We had to touch the walls, we had to, but actually doing this was harder than expected. I finally put my hand upon the wall where so many hands had been before. It is

impossible for me to describe what I felt at that moment. It was sadness that was filled with a certain happiness and pride that I was living for what these people had died for. I felt the presence of these people who had scratched at the walls, yet at the same time, I was in the presence of over seventy teenagers who were just like me. We were living proof that Hitler had failed, and that made me proud.

As we were leaving Auschwitz, it began to rain. It was rainy and cold for the rest of the week. Since it was already early May, we could only imagine what it must have been like to live in these awful conditions during the winter, with no heating systems and no more than a thin shirt and pair of pants, even while working day in and day out. It must have been unbearable.

We journeyed through many other camps and ghettos during our week, but on Holocaust Remembrance Day, we returned to Auschwitz for a different purpose: Joined by approximately 20,000

other marchers, we took part in the March of the Living, a march from the death camp of Auschwitz to the death camp of Birkenau. It is today called the march of the living because it was then the death march. It was on this march that so many people died, but we are the living and we march to keep their memory alive. Seeing an Israeli flag flying over the death camp of Auschwitz where close to 2 million Jews were murdered was incredible. More than the single Israeli flag, everywhere you looked, you simply saw a sea of blue; an ocean of Jewish teens and adults who have proved Hitler and the Nazis wrong. I can still see the masses of Jews, living Jews, marching on the route, proclaiming our victory.

On the last day of our week in Poland, we arrived at the most disturbing location that I have ever been to: the concentration camp of Majdanek (pronounced My-don-ick). This camp has been left in such "good" condition that it could be reopened within two weeks, with the gas chambers working, crematoriums working, and the trains in. When I explain to people that this was the camp that had the greatest impact on me, they do not seem to understand why I was not angry that such a horrid place could be reopened so quickly. Well, it does not make me mad. On the contrary, I am glad that it was not destroyed. People need to see what the camps were really like. People need to see the close proximity of the houses to the camps because though the poles deny that they knew what was happening in these camps, it is evident that this was a lie once you see that there are houses from that time period that stand about four feet away from the fence of the camp. People must see the gas chambers with the blue stains still on the walls and ceilings; the locks of hair cut off the victims before they entered the gas chambers; the piles of shoes: women's, children's, men's; black, white, red. People must see the inhumanity that these Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, and prisoners had to suffer; the inhumanity of the Nazis.

In the crematorium of Majdanek, there is a bathtub. The head of the camp used to sit in this bathtub, playing his violin, the water in his tub heated by the burning bodies. This is an image that I will never forget. Whenever I encounter a bathtub, this disturbing image comes before my eyes.

Yes, I am furious at the unbelievable inhumanity and the surreal cruelty. No, I do not understand how a human being could consciously do such a thing to another human being. But no, I am not angry that Majdanek has been kept intact. People must see the realities of the Holocaust and such horrid events so that such things will never happen again.

Never forget and never again. Those were our mottos throughout our journey and those remain my mottos today: Never Forget. Never Again. ☺

# Good outweighs bad in building of new stadium

Few Cardinals fans would disagree that the new Busch Stadium is beautiful. The sunny halls are no longer cramped and crowded, the brickwork is classy and traditional, the views of the St. Louis skyline are gorgeous, and there is even a personalized Build-a-Bear workshop on the first floor where fans can make their own Fred Bird.

But although the new stadium is visually more than anyone ever imagined, many St. Louisans are denouncing the fewer seats and the higher ticket prices.

A quick look at the statistics will prove that these claims are in fact justified. According to the St. Louis Post Dispatch, while the old stadium had over 50,000 seats, the new stadium will have less than 47,000 when completely finished (on opening day there were about 41,000). According to STL Today, the average ticket price to attend a Cardinals game has risen from \$25.29 in 2005 to \$29.78 in 2006, putting the Cardinals in third place in the Major League for highest ticket prices, following the Chicago Cubs and Boston Red Sox.

However, what most opponents of the stadium fail to understand are the clear reasons for the changes.

Most importantly, the new stadium was for the most part a privately-funded project, meaning the Cardinals' owners provided almost all of the \$365 million that went into building Busch. Whenever an organization spends so much money at a single time, it is going to need a plan to earn that money back.

Privately funding the stadium eliminated the need to take money out of public funds, making it possible for that cash to go into other community projects and programs.

Instead of making all St. Louisans pay for a stadium that many never use, the Cardinals raised the money themselves.

The higher ticket prices are a necessary by-product of that decision. People who want to take advantage of the new stadium will have to pay a little extra, but in the long run they will probably end up paying less than if the stadium had been funded by public taxes.

Some opponents counteract this truth by claiming that a new stadium was not necessary in the first

place. The old Busch Stadium was full of the traditions and memories of millions of Cardinals fans and was still satisfactorily functional.

But while a new stadium was perhaps not absolutely needed, St. Louis deserved the financial boost that a new ballpark inevitably brings.

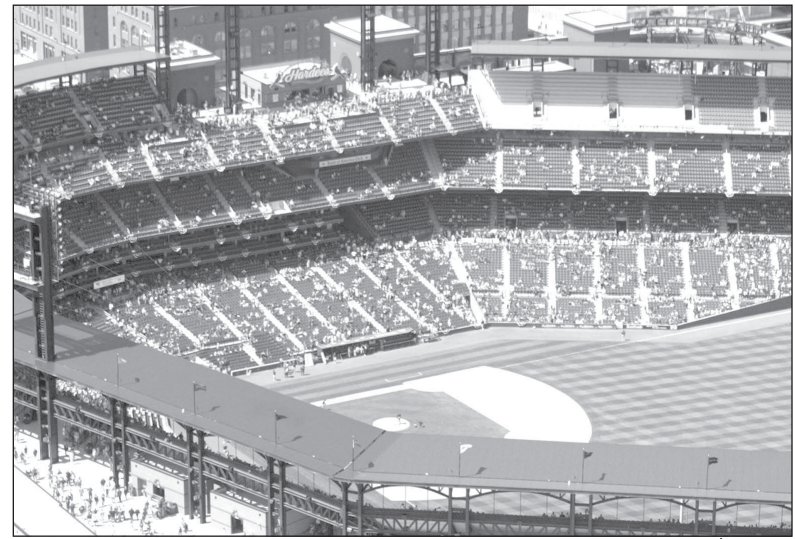
Change, especially in the form of a state-of-the-art stadium in one of America's best baseball towns, brings in more tourists, who bring in revenue for the city.

St. Louis has already been promised an All-Star game, and consequently a place in the national spotlight, in the near future.

Furthermore, the new stadium was built close to the highway on the outskirts of downtown, freeing up vast areas of prime real-estate in the central downtown area where the old stadium sat. This new space can be used to improve St. Louis' downtown.

In addition to privately funding the new stadium, the Cardinals are also privately funding the creation of Ballpark Village, an area next door to Busch that will include apartment buildings, shopping centers and other venues. Ballpark Village could offer prime housing options, bringing more people into the downtown area.

Clearly, slightly higher ticket prices are a small price to pay for the widespread economic benefits St. Louis will reap from Busch Stadium and its surrounding real-estate.



THE ST. LOUIS Cardinals defeated the Milwaukee Brewers 6-4 on Monday, April 10 for the home opener in the new Busch Stadium. Fans poured into the stadium hours before the game to explore their newly renovated home turf.

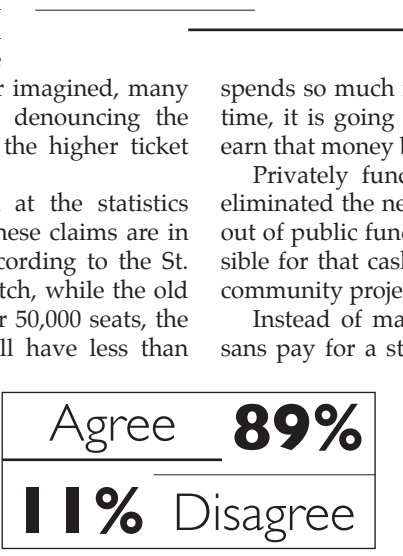
Despite this, some St. Louisans still complain about the reduced seating. If the fewer number of seats truly would prohibit large numbers of Cardinals fans from attending games, it would indeed be an aspect to complain about.

However, the fact of the matter is that when Busch Stadium had a seating capacity of 50,000, they rarely filled every seat. Even during the past two seasons, when the Cardinals were a winning team that advanced well into the post-season, only a tiny fraction of the games were sold out.

The new Busch will only have about 3,000 fewer seats, which though substantial is not drastically different. The new stadium will probably prove to be more appropriately sized in terms of how many fans normally come to games.

Overall, St. Louisans who complain about higher prices and fewer seats have spent too much time looking at selected statistics and too little time examining ultimate benefits. With time, Cardinals fans will hopefully come to understand that in this case, the good outweighs the bad. ☺

## Staff Editorial



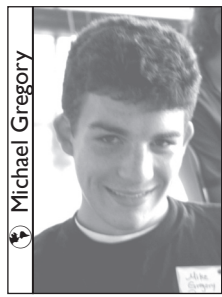
## Corrections Box

- Kelly Moffitt's name was spelled incorrectly on page 7 of the March issue.
- Mia Harlan, not Rachel Dickens, will be a senior managing editor next school year. Rachel will be a senior arts editor.
- Michal Hyrc was spelled wrong in the last issue.



# Ivy League not appropriate for all Clayton students

"So, where are you going to college?" Seniors at CHS seem to ask that question more than any other. Whether it's a nostalgia article in the Globe or a huge guidebook to the best colleges, I think that people take the college admission process way too seriously here.



Michael Gregory

Earlier this year I stopped asking people where they are going to college because I was tired of hearing, "Well, I applied to Dartmouth, but I can always go to Harvard or Yale instead." Good for you. And thanks for making most of your classmates feel miserable because they have little chance of getting into or affording one of those colleges.

Just when I thought I had heard it all, I heard one parent say after the Night of Bands concert that her daughter, a junior, was ridiculed by classmates for not applying to an Ivy League school.

Fortunately, only a few students feel compelled to draw attention to their feats, as if it's the accepted standard to apply only to the Ivies.

It's not. First of all, those schools are ridiculously hard to get into. Cornell, known to be the easiest Ivy to get into, accepts about 30% of the people who apply, but those applicants are mostly people who think

they've got a shot at getting into Cornell. Second, some private colleges — especially the elite schools — cost more for one year than many luxury cars. Most people cannot afford that. And the "guarantees to meet demonstrated need" line that you see in the college guides doesn't mean free. Those colleges may give you a break, but it may not be enough.

Students are part of the problem; the peer pressure can be almost debilitating for some. But I think a lot of it comes from parents. Sure, everyone wants their kids to



go to a good college, but sometimes people take it too far.

A year ago some Clayton students and parents were worried that Clayton's integrated math program wasn't preparing students well enough for standardized tests and college level math. Whether or not that is true, I don't know. But when the school board voted to add an additional math program for what turned out to be a few students, it became clear to me that it was not the majority that ruled, but those who created the most noise.



How do we start out in such a nice, nurturing place like Glenridge Elementary School, where I once attended, and become so intense? It starts even before we hit Wydown Middle School. I remember my parents asking my brother's fifth grade teacher why the homework load had recently increased. The teacher replied that parents pressured the school for more homework for their children.

In my class, our homework packet was a few worksheets that covered the core subjects and was

due a week later. Whether it was an act of defiance or a feeling of sympathy, my fifth grade teacher stopped giving us the homework packets after the first month of school. And she was an outstanding teacher, one of the best I have had.

Middle school seemed to hit like a runaway train. The homework was non-stop. In some classes, it seemed that all we had time for in class was going over the homework. At Wydown, too, teachers confided that parents were demanding more. And that was in addition to the social adjustment adolescents face during the middle school transition.

Over the years it became clear that, every time I heard a story about pushy parents, it always seemed to be the same ones. And there weren't that many of them. Why are a few parents able to create such a cut-throat atmosphere where students end up being ridiculed because they're not applying to Harvard?

