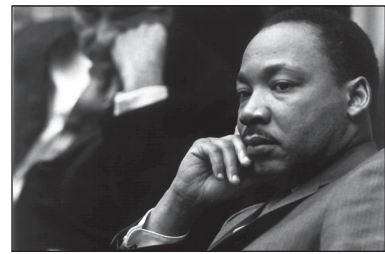


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Losos continues to battle cancer

Rachel Harris
Co-Editor in Chief

Principal Louise Losos was diagnosed with breast cancer in April 2006. She was stunned by the diagnosis, but since then has been able to come to terms with it. Over the past eight months, Losos has undergone several rounds of chemotherapy as well as surgery.

It is hard for Assistant Principal Dan Gutchewsky to watch his colleague and friend struggle through her illness.

“It is always hard when someone you care about has to battle a serious illness,” Gutchewsky said. “She is a good friend and colleague and I feel bad for her as I have to watch what she is going through. At the same time I really admire her strength, positive attitude, and sense of humor she has maintained throughout her treatments.”

Due to her intense treatment, Losos has taken some extended periods of time off from being the principal of CHS in order to recover.

“[Dr. Losos] is always a phone call away when she is not in the building and even on days when she feels terrible she will give me a call,” Gutchewsky said.

Assistant Principal Dr. Don Rugraff agrees with Gutchewsky.

“She takes care of herself and the school,” Rugraff said. “She is always in good communication and is always trying to take care of people.”

While Gutchewsky and Rugraff are perfectly capable of handling any situation while Losos is out, Losos does not like being away from the school for longer periods of time.

“It’s easy to stay abreast with email, but I don’t like feeling disconnected from the personal relationships. I have tons of meetings when I get back so then I’m in my office for the whole following week after I get back. I love the job because of the interactions and this has made it more difficult.”

With Losos being out of the building to recover, some of the workload has fallen on the shoulders of Gutchewsky and Rugraff.

“I just do my job to the best of my ability and cover for her whenever she needs help,” Gutchewsky said. “This year I have represented

her and CHS on more committees and events. I have been involved in more conversations with Central Office administrators as during her absences I deal with more ‘day to day’ issues that she would normally handle. These include student, staff, and parent concerns.”

Rugraff has also tried his best to help Losos as much as he can through her time of need.

“There is only so much time in the day,” Rugraff said. “I never leave school with everything done. Occasionally things will come up that she would have normally handled. The days she is gone are minimal to what I was expecting them to be. It is amazing that she is handling this as she is.”

Rugraff and Gutchewsky have had to rally together in Losos’ time of need.

“Dr. Rugraff and I are good friends and we have worked together for six years in various capacities,” Gutchewsky said. “We work very well together and we

frequently consult one another to make sure everything is running smoothly and that we are always ‘on the same page’ administratively.”

Losos is extremely appreciative of the wonderful colleagues she is surrounded by.

“They have been fantastic,” Losos said. “They have been supportive and concerned about my well-being. This is a great place to be.”

Rugraff and Gutchewsky are not the only ones feeling the effect of Losos’ absences.

“I think the students and staff have been extremely supportive and they always ask me how Dr. Losos is doing when she is not in the building,” Gutchewsky said.

The head shaving even last school year meant a lot to Losos and helped galvanize the school community.

“This event helped increase awareness about the issues facing many of our students and their families as they deal with loved ones who have cancer,” Gutchewsky said.

Losos is still confident about her course of treatment. She finished her last round of chemotherapy in October and is feeling much better. Recently though, she has been thrown through a bit of a loop.

“I saw the radiologist and went

back to the surgeon,” Losos said. “My case was looked at by the tumor board and they determined that I need more surgery in January. This pushes back the radiation to March. The original surgery went well so I was disappointed I need more since thus far it has gone relatively smoothly. The major headache has been scheduling everything. I wanted to have the second surgery, but couldn’t get in until January.”

After Losos finishes surgery and radiation, she will undergo reconstructive surgery.

“Reconstruction will be the hardest,” Losos said. “Emotionally though, the surgery coming up [in January] will be the hardest. Beyond that, I hope by June 2008 I can just focus on living my life.”

Gutchewsky thinks the first semester of this school has gone very well for Losos. He expects the next semester will go just as well as the first.

“I expect that she will continue to exhibit the same courage and sense of humor that she has maintained since her diagnosis,” Gutchewsky said. “I expect that even when she is at home recovering she will be worrying about CHS instead of herself. I look forward to the follow-up story next year when we talk about how she is cancer-free.”

Winter storm hits hard

Sophia Agapova
Senior Managing Editor

As students left school on Thursday Dec. 1, the parking lot was filled with students struggling to open car doors and trying furiously to scrape ice off of their windshields with whatever equipment they had.

On the way home, roads were icy and traffic was heavy, turning a normally 15 minute drive for some students into over half an hour.

Into the evening, the local weathermen were predicting even more ice and snow for the following day. Finally, CHS students were notified that school for the next day would be cancelled.

“When the school called I was doing homework in my room,” Junior Jack Callahan said. “My mom yelled up to me something to the effect of ‘It’s official, tomorrow is a snow day.’”

The final decision to have a snow day was made by Clayton Superintendent Don Senti.

“My decision is totally based on the safety of the students and employees,” Senti said. “Except for our voluntary Transfer students many of our resident can walk to school. Of course, many CHS students drive, even if they could walk. We have a little over 500 employees; only 44 live in Clayton. Many drive from St. Charles or Jefferson County or live in Illinois. So having school with too many teachers gone would be a safety issue also.”

The decision was only made after communication with other area superintendents as well as looking at the forecast for the next day.

“Before the last storm I had a conference call at 7 pm with the superintendents,” Senti said. “Based on the forecast, which included ice then snow, we decided to call school off early in the evening. Had the forecast been only for snow we certainly would not have called it that early and, frankly, I probably would not have called school off at all.”

The fact that the forecast was proving accurate had a lot to do with the early cancellation of school.

“Normally, the decision is left until the morning,” Principal Louise Losos said. “In this case, the weather was coming down true to the forecast and was forecasted to get increasingly bad.”

Being informed the night before was a nice surprise for students.

“This was the first time I’ve known it was going to be a snow day the night before,” Callahan said.

But some students were not truly able to enjoy their day of free-



Christina Vodicka



Christina Vodicka



Blair Klostermeier

The winter storm that struck St. Louis on Dec. 1 caused widespread power outages and trees to fall. Everything in the area was coated with at least one inch of ice.

dom, as many had lost power as a result of the storm. According to the Post Dispatch, a total of over 500,000 residents in the St. Louis area lost power.

Ameren released a statement on Dec 1 describing the extent of the damage, “The storm caused extensive tree damage, broken poles and downed wires in addition to the loss of more than 200 distribution feeder circuits in Missouri.”

