

Globe

“URINETOWN: The Musical”

The annual student run musical combines an unconventional plot line with comedic lyrics in a hilarious satire of capitalism, bureaucracy, and small town politics.

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Computer thefts in art, science wings raise security concerns

Ken Zheng
Editor

On Sunday March 29, criminals stole a total of 21 computers from CHS classrooms in a time span of two hours.

“Monday morning after spring break I came to my classroom and there were no computers in the room,” science teacher Doug Verby said. “I assumed that rearranging was made during break. I talked to people in technology and maintenance and knew very early that they were stolen.”

The criminals cleaned out a set of 12 computers from a science room and two more from another; they took seven more from an art room. The police have recovered 10 of them, four stolen from science and six from art.

“By Tuesday we had moved computers from various other science rooms

so that we had enough in Room 212,” Verby said. “So we were able to get a set of eight or nine very soon. It didn’t affect our teaching much at all.”

Science teacher Michael Sankey agrees with Verby’s statement.

“We have nine that were donated and four others that aren’t even being used,” Sankey said. “It was hurtful to me because I had the suspect as a student last year. I felt disappointed with him.”

Instructional Technologist David Hoffman estimates the total price of the stolen merchandise to be approximately \$31,500.

There were several people involved, one of whom is a student at CHS; three others don’t attend CHS. The CHS student accessed campus and opened up the doors for the others. One person remained in the car. The computers were

taken and put in the car. An hour later, they came back for more computers.

Another CHS student was involved in attaining the key and is considered an accomplice. It’s an ongoing police investigation; however, arrests were made.

“We are looking to make changes in the building, none of which should impact the students,” Losos said. “We are trying to make rooms more secure, to check all the locks. We’re looking at different ways to lock down the interior of the building at times when students aren’t here.”

The security cameras allowed the ad-

ministrators to catch the criminal. John Zlatic, Officer of Clayton Police Department and Student Resource Officer, reviewed the tapes soon after the incident was noticed.

“The individuals knew where the cameras were,” Zlatic said. “It was more difficult to track them but there are so many that it’s hard to hide. We were able to identify who the individual was after about four days. We

are now putting more [video cameras] up.”

The district has insurance for these

types of incidents. But replacements are unlikely to be bought until the beginning of next year.

“What upsets me more than the significant monetary loss,” Losos said, “is that that you combine this theft with the threats that have taken place in the bathroom, it undermines the feeling of safety and security in this building. I think that it raises questions and we have to take action against that.”

Losos has been working with Tim Wonish and the Central Office Administration to examine what can be done to improve the safety in the building.

“But something like the graffiti in the bathroom wall, there’s no type of realistic security that would prevent that,” Losos said.

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NHS policy changes, all juniors wait a year to join

Martha Burke
Reporter

As juniors begin thinking about their college applications, the National Honor Society (NHS) will no longer be an option until senior year.

NHS has announced that starting with the 2009-2010 class, it will be accepting members only at the start of senior year.

One of the club sponsors, English teacher Sheri Steinger, said this was meant to be a student-friendly change.

“It was meant to be more student friendly—that’s part of it—but also if you got in at the beginning of your junior year, essentially you had almost half your high school education left to go,” Steinger said. “We didn’t really know what to do with people whose GPAs dropped below acceptable NHS standards at that point. We’re certainly not interested in throwing anybody out.”

Junior Shelby Sternberg believes that this change makes sense, but does pose a problem in the college application process.

“I think it was a positive change overall, but it might be a bit difficult for juniors this year who were really hoping to get in and add it to their college application,” Sternberg said.

Steinger said the group has gotten a positive reaction to this new change in the rules.

“I think the younger students were happy to know what they need in order to maximize their chances of being awarded membership,” Steinger said.

Sternberg agrees that the extra time allotted for students to achieve member-

ship is a positive change.

“I think that it is okay that NHS is only accepting seniors because then we are able to have three full years to get our GPAs up,” Sternberg said. “By the end of sophomore year I think a lot of kids are still figuring out what they need to do and they don’t need the extra pressure of worrying about getting into NHS also.”

In addition, community service requirements for the group have changed.

Beginning with the freshman class students will be required to participate in 20 hours of community service a year in order to be inducted into the group.

“We obviously want students to do community service, we think that it’s really beneficial, and there seemed to be some misunderstanding about what exactly that meant,” Steinger said.

Steinger hopes the new standardization helps clear up some of these misunderstandings.

The new logs, posted on the website, are available make it easy to record and keep track of hours.

In addition, seniors will develop a rigorous community service project consisting of at least 20 hours.

Although NHS is more of an organization, Steinger hopes the senior community service project will help members to work together.

“I think its going to be a little more club-like because we hope that NHS members will be working with each other to fulfill that public service project for their senior year,” Steinger said.

For more information about NHS visit their page under the students section on the CHS website or listen to the announcements for future meetings. ☎



School district election results

Leah Eby
Senior Managing Editor

The votes are in. On April 7, residents of the Clayton School District voted on a number of ballot issues. Board of Education (BOE) members Jane Klamer and Lily Raymond were reelected as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, and the District’s \$51 million bond issue, Proposition S, narrowly passed.

Incumbents Klamer and Raymond were retained their seats on the BOE and will both serve their second three-year term. Klamer received 40.47 percent of the votes, and Raymond received 38.53 percent.

Klamer has been an active member of the Clayton community since 2001, serving a number of positions such as Co-President of the PTO at Captain Elementary, member of the Clayton School District Curriculum Committees Literacy and Assessment, and a position on the Special School District Governing Council.

In a recent interview, Klamer expressed her interest in staying involved in the Clayton community as a member of the BOE.

“It can be really hard, but I feel like it’s a good outlet of how I want to serve the community,” Klamer said. “Three years goes really fast, and there’s still a lot more out there that I’m still interested in. I’m just interested in staying involved this way.”

Raymond, like Klamer, has also worked within the Clayton School District for some time and has been a member of the PTO Council and the Community Alliance for Healthy Kids, as well as serving her three-year term on the BOE.

Also on the ballot was a third BOE candidate, Sebastian Bautz. Bautz emigrated to St. Louis from Germany in 1994 and has worked in real estate since 1998. In Germany, Bautz worked in marketing for Germany’s largest software catalog company.

Though Bautz did not have any experience serving the Clayton community, his wife is a CHS graduate and he has become increasingly aware of the district’s educational programs. Bautz received 19.74 percent of the vote.

One of the main differences between the three BOE candidates was their position on the Clayton School District’s \$51

bond issue, Proposition S. Klamer and Raymond, like many current board members, fully supported Proposition S, whereas Bautz was skeptical.

“My problem with Prop S is not what is on Prop S,” Bautz said in an interview before the election. “But what’s not on Prop S. My problem with Prop S is really the fact that Wydown disappeared from it in a last minute, unorthodox fashion.”

However, once the votes were counted, it appeared that Proposition S passed by a very small margin. Bond issues require a 57.15 percent majority in order to pass, and Proposition S received 57.24 percent. A total of 2,673 votes were cast, meaning that the difference between Proposition S passing and failing was merely three votes, according to Clayton School District Director of Communications, Chris Tennill.

Due to the incredible tension surrounding Proposition S, the potential land swap with WashU, and the tax increase that results from Proposition S, Tennill believes that this close vote will likely be submitted for a recount.

“More than likely [there will be a recount],” Tennill said. “People associated with the opposition of Prop S have stated that they are talking to attorneys about the process.”

Under Missouri Law, a recount is authorized when a ballot issue election for a candidate is determined by less than one percent of the total votes. A recount may only be requested once election results are certified, as they were on April 17. Therefore, a recount may be requested by any registered voter residing in the School District of Clayton, and once a petition is filed, election authorities have 20 days to hold the recount.

Should a recount occur in the next few weeks, there is a chance that Proposition S may not pass. If this happens, said Chris Tennill, the district will certainly make an effort to re-evaluate and determine a plan for the future.

“We will have to go back and have conversations with the board and figure out what our plan will be for the coming years,” Tennill said. “We need to do a lot of talking and listening and figure out why it didn’t pass, and then figure out how we can move forward.”

Throughout the next few weeks, the Clayton community should learn if a recount is requested and the results will be made public. ☎



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New research suggests potential relief from peanut allergies, generates skepticism

Jackie Leong
Reporter

For those who have them, peanut allergies can establish a constant anxiety that makes itself known at restaurants, in cafeterias, or anyplace food labels can't be found. But a recent study at Duke University now offers hope of release from the very cause of concern: peanuts.

Test subjects (children averaging five years old) were initially given small doses (as small as 0.001 of a peanut), which were gradually increased with time. The children's food was sprinkled with peanut powder at home, according to ScienceNews, and they drank dissolved-peanut solutions at the test lab.

Five of the nine children who have received the treatment for two years are now eating peanuts without fear of allergic reactions.

"What they are looking at is something called oral tolerance," said allergist Dr. Kim Margolis, "which is not fully understood, but the thought is that you can give yourself something that you're allergic to in increasing doses."

About one percent of Americans suffer from peanut allergies, and the number of reported cases has escalated in the past few years, said Margolis. Only one in five children with peanut allergies outgrow them.

Reactions, depending on the amount of peanut exposure and a person's sensitivity to the legume, can range from slight cases of hives to death. A reaction can be the result of accidentally ingesting peanuts or peanut dust, to using utensils that have touched peanuts, to simply being near an open jar of peanut butter.

However, when given a challenge, some of the treated children in the study were able to eat up to 15 peanuts a day

before an allergic reaction occurred.

"The real issue with that is if you miss a dose one day, what do you do?" Margolis said. "Do you start back at square one or at 15? I think the protocol is that you would start back at square one, so that would suggest that you'd have to stay on it forever."

Currently, since allergy shots don't work for peanut allergies, said WebMD, the only thing that consistently works is simply avoidance. Such a treatment as the study's desensitization technique, many speculate, could greatly ease the strain on some parents of young children with severe peanut allergies.

Margolis has her doubts that this treatment could become mainstream.

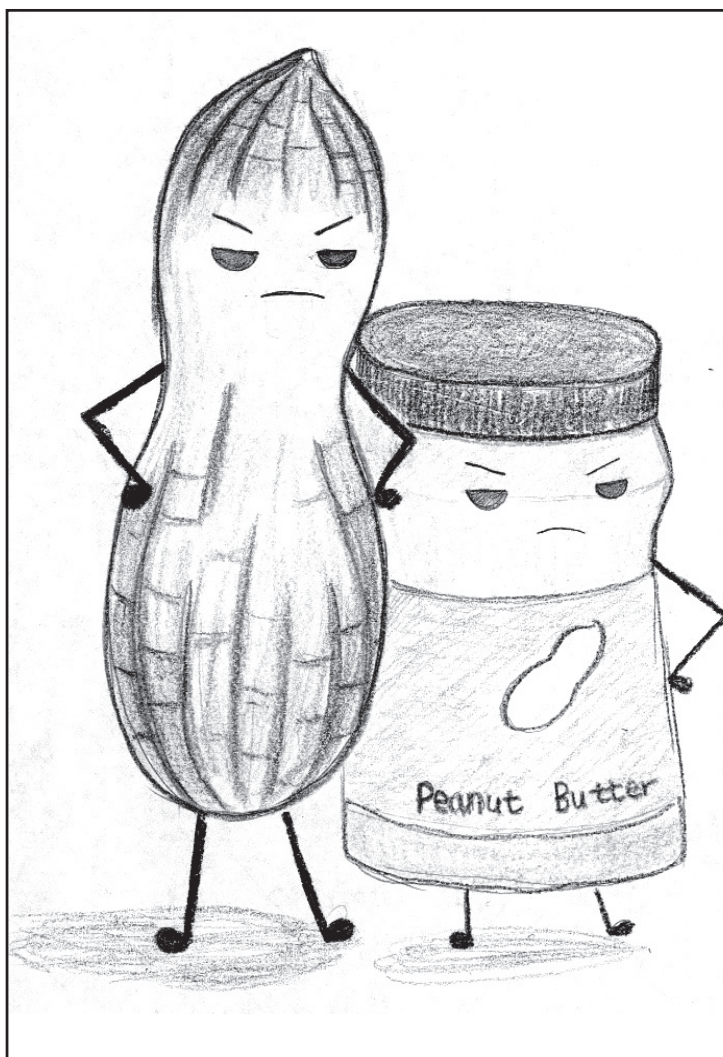
"The problem with desensitization is there's always a risk of inducing anaphylaxis," Margolis said. "And when you have something like peanuts that is not nutritionally necessary, in that you can avoid it without having any nutritional deficiencies... is it safer just to avoid?"

Margolis said that with such a large number of people with peanut allergies there are a lot of potentially fatal reactions to this treatment. Others just don't see many benefits of the treatment to be excited about.

"If I come into contact with peanuts, I break out, get a runny nose and itchy eyes," freshman Jason Riss said. "I always carry an EpiPen. But it's just an inconvenience. You just ask waiters if things are cooked with peanuts. I guess I wouldn't have to remember to ask."

Others students agree that this inconvenience is avoidable.

"It's easy to avoid," said freshman Ali Rangwala, who has a tree nut allergy. (According to Margolis, tree nut allergies are closely related to peanut allergies, which is the reason both tree nuts and peanuts are reported on food labels.)



But the biggest problem right now, Margolis said, is that "people really are uninformed."

"If you don't have food allergies, nor anyone in your family, you just don't realize what a big deal it is," Margolis said. "There are accidents all the time."

She advises that people, especially those with close friends with peanut al-

lergies learn to recognize signs of anaphylaxis, a life-threatening reaction, which could range from intestinal cramps or nausea to swelling lips to respiratory noises, which signal the closing of a person's airways.

"If someone says they have a peanut allergy, believe them and take them seriously," Margolis said.

SIGNS OF ANAPHYLAXIS

- Red, itchy rash
- Swollen throat
- Trouble swallowing
- Vomiting, diarrhea
- Wheezing
- Trouble breathing
- Cramps
- Pale skin



Xiao Wen Zhang

She recommends that people visit the Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network, or FAAN, online at foodallergy.org. The organization is currently promoting its 12th annual Food Allergy Awareness Week (FAAW), which will be May 10-16 this year, and supports the event with the slogan, "Take Action, Prevent Reactions."

Though Margolis is interested in the results of the study treatment, she's still skeptical of its future as a mainstream treatment. For now, she says, spread awareness. Double-check everything, and avoid even using a spatula that's touched peanut butter.

The consequences could potentially be fatal. ☹

Supreme Court: Drug companies must provide more information

Sneha Viswanathan
Editor

A recent Supreme Court decision weakened pharmaceutical companies' legal protection when it comes to what they do and don't say on their labels.

On March 4, 2009, the Supreme Court decided the case of Wyeth v. Levine, a landmark decision concerning federal protection of pharmaceutical companies against lawsuits from consumers.

Diana Levine (the respondent) was given Phenergan, a drug manufactured by the pharmaceutical company Wyeth via IV. The injection of this drug into her system by the IV-push method caused an infection that required part of Levine's arm to be amputated.

Levine sued Wyeth, claiming that it hadn't included sufficient warnings on Phenergan's label about administering the drug through the IV-push method. The Supreme Court ruled that, "Federal law doesn't pre-empt Levine's claim that Phenergan's label did not contain an adequate warning about the IV-push method of administration."

The Court also stated that, "It is a central premise of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA) and the FDA's regulations that the manufacturer bears responsibility for the content

of its label at all times."

According to Krishnan Ramanathan, who works in the marketing division of a major pharmaceutical company, pharmaceutical companies will have to change their labeling priorities in order to minimize the possibility of lawsuits. Ramanathan said they will have to produce more thorough labels.

"Now we have to be cautious of what is not mentioned on it also to decrease our liability exposure," Ramanathan said. "We need to develop a complete list of everything we know about [a drug], even if it may be very small in number in terms of the effects, so that it can be mentioned in the label."

Ramanathan also said that pharmaceutical companies will have to take extra precautions beyond FDA mandates because the FDA is no longer responsible for preventing consumer claims.

"If there is a drug that already exists that has a label that has been discussed with the FDA, we should be careful about what is not written on it and what we know about it," Ramanathan said. "If there is a new drug coming out and we have yet to discuss

with the FDA what the label should look like, then we need to completely disclose everything we know about it, and not just restrict ourselves to what the FDA may be requiring us to put into it."

While pharmaceutical companies are expanding the content of their labels to better inform consumers of the risks associated with drugs, consumers can avoid risks by educating themselves about their medication.

"Be a responsible consumer," health teacher Melissa Hobick said. "Know what you're taking, know the risks involved."

Hobick recommends asking a doctor concerning prescription drugs and researching on the FDA website.

"Anytime you put anything into your body, there's going to be a risk; it's something different going into your body so you never know how your body's going to handle it," Hobick said.

Hobick also recommended that if one starts having the side effects associated with the drug, or if the

side effects go on, one should go back to the doctor. Perhaps there is another medication to take or stop taking it.

"Inform yourself first; sometimes you need a couple of opinions. Make yourself informed before you necessarily turn to drugs," Hobick said.

Hobick also said the FDA's regulation of drugs is beneficial; however, FDA approval of drugs is not a foolproof guard against risks for drugs that come with warnings.

"I don't know if it's [the risk] significantly higher but what the FDA tests for is to see if the benefits outweigh the risks," Hobick said. "So you have a lot of drugs out there that have been approved by the FDA that have shown that even though there are side effects, and that there can be some harm done, the benefits of them for what they are meant to treat far outweigh the risks."

Hobick also noted that the FDA also says that a doctor can prescribe a medication, but the doctor must also tell the patient the risks and the side effects to that particular medication.

Ramanathan believes Wyeth v. Levine hasn't significantly affected pharmaceutical companies' sales and consumer usage of common drugs.

"I don't believe any of the ones that are used widely have been pulled off the market," Ramanathan said. ☹

Obama lifts stem cell research ban for medical advancements

Gabrielle Lachtrup
Reporter

As part of his new initiatives, President Barack Obama signed an executive order allowing for a significant increase in federal funding for embryonic stem cell research on March 9.

This decision reversed an order by President Bush on August 9, 2001, that mandated only 21 "lines" of embryos could be used by scientists, all of which had been created prior to his presidency. The former president defended this decision by saying that he valued the sanctity of life and that the destruction of embryos involved embryonic stem cell research ran contrary to this belief.

In an East Room press conference, Obama stated to AP reporters that, "Promoting science isn't just about providing resources, it is also about protecting free and open inquiry." He also said that the administration will, "make scientific decisions based on facts, not ideology."

Many scientists and doctors are hopeful that the new law will allow for greater medical advances than those made with non-embryonic stem cells.

"When the fetus begins to form in the pregnant mother, there is just this great bunch of cells," local cardiologist Joe Ruwitch said. "Afterwards, they begin changing shape, but when they're just a small ball of cells, they have something called pluripotential, which means capability of going in lots of different directions." Ruwitch went on to

explain that embryonic stem cells serve a much larger amount of functions than ones not found in human embryos.

"There are several other stem cells or stem cell-like cells in the skin and in other places, and to some extent some of those cells, even in an adult, have the capability of being pushed back to a more primitive form," Ruwitch said. "But the fact is that there is no substitute for fetal stem cells. You have some limited things you can do with adult pluripotential stem cells from the skin, but it's not the same."

Ruwitch said scientists hope to

cure many diseases with stem cell therapies, in addition to repairing damaged organs or even grow new ones entirely. "It's gotten to a place where they're close to attempting to cure things like Parkinson's disease, which is caused by a drop-out of certain critical cells in certain areas in the brain," he said. "In theory, those shells should be able to be put back as stem cells and then, directed by their local environment, recreate the cells the patients lost."

Ruwitch also said the potential for

stem cells to rebuild nerves in the spinal chord or repair insulin-producing islets—small regions that contain endocrine, or hormone-producing cells—in the pancreases of diabetic patients.

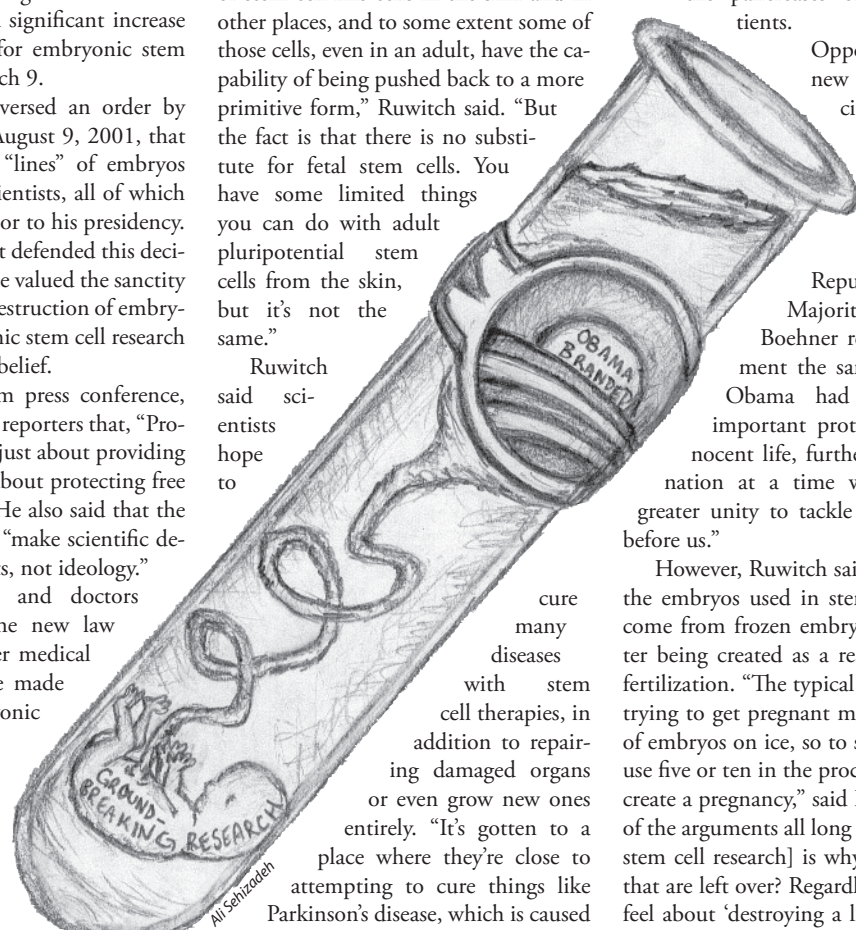
Opponents of the new law, like Bush, cite the damages caused to human life by embryonic stem cell research.

Republican House Majority Leader John Boehner released a statement the same day, saying Obama had "rolled back important protections for innocent life, further dividing our nation at a time when we need greater unity to tackle the challenges before us."

However, Ruwitch said that many of the embryos used in stem cell research come from frozen embryos left over after being created as a result of in-vitro fertilization. "The typical woman who is trying to get pregnant may have dozens of embryos on ice, so to speak, but only use five or ten in the process of trying to create a pregnancy," said Ruwitch. "One of the arguments all long [for embryonic stem cell research] is why not use those that are left over? Regardless of how you feel about 'destroying a life' one way or another, a lot of these embryos are lives that will be destroyed—they'll be thrown away."

Obama said there is no reason to waste these resources.

"Medical miracles do not happen simply by accident," Obama said. ☹



Alli Schindler

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Missouri motorcyclists may no longer be mandated to wear helmets

Noah Eby
Reporter

Last month, the Missouri Senate voted 23 to 6 to approve a bill that would reverse the current status of motorcycle helmets; the House has not yet voted on the issue. As of now, motorcyclists must wear a helmet at all times, but the state legislature has taken steps to change this.

The proposed provision, which is attached to a motorcycle insurance bill, would allow bikers above the age of 21 to go without a helmet on most Missouri roads. However, they would still be required to wear a helmet on interstate highways.

Supporters of the bill argue that the choice of whether to wear a helmet should be regarded as a civil liberty. Thus, the government should not have the right to infringe on this right.

"The pros are 'government keep your hands off my body,'" Missouri State Representative Steve Brown said. "I'm a grown up - in this case 21 - and I should be able to make these decisions without government interference."

CHS Senior Tyler Poe has been riding a motorcycle since he got his driver's license sophomore year. Poe is against any type of helmet mandate, and agreed that it should be up to him to decide if he will take the risk of going without a helmet.

"I don't think they should be able to tell you whether or not you should wear a helmet," Poe said. "If you want to risk your life, then you should have the choice to do that."

Another point that advocates of the bill make is that wearing a helmet diminishes the experience of riding a motorcycle.

"You hear a lot more things, you get the wind through your hair, which is kind of nice, and your head isn't so heavy," Poe said.

A scratch on his helmet and his rearview mirror are evidence of a minor accident that Poe had in which he fell off of

his bike. Though he sustained only a scratch on the arm, many motorcyclists sustain serious injuries when they crash without a helmet on.

Opponents of the bill cite the fact that helmet use decreases motorcycle fatalities by 37 percent and serious injuries by 67 percent, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. They say that when bikers, half of whom do not have health insurance, sustain injuries, it often falls on the state Medicaid and Medicare programs - and thus the taxpayer - to foot the bill.

An example of this occurred in Florida in 2002, when the state repealed its universal helmet mandate. The number of motorcyclists admitted to hospitals skyrocketed and the money spent to treat head injuries doubled. Another example is the state of Maryland, which reported that it spends \$59,000 in Medicaid funds a year per brain injury sustained in a motorcycle accident.

CHS physics teacher Rex Rice, an opponent of the bill, has been riding a motorcycle since he was 14.

"They're an awful lot of fun, and once I did it once, I was hooked," Rice said.

Despite the fact that wearing a helmet is a slight inconvenience, Rice said that the added safety that a helmet provides is too significant to go without.

"The extra bit of security that goes with having one of those on, in which a relatively minor accident could take your life... I just don't see that as a trade off that anyone ought to take," Rice said.

Representative Brown said that forcing motorcyclists to wear a helmet is "good public policy" and that the bill will not be getting his support when it comes to the House. However, with the economy as Congress' first priority, Brown said that it is unlikely that the House will vote on the bill this year.



Meng Wang

Senior Tyler Poe rides his motorcycle. The Missouri legislature has taken steps to lift the current motorcycle helmet mandate, which would allow some motorcyclists to ride without a helmet; some such as Poe support this decision, while others think it risks safety.