The obsession with homework and college admission isn't just in Clayton. In 2000, Etta Kralovec and John Buell wrote "The End of Homework," a book that exposes the truth about how destructive homework can be.

Clayton is too worked up about college. Even our school planner assumes that everyone is going to a top college: "The following program of study would be virtually 'ideal' for any college candidate." Some students will start at a community college. Others may join the military and have financial help from Uncle Sam when they come home.

In the fall, I am heading off to a state university. Believe it or not, I'm happy about it.

Sure, it would have been fun to tell my classmates that I am going to Brown or Penn but, as one of the top schools for Creative Writing, the University of Iowa was actually my first choice.

If you're going to Harvard, good for you! Seriously, that's awesome. But when you tell people you're going there, recognize that it's not for everyone. ☺

# Story time evolves into political discussion as student matures

It has been some time since I felt the comfort of his voice, the safety of his arms, and the warmth of his body. Although the brown leather chair still remains, the times we spent together in that chair are just a memory. The seat is worn and the armrests depleted of their cushions, but the brown leather chair is now as welcoming as ever. I visit this chair from time to time, refreshing my mind with the days we spent there. Over time we both have grown, in mind and body, to a size that prevents both of us from sitting there together.



Leah Eby

My grandfather and I used to sit in this chair when he and my grandmother came to visit. He would barely have time to greet the rest of the family before I eagerly dragged him over to the

brown leather chair. We sat, "Grampa" first, then me, plopped down on his lap. I fit perfectly in the mold created by the curves and crevasses of his body and the chair. I was filled with anticipation and wonder from that moment on. And this was "story time."

My "Grampa" told of mystical creatures and ancient civilizations. There were giant sea monsters with multiple arms and fiery breath. A time machine would take us back to the days of the dinosaurs, and a spaceship would transport us far past Pluto. Each tale consisted of a drastic, Earth-destroying problem to be solved. Coincidentally, the heroine who saved the world was always a young girl about my age; and with the same name.

When one story ended, I would beg for another. After breakfast I would ask, "Story time?" After my nap, the same question. I couldn't help it. The stories were so intriguing; my brain absorbed each one like a sponge absorbs water. I was persistent and unwilling to give up until

I got my full share of story time in the brown leather chair with "Grampa."

Ten years ago, days such as these were the highlights of my life. But I have grown older, and although my "Grampa" and I love to remember those stories, he and I now have different stories to tell each other. When we visit one another, we talk about politics, current events, sports, school, and what's new in our lives.

The days we spent in the brown leather chair forged a special relationship between us. We each have a certain respect and love for one another that will never fade.

Looking back on those days when I was young, I'm glad I was such a determined kid. If I had slacked off and missed those precious



photo courtesy of Leah Eby

moments in the brown leather chair, I would not have these memories to laugh at, or the growing imagination I value today. Because of those times in the brown leather chair, I now have my own stories to tell. ☺

FRESHMAN LEAH EBY and her "Grampa" sit in the familiar and comfortable brown leather chair.

# Clayton image not reality

The tone of the article, "Sophomore drivers accept responsibilities along with licenses", in the last issue of The Globe, was at first shocking and then infuriating. I've been attending Clayton schools since kindergarten and all eleven years I've been hearing Clayton kids referred to as spoiled, bratty kids. The sad part is, rather than refute this stereotype and show the compassionate side of Clayton students, this article seems to actually support that label.



Meghan Bliss

First of all, I didn't see any responsibilities being accepted in this story. All the kids of parents who required them to buy their own car, or who didn't indulge in the whims of their spoiled children, did was complain about how they actually had to work towards getting their own car, which to me is actually the opposite of accepting any responsibility. It's not even like we have to do much to find a job here anyway. We have the Y.E.S. office; jobs that are just waiting to be taken. I think if one re-read this article with the outlook that not everyone expects a car on their sixteenth birthday, they will see what I am referring to. I know it seems to be asking a lot, but try taking a few seconds every day to be thankful that you have a ride to school and that you even have an opportunity to go to school at all.



Sara Rangwala

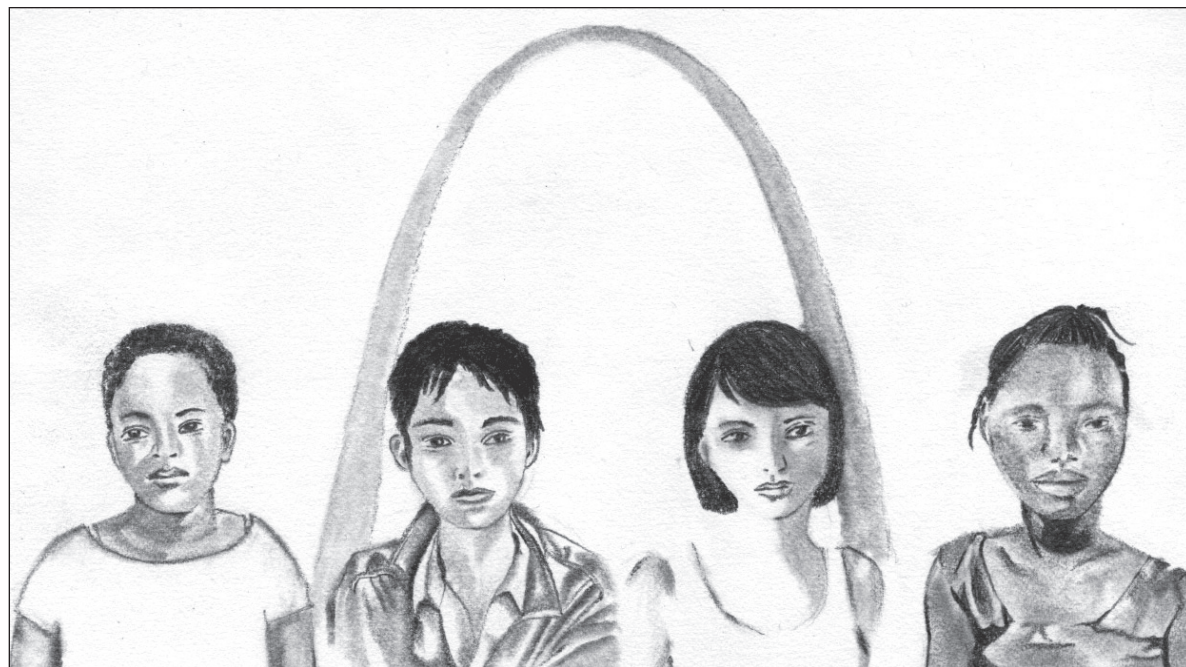
This may be starting to sound like a typical lecture on 'how lucky you are', but just imagine for a second that this has some truth to it. Just imagine that our lifestyle and standard of living

in Clayton is among the greatest in the world. Imagine that we really don't have much to complain about. Many of us don't really realize this because we are so used to this life, we don't really know anything else. This is why we should take the opportunities we have been blessed with and really educate ourselves. Understand that in the long run there are more important things than whether you get a car or not.

Another article of similar caliber appeared in the December issue of the Globe. These writers titled their article "10 Things to Hate about Clayton." I have lived in Clayton for the past twelve years of my life and do not hate it in the least. I am grateful and consider myself lucky to live here. I was honestly insulted when I read that list, which sounded more like complaints and was grossly exaggerated.

I've seen kids living on the streets in India, picking through garbage for their food, while we complain about cafeteria food and the prices. There are kids who really can only dream about having the kind of life and many opportunities we do. I'd say try living like they do for a day and you probably wouldn't be making insensible remarks like the one in these articles. It seems to me that

if we stopped to look up from our self-centered lives, we would realize that we really have no right to complain, and maybe possibly improve the typical "Clayton" image. ☺



Wenny Dong

# Discussion opens student's eyes

American. Minority. Two words uncommonly associated with one another were in optimal connection just a matter of weeks ago.

Sitting amongst a group of eight immigrant kids, I was just that, a minority. As topics swirled and questions arose, bad things about America were shared. Shared in abundance.

I felt awkward at first, but I had never stopped to think about what sort of lives these kids had previous to their immigration to the United States.

A Bosnian girl to my left described hardships when she first came here. Another Bosnian echoed her sentiments. Then, a girl from Sierra Leone, West Africa shared a similar story. I was seemingly left with nothing to say.

It was, however, comforting, knowing that I shared the same political viewpoints as the other kids at the table. We had lengthy discussions about the objectives of the war in Iraq, and other topics that outline the Bush administration.

What most of all irked me, was the way in which these kids are still treated in their respective schools today.

A boy from the Dominican Republic who attends Soldan International High School, a St. Louis City School, commented on his difficulties while around his peers. "People automatically think that

just because I'm dark-skinned, I'm black," he said. "They notice my accent and they'll ask where I'm from, but when I say the Dominican they give me a weird look."

He also expressed a deep confusion among classmates regarding his speech.

"Someone will come up to me and say, 'What's up, homie?' but when I respond, 'Hey, how are you?', they always wonder what nationality I am, because they don't believe that someone of their race would speak like that."

As a White-American, I rarely feel as disappointed by my classmates as my group member from Soldan does on a daily basis.

As discussion began to intensify, a Bosnian kid from Affton spoke just about his only words of the day, but they lingered in my head for a while.

"Every day at Affton, I feel accepted because there is such a high Bosnian population," he said. "But the moment I step out of Affton, to say go to the Arch, I feel threatened, I am no longer thought of as a person, but as an immigrant."

Many of the kids agreed with him, stating that they are rarely labeled Bosnian-Americans, or Russian-Americans, but merely Bosnian or Russian, even though they live in the United States just like the rest of us, and speak fluent English.

From that point on, we shared stereotypes that plague us every day. One stereotype that made everyone in our group guilty: All Asians are smart. The lone Asian in our group said he hears it all the time, and the rest of the kids admittedly said they have thought the stereotype to be true. After a few minutes of logical discussion, the Asian dispelled this stereotype by jokingly saying, "It certainly doesn't work for my cousin!"

The majority of the kids in the group felt as though if there was one thing they could re-do about their lives, it would be staying in their native country. For me, this was disconcerting, however, after listening to their stories, this may certainly have been justified. They explained how everyone told them before they came to the United States that it was the greatest place ever, and that all their dreams would be fulfilled if they came here.

In actuality, they felt the complete opposite. Hatred, racism, and no sense of toleration had permeated their respective societies.

I may have been a minority the other day, but the one thing that connected me with everyone else was a feeling of sympathy. A feeling of apology to everyone who had been wrongfully accused of being this or that during their lives in America. Perhaps we could all reconsider the way in which we treat our immigrants, to create a better community, for the world's "Melting Pot." ☺



-One more month  
-End of Blue's Season  
(finally, it took long enough)  
-Good weather

THUMBS UP

THUMBS DOWN

-"No Soup for you!" (at least in the Commons)  
-\$10 for After Prom  
-Duke Lacrosse





## Although stressful, student finds meaning in week-long holiday

On April 2, 2006, the last day of spring break, I was getting my books together for school the next day. Looking at the calendar in my planner to see what the following week would hold for me, I felt dread worm its way into the pit of my stomach. It wasn't caused by looming finals, and it wasn't caused by the fact that spring break had abruptly ended. In fact, the apprehension I felt was entirely unrelated to school.



▲ Nava Kantor

And food is indeed a problem on this holiday. On Passover, we do not eat leavened breads, rice, corn, beans, and a plethora of other American staples. A lot of the foods I eat on Passover (besides matzah) contain ridiculous amounts of eggs to make foods rise without the help of yeast. This leads to cakes and other foods that are heavy and slightly unappetizing, at least to my taste. There are some Passover foods that I love, like matzah ball soup. Now, all of these dietary rules wouldn't be a problem at all if I didn't have to deal with bringing Passover food to school. I find it difficult to eat my matzah alongside my friends, munching on their pizza. A lot of the time, I end up going home for lunch to avoid the temptation of breaking Passover.