Governor Matt Blunt declared a state of emergency and members of the Missouri National Guard were called in to go door-to-door in affected neighborhoods to ensure the safety of residents. Warming centers were also set up around the St. Louis area in order to provide shelter to those without electricity.

Senior Andrea Martinez-Vernon was one of those who lost power and was left to wait for her electricity to be restored in the bitter cold.

“We stayed home for the first three nights, but we stayed at a hotel for the fourth night because it was just too cold,” Martinez-Vernon said. “Finally our power came back on Tuesday.”

Freshman Sean Brown is another CHS student who was forced to leave his home because of the plummeting temperatures.

“We had to go to a hotel because we didn’t have power for five days,” Brown said.

For Brown, this was the second time that a power outage caused major inconveniences this year.

“During the summer we had no power for eight days,” Brown said. “It got very hot and it was really hard to sleep at night.”

Freshman Katie Naccarato’s electricity also went out as a result of the ice storm.

“Saturday morning we heard our transformer blow up,” Nacca-

rato said. “The temperature in our house dropped to 50 degrees.”

Fortunately, Naccarato’s power was restored the same night, but not without having caused difficulties.

“It was inconvenient because I had a paper to write and homework to do,” Naccarato said. “Luckily, I was able to go to a friend’s house and use the internet.”

Although she didn’t lose power right away, senior Yue Pang also felt the effects of the storm.

“My power didn’t go out initially, but my phone, TV and internet did,” Pang said. “On Saturday, my transformer blew up twice in the middle of the day, and we lost power.”

Despite the devastation caused by the storm, many students such as Pang were able to make the most of their snow day.

“I still went sledding with my

friends and later went over to a friend’s house to warm up,” Pang said.

Martinez was also able to enjoy the day, which was made all the more special by the fact that, having recently come to CHS from Mexico, she had never seen snow before.

“I went sledding for the first time in Forest Park,” Martinez said. “It was really fun. I loved it.”

According to the Post Dispatch, power was finally restored on Dec. 11 to all local Ameren customers who had lost power as a result of the storm, 11 day after the storm hit.

By this time, properties throughout the area had sustained damage caused by falling tree limbs and other debris, and carbon monoxide poisoning caused by generators used to supply electricity after the storm had taken the lives of several Missourians. ☹

NASA sets plans to construct base on moon

Yipeng Huang
Section Editor

Humans may not be stuck on Earth for too much longer.

This past month has been an exciting one for the US space exploration program. In the course of one week, NASA announced the confirmed presence of liquid water on Mars. It also committed to constructing a manned outpost on the moon. On top of that, NASA also successfully launched a space shuttle to further construction of the International Space Station.

Pictures taken by NASA's Mars probe, Mars Global Surveyor, indicate surface erosion and sedimentation due to flowing water. Pictures clearly indicated new deposits of either ice or salt, which may be the result of water gushing to the surface from underground sources.

"These fresh deposits suggest that at some places and times on present-day Mars, liquid water is emerging from beneath the ground and briefly flowing down the slopes," Michael Malin, the author of a report in Science concerning the findings, said in a press release.

The first concrete evidence of water raises hopes for the possibility of human exploration and long-term settlement on Mars.

However, it may be a long while before humans can muster the resources and technology to travel to Mars.

Instead, NASA is currently focused on finishing the construction of the International Space Station with the remaining space shuttles through 2010.

"There is a crazy amount of construction going on right now," Dr. Michael Swartwout, Assistant Profes-



Space shuttle Discovery lifts off the launch pad at Cape Canaveral, Florida, Saturday, December 9, 2006. It was the first night shuttle launch in four years.

or of Aerospace Engineering at Washington University, said. "They may even be able to expand the crew from two or three up to six members in the next few years, which gives them a shot at doing the originally proposed research."

Despite budget and schedule overruns, NASA will complete the space station in order to conduct research

letting astronauts survive in space.

After 2010, NASA will move on to reestablishing human presence on the moon. Earlier this month, NASA officials announced plans for a permanent research base at one of the lunar poles as soon as 2024.

"We are a long, long way away from 'self-sustaining' moon colonies," Swartwout said. "We have ac-

cepted that NASA will have an annual budget on the order of \$15 billion. So if the Moon program will fit in that budget, it is likely to continue."

The plan would be more difficult than the Apollo missions, considering that NASA no longer has the ample funding and public support of the Apollo era.

"The plan is certainly feasible," spokesman for the Aerospace Industries Association Matt Grimison said. "But the point about NASA's budget is a legitimate one. In order to fully realize this vision we need an expanded long-term financial commitment from Congress and the administration. While leaders have taken some important first steps, we need to see sustained funding on a realistic level."

However, NASA is determined to continue with this new initiative.

"Creating a sustained human presence on the Moon will be a learning experience in every possible way," Deputy Administrator of NASA Shana Dale said in a NASA press release.

These goals may seem to be rather distant in the future, but human presence beyond Earth is only about to expand. Space exploration so far has been dominated by big-budget, government-funded endeavors.

Now, private companies have more interest in expanding into space.

"As has always been the case, the private sector is the cornerstone of the U.S. space program and will be going into the future," Grimison said. "Where many people assume NASA is building the space shuttle and other rockets and satellites, in reality it is private companies carrying out most of the basic functions of building these craft, with NASA partnership and oversight." ☺

Controversial American embargo on Cuba still in effect

Jim An
Section Editor

On Nov. 8, 2006, the U.N. condemned for the fifteenth straight year the United States embargo on Cuba. Perez Roque, the Foreign Minister of Cuba, called the embargo "an act of genocide," citing its detrimental effects on the economic and social welfare of Cuba and its citizens. At the time, 183 countries voted for the resolution of condemnation, and four against, including the United States, Israel, Palau, and the Marshall Islands.

Since the 1960s, America has imposed a strict trade embargo against Cuba. President Kennedy began the embargo during the Cold War in an effort to bring down the Castro regime after the failed Bay of Pigs invasion.

Since then, the Cold War has ended with the United States emerging as the sole global superpower.

"The embargo long ago outlived its usefulness," Eagleton Professor of Political Science at Washington University in St. Louis Randall Calvert said. "I think now American domestic politics is the main thing keeping the Cuban embargo going."

Some think that these resolutions are a clear sign for America to

change its course.

"I think the United States should move with the whims of UN, especially when [the UN] has such a steadfast position," senior Jack Altman said. "As a part of the international alliance, it is America's duty to obey an overwhelming majority, even if it feels differently."

However, senior Paul Lehmann does not believe that the U.N. resolution should have any effect on U.S. policy decisions.

"Whatever," Paul Lehmann said, "at least the Marshall Islands are on our side."

Some believe the embargo, begun after the failed Bay of Pigs invasion, is now anachronistic and no longer beneficial to American foreign interests.