Preeti Viswanathan

The art room was one of the classrooms from which computers were stolen on Sunday, March 29. In just two hours, a total of 21 computers were stolen from three classrooms at CHS, including two science classrooms. Administrators have recovered ten of the computers.

Computer Thefts, 1

"What happened over spring break was the work of one individual. Having seen it, I can say that it was very well planned. The individual was lucky in a few places and we've already changed minor things in places that maybe would've slowed them down, but probably wouldn't have stopped them."

All teachers have a keyfob with certain restrictions on the codes. They unlock certain doors. Potent solution is using the digital locks and putting them on doors with rooms with a large numbers of computers. This wouldn't impact the students because the doors would stay open during the day, as they should. It would only secure the campus more during days when there is no school.

"If a keyfob is lost, teachers can call the central office in order to deactivate the card," Losos said. "That's the beauty of it. Many teachers have already requested multiple new ones since they misplaced them, but as long as they quickly let us now, it's fine."

The administration hasn't made final decisions since there's a cost-benefit analysis.

"I can't say for certain what will happen but we are going to tighten internal security that would not affect the student population like the security cameras," Losos said. "Students

shouldn't really notice changes at all."

Zlatic made the arrests shortly after figuring out who the individuals were.

"It was disappointing because you would think that everyone here has a great opportunity," Zlatic said. "So you would hate to see them make a mistake that would be detrimental to their future. I expressed that to them at the time of the arrest."

Zlatic said that though there will be huge consequences and significant effects on the individuals, it's not the end of the world for the criminals.

"They will be able to do things in their future, but no one wants to be charged with a felony at such an age," Zlatic said. "But at least we know we did it. Now that we know what happened, we know how to deal with it and fight it in the future."

In terms of the law, there were two counts of burglary firsts and also stealing felonies.

There were no minors involved in the incident. The criminals are all being charged as adults.

At the time of the interview, Zlatic was preparing an application to the Attorney's Office with the arrests and evidence that he has on the case.

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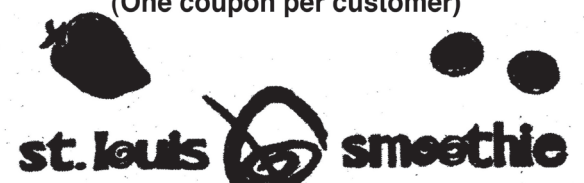
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Troubled economy brings new challenges to Clayton businesses

Mary Blackwell
Editor

While the federal government is paying billions of dollars to bail out large corporations, numerous small local businesses are suffering. According to the Associated Press, about four businesses for every 1,000 people in the U.S. have filed for bankruptcy in the past 12 months.

Although the failure or struggle of small businesses doesn't have the same impact as that of large companies, these small losses impact their communities even the less visible losses.

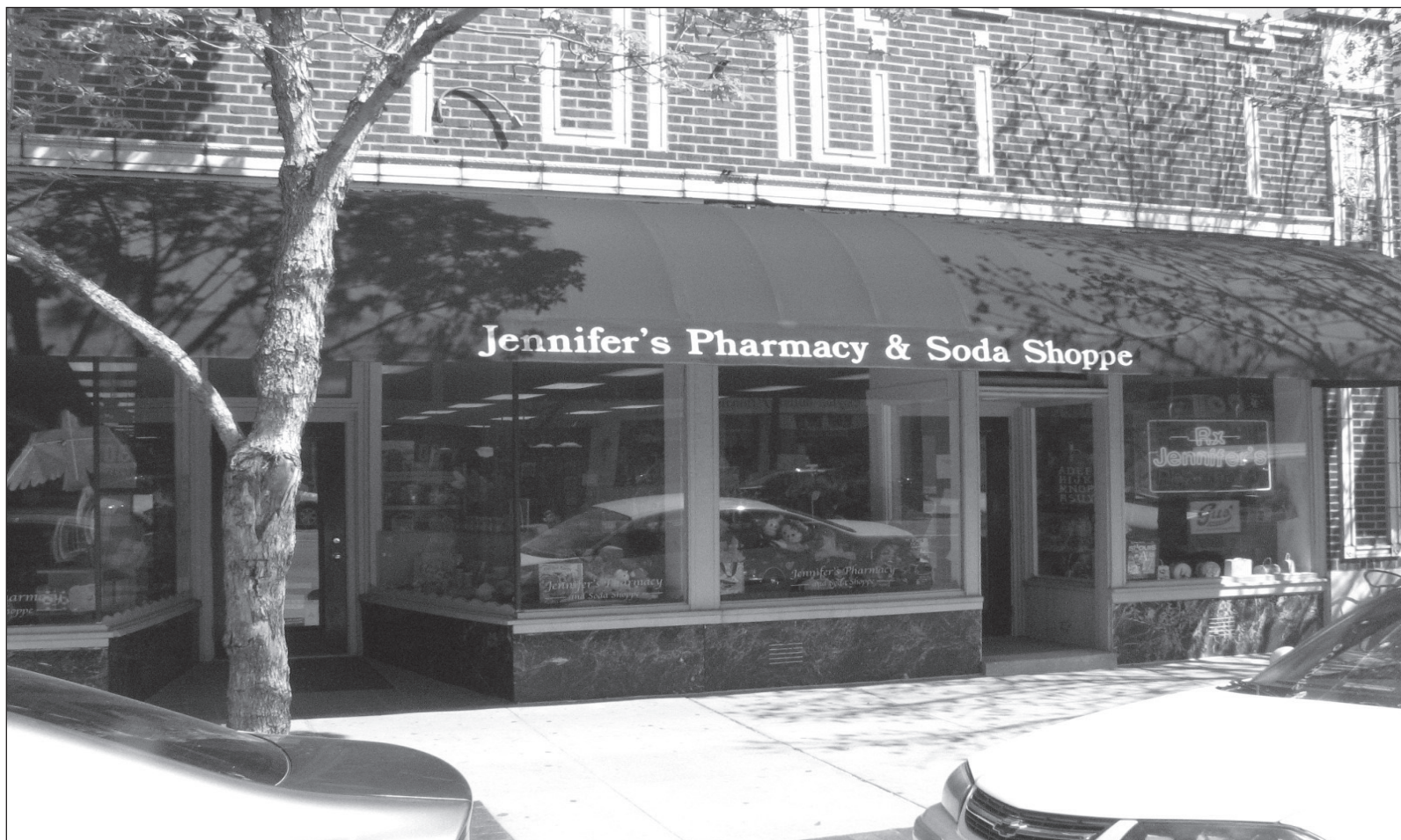
"Just scanning the Clayton skyline as it were, they're probably a lot of businesses in these office buildings that have downsized or shut down but we're just not aware of it because we drive by the buildings and we don't know what's going on inside," Saint Louis University Professor of Finance Michael Alderson said. "We don't see the empty buildings."

Others are more visible, such as J. Bucks, which has closed four of its six restaurants. Bistro Alexander, Play, and The Clayton Pet Emporium are all businesses in the Clayton area, which have recently closed.

Jennifer's Pharmacy is an independently owned business in downtown Clayton owned by Jennifer Rich. Although Jennifer's Pharmacy is still in business, it is feeling the effects of the national economic situation.

"People aren't buying as many things. Where before they would put a bunch of things up on the counter and not worry about it. Now they are thinking about prices or putting things away after it gets rung up and they see how much it is."

One reason for an increase in local



Jennifer's Pharmacy on North Central avenue in Clayton. Economic troubles have posed new challenges to area businesses such as Jennifer's as consumers look to cut spending

Julia Rielly

closings is that small businesses are much more susceptible to bankruptcy and less likely to pull out of bankruptcy.

"It's harder for smaller companies to reorganize," Alderson said. "It costs so much to do so. You have to pay lawyers, and accountants and other experts. So

the most cost beneficial thing for a small company or business is to just go out of business."

Companies in financial distress have two options in terms of bankruptcy.

"They can file what's called Chapter 11 Bankruptcy reorganization, which

means that they try to work things out with the people to whom they owe money and then continue on in business," Alderson said. "Or they file what's called a Chapter 7 petition in which case they liquidate."

Larger businesses are better equipped

than small businesses to reorganize, even several times, before being forced to liquidate. But signs that a company is headed toward disaster show up long before the decision to file for bankruptcy must be made.

"Your sales drop, and you have cash

flow problems as a result which means you can't pay your employees and your creditors," Alderson said. "You might have debt coming due all at once and you can't get another loan to replace it."

Rich has seen her company's revenues drop for about a year now and has had to make some adjustments accordingly.

"We're just being really careful with what we're ordering," Rich said. "I just put a bunch of things on sale to get rid of overstock."

The signs of the economic downturn are also found in a rising number of job applications submitted to local businesses such as Jennifer's Pharmacy.

"A lot of our customers are looking for jobs, especially retired people," Rich said.

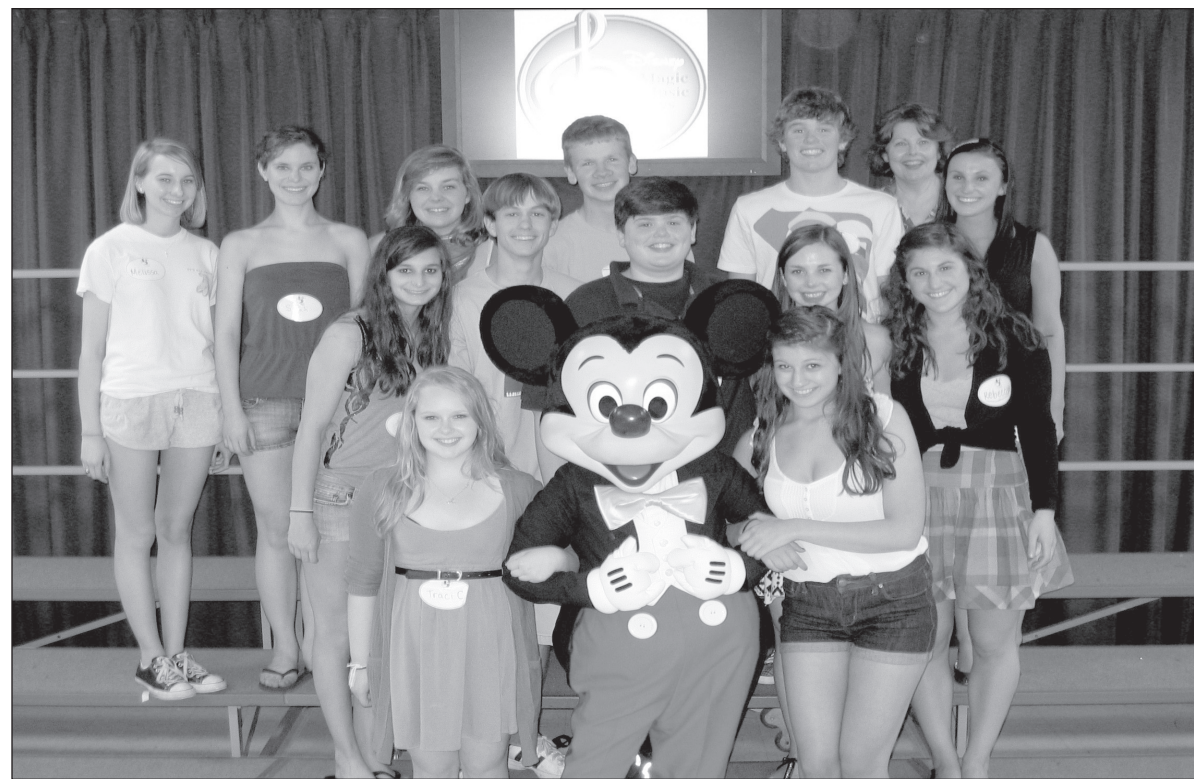
Along with cutbacks in store hours, these symptoms of our failing economy found in Jennifer's Pharmacy are not uncommon in small business.

Despite the bleak conditions, Clayton is fairsing better economically in comparison with other parts of the country.

"We're probably doing better because a lot of Clayton businesses are service oriented," Alderson said. "But I think that Clayton, compared to the rest of the county, Clayton's probably doing a little bit better because what we have here are services like banking, law firms, investment management firms. Even if their business goes down, people still need their services."

The frightening economic conditions are plainly visible even in Clayton, which is less affected than other cities.

"Customers who sit at the counter are talking about the economy more," Rich said. "It's a big topic." ☺



CHS choir students visit Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. and pose with Mickey Mouse

Courtesy of Alice Fasman

Music students perform at Walt Disney World

Preeti Viswanathan
Editor

In addition to a recent concert, Clayton High School orchestra and choir students had the opportunity to go to Disneyworld to perform at the Festival Disney held there for school musical ensembles from across the nation. While performing and competing at the festival, they were also able to enjoy the usual things a vacationer at the park can experience — students had the opportunity to walk around in Disney World in their free time. Though they had a roughly planned-out schedule, their time around the performance times was fairly flexible.

"There was just one day where we went and performed with our uniforms, and on the last day we went to the awards ceremony, but in-between those days we could do whatever we wanted," freshman Xiaoya Wu said.

In their free time, the orchestra went to Epcott center, Hollywood Studios, and Magic Kingdom. They spent three days in the park and the total cost of the trip was \$725 per person.

In addition to performing, the orchestra also went to three-hour workshops where they had the unique experience of playing, recording and listening to music from Disney movies and learning about the techniques that Disney musicians use.

To participate in Festival Disney, the orchestra and choir both had to send in an audition tape, and they were selected based on the quality of their performance on this tape.

The Clayton High orchestra has never attended Festival Disney previously, though they have gone to other out-of-state festivals.

"This is our first time to go to Festival Disney, but I have taken them on trips before, like the Heritage festival in Nashville, and we've been to London and to Germany," Orchestra Director Julie Hoffman said.

The orchestra and choir, however, did not perform together. The various schools that attended the festival were separated by their school and divided up by different ensemble types.

"It [Festival Disney] has a competition and it has ratings and comments. We could determine what we wanted to do. It had bands and orchestras and choirs, it has every possible musical aspect to it," Hoffman said.

"They categorize everyone by division, for example we were in the double A division, but they also had triple and quadruple A divisions. They also divided everyone by their groups, by whether they were an orchestra or a band or a choir. So the competition involved ratings for just our orchestra, and also by division and by ensemble," Hoffman said.

In addition to the high school, the seventh and eighth grade orchestras from Wydown Middle School attended the festival as well. However, the condition for attending the festival was that the orchestra had to be balanced. 20 students went out of the 63 students from both the concert and symphonic orchestras.

The orchestra received an overall rating of 'good.' The next to highest possible rating was 'excellent,' which they did receive from two judges. Although their overall rating was not the highest possible one, Hoffman thinks they did perform to the best of their ability, especially due to difficulties in being able to coordinate times when all the students could practice together.

"We only one practice together between the two groups; and that was the challenge we had before we left was having two different classes playing and getting them together to play, but I think they did really well, I think the performance ended up really nice," Hoffman said.

From the CHS choir, 13 students performed at Festival Disney.

"The choir received an Excel-

lent rating which is next to the highest rating, and choirs were judged on Sound Quality, Technical Accuracy, Musicality and Stage Department," CHS choir director Alice Fasman said. Wu thinks that the orchestra could have been better practiced, though she really enjoyed the trip since it was her first time going to Disney.

"I think we tried our best and we were pretty good, but it was a good learning experience which made it worth it," Wu said.

When the orchestra and choirs performed, their main audience consisted of mostly judges, other school ensembles and some onlookers. Wu said she liked the performance experience, group dynamic, and what she learned in the workshop.

"The workshop was basically learning about how the recording artists work there. Usually in orchestra we practice a lot and give one performance, but they practice for a certain amount of time together and then they have to perform three or four times a day, so they have to perform a lot more, and it's kind of the opposite of what we do here," Wu said.

The students also had a taste of how it would feel playing and recording music for a movie. "First we had a few pieces that we sight-read, and we talked about what makes a good performance and what we need to watch out for, and then we actually played a few pieces with the animation going on in the background. In the end, we recorded some of what we played," she said.

Hoffman and Fasman both felt that the trip was a success for both the ensembles and for the students as musicians.

"I was very pleased. I think most of the students got a great deal out of it," Fasman said.

"From what I gathered and from the time we had there everyone really enjoyed themselves," Hoffman said. ☺

Jobs market tight for area students

With employers cutting positions and more people seeking parttime employment to supplement their incomes, students are having trouble finding jobs at area businesses

Nicholas Andriole
Editor

During summer months, many students look for employment as a way to earn spending money, get experience in the workplace, and to better position themselves for future employment opportunities. In the midst of a very competitive job market, massive layoffs, and hiring freezes, students may find it more challenging to secure employment this summer than others.

Students such as Senior Krishna Vemulapalli are being reminded of the economic troubles as they look for employment.

"I have looked for employment at many places such as the Center of Clayton and Crazy Bowls and Wraps," Vemulapalli said. "Since jobs are harder to come by, I usually follow by going in person to the place I am interested in working."

Popular employers among CHS students include The City of Clayton Parks & Recreation department, which operates Shaw Park pool, ice rink, and tennis center along with the Center of Clayton.

At time of press, the parks department had openings for fitness attendants, lifeguards, swim instructors, and baseball umpires. Anyone interested in these positions should visit the City's website or complete an application at the Center of Clayton.

Many students also turn to Summerquest, the districts summer program held at CHS. Although there has been a strong interest among CHS students for employment, Summerquest has completed its hiring for 2009, however students are encouraged to check back for opportunities next year. Science teacher Nathan Peck serves as the director for the program and is responsible with the hiring and training of staff members.

"[We have received] significantly more applications this year than in previous years," Peck said. "We have hired approximately 10 current CHS students from about 70 applicants."

Summerquest also has much of its staff return from previous years.

"We offer raises on a rolling scale based on applicants age and experience at Summerquest," Peck said.

staff from previous years are offered retention pay raises of up to 50 cents per hour, and hourly wages start at \$7.50 for first time staff with no experience.

While it may appear that students have difficulty obtaining employment in a recession, experts believe youth will continue to have trouble seeking employment, even after the economy starts to pick up again.

"The current challenges facing youth seeking employment are not cyclical," Jonathan Larsen, Policy Associate for the National Youth Employment Coalition

"Youth employment rates have been getting worse even be-

fore the economy tanked and has gotten harder, and harder for youth to obtain employment during the summer."

The National Youth Employment Coalition, based out of Washington, D.C. serves to educate youth and employers about the importance of becoming employed and being responsible, active, engaged, and tax paying citizens.

Although the economy may be making it harder for students to obtain jobs, it also provides an opportunity for students to learn about the realities of workplaces, their hiring procedure, the interview process, and how to create a professional resumé that maybe useful to them in the future.


"I suspect I haven't heard back from many of the places I've applied to due to the economy," Vemulapalli said "However, the experience has taught me about how the jobs market works and how important it is to follow up with prospective employers".

While there maybe fewer jobs available than in previous years, students must realize that there are jobs available and persistence and professionalism will help them achieve their long term career goals. ☺

Unemployment Statistics

- Unemployment among individuals age 16-19 in the labor force stood at 21.1 percent in March 2009, compared to 15.8 percent in March 2008.
- The national overall unemployment rate stood at 8.2 percent in March 2009, compared to 5.1 percent in March 2008

Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics



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After 150 years of conflict, evolution battle still rages

Meredith Redick
Editor

One hundred and fifty years ago this year, a keen-eyed naturalist named Charles Darwin tossed a wrench into 19th century world views when he inadvertently stepped into the illusive world of prehistory. "On the Origin of Species", the polemical volume that indubitably made a splash in both scientific and religious thought, remains the basis for an antiquated--yet still heated--battle between observation and faith.

"On the Origin of Species" was the product of an accumulation of observations Darwin made aboard the H.M.S. Beagle, a British charter ship that sailed around South America from 1831 to 1836. During this time, the young Darwin formulated a theory on how different species of animals came to be—an idea that would become one of the most controversial in modern history.

According to Darwin, species evolved from a common ancestor according to a process called descent with modification. The driving force of this change was natural selection, the idea that organisms with certain heritable traits are better adapted to an environment than others, and so those organisms survive to reproduce at a higher rate than other organisms.

Because natural selection favors some organisms over others, the genetic composition of the population affected only by natural selection changes favorably over time.

Darwin used his observations and geologic evidence to extrapolate vast changes in genetic composition over long periods of time, which brought him to an explanation of the creation of new species—including man.

Darwin's conclusions led to immediate controversy, particularly by the Christian population. His judgment that "man is descended from a hairy, tailed quadruped, probably arboreal in its habits" did not align with the widely-held conviction that man was set apart from nature, made in the image of God. This clash of opinions sparked a conflict that has evolved to the modern-day discord visible today.

Despite initial resistance, there was little organized opposition to Darwin's views until the 1920s, when popular politician William Jennings Bryan set out to eliminate the teaching of human evolution in schools in America. Famous

for his role as prosecutor in the explosive Scopes trial, which unearthed the controversy of teaching evolution in schools, Bryan became a poster boy for the anti-evolution campaign.

Renowned science historian Ronald L. Numbers notes that the response to Darwinism in the 1920s was exceedingly different from modern opposition to Darwinism.

"Being an anti-evolutionist in the 1920s was far different from what it meant to be a creationist in the 1970s," Numbers said. "The evidence was overwhelming that there had been a lot of life on earth before the appearance of humans, and people in the 1920s were happy to accept that. Even Bible-believing, evangelical Christians embraced it."

Among these was Bryan, who reconciled these ideas with his own religious ideals by interpreting the Bible to fit geological evidence.

"People solved the problem in a variety of ways," Numbers said. "Fortunately for them, the Bible is rather elastic in its understanding."

Some interpreted God's six days of creation as long geological periods of time. "There was the supernatural creation of the earth, then an enormous gap in which the entire geological column is supposedly enclosed, and then Adam and Eve," Numbers said.

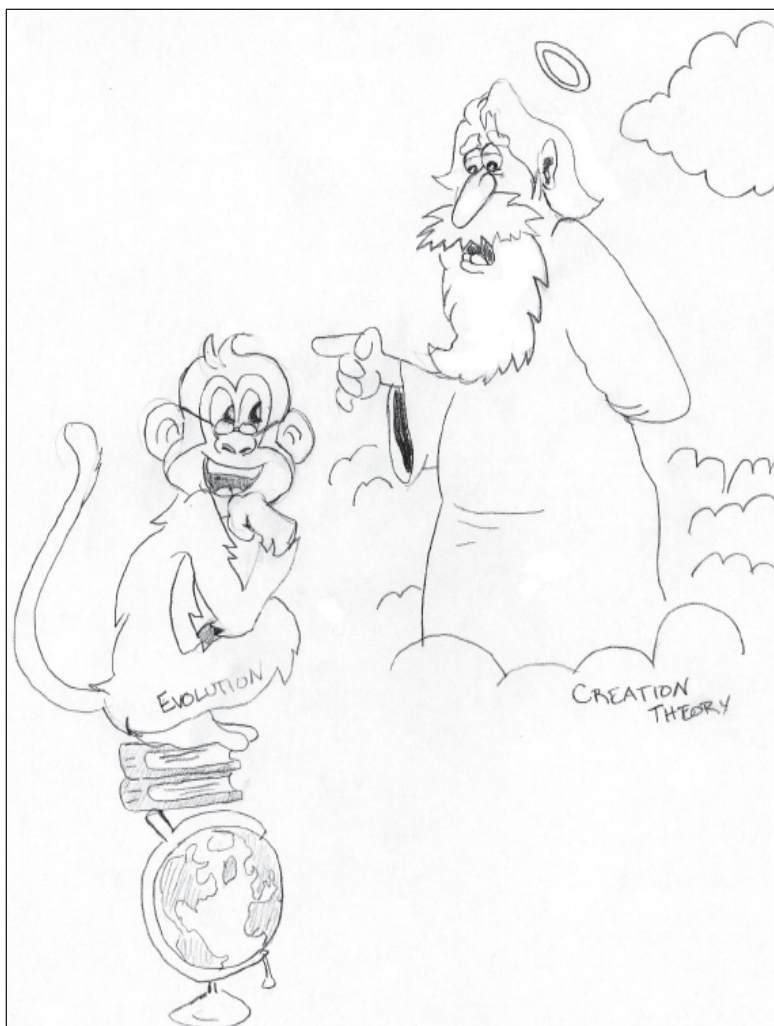
Another large minority of Christians interpreted fossils, found in Earth's geological strata, to be relics from Noah's Flood, in which most life on the planet was purportedly wiped out. Reason found a gaping hole in this hypothesis, though.

"In Noah's Flood, only eight people get saved," Numbers said. "Reasonably, then, the strata should be filled with human fossils, but they aren't."

Nearly all leading fundamentalists believed one of these two ideas. According to Numbers, only a tiny minority of Christians advocated the recent appearance of human life. Surprisingly, this highly marginal view has expanded since the 1920's to become the dominant view of creationists in the '70s and '80s.

"By then, if you said you were a creationist, it meant you attributed most geological evidence to Noah's Flood," Numbers said.

The problem with evolution that confronted most Christians was not that species could evolve, but that man was not the godly creature that Christian doctrine assumed.



Elliot O'Dea

"We must, however, acknowledge, as it seems to me, that man with all his noble qualities...still bears in his bodily frame the indelible stamp of his lowly origin," Darwin wrote.

To support the idea that man's creation could not have been an accidental series of mutations, the creationist community posited a variety of methods and arguments to counteract the validity of Darwin's theory. While some were quickly dismissed as illogical, others retained a lasting influence.

In 1963, for example, the Creation Research Society was formed in an attempt to show Bible-believing Christians the error of their ways.

"This association convinced millions of Christians that the Earth was very young," Numbers said. A variety of campaigns like this one contributed to the change in composition of creationists during the 20th century.

In 1980, the issue of teaching creation science in schools was brought up

once again. Both Arkansas and Louisiana passed laws mandating the teaching of creation science in schools.

To support this law, science textbooks were written that supported creationist ideas while evading keywords like "creation". Instead, the books used words such as "Intelligent Design"—a move that sparked an entire new movement of citizens who favored Intelligent Design.