But when we all sat down at the long table in my grandparents' dining room on the first night of Passover, an undeniable aura of peace filled me. Looking around at my family, from aunts and uncles and first cousins to relatives I had never seen before in my life, I realized that I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. All thoughts of my history project, my math test, and my unfinished chemistry lab flew out of my head as my grandfather began the Seder (the special meal in which we retell the story of the exodus from Egypt all those thousands of years ago). Everyone sang lovely harmonies to the melodies of the

prayers and blessings of the Seder. Even when dinner was served, the conversation was pleasant (although on the second night we did turn to politics as our main topic of discussion). This year brought one of the most enjoyable Passovers I have ever had, maybe because Passover came during a period of enormous



courtesy of Nava Kantor

A PEEK INSIDE what a Jewish pantry looks like during Passover. Foods such as these bring back fond memories for sophomore Nava Kantor.

stress for me. Once all the anxiety of school and of frantically preparing for the holiday floated out of my mind, I was finally able to appreciate and enjoy my family and our traditions.

The refrain from one of the Passover songs, *dayenu* ("enough") never rang truer for me than it did this year. I would have been satisfied just to sit back and relax after all that cleaning. I would have been happy just to see my cousins, not to mention meet new ones. And it would have been enough just to eat a special meal with my family sitting all together at the table. But I experienced all that and more this Passover.

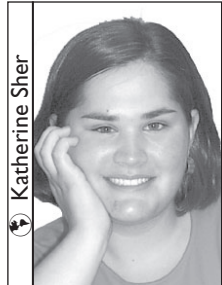
The food wasn't bad, either. ☺

## Letter revives middle school memories

I was surprised when I heard my name called to the Student Activities Office earlier this month, along with fifty other members of the senior class. I couldn't comprehend what I was called to the office for; I wasn't here enough to get in trouble, so why was I needed there?

I walked in and was handed an envelope with my name and old address on it. The handwriting looked familiar, but I couldn't decide who wrote it. I opened up the envelope with three other girls in the office, and we immediately began to laugh. I opened the letter and saw my seventh grade handwriting in a letter that I had written to myself.

Despite setting myself up for some easy teasing, I thought I would publish the letter, in its entirety, for all to see. Just remember, this was me via seventh grade:



▲ Katherine Sheer

Dear Katherine,  
What's been happening in the last five years? Oh yeah, this is your seventh grade self. Remember Mr. Estes? He's making us write this. By the way, are Madonna, Sting, Backstreet Boys, Vertical Horizon and Third Eye Blind still around? I'd be surprised if they were. Remember the good times.  
Love, Katherine.

Short, sweet and to the point. There was nothing about any of my middle school friends or funny stories that I still laugh at, but about

the music that I listened to. Music has always been a way that I have connected with people, but was that really the best that I could come up with for a letter to myself.

I have to say that I was a little disappointed when I read my letter. I probably thought the assignment was stupid at the time, but looking at the other girls who had opened their letters with me, and hearing what they wrote themselves, I couldn't help but become a little bit jealous. I did so many things in seventh grade that I would have rather been reminded of than what I was given.

I still remember my seventh grade English class, and all of its glory. We were divided down the middle of the room, boys on one side and girls on the other.

I remember that Ms. Fleming always called me Alice, after my aunt whom she had taught 15 years ago.

I remember that Ms. Fleming always made us sign projects and in class work with our initials, and Kit Szybala and I always getting messed up because of our same initials (KLS).

Why I didn't write to myself about these things, instead of what music I was listening to? I've been thinking about that for a long time, and I think I have come to the answer. I already remember all of the times with my friends, but completely forgot about certain bands that

I thought were the coolest things. However, reading the letter gave me an instant mood change, and the rest of the day, I was extremely happy. ☺

I remember the countless Bar and Bat-Mitzvah's that we attended, and how I opted out of the Smith triplets' at the last minute for a family cruise over spring break.

And, for a long time, pushing the thought of college acceptance and rejection letters worked. I didn't think about them, and I didn't worry.

But then, as the weeks continued, and the time before I would hear back from my colleges lessened, that little knot in the pit of my stomach grew bigger and bigger.

Going to the old Busch Stadium always meant walking past the peanut vendor. Last year as I attended my very last game on that field, it seemed that all my old tra-

ditions would be torn down with the stadium.  
I had sat in the same seat for countless games, I had stood in the dugout in the off-season, I had run the bases, I had bought hotdogs with onions from the same stand. The scenes of all those experiences were about to be destroyed.  
At the beginning of April, my dad and I attended the first game ever held at the new Busch Stadium, a Minor League exhibition game between two Cardinals farm teams.  
As I walked from our parking garage to the new stadium entrance on Eighth Street, I was expecting everything to be different—probably a lot better in some ways—but also completely new.  
But as we started walking up the last block to the stadium, I saw him. He was wearing the same jersey, calling out in the same voice, asking if I wanted to buy a small or large bag of peanuts.  
Although the new stadium is much different than the old, not all of the traditions are gone.  
There are still the skinny ticket hawkers, the organ player, the man who dresses up like Uncle Sam.  
I can still buy peanuts that get stuck between my front teeth from a man with black hands and a whiter-than-white smile. ☺

## New Cardinals' stadium retains old traditions

In my memory, he is tall and stocky, with thick hair and teeth that look unusually white contrasted against his dark black skin. He is always wearing the same thing: a faded Cardinals jersey. I don't know whose name is on his jersey because I only see him from the front.

He has a loud, clear voice that you can hear a block away. I remember countless walks from downtown parking lots to Busch Stadium entrances.

In all the memories, the only sounds I hear are the slaps of flip-flops against concrete sidewalks and his voice calling out to passersby to buy peanuts.

From my earliest memories, Busch Stadium is inextricably linked to that peanut vendor.

I don't know where he lives, or if he has another job besides selling peanuts, or even what his name is.

Our relationship is completely based on a single transaction, accompanied by the same exchange of words. He inquires if I want the small bag of peanuts or the large, with special emphasis on the personalized Cardinals logo on the

big bag. I immediately ask for the large before my parents have time to complain about the higher price. He makes small-talk about the game while we pay, and at the end he hands me the peanuts.

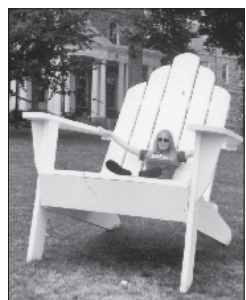
It doesn't sound like much, but for the years I have been attending Cardinals games, the minute or two I spend in front of the peanut stand has become tradition.

No matter what team the Cardinals are playing or what day in the season it is, he is there.

For a stretch of a few weeks several years ago, he broke his arm and had to wear a thick white cast. (He explained to me that he had been beaten up by some angry Atlanta Braves fans in a bar after the Cardinals had swept the series.) His peanut transactions all had to be conducted one-handed, but he was still there.

Going to the old Busch Stadium always meant walking past the peanut vendor. Last year as I attended my very last game on that field, it seemed that all my old tra-

### Keeping It In PERSPECTIVE



CAROLINE BLEEKE

## Disappointment of college rejection brings clarity

Despite not getting into her top choices, one student comes to realize that life does not end at the rejection letter.

I had decided months earlier that this April MARK column would be about college.

I didn't know what angle about college it would take, or whether it would reveal some profound truth I discovered about myself as I went through the process of applying to colleges and then hearing their answers. I hoped it would reveal a profound truth. A truth that I could write down on paper and after I wrote it, I would be able to look at it in front of me, and say, "That's what it is. That's what I've been looking for all year long."

All of my college applications were done by Jan. 15. After that day, I thought that I could lock the outcomes, either positive or negative, in a corner of my mind and throw away the key.

I was glad that I had three months to wait before I heard back from the colleges I had carefully selected and had chosen to apply to. That way, I did not have to face the result of the colleges' decisions.

And, for a long time, pushing the thought of college acceptance and rejection letters worked. I didn't think about them, and I didn't worry.

But then, as the weeks continued, and the time before I would hear back from my colleges lessened, that little knot in the pit of my stomach grew bigger and bigger.

I jokingly referred to April 1, the date that my colleges were supposed to mail their letters, as Judgment Day, the day that my future would be decided.

But Judgment Day came earlier than I expected. And it wasn't just one day. It was a series of days. Judgment Day came on March 17, 24, 25, 28 and 30.

Earlier on that first Judgment Day, March 17, as I was driving and thinking about what would happen if I didn't get into my first three choices, I ran a red light. A red light that would have turned green in a few seconds, but a red light nonetheless. It was a mistake that could have been fatal.

"And why had I run that red light?" I asked myself. Because I had had this sudden realization of what college was my first choice. I had narrowed it down to my top three, but had never narrowed it down to my first choice, probably because I

was afraid to.

"This is ridiculous!" I told myself. "You ran a red light because you were thinking and worrying too much about which colleges you would get into." That, I thought, was my MARK column. I would write about how seniors should stop being so self-absorbed about what colleges they would or wouldn't get into and start paying attention to what really matters.

And with that, I decided that maybe my college letters wouldn't have the ability to destroy me. Because I had seen the light, so to speak. I had realized that in the big scheme of things, which colleges I was accepted into or rejected from did not matter. I was

at peace. Later that same day, I heard from my recently determined first choice. I had been waitlisted.

Right after I had turned in all of my applications, I had pondered what might happen if I didn't get into my top choices. I was afraid that the Judgment Day would destroy me.

And I was right. It did destroy me. After that first letter, I walked around in a daze. I didn't feel like going to school or doing homework. I didn't feel like doing anything at all. I just sat there and asked myself, "Why?"

Then, after a few days had passed, I figured that the worst was over. I hadn't been accepted into my top choice school, but all of the other schools I had applied to were good schools. Whichever one I ended up at would be more than fine. I had moved on. Once more, I thought I had the topic of my MARK column.

I would talk about how seniors shouldn't be devastated if they didn't get into their top choice school because there were always plenty of options.

Except that I still had four more Judgment Days to go through. Every letter I received tore down my confidence, my self-esteem and made me feel like all that I had done in my high school career wasn't enough. After every letter I read, I ended up sobbing. The worst day was when I ended up getting two letters on the same day.

Until finally, all of the letters had been received. I had been waitlisted six times. To me, it was the same as being rejected six times.

What did it matter if I had been waitlisted instead of rejected? I still was not accepted. I couldn't distinguish between the two inside my head. I cried. A lot. I was resentful towards my safety school. Even though I had applied to it, I hadn't really thought of myself actually attending. It was an arrogant thought, but true nonetheless.

I walked around in another daze, one more profound than before. I didn't feel like doing homework or going to school once more. In my stupor, I determined to write a scathing column about the whole college process that would discuss how cynical I had become. I knew that I wouldn't end up publishing it, but I composed the column in my head anyway.

It has been a month now since I received that first letter. It is cliché, but I think time has been the best medicine. In early April, several articles in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* were published which discussed how this year had been the most competitive year in admissions decisions ever.

I began to reevaluate my previous conclusions. Maybe being waitlisted wasn't the same as being rejected. Waitlisted meant that I was the same caliber of student as the other students who had been accepted. I also revised my opinion of my safety school. If and when I attended my safety school, I would still have a positive experience. It was not a bad school by any means, just not one of my top choices.

Overall, this MARK column has turned into more of a personal thought process about college.

I can't say that I've fully recovered from my non-acceptance letters, but I've begun accepting the colleges' decisions. I've begun to move on,

a phrase that I never thought I would say if someone had asked me a month ago, or even a week ago. And that, I think, is the most valuable reward from writing this column, a reward that I never expected.

Maybe the ability of letting go and moving on is the profound truth I've been looking for. ☺

### Making our MARK...



...Rebekah Slodounik

I jokingly referred to April 1, the date that my colleges were supposed to mail their letters, as Judgment Day, the day that my future would be decided.



## Dog book barking hilarious

by KATE ROTHMAN

John and Jenny Grogan were fifteen months into their marriage when John awoke to see Jenny frantically circling an ad in the classified section of their local paper.