"The embargo was once a good thing to put pressure on a leader allied with the Soviets and communism, but now it's incredibly outdated and unnecessary," senior Matt Schlessman said. "It hurts the Cuban people who can't purchase American goods. It hurts the Cubans who can't sell goods to Americans and it hurts the Americans who can't sell their goods to the Cubans."

Altman also believes that the embargo should be ended because it would be in the interest of American business and trade.

"Our country was founded on economic trade, not self-righteousness," Altman said.

However, others believe that the embargo is fully justified.

"If Cuba wants to ally itself politically with the communists, they better be prepared to be allied economically with them too," Paul Lehmann said.

Others are opposed to the embargo, which prohibits not only American companies from trading with Cuba, but also foreign companies who trade with Cuba from trading with the United States, on moral grounds.

"I'm not a huge fan [of the embargo], because everyone wants to trade with us, and by disallowing countries who trade with Cuba to trade with us, it seems like we're making an impoverished country even more impoverished," sophomore Alice Lehmann said.

However, despite years of condemnation by the U.N., the United States still has not lifted its embargo, instead tightening it over the decades.

Some think they know why the United States has not lifted its embargo on Cuba.

"I don't think America cares anymore," Paul Lehmann said, "They'd just as soon end the embargo, but it would look like back-



Cojimar, a small town 20 miles from Havana, Cuba, on August 8, 2006. After an ailing Fidel Castro handed his brother Raul provisional control over the government which he has led uninterrupted for 47 years, Cuban citizens are still waiting to find out if the 'Lider Maximo' will resume leadership after his recovery from an intestinal surgery. A controversial long-standing American embargo on Cuba is still in effect, but could potentially be rescinded if Castro dies.

ing down. If they wait for Castro to die, they can say 'ok we're doing this because the reign of terror is over'."

However, Calvert believes that even then the embargo may not end.

"A large number of anti-Castro Cubans who fled to America and formed a strong voting bloc are against ending the embargo," Calvert said. "If the U.S. government wanted to, [when Castro dies] would be a good time to end the

embargo, but I don't think the U.S. government will do that because of the Cuban-Americans here."

Schlessman also believes that politics is getting in the way of removing what he calls "a losing proposition with no good coming out of it."

"Nobody wants it on their record that they support Castro and communism, so no president has taken the step," Schlessman said.

The end of the embargo, whenever it may be, may result in a new

political atmosphere in the Americas.

"Right now there's cooperation between Cuba and the left-wing governments of Central and South America," Randall Calvert said. "The end of the embargo may drive a wedge between them."

Some believe that the embargo will prove in the end to be a positive act for Cuba and the world.

"It's like putting a child in corner time," Paul Lehmann said. "It's for his own good." ☺

Demand for petroleum, alternatives grows

Roland Reimers
Section Editor

Taking the lofty oil prices of last fall into account, current levels at local gas stations seem downright manageable. From nearly three dollars per gallon a year ago, local Shell and British Petroleum (BP) stations now offer customers two dollars and some twenty-odd cents per gallon.

Yet, simple prices and numbers do not tell the whole story about the shifts that are taking place in the global petroleum market. In addition, efforts by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and other groups to pursue research on alternative fuels have been covered by lower gas prices and other political issues, most notably the continued violence in Iraq and the changing majority representation in the Senate and House of Representatives.

The economic and environmental effects of U.S. dependence on oil are still being felt, even though they have largely not been given much attention in the national media. Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman believes there is potential harm of America's over-reliance on oil.

"With America now importing 60 percent of the oil we use and a national bill for this habit that came to \$250 billion last year, there is simply no time to waste," Bodman said. "With worldwide demand growing rapidly, and with concern about the environmental impact of greenhouse gases rising, the deployment of clean, reliable sources of energy is clearly in our national interest."

In his last State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush responded to Bodman's claim by presenting his Advanced Energy Initiative, a plan that proposes placing \$150 million into research for biomass energy.

If conducted successfully, this research could lead scientists to develop an efficient means of converting bio-waste into usable energy, cutting down on the heavy U.S. addiction to foreign oil.

"What I'm talking about is a comprehensive approach to solving a national issue, which is dependence on oil, and how best to protect this environment," Bush said in a speech at the Renewable Energy Conference in St. Louis on Oct. 12. "You know, it's time to get rid of the old, stale debates on the environment and recognize new technologies are going to enable us to achieve a lot of objectives at the same time."

Indeed, laboratories around the country, including that of Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering Lars Angenat at Washington University, have striven to improve the efficiency and technological progress of the nation's power use. Secretary Bodman emphasized on the DOE website that four billion gallons of ethanol and other plant-

based bio-fuels were produced last year, and that six billion gallons are expected this year, though 20 percent of the nation's corn crop will be used in the process.

Still, ethanol fuels cannot be the only substitute for oil dependence.

Both Bodman and Bush have repeatedly underlined the importance of diversification of energy sources, both for environmental and financial purposes.

"We need to diversify away from oil for economic reasons," Bush said. "We live in a global world. When the demand for oil goes up in China or in India, it causes the price of crude oil to rise and, since we import about 60 percent of the crude oil we use, it causes our prices to go up as well, which means the economy becomes less competitive."

China's demand for oil has dramatically risen within the past two years as the country has undergone remarkable economic growth, classifying it as the third largest importer of oil behind the United States and Japan.

This boost in internal development is to some degree the reason for the high oil prices witnessed by consumers in the U.S. last fall. As a result, the U.S. must carefully regard international developments in



(Antonio Perez/Chicago Tribune/MCT)

A grain bin is located at Adkins Energy in Lena, Illinois, which is the first farmer-owned ethanol plant in the state. With growing world demand for oil and concern about dependency for petroleum on politically sensitive states, the production of ethanol as an alternate fuel to gasoline has blossomed in recent years.



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King memorial to be constructed in D.C.

Ijeoma Onyema
Staff Reporter

It all started 43 years ago, when Dr. Martin Luther King gave his famous "I have a dream" speech to an audience of over 200,000. The civil rights leader challenged the rules of U.S. segregation and changed the world. Now the special dream of his old fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, has come true — the building of a national memorial for Dr. Martin Luther King is now reality. Dr. King will be the first African-American to have a memorial on the National Mall.

After his death in 1968, Alpha Phi Alpha began a mission to get a memorial made for Dr. King so that there would be an enduring monument to his fight for racial equality.

The request for the memorial passed in 1996. The fraternity was authorized to set up a foundation to handle fundraising for the memorial in 1998.

Freshman Aundrea VanDillen believes the process took so long because America is still in the "black and white era".

"Congress was still ignorant about having a memorial for an African American who believed in what was right," VanDillen said. "It is sad to note that our Con-

gress could not support an African American man who wanted to give more rights to the African American community."