The textbooks corroborated suspicions of many critics, who believed that Intelligent Design was the same as creationism.

The public, however, was fooled into thinking that the scientific community was divided between Intelligent Design and creationism, when, according to Numbers, only 0.002% of scientists agreed with the ideas presented by Intelligent Design.

"There was almost no dissent, but people made it look like this was a legitimate issue," Numbers said. "They wanted a big tent for all anti-evolution-

ists, and they wanted dissent among evolutionists."

In 1998, Michael Behe's "Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution" was hailed as a scientific condemnation of evolution. The book elaborates on a concept called irreducible complexity.

The idea of irreducible complexity is formed from "a single system composed of several well-matched, interacting parts that contribute to the basic function, wherein the removal of any one of the parts causes the system to effectively cease functioning."

According to Behe, intricate systems like the human eye and the blood clotting system are too complex to be the result of step-by-step evolution because the functionality of the system depends on the presence of each component.

Darwin understood the conflict.

"To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been

formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree," Darwin noted in his book.

Bryan was among supporters of the irreducible complexity of the human eye.

"What Bryan liked to say, was he liked to describe the evolution of the eye like this: This one animal had a mole, and it felt good when he turned to the sun, and so he kept turning it to the sun, and over a million years the moles of his descendants became optically sensitive," Numbers said. "And the punch line to that was 'Can you believe that it happened not once but twice?'"

While skepticism of Darwin's ideas was certainly common, Darwin argued that the evolution of a perfect, complex eye is not so impossible.

"Reason tells me that if numerous gradations from a simple and imperfect

eye to one complex and perfect can be shown to exist, each grade being useful to its possessor, as is certainly the case; further, if the eye ever varies and the variations be inherited...then the difficulty of believing that a perfect and complex eye could be formed by natural selection...should not be considered as subversive of the theory," Darwin said in his book.

Behe has discredited this thinking.

"Each of the anatomical steps and structures that Darwin thought were so simple actually involves staggeringly complicated biochemical processes that

cannot be papered over with rhetoric," Behe wrote. "Darwin's metaphorical hops from butte to butte are now revealed in many cases to be huge leaps between carefully tailored machines—distances that would require a helicopter to cross in one trip."

Interestingly, both Behe's and Darwin's diametrically opposed arguments share final rhetoric.

"Einstein told us that space is curved and time is relative," Behe concluded. "Modern physics says that solid objects are mostly space, that subatomic particles

have no definite position, that the universe had a beginning. Now it's the turn of the fundamental science of life, modern biochemistry, to disturb. The simplicity that was once expected to be the foundation of life has proven to be a phantom."

Darwin concluded that "It is satisfactory, as showing how transient such impressions are, to remember that the greatest discovery ever made by man, namely, the law of the attraction of gravity, was also attacked."

Without a doubt, both proponents and opponents of evolution have exercised their wits in the brain-teaser of man's origin. Even after 150 years, a consensus on the topic of evolution is not visible in the near future. On each side, however, the struggle to find the world's absolute truth remains among humanity's greatest efforts. ♣

Each of the anatomical steps and structures that Darwin thought were so simple actually involves staggeringly complicated biochemical processes that cannot be papered over with rhetoric.

Michael Behe
Author of "Darwin's Black Box"

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Freshman girls go the distance on varsity

Payton Sciaratta
Reporter

Many students at Clayton High School have been working for several years, training to make it to where they are now.

"A lot of freshmen have been going for high school soccer since 8th grade because it was that important to them," Karley Woods, a freshman on the varsity soccer team, at CHS said. "December came around and we did indoor practices and it was a lot of hard work and I did it because I wanted it that badly."

Tryouts for the girls' varsity soccer team lasted one week. They spent several hours after school each day practicing, showing off their best skills, and trying to impress their coaches.

"It was a week where everyone was invited and encouraged to try out," said freshman Allison O'Neal. "A week of doing skills stuff and positioning stuff, then at the end of the week, coach posted who was on the team."

Every day of tryouts was a different experience for these girls. "On the second day of tryouts, we ran three or three and a half miles. This separated who actually wanted to be there and who decided it just wasn't for them," said Andrea Stiffelman, a freshman on the varsity soccer team.

"It was a lot of running, the coaches observed who had a touch for the ball and it was just a lot of intense training," Stiffelman said. "It was nerve racking because we were trying out with all these girls that were so experienced."

Once the freshman girls found out they were on the team, they realized it was going to be a long season. "It's definitely, because I've had no high school experience, a step up," Stiffelman said. "Thirteen hours of practice and the trainings are hard, we do a lot of running, and it's a lot more intense."

Playing on the varsity team is a step up according to Stiffelman.

"Coaches want a lot out of you," Stiffelman said. "The biggest thing is working with the older kids, the seniors and having them as an influ-

ence."

"They talk about our goals, what we need to work on and they help me to distract before the games," Wagner said.

"Every day we are expected to put 100% effort into our practice," Woods said. "When I tried out I was worried about being good, and now I'm focusing on getting better."

For freshman Amanda Wagner, it's a lot more challenging.

"It's challenging because I'm playing with older kids, so it forces me to become more aggressive," Wagner said. "And I have been on a club team before so this helped to prepare me because I am playing at a much higher level."

Although the practices are intense according to the freshmen on the team, the seniors are very welcoming.

"They made it clear that they want us on the team and we will help them to win," O'Neal said.

"I feel that they are welcoming us with open arms," Wagner said.

In one game this year, against John Burroughs, CHS had a six to zero victory. Even though the team consists of girls of all different ages, they are learning how to work as a team and become better players individually.

Although the freshmen don't receive as much playing time as the seniors, they are all able to take direction from each other well.

"Since I'm defense I have to give direction," O'Neal said. "And since I'm a freshman they don't mind taking it from me at all."

To some members on the team playing time may mean everything, but to Woods, it's the opposite.

"Playing time isn't that important because I know I'm lucky to be on the team," Woods said. "Playing time or not, I know I'm becoming a better player, playing time is just a reward."

Even though some of the freshmen don't receive as much playing time as the seniors, being on the team means everything to them.

"It's nice to be able to see the team in the hallway wearing the same jersey as me. Being on the team has made me feel more connected," Wagner said. ☺



Meng Wang

Senior Olivia Hayes dashes through defenders on her way to goal. The girls' varsity soccer team is setting high standards in the hopes of winning districts at the end of the season.

Girls' varsity starts strong

The girls' varsity soccer team has started their season on the path to success. With two phenomenal captains, this team is unstoppable.

Schuyler Longmore
Reporter

The Clayton girls' varsity soccer team is off to a 4-2 start this season, and on the path to success. Team captains and seniors Kate Wheelock and Olivia Hayes lead the team, and lead by example.

The team has recently reworked their defense, and fit players into new spots.

"One of our big goals is to learn our new system of play and get better at it each game," Hayes said.

"We are emphasizing coming off the field having no regrets about how we played," Hayes said.

With a great team attitude, the team

is looking at the season optimistically.

"They set collective goals and take good care of each other," girls' varsity soccer coach Paul Hoelscher said. "The soccer team fosters a culture of winning and caring."

The team has already established a winning record, but there is always room for improvement.

Injuries have affected the team, but with a 6-0 win against John Burroughs April 11, the team is looking good at full strength.

"That was the first game where we had everyone healthy," said Hoelscher. "Once we get everyone on the pitch for a few games, we'll be in good form."

"Ultimately, we need to play with high energy the whole game," Hayes said. "We have to overwhelm our opponent with the desire to play hard and smart."

Hayes leads the team with her talent, but also with high energy and great effort.

"I can see us making amazing improvements by the time districts roll around," Hayes said.

The team has high hopes for districts this year, especially fortified by their responsibility of hosting the tournament at Clayton.

"Each year I've played we've gotten one step closer to winning districts,"

Hayes said.

Hayes is looking for a districts win to finish her career, but also to make up for last year.

"Losing in the finals last year was really tough," Hayes said. "It is definitely on everyone's mind to make that one extra step happen and win."

The team, with tons of senior talent, is at a peak year. With a talented senior class and hard work, the team is ready to show their abilities and succeed in the playoffs. Everyone is enthusiastic about the season.

"I would have given up coaching the girls years ago if they were not outstanding people," Hoelscher said. ☺



Meng Wang

Freshman Allison O'Neal dribbles the ball during a game.

Sarah Horn
Senior Managing Editor

For most Clayton sports the classic rival is Ladue. But for the water polo team, it all comes down to the University City game.

After losing to the closely matched team by one point twice, the third game was highly anticipated. The game was as back and forth as ever, with senior Tom Maxim scoring the sixth goal to put Clayton ahead.

U. City brought the score up to 6-5, but the Hounds managed to hold U. City off and win the game 6-5. The team agrees it was the team's largest accomplishment and most reveled victory.

"Our biggest accomplishment was beating U. City," senior Caitlin Bladt said. "Hands down. It took us three times playing them to finally beat them but it was one of the most fun games I've ever played in. We, the Clayton and U. City teams, all play SLAP (St. Louis Area Polo, a club team) together so those games are especially competitive. The first two times we played them, we lost 5-4, and the third time we won 6-5, so all three games have been really fun to play."

Senior and co-Captain Paden DuBois wholeheartedly agrees with Bladt.

"The best thing that's happened this season was when we beat U. City because we're friends with everyone on that team, and they beat us a couple times before," DuBois said.

The water polo team has had a mixed season so far with a record of 5-8. A smaller team, with almost no subs, the water polo teams work hard to play each game competitively.

"All of our players, even the JV guys, play the entire game, and sprinting around a pool for an hour is really hard," DuBois said. "Most teams have like 15 people each, but we have no subs, so our endurance is really good. Our lack of people is also a big weakness though,



Puhan Zhao

Freshman Julia Grasse advances the ball down the pool as junior Anjali Dharna follows.

since we can't get any breaks."

Senior and co-captain Tom Maxim agrees that a lack of players is a weakness for the team.

"Unfortunately, we do not have many athletes, and we don't have any subs on JV or Varsity," Maxim said. "Everyone has to play the entire game with no rest, and if anyone is unable to show up, we are forced to forfeit."

As the season progresses, the team seems to be improving. Despite being such a small team, the water polo squad has many strengths that enable them to be a competitive team in their district.

"Our strengths are that we've got a lot of extremely dedicated water polo players," Bladt said. "Every single member of our varsity team and two members of the JV team played SLAP during at least the summer and winter season."

Maxim also agrees that a dedicated team and playing as a team allows Clayton to improve as the season continues. As Districts and various other tournaments approach, Clayton will try to place as high as possible. Other than the District tournament, the Founder's Cup tournament is rapidly approaching. The water polo team is preparing for this tournament and hopes to succeed in winning as many games as possible. The team wishes to improve on certain areas of playing in order to do well in the upcoming tournament.

"We are playing in the Founder's Cup next week," Bladt said. "We've been having a lot of trouble with sloppy passing so we're really trying to get that together. As well as being able to get good shots off, which we haven't been able to do the last couple of games."

Junior and goalie Luke Madson agrees that passing seems to be a weakness that the team is trying to improve upon.

"While we play great defense as a team, passing and shooting on goal could be improved," Madson said. I can't pass very well to field players, but it's starting to improve especially in the last three games."

As Districts loom closer, the water polo team is putting in an extra effort in preparation and meeting their goals, especially getting a winning season.

"Our team's goals are to achieve a winning record and to place highly in the District tournament at the end of the year," Maxim said. "Although we play tough teams, I believe we will be successful and accomplish our goals." ☺

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SPRING BREAK BASEBALL TOUR: (from top to bottom) Senior Alex Hill takes a swing; Junior Gus Heil keeps score in the dugout; sophomore Chase Haslett warms up in the bullpen; Coach Craig Sucher gives a pep talk to three players, including junior Charles Goodman and sophomore Chase Haslett. ALL PHOTOS BY SCOTT SHAPIRO

New assistant coach adds tenacity, focus to varsity Hounds

After an unsuccessful spring break tournament, the baseball Hounds are on a roll, beating Ladue and winning four in a row.

Fontasha Powell
Senior Managing Editor

After losing three games at a tournament in Nashville, Tenn., the Clayton Baseball Hounds are turning it around with a recent four-game winning streak.

Senior utility infielder Max Freedman has been on the varsity team for three years, and played with varsity as a freshman. Freedman thinks that the season is taking a turn for the better.

"We lost three games in the Tennessee tournament, all of which were to the state champions in their respective districts," Freedman said. "That was pretty rough, but now we're starting to progress."

Sophomore pitcher, catcher and outfielder Chase Haslett agreed with Freedman.

"We started off our season losing the first six games or so and that brought our confidence down a little," Haslett said. "Going down to Tennessee for our team trip and losing our first game with everyone there 19-0 isn't much of a confidence booster. But other than that we have been playing well lately."

Freedman believes that due to the first few losses, the team needs to overcome psychological barriers.

"I would say that our problems are more mental errors than physical errors," Freedman said. "And that's just stuff that gets better as the season goes on and we play more games."

Senior first base Syd Warner believes that the losses were due to the very competitive teams that they played in the beginning of the season. He also believes that the team struggles with a few fundamentals.

"We played some really tough competition," Warner said. "But we are struggling to do the basics that will keep us in games. We aren't doing things we should be perfect at, like the signs, base running and easy fielding plays."

The team also dealt with injuries from a few key players early on in the season.

"At the beginning of the season A. [Alex] Hill was struggling and [Matt] Militello was injured and sick," Freedman said. "Also D. Schless [David Schlessman] has been a warrior this year. Even though he's been hurt, he's showing up to every practice and bringing a ton of class."

With the recent three game winning

streak, the season is starting to look up.

"We won our last three games," Warner said. "It's pretty early on in the season and we haven't really started playing games in our district and conference. We've got a lot of time left to get better and we are slowly but surely improving."

Warner continued.

"Our hitting is doing fine and our fielding overall is doing all right," Warner said. "At points our pitchers are sometimes struggling but not really. Our lineup from the first through ninth hitter is really solid. We can get a rally going pretty easily. Also, our base running has been solid. We've been good at being aggressive and putting ourselves in position to score."

Another high point for the team has been the fact that Freedman has recently been named Post Dispatch's Athlete of the Week.

Freedman, however, does not capitalize on his own success, but is thankful that some of the younger varsity players have been playing at their best.

"After losing some key senior players last year, like Mark Heil, we've had a lot of people really step up, like Chase [Haslett], Steve [Steven] Yamada and [Charles] Goodman," Freedman said. "At first, I think that some of the new players were freaked out [at the varsity level]."

Freedman also attributes some of the team's recent success to the new assistant coach, Justin Harris.

"An addition to the team this year was coach Justin Harris from Louisiana," Freedman said. "He brings a new flavor to the program. He's all about tenacity and making us more focused during games. He's brought a lot of new beneficial things to the Clayton baseball program."

Still, the players have various goals that they would like to see met by their teammates.

"I would like to see our team beat tough teams and play better as a team," Warner said. "Baseball can be a real individual one on one battle but overall you have to win as a team."

Haslett remains optimistic.

"Overall, after playing some very competitive baseball in Tennessee, we have been doing all right," Haslett said. "We will continue to improve with our coaches pushing us. There is a lot of baseball to be played." ☺

Baseball spring break tournament proves disappointing

Christian Thomas
Reporter

During the last weekend of spring break, the varsity baseball team spent a lot of time together.

"We spent three days in Murfreesboro, Tenn.," senior first baseman/pitcher Scott Shapiro said. This is Shapiro's second season on the varsity team.

"The goal was to gain game time experience and promote team chemistry,"

senior outfielder Syd Warner said.

Although suffering an 0-3 record, the two feel this was a positive experience overall.

"The three losses came to the best teams we will see all year," Warner said. "We also came together and learned to play together as a team."

Shapiro doesn't think the three losses reflected how well the team actually played.

"The competition was difficult, playing against multiple time state champi-



ons as well as schools who invest a lot of money and time into baseball," Shapiro said.

The two had mixed reviews on the future of the Tennessee trip for Clayton baseball.

"I don't know if it was worth the money," Shapiro said. "The team paid over \$1000 for just 15 innings"

Warner disagreed, saying, "I would recommend it in the future to all Clayton baseball teams. It has helped us with the success we have had this season and can

do the same for future Clayton teams."

Currently, the baseball team is on a four-game winning streak and defeated rival, Ladue 3-2. Ladue is in the top five for large schools this season.

"It was a big win for us," Warner said. "Everyone made great contributions, and we pulled through. I also hit a homerun and that was really cool."

The team hopes to build on its current success and win districts this year, a goal that both agree is challenging, yet manageable. ☺

March Madness inspires fans

Chelsea Cousins
Reporter

The National College Athletics Association opens many eyes to the world of college basketball and to many of the surprises that come with it. However, as the 2009 March Madness ends, many students at Clayton High School reflect on the games that have sports fans talking.

"I think the intense competition and never knowing the outcome of the games brings a lot of the excitement," junior Michelle Cooper said.

Despite the overwhelming number of college basketball fans, the NCAA tournaments attracted both students and high school sports fans. Overall, there is a wide range of people throughout the audience.

"I think one of the major reasons that people support and watch the NCAAs is because they are striving to be professional athletes themselves," sophomore Erin Bax said, "and by watching the college teams play it inspires them do better."

With participating teams of the NCAA serving as inspiration to CHS students, it is easy for some students to both idolize and recognize fellow basketball players.

"My favorite team to watch is definitely the UConn Huskies, both men and women," Cooper said, "but the best players would have to be AJ Price and Renee Montgomery."

Other students show a deeper interest in other teams.

"My favorite team so far would have to be the North Carolina Tarheels (men's division)," freshman Clayton Buchanan said, "because I feel they put a lot on the table."

While some students reflect on the game quality, others recognize the purpose behind the different colleges merging together.

"To me, March Madness is about getting to watch all the different teams come together and fight for what they believe is theirs," Cooper said. "The best part of actually sitting in the stands at one of the games is the intensity and excitement of the crowd and the fact that you have the opportunity to see the players hard at work and in person."

Students come to realize the thrill of sharing the experience with hundreds of other fans leaves you with a whole new burst of energy.

"It's obvious there was a really good competition this year," Buchanan said, "but there was no surprise in who would come out on top."

Other students had a different point of view; their perspectives of the NCAA tournaments were more positive.

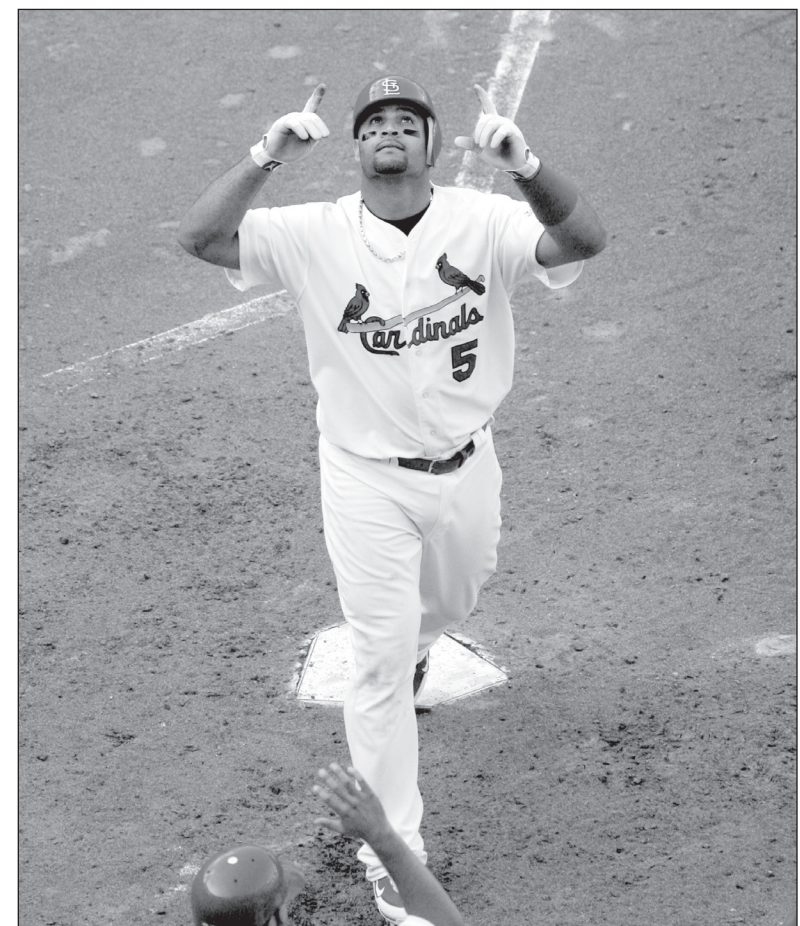
"It was amazing to have the chance to see UConn win with a perfect season," Bax said.

Although not every team was successful, many CHS sports fans won't let that affect their athletic future.

"Watching the NCAA motivates me to do what I feel is necessary because watching other people do well makes me want to do things even better," Bax said.

In fact, while remaining on top of their game during the winter basketball season, the NCAA definitely had its hold on our Greyhounds. Students also bragged on about their futures.

"After actually being able to experience the NCAA tournaments, it made me want to go pick up a basketball and start practicing for next year," Cooper said. "It also makes me want to play in college." ☺



Cardinal first baseman Albert Pujols celebrates as crosses home plate with a grand slam in the seventh inning against the Chicago Cubs on April 25. The Cardinals won, 8-2.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Cards look promising

Tom Evashwick
Reporter

If the Cardinals can beat the Dominican Republic, they can certainly beat the Chicago Cubs.

The Cardinals had a .613 win percentage during spring training, giving many hope for a successful season this year.

Off-season acquisition Khalil Greene, who hit .408 in the spring, is looking to have a comeback year after a dismal 2008 campaign with San Diego.

But here is the real surprise--Albert Pujols is having a good season. Although it is unlikely he will climb back up to the .600 average he hit during the first week of the season, it will actually be surprising if he doesn't stay around last year's .357 batting average.

Even Allen Craig, a 24 year-old prospect, hit .440 for the Redbirds in 27 at-bats in Jupiter.

Rick Ankiel's feel good story continued during the spring, when he hit .330 in 88 at-bats.

Skip Schumaker had a solid spring, hitting .287 and had a great .948 fielding percentage and turned 14 double plays considering that he was learning second base.

Yadi Molina had yet another gold glove campaign. He even received the call up for Puerto Rico in the World Baseball Classic.

Reliever Josh Kinney posted a razor-thin 0.79 ERA, giving hope that the bullpen can improve for this season.

Closer-by-committee member Jason Motte also posted a great ERA at 1.46,

but after blowing the save on the first day of the season, he has started the regular season on the back foot.

Joel Pineiro and Chris Carpenter both posted ERA's around 1.50, so they look to carry that same success into the season. However, Carpenter has gone on the disabled list after straining a rib, so he may be continuing on last season's pace -- having the training room as a second home.

Staff star Kyle Lohse let up 4.55 runs per nine innings, so he hopes to turn his fortunes around for 2009 campaign.

With the All-Star game in St. Louis this year, there is a good chance that Yadi, Carpenter, and possibly even Lohse could be playing 163 games during the regular season...Albert may have an outside chance as well.

Unfortunately, the competition is getting tougher from within the division. Chicago has added all-star Milton Bradley, Cincinnati's Jay Bruce continues to develop, and hall-of-famer to be Pudge Rodriguez is manning the backstop in Houston this year. Not even to mention the Brewers' sensations Ryan Braun and Prince Fielder, and Milwaukee has added Trevor Hoffman at the end of games to ensure the victories.

While the road to October may not be easy, the Cardinals can definitely push the rest of the division to the breaking point.

After the Blues came back from cellar dwellers to a playoff team, the city is hoping the Cardinals will improve from last year and contend for a playoff spot this season. ☺

Girls' lacrosse progresses with new coach and players



Sophomore Erica Hill evades an opposing player while running with the ball.

Andrew Dowd

Caroline Stamp
Reporter

Lacrosse is back. The girls' varsity lacrosse team is back with new players, a new coach and new techniques to help improve their game.

"We are in a learning period from last year because we have a new coach and a lot of new players," junior Shelby Sternberg said. "It's just a different coaching style so it's hard to get used to."

Christina Perrino, the new varsity coach, was previously the girls' lacrosse coach for Ladue. She is taking the team back to basics and is focusing on stick work.

"This year in practice we do more drills," junior Rebecca Swarm said. "We do a lot of fundamentals, and they are always a good thing to work on."

The team is half way through the season and is learning to adjust and focus on game strategy and skills.

"Right now our weaknesses are in the midfield transition," Swarm said. "I think once we get those down our game will be a lot more solid."

A large part of the game is ground balls. These can help and hurt the team

in turnovers. This year, the team has learned a new technique to win more ground balls and improve the game.

"For ground balls you have to get really low to the ground, and to do that you have to choke up on the stick with your hands toward the head of the stick," junior Jen Maylack said. "This year instead we were taught to keep one hand at the top and one at the bottom so if you win the ball you can go straight into a cradle."

No other varsity Clayton lacrosse team had played uses this new technique of ground balls. This gives the girls a leg up on the game and improves their stick skills.

"I was just re-teaching them the way I learned how to do ground balls," Perrino said. "It is actually more beneficial in keeping the ball."

With a new coach and a transition year, the team is trying new positions and working on other aspects of the game like teamwork and communication.

"I am a defender but I've been playing up in the middle and as attack," Sternberg said. "Also Erin Bax has really stepped up as a great attack on varsity." Communication is always a vital

part of every sport and the lacrosse team works their communication to their advantage.

"I think we have really good communication and teamwork," Maylack said.

Although the varsity team only has two seniors, the team has stepped up and is looking forward to having a strong number of seniors next year.

"It will be sad to lose our two seniors," Perrino said. "But then again we are only losing two so there is still a lot of room to grow and I think we will have a phenomenal next couple of years."

The varsity team has an abundant amount of juniors and is ready to grow and transition into a stronger team for next year.

"I really like that there are so many juniors because we have been playing together for a while," Maylack said. "Also next year on senior night we can field a whole team."

Through all the new things added to the team, the girls have come though and are excited for the rest of the season.