The ad seemed innocent enough—"Lab puppies, yellow. AKC purebred. All shots. Parents on premises." Arriving at the address listed in the ad, the puppies themselves seemed innocent, happily nosing their way into the Grogan's arms—and hearts.

Setting to work picking out a puppy to call their own, the Grogan's first clue as to what they were getting into might have been the different prices for different puppies. The breeder was asking \$375 for the males of the litter. But, "That one there you can have for \$350," she told the couple.

Decision made, John wrote a check for "Clearance Dog," and arranged to pick the puppy up in three weeks. And here started the Grogan's life with "Grogan's Majestic Marley of Churchill," in "Marley and Me: Live and Love With the World's Worst Dog," written by John Grogan.

Marley arrives at the couple's small, home as a gangly, wiggly, yellow fur ball. Soon, however, Marley has turned into a massive, 97-pound truck of a Labrador retriever. And enormous isn't all that Marley is. He is also, in his veterinarian's words, "mentally unstable."

Despite his problems, Marley is loved. John and Jenny put up with his behavior, all the while trying desperately to regain control over

their house from their dog. Obedience school is useless for Marley—he is asked to leave after the first class. Doggy tranquilizers are equally unhelpful, despite the vet's directions—"Don't hesitate to use these." Marley easily gnaws through drywall, furniture, clothing, and crashes through screen doors on a regular basis. At one point, much to John's dismay, he devours Jenny's anniversary present—an 18 karat gold necklace. On the bright side, when the necklace turns up in their yard days later, the couple admires how bright and shiny it now is.

And still, Marley was loving and loyal, an integral part of the Grogan family. He shared his owners' happiness and excitement for their pregnancy, and their sadness over the miscarriage. He bravely guarded a stabbing victim in the neighborhood, and won a role in a feature film.

Grogan's comedic book tells the story of not only his funny dog, but his loving wife and family as well. "Marley and Me" chronicles 13 years of their life, through the ups and downs, all the while showing Marley's centrality to the family. Marley is a confidant to John, a friend to Jenny, and a playmate to the couple's three children, who come along later in the story.

"Marley and Me" is hilarious, with at least one laugh-out-loud passage on nearly every page. Dog-loving readers everywhere will find themselves comparing Marley's antics with those of their own canine pals, horrified as they picture all of the damage.

Grogan's style of writing, as though he is speaking with the reader, makes the book de-



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lightful, and readers feel as though they truly know the Grogans. Throughout the book, I found myself sharing their anger, amazement, and, ultimately, sadness at the final part of Marley's life.

"Marley and Me" may not be a book with any deep, hidden meaning, but it is terrifically entertaining, and a relaxing, easy read. "Dog People" all over should pick up a copy of this book for not just a heartwarming story, but most of all, a good laugh. ☺

**MARLEY, FROM THE cover of "Marley and Me" by John Grogan, is a yellow lab that captured the hearts of his family despite his unruly behavior. Labs are renowned for being sociable and affectionate with a pleasant temperament, which explains why Marley got along so great with the Grogans. But, of course, he was extra special.**

### Sounding Off



Rebecca Wall

## Open playlist adds levity, some insight

I was getting pretty worried. I had frequently put off writing my column to deadline week, but this month was shaping up to be a serious flirtation with disaster.

For the first time this year, I was beginning to think there might not be a Sounding Off this month.

But then I was granted a reprieve. I found undeniably suitable material for a music column. It seemed divine, irresistible.

While I sat looking forlornly at iTunes in the Globe office, a coworker drew my attention to something that I had never before noticed under shared music.

"Don Rugraff's."

Unlike "Chuck Collis" and "Curtis James," "Don Rugraff's" was unlocked, and what was there was wonderful.

Scrolling through the list of songs, I almost felt transported to some goofy inversion of reality. Here, every classic song I would want to listen to if I remembered it existed—but realistically would never think of in the first place—lived. These songs were like old friends. Neighbors.

Songs such as "Rockin' Robin" and "Kokomo" took on almost human visages, and I imagined myself dancing around with musical notes in a field of lilies or daffodils.

Yeah, so that is a little trippy and a trifle unrealistic, maybe even off-puttingly so, but I am being serious in some measure. The whole situation was wonderful in some exhaustion-induced, slap-happy way.

I know you cannot judge someone by their possessions. Rather you have to know them.

I have never talked to Dr. Rugraff in my entire life. But looking at his playlist I almost felt like I knew him in some way.

Yet, there were so many unanswered questions.

Why did he label a song that is clearly YMCA "Macho Man (Mega Mix)"?

Why the clear penchant for Motown?

Is it a mere coincidence that he happened to have "Heart of Glass" by Blondie, a song that every day I was heartily desirous to listen to?

Most importantly, why did he not lock his playlist? Was it an accident? Or was it a long thought out conspiracy on his part to showcase his musical tastes to the world, and by the world I mean the Clayton High School community?

With these incredibly unimportant questions in mind, I perused his playlist with a critic's eye. Here are some things I noticed.

Dr. Rugraff has an endearing leaning toward country and disco, two genres with striking differences. This fusion of genres clearly speaks of his dynamism.

On a more dour note: while all may reasonably assume that the assistant principal would be an upstanding citizen, there exists ample evidence that Don Rugraff tends to download a substantial portion of his music. Hence, the mislabeled "YMCA."

From now on, whenever I hear "Heart of Glass" I will think of you, "Don Rugraff's Music" playlist.

Whenever I hear an upbeat disco anthem, I will fondly remember listening to the mislabeled "Macho Man (Mega Mix)."

Dr. Rugraff, I know I speak for much of the student body when I say please keep your music unlocked. ☺

## Rap album career best, combines hot beats, rhymes

by MATT MUSLIN

Ghostface Killah, a.k.a. Tony Starks, a.k.a. Supreme Clientele, a.k.a. Ironman, a.k.a. Clyde Smith, a.k.a. that one rapper from the Wu-Tang Clan that yelled a lot and used to always wear a hood has just released his newest album, "Fishscale" and I just have to get this out of the way first...It's totally better than T.I.'s new album, "King."

Hmmm...it's been like...what, 12 years since The Wu-Tang Clan dropped their first album Enter The Wu-Tang Clan, right? It was the rap album that changed the rules, with its streaming piano beats and its psychotic yet humanly nerdy rhymes. The album has solidified itself in history as untouchable. The Wu Tang Clan did its best to make sure that everyone got their own chance to shine. However, certain members stuck out. For me originally it was the GZA, Method Man and O.D.B. (R.I.P.) I remember Ghostface as the guy who yelled when he rapped and always wore a ninja-hoodie. Now, he's a father, in his thirties, better than ever, and my favorite rapper of the group.

Back in 1995, when the Wu Tang Clan members started releasing solo CDs, Method Man's "Tical" was pretty decent. O.D.B.'s "Return To The 36 Chambers (The Dirty Version)" impressed me because he was able to mix his humor with good lyrics. GZA's "Liquid Swords" was just awesome but Ghostface Killah's "Ironman" seemed to be cluttered. There were more guest appearances than Ghostface actually rapping, which was really annoying.

The second round of solo albums were duds except for Ghostface's "Supreme Clientele" which came out of nowhere in 2001 as a



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**GHOSTFACE KILLAH IS part of the Def Jam family of artists. The hot label has many other popular artists on its payroll, including LL Cool J, Ne-Yo, Method Man and Ludacris. According to his official web biography, Mr. Killah is "an artist more universally accepted than American Express."**

flash of Ghostface's abstract genius in which he was seemingly at war with grammar and vocabulary throughout the whole album dropping rhymes like, "Supercalifragalisticexpialidocious / dociousaliexipifragalisticcalisuper / Cancun, catch me in the room, eatin' groupie."

In 2004 he released "The Pretty Toney Album" which I thought was boring, because unlike in "Supreme Clientele" Ghostface is in control and he kind of makes some sense, kind of like the reason I don't like Michel Stipe (Of R.E.M) anymore. But here, on "Fishscale" (FUN FACT: "Fishscale" is actually a type of pure, Columbian imported cocaine!) Ghostface hits the

ground running and screaming for world domination.

Ghost is never a disappointing MC, but the production on his albums of late has been suspect of being inconsistent. RZA is not back on this album behind the mixing boards—this time around Ghost teams up with another hip hop eccentric, underground un-touchable MF Doom for the bulk of "Fishscale's" production. Along with J Dilla (RIP), Pete Rock and a handful of relatively unknown NY "beat smiths" you've got one of the best line-ups of beats I've heard in a very long time. Soul-hooks, thick bass lines and heavy drum loops make for a classic New York listen as well as a consistent listen from

start to finish.

"Fishscale" is, without a doubt, Ghostface Killah's best album yet. Here he is at his most mature, confident, accessible, energetic, and awesomely angry. Yeah, you heard me, he's angry-angry with women, the state of rap music, kids turning into delinquents, politics. Obviously, Raekwon has told Ghostface a thing or two about storytelling, as the raps have become so astoundingly detailed. Video taping anything here would be an obsolete gesture, for example: In "Shakey Dog" Ghostface busts out some "real s\*\*t" on a story of a botched two-man robbery attempt.

Whether describing the alluring smells coming from his victim's apartment or the ruthless history of an ancillary old lady ("She paid her dues when she smoked her brother-in-law at her boss' wedding") he passes on his way up to the place. The track embodies everything I love about Ghostface: blaxploitation-type beat and a crime narrative.

"Clype of Doom" is such an awesome track (absolutely perfect to blast out of your car with the volume at 11). With a striking guitar beat provided by Just Blaze, Ghostface is seemingly at war with the microphone, streaming for acceptance and approval near the end where Ghostface wails (what I think he says, anyway) "F\*\*K YOUR MIRROR/F\*\*K YOUR HOOD! / YOU AIN'T A STREET DENZEN LIKE ME! / BLADE TENDENTS HOLDING UP A DYNASTY!" 20 seconds later, the track just stops.

Another Highlight is "9 Milli Bros," where the whole Wu-Tang Clan stops by for a rap session. As usual, the whole Clan brings their A-game, but as history tells us U-God remains the weakest link. He

tries to say something "Gangstuh" but after the first 5 words he just spews out like he always does. Message to the Clan: never, ever, ever, ever let U-God close a song. Throw his lame verse in the middle and keep it short. Strangely though, the RZA is missing in this track.

"Back Like That", is probably the only bad track on the album since it seems to be just a desperate grab for commercial appeal and it also disrupts the flow. Ironically, this is the album's first single. Featuring R&B's newest sensation Ne-Yo, "Back Like That" is a story about a girlfriend who gets back at her unfaithful boyfriend by sleeping with his archenemy.

The surreal "Underwater", with its strange, Coltrane-like spirituality, proves most trenchant. The dreamy account finds our hero playing out a possible afterlife allegory while swimming at the bottom of the ocean. "I'm not on my turf," he confesses as mermaids "with Halle Berry haircuts" offer guidance along the way as does a strange Sponge Bob who offers Ghostface some food: "Up ahead lies Noah's Ark / But that's waves away / you look right that's one of our bangan' spots / she quoted I took notice / Spongebob in the Bentley Coupe / bangan' the Isley's / he spoke, backed up then he passed me soup."

On the bonus track, "3 Bricks," which apparently was left off of Biggie's "Duets" CD, Biggie's first verse of "N\*\*\*as Bleed" is blended in with tight Raekwon and Ghostface verses over a Cool & Dre track.

This whole album is fire. There is not a single bad track on the whole thing ("Back Like That" isn't half bad actually!). Highly recommended. ☺

## Theatre version of play offers different experience



**"RENT" HAS TAKEN the CHS community by storm. The above poster showcases the charmingly diverse cast of "Rent." With such dramatic and colorful characters, light is shed on the spectacular popularity of "Rent;" no matter who you are, you can relate to at least one character and his or her personal plight.**

by LIZA SCHMIDT

The Broadway musical-based movie "Rent" has created a "Rent" mania recently. Previous fans of the musical rushed out to see it, and other movie-goers soon became avid fans. And as soon as everyone had familiarized themselves with all the lyrics, "Rent" came to the Fox Theatre March 17-19.