The ceremonial groundbreaking was on Nov. 13 in Washington D.C. on the site of the memorial on the National Mall, bordering the Tidal Basin. Oprah Winfrey, Jesse Jackson, and Tommy Hilfiger were among the numerous celebrities at the ceremony. Among others present were the 50 winners from the

Kids for King essay contest, who were flown to Washington for the special event.

President Bush, who also attended the groundbreaking ceremony, gave a speech describing how Dr. King's legacy is still changing the world today.

"An assassin's bullet could not shatter the dream,"

Bush said. "It continues to inspire millions around the world."

Some students think that the memorial will have a positive effect on the country today.

"I think that it is a good idea," sophomore Michael Henry said. "It will show America how great of a leader he was."

Freshman Ellen Spann thinks that it is good that people still want to acknowledge King.

"He still deserves recognition



(Olivier Douliery/Abaca Press/MCT)

The children of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Martin Luther King III, Bernice King and Yolanda King, wait for the beginning of a groundbreaking ceremony for a national memorial to honor America's staunchest advocate of civil rights, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Washington, D.C., November 13, 2006.

for all the work that he did for the country," Spann said. "I think people agree with me because they keep donating to causes for and about him. I believe that his name will be remembered forever."

Others believe that the dedication of the memorial is symbolic of progress in the area of race.

"I am very proud of this because African American culture has been through so much to stand where it is today where we have the same rights as Caucasians do," VanDillen said.

The four-acre landscape will be made of cherry trees, water and large stones, which will represent

the themes of hope, democracy and justice. The centerpiece of the design will highlight the Stone of Hope, a giant boulder with a figure of Dr. King emerging from the rock. The memorial will also have semi-circular shaped "Niches of Reflections" on the upper walkway, all dedicated to the individuals who

sacrificed their lives for the Civil Rights Movement. Some of the niches will be left unfinished, so that future benefactors to the Civil Rights Movement may be added onto the walkway.

The completion and dedication of the memorial is planned for the spring of 2008. ☺

Electronic voting popular, potentially vulnerable

Adrienne Stormo
Staff Reporter

Voting in last month's election was a new experience for many Clayton seniors, but even adults who have been voting for years may have noticed some changes: the St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners has decided to implement new electronic voting machines.

Two types of machines were at each polling place — the touch screen machine and the optical scan machine. For the optical machine, voters fill out a traditional paper ballot. The ovals for the candidates are filled in and then inserted into the Optical Scan Ballot Counter. The ballots are then counted electronically along with the votes cast on the touch screen machine.

The touch screen machine, however, was a more drastic change.

"Many people opted for the paper ballots," Clayton parent Susan Dutcher said, "because the touch screen

machines had very long lines."

When using this machine, voters receive no paper ballot — the entire process is done electronically. The election commissioners hope that the iVontronic voting machine will make the voting and counting process easier for all future elections.

"The iVontronic will enhance the voting experience for all voters," the county website said.

Electronic voting consists of four simple steps: first, a poll worker activates the machine. Each individual is assigned a "Personal Electronic Ballot," ensuring that each voter receives only one vote. Upon activation, instructions for the following steps appear on the screen.

Next, selections are made by simply touching the name of one's candidate on the screen. Voters can even write-in candidate's names with a full touch-screen keyboard.

"You just touch it for the person you want to vote for and then press 'continue,'" Dutcher said. "It's kind

of like doing an online survey."

Following the selections, the voter is given an opportunity to review and change any mistaken votes. Finally, the voter can push a red "VOTE" button on the machine, and their vote is electronically sent to be counted.

However, the entire process was not as easy as it seemed externally. The threat of hackers or failed machines (either by shutting down or not functioning properly on election day) could have meant the miscounting or deletion of possibly thousands of votes.

Past problems with similar machines include 134 ballots left unaccounted for, with no way to count them, in Florida two years ago. Similarly, 436 ballots were lost in North Carolina in 2002 on the same touch screen machines.

However, the machines used this year in St. Louis also printed paper ballots in case of problems like those in the past.

"I felt good that there was a paper ballot that was

printing out my votes, so if something went wrong there was at least a record," Dutcher said.

The paper ballot also allows for the voter to double check that their votes are being recorded accurately. However, Dutcher, who wears glasses, adds that the print on the paper ballot was fairly small.

The chance for serious problems, such as a malicious hacker, is theoretically possible, but nothing that serious was reported this year.

Some voters complained about procedural confusion, long lines, machine breakdowns, and inexperienced poll workers.

"It's hard to know what the security is like for the machines," Dutcher said, "but I believe the security for these is just as good as for the paper ballots."

Considering problems in the past with punch-card ballots (think hanging chad in Florida, 2000), this year's electronic election seemed to go smoothly. It is likely that the touch-screen voting machines will be brought back in the future. ☺

Negroponte attempts to bring a laptop to every child

Sara Rangwala
Staff Reporter

The One Laptop per Child (OLPC) association has been working on producing a \$100 laptop computer. This computer would consume two or three watts of power, include free software, have a wireless Internet connection, a color camera, speakers and a microphone.

You won't find these laptops at Best Buy soon, though.

Nicholas Negroponte and his group unveiled this project two years ago with the intention of providing these laptops for children in the developing world. Their stated goal is "to provide children around the world with new opportunities to explore, experiment, and express themselves." The OLPC association will sell the laptops to the governments of countries who will then distribute the laptops to their children. The current estimated price is not actually \$100, but \$140

per computer. Negroponte claims that the more laptops are bought, though, the more the prices will go down. After careful consideration, the group chose Quanta Computers as their manufacturer.

One of the biggest challenges of this project is the creation of laptops that only cost \$100. The OLPC association will depend on mass sales to bring the cost down. Additionally, they used cheaper, yet quality display screens, according to the association's website.

In October, Negroponte struck his first deal with the African country of Libya, which wants to provide all 2 million of the country's children with these laptops. In addition to other developing countries,

again."

Interestingly enough, Negroponte is meeting the most resistance from the two countries who between them contain half the world's children: China and India.

China may be hard to convince because of the underlying Confucian values in its culture, said Negroponte. The idea that children are at the bottom of the Confucian hierarchy and would not be capable of accomplishing much if given a laptop is what he claims is hindering sales in China.

India's Education Secretary Sudeep Banerjee dismissed the idea of India buying the laptops saying, "We need classrooms and teachers more urgently than fancy tools." India's government remains unconvinced that the laptops will be able to effectively fulfill their purposes.

Negroponte has tried to address every possible problem that might arise. If someone attempted to steal one of these laptops from a child, the laptop would be disabled within a few days. Negroponte has made sure that the laptops can be monitored by the networks to which they are connected. He also has found a way to run the computer on just a few watts of power, while a typical light bulb employs 40-100 W.