"As the season goes on we are only getting more adjusted to each other," Perrino said. "And we will keep on improving our game." ☺

Girls' track builds upon potential talent and team unity

Ellie Bullard
Senior Editor

The girls' track team's lack of seniority isn't stopping it from succeeding this season.

The team hopes to qualify for state and improve new talent. Coach Barry Ford is an asset in this season as he has been a coach for the track team for the past 20 years. His experience, however, contrasts with that of the current team which only has two seniors.

"This year's team is made up of many freshman and sophomores," Ford said. "The team is led by Simone Bernstein, Kylyn Walker, Leah Johnson, Payton Sciaratta, Kayla Brown Sydney Wright, Brittney Byrth and Traci Walker. Although these runners lead we have a great supporting cast like Taylor Kloha, Di Luo, Moriah Olschansky, Marguerite Daw, Caitlin Kropp, Briah Arms, Anat Gross and many more."

The team has been coping with lack of experience well this year, especially as the season progresses.

"This year's season has been going pretty well," senior Mary Barber said. "There is a lot of young talent which is really developing as the season continues."

Having young blood on the team has been beneficial as the younger runners have proven to be very flexible. Flexibility is important in track as there are a plethora of events to fill in each track meet.

"So far so good we have a lot of freshmen on the team who are putting forth their best and are willing to do any event," senior Kylyn Walker. "A freshman named Payton [has been doing well]. She's a long distance runner but she also does a little bit of sprinting with no complaints at all. All of the freshmen

are making their mark on the track."

Developing potential talent like Payton should help to create a solid foundation for future years.

"If this year's team stay together for the next year or two they will return to the glory years," Ford said.

Right now the team is very tight-knit. Hopefully that closeness will carry on to future years and the team will maintain a meaningful bond. The team is able to cheer each other on and encourage each other to do their best.

"Some are better than me so they make me put forth my best," Walker said. "We are like a big family, we joke around a lot but when it comes down to it we can be serious and able to cheer each other on."

The coaches are contribute to the track family as well.

"I love the girls, they are awesome," Barber said. "Practices are so fun and laid back. The coaches are a lot of fun. Coach Ford is great with the runners and Mr. Rust has taught me everything I know about throwing the discus. The team gets along great, there is no division between the grades. Everyone has filled a role and does it well."

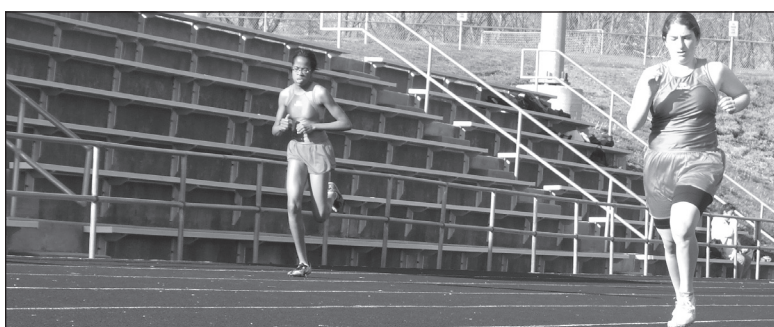
All of the girls have goals for the team and for themselves as individuals.

"My personal goal is to become a better runner without getting hurt and to be able to high jump at least 5 feet," Walker said. "My team goal is to go state with the speed we have."

Barber hopes to qualify for state as well in discus.

"My goal is to throw 100 feet in discus, to hopefully qualify for state," Barber said. "As a team, we would like to regain the status Clayton had a few years back, to become one of the top competitors in our district again."

The team is developing throughout



Top Left: Simone Bernstein races behind Payton Sciaratta. Right: Simone Bernstein and Payton Sciaratta wait to start a race. Bottom Left: Anat Gross runs ahead of Jenna Hayes.

this season which will hopefully provide a sound basis for the team in years to come.

"We are in the rebuilding stage and my goals are to get better each week," Ford said. "So far I am very satisfied."

Overall, track is an has been a posi-

tive experience.

"[I like] meeting new people and getting in shape," Walker said. "Each year I am able to cut down my time and try new events."

Ford values seeing both tangible and intangible changes in his team.



"What I like most about track is helping my athletes get better and teaching them to believe in themselves."

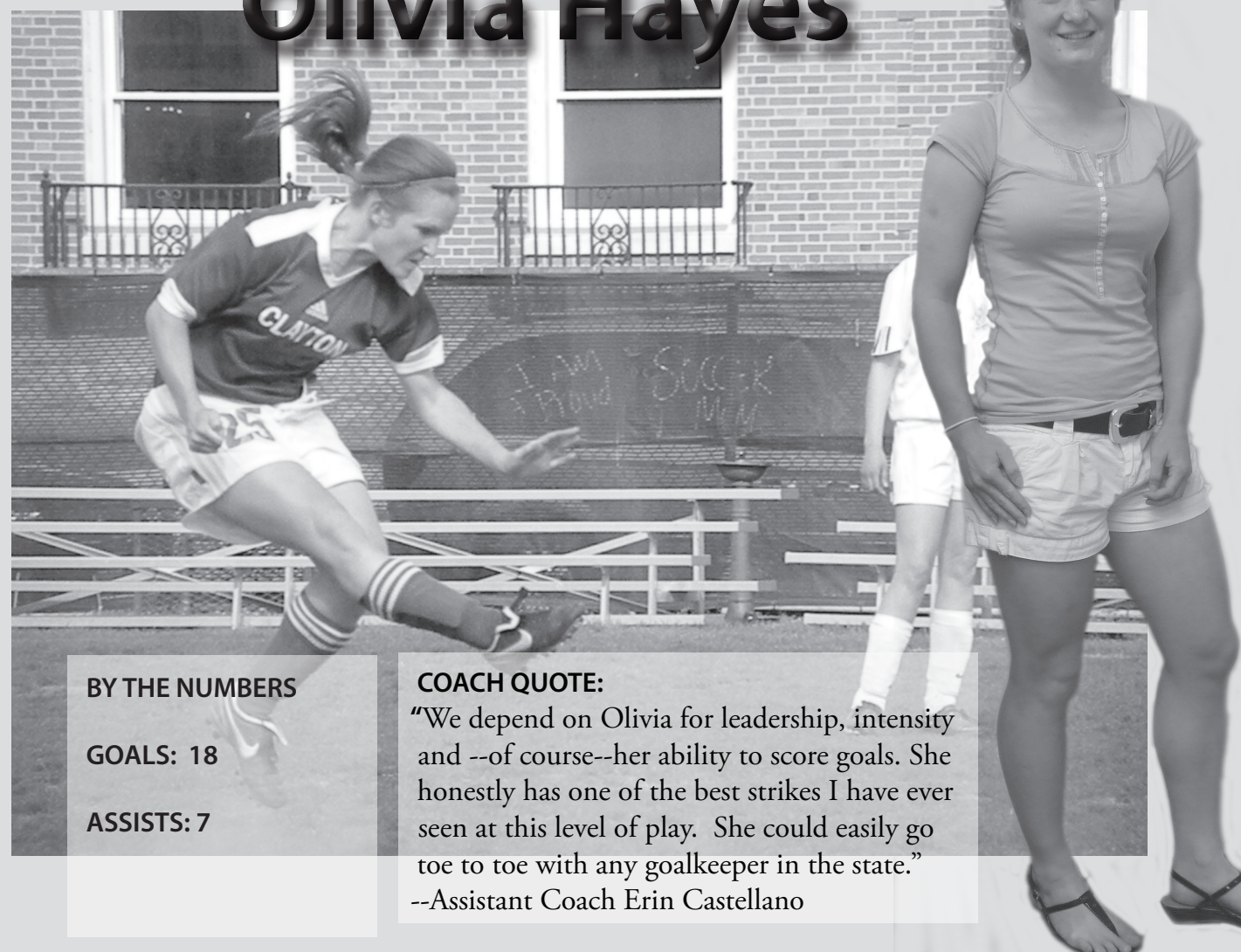
Most of all, however, the team hopes that by becoming a cohesive unit and working hard, they will regain the status that they have had in years past. With

the support of the rest of CHS, hopefully the team will reach their ultimate goals.

The team has its next meet at the Vicki Reeve Invitational at Parkway South High School on Saturday, May 2 at 9 a.m. ☺

Athlete of the Month

Olivia Hayes



BY THE NUMBERS

GOALS: 18

ASSISTS: 7

COACH QUOTE:

"We depend on Olivia for leadership, intensity and --of course--her ability to score goals. She honestly has one of the best strikes I have ever seen at this level of play. She could easily go toe to toe with any goalkeeper in the state."

--Assistant Coach Erin Castellano

Senior co-captain leads soccer team

Senior Olivia Hayes serves as a great leader for the Varsity girls soccer team. With her ferocious offensive skills and determination, Hayes approaches landmark statistics and is the Athlete of the Month.

Schuyler Longmore
Reporter

With 13 goals and five assists in just seven games, Olivia Hayes is off to a remarkable start with the Clayton girls' varsity soccer team. Hayes, who has been playing soccer since second grade, is a four-year varsity starter and a great contribution to the team.

Hayes, now a senior, plays forward and leads the team in points. Hayes made the Honorable Mention All-Metro list her sophomore and junior years at Clayton, but has to wait until the end of the season for any accolades achieved this year. Hayes also set the single season goal record her sophomore year with 28 goals.

She is a team captain alongside fellow senior Kate Wheelock, and is also an important leader on the team.

"Olivia leads by example," girls' varsity soccer coach Paul Hoelscher said. Hayes displays a potent combination of talent and hard work.

"It's a good sign when your best players are your hardest workers."

Hayes and her fellow seniors, many of whom have varsity experience, have been playing together for four years.

"Along with the other group of se-

niors, she has a great attitude," Hoelscher said.

A good group of hardworking seniors has greatly helped the varsity team start with a 4-2 record.

In an early season game against Normandy, Hayes accumulated five goals hinting at her ability to reach new landmarks this season.

"It would be a milestone if she got 100 goals," Hoelscher said. "A rare feat in high school soccer."

Hayes has always been a goal scorer, but this season is her chance to set a new record.

"Plenty of players get 28-30 in a year, but nobody nets 100 in a career," Hoelscher said. "She needs 16 goals in about as many games."

Hayes is still in the middle of the season and looking to finish her high school career on a high note. Looking for 100 career goals and success at districts, Hayes and the team are optimistic about the season.

Hayes proves to be an outstanding player on a squad of great soccer players, and their collective good attitude is fostering hopes for great success. She plans to attend Truman State in the fall and play division II soccer. ☺

Boys' lacrosse team works through obstacles, loss of players

Katherine Greenburg
Reporter

The lacrosse team lost many varsity players going into this year's season, but that has not stopped them from working to make this team even better than the team from the last season.

"We lost a lot of seniors that were a big part of the team," junior Max Goldfarb said. "We are struggling to find our identity and come together as a team."

Junior Jordan Stern echoes this sentiment.

"We lost a lot of seniors," Stern said. "I think that when any team goes through a big change like that it takes a while for the team to get its stride back."

One struggle for the team is forming the new lineup. With so many seniors out of the starting lineup, people have had to switch positions in order to make a strong line up.

"With the losses of so many seniors some people had to step up and play differently," junior Tom Evashwick said. "In order for the team to benefit people had to try out different positions and see who worked the best in them."

The lacrosse team's record is 3-3 in conference as of April 20.

One thing that is different this year is the coaching staff, with head coaches, Mike O'Brian and Brian Smith, and four assistant coaches Ben Hjelle, Brooks McGee, Clayton Cummings and

Ryan Dubro.

"One thing that has improved this year is the coaching staff," Stern said. "We have so many coaches with a lot of experience so it's easy to find someone to talk or help you."

Sophomore Josh Goldstein is happy with the number of coaches on the coaching staff.

"The best thing about the coaching staff is the way they can pump us up before a game," Goldstein said.

The coaches are always pushing the team to its limits.

"We try not to mess up," Evashwick said. "Because then Brian makes us run."

This year the captains on the team are Andrew Dowd, Jordan Stern, Josh Goldstein and Max Goldfarb.

"I like our captains because you can tell they really care about how well we do," junior Scott Morrison said. "They always are pushing us to work hard and improve so we can do better."

"Although we started out the season a little rocky, we've been doing a lot of team building activities," Goldfarb said. "We are really trying to come together as a team."

Team dinners are an important ritual for the lacrosse team.

"One thing we do to improve team morale is team dinners," Stern said. "Team dinners and activities are an easy way to improve the team."

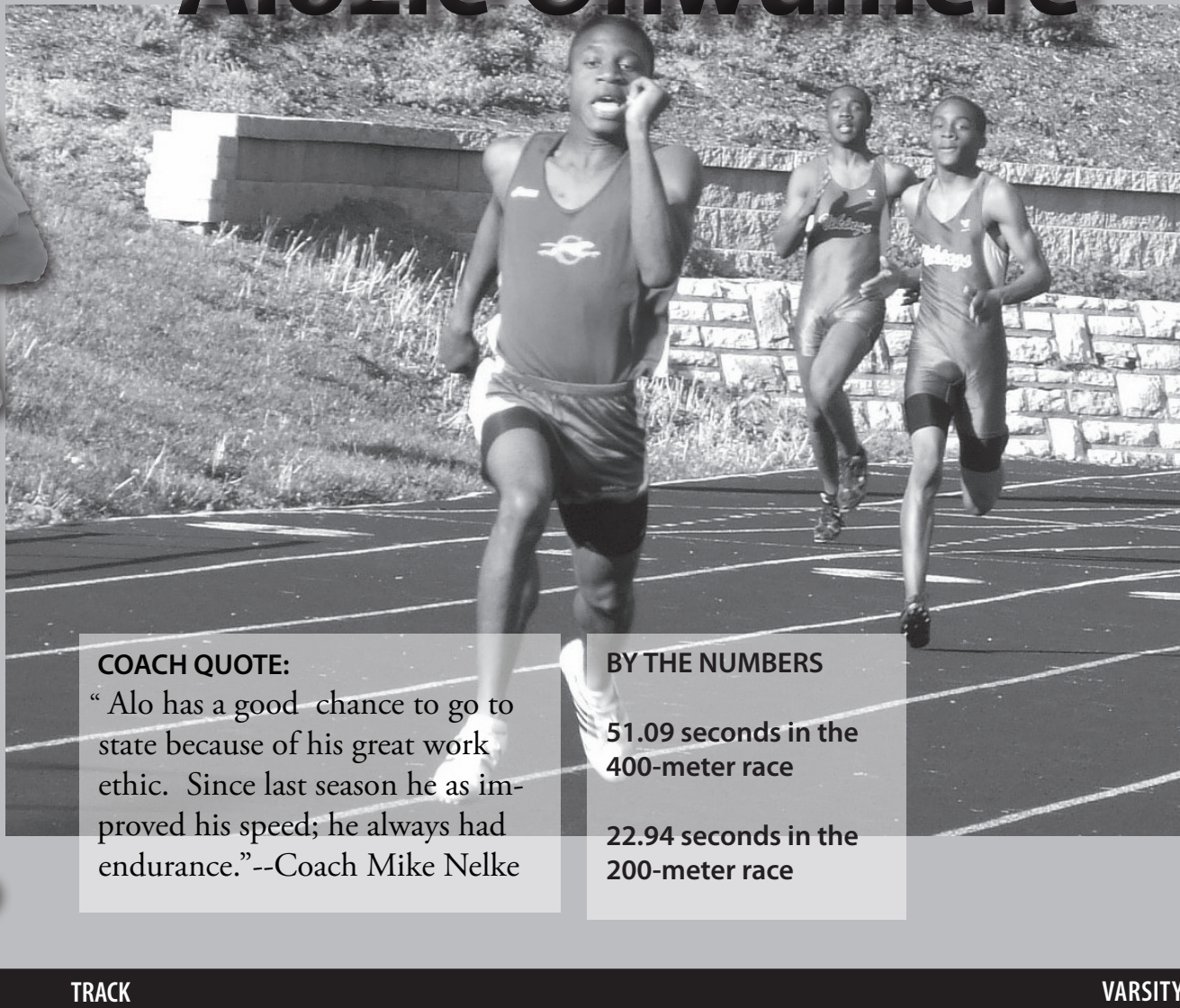


The CHS boys lacrosse team huddles in for a final pep talk before the start of a game. As of April 20, the greyhounds boast a 3-3 record.

Izzy Fratt

Athlete of the Month

Alozie Onwumere



COACH QUOTE:

"Alo has a good chance to go to state because of his great work ethic. Since last season he has improved his speed; he always had endurance." --Coach Mike Nelke

BY THE NUMBERS

51.09 seconds in the 400-meter race

22.94 seconds in the 200-meter race

TRACK

VARSITY

Track star sprints to victory

Evan Green
Editor

This season, there are a lot of new faces for the CHS boys' track team. Junior Alozie Onwumere is not one of them. He is, however, the new face of the program.

Last week, Onwumere established himself as one of the elite area track athletes, running a 51.09 in the 400-meter race as well as a 22.94 in the 200-meter race during a meet at Clayton.

Both times were personal bests, and placed his 400-meter time as the top among area small schools, and the 200-meter time as fourth in area small schools. Onwumere's previous best time in the 400 was 51.7.

"The difference between this year and last year is the fact that I feel a lot better and healthier," Onwumere said. "We have a new mentality and guys are actually showing up to practice regularly. Everyone is taking practice more seriously and it's paying off. We are always pushing each other and giving it everything we have."

In addition his healthy attitude, off-season workouts lead to Onwumere coming into the season in much better shape.

"I weight lifted and ran in the winter in order to prepare for the season," On-

wumere said.

With such good times, and the fact that he is only a junior, the question must be asked, how much better will Onwumere become?

"I really need to improve my starts," Onwumere said. "I feel like I haven't had a very good start in the 200-meter

race, but the start is more important in the 200-meter. If I could get my starts down, I could run a 22.5 or better. I mean one part of the starts is being loose. Carrie says I need to stretch more, but I keep telling her I am not flexible because I have so much muscle that it gets in the way of me stretching."

Even though Onwumere believes there are several things he still needs to improve, there have obviously been many aspects of his overall approach to running that have allowed him to be successful this season.

"I feel like I have been more confident and for the most part I have been able to

set the pace in the 400-meter, then use my kick in the end," Onwumere said.

With such success lately, Onwumere is just one step closer to completing the goals that he set for himself at the start of the season.

"I just wanted to improve my times, win the Marion Freeman Invitational in the 400-meter race, get past districts, and make it to state in both of my races," Onwumere said.

With one goal complete, the junior will now turn his focus to the Marion Freeman Invitational, one of the biggest meets in the area that will be held May 1 to May 3. Last year, Onwumere placed second in the 400-meter race, and is looking to improve on that finish this year.

When it comes to opposition, Onwumere generally tends to focus on anything that he can control, but he already knows that the path has been slightly differed to his advantage this season.

"Most of my big district opponents

have graduated, but if I had to pick one person that will be the toughest to beat, right now it is (Berkeley senior) Willie Williams," Onwumere said. "I raced him once last year and barely beat him and he's back and this is his last year, so I know he will be giving it everything he has. I haven't raced him this year but I expect to see him in the Marion Freeman, the conference meet, and then districts. There's probably somebody from Ladue because they have a good track program but I am not really worried about any scrub from Ladue."

With Onwumere competing in two races, many people ask him which he prefers to run.

"Right now, it's the 400, because I've been running it since freshman year, and I am still getting used to the 200, but I like them both, I am just a little better in the 400," Onwumere said.

As for college, Onwumere would like to run then, but that matter is to be discussed another day. For now, Onwumere must remain focused on the goal at hand this year. That goal being to win his races in the district meet and to be successful at the state competition. With such natural ability, Onwumere has an exceptional chance to do just that, and in turn, restore glory to the CHS track program.

Hockey nationals prove thrilling for players, audience

Sam Jacus
Reporter

With less than half of 1 percent of hockey players ever having the opportunity to reach nationals, Clayton seemed to beat the odds this past season. Over the week of March 30, Clayton had three players all vying for the national title.

Two of the players, sophomore Cory Cannon and junior Connor Dougan, vied for the title locally. The fan support was evident with lots of students taking the short 20-minute drive out to the Chesterfield Ice Complex. All throughout the week the complex was crowded with fans and players coming from all around the country.

All three of the players play for the Afton Americans. Cannon and Dougan play for the under 16 team and Jacus plays for the under 14 team.

The stands were packed and parking was virtually impossible to find. People came from all around the country to witness the under 16 national tournament. As St. Louis played host to the under 16 national tournament, other places around the country like Dallas played host to another age groups' nationals. The under 14 national tournament is where the other Clayton High School player freshman Gabe Jacus was during nationals week.

Both Jacus and Cannon are returning to nationals for their second time. They both have joyful and depressing memories of nationals from the previous season.

Both Cannon and Jacus feel that there are televised.

"One big difference this year than from last year other than how we did it that people around the country could watch all of our games online," Cannon said.

Another difference, according to both Cannon and Jacus, was the feeling they had when they first arrived at nationals.

"The feeling of returning to nationals was unbelievable," freshman Gabe Jacus said. "Going to nationals the first time was an awesome feeling, but the second time the feeling seemed to shrivel in comparison."

The festivities are another difference that Cannon noticed during this year's trip to nationals. According to Cannon

the difference in festivities might be due to the locations. His previous trip to nationals was in New Jersey during which his team got to travel to New York City, see the sights, and also stay in a hotel. This time around nationals was here in town, so there were no new sights to see. Staying at home is just not the same as staying in a hotel.

However, not everything was different. Both Cannon and Jacus felt that the pressure to win was still lurking around.

"When you get there you know that you are the best team in the region and with this chance you can prove that you are on the best team in the nation," Dougan said.

Like Dougan, Cannon had similar feelings about the opportunity. However, with this being his second trip to nationals it was almost as if this had to be the year to win.

While watching the games it was evident that expectations were running high and players seemed to be even more nervous than ever.

"Every time the other team would touch the puck we were tense and nervous," Jacus said.

If you happened to glance at the benches none of the players were sitting. Everyone was standing and jumping. The game was like a rollercoaster ride for the fans. After jumping to their feet with apprehension or with excitement, the fans would eventually sit down only to be brought back up on the feet moments later as the tide turned.

Junior Connor Dougan is the other Clayton High School student to make it to nationals this past season. As he experienced his first encounter with nationals, Dougan thought that it would have been different.

"It was nice to miss school, but it felt weird being in St. Louis for nationals even though Saint Louis is one of the top hockey towns," Dougan said. "The experience was great. I was just surprised at the atmosphere."

Players noted that the atmosphere was different from that of an out-of-town tournament because there was less team bonding or team time and more down time at their houses.

Clayton hockey players truly embraced their experiences at nationals.

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SLUCare
The Physicians of Saint Louis University

1. A group of police officers portrayed by CHS students perform on stage. 2. Junior Will Schedl strikes a pose. 3. Junior Ellen Spann as Miss Pennywise in a rush to use the restroom. 4. A melange of police officers, Miss Pennywise, Mr. Cladwell and Hope Cladwell perform. 5. Senior Dylan Cockson's character, Mr. Cladwell, Hope (Rebecca Singer), Dr. Billeux (Neda Svrakic), Mrs. Millenium (Jazmyne Adams) and a couple of police officers perform the song "Mr. Cladwell". 6. Freshman Fergus Inder performs amidst a group of fellow cast members. 7. Cockson and sophomore Sarah McAfee share a scene during the performance of "Don't Be The Bunny". 8. Singer and Inder, as Hope and Bobby, respectively, star as two young adults in love. 9. Junior Hannah Klein and the rest of the cast perform the song "Tell Her I Love Her". 10. A protest is portrayed during the rebellion that occurs toward the end of the musical. 11. Senior Jazmyne Adams, who portrayed the character Mrs. Millenium, holds bags of money as an executive of Urine Good Company. 12. Cockson portrays Cladwell in an ominous fashion. 13. Svrakic, as Dr. Billeux and Senior Hannah Novack share a scene during the musical. 14. Bobby Strong, portrayed by Inder, is covered with a sac before being thrown off a building during the song "Why Did I Listen To That Man?"



URINETOWN: THE MUSICAL

Bianca Vannucci
Reporter

Having never actually heard of "Urinetown: the musical," the title left me thinking it would be a musical full of toilet humor, something I would simply not be mature enough to handle. I couldn't have been more surprised.

"Urinetown," as its narrator made sure to remind me throughout the production, is not a happy musical. It takes on the heavy task of satirizing most of today's society, focusing especially on getting a few laughs out of capitalism.

"Urinetown" tells the story of a mysterious town, where due to water shortage, people have to pay to pee. The "Urine Good Company" is in charge of providing the public restrooms, but has corruptly been running the corporation on the motto: "It's a privilege to pee."

In the beginning, the "good versus bad" of the play is clear. The naïve heroes are the characters of Bobby Strong (played by Fergus Inder), a poor dreamy boy, and Hope Cladwell (Rebecca Singer), the corporation head's daughter whereas the antagonists are of course those who work at the corporation.

As the musical continues though, the plot takes a few unexpected twists, answering the question, "Don't you think people want to be told that their way of life is unsustainable?"

Completely student run, Urinetown, was directed by seniors Mariah Smith and Nathan Crall, who obviously did an amazing job casting as well as directing. The cast kept the audience in awe and "aww"ing for the full two hours. Sophomore John Holland, who managed to be chewing on a toothpick in his mouth and speaking with a hilarious accent at the same time, played the narrator.

Other hilarious casting choices include sophomore Sarah McAfee and junior Ellen Spann who shared the role of Ms. Pennywise, the mysterious and tough keeper of one of the poorest urinals in town and Dylan Cockson as Caldwell B. Cladwell, the head of Urine Good Company. Despite a few clear main characters, the whole cast of the musical managed to stand out as unique characters.

Little Sally (played by junior Hannah Klein) is an example of this distinctive use of characters, questioning the logic of the play as well as the narrator throughout the musical. Her character's conversations with the narrator, repeatedly remind the audience of what is realistic, and that this is NOT a happy musical.