"Rent" is the story of eight people living in New York City in the '90s. Mark and Roger are two of the main male characters who live in an abandoned warehouse. Roger's girlfriend committed suicide when she found out that she and Roger had AIDS. During the play, Roger falls in love with a neighbor named Mimi, but is afraid to pursue the relationship because of his recent loss. He is unaware that Mimi also has AIDS, which is another factor preventing him from accepting her attentions.

Mark, on the other hand, has just been through a break-up with, and still has feelings for, Maureen, who now has a new girlfriend, Joanne. Tom Collins is a friend and previous roommate of Roger and Mark, who falls in love with a cross-dresser named Angel. Benny, the final main character in the play,

is also a former roommate of Roger and Mark, who married a rich lawyer. He has now backstabbed his poor, artist friends by demanding rent from them for their stay in the warehouse. The movie's cast consists of most of the original 1996 Broadway cast. The Fox production, however, had a different cast. Several CHS students went to see the play at the Fox.

"I think overall I liked the movie better because they can do more with it," sophomore Sarah Zimmerman said. "After all, movies are more perfected since they can just reshoot a scene with an error."

Sophomore Emily Anderson, however, had a different opinion.

"I was excited that I liked the play so much," Anderson said. "I was worried that because I saw the movie first I wouldn't, but the flaws and good points of each really balanced out. I thought the humor was better in the play because they emphasized the funny parts."

The movie's colorful, varied setting was a stark contrast with the bleak-colored set of the play.

"Obviously in the movie they are able to use a real church for the funeral," freshman Rebecch Singer said. "As well as streets and a park. They just have so much more

space to work with. On a stage you have to be more creative. Also, in the movie the producers used creative license and changed a bunch of things. I'd say that overall I like the theater production better."

Instead of being entirely songs, like the play, the movie presents only the "Best of Rent," with dialogue interspersed. Anderson disliked the "filler" songs in the theater production.

"I didn't like the voicemails at all," Anderson said.

But Zimmerman disagreed.

"I really liked how everything was sung in the play," Zimmerman said. "It flows better. Some parts of the movie seem to transition awkwardly without that. Those extra songs also add much more background. Seeing the theatre version helped me to understand the story much better."

For those who had listened obsessively to the movie soundtrack or the original cast recording, the play was difficult to take in at times, due to the different actors. Some differences were detrimental to enjoyment of the play.

"I liked Roger better in the play," Anderson said. "But I didn't like the play's Mimi. She sounded like a sheep." ☺



# Sesame Street to visit city

The characters, minus Cookie, are scheduled to promote math and reading skills in city schools.

**KATIE SMITH**

This article is brought to you by the letter K and the number 4.

In an effort to promote reading and math skills in St. Louis schools, the mayor of St. Louis announced this week that he has invited the members of the Sesame Street community to come to St. Louis and visit the area's schools in the coming weeks.

"The mayor has seen how much good these people and creatures have done in their own community, and he thinks that they might be able to share some of their knowledge with the children of our town," city spokesperson Alder Mann said. "Bert, Ernie, Big Bird, and Elmo...even Oscar the Grouch will be there."

However, many of the older students will notice that one well-known resident will be absent.

Cookie Monster has reportedly moved away from Sesame Street, after repeated threats to his well-being due to his obsession with the unhealthy food after which he is named.

"In my opinion, it's all for the best," St. Louis area lunch lady Ravi Oli said. "Having Cookie Monster come to St. Louis would only undermine the good example we've been trying to set for our children by offering healthier menu choices in school cafeterias."

Oli did not have a comment on her own lunch, which consisted of three Big Macs, French fries slathered in ketchup, a large pepperoni pizza, and a chocolate shake.

Plans for the community's visit are being finalized, and are reported to include workshops, assemblies, and lots of designated "playtime."

"We're really looking forward to coming to St. Louis," a Sesame Street resident said. "I just love kids, and it'll be fun to see a new city. It feels like we haven't left our

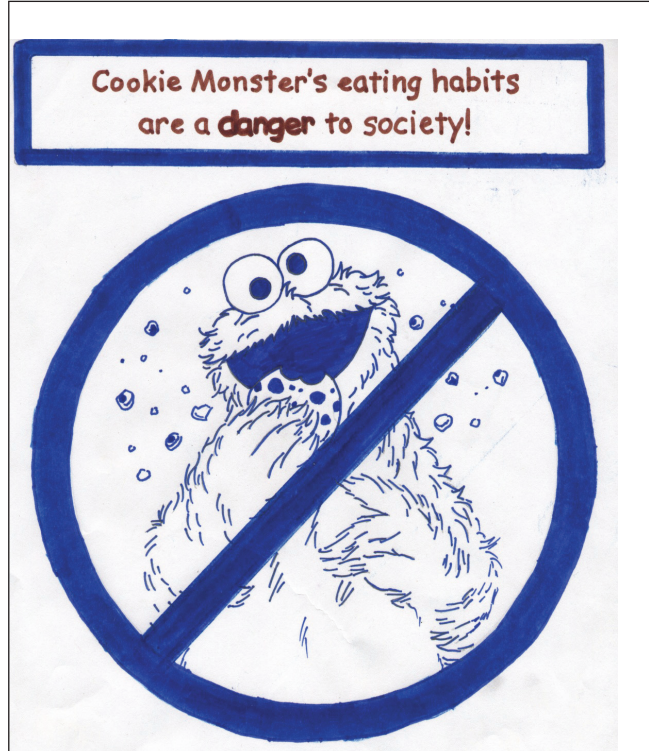
street for years."

Students here in St. Louis are looking forward to the visit, as well.

"I remember watching Sesame Street on television, but I never knew it was real," junior Yea Rite said.

The visit will kick off next month with a parade from the City Courthouse to the Arch as the Sesame Street-ers arrive in St. Louis. The visit should last through most of May.

"We're really looking forward to the visit," Mann said. "I only wish that they would be able to come to our offices as well. I know I could use a little refresher on my letters and numbers!"



# American ignorance not funny

**JEREMY BLEEKE**

Can Out-of-Date Pancake Mix Kill You? This is the question that I was confronted with when I logged onto Internet Explorer and was directed to the <http://dsl.sbc.yahoo.com> default start page. A quick scan of the page showed that here at my disposal were several other portals to breaking news stories on topics which included Poll: Most Americans Say Tax System Unjust, Missing Boys' Bodies Found in Lagoon, and my personal favorite, Breast Implants Again Linked to Suicide Risk (the fact that they have been linked prior to this story is an alarming thought in and of itself.)

This brings up an interesting question (and I mean even more interesting than the possibility of death by Bisquick): What is happening to America? We are the most powerful country on the face of the Earth, and yet we are fed stories about how plastic parts and expired pancake mix can kill you. We live in a nation where Jay Leno stops random people on the street, ascertain that most of them believe Moscow to be a South American country (or something else equally frightening), and then laughs about it.

Granted, America is one of the most innovative, progressive, and hard-working countries in the world, but at the rate we're going that could be a forgotten image in the near future. One of the basic ingredients of a powerful country is



AMERICANS SEEM MORE concerned with "killer pancake mix" than real news.

an educated and informed public, a public that knows what is happening in the rest of the world, a public that can recognize troublesome paths and impending problems and can work to avoid them.

A truly strong country has people who understand their history and the history of the world around them, and how it affects their present. Obviously a prerequisite for that would be being able to differentiate between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, so Americans have a ways to go, but if we would put awareness of world events on higher priority then I am sure that some day we will get there.

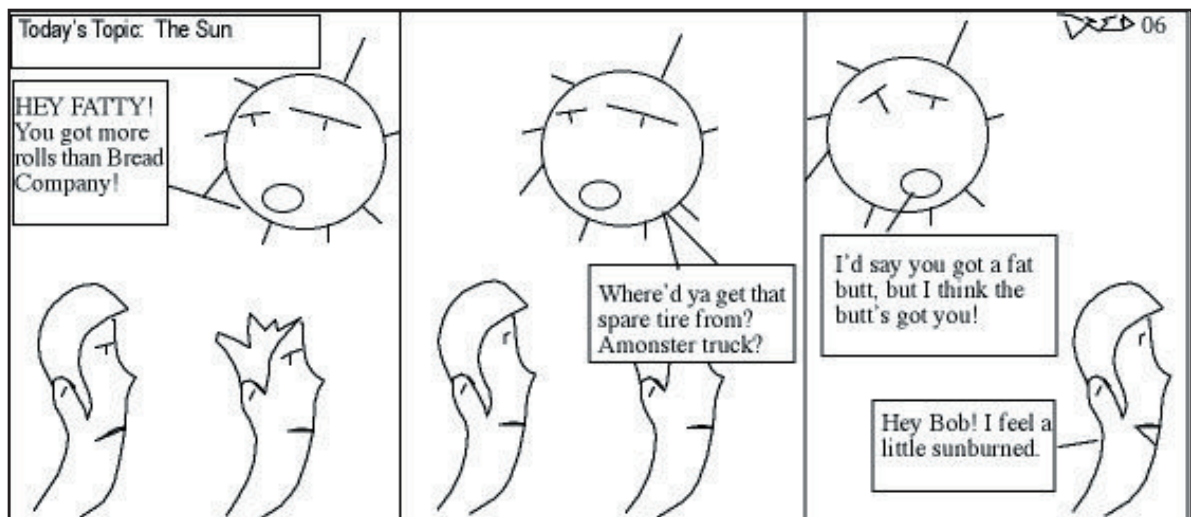
One of the main causes of widespread ignorance is that people no longer take the time to stay informed. Journalism.org gives a

"State of the News Media" report annually. In 2004 it was reported by Nielsen Media Research that from the year 1993 to 2003 ABC World News Tonight had gone from 11 points to 7 points, CBS Evening News had gone from 10 points to 6 points, and NBC Nightly News had gone from 10 points to 7.5 points. The reason? Why listen to Brian Williams when, with a click of the mouse, you could investigate Pregnant Robot Helps Teach Students (one of the lead stories on AOL.com).

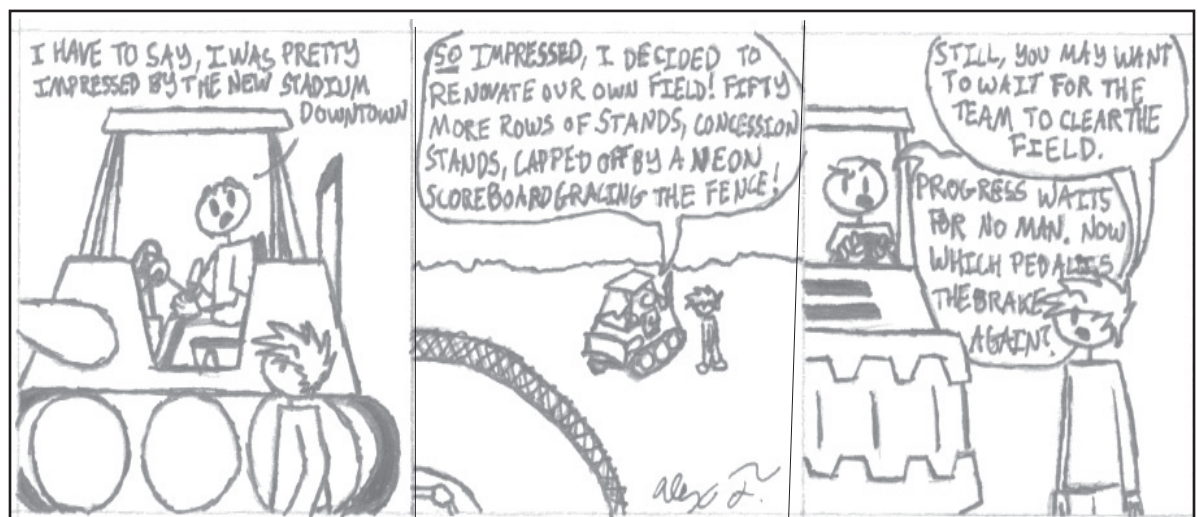
The significant drop in viewership of the evening world news is an alarming development. It would appear that people are now more interested in seeing Jerry Springer get beat up by enraged women armed with pregnancy tests than taking a little time to see what is going on in the world. Don't let yourself become another statistic of the disturbingly uninformed populace, don't take too much pleasure in watching how stupid other people can be, because it is just bringing you down to that level, and remember that an ignorant public is a dangerous public.