The OLPC association has said that as more companies decide to invest in the laptops the prices will go down. However, many feel that India and China are denying numerous children the chance to see these laptops by not participating.

OLPC is looking into providing commercial versions of these laptops for sale. ☺

We need classrooms and teachers more urgently than fancy tools.

Sudeep Banerjee
Education Secretary of India

Many have criticized the project, asking why Negroponte thinks these impoverished children would want a laptop when what they really need is food and basic healthcare. Negroponte explained saying, "Substitute the word 'education' for 'laptop' and you'll never ask that question

complishing much if given a laptop is what he claims is hindering sales in China.

India's Education Secretary Sudeep Banerjee dismissed the idea of India buying the laptops saying, "We need classrooms and teachers

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METRO IMAGING

Fashion show fun, raises money for good cause

Fontasha Powell
Staff Reporter

A very sleek and elegant night at CHS united students who maintain fervor for fashion at the second annual fashion show. Almost entirely student run, the fashion held Saturday December 2 in the commons proved to be successful.

The décor was beautiful, consisting of a chic winter theme that added a high fashion edge to the sophisticated show. In addition, light refreshments, which added to the professional tone of the night, were served.

Students put forth an enormous effort in order to make the night triumphant. Models, designers, tech crews, decorators, and even outside donors were required in the preparation for the show.

Seniors Leah Silverblatt and Dini Schuman worked extensively on the show as the lead designers.

"Dini and I had to be involved in every aspect of the show, from the charity, to the programs, to the invitations," Silverblatt said.

Senior Hannah Longmore agreed with Silverblatt about the extreme amount of work that was put into the fashion show. Longmore modeled a flowy, retro gold and green strapless mini dress for Silverblatt.

"We had to do two rehearsals for the show, one dress rehearsal and

another just to learn how to walk," Longmore said. "The day of the show, we had to arrive two and a half hours early to get dressed and get hair and makeup done."

The final days prior to the show were complete chaos. The day before, Clayton was hit with an ice storm that ultimately granted students a snow day and drained power from many Clayton residents. The fashion show rehearsal

“The night was perfect. When you’re on the runway, you get such a rush! It’s irreplaceable.”

Maggie Lanter
Freshman

complicated things," Hinkle said. "We had to practice the show three times at 8 a.m. on Saturday and it took about an hour or two, but everything turned out great."

Junior Katie Borges agrees with Hinkle. Borges modeled a patterned knee-length skirt for Schuman and a strapless bubble mini dress for junior Abbie Minton.

"The snow day in addition to illnesses and power outages caused a few absences," Borges said. "However, the show went on and there wasn't one mistake!"

Despite the unfortunate events, models, spectators and designers alike agreed that the Remix Fashion Show went smoothly.

Senior Robert Reed designed two skirts, a pair of shorts and modeled a white suit that he made himself.

"The night went really well," Reed said. "Everyone walked and looked great. The show was organized well and everyone who helped to do so did a great job."

Junior Megan Berkery agreed with Reed. Berkery modeled a 80s style khaki dress for Silverblatt.

"The designers were really talented," Berkery said. "All of the clothes were nicely made and extremely fashionable."

Freshmen Maggie Lanter said that the best part of the night was being out on the fashion runway. Lanter modeled a gorgeous satin Victorian-inspired mini dress for Minton.

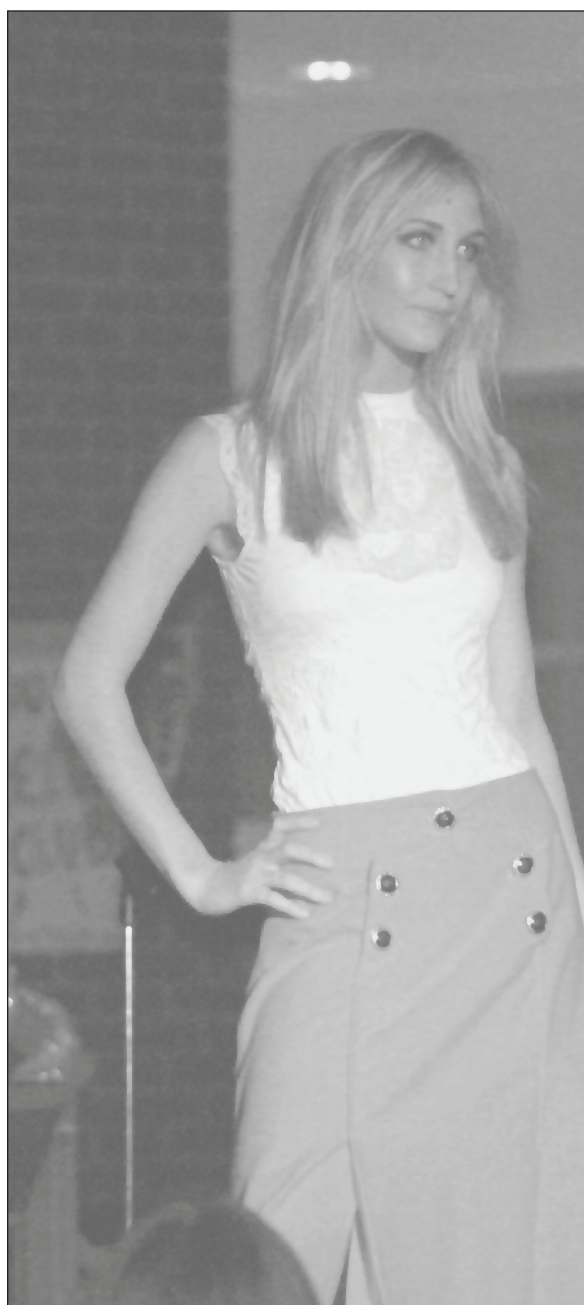
"I could tell the designers put in a lot of work," Lanter said. "The night was perfect. When you're on the runway, you get such a rush! It's irreplaceable."

Family and consumer sciences teacher and the staff member in charge of the show, Mrs. Williams, agreed that the night was spectacular.

"The night went wonderfully!" Williams said. "Even with the terrible weather, there was a large crowd. We raised around \$1800 for a charity supporting research working to cure neurofibromatosis."

Although many of the designers and models will no longer be at CHS next year, the second annual student-run fashion show at CHS has set a high bar for amateur fashion shows everywhere.

"Overall the fashion show was such a great experience," Minton said. "I loved everything about it. Thanks to everyone who was involved. All the hard work definitely paid off."



Chioma Ote

Clockwise from left: Senior Jensen Smith, junior Elaine Beebe, and senior Christina Nash pose as they walk down the catwalk in the Remix Fashion Show on Saturday, Dec. 2. Everything from the clothes to lighting was designed by students, and students also modeled the various fashions.