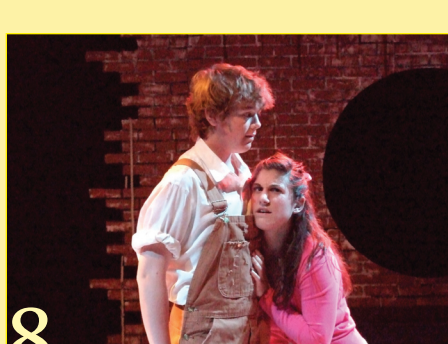
Hilariously put, "Love has a much a chance of surviving as a baby bunny" in this musical. Despite all these necessary warning signs from the narrator, I held on to the hope of a happy ending, until I realized this musical was simply too realistic for it.

The audience might have a hard time giving up the hope for a happy ending considering all the upbeat songs, which were played excellently by the play's musical director, sophomore Ian Miller and choreographed in an equally professional way by junior Nicholas Oliveri.

Hearing the audience's comments during the play, I couldn't help but notice a recurring theme in the comments, "This looks like a professional musical," or "I cannot believe they did this all by themselves." But also, as previously stated, "This can't be the ending. But it had such good happy songs!"

The satire in this musical has many lessons to teach. Realistically, "no one is innocent" and "freedom is scary." Hilarious, smart, and amazingly cast and performed, Urinetown contained little or none of that crude toilet humor that the title had misled me to fear.

A really worthwhile musical, I know I wasn't the only one who by the end of the musical had tears down her face, both from crying and laughing. ☺



ARTS FAIR: "Olympics"

The event took place on April 7 and went smoothly, showing the generous spirit of all CHS students involved.

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April 28, 2009



Cody teaches his AP German class. His style of teaching focuses on interaction with the language. CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Cody, seniors Tim Smith and Ben Stamp; juniors Danny Steinberg, Tom Evashwick and Ken Zheng.

Cody leaving as German program ends

After 18 years at CHS, German teacher Glenn Cody plans to move home to Michigan. Cody will see current students to the end of the curriculum through video conferences.

Ken Zheng
Editor

After 18 years of dedication at CHS, German teacher Glenn Cody, who is also World Language District Coordinator, will be retiring at the end of this year. Cody has been a German teacher for 31 years.

"The greatest challenge of teaching is motivating students to want to learn," Cody said. "At this level, you can't just walk into a classroom and teach. You have to convince them that the material you're teaching is worth learning. That's the greatest challenge of being a teacher at this level."

Cody was largely responsible for bringing Chinese to the district last year. Cody believes that language is very gratifying to teach.

"I teach languages because it's one of the few disciplines where you can immediately see the results of what you teach," Cody said. "When I teach someone how to say something and I hear them use it in class or on a worksheet, then it's very gratifying to see what you've taught them immediately."

Cody and the Language Department understand the importance of language in communicating with other cultures.

"[The World Language Department] believes that learning at least one other

language is important for a variety of reasons," Cody said. "First off, it enables students to have an easier time learning another language, but also we believe that since many cultural differences are manifest in the way people speak, the only way to understand another culture is to learn their language. This gives people a glimpse of each other's cultures and the ways they think."

Cody plans on retiring to his farm in Michigan, where he is originally from. He has never liked the humid summers in St. Louis. Cody is certified in German and Spanish and almost certified in math. He's thinking about teaching one of those subjects. His family is Native American, and he's anxious to be close to them.

"I'm anxious to live in the country and to grow plants," Cody said "I might teach part-time in Michigan."

In Cody's long career, he has taught many students. Among them is junior Cynthia Koehler, whom he met when she was in eighth grade. Koehler skipped from German II into AP German.

"He was very good about talking to me and making sure if I had any problems," Koehler said. "He enriched my learning of my languages a lot. He's one of the best teachers I've had during my time at CHS. He cares a lot about his

students and the fact that we learn. He's very down-to-earth about his teaching and for the most part emphasizes conversational learning over busywork. He emphasizes experiencing the language itself instead of just reading it out of a book. I hope he enjoys his retirement as much as possible and I will miss him a lot."

Elizabeth Caspari, French teacher and World Languages Department Chair, met Cody when she arrived at Clayton in January of 1993, one year after he began teaching here.

"Herr Cody has been a close friend of mine for many years, so I have so many great memories," Caspari said. "In our early days in Clayton, Herr Cody taught German and math. Why math?

At the time, we didn't have enough German classes for a full-time job. Over the years, Herr Cody built up the German program to the point where we needed two teachers. Later, when he and

I attended graduate classes together at UMSL, I learned how much he knows about history. For any point raised by a teacher, Herr Cody knew more about history than the teacher. I really think he could have taught that as well."

Caspari also commends Cody's academic excellence in teaching German.

"Herr Cody is a fabulous educator," Caspari said. "Year after year I see his students past and present come in to thank him for all he has done for them."

The students know that he is not only an expert teacher, but cares deeply about each and every one of them. Furthermore, a few years ago he was recognized for having the best AP German results in the world

that year. I speak for everyone in our department when I say that Herr Cody is irreplaceable and will be sorely missed."

Principal Louise Losos agrees with Caspari since she also believes Cody is

indispensable.

"Herr Cody's philosophical spirit, leadership as district coordinator and ability to see the big picture will be missed," Losos said. "Since he'll be moving away from this area, we won't even be able to tap into that for future times."

Caspari and Cody have gotten to know each other well over the years.

"Herr Cody has the best poker face you have ever seen and knows how to use it," Caspari said. "We have people in our office who have known him for nearly 20 years and can't tell when he's pulling their leg. Moreover, when we were younger, Herr Cody was a huge prankster. One semester he and I played a series of elaborate pranks on one another. On that really got me was when he had a friend of ours mail me a letter from France, written in French and with their inimitable handwriting. I had been working on getting an exchange partner. This letter stated that the teacher was so excited about the upcoming visit and that she and the students would be arriving in the following week. He really went to a lot of trouble for that hoax, but Herr Cody doesn't believe in doing things halfway."

Cody retirement, 15

Vanecek retiring after two decades in district

Simone Bernstein
Editor

A familiar face in the art department and in racial dialogues is retiring this year. After 20 years with the School District of Clayton, CHS Art teacher Russell Vanecek has announced his retirement.

"Mr. Vanecek has brought an artist's eye, a caring heart, and a thoughtful approach to all that he does," Principal Louise Losos said. "Mr. Vanecek's impact can be seen well beyond the classroom. His work throughout the district on racial understanding has made an impact that cannot easily be measured."

Before coming to CHS, Vanecek taught from 1989-1993 at Glenridge Elementary School. At Glenridge he developed relationships with students who later took his classes at the high school.

"One of the most memorable moments of my career was teaching two different levels of students," Vanecek said. "I had the opportunity to see a whole generation of students come through the district. I was so proud to see students who went through Glenridge and are now pursuing art."

Before teaching in the Clayton School District, he taught elementary art in the Parkway School District. In the past he also taught a course at Fontbonne University designed for educators to teach art.

Vanecek was Department Chair for the Fine Arts at CHS from 1995 to 2002. As a teacher at CHS, he has developed classes in photography, painting, drawing and ceramics. As an artist and teacher he is actively involved in numerous leadership projects.

Many of Vanecek's underclassmen will miss his unique teaching style in their future art classes at the

high school.

"Mr. Vanecek is flexible and allows us to develop our own style," sophomore Anat Gross said. "He allows us to explore different types of art and learn new skills."

Students feel that his warm personality and unique teaching style make him a memorable instructor.

"It's not just his teaching style that makes him a great teacher," Gross said. "He is a really nice guy who gets along with all of his students. It will definitely be strange to come back to school next year and not see him everyday."

His colleagues also complement his genuine personality. Art Department Chair Christina Vodicka met Vanecek 17 years ago when she was hired by the district.

"He is a very caring, compassionate and talented person," Vodicka said. "This all comes through in his teaching and in interactions with his students."

Throughout his years at CHS, Vanecek has initiated racial dialogues between students and staff.

"I organized and designed the racial dialogue seminars," Vanecek said. "I've talked with the administration about returning to create racial dialogues between teachers and students in the future."

Vanecek will especially miss the students and staff in the district.

"I will miss the relationships I have developed with my students and colleagues," Vanecek said. "The Clayton School District provided me with a variety of opportunities and great support. I was given a large amount of resources and a great facility."

Vanecek even taught CHS French teacher Caron Settle when she was an art student in the 1990s.

Mr. Vanecek is flexible and allows us to develop our own style. He allows us to explore different types of art and learn new skills.

Anat Gross
Sophomore



Vanecek discusses a piece of art with senior Ethan Joseph. Vanecek's flexibility allows his students to develop their own sense of artistic style and independent creativity.

Vanecek retirement, 15

News Briefs

CHS Film Festival

The CHS film festival will be held on May 3, 2009 at 1p.m. in the auditorium. Admission is free. All 17 films will be judged at the festival. Films will be judged by category with winners receiving cash and gift certificates.

New CHS Globe Editors

The Globe has a new set of editors for next year. Congratulations to Co-Editors-in-Chief Nina Oberman and Ken Zheng. Congratulations to Senior Managing Editors Meredith Redick and Simone Bernstein. Congratulations to Senior Editors Taylor Stone, Preeti Viswanathan, Sneha Viswanathan, Evan Green, Ijeoma Onyema and Mary Blackwell. Congratulations to new editors

Chelsea Cousins, Katherine Greenberg, Caroline Stamp, Tom Evashwick, Schuyler Longmore, Dawn Andrphy, Maddy Bulard, Hannah Callahan, Justin Elliot, Kara Kratcha, Noah Eby, Laura Bleeke, Jackie Leong and Apoorva Sharma.

Superintendent Search

Clayton superintendent Don Senti will retire at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. Focus groups and community forums to identify the qualities that Clayton should seek for a new superintendent will begin on April 27. These meetings will be used to identify and evaluate candidates. Additional focus groups will be offered April 28, May 8 and May 9. The school board expects to appoint the superintendent by November.

CHS Jazz Band Student Performs

Congratulations to CHS musician Ben Portner who was selected to attend the Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead for 2009.

George Clooney films new movie in St. Louis

Taylor Stone
Editor

When asking random pedestrians on St. Louis sidewalks what the most important incident in the city's history was, one would receive a plethora of answers. Incidents such as the 2006 World Series championship and the World's Fair have previously been considered a couple of St. Louis's shining moments. However, a more recent incident would surely be considered by the average Joe to be vital to St. Louis history—when George Clooney came to town.

St. Louis truly ran amok when filming for "Up in the Air" took place in the city. The film, still in production, is being directed by Jason Reitman, who has been behind various projects such as "Juno" and "Thank You For Smoking."

The film boasts its star as George Clooney, who portrays a man specializing in "career transition counseling" (aka firing people) and whose life goal is to achieve 1 million frequent flier miles. Twilight's Anna Kendrick adds to the cast as the female lead.

CHS students and stay-at-home mothers alike spent time scouring downtown Clayton and downtown St. Louis to catch sight of the filming and its famous male lead.

However, the amount of involvement of the city and its civilians in the film itself is even more noteworthy, with many St. Louisans having auditioned and acted as extras in the Hollywood movie.

One Clayton resident who experienced involvement in the audition process of becoming an extra for the film as well as the actual role of an extra for the film is Sarah Bernard.

Bernard discovered the opportunity and seized it.

"They had an open call, which is an event when anybody can go audition to be an extra, at Crestwood Plaza, which was held for a two-day period," Bernard said.

Bernard herself had already had immense acting and performing experience before auditioning for "Up in the Air." She's been involved in local community theater performances such as "Bye Bye Birdie," "Seussical," "The Music Man," and "Guys and Dolls." Bernard regularly sings in different community performing groups and has even dabbled in voice over projects such as a quirky online video that could be described as "Star Trek" meets "Fiddler on the Roof"—but the characters are all legos.

Truly, Bernard was very qualified as an actor and performer,



Linda Anderson-Little, Pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, poses with her own picture with George Clooney. The "Up in the Air" production team ate in the church while filming across the street.

but those skills didn't cause the auditioning process to be any less laborious.

"The entire process was very long," Bernard said. "I got there at 9:30 AM and finally left at 3:30 PM. Most of the time was waiting, even though each person is with a casting director for only 10 minutes."

Bernard admits that the increasingly time-consuming event tempted her to give up the audition.

"I personally wasn't that interested in waiting for such a long time," Bernard said. "I was given a ticket with a time for

when to actually stand in a line, so I just walked around before that time. One lady and her kids even bought snacks and sold them to those waiting in line."

"Once I actually got to the line, I was in it for three hours, and there were so many times that I wanted to move around," Bernard said. "However, I decided to stick it out even though I had so many things going on with my kids and had to manage different activities."

Regardless of the boredom that accompanies waiting, the people that attended the open call were notable.

"There were a lot of interesting people at the open call such as flight attendants and pilots all in their uniforms. People were really trying to get attention in any way they could. My friend who was with me actually was a flight attendant."

When Bernard finally reached the actual audition, she received a pleasant surprise.

"The casting director we met was actually a director that I knew. Out of thousands of people it could have been, it was funny that it was someone I knew. We had taken an acting class together."

In addition to the director asking for a photo and basic information such as height, weight, age, etc., he also asked for an especially striking piece of information that explained the reason for the presence of pilots and flight attendants.

"It was really interesting because they were really looking for people who had experiences in the travel industry or had traveled a lot for work," Bernard said. "The movie is all about traveling, so the casting directors definitely wanted people who looked experienced in traveling and worldly in general."

The rest of the open-call was merely business.

"He really talked to us about the experience of being on a movie set and what to expect," Bernard said. "Essentially he told us that if we were picked it would be a long day on the set with a lot of waiting. He also told us more details about how much an extra would get paid and other minute details."

After the long day was over, Bernard initially forgot about the entire open-call.

"After the audition was over I honestly didn't really think about it," Bernard said. "I forgot all about it and thought that my friend would get a call-back rather than me."

When Bernard did receive a call-back, it came as a complete shock because of her preconceived notions.

"When I got the call, it really came out of the blue and it was completely unexpected," Bernard said.

Bernard ended up spending a day working on the set of "Up in the Air," but cannot reveal any information regarding her role or her time on the set because of a contract she was obliged to sign.

However, she can reveal the impact that the overall experience had on her. "The process was very professional and I was impressed with everything from the open call to the movie experience," Bernard said. "I think that this was an opportunity I was really lucky to receive." ☺



An image from Google Maps' Street View feature shows the Brown Shoe building next to CHS. Street View provides non-live images gathered by car-mounted cameras.

Google Maps Street View causes privacy concerns

Caitlin Kropp
Reporter

Children playing in front yards. People walking their dogs. A man being violently ill on the sidewalk. A woman sunbathing in her bikini. All of these images and more can be viewed on Street View, the latest addition to Google Maps.

Launched in May 2007, Street View uses 360 degree panoramic views that allow users to view the street at a normal level. Using cars mounted with special cameras, Google gathers the pictures needed to create the 360 image of streets, and compiles it all into one image. Since its creation, Street View has been plagued by privacy issues, where people claim that their privacy has been invaded by the new feature.

Opponents of Street View fear that the security of their children may be compromised, or that certain unlawful acts caught on tape may spell incarceration for those identifiable. Issues as simple as losing retail value has been called into questions, as home owners feel that the area they selected as "private" is losing stock in the market.

Others take a different stance on the issue. "I don't see it as an invasion of privacy," Instructional Technologist David Hoffman said. "They only show what anyone could see by driving by. The images are not live."

One thing Google has used to its advantage in such cases is the definition of invasion of privacy.

"There is no explicit right to privacy in the U.S. Constitution," history teacher Debra Wiens said. "It is implied in Amendments one, three, four, five, and nine."

In addition, an act is not justified as

an invasion of privacy if what is thought to be private is easily accessible from a public space. Because Google uses cars on city streets to get its images, most of the invasion of privacy claims have little stock.

Opponents have also pointed out that Street View can be used as a means for illegal activities, or to further the reach of the government.

"I can imagine very practical applications such as homeland security and criminal justice work," Wiens said. "I can also imagine severe abuses by a tyrannical government. There is tension between the need for public security and personal privacy/liberty."

For some, it is a question of moderation, of finding a middle ground.

"There is a delicate balance which we must strive to achieve," Wiens said. "We tend to give up our privacy most willingly during times of economic crisis and war."

In response to the invasion of privacy claims, Google has agreed to blur the faces of individuals photographed. They began to blur faces in May 2008, and have done so ever since. In addition, Street View has added an application that allows viewers to flag inappropriate content that can be reviewed and removed.

Still, for most, the privacy of the home is still intact. It is just in the public areas that you have to be aware.

"It's almost impossible in an urban area to go anywhere or do anything outside your home today without being caught on camera," Hoffman said. "What we used to think of as private isn't so much any more. I don't foresee a day when what we do in our homes becomes public without our choice." ☺

Documentary explores educational discrepancies

Meredith Redick
Editor

Two million minutes. From the day an eighth-grader slams the school door shut to the day of high school graduation, the clock is ticking. High school students around the world go through these two million minutes, but their experiences could be worlds apart.

"Two Million Minutes" is a 54-minute documentary piece that details the high-school experiences of six students living in the United States, India and China. Executive producer Robert A. Compton with director Chad Heeter and producer Adam Raney have crafted a thought-provoking commentary on America's place in the global education spectrum, and the implications for America's future as new superpowers join the frenzied race for global economic dominance.

"We made this film to compare and contrast the high school experience in the US, China and India," Compton said in a Youtube video titled "The Making of 2MM." "We focus on high school because those are the most crucial years to prepare a student for their long-term career aspirations. And, as you look across a society, how a society's high school students allocate their two million minutes has profound implications for the country's economic future."

The six students—Brittany and Neil from the US, Apoorva and Rohit from India, and Xiaoyuan and Ruizhang from China—spend their time in ways that are alternately stereotypical and surprising.

The mold of a capricious American teen is certainly reinforced when the American student Brittany explains that she plans to join a sorority in college because "you get to party a lot, have some fun, do some crazy stuff."

In the film, Apoorva notes the discrepancy between American students and their Indian counterparts. "It looks like the American student's life is almost a dream," Apoorva said. "It's like, no studying, very light syllabus."

Even though Brittany is in the top 3% of her class, she finds the time to socialize that is largely absent from the

lives of non-Americans like Xiaoyuan, whose afterschool life consists of violin practice and homework.

There is a price to American leisure, however. According to the film, nearly 40% of US high school students do not take a science class more difficult than general biology. Chinese education specialist Vivien Stewart, who is featured in the film, approximates that in 4 years of high school, Chinese students spend twice as much time studying as Americans. If becoming a scientist is unremarkable in the US, it's what the film calls a "passport out of poverty" for students in many other countries.

According to Raney, American students are facing global competition for which they may not be prepared, despite both Brittany's and Neil's strong success in high school.

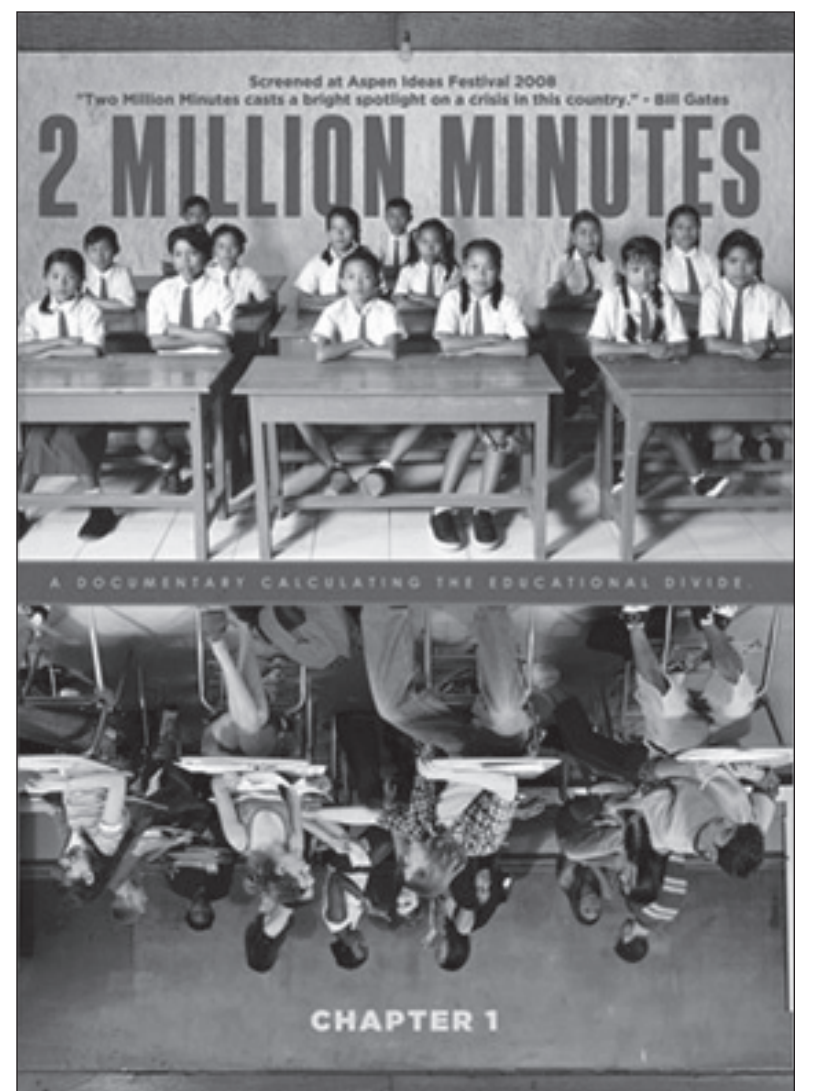
"American high school students, especially if you break it down by race and culture, are not proficient in math and science," Raney said. "What I find slightly troubling is that the American students get what they want. They also set lower goals."

Raney's observation is evident in the college experiences of the featured students. While Ruizhang, a math whiz, was rejected from the Advanced Math program at his chosen university and Rohit was turned down from IIT, a group of India's most prestigious engineering universities, both American students were accepted at their universities of choice. Was it because of Neil's and Brittany's superior intelligence, or because Americans are setting lower goals?

"From an American viewpoint, I feel that there's a level of mediocrity that seems to be acceptable," Raney said. "I think we need to raise expectations for students and teachers."

Although the Chinese and Indian students do focus more on schoolwork, details in the documentary bring a piquant twist and new dimension to several of the characters.

For example, the hard-working Rohit spends his scraps of free time practicing with his a cappella boy band with fantasies of making it big in the music industry. Ruizhang, according to his parents



in the film, became infatuated with test-taking in first grade and formulated tests for himself to take in his free time.

The fact remains that even with more rigorous education, India's and China's educational systems are marred by inequity.

"In India, there is massive poverty, and many kids don't even go to school," Raney said. Unlike in the US, where significant funding is provided for public schools, most Indian students attend private schools. Still, Raney noted that "it may just be their upper classes, but they are making education a primary goal."

America is indubitably falling behind

in the global education race.

"American students score high relative to other nations in one area: self-confidence," the film noted.

If American students are operating below their potential, perhaps a solution is to look more closely at the creed by which much of the rest of the world lives.

"Basically, my first priority to develop my kids is to become globally competitive," Apoorva's father said in the film. "All the time right from day one, I am attempting the same thing: give the freedom, give the fearlessness to face anybody, freely and effortlessly." ☺

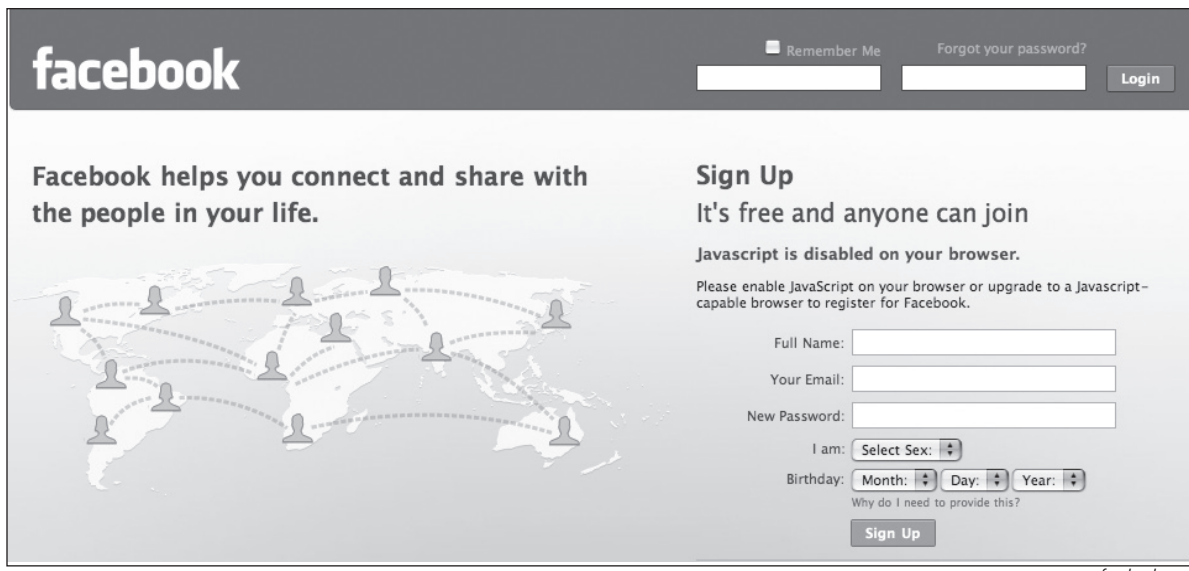
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Negative impacts of facebook evident

Hannah Callahan
Reporter

For CHS junior Jenny B. (not her real name), Facebook is a way to communicate with the friends she left behind after moving to Clayton this past year; it's a way to get information, and a way to "stalk." Jenny B. said she spends three hours on Facebook every day.

"On Facebook," she said. "You look at pictures of people you aren't friends with and parties you're glad you didn't go to."

Jenny B. said she has tried but failed to cut back on the number of hours spent on social networking sites. She is not alone; many others have problems like Jenny's.

"[Facebook] is nice to get information about what's going on," sophomore Sarah McAfee said. "I know I can always contact someone because everybody checks their page. But it is really public."

On April 8, Facebook reached 200 million members. Today, the social network grows at an unbelievable rate of 600 thousand new users per day. Created in 2005 by Harvard graduate Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook has become ubiquitous on computer screens around the world, contributing to the increasing popularity of sites like Twitter.