Obviously it is important to stay clear of homicidal pancake mix, but it is more important that you take some time to be an educated citizen. A good place to start: make sure you know that Iraq is in fact in the Middle East (not Brazil), and that Donald Rumsfeld is NOT the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. That should give you a considerable head start.

## Low School by David Redick



## Styx by Alex Ferguson



# fields for the future



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# 'V for Vendetta' offers action, laughter and intrigue

ADRIENNE STORMO

"Remember, remember the fifth of November, the gun powder treason and plot. I see no reason why the gun powder treason should ever be forgot."

On Nov. 5, 1605, an English terrorist named Guy Fawkes tried to blow up Parliament in London. More than four centuries later, according to the new thriller, "V for Vendetta," V, a man in a Guy Fawkes mask, will attempt to repeat this attack.

"V for Vendetta" takes place in the totalitarian England of a not-so-distant future. America is in the middle of a civil war, and the War on Terror has spread to England. A conservative English government uses its secret police to maintain order through fear. The setting is in many ways reminiscent of the dystopia in Orwell's "1984."

"Vendetta" stars Natalie Portman as Evey, an average, law-abiding employee in London's conservative news station. One night she is found by police after curfew. Enter V. Before Evey can be assaulted by the police who catch her, the movie's hero, V, shows off his masterful knife skills, and then blows up the justice statue in downtown London, all the while quoting Shakespeare and making alliterations with the letter "v."

Throughout the entire two-plus hours of the film, "Vendetta" delivers non-stop action, humor, and political commentary.

After V comes to Evey's rescue a second time and takes her to his hidden lair, some of the subplots begin to develop. The viewer learns how England came to be in its current state, why Evey is afraid of everything, and why V feels the need to murder and blow up buildings.

Throughout film, which is appropriately rated R, fighting, death, violence, and blood, are broken up by moments of pure hilarity. Some scenes are full of British-style humor and witty jokes that still manage to fit well into this mostly cynical movie.

Portman and Hugo Weaving (who plays V, and was Agent Smith from "The Matrix" trilogy) are entirely believable as futuristic terrorists fighting for a noble cause. Chancellor Adam Sutler (John Hurt), Chief of Propaganda Dastomb (Ben Miles), and Head of the Secret Police Creedy (Tim Pigott-Smith) are all perfectly despicable in their roles as corrupt government leaders. Lewis Prothero (Roger Allam), who says America is being punished for "godlessness" because it is harboring Muslims and homosexuals, does an excellent job of portraying a slightly mad television propagandist. Finally, Gordon Dietrich (Stephen Fry), an intelligent,



warm and funny character who happens to be gay, is forced to hide his true self to keep from being imprisoned by the secret police.

"Vendetta" is based on a graphic novel by Alan Moore, who began writing about the masked vigilante in the 1980s as a response to then-prime minister Margaret Thatcher's conservative stand on immigration policies in England. After reading the script for Vendetta, which was updated by the Wachowski brothers (directors of "The Matrix" movies), Moore insisted that his name be removed from the credits.

Yet, even if the movie is not necessarily loyal to the original novel, it is still a work of mastery on the part of the Wachowski brothers and

director James McTeigue (who was the assistant director on "The Matrix" trilogy). "Vendetta" does not have the same kind of full-throttle, all-consuming action that was in "The Matrix," but McTeigue does succeed in creating some very exciting action sequences, as well as some truly heart-touching moments.

"Vendetta" may be viewed as controversial, as it is openly against Bush's war in Iraq and the "hero" is in fact a terrorist. It is odd the audience, which in recent years was trained to fear terrorism, finds itself rooting for a terrorist mastermind. The movie was actually originally scheduled to open on Nov. 5, 2005 (Guy Fawkes Day), but was thought to have been far too con-

tentious following the terrorist attack in London last summer.

It is important to note that the movie does not condone terrorism, but rather, "Vendetta" serves as an exaggerated warning about bigotry, fear-mongering and scapegoating.

Unfortunately, the end falls somewhat flat, with over-done special effects that would have been better suited for another "Matrix" sequel. Over the course of the year in which the movie takes place, V has brought around many changes, but many central issues are left unresolved. Luckily, the powerful last lines of the film and a magnificent domino set-up seem to save the end and allow the audience to leave satisfied. ☺

**NATALIE PORTMAN,** ALONG with Hugo Weaving, star in the new movie "V for Vendetta." Portman plays the role of Evey and is rescued by "V" when she finds herself in a situation with the English government's secret police. The movie takes place in futuristic England, where the War on Terror has already spread to.

## 'Thank You for Smoking' lights up audiences

JON IGIELNIK

"Thank You For Smoking" is a terrifically smart and funny satire of not just the tobacco industry, but also the firearms industry, the alcohol industry, the entertainment industry, the media, the United States government and many, many other aspects of American life.

"Smoking," a limited release in St. Louis (try the Tivoli or the Plaza Frontenac) features a talented ensemble cast with names like Aaron Eckhart, Rob Lowe, William H. Macy, Katie Holmes, Robert Duvall and more that made the movie a great experience.

"Smoking" focuses on a tobacco lobbyist named Nick Naylor (Eckhart) who is the best at what he does: talking. As the public face of the tobacco industry, Nick talks about what it's like to be hated, to have to look in the face of a 15-year-old with lung cancer, while on television, and say, "It's in our [the tobacco industry's] best interest to keep this boy alive and smoking."

That is only the start. The story then moves to a Vermont Senator named Ortolan K. Finistire (Macy) who is trying to pass a bill to have a "poison" label put on cigarettes that has a picture of a skull and cross bones. To do this, Finistire has to have Nick come in front of a congressional committee to testify on behalf of the tobacco industry.

During the time before Nick has to testify, he is sent by his boss, simply known as "The Capitan" (Duvall) on various jobs to promote smoking. This brings in Nick's son Joey (Cameron Bright) who enjoys learning about his father's job, not because of the tobacco industry,

but because of his father's brilliant ability to argue, improvise, convince, and debate. The problem is, however, that Nick is divorced, and Joey's mother doesn't want him with Nick, but through some brilliant arguing of his own, Joey gets his mother to let him go on a trip to California.

During this trip, Nick meets a Hollywood entertainment mogul named Jeff Megall (Lowe), whom Nick must convince to make smoking in movies cool again. Then there is also Heather Halloway (Holmes) a newspaper reporter who while becoming romantically involved with Nick is also out to find out all she can about his secret world for her story.

"Smoking" is complex, and at some times hard to follow, but at almost all times is easy to laugh at. The conflict between Nick's debate with himself over his responsibilities for his son and his debates with the public create a good mix. Nick's friends: an alcohol lobbyist named Polly Bailey (Maria Bello) and a firearms lobbyist named Bobby Jay Bliss (David Koechner). Together the three of them make up their self-named group, the M.O.D. or Merchants Of Death. This little extra bit thrown in every so often between the main plot, makes the movie even more entertaining, and helps give viewers time to contemplate some of what is going on.

Overall, "Smoking" is a truly great satire, ripping on every part of capitalist America, and doing it well. The cast is amazing, the plot is intelligent yet meaningful, and the comedy will make you laugh out loud. So if you like smart, satirical comedies, "Thank You For Smoking" is the movie for you. ☺



MANNY (RAY ROMANO), Sid (John Leguizamo) and Diego (Denis Leary) return in "Ice Age 2" to find that the Ice Age is over and is beginning to melt. Along with female mammoth, Ellie, the group embarks on a journey across the valley to find safety.

## Frozen tale meltdown disappoints

Ray Romano, Queen Latifah and Jay Leno's voices in 'Ice Age 2: The Meltdown' captivate young viewers, but mature watchers will leave without fulfillment.

REBECCA KATZ

When is global warming a good thing? When it's the end of the ice age!

Hello, trees, flowers, and water slides . . . Good-bye blizzards and monotonous ice-encrusted continents . . . But wait! Hello, scary aquatic carnivorous dragons, preserved in a glacier since the last thaw and now restored to life to nibble on friendly turtles and maybe more . . . Good-bye, lovable woolly mammoths, irritating sloths, and wimpy saber-toothed tigers.

In "Ice Age 2: The Meltdown," we rejoin our friends Manny the mammoth, Sid the sloth, and Diego the big-fanged cat as they attempt to escape the coming deluge which will flood their valley once a dam of ice - which from all appearances is holding back an entire melted ocean - breaks.

(Please contain your incredulity. We all know that a humongous frozen sea would melt from the inside

first, and naturally leave a wall of ice a few yards thick at one edge. Really.)

Manny and friends are traveling with the area's other animals away from the weakening dam towards a huge boat at the far end of the valley. (No, not a boat - an ark. Get it? An ark? Because a flood is coming? These guys are too good.)

Meanwhile, Manny is moping because, from all appearances, he's the last of his species. Poor guy. He's lonely. But then - wonder of wonders - he finds another mammoth!

A female mammoth, no less! Her name is Ellie, and she does have a small problem - she thinks she's a possum. And she comes with two genuine possum brothers. But otherwise, the mammoths are perfect for each other.

Of course, Manny is forced to play the shy adolescent who could never admit that he actually likes the girl - until they recognize their mutual attraction, at which point he suggests that they move a bit

faster "for the sake of the species." Yeah right, buddy.

As our furry friends continue, they are stalked by two vicious aquatic reptiles out to gobble them up. They are also in the perpetual company of a flock of sinister vultures, who just sit. And watch. And wait. (What vultures do best, of course.)

Besides their external enemies and the potential pitfalls of love, the group of animals must also wrestle with internal demons. Saber-toothed Diego is beset by a crippling fear of water - not exactly a positive quality when a flood threatens.

The trip is also interrupted by the escapades of Ellie's possum brothers, who have several close brushes with death but (sadly) never quite cross the threshold.

One major weakness of the movie is its reliance on crude juvenile humor.

For example, a family of dung beetles is shown transporting a gigantic ball of - dung. No, wait, bet-

ter word: crap. Ha ha! The beetle just said "crap"! No way! Mommy doesn't let me say bad words like that, but "Ice Age 2" has to resort to them to keep us kiddies entertained! Nothing else could be remotely as funny, of course. (Somehow far superior children's movies, such as "Aladdin," "The Lion King," or "Finding Nemo," never had to sink to such levels of immaturity.)

One of the very few redeeming features of the film is the presence of the acorn-mad squirrel Scrat. His escapades in pursuit of his favored nuts are actually mildly entertaining - and at times even downright funny. Unfortunately, these incidents are rather far between.

A positive aspect of the movie is that the kids in the theater did seem to enjoy it (which, given that it was targeted at children, is presumably the point). But the mark of a truly good kids' movie is that it can be appreciated by older generations as well, due to a certain basic level of intelligence and sophistication - which "Ice Age 2" sorely lacks. ☹



## 'Lord of the Rings' musical proves imaginative, eccentric

ANNALISE SHUMWAY

Hobbits waddle on stage trying to catch fireflies as the audience prepares to enter Middle-earth. Wooden branches cover the walls and ceiling to create the forest atmosphere in the Princess of Wales Theater in Toronto, Ontario for the new "Lord of the Rings" musical.

The well-loved LOTR movies that grossed millions and cost about \$320 million to produce now have a musical with an accompanying hefty cost—\$24 million to produce a 3.5 hour sensation. The musical took three years to produce because obsessive hobbit lovers could not be disappointed after Peter Jackson's movies, which won many Oscar awards in various years. Now the musical is called the most ambitious production ever staged although some claim it is riding partly on the coattails of Jackson's success. I guess it is partly.