Powder puff football fun for girl players, boy coaches, spectators

First ever DECA-sponsored football tournament, though with a few hitches, overall a great success

Ugochi Onyema
Staff Reporter

CHS has many traditions, but there may be a new tradition entering the school year: powder puff football.

On Nov. 11, DECA held the first annual powder puff football tournament.

Female students participated as players during the tournament of flag football, while male students contributed as coaches and cheerleaders. The DECA-sponsored event was completely student run. DECA charged each player \$10 to participate, and students who attended the games to watch were charged a small admission fee. DECA used the money earned to cover the cost of rented security and tee shirts for the event.

Although the games were sponsored by DECA, other organizations at CHS took part in the occasion. Senior Women was involved and C-Club sold concessions during the games. DECA sponsor Marci Boland said that the idea to have an all-girl flag football tournament came from her students.

"Students last year in my sports marketing class came up with the idea, and then three girls in DECA picked up on the idea and ran with it," Boland said. "Last year the students received the approval from the administrators and had the original date set to the Sunday before homecoming. That date was later changed."

Student Activities Director Eric Hamylak thinks that this year's event was successful considering that it was the first year running.

"I think the kids had a lot of fun, and that was the main purpose," Hamylak said. "It was a team-building experience, and DECA



photos courtesy of Marci Boland

Senior event organizers Ali Sandler and Alyson Swarm present sophomore Leah Eby with the 2006 DECA Powder Puff Football Tournament trophy. Eby's sophomore team won the all-girl flag football tournament.

learned a lot about organizing a large function."

However, Hamylak also thinks that the tournament could be even better with a few changes.

"Coaches hopefully learned what was effective and ineffective," Hamylak said. "I was disappointed by the coaching and I expected there to be more creativity in the plays, but the girls played hard and battled the cold weather. We had one broken finger and some minor bruises. I think that DECA will work to decrease some of the physical contact."

Sophomore Shannon Harms was a player on one of the two

sophomore teams. Although she enjoyed the event, she thinks that some other changes could be implemented to help improve the games.

"I think that having everyone find out who their coaches are and practicing ahead of time could help improve the event," Harms said.

Sophomore Cole Rosenblum also agrees that changes should be made to the event to make it more fair.

"The winners' and losers' brackets need to be revised," Rosenblum said. "The seniors got two chances to play even though they lost."

The administration had some reluctance toward the event because there was speculation that some

students may have resorted to hazing. Flood disagrees with the speculation and says that she did not witness any hazing.

"Powder puff was a very fun and safe way to get any aggression out," Flood said. "There definitely wasn't any hazing."

Many students believe that powder puff football has the potential to become a very popular tradition at CHS, and though it had its faults, the event was quite successful.

"I think it will become a popular tradition at CHS," Rosenblum said. "It was an event that completely revolved around the students, which was a good thing."



photo courtesy of Nathan Peck

A rocket flies to the sky as the CHS rocketry club and sponsor Nathan Peck watch on.

CHS blasts off with rocketry club

Mary Blackwell
Staff Reporter

CHS is one of only a few high schools in the area to have a rocketry club and those involved have their hopes set on winning the state competition and going on to nationals. The rocketry club has been in existence since rocketry contests have been a national competition. Most students involved are in AP Chemistry or AP Physics though the club is open to all students of all grade levels.

"I started getting involved about four years ago," science coordinator and rocketry club sponsor Nathan Peck said. "NASA and some other organizations sponsored what they called the largest rocketry contest ever in the world. They invited a whole bunch of high school and middle school teams to participate, which we did, and actually made it to the finals that year in Virginia. We had a really good time and students have wanted to do it since then."

This year the teams' goal is for their rockets to reach 850 feet in 45 seconds safely carrying a raw egg up and back down. If the egg breaks, the team is disqualified.

The CHS rocketry club members are split into three teams. Each team builds a rocket from scratch. Students have to do a lot of problem solving in order to create a successful rocket. One of the biggest challenges is "making sure the rockets fly consistently," senior Jack Altman said. The students do all the sanding, cutting, and engineering

needed perfect the rocket. "There really can't be any imperfections on the rocket or it wouldn't fly right," senior John Buse said.

The teams hope to make it to nationals where they might win prize money through winning in the competition. \$60,000 is the total amount of money split between the top 10 teams. Any prize money won goes directly to the students.

"You only have to build one rocket and launch it. If it breaks you just fix it. You have a chance to go to D.C. like our team did last year," Buse said.

The initial fee to join rocketry club is \$100, which covers buying materials and power tools. Then, if the team makes it to nationals, students must buy their own plane ticket while the school pays for the rest of the trip.

"We work together really well and we listen to each others ideas. Our rocket is really huge but we hope it works well," senior Constance Akannam said.

Nationals is held on the outskirts of Washington, D.C. in Manassas, Virginia. Local launches are held in Elsberry, Mo. and Buder Park on Saturday mornings.

Although the rocketry team has won a few times at states and even gone to nationals, their performance is not always perfect. One year the senior team launched their rocket to 800 feet, but when the parachute didn't function correctly it hit the ground at about 120 mph.

"It's like NASCAR, every once in a while there's a spectacular crash," Peck said.

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Spontaneity compensates for lack of teen night life

Wenny Dong
Graphics Editor

Weekends are the best time for students pursuing mildly risky and delightful business. Senior Yvonne Lauke and her friends usually dress up, sometimes in ridiculous garb, with high hopes for a night out on the town. Yet often times, there's not much of a town to be out and about in. In fact, the array of metropolitan haunts for teens is, at times, lamentable.

"We need more theatres, more restaurants, and more hang outs available to high school students," Lauke said. "Before I moved here, in Florida, I went clubbing all the time and there were always glamorous parties, beach fetes and shopping excursions in Orlando, plus more shopping at outlet malls. Not to mention adventure parks like adventure island, the Disney theme parks and Universal Studios. If that failed to entertain, Busch Gardens and an endless slew of restaurants offered possibilities."

As to improving the Clayton scene, drawing on Florida inspiration, Lauke envisions a venue with dancing and club-bangers, deliciously accented with fuzzy couches. But more important than decor for a girls' night out are the girls themselves.

"There were so many more types of people from different and eccentric crowds at The Boardwalk and on Bay Walk in Florida," Lauke said. "But that's true in Clayton too. With the distinctive personalities of my girls, I'm surrounded by a diverse group of friends all in the pursuit of chillaxing."

"We usually eat out and sometimes catch movies on weekends," Lauke said. "My favorite eateries are Il Vichino, Bar Italia, Cafe Napoli and Wasabi. Then there are other hangouts like Bubble Tea, Ben and Jerry's, the hookah bar, and Blockbuster. But downtown Clayton and the Loop get boring after a while and I feel like there's nothing to do in the Central West End but eat."