A recent study performed at Stony Brook University in New York focused on teenage girls and a process called "corumination," which refers to excessive discussions emphasizing negative feelings.

Chances are you've heard one end of a typical teenage girl's conversation: Do you think he likes me? Do I like him? Should I call?

However, the study shows that the process of corumination is in fact detrimental, in some cases leading to depression, and can intensify through social networking.

"We simply asked adolescent girls to report on how much they engaged in corumination," Joanne Davila, the psychology professor who led the study, said. "We found that girls who did more of this reported more depressive symptoms, particularly

those girls who were involved in lots of romantic activities. They may be talking a lot about those experiences and ruminating on problems and negative feelings, which then makes them feel more depressed."

Davila said that when the media raised the question of whether social networking would provide an outlet for corumination. They speculated that it might.

"That is, it might give teens more opportunity to coruminate," she said.

Students agree that Facebook has affected them, in some ways, negatively.

"I spend at least three hours on Facebook everyday," sophomore Sasha Vine confessed.

"Facebook interferes with my school work," Vine said. "I'll usually get online and become so distracted that it will take me a lot of time to get back to studying."

According to Daily Mail, "texting, instant messaging and social networking make it very easy for adolescents to become even more anxious, which can lead to depression."

However, with its aggressively increasing popularity, it is controversial whether social networks' negatives outweigh its advantages.

"The pros include helping people to feel socially connected," Davila said. "That's a good thing because we know that relationships and social support are healthy for people; the cons include the possibility for negative social comparison, for taking too much time away from other things, for saying mean things about people without having to deal with the consequences."

Like Davila, Susan Greenfield, who is a neuroscientist at the University of Oxford, warns social network users in an article published in *The Guardian*.

"The mid-21st Century mind might almost be infantilized," Greenfield said. "Eventually it will be characterized by short attention spans, sensationalism, inability to empathize and a shaky sense of identity." ☹

Parents create Cody endowment

Cody retirement, 13

Connie Evashwick, mother of one Cody's students, has taken the initiative to organize an endowment fund in Cody's name.

"I am extremely honored, honestly quite surprised and think that it's the best thing that could be done for me," Cody said. "I can't imagine anything more wonderful than that."

The Herr Cody Farewell Celebration will be held Sunday, May 31, from 7-9 p.m. in The Commons. Tickets are \$20 for students and \$30 for everyone else. Funds will cover dinner and help establish the Herr Cody World Language Endowment. Additional donations are welcome. The German Club will be helping to host the event.

"The Herr Cody World Language Endowment is a way of paying permanent tribute to Herr Cody, as it will carry his name," Evashwick said. "Twenty years from now, some student will ask, 'Who was Herr Cody?' and then they will dig out your article in *The Globe* and find out. The idea of the endowment was first taken to Dr. Losos, who then took the proposal to the Board of Education and received their permission to establish the endowment. The interest from the endowment will be used on an annual basis for whatever the World Language Department needs to further student education."

So, by starting the Endowment, even if it is small, it can grow over time as parents, alumni, and others in the community contribute.

"I think it is a wonderful tribute to Herr Cody," Caspari said. "It is very thoughtful of the organizers to have the fund benefit the World Languages department that Herr Cody has nurtured over the years."

Cody has been vital in hosting exchange programs with German students in several-year intervals.

Evashwick also has high words of praise for Cody.

"Herr Cody is also a visionary, and he has put his professional goals above his own professional work," Evashwick said. "My understanding is that it was Herr Cody who said when he announced that he was leaving that he should not be replaced with a person to teach German. German was an important language of the twentieth century. Herr Cody wisely said that the language for the twenty-first century should be Chinese, and he then convinced the school and helped to recruit the new Chinese language teacher. So, it is a great credit to him that he would not cling to his own favorite language, but help the school, the district, and future students see the importance of being able to communicate with a new group--the residents of China."

Though Cody is leaving St. Louis, he will be teaching German next year over a groundbreaking method. He will be teaching through video over the Internet to next-year German classes. ☹

For more information about the farewell celebration or contributing to the Herr Cody World Language Endowment, contact Connie Evashwick at (562) 673-1607 or evashwick@gmail.com

Retiring after 20 years at CHS

Vanecek retirement, 13

"He was a great teacher," Settle said. "I remember he had a very calm approach to the class, despite the fact that there were some goofy kids in there. I remember clearly a lot of the work I did in that class, and even still have some of it. I wasn't very good at art, although I tried pretty hard. Mr. Vanecek was good at reassuring those of us who weren't talented artists and made us feel good about what we had done, even if we knew it wasn't very good. He always found one thing to pick out and say we had drawn that one thing well."

This year Vanecek started the Diversity Club with a group of students. The club leader, junior Hannah Weber, and Vanecek encourage all students to take part in this new club. This club focuses on promoting diversity and increasing the awareness of various cultural, religious and socioeconomic groups at CHS. Vanecek is helping the club work with many different organizations to ensure that numerous students feel comfortable with their surrounding community. The club fits into Vanecek's goal of encouraging racial dialogue.

"Mr. Vanecek is a really great sponsor for Diversity Club,"

Weber said. "He helps us organize and lead discussions about race relations. Throughout the year he was frequently available to meet and develop plans for the club. Sometimes he would even rearrange his schedule so we could meet and discuss ideas."

Many students will miss Vanecek's encouragement and willingness to help.

"I am very upset about his retirement," Weber said. "Next year, we will definitely miss him as our club sponsor."

Vanecek plans to stay active in the community after retirement.

"After retirement I would like to pursue my own art as a visual artist," Vanecek said. "I would also like to continue my work with racial dialogues in the entire metro area through the Educational Equity Consultants. This organization focuses on leadership and ending racism."

Vanecek has taken on a large role in the district over a period of 20 years.

"We can hire a new art teacher, but Mr. Vanecek can never be replaced," Losos said. "His spirit will live on after he moves on to the next stage of his life." ☹



Seniors Katie Poplawski, Taylor Obata, Jacob Goldsmith, Rachel Oetting and Kevin Lin eat lunch in the CHS Quad during their free period.

Seniors losing motivation

Ugochi Onyema
Senior Managing Editor

As the second semester rapidly slows to a halt, seniors at CHS are beginning to anticipate leaving high school behind, not for one summer, but for the rest of their lives. Along with this excitement comes the reluctance to concentrate inside classroom as well as at home, an effect known by the masses as "senioritis."

Senior Becky Poplawski is becoming more excited about the end of her high school year because she believes that she is fully prepared to take the next step in life.

"I'm a lot more antsy in class now and I care less about the material because I feel like I'm ready to move on," Poplawski said.

The anticipation that Poplawski feels is accentuated by the lack of stress associated with college admissions.

"It is definitely harder to study just because I realize that I no longer need to maintain a 4.0 grade point average," Poplawski said. "If it slips a little bit, it isn't that big of a deal."

Senior Jordan Stanley also gauges the amount of work that she wants to accomplish based on the colleges that she has been admitted to, and agrees that her work ethic has changed.

"I did pretty well last year, but this semester I cannot concentrate," Stanley said. "Generally, I think that if I can just make it through the end of the year, then I can stay in my college and keep my scholarship, because I don't want that to be revoked."

Like Poplawski and Stanley, senior Jessica Lefton has been negatively affected by senioritis.

"I've been affected by senioritis pretty badly," Lefton said. "I haven't really done homework in a while. It has been very hard for me to do homework."

According to senior Dominique Graham, the difference between the last semester compared to the rest of one's high school career is that there is a lack of concentration during class, and more cramming at the last minute before an exam.

Graham also believes that another factor that can exaggerate the effects of senioritis is the lack of schoolwork assigned during second semester.

"Teachers basically give us assignments with really loose deadlines, at least in some of my classes," Graham said.

Pressure from peers also plays a large role in the lack of focus on schoolwork, according to Poplawski.

"My friends do tempt me to [slack off], especially my friends

who have an easier workload than I do," Poplawski said.

There are many ways that can be used to motivate seniors suffering from senioritis, according to these students. Poplawski believes that genuine respect for her teachers has driven her to focus on schoolwork. In addition to her respect for teachers, Poplawski feels that her parents have motivated her to succeed even during the second semester of her senior year.

"I am motivated in some of my classes because I respect my teachers enough that I don't want to fail my classes, but I feel like my parents also motivate me a lot," Poplawski said. "My parents have always expected us to get good grades, and that expectation has not gone away. They use negative reinforcement to keep us in line."

Graham agrees with Poplawski and thinks that his parents have kept him focused as well.

"Basically, what keeps me motivated are my parents, because they would get really angry and I want to keep my grade point average up," Graham said.

According to Poplawski, teachers are prepared to use warnings pertaining to education if necessary.

"The threat of exams in our Advanced Placement classes is often used by teachers," Poplawski said.

Similarly to Poplawski, Lefton also has experienced this sort of threat in her classes.

"I am in AP classes so the main goal of succeeding on the AP exams has been keeping us motivated," Lefton said. "Otherwise, teachers just threaten to fail us. Besides that, they don't really do anything else."

The threat of looming AP exams has not been something Stanley has been forced to experience. Rather, fluctuating amounts of homework assignments have kept her motivated.

"For my classes, they either give us a little homework or a lot of really important homework and they say that we will fail if we don't do it," Stanley said.

Although admittedly suffering from a severe case of senioritis, Stanley feels only a small amount of guilt for lacking motivation so close to the end of her high school career.

"Sometimes I feel a little bit guilty, but then I realize that I've worked enough throughout the years," Stanley said.

Like Stanley, Graham isn't quite feeling remorseful yet, as the end of his high school career is in plain sight.

"I don't think that I feel guilty about not working my hardest," Graham said. "I feel like I've worked pretty hard these last four years, so now it's time to coast to the end." ☹

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'Hannah Montana' appeals to tween audience

Taylor Stone
Editor

Hannah Montana. Unless you have been living under an extremely large rock for the past five years, you know that the name exemplifies both a pop culture phenomenon (for adolescents, at least) and a squeaky-clean product of the well-oiled machine that is Disney.

The box-office numbers speak for themselves concerning Hannah Montana's undisputable power over pre-teen and teenage girls. The blockbuster estimated \$34 million in ticket sales at North American theaters its opening weekend, breaking several minor box-office records. Comparing this with similar Disney films with big-name stars such as "The Lizzie McGuire Movie" starring Hilary Duff, which sold a meek \$17.3 million in tickets over its opening weekend in 2003, and February's "Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience", which underperformed expectations at \$12.5 million, "Hannah Montana: The Movie" is a truly a triumph.

An addition to the triumph of "Hannah Montana", directed by Peter Chelsom from a script by Dan Berendsen, is that it became the best April showing in industry history for a Disney movie, and that its Friday opening of \$17.3 million in ticket sales broke a record for a G-rated live-action film, according to Disney. "Hannah Montana: The Movie" functions as a continuation of the hit

Disney Channel television show of the same title, in which Miley Stewart (Miley Cyrus) lives as a normal, albeit dorky student in Mailibu, California while harboring a secret. Add a blonde wig and a sparkly outfit, and Hannah Montana, Miley's pop-star alter-ego is born. To retain a "normal" life, Miley hides her pop-stardom from the public and essentially lives a double life.

When the movie begins, Miley is fully engulfed in Hannah Montana's pop stardom, and neglects her best friend Lily (Emily Osment)'s 16th birthday party, her brother Jackson's (Jason Earles) departure for college, and her grandmother's birthday because of her double life. A diva-fight over costly shoes with Tyra Banks is the last straw for Miley's dad Robby Ray's (Billy Ray Cyrus) "achy breaky heart" and he whisks Miley back to reality, in the form of her home-town in Tennessee and Southern relatives.

In Tennessee, Miley returns to her roots, taking a two-week break from her alter-ego in favor of working on her family farm, riding her horse, and bonding with family members. Miley's antics in her home town, including dodging a 'Home Alone'-esque villain, a British

parazzo, forming a love-interest with "cowboy" Travis (Lucas Till), and leading a local "hoedown" combine to define Miley's search for selfhood and happiness. However, Miley learns that she cannot fully avoid her pop-stardom, when her secret identity is threatened and she must put the wig back on.

While the movie may not be an artistic or revolutionary film, it serves its purpose. With slapstick, new Miley songs, and classic Hannah Montana songs, the blockbuster never fails to entertain its intended audience.

“While the movie may not be an artistic or revolutionary film, it serves its purpose... the blockbuster never fails to entertain its intended audience.”

Music, in fact, plays a large role in the movie. Cameos from popular country band "The Rascal Flats" and talented country star Taylor Swift are highlights in the movie. Miley Cyrus proves her worth as a legitimate musical artist, though still Disney-afied, in touching, heartfelt songs such as "Butterfly Fly Away" and "The Climb". Less significant is Billy Ray Cyrus's shameless plug of his new album, as he performs two of them in his daughter's movie. One such song, "Back to Tennessee", directly relates to the movie's plot. It seems as if Mr. Cyrus,

hoping for musical recognition and album sales, was taking advantage of his daughter's role and fame.

Another surprise in the film was that main characters in the television show, such as Miley's friend Oliver (Mitchel Musso), were barely in the film. Musso had a short cameo at the beginning of the film, and even her brother Jackson was only on screen for short snippets. Key, beloved characters were neglected in favor of additional screen time for Miley Cyrus. Indeed, the focus was Miley Stewart/Hannah Montana for the entirety of the movie, which still was appealing to viewers regardless of a lack of familiar minor characters.

Miley Cyrus, the undeniable star, truly showcases her status as a pre-teen and teen icon in both her acting and singing, showing true lasting power in Hollywood. The second star of the movie, however, was Tennessee itself. Gorgeous shots of green fields and pastures, blue skies, and horse-riding add brilliance and beauty to the seemingly conventional plot. The local flavor of the small-town contributed to this brilliance, with scenes such as outings to farmer's markets, porch musical gatherings, and "hoedowns" adding color to the plot.

Regardless of its headlining star and intended status as a box-office darling, "Hannah Montana: The Movie" shines, satisfying both devoted fans and those who just desire pure, clean entertainment. ♣



MCT Campus



MCT Campus

Coming-of-age comedy flaunts eclectic cast; lacks quoteable scenes and lines

Justin Elliott
Reporter

Although "Adventureland," released earlier this month, was funny, it did not meet my pee-in-my-pants, roll on the floor laughing expectations.

It's the summer of 1987 and things are looking good for James Brennan (Jesse Eisenberg). He's just graduated from an Ivy League school and is about to depart on his post-college rendezvous in Europe followed by graduate school at Columbia University.

However, James' father (Jack Gilpin) has been demoted due to his alcoholism, and the resulting financial pinch puts a hold on James' summer dreams.

After James moves in with mom and dad he begins to look for a job and finds that his Ivy League degree does not get him very far when it comes to local jobs. As his summer begins to look like it will be the worst one in his life, he takes a job with the Carnies at the second rate amusement park Adventureland as a last resort.

At the beginning of his employment James is equipped with nothing more than his virginity, social naiveté and a bag of joints, courtesy of one of his Ivy League friends. And by the end of the movie you can be sure he won't be left with any of those, since at heart, "Adventureland" is nothing more than a traditional coming of age tale.

Although the movie is thoroughly enjoyable and may even persuade viewers to work at Six Flags this summer, the movie is extremely lacking in the laughs and comic sense that Greg Mottola's, writer and director of "Adventureland," other movies had, such as "Superbad."

This movie just doesn't have those scenes and lines that you can walk out of the theater and talk to your friends about.

The strongest point in the movie by far is the eclectic cast. Although actor Jesse Eisenberg, who is largely a newbie to Hollywood, plays the protagonist, he is able to pull off the part by expressing the character's sexual awkwardness and authentic nature. And to some audi-

ences' pleasant surprise James' lover, Em Lewin, is played by "Twilight" star Kristen Stewart.

And of course there are some comedic veterans such as "SNL" stars Kristen Wiig and Bill Hader as the park's owners. Both of the play what seems to be their traditional parts, but they are both hysterical. Their spontaneity and random comments really make the movie. Ryan Reynolds, from "Definitely Maybe" and "Just Friends" plays the park's older and promiscuous mechanic. He works for the part, because he has the heartthrob looks. If it were anyone else, viewers would have thought he was a pedophile.

Overall the movie is funny but don't clear your schedule to see it. Too much of the movie's jokes can only be understood by those who survived the eighties. However, given how many high school students have to put their summer plans by the wayside given the current economic situation, the story may give some of us the reminder that we can all have the summer of our lifetime, even if we are working for minimum wage. ♣

'Sunshine Cleaning' examines family bonds, the 'lost' middle class

Laura Bleeke
Reporter

Actresses Amy Adams and Emily Blunt are able to work in perfect harmony in the new film "Sunshine Cleaning." The film takes a closer look at the hardships many families must face.

Adams plays the optimistic Rose Lorkowski, whose personal life is on the edge.

Once head cheerleader in high school, Rose is now working for her former classmates as a house cleaner. She is struggling while having an affair with a married cop and facing serious financial problems while raising a son on her own.

Blunt plays the role of Rose's "bad" sister, Norah. Norah is not quite sure of who she is and is unable to stay in one place for very long. She is the teenager who never left her parent's basement, while Rose acts as the mother figure.

Though both actresses are strong in their roles individually, together Blunt and Adams make the film seem real. Their unique bond on the screen is what makes "Sunshine Cleaning" stand out from other indie films.

Though Blunt and Adams are great in their roles, Alan Arkin's performance

is reminiscent of his role from the 2006 dramedy "Little Miss Sunshine". He plays a rundown grandfather who forms a close bond with his grandson. The film follows their many adventures while Joe (Arkin) passes on his sales men skills to his grandson.

Arkin's character is not the only aspect that ties the film to "Little Miss Sunshine". More than their similar titles, "Little Miss Sunshine" and "Sunshine Cleaning" hold unmistakable connections. Both share the same producer, actors, Southwestern setting and message of middle class hardships.

However, "Sunshine Cleaning" goes much deeper into the personal plights the characters face. Rose's boyfriend, Mac (Steve Zahn), introduces Rose to the idea of cleaning up after the deceased in crime scenes, in order to make enough money to put her son through private school. Norah's lack of social skills leave her in need of a job once again, and Rose is in desperate need for money, so the two sisters start their new profession.

Rose's inexperience and enthusiasm, paired with Norah's reluctance and pure disgust, create a humorous balance in the film. The relationship between Adams and Blunt grows steadily through their adventures in the "cleaning" busi-

ness. Unfortunate incidents including a blood soaked mattress, a burning house and blood stained walls leave the audience captivated and amused.

We are introduced to a more sensitive side to Norah when she tracks down the daughter of a dead woman she has cleaned up after. Norah forms an awkward relationship with Lynn (Mary Lynn Rajskub), a lesbian doctor who is open to the lost life Norah leads. Though it is a small role, Rajskub plays it well, and brings out a softer side of Norah you would not have known before.

Clifton Collins Jr. plays the small role of Ditto, who befriends Rose and her son. He acts as a friend, a business consultant and a possible boyfriend (one who isn't married). Clifton's character creates a relationship with Rose that begins to repair her broken life.

The family relies heavily on each other for support and love. Already brought together by the mother's suicide when the sisters were young, the family is able to stay together through many dilemmas.

The film takes a closer look at family bonds, and the priorities that lie within them, focusing on the often forgotten American middle class and portrays the rocky life they lead. ♣

French documentary offers dose of realism

Jocelyn Lee
Reporter

"Entre les murs," otherwise known as "The Class," is an honest and intelligent French film which delves into the dynamics of a middle school classroom in France. Although set in a lower-income neighborhood in Paris, this melting pot of a classroom is easily relatable to many public schools in the U.S. The typical rowdiness, giggling, and upsets in a classroom of 13- and 14-year-olds are clearly and simply portrayed through everyday interactions caught on camera.

The film, although considered a drama, makes the audience feel as if it's watching a documentary. This is one of the most distinguishing characteristics of The Class; it does not feel scripted, melodramatic, or Hollywood-made. Instead, the director, Laurent Cantet, lays out a series of events that seem exceptionally realistic and doesn't try to force a solution or message down your throat.

The movie takes place almost entirely inside a middle school in a diverse, working-class neighborhood in the suburbs of Paris. The storyline follows a fairly young French teacher, François Bégaudeau, as he makes his way through a sticky school year teaching a middle school French class in which a great number of his students speak French as a second language.

Many of them do not take pride in their French identity, and so they show resentment toward improving their mastery

of the French language in Bégaudeau's class. The convergence of cultures – African, Asian, Arab, and French – creates quite a complex and confusing environment at times, posing a challenge for the teacher.

Although he is often sarcastic and insensitive, Bégaudeau is determined to have a successful year. He strives not to work around the obstacles that face him, but to plow straight through them. Over the course of the school year, he both encourages and provokes his students who include a mouthy Arab girl named Esméralda, a soft-spoken Chinese boy named Wei, and a consistently argumentative Malian boy named Souleymane. All together, the students of this class test and try Bégaudeau's temper and patience.

The film was actually based on an autobiography of François Bégaudeau describing his experiences. The actors in "The Class," including Bégaudeau, play a slightly fictionalized version of themselves in the film, using their own names and improvising part of the time. This aspect of the film gives it a much more real, natural feel because the actors know and understand their parts and are the people most capable of portraying the culture and lifestyle in this particular environment.

"The Class" isn't the best movie choice for those seeking purely entertainment or intense drama; rather, it is for those interested in something a little different, insightful, and 100 percent real. ♣

Washington University in St. Louis

Department of Music Event Highlights: Spring 2009

Event information and complete listing: (314) 935-5566

April 28, 8:00 PM – Small Chamber Ensembles
Holmes Lounge, Ridgley Hall

April 29, 7:00 PM – Jazz Combo Concert
Ballroom Theater, 560 Music Center

April 30, 8:00 PM – Guitar Gala
Graham Chapel

May 1 & 2, 8:00 PM – Opera Scenes
Karl Umrath Hall Lounge

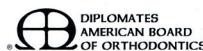
May 6, 8:00 PM – Nuclear Percussion Ensemble
Formal Lounge, Danforth University Center

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Royal artifacts of the Ming exhibit grandeur

Intricate craftsmanship impresses visitors to the Ming Dynasty exhibition at the St. Louis Art Museum. Decorative and architectural art reveals insight into ancient Chinese culture and the lives of emperors.

Grace Cohen
Reporter

The first thing a visitor notices when stepping into "Power and Glory: Court Arts of China's Ming Dynasty" exhibition at the Saint Louis Art Museum is the exquisite portrait of "Prince Zhu Youyuan in Ceremonial uniform." It's astonishing to think that this portrait has been around for almost 500 years and is just one of many historic objects featured in the collection.

The exhibition is composed of 125 works, some of which have never been shown in the United States. It was put together in collaboration between the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco and some of China's most renowned museums: the National Palace Museum in Beijing, the Shanghai Museum, and the Nanjing Municipal Museum.

The exhibition explores court art from different reigns of the Ming imperial emperors from 1368 to 1644.

Many different mediums were used in this collection of decorative art as well as archeological pieces. This includes gold and jade, textiles, lacquer, wood, paintings, cloisonne, ceramics and Ming porcelains.

According to Philip Hu, associate Asian art curator at the Saint Louis Art Museum each object required time and skill to create.

"Something like that," Hu said, point to a small jade ornament. "Even though it so small, because it's so intricately done, could have taken one person, God knows, three years—a very long time. These are highly time consuming and specialized skills."

Everything in the exhibition is flawless because if the object wasn't perfect, it wouldn't be worthy of use.

"What we have today is so precious because there were thousand of millions that were destroyed because they were not up to snuff," Hu said. "Only the ones that turned out as they were intended could be sent to the imperial court. The rest, if they were below standard, couldn't be used by the people."

Painted silk handscrolls tell the story of everyday imperial life.

"Amusements in the Xuande emperor's palace" shows a variety of sports being either observed or played by the emperor. It includes archery, polo, and other games that resemble soccer and golf.

"Some of them are extremely long," Hu said. "The largest case we have is eighteen feet. Some of the scrolls we were only able to show maybe only a quarter of what the whole unrolled length might have been."

Throughout the collection, the influence of other religions can be seen.

"The Chinese were not afraid to import objects from other religions. They adapted it using their own technology," Hu said.

The exhibition includes an audio tour that tells how each object was used, its history and how it was made. Hu explains why we know so much about each artifact's past.

"In China everything that one uses in daily life whether it's by ordinary people or people of the court are usually very well documented," Hu said. "The Chinese have always liked to describe things; they are into cataloging. The Ming liked to compare things from different periods, they liked to collect things, they were into antiques. There is a long history of written documentation for almost anything you can think of."

"Power and Glory: Court Arts of China's Ming Dynasty" will be at the Saint Louis Art Museum until May 17. Admission for adults is \$10, \$8 for students and seniors, \$6 for children ages 6-12 and free for members and children under 6.

The exhibition is free to all on Fridays, and the museum is closed on Mondays. Audio tours are included with ticket purchase.

"Don't wait until the end, this is the type of show that requires coming back a second or third or fourth time," Hu said. "There is just so much with such a rich array of objects."

“What we have today is so precious because there were thousand of millions that were destroyed because they were not up to snuff. Only the ones that turned out as they were intended could be sent to the imperial court.”

Philip Hu
Associate art curator

1. A portrait of Prince Zhu Youyuan dressed in ceremonial uniform during the Jiajing period. 2. A heart shaped amber and two dragons, this artifact was found in the tomb of Lady Chen, the wife of Tong Bonian. 3. This incense burner shaped like a mythical beast hails from the Palace Museum in Beijing and is made of copper alloy, gold gilding and polychrome enamel inlays. 4. Found in Mu Changzuo's tomb, this gold ornament is shaped like a peony blossom. 5. Part of an arched gate, this lion originated in Nanjing during the 1400s.



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Botanical Gardens celebrates 150 years of beauty

On June 15 the Missouri Botanical Gardens will be celebrating its 150th anniversary. Activities planned for this year include the Gardens staying open later, a special speaker series and 150 thousand bulbs planted in the bulb garden.