Despite claim that the play is a musical, there is little music within the epic production especially in the second half—battles replace music. Sam and Frodo's songs included a foot-stomping and pint-swinging bar song and melodic tune about their love of the Shire—thus winning the audience over. However it was obvious that much of the choreography from the bar song was stolen from the 'Beauty and the Beast' musical. The director, Matthew Warchus and his music supervisor Christopher Nightingale chose Varttina, a Finnish contemporary folk music groups and A.R. Rahman, a composer for Indian films to compose the music. Together the contrasting sounds produced a soundtrack worthy of a world premiere musical despite the lack of lyrics.

More than 65 actors composed

the carefully selected cast—smaller actors and actresses played hobbits. Despite the cast size there are over 500 pieces of amour alone and Galadriel, the wood elf wizard stunned the audience with her dress that featured over 1800 hand sewn beads. The production stars Bret Carver who was a Tony winner in 'Kiss of a Spiderwoman.' As the powerful wizard Gandalf and the British actor James Lages who played Frodo. Although both were well characterized, the script is lacking in places. The most memorable actor however was Gollum (Micheal Therriault). It was quite obvious that the character had memorized every movement of the computerized Gollum in Jackson's interpretation. His perfected schizophrenic actions were creepily entertaining and sometimes made me forget that he was an actor, not a puppet.

The creative team had a large imagination to visualize the setting, eliminate characters and scenes so the musical could be only three-acts—without computer special effects. However the 40 ton stage was computer controlled to allow it to spin and rise to the height of about 10 feet to create more magic and illusions of middle earth. The show was everything a Tolkien fan would want to be included. The props were certainly nothing to be missed as wind and confetti blew through the audience with the appearance of the infamous Balrog (an erector-set with reddish eyes) or the running orcs on spring like stilts.

Overall the musical was good, I left the theater wanting to be a hobbit. Despite some missing components, the cast and production staff overcame tremendous difficulties to reproduce a world famous book and movie. But I guess \$24 million could make almost any musical good. ☺



ANNA FARIS PORTRAYS strong-willed detective Cindy Campbell, who moves into a 'haunted' house in 'Scary Movie 4'.

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## Latest installment in 'Scary Movie' series disappoints audience, critic

Although 'Scary Movie 4' provides a consistent supply of humor, its one-dimensional jokes and plot-lines fail to captivate audiences.

PERCY OLSEN

...And then the monkey said, "Well, I don't know about you, but I think I'm going bananas!"

Wow, what a good joke. Fantastic, even. Wait, what?! You're not laughing? Here, let me try it again. Um...and then the monkey yelled, "Well, I don't know about poo, but I think that I'm going bonkers!"

Not even a pitter? Come on, now. It's quality stuff. Hmm, what if I changed the word "monkey" to "ape," and the word "think" to "fart"? Yeah, I think that's what I'm going to go with.

Oh, sorry, I was just doing some role-playing. I was, in fact, imitating the thought process of satirist David Zucker, the genius behind the comedic triumph that was known, quite simply, as "Airplane." Unfortunately, his latest movie, "Scary Movie 4," is no such triumph.

After taking the helm of the "Scary Movie" Franchise from the Wayans Brothers in "Scary Movie 3," things were looking up for David Zucker. "Scary Movie 3," as broad as it was, was genuinely hilarious, with its combination of clever writing, great physical humor, and sizzling satire. This is ultimately what makes "Scary Movie 4" so disappointing for me: instead of keeping it fresh and trying new jokes

out like Zucker and Co. did in the third installment, they just recycle the same jokes over and over again this time around.

Take this for example: In the third movie, there was a little boy named Cody. Cody was psychic, and a bit of a bigot about it. Therefore, every now and then he would get his just desserts, such as getting hit by busses, cars, and shovels. In "Scary Movie 4," there is a little girl too. An obvious satire of Dakota Fanning's character from "War of the Worlds," she is constantly

being physically abused from lightning and fists to the face. The problem is that she does not deserve any of her poor misfortune, and instead of getting satisfying laughs out of the audience, her physical humor bits instead get groans and whines. Zucker has committed comedic suicide. He has killed the joke.

staff reporter

PERCY OLSEN

Now, if it only happened once throughout the movie, no biggie. His comedies are always set on "rapid-fire," so there is usually a stellar joke to nullify the sting of the last joke. The good jokes in "Scary Movie 4" are few and far between, and this destroyed the movie going experience for me. It's not that there weren't funny moments, it's just that Zucker and Co. try to be so broad with their humor that you can literally hear different parts of the audience laughing at each joke. The middle schooler section laughed at the erection jokes, the guys guffawed at the sexual euphemisms,

and the girls giggled at the Oprah spoof.

At least the performances were good, for the most part. "Scary Movie" standby Anna Farris reprises her role as Cindy Campbell, and she is as hilarious as usual. Newcomer, Craig Bierko is wonderfully hilarious as a spoof of Tom Cruise's acting and actual life. His facial expressions when he falls in love with Cindy absolutely had me in stitches, I'll try not to miss the next movie he headlines.

But just like the jokes, for every good actor, there are a dozen bad ones. Brenda Meeks (Regina Hall) returns from the dead to aid Cindy on her journey, but sometimes people die for a reason. Hall is laughably bad in this movie, mostly due to her horribly written lines. Oh, and let's not forget Leslie Nielsen, who is once again President Harris. Unfortunately, his "big" scene is just an awkward mess of nude senior citizens and stupidity.

As for the cameos, they go on for too long, and the audience is once again reminded of how bad Shaq and Dr. Phil are at acting. Of course, I already knew that Dr. Phil's acting skills were iffy just by watching his show.

I'll admit that I laughed at about one out of every 10 jokes that movie spat out at me, and boy, were they good, hearty laughs. But when a movie fails to do anything but string a gazillion jokes back to back for 90 minutes straight, the story suffers, as does my patience. The franchise seems to have caught the "SNL Syndrome." Yes, there is the occasional "Young Chuck Norris" and "Lazy Sunday" to buoy my interest, but when all's said and done. I won't remember what the movie was about, or why I laughed when I did. All I'll remember are those horrible skits in between those flashes of nostalgic comedic glory. ☹



AT THE CURTAIN call the actors and actresses sing. The new 'Lord of the Rings' musical contains a lack of music but made up for it in the end.

Google images

## 'Bombay Dreams' offers insight into Indian film industry

During its recent run at the Fabulous Fox Theater, 'Bombay Dreams' proved to be a well-crafted blend of impeccable choreography, incisive humor and Indian culture.

CAROLINE BLEEKE

For me, India has always been dark women in saris with jewels on their foreheads, tapestries and brass models depicting Hindi gods, spicy curries served on white plates. For the most part, the Indian culture I have been exposed to is traditional and exotic, far removed from the Western culture I'm used to. Consequently, the Broadway musical "Bombay Dreams" came as a surprise.

The show, which played at the Fox Theater from April 4-16, depicts the new Indian culture: the world of the Bollywood film industry.

Though most Americans think of Hollywood as the premiere film industry, Bollywood produces about twice as many films per year. Bollywood movies have become an integral part of modern India.

"Bombay Dreams" tells the story of Akaash, a young tour guide who is a member of Bombay's Untouchables caste and dreams of becoming a Bollywood star. His big break comes when he meets Vikram, a pro-bono lawyer intent on protecting Akaash's slum, and Vikram's fiancée Priya, who happens to be the daughter of a famous Bollywood director.

Priya and Akaash are attracted to each other almost as soon as they meet, and throughout the musical their relationship grows beyond friendship. Priya helps Akaash make it in Bollywood, and after his first star role, his rise to the top is almost immediate. But along with his fame comes the inevitable cor-



The cast of 'Bombay Dreams' dances and sings energetically in order to convey the true melodrama of Bollywood movies and industry. In the scene captured above, Priya, the show's heroin, oversees a dancing ensemble of crossdressers.

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ruption that pervades Bollywood and stardom.

However, like any classic Bollywood movie, "Bombay Dreams" ends well for Priya and Akaash, with true love triumphing.

The plot of "Bombay Dreams"

seems at times almost painfully contrived, but that was the intent of its original creators. The musical is meant as homage to Bollywood films, with the same characteristics.

Bollywood movies are defined

by their often melodramatic plots and formulaic elements. They are huge, extravagant events full of loud songs, bright costumes, and colorful sets.

Most Bollywood movies, like "Bombay Dreams," are nearly three

hours long and include an intermission.

Bollywood movies are often blends of traditional Indian customs and modern Western customs. This is shown most memorably in the choreography, which is

one of the most important elements of Bollywood films.

In order to make it in Bollywood, actors and actresses have to be able to dance. Dance numbers often reflect classic Indian dance, but, especially in recent years, Western moves have been incorporated into the choreography, creating a new hybrid type of dance.

The choreography is definitely the most memorable part of "Bombay Dreams." The big numbers, when the stage is full of dancers, are exciting and captivating. The beautiful costumes, which range from ornate saris to modern suits, reflect the duality of Indian culture, one that maintains traditions while also embracing modernity.

Although "Bombay Dreams" is primarily light entertainment, it does comment on certain prevalent issues in today's India.

The caste system, which has been around for centuries, is still very much a part of Indian society. In order to become a Bollywood star, Akaash must hide the fact that he is from the slums as a member of India's lowest Untouchables caste. The prejudices against Untouchables are almost tangible in the musical, just as they continue to be in India.

Overall, "Bombay Dreams" is an entertaining tribute to the largest film industry in the world. Though audiences probably won't leave the theater having been especially moved, the catchy songs and memorable choreography contribute to make the musical well worth its three-hour length. ☺



# Top specialty restaurants of St. Louis area

by MICHAEL ROOT

## Best Coffee

Kaldi's Coffee House, located at 700 De Mun Ave right across from Captain Elementary, is a cozy coffee house for people of all ages. The coffee is freshly roasted and always ready. In the warm and inviting environment, you are sure to run into somebody you know from Clayton when enjoying your Kaldi's coffee. Many students go to Kaldi's at night to study. Kaldi's is open daily from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.



## Best Fried Chicken

Space Restaurant located at 1033 S. Kingshighway Blvd, opened in May 2001, and may be remembered for their frequent lobster nights, but the specialty of the chef is the fried chicken made from a secret family recipe and served hot with mashed potatoes and gravy. A special order, which may slow down the table, is well worth the wait. Open Sunday-Thursday 5:30-9:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday 5:30-10:30 p.m., and Monday-Friday 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.



## Best Chocolate

Crown Candy Kitchen open since 1913, is a diamond in the rough, located at 1401 St. Louis Avenue in Old North St. Louis, still owned by the Karandzoeff family, where the food is great but the deserts and chocolates are even better. Crown Candy's homemade chocolates are perfect for any occasion and are worth the trip downtown. For Valentine's Day, or just to satisfy my sweet tooth, the nonpareils and chocolate covered strawberries do just the trick. Their regular hours are Monday-Thursday 10:30 a.m. - 9 p.m., Friday-Saturday - 10:30 a.m. - 10 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.



## Best Bakery

Party Pastry Shop located at 15447 Clayton Rd. in Ballwin. With the closing of Lake Forest Bakery you might wonder where you can find a good old fashioned bakery. The Party Pastry Shop is just that, the petit fours, fudgies and blueberry muffins are not to be missed. The drive is well worth your extra effort, when you return smelling like a real bakery.



## Best Pretzel

Gus' Pretzels is a St. Louis tradition since 1920 and is located at 1820 Arsenal St. where you can get cheap hand made pretzels. You can never go wrong with the warm and fresh plain pretzel. Closed on Mondays, but open the rest of the week, Gus' Pretzels is a true St. Louis spot. Visit during the week and to purchase a great pretzel.



## Best Pizza

Dewey's Pizza's closest location is in U-City at 559 North and South Rd., where the hand-tossed, brick-oven baked pizzas are best around. Make your own or branch out and try a specialty or even a calzone, knowing that you will not be disappointed in your decision. Even try my favorite pizza, jalapeño peppers, sundried tomatoes, and roasted garlic. Dewey's is open Monday-Saturday until 10 p.m.