However, thankfully, there are entertaining diversions like being embarrassed and innocent flirting, which sometimes coincide. In fact, Lauke and her friends suspect sometimes they act silly and make fools of themselves.

"Sometimes flirting is on purpose and out of boredom, but not always," she said. "In fact, it's funnier being spontaneous. One of my most hilarious weekends, one of my friends made a quick comment about how she thought one guy was attractive so we followed him, against her will. She ended up clinging to a street-light for dear life while another friend was prying her off it. We must have looked ridiculous but it's one of those times when you just don't particularly care."

"Another time, my friends and I were at Coffee Cartel, being very loud, and the guy behind us heard our entirely mortifying conversation," Lauke said. "Mostly, it was me saying things. It was definitely one of those, why-didn't-you-say-he-was-behind-me moments. Basically, little hysterical things like that make a weekend fun and memorable. After all, if you're bored, it's up to you and your friends to make the best of it."

Senior Rebecca Blackwell shares a similar stance on the matter, as nearly four years of the same routine is sure to equal monotony. Like Lauke, most weekends, Blackwell and her friends generally agree to eat out or to see a movie.

"It depends on who is coming, because often times it's a huge pain for us all to agree on a place," Blackwell said. "We usually end up at Starbucks, like every night. It's really hard for us to find something new and exciting to do. Most of the time we'll end up walking around the mall or the loop, or drinking coffee just because there's nothing else we really want to do. Lately we've been to Blueberry Hill, Chevy's and Cafe Manhattan."

There are certain incidents and occurrences that switch it up every once in awhile. For instance, Cafe Manhattan being remodeled did mix it up quite a bit, though Blackwell insists on preferring the old, as the decorations looked more vintage. She also quips that she liked it because the old decor was darker as she is one for the mysterious, or exciting at least, in her weekends.

"We'll occasionally think of something new to do, or splurge and go somewhere more expensive," Blackwell said. "I love going to concerts whenever possible, since a lot of my friends are also music junkies like me. Recently, I went to the Living End concert with Amy [Brooks],

which was amazing, and about a month ago I went to Regina Spektor with Yue [Pang] and Rebecca Wall. In January, the Red Hot Chili Peppers are coming so Amy and I are going to go to that one also."

Yet interludes brought about by fabulously exhilarating concerts are not enough for Blackwell. If anything, they offer a tantalizing glimpse of what could be.

"I wish there were more teenage-friendly places to just sit around and hang out at sometimes," Blackwell said. "We can't get into a lot of the music venues or go to bars because we are too young, but I'd like to have sort of the equivalent for teens."

Unlike Lauke and Blackwell, senior Christine Ford disagrees, believing that Clayton offers plentiful retreats and in general, an abundance of fun.

"I hangout with friends at their houses, eating and chatting mostly," Ford said. "Sometimes in order to eat, we have to bake, which is enjoyable as well. Other times we play games or watch movies. We host birthday parties as well as just-because parties to spice things up a bit. After all, it is senior year and you have to live a little. But in combination with school events like dances and sports games as well as activities between friends, I feel there is plenty to do."

"The weekends are a time to relax and for mini-breaks from school drudgery, so I find things to do that will be fun," Ford said. "And even staying home at a friend's can sometimes lead to shocking and entirely unsuspected things, like when my friends and I playing on a playground led to a brief police interrogation."

"One of my friends wanted to leave for playground for our friend's house so she left ended up going to the wrong door," Ford said. "The neighbors thought she was suspicious and called the police so that eventually there were three patrol cars asking us sobriety questions and checking to see that we hadn't vandalized school property. My friends and I knew we weren't going to be in trouble because we hadn't done anything wrong but it was still super sketchy and scary. Thank goodness for my friends, I would have been so much worse without them. We ended up finishing the night off watching TV and eating cake."

However, in addition to using friends' houses as a base, Ford's favorite Clayton locations for weekend nights include the Wydown Starbucks or Kaldi's for a pick-me-up, the Loop, the City Museum as well as movie theaters like the Moolah Lounge and the Tivoli.

While students may disagree about the availability of teen hangouts, ultimately, whether a weekend is incredibly glam or totally not depends largely on the place, one's company, and a bit of spontaneity. ☺



Blair Klostermeier

This mural adorns hookah bar 609 in the Delmar Loop is a popular weekend destination for CHS students. Smokers inhale sweetened, flavored tobacco from a hookah pipe while in a social environment.

Students enjoy 'favorable' experiences with hookah, despite known health risks

Nava Kantor
Section Editor

Recently, the United States' relations with the Middle East have been less than amenable, what with wars to fight, terrorists to hunt down, and oil to control. But a new fad has American teenagers looking east and borrowing some Arab culture: the hookah pipe. Having gone in and out of style throughout the last few decades, hookah bars are making a popular comeback.

According to the Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research (www.mayoclinic.com), hookahs have been used to smoke tobacco for centuries in the Middle East and Asia and originated in what is now Turkey. Hookah bars have sprung up across the United States and are especially popular among college students. Hookah, like all tobacco, is illegal for people under the age of 18.

The hookah device consists of four parts: a base (or smoke chamber) which is partly filled with water; a bowl containing the flavored tobacco and a source of heat; a pipe that joins the base and the bowl and dips into water in base; and a hose through which hookah smoke is inhaled.

Junior Jessica Roberts* became interested in smoking hookah last year.

"I smoke about twice per month," Roberts said. "The sessions usually last between one and two hours, and I go with a few other people."

Friends introduced Roberts to the returning trend.

"I got into hookah because my friend said something about it," Roberts said. "I decided to try it once last year. I've been smoking it relatively frequently since August."

Senior Paul Silver* enjoys the social aspects of hookah smoking. Silver is 18, and is therefore legally able to smoke at hookah bars.

"I smoke hookah maybe once a month for an hour to an hour and a half," Silver said. "It's really social and relaxing. I got started because my friend brought a water pipe over about six months ago."

Being underage has not deterred Roberts from smoking hookah; she and Silver agreed that hookah is easily available for their use.

"I could get hookah easily even when I wasn't 18 because my older friend had one," Silver said.

According to Roberts, hookah is more fun than other types of tobacco. It is easier to smoke than cigarettes because as the smoke passes through the water, it cools; also it seems less likely to be noticed by parents.

"I enjoy hookah a lot," Roberts said. "The smoke doesn't hurt to inhale, and my parents can't detect the smell because hookah smells nice, like incense."

In an interview for www.hookahviews.com/health.php, Dr. Thomas Eisenberg, associate professor of the Department of Psychology and Institute for Drug and

Alcohol Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University, analyzed hookah's appeal to teens: hookah smokers experience the stimulant effects of nicotine, they relax and rest when smoking and are involved in the social facilitation that accompanies smoking hookah.

Users may also smoke hookah because of the pleasant aroma, sweet flavor, easy-to-inhale room temperature smoke, and the myth that hookah is not dangerous.