Fontasha Powell
Senior Managing Editor

Since 1859, the Missouri Botanical Gardens has been an oasis for beautiful plants and a tranquil atmosphere for citizens all around the St. Louis area. It also serves as a center for botany research and education.

On June 15 of this year, the Gardens will honor the 150th anniversary of its opening.

Julia Gaussoin, director of the Children's Garden at the Missouri Botanical Gardens, is in charge of the educational aspect of the Children's Garden, planning special events for children and making sure that all activities for school visits are educational. She is also in charge of the staffing.

Gaussoin said that the type of plants in the Garden are indeed diverse.

"We have 79 acres of everything from tropical plants in the Climatron to several rose gardens and several bulb gardens," Gaussoin said. "In the woodland garden we have different types of trees, and we also have a Japanese and a Chinese garden, which represent our cultural, worldly gardens. In these gardens we not only have different flowers, but also different architecture. There is a zig-zagged bridge in the Japanese garden."

Senior Mack Su loves to visit the Botanical Gardens.

"I go to the Gardens because they have special events that interest me like the Japanese festival and they have pretty flowers there," Su sa

According to Gaussoin, the Garden has many festivities planned in honor of the 150th anniversary.

"We are staying open later on Thursdays until 9 p.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day," Gaussoin said.

"We will have sidewalk artists, people walking on stilts and ice cream and snow cones."

There will also be some physical changes to the Garden for the anniversary.

"On May 1 we will have a floral clock, and the flowers will be changed out each season," Gaussoin said. "In the bulb garden this year we have increased the number of bulbs by 60,000 and we planted 150,000 bulbs instead of the usual 90,000. Bulbs include tulips, lilies and irises, some of which have already bloomed."

“I go to the Gardens because they have special events that interest me like the Japanese Festival and they pretty flowers there.
”

Mack Su
Senior

Su is excited at the prospect of more flowers.

"I love the flowers that look good but are especially fragrant," Su said. "I feel very peaceful and tranquil when I go to the Gardens. It's like the world is a beautiful place."

Not only is the Gardens celebrating the physical beauty

of the park, but also it looks forward to educating its visitors on developing environmentally conscious lifestyles.

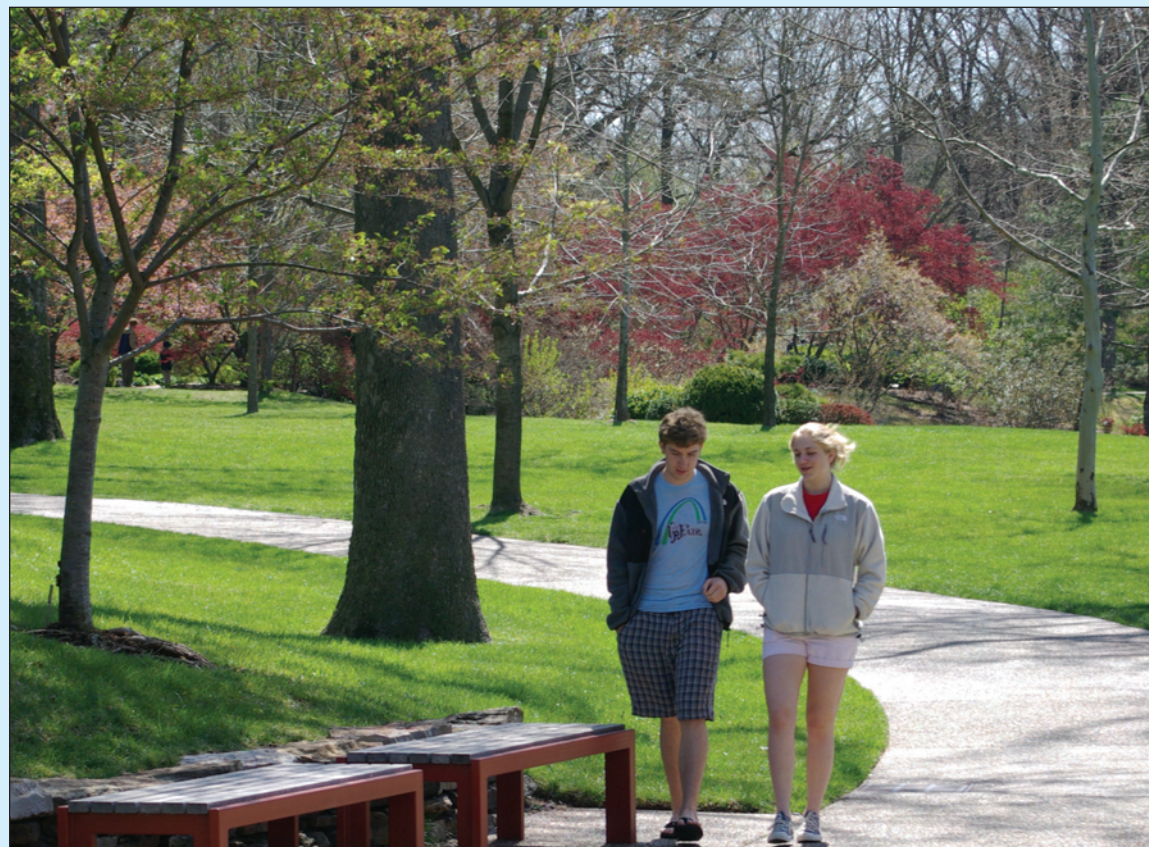
"There will be a speaker series called 'Earthways: Living the Green Life,'" Gaussoin said. "There will be vendors and we will be giving people tips to incorporate Green living."

However, Gaussoin said that some of the anniversary events are still under wraps.

"We also have a few surprises that haven't been released to the public yet," Gaussoin said.

The actual anniversary date that the park opened, June 15, is expected to be lots of fun and will contain events that have not yet been released to the public. However, visitors will be able to get into the park at a discounted rate.

"On June 15 we will be open late and everyone can get into the park for \$1.50," Gaussoin said. ☺



All photos courtesy of Jeremy Bleeke

Above: Various pictures from the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Top Middle: Statue "Protecting the Eggs," by Damian Manuhwa from Zimbabwe. Bottom: senior Jeremy Bleeke and freshman Laura Bleeke walk through the Gardens.



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STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Spice up Cinco de Mayo

Ijeoma Onyema
Editor

Ah, the fifth of May. Truly a day to celebrate; however, many don't even know the entire historical background. Cinco de Mayo commemorates the battle of Puebla in 1862, a battle caused by Mexico not paying off their debts to France. There, the Mexicans defeated the French, who were twice the size of the Mexican militia, twice as advanced, and ran undefeated for over 50 years. Contrary to popular belief, this battle did not result in their independence from Spain; Mexico gained independence on September 16, 1810.

Besides the historical significance, Cinco de Mayo is also a time to celebrate with family and friends. And there are tons of unknown places in St. Louis to hit up for they holiday without getting stoned or wasted.

Sure, but Spanish classes across the nation tend to follow the status quo when it comes to celebrating this holiday. Instead of gathering around the fire to read "Too Many Tamales," try celebrating in an unconventional manner. One place to do that is at Hacienda Mexican Restaurant or Casa Gallardo. Both restaurants provide excellent service in addition to delicious choices at reasonable prices. Casa Gallardo is found on 462 Westport Plaza Drive and Hacienda Mexican Restaurant is found on 0748

Manchester Rd. Hacienda Mexican Restaurant is open 11am-9pm Sundays through Thursdays and 11 am-11pm, Fridays and Saturdays.

If you want to embrace the Mexican heritage more, then come on down to Diana's Bakery. This place has bread that tastes so good you'll be thinking you're waking up in Mexico. With their friendly atmosphere, you can get simple order for one or a lot for those family get-togethers.

“Instead of gathering around the fire to read 'Too Many Tamales,' try celebrating in an unconventional manner.”

Want to make your Cinco de Mayo a blast? Las Palmas is a hot Mexican restaurant where you can enjoy a good home-cooked-like meal. Founded by Abel Suarez in 1997, this hot spot has a spicy atmosphere and a modern twist on the old fashioned Mexican cuisine. Las Palmas is found on 4030 Woodson Rd. and provides food of higher quality in an acceptable price range.

Nonetheless, celebrating Cinco de Mayo does bring back some positive feedback with young and old alike. It leaves young children with a knowledge of their southern neighbor and increases their knowledge of welcoming diversity. Moreover, It not only provides teenagers with an opportunity to experience cultures different than their own, but a tranquil alternative to the stereotypical drinking parties. So all in all, though it can be a meaningless holiday for some, it does have good intentions for the youth, the young at heart, and of course, the citizens of Puebla. ☺



Fro Yo, which opened in 2008, has rapidly become a favorite hang-out in the Loop. Flavors change daily, and pricing is done by weight.

Fro Yo a sweet success

Simone Bernstein
Editor

Move over Ted Drewes—there's a new competitor in the St. Louis area for a tasty cold refreshing treat. Fro Yo is the latest frozen indulgence shop to open in the University City Loop.

Customers are lined up deep behind the sleek and shiny self-serve frozen yogurt machines. Parking is tough to find near this innovative and popular storefront. Loads of Washington University students cram the counters, and pack both the indoor and sidewalk tables.

Unlike the artificial, sugary frozen yogurt that was popular in the 1980s and '90s, this version tastes remarkably like tart, plain yogurt. In 2005, a small California retailer, Pinkberry, recreated a South Korean recipe for a tart frozen yogurt. Pinkberry has since rapidly expanded to both coasts and spurred numerous competitors, like the locally owned Fro Yo.

Inside this colorful trendy shop, 12 self-serve flavors line the walls. Flavors change daily. There are over 50 flavors of frozen yogurt that rotate through the slick, polished self-serve machines.

One can typically find the original European Tart, green tea, cappuccino, French vanilla, New York cheesecake and mango available daily in the shop. My personal favorite is Cookies and Cream.

Each gleaming machine has three flavor levers. The middle lever performs an experimental swirl option. A vibrant top-

pings bar with over 35 options allows customers to top off their treats with healthy fresh fruit choices and/or a vast array of sugary treats like Fruity Pebbles, Heath Bar, whipped cream and/or crushed Oreos.

The customer pays 40 cents per ounce, so one can opt for just a small portion or fill a large cup to the brim. A four-ounce serving has about one hundred calories. Low in fat, this frozen treat contains pro-biotic cultures that are believed to provide significant health benefits.

The customer selects their portion by pulling the lever for the amount of frozen yogurt they would like to purchase. Unfortunately, like filling their gas tank, sometimes customers end up with more than their original intent to purchase. The average price per cup with light toppings is about \$3.

One can chose to add toppings and/or head directly to the scales to weigh their frosty treat. Pulling a lever to your hearts content or adding lots of toppings could wipe out your bank account. The modern décor with funky chairs and tiled walls adds to the appeal of this popular spot. Sample cups are offered upon request.

The store is located at 6329 Delmar in University City across the street and a few doors west of The Tivoli. The shop is open seven days a week from 11am to 10:30pm Sunday through Thursday. Friday and Saturday nights Fro Yo is open later, until midnight. If students are looking for summer employment, they plan to hire additional workers over the summer. Fro Yo in the loop is definitely worth a visit. ☺

Live Music schedule May 2nd Cherokee Street Cinco de Mayo festival

- 12:30 - 2:00 Tamborazo Mixteco
- 2:30 - 4:00 Boogie Chyld
- 4:30 - 6:00 Destinadas (Chicago, IL)
- 6:30 - 8:00 Javier Mendoza
- 8:30 - 10:00 Mayra y la Fuerza del Amor (Puebla, Mexico)

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Andrew Dowd

Wydown students gather in groups for lunch at the middle school. Amongst the changes these students will experience after the transition to high school are an open campus policy and greater freedom in determining class schedules.



Andrew Dowd



Andrew Dowd

Eighth graders prepare for CHS

Kara Kratcha
Reporter

It is an apprehension long forgotten about, perhaps seeming silly now that it is over; an unease pushed to the back of the mind until much the next big change; the fear of going from the oldest of the school to the youngest. It is the anticipation of the transition from middle to high school, a myriad of fears and hopes middle school teachers keep trying to direct in a positive, prepared direction.

Teachers at Wydown Middle School are working to make sure their students are ready to succeed in high school. Bridget Maret, a literacy teacher at Wydown, says students begin preparing to become high school students from the very beginning of middle school.

"Everything gets kicked up a notch each year," Maret said. "In sixth grade, students might be working on writing a cohesive paragraph. In seventh, they're tying paragraphs together to write a solid essay. By eighth grade, students are expected to use textual evidence to support higher-level thinking with the novels we read."

Still, middle school students have mixed feelings about moving on to CHS.

"I feel really, really nervous," eighth grader Destiny Akanam said. "I was there [at CHS] once and there were all these people taller than me walking around."

Eighth grader Jack Layden said he feels "fine" about going to high school, while eighth grader Emma Riley said she "feels excited."

Despite their mixed opinions, most Wydown eighth grade students seem to believe that their teachers are doing a

good job preparing them for high school academically.

"I have all the 8-North teachers who, I think they've done a pretty good job," Layden said.

Maret says high school can be hazardous for incoming freshmen when student freedom increases while individual teacher attention decreases, leaving a potential window for students to slip through the cracks. Still, teachers are doing their best to create the best high school transitions possible for each of their students.

"We have a lot of conversations with CHS counselors and subject managers about the best placement for students in their freshman year," Maret said. "We actually go down our entire class lists and discuss each kid individually. We really want to make sure each student ends up in the right place with the right kind of support."

Maret seems confident that she and other teachers' give enough support to ensure the success of Wydown's eighth graders.

"I really do think they're ready," she said. "By the spring of 8th grade, their mental bags are pretty much packed and they're all but waiting for the moving trucks to arrive. They'll be just fine."

With the support of their teachers, eighth graders have just one last thing to worry about: their peers.

"I think people will be more informed about politics," Riley said. "I think they'll care more because they'll be older and more mature."

Hopefully, the incoming freshmen will fulfill Riley's vision of her classmates as the eighth grade students mature into CHS's newest freshman class. With their level of preparedness, the eighth graders should have no problem. ☺



Ali Sehzadeh



Courtesy of Ugochi Onyema

From Right: Seniors Ugochi Onyema, Rachel Oetting, Abby Williams, Fontasha Powell, Hal Lewis, Maddy McMahon, Shannon Harms and Olivia Hayes in their Homecoming 1980s outfits.

Race still matters despite election

Following Barack Obama's historic election, critics have been quick to declare race a non-factor in the American social, political and economic landscape. To many, his presidency marks the advent of a "post-racial" society: one in which discrimination and separation based on color no longer exists.

to recognize that the division is as geographic as it is economic. Distinct white communities and black communities widen the gap between races, and this separation translates directly into the CHS commons.

Staff Editorial

"How can liberals sell American racism, class envy and unfairness when our new black president and his wife went to Ivy League schools, got high-paying jobs, became millionaires, bought a mansion, and are now moving to the White House?" asks Tom Adkins of the Philadelphia Inquirer. "America is officially a meritocracy."

While the desire and need to build community within our own racial groups is certainly not condemnable, we will never come close to healing our nation's racial wounds if we choose to "retreat into our respective corners," as Obama said in his March 2008 speech on race.

In St. Louis, only 79 percent of blacks go on to graduate high school, compared to 89 percent of whites. Every single student deserves to be able to achieve to his highest ability. As students, we can play an important role in encouraging "the fulfillment of one's truest potential"—Plato's absolute definition of justice—in each other.

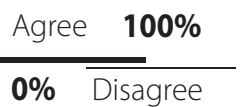
Friendships should not and cannot be forced, but when presented with the opportunity to get to know someone of a different racial group during an extracurricular activity, students should try their best to do so.

Common interests can form bonds and, in turn, appreciation of each other's cultures and stories. In a society as sharply divided as ours, this is the first and most important step.

Change is uncomfortable, and today's youth must take this discomfort into their own hands. Obama stated in his speech that we cannot "get beyond our racial divisions in a single election cycle, or with a single candidacy."

Obama's time in office is not an epilogue to the African American struggle for equality; it is merely another chapter in a story that spans centuries.

He alone cannot bridge the racial gap that so deeply divides our society. Only we, the young generation—our attitudes, our beliefs, and our openness to change—can guide America toward a more perfect union. ☺



Auto-tune causes musical frustration

I read an interesting article in Time magazine a few weeks back about the music software Auto-Tune, and the effect it's had on the industry as a whole. First developed in the '90s to nudge off-pitch notes into key (preventing entire re-recording sessions) it is now reportedly used during the production process of practically every mainstream artist.

The result, as Time put it, is what sounds like a virtual "tightening of standards at record labels."

I have very mixed, possibly even contradictory, feelings about Auto-Tune. Though it is still being used as a pitch filter, it has become most famous in recent years for giving R&B artist T-Pain his distinctively synthetic robo-voice.

T-Pain's songs are instantly recognizable because they're filled with riffs and embellishments that are generally considered to be beyond the realm of human ability. With the distorting power of Auto-Tune, however, T-Pain can pull them off.

And others have taken note. Time pointed out both Britney Spears and Kanye West as ar-

tists who have been exploring the uses of Auto-Tune in their music. Kanye's song "Love Lockdown" makes extensive use of the effect—a fact made painfully obvious by his failed attempt to perform it live at SNL.

So on the one hand, T-Pain did something interesting and different when he began to manufacture his voice, for which he could be commended. Granted, he probably can't actually sing, but with the use of the software he can produce a sound that's interesting and usually catchy.

But now everyone else is doing the same thing, which raises several problems for me. To illustrate, I turn to Jamie Foxx's song "Blame It," which features a solo verse by T-Pain.

It's customary when T-Pain is featured in another artist's work for him to announce himself before he begins his section. In "Blame It," for example, the opening lyrics of T-Pain's section are literally: "T-Pain/Girl I know you feel good/Just like you look/Couple more shots/You open up like a book."

The narcissism of writing oneself into one's

own song took me a little while to get over, but I eventually realized that there was a more utilitarian purpose for the "T-Pain" at the beginning of that verse. I realized that if he hadn't announced he was going to begin "singing" I probably wouldn't have even noticed that it was a different person. Under the blanketing, individuality-smothering Auto-Tune effects, Jamie Foxx and T-Pain literally sounded like the same singer to me.

My second problem with Auto-Tune is actually its primary function—to keep singers in tune.

What I like about T-Pain's usage of the technology is that he's so brazen about employing it. No one thinks that's his real voice. He's all electric, but at least he's up front about it.

But then you have someone like Taylor Swift, who has built her entire sound on being acoustic, organic, and natural. Her live performances, however, bear little resemblance to the crystal-clear radio versions of her songs, forcing me to conclude that her music is not so organic at all.

It's unfortunate for the entire industry that some singers are being propped up by auto-adjust equipment, because it calls everyone's actual ability into question.

Maybe I should just stay with Susan Boyle.

Graduation a time to reflect

As our senior year is rapidly approaching a screeching halt, I find myself becoming misty-eyed at the most subtle mentions of graduation, college decisions, and summer plans.

I know, I know. Going to college is a milestone in the path of the progression of life. Or, at least this is the profound idea that I continually tell myself every time I sense the welling of tears in my eyes. But even though graduation is just a little more than four weeks away, I have to admit that I am still focused on completing the school year on a positive note. I can still muster enough passion to freak out about my AP exams, and of course I care about my fragile grade-point-average, considering the ever-fighting fact that colleges can rescind their offers if one stinks up their entire second semester. I still lament over the fact that I have finals and countless review sessions to attend to. Not to mention the projects and essays that I have yet to complete.

Even though I am currently suffering a severe case of senioritis, I still care about school and I want to be able to leave Clayton High School knowing that I tried as hard as I could without actually events that are prevalent in the remainder of my senior year. I can't help but ponder why my friends and I aren't spending time cherishing what little time we have left. I know it sounds like a cheesy line straight out of a teen drama, but I really am going to miss them, and the fact that we haven't talked about it tells me two things: either they don't care or they are too emotionally troubled to face the goodbyes. The first suggestion makes me sick to my stomach and the second evokes an awesome sense of sympathy.

crossing the line into the realm of being as seriously concerned as say, a first-semester student. The stress has been alleviated and I no longer feel any stimulus to random freak-outs, to which several of my friends would fervently attest.

However, the stress of deciding on a specific college at which I will spend the next four years of my life sipping on vanilla lattes and debating philosophical ideologies has taken over my entire way of life. Until the first day of May, I will continue to wander the halls of CHS as a ball of unmitigated mess.

Despite the massive amount of stressful events that are prevalent in the remainder of my senior year, I can't help but ponder why my friends and I aren't spending time cherishing what little time we have left. I know it sounds like a cheesy line straight out of a teen drama, but I really am going to miss them, and the fact that we haven't talked about it tells me two things: either they don't care or they are too emotionally troubled to face the goodbyes. The first suggestion makes me sick to my stomach and the second evokes an awesome sense of sympathy.

No matter what their reasoning is for

refusing to convey emotion or even simply acknowledge the separation that is subject to our friendships after May 27, I still have faith that their ambivalence is a figment of my imagination. Maybe in reality they are as torn up as I am about the end of an era of drama, laughter and really good food.

For some inexplicable reason, everytime I even mentally picture a cap and gown ensemble, I hear Vitamin C's "Graduation (Friends Forever)" resonating in my brain. And whenever I hear this song, the waterworks begin. I know how unbelievable corny that is (as my family never fails to tell me) to cry at such a stupidly infectious song, but I can't help it. I am a sucker for emotional goodbyes, and I have a feeling that come August, us seniors will be forced to endure some of the most gut-wrenchingly unbearable goodbyes of our lifetimes. But, we'll get over it, as we should, and move on with our collegiate lives. After all, we are basically adults. Maybe my friends and classmates just have a larger threshold for emotional trauma. Or maybe I should just be quiet and suck it up until it actually comes time to say goodbye. Nah, I've won't even consider the latter. I don't know about anyone else, but I choose to enjoy every moment left with my friends, albeit in an inconspicuous manner, as I don't want to be seen by my friends as a cheesy, sappy kook. ☺



Adults join, change Facebook

I'd always heard stories of helicopter parents who joined Facebook to monitor their high school student's activities, photos, and messages on the site. By the end of the story, I would always pity the victim of the story and think about how glad I was that I wasn't in this situation myself.

Of course, the only possible result of having these thoughts was for one of my parents to join Facebook. And they did.

After my dad joined Facebook, I made it clear that I wasn't going to be "friends" with him on Facebook. However, the more difficult decision was whether or not to help him set up his profile. To do so sort of felt like a betrayal to all of my peers who used Facebook and hated the fact that so many adults are joining.

In the end, however, I gave in. I agreed to give a few pieces of advice that ranged from how to avoid receiving 50 notification emails a day to basic Facebook etiquette.

It seemed unnecessary at first to explain a concept as simple as what basic features of Facebook like walls, groups, and friend requests were. However, to someone who wasn't at all familiar with Facebook, these were not necessarily obvious pieces of information. After explaining the basics, I didn't see his profile again.

According to the New York Times Magazine, the number of users aged 35-54 increased by 276 percent in the last six months of 2008. This means that more and more teens will be faced with parents also logging on to Facebook.

I suppose the appeal of Facebook would only have to spread to adults. The self-absorbed nature of status updates and the wonderful accessibility of photos of friends and family were

bound to appeal to adults sooner or later. However, with Facebook no longer being just a "kid thing," the whole purpose and landscape of Facebook is set to drastically change as it becomes more and more mainstream.

Articles are popping up in all sorts of magazines, newspapers, and websites where adults muse about the wonders of Facebook and how great it is that so many adults are joining. It is also not uncommon to see an article about someone who was expelled or rejected from a school or university for posting something distasteful on their profile. Facebook is clearly no longer a social-networking haven for teens and young adults.

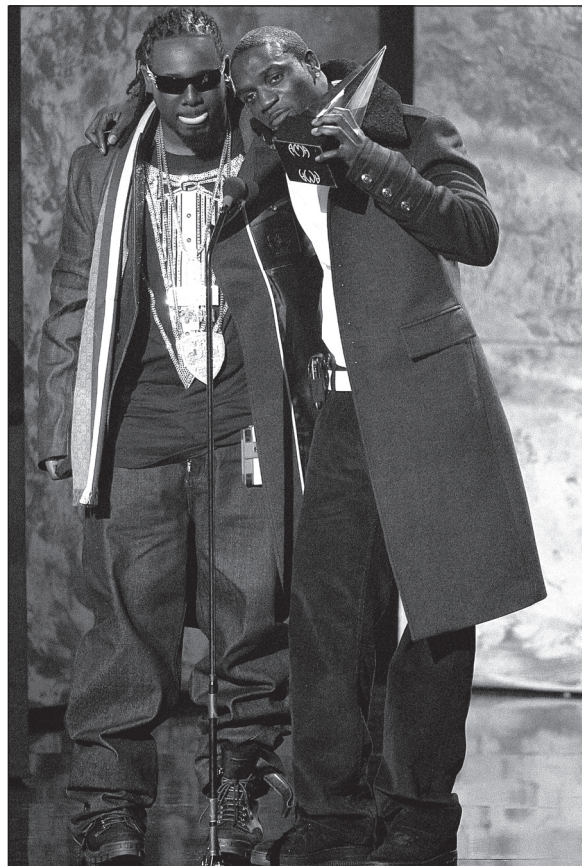
The only question at this point is: will the prevalence of parents and other adults on Facebook change how teens perceive and use it? With students no longer just being "friends" with their peers, but with teachers, relatives, and other adults that they know, won't people be forced to change their behavior?

While a lot of people might claim that they won't "tame down" their profiles for adults, there does sometimes seem to be a notable change in a person's profile if they become "friends" with a parent, or even begin applying to colleges. Once Facebook is no longer just a space shared with friends, what one posts on to the site seems much more important and worthy of consideration.

It's entirely plausible that young people might end up transferring to a completely new and different kind of social networking site in the future and pave the way for a new trend to be mimicked by adults. In the meantime, however, it looks like we'll all just have to share. ☺



Dawn Androphy



Courtesy of MCT Campus

Akon and T-Pain accept an award at the 2007 American Music Awards. Both artists make extensive use of Auto-Tune in their music.

Globe

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Freshman Jonathon Shumway on a nature hike with his younger brother Elias.