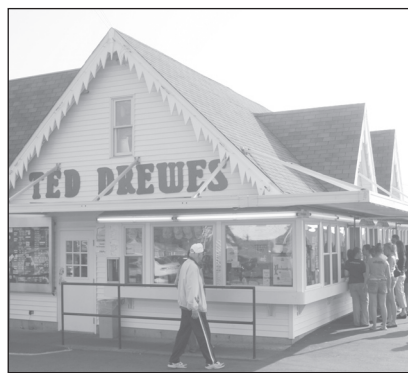
## Best Fast Food

Carl's Drive-In located at 9033 Manchester Rd. in Brentwood is a blast from the past with the old diner feel. The building is extremely small but the wait for a seat is well worth it when your food is made right in front of you. All-around best fast food, and to drink, there is nothing better than their homemade root beer. Closed Sunday-Monday but open Tuesday-Saturday from 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



## Best Caesar Salad

Restaurant Zinnia is located at 7491 Big Bend Blvd. in Webster Groves, and is a relatively expensive restaurant but well worth the price, because it serves great food. Located in a remodeled old-fashioned gas station, the restaurant is painted purple and displays various St. Louis artists on the walls, which adds an element of original scenery. Their Caesar salad is prepared with whole leaves of romaine lettuce and a creamy dressing drizzled on top. A great way to start the meal. Opened for lunch Tuesday-Friday and dinner Tuesday-Sunday, but reservations are recommended.



## Best Ice Cream

Ted Drewes Frozen Custard has two locations of 4224 S. Grand Blvd. opened in the summer only and the original location of 6726 Chippewa opened Feb-Dec. Crowds fill the space outside the stores in the summer waiting for the famous concretes that you can turn upside down and not spill a drop. You can never go wrong with my favorite concrete filled with Oreo chunks.



## Best Hot Dog

Woofie's is located at 1919 Woodson Rd in Overland, MO, which serves inexpensive but famous Vienna beef hot dogs with your choice of toppings. Go plain or go all out with the chili dog topped with Fritos, cheese, onions, and whatever else you like. Woofie's is open Monday-Saturday 10:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., but is closed on Sundays.

# Great pizza both inside and outside the bubble

I will be the first to admit that the purpose of my column is to get Clayton families to venture outside of our self-imposed bubble and enjoy other areas around St. Louis. However, for my review this month, I visited, better stated as picked up, a restaurant that is walking distance from downtown Clayton. I decided to review it anyway because of the great pizza, but also because there is a location outside the bubble in Kirkwood.

Everyone has those days where they don't feel like cooking dinner. Dewey's offers an affordable pizza take-out so that you can sit on the couch and catch up on the latest episodes of your favorite shows.

Dewey's Pizza opened its second location on March 27 at the corner of North and South and Delmar. Walking distance from downtown Clayton, this local pizzeria makes some of the best pizza and salads around and is easily accessible to both residents and workers in Clayton. My family and friends have really enjoyed this new pizza place.

Although I have never actually eaten at the restaurant, I have been inside to pick up the pizza. The upscale pizza parlor has concrete floors and an exposed ceiling, reminding you of a warehouse. The simple stainless steel tables and light wood chairs add to the simple atmosphere of Dewey's. The bar lines one side of the restaurant and acts as the main focal point of the restaurant.

## OUTSIDE the BUBBLE



Katherine Sher

The kitchen has windows so that while you wait for your pizza at the pickup counter, you can watch pizza being made.

As for the pizza, you might think that pizza is pizza, but Dewey's is a less greasy version of a great New York style pizza, fixed with all the toppings. Now, my family happens to be pretty boring when it comes to pizza toppings, so I'm sad

to say that I have only had just the plain cheese and pepperoni pizzas, but they were memorable, which is hard to say about pizza in this town.

The crust had just the right amount of dough, so you didn't fill up on bread. It was the happy medium between not-there St. Louis style pizza, and the overwhelming feel of crust on a Chicago deep-dish pizza. The toppings were fresh, which made the pizza even better.

As for the salads, we felt adventurous, and ordered both the Greek and the Caesar salads. Without any hesitation, I would order the Caesar salad again, but the Greek salad was just okay. The salad was served with either a thick tomato vinaigrette, but it looked and tasted like pizza sauce. I don't know if this was a mistake or not, but we had some vinaigrette at home to put on the salad, so it wasn't a big deal.

I usually talk about service and atmosphere in my columns, but with only dipping into the take out part of a restaurant, I miss the biggest part of the restaurant experience. However, I know people who have eaten at both locations, and have enjoyed everything about their dining experience.

Dewey's doesn't deliver, but they are so close and it is worth the drive. So spend some quality time with your couch and order Dewey's, or if you feel up to it, venture outside the bubble and visit their Kirkwood location. ☺

# Grey's Anatomy provides weekly thrills with quality drama

Despite the large number of shows focusing on plot twists in the emergency room, viewers are attracted to the show.

by FENG-SHUANG STAMME

Just when you want to say "Oh no, not another hospital drama," "Grey's Anatomy" turns into one of the most addictive series on television. With no big stars and no hype, the ABC series debuted last spring as a mid-season replacement and became a smash hit. Joining ABC's hit shows list along side "Desperate Housewives," and "Lost," "Grey's Anatomy" glues viewers to their television screens every Sunday. The series has become a favorite among many CHS students, parents and teachers.

Senior Paige Romer has been a devoted fan of "Grey's Anatomy" since its premier in March 2005 and watches the show with her mother and friends.

"I really like the plot and how they have taken the characters and work on who they are, making them into thoughtful characters," Romer said.

Romer's mother Peggy agrees that "Grey's" is a great show.

"We love 'Grey's Anatomy,' it's fabulous!" Peggy Romer said. "We watch it together every Sunday."

"Grey's" is not a typical hospital drama, unlike the popular ER, it captures more of the personal lives of doctors, and interns.

"It shows the relationship side between the surgeons," Romer said. "Like who is in charge and how it works in the medical world — that is very important."

The series follows five competitive surgical interns at the fictional Seattle Grace Hospital. There is the show's namesake, Meredith Grey (Ellen Pompeo), optimistic ex-model Izzie (Katherine Heigl), and bumbling do-gooder George O'Malley (T.R. Knight), who is warm but insecure and who always manages to do or say the wrong thing, even in the O.R. Worse, in spite of his obvious attraction to Meredith, he's treated as "just one of the girls." There is also the competitive glacier Cristina (Sandra Oh) and cocky womanizer Alex (Justin Chambers).

Meredith's medical career is complicated by her famous surgeon mother, who now lives with Alzheimer's and never believed her daughter could become a doctor. This strained relation-

ship puts pressure on Meredith to succeed no matter what.

Then there is the established team of doctors who are determined to shape the interns into doctors. Miranda Bailey (Chandra Wilson), the senior president responsible for training them is given a nickname for her harshness as "The Nazi." Derek Shepherd (Patrick Dempsey) is the flirtatious but wildly talented surgeon with whom Meredith unexpectedly begins a forbidden sexual relationship. Preston Burke's (Isaiah Washington) arrogance is second only to his skill with a scalpel. He meets his match in Cristina when they begin a less romantic but equally forbidden relationship of their own. Overseeing them all is Dr. Richard Webber (James Pickens Jr.), Seattle Grace's paternal but no-nonsense chief of surgery who harbors some secrets of his own concerning Meredith's mother.

The plot becomes more complicated as Meredith learns about Derek's wife Addison, who suddenly returns to his life. Derek has to choose between the wife he doesn't love and Meredith. Also a confused Cristina tries to make decisions about her connection with Dr. Burke, and Izzie struggles with her relationship with Alex, who fails to express his feelings for her. Worse when Meredith sleeps with George, the already overwhelming love triangle becomes even more complicated. So now George is in love with Meredith who really likes Derek who has a wife. Of course, everyone is hoping that Meredith ends up with Derek.

Freshman Jessica Corson has been a devoted fan of "Grey's Anatomy" since the beginning. Watching the show with her family, Corson relates to some of Meredith's problems.

"The show is funny and it keeps me on my toes," Corson said. "I think one of the reasons why it's so good is because of the relationships. My favorite characters are a tie between Meredith and George. I feel bad for George — he's funny. I laughed when he fell down the stairs."

"Grey's Anatomy" has the usual trappings of a hospital drama, unusual cases, such as the patient with the 70-pound tumor and the patient with a bomb inside, but with more warm fuzzies and light touches. For example, the opening credits sequence features an eyelash

curler next to medical instruments and red-painted toes savoring with a male patient under a sheet.

CHS Librarian Lauran DeRigne is also a huge fan of the series.

"I like the personal relationships more so than the medical stuff," DeRigne said. "My favorite characters are Mr. McDreamy and George. I like Dr. Shepherd just because he is struggling with his personal life and he is an interesting character. He has a very important job, but it's interesting how his personal life is a mess."

Junior Allyson Golden started watching the show this season when she accidentally bumped into it while flipping through the channels one Sunday.

"I love 'Grey's Anatomy!'" Golden said. "I have been hooked ever since I first saw it. It's different because it's not a 'medical drama.' There are so many relationships between people — it has more to do with people's lives outside the hospital."

Golden, who watches the series every Sunday with her sister, agrees with Corson that George is her favorite character.

"George is really nice and sweet," Corson said.

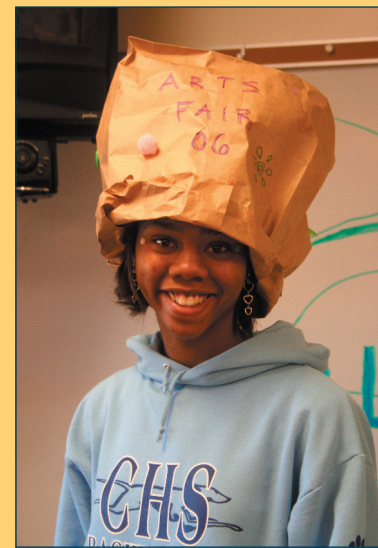
It seems like the relationship aspect of "Grey's Anatomy" is what has been capturing so many viewers every Sunday.

"Grey's Anatomy" focuses on young people struggling to be doctors and doctors struggling to stay human. It's the drama and intensity of medical training mixed with the funny, sexy, painful lives of interns who are about to discover that neither medicine nor relationships can be defined in black and white. Real life only comes in shades of grey. So far during the 2005-2006 Season "Grey's Anatomy" has received positive ratings, taking 6th place among ABC's primetime series with a rating/share of 16,231,000 total viewers for the first FOUR episodes of the second season. The show has won major awards like the BMI Film and TV Awards in 2005, and the 37th NAACP Image Awards in 2006. It was also nominated for the Emmy Awards, the Golden Globes, the teen choice awards, and Sandra Oh won a Golden Globe for Best supporting Actress. ☺



FROM LEFT TO right the stars of the ABC show Grey's Anatomy are characters Meredith Grey, George O'Malley, Isobel "Izzie" Stevens and Cristina Yang. The actors are Ellen Pompeo, T.R. Knight, Katherine Heigl and Sandra Oh respectively.





# Building Bridges

On April 6, CHS hosted students from Special School District schools Litzinger and Neuwoehner. Despite verbal, physical and mental barriers, students formed relationships in a day filled with arts and crafts.



TOP FROM LEFT: Buddies go to their next rooms—all themed towards St. Louis Monopoly—together. A girl walks through the halls. Senior Max Fischowitz-Roberts models a tiara. Buddies participate in a craft. Junior Ashley Crawford models a hat made in the City Museum room.

Center (clockwise from left): Drama teacher Kelley Ryan paints faces in the Fox Theater room. A boy decorates a picture frame made in the Art Museum Room. A man on stilts entertains students in the Commons. Stugo sponsor Dee Blassie and former Stugo sponsor Mike Musick take a break for the camera.

Bottom from left: A girl smiles for the camera. Members of the CHS lacrosse team make buttons. Freshman Aaron Praiss and his buddy Trenton show off their balloon man. Junior Christine Ford and her buddy make macaroni necklaces.



# Arts Fair 2006