Student inspired by autistic brother

Seven years ago, my youngest brother was born. We didn't know it then, but three years later he would be diagnosed with autism. Though many view this diagnosis as a challenge to one's family, it has been a blessing for mine. It has helped me become the person that I am today and made me think of others—sometimes more than myself.

To celebrate Autism Month, I would like to tell my story, to help others gain awareness, and also for people to gain understanding.

Though my brother is diagnosed with autism, he has gained much progress in all aspects to live his life—enjoying all the joys and pleasures of any 7-year-old. He has been able to participate in three sports this year: soccer, basketball, and baseball. Just recently my brother got a perfect score on his spelling test, which was administered to all the students in the room.

If there were two things that I have learned personally from this experience of seeing him develop, they would be to never underestimate someone and to not judge other people's situations.

My brother has consistently exceeded the expectations of his peers, teachers, and myself. When I first learned that my brother had autism, I did not know what to expect, or what I would gain from this blessing in my life. Many people have worked very hard to help my brother Elias, and he just continues to progress with their help and encouragement.

One time when my family was skiing, my brother was on the rope tow, learning the basic techniques that are essential to be able to ski. After some time, my dad suggested that we give my brother Elias a chance to go on the lift up the mountain, but my mom thought it might be too much for my brother at that point. She thought he might get hurt, but they decided to take my brother up the chairlift so he could go down the mountain.

He was able to get down the whole mountain, and when my mom finally saw him finally coming down, she was as surprised as ever. In fact, we were all quite astonished at his ability to navigate his way down a mountain. As this story shows, my brother has always consistently gone far above our expectations, proving our inability to predict his potential.

When we were in a recent family reunion, we decided to end the good time we all had had with a family prayer. One of my older cousins, also named Elias, was asked to say the concluding prayer. My brother suddenly came out of nowhere,

from the loft above us, and started to say the prayer.

There have been times when I have questioned his awareness in certain situations, but as this story shows, my brother is very conscious of his environment, knowing exactly what is happening. My brother is very pure and innocent, and I am constantly relearning the importance of appreciating others' peoples gifts and strengths that are different than myself.

In terms of not judging other people's situations, I have learned to give people a chance. Perhaps one of the hardest parts for me with my brother having autism is that people do not understand how to treat people who are different than themselves, even though in reality, we each have our similarities and differences.

I have had to listen to people make remarks that show little empathy towards my brother. There have been times when my brother may act in ways that seem unacceptable to others, such as giving occasional yells or climbing over the seats, in the context of a public setting.

Just this weekend, my family was out walking around Creve Coeur Lake, and my brother was running out in front of us on the path. When my brother went momentarily into the other side of the pathway, an elderly couple on bikes went towards my brother. Because they were annoyed that my brother was in their way, the couple said of my brother, "He is just in his little world and his mother is not doing a thing about it."

Was this comment necessary? Is it because of their impatience of the situation that they want to express their irritation at such a trivial matter that they really did not understand? It just proves that we all need to look a little further and deeper at others' situations.

There may be times when we may want to make accusations, but even so, a lot of the time, we don't really understand. We need to be a little more tolerant and merciful as we interact with others.

After what we learned from the Arts Fair, I ask that people give some acceptance to my brother, that we can see the potential of individuals, and that we don't judge unknowingly.

I am very grateful for the chance to have an autistic brother since he has helped me become the person that I am today. I love him a lot, and am so fortunate to be able to call him brother. I may help him in a thing or two, but most of time, he is teaching me the things that I need to learn so that I can progress like he is. ☺



Jonathan Shumway

I am very grateful for the chance to have an autistic brother, since he has helped me become the person that I am today. I love him a lot, and am so fortunate to be able to call him brother.

St. Louis ranked second most 'unhappy' city

Anyone you know think that their lives suck? It could be because of where we live. St. Louis is ranked number two in the top ten unhappiest cities in the United States, behind only Portland, Oregon.

Our suicide rate is ranked 22nd and our crime rate is first. And how many cloudy days do we have? St. Louis has 164 cloudy days per year. Depression rank: 13

You would not think that St. Louis would be that bad of a place to live. Clayton has more trees and green in general than most cities in Missouri. What we are missing is stuff to do.

Oh, yay! We have a giant piece of bent metal. And we have a baseball team that used to be awesome! Don't you just love how flat our city is? And our river is too brown and murky to see the bottom! I bet outdoorsy people would love it here.

I like to shop. Most people do. But when we get to the mall, I, personally, have yet to see one store that I could not find somewhere else in the world. Even our wonderful little, local coffee shop, Kaldis, is now a chain. A somewhat small

chain, granted, but there are still more than one of them in existence. That takes something away from it, I think.

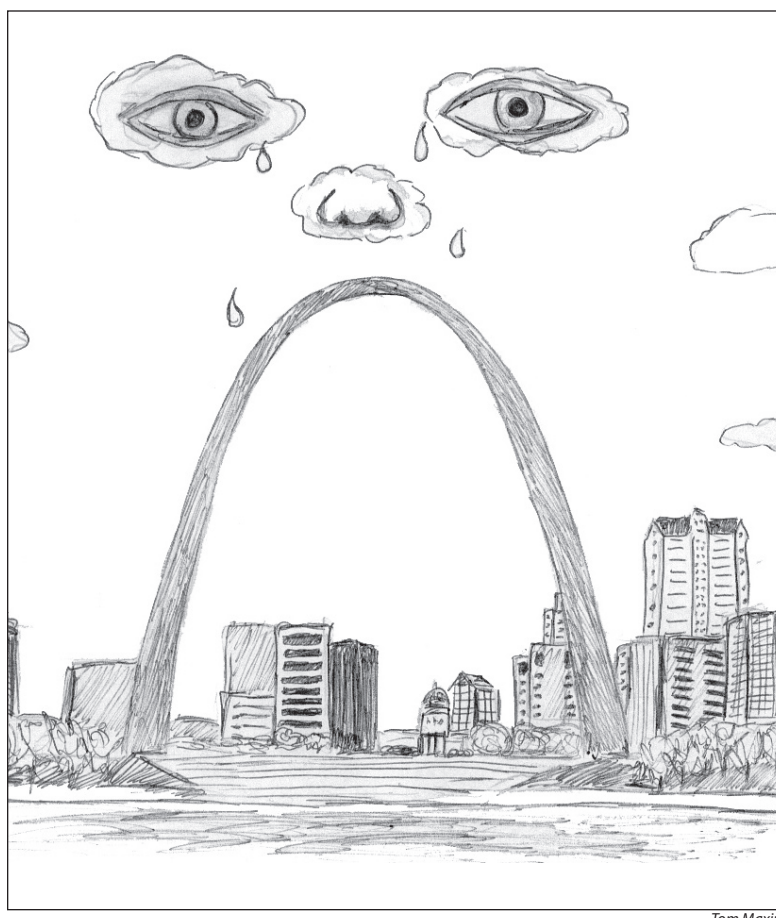
So why are we St. Louisans so unhappy? Could it be that there is absolutely no culture in our town? Maybe that there are no natural wonders besides one of the least inviting bodies of water in the world? Could it be that we have the highest crime rate in America? Or maybe it is that our divorce rate is increasing while unemployment increases?

There's no real way to measure our unhappiness, besides a scale, and for those melodramatics among us, which I am sure there are many, those scales would definitely tip. The only way for sure that we know that the people of St. Louis are sadder than the rest of the world (excluding Portland, of course) is that we are all depressed and bored out of our minds.

How to fix this? Well maybe we need a hill or two that doesn't lead to, oh say, food, like all of the Midwestern trails do. Maybe we just need to be active. Who knows? Perhaps it is just that the people who have gathered in our city have something wrong with their brains. ☹



Katie Lefton



Tom Maxim

I'm really surprised about St. Louis' awful ranking: second unhappiest city in the United States, after Portland, Oregon.

I wonder who they interviewed or surveyed to calculate this "ranking," but it certainly isn't entirely accurate.

St. Louis is a great city to live in, to group up in, to raise a family in, and more. As a graduating senior, I think I have a skewed perspective on this topic: I won't be here next year, and I am now entering a phase of nostalgia.

Though there isn't much in St. Louis, compared to the vast civilizations of California and New York, there really isn't much to complain about. We have everything we need, and more.

Every St. Louis child prides themselves on our Zoo - the number one zoo in the nation. Even better, the zoo has free admission. I don't see how anyone can complainingly rate St. Louis an "unhappy" city when we host the best (and free) zoo in the nation.

That's not even the beginning. The Arch is a both a beautiful structure and a National Park.

There's more: The St. Louis Cardinals. Sure, it three years ago, in 2006, when we last won the World Series, but that doesn't mean we're now an "unhappy" city.

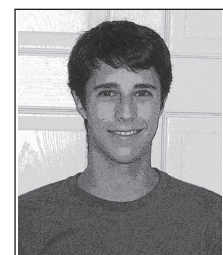
And then there's Forest Park. Forest Park is host to a free Art Museum, a free first-rate Science Center, free seats at the famous outdoor Muny theatre, and lots of biking and running space.

Notice how almost everything that makes St. Louis a famous and "happy" place has free admission.

I still don't understand who was surveyed for this nationwide "city ranking," but they were farthest from correct.

People can always find something wrong with their homeplaces. I try to take another perspective: finding everything positive. I would ask everyone to take a step back and pretend like they won't return to St. Louis for another year or so.

Then, hopefully everyone would realize all of the amazing attractions and natural wonders we have just around the block. ☺



Aaron Praiss

Internationals provide unique perspective

"What the United States did was, at first, a good thing," Haider Muhsin Ridha Al-Allwi said, "but you need to leave ASAP."

His statement was succinct, yet resounding. Al-Allwi, an Iraqi medical student, was referring to the invasion of his home country and the subsequent overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

Four students and young leaders, including Al-Allwi, had traveled to the United States from Iraq and Jordan through the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). IVLP is a professional exchange program and is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

According to the department, this program is "designed to build mutual understanding between the U.S. and other countries through carefully designed visits that reflect the participants' professional interests and support U.S. foreign policy goals."

There was an arranged meeting between these four ambitious students and members of Cultural Leadership. Cultural Leadership is an organization that teaches young people the importance of social justice through the African-American and Jewish experience.

We carried on small talk as we waited outside for the visitors to arrive, and as the bus pulled up, someone asked if we should extend a hand when we introduced ourselves. It hadn't even occurred to me that the protocol of introductions would be different. Six people including three men from Iraq, one woman from Jordan, and two interpreters exited the vehicle. As it turned out, we shared a warm welcome and shook hands.

After a short lunch, we all sat down in a circle and, immediately, the conversation was launched. There was so much to explain, to ask, that it was hard to adjust to a slower pace to allow time for the interpreters to, well, interpret. We wanted to know about a wide range of topics. However, we could only brush the sur-

face of issues such as racism and sexism in their countries, racism in America, the effects of the Iraqi war on their everyday lives, their view of Israel, and their views of America.

The discussion began with a brief explanation of our country's history of racism, and residual intolerance. One example we provided the guests was the Jena Six incident that enraged the nation. We explained to them what occurred in Louisiana last year. However, the four students seemed confused that the boys would receive such harsh penalties for a schoolyard fight.

"Could the boys have had knives in their shoes?" Isam Kadhim Abdulkareem Al-Hilfy asked concerning

the explanation that the supposed weapons the boys were accused of possessing were their tennis shoes.

We added that though violence had taken place, exclusively Black boys were punished.

The topic of conversation turned to the issues of intolerance and social tension in the Iraqi and Jordanian communities.

I realized quickly that the information I had gathered from the radio and television news networks about this part of the world called the "Middle East" was not even half of the story.

One of the first questions brought up concerned the political and religious divisions between the Sunni and the Shia. The violent struggle for power between these groups is often broadcast on the national and international news. This was why it was somewhat hard to comprehend the idea that Sunnis and Shiites generally live along side each other peacefully, and often intermarry. For example, Al-Allwi came from a family of both Sunni and Shia origin. They

stated that the division was merely theological, yet radicals in both groups ignite violence.

Another question looming in the back of my mind was the impact of the Iraqi war and their views of constant American military presence. Again, their answers surprised me. It's very easy to generalize a people's view, such as "they will greet us as liberators" or "we are causing nothing but damage and they don't want us in their country." Before the discussion began, I would have expected to hear a unified answer similar to the latter response. I now realize there are infinite shades of gray. They seemed to share the view that Saddam Hussein was an evil man, but their united opinions pretty much stopped there. One Kurdish student, Khalid Atta Khalid Al-Naqshbandy was very supportive of the American invasion. Under Saddam Hussein's regime, his family was removed from its home and forced to reside in another part of the country. As a Kurd, the oppression he suffered seemed the most

tangible, but that is not to say other Iraqis, both Sunnis and Shiites, did not feel the strain of a tyrannical ruler. He believed the Americans acted justly in waging war on this dictator.

Each statement seemed to generate about 10 questions, but the conversation was forced to change topics relatively periodically. One of the

aspects of the dialogue that surprised me the most was how much I actually didn't know. But, on a personal level, we did not need interpreters to comprehend mutual feelings of hope. One observation Al-Naqshbandy identified was that he possesses great pride for his country and is optimistic about the future, just as Americans feel now with a new president in the White House.

Another lesson: never underestimate the power of interaction. ☺

Homework causes stress, sleepless nights

In elementary school, the bell at 3:30 meant the end of school and the burden associated with it. Yet now, this bell is as meaningful as the one at 9:56; it's simply another reminder for you to move on from one school related task to the next. Of course, there are a few breaks within a high school student's tight schedule, but these are all soured by the thought of the homework to come.

Clearly, high school students have too much to do and not enough time to do it. The root of this problem is the amount of homework that students get each day.

Earlier this year, students were asked to keep track of the amount of homework they were getting in a "Homework Journal." In English class, they talked about the results of this survey. The results were striking. Most people were doing more than 4 hours of homework per day.

This amount is unreasonable. How can students be expected to go to school until 3 p.m., participate in an extra-curricular until 6 p.m. and then do 4 hours of homework? If you add one hour for meals or snacks, that means that students have to stay up until 11 p.m. High school students need at least 9 hours of sleep for proper development and growth, but a schedule such as this one (provided that students get up at 7 a.m.), gives students only 8 hours. Why does the school teach us that we need 9 hours of sleep but prevent us from getting it?

Many parents feel the same way about homework. In fact, a study done by the University of Toronto called "Homework Realities: A Canadian Study of Parental Opinions and Attitudes" published some of these opinions. Several parents criticized the type and amount of homework given to their children.

"Far too much homework, of little value," one parent said. "Too much is expected of parents in terms of helping out. Too

much drill work, too much class work completion."

Some even said that it disrupted their family life.

"I find homework extremely disruptive to building a strong family," another parent who took part in the survey explained.

"The number of fights and stressful tension has been numerous, it has put the parent in a position they are not willing, equipped or prepared to do effectively."

Another parent explained the positive aspects as well as the negative aspects of homework.

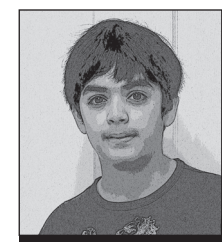
"That there is so much quantity, I wonder if the benefits of learning from the work is being outweighed by the negative effects such as less 'down' time, less family time, stress of completing assignments, emphasis on completing work instead of learning something."

There should be a limit to the amount of homework teachers assign us. They should only be able to assign up to 15 minutes per class for the average student in the class. For an average student with 7 classes a day, this cut the amount of homework from 4 hours to less than 2 hours. This gives much more time to the student, and it also makes sure that teachers don't assign any busywork, and choose homework that is really needed.

This would make students' lives much easier, as they would now have more time to do what they want.

Less homework would provide a better balance between school and home. Yes, with less homework, students could once again look forward to the bell at 3:30, assured that they only have around 2 hours of homework. This more structured day would allow students to know how much homework to expect, and plan accordingly.

By simply making this one regulation, we can fix so many problems that are associated with tight schedules. ☺



Apoorva Sharma

Sarah's Line of Infamy

All photos from MCT

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad



The President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is at it again. At the U.N. Conference about racism, Ahmadinejad claimed that the U.S had been aggressive towards the Palestine after WWII under the "pretext of Jewish suffering" and that Israel is the "most cruel and repressive racist regime." His remarks inspired 40 diplomats to walk out. Yes, clearly Israel is the cause of racism, not the man making inflammatory remarks at a peace conference. Oh, but no worries. He was going to say the Holocaust was "ambiguous and dubious," but he stopped short of those words. How polite of him.

Dick Cheney

He has asserted that the country is not safe under the Obama administration. He has inferred that Obama is not patriotic and now he is chastizing Obama for giving a warm



greeting to President Chavez of Venezuela. Why on earth should we listen to the one man alive who might just be wrong on every single topic and condones torture? Why would we follow advice on meeting foreign leaders when our country's image was ruined during the Bush administration? Oh, who is the most bitter man in the room?

Todd Tiahrt



tiahrt.house.gov

Less than a week ago the senator referred to Rush Limbaugh as "just an entertainer," and he is already apologizing and even calling Limbaugh "a great leader." He has just officially been added to the "I'mSorryRush.com" website. I happen to agree that Rush Limbaugh is NOT an entertainer as well. He is a mindless, idiotic, loud, annoying, and ignorant blob.

Philip Markoff



Ali Sehzadeh

Suspected of bashing Julissa Brisman, a masseuse from Craigslist.com on the head and shooting her three times at close range, Markoff is the direct opposite of what you would expect. A rich,

cleancut medical student, he appeared to have it all. He has also been accused of stalking and robbing other women. Students that knew him said while polite, he gave off a "creepy vibe" and had problems with "people of color and women."



Website of the Month



MCT



ImSorryRush.com

Do you owe Rush Limbaugh an apology? Are you a member of the Republican party who accidentally insulted the almighty Limbaugh? Having trouble with an apology? Imsorryrush.com is an apology generator where you can customize your own "I am so sorry, Rush!" letter!

How to Survive AP Testing

- 1.** Start studying now! If you wait too long, you are going to have to cram in a year's worth of information in a week. Start organizing information and buy an AP Princeton book.
- 2.** Make a list of every concept that you have to study. Move from general information to more specific details. As you study cross of topics you have reviewed so you can mark your progress. And feel a sense of vindication when you erase photosynthesis from your AP Biology study guide.
- 3.** The night before the exam make sure you get a good night's sleep and eat well. At this point, excessive cramming really won't make a difference.
- 4.** During the test go through each question entirely so you have a complete understanding of what is being asked. Skip any difficult questions and come back later. Make sure you know if the test has a guessing penalty and only guess if you can eliminate two responses or more.
- 5.** Keep in mind that even if you do not score a 3 or more on your exam (making you eligible for college credit), the fact that you took a college-level course will still look great on your transcript and show a high level of rigorous classes.

Environmental Tip of the Month



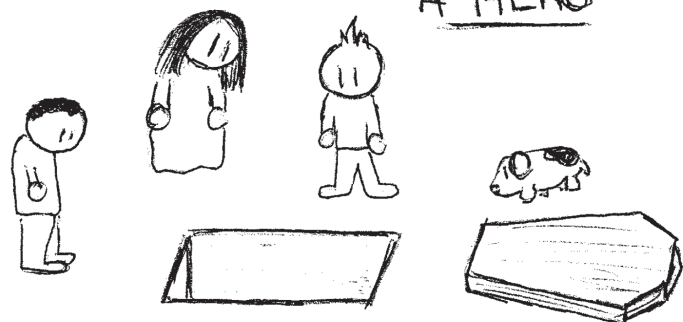
Unplugging Electronics

Turning off electronics is not as environmentally helpful as you think! Most electronic devices don't really shut off but simply run on standby when you hit the power button. You can reduce energy use by unplugging your electronics or by connecting everything to a power strip.

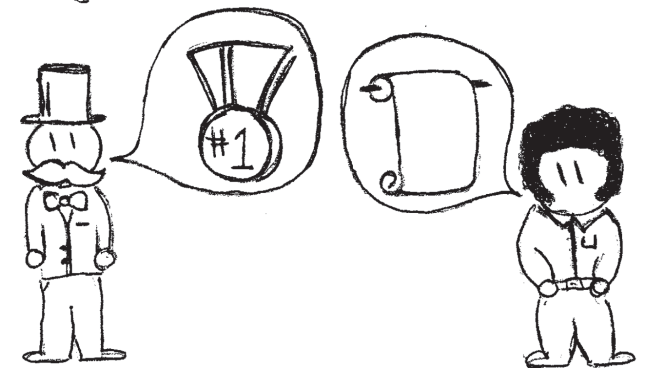
THE ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN JEFF

by Jacob Goldsmith

THE DEATH OF A HERO

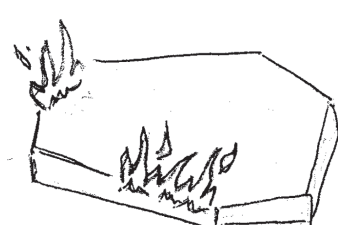


Today is a sad day indeed. Storm clouds hang ominously over the small cemetery where the funeral for our hero, Captain Jeff, is just beginning...

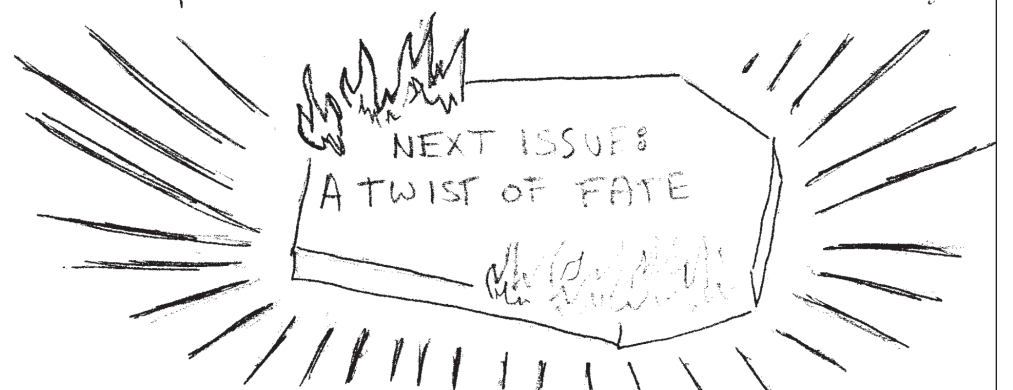


All the awards and scholarships can not bring our fallen hero back. Nor can they bring Solace to his friends and family.

As the fearful mourners look longingly at the casket the air begins to ripple and the temperature rises. Suddenly the casket catches fire.



The entire casket is quickly engulfed in flames. The mourners are in a dizzying panic! What can this mean for our hero?





1. Moriah Olschansky with buddy
2. Buddy
3. Emily Derfler with buddy
4. Buddy
5. Buddy
6. Leah Eby with buddy
7. Meghan Murray with buddy
8. Buddy
9. Andres Angeles-Albores with buddy
10. Darcy Sanders with buddy



Going for the gold: Olympic Arts Fair

All photos by Andrew Dowd



New arts fair speaker inspires

Rachel Nevels
Reporter

The 2009 Olympics was held at none other than CHS this month, in the guise of the annual Arts Fair. The 'Olympians', students from Litzinger and Neuwoehner schools from the Special School District, arrived at CHS eager for their day of events.

With their buddies, the students designed their own flag, had their face painted, made macaroni necklaces, got interviewed by the GNN producers, and experienced live entertainment by CHS student volunteers.

The day began with CHS band members marching from Stuber gym to the Commons, engulfing the entire school with their hypnotic rhythms. Once coordinator and organizer Eric Hamylak introduced the day's events, everyone was ready to participate in the many activities the arts fair committee had worked so hard on.

"The Arts Fair went well this year, it ran pretty smoothly throughout the day once we figured out the buddy situations," senior and Arts Fair committee chair Kate Wheelock said. "This year, not enough students signed up to be buddies, so we had to recruit students from rooms. CHS students were so great and willing to volunteer, which made the day better for all the SSD students."

"I was there until midnight setting up," junior Alex Butler said. "At the meetings we looked through magazines to try to order stuff for the arts fair that had to do with the Olympics. Our goal was to make sure the kids had as much fun possible. We also tried to keep in mind that all the kids aren't the same age so we had to have a wide range of activities."

Butler, along with the rest of the Arts Fair steering committee, CHS volunteer buddies, staff, and club members who sponsored a room attended a 45-minute training about how to be mentally prepared for a day of adventure with their buddies. Former CHS student Mark Elliot gave the lecture. Elliot was a member of StuGo who participated in the Arts Fair every year, but he also has a disease known

as Tourettes syndrome.

"Mark was a great speaker for buddy training day because he could easily relate to our CHS students and he could also touch on some of his personal experiences with tourettes that lead to great lessons in tolerance," Hamylak said. "Having Mark speak to our CHS students for buddy training day was incredible. Reading about things in books or listening to someone's third person perspective is okay, but nothing beats having someone with real life experiences share them in such an interesting, entertaining and educational way."

"Never in my slightest dream could I have imagined coming back to CHS to help prepare students for the Arts Fair," Elliot said. "When Mr. Hamylak asked me, I immediately jumped on the opportunity. It was nice for me to be able to help out other students with a program that was once so special to me."

Students who participated in the training were pleased with Elliot's performance.

"This is Mark Elliot's first time coming to speak to us, and he was great. Having him as a speaker added a bit of humor to a serious topic, one that often makes some students feel uncomfortable. He made everyone feel relaxed and excited for the Arts Fair," Wheelock said.

Although Wheelock was very busy this year with the planning, and organizing of the Arts Fair along with Hamylak and fellow senior Jasmyne Adams, she, as well as other members have had the experience of spending a day with a buddy.

"I had a buddy my freshman year. My buddy used to play football and basketball, but he got in a car accident and could not longer talk. However, we managed to communicate through blinking and smiling, and we had a great day," Wheelock said.

Many CHS students and staff come back each year to help out, such as Spanish teacher Heather Mullins. "I have participated every year I have worked at CHS," Mullins said. "I have hosted a room as the Spanish Club sponsor in the past and this year sponsored the FCA Club room. Arts Fair gives so many of us a chance to share the CHS experience and truly treat all others as we would like to be treated." ☺