However, the concept that hookah is harmless is, in fact, a myth. According to the American Cancer Society, (www.cancer.org), hookah is marketed as being a safe alternative to cigarettes because the percent of tobacco in the product smoked is low. However, this claim is false; one study indicated that 45 min of hookah smoking is equivalent to smoking one pack of cigarettes.

Roberts smokes hookah regardless of her knowledge of negative health effects.

"I know there have been studies comparing hookah and cigarettes, but I don't think hookah is that bad," Roberts said. "I don't do it as much as other people do it. The thing about hookah that's worse than cigarettes is the amount of time spent smoking. You spend 10 minutes on a cigarette as opposed to an hour or two with a hookah."

Silver put less store in the recent studies of hookah smoke.

"The tobacco is virtually harmless," Silver said. "It causes less damage than pot, alcohol and a lot of other things. I've heard rumors about some health affects, but I honestly don't know much about them, and they don't really bother me."

A falsehood widely accepted regarding hookah is that hookah smoke is purified when it passes through the water. But according to the American Cancer Society, the water in the hookah does not filter out the toxins. Hookah smoke con-

tains nicotine, carbon monoxide, tar, heavy metals, and cancer-causing chemicals just like cigarette smoke.

"I don't know about hookah specifically, but I can say that any time you smoke anything, it damages your lungs," CHS health teacher Doris Smith said.

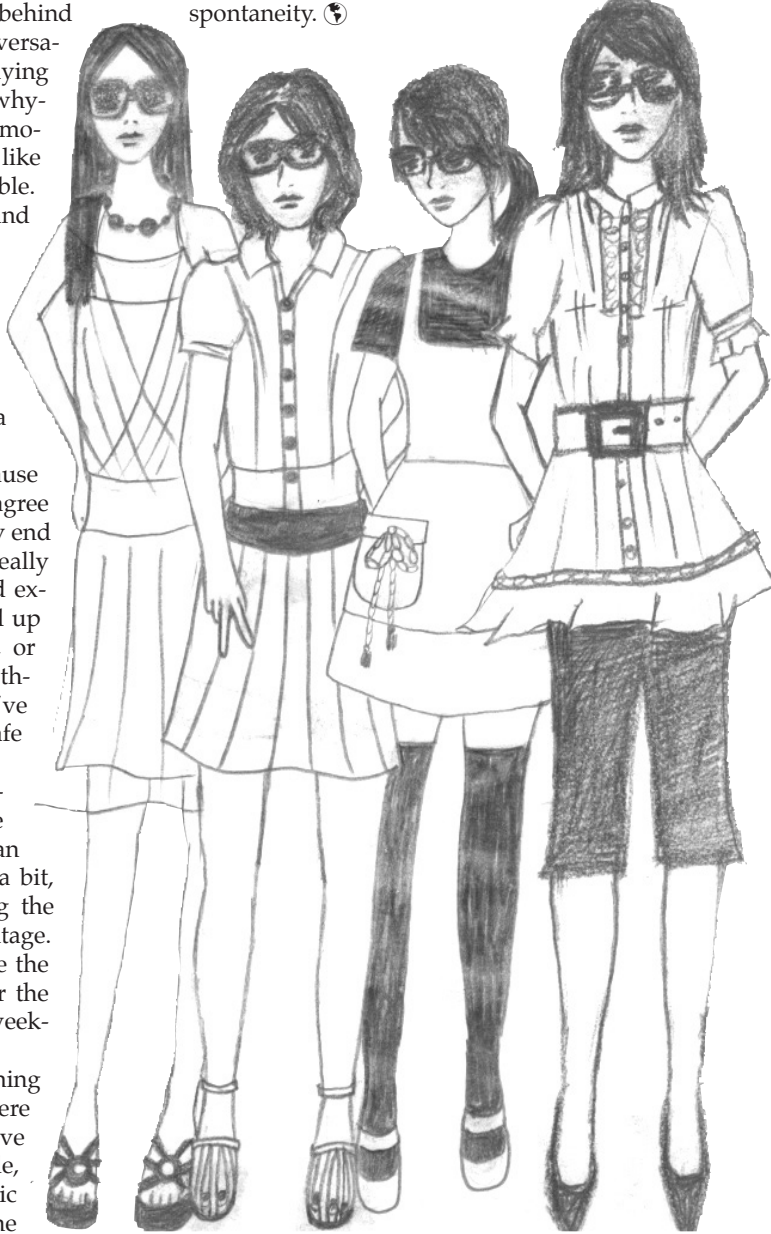
A less obvious danger of smoking hookah is the capability to spread infectious diseases by sharing the water pipe and/or the consumption of unregulated, manually prepared flavored tobacco.

Though nicotine (the addictive substance in cigarettes) is a component of hookah, Roberts doesn't believe she'll become addicted to smoking.

"I don't think I'm going to get addicted to smoking hookah," Roberts said. "It's not like I do it every day."

Despite a growing number of scientific studies concentrated on discovering the health hazards of smoking hookah, the trend is continuing to grow. ☺

*Name has been changed to protect anonymity.



Wenny Dong

Well-earned break to be spent around the world

Rachel Dickens
Staff Reporter

This year, many CHS students have planned to take exciting vacations over winter break. With finals week rapidly approaching, these students are more thrilled than ever to leave for their unique destinations.

Senior Allyson Golden is particularly excited to take her first trip outside the country this winter.

"My family and I are going to London [England] over winter break," Golden said. "I've never been to Europe before, so I'm really anticipating experiencing a new environment and culture."

Golden also expresses her main reasons for wanting to travel to London.

"I am most excited to see the museums and go shopping," Golden said. "I've been saving up for months. I've heard there are some really great stores near where we're staying."

Although she is enthusiastic about her trip, Golden conveys a few of the drawbacks she may experience.

"The only bad part about London is the weather," Golden said. "I've heard it's really cold there, but it's definitely still worth it to go."

Unlike Golden, senior Kevin Smith will not be traveling outside the country over winter break.

"I'm going to Sun Valley, Idaho for a week of break,"

Smith said. "I was invited by my girlfriend and her family because they have a house there."

Like Golden, Smith has never traveled to his winter destination before.

"I'm excited to ski in Sun Valley," Smith said. "I've never been there, but I've heard that it's gorgeous and has amazing skiing. I used to ski pretty often when I lived in Ithaca, New York, but I haven't done it as much since I moved to St. Louis."

Smith is excited to travel to Sun Valley for a variety of reasons.

"In addition to spending time with my girlfriend and her family and friends, I'm eager to be exposed to an environment outside St. Louis."

Senior Avital Ludomirsky plans to travel to Israel over winter break, although her reasons for traveling are somewhat different than those of Smith and Golden.

"I'm going to Tel Aviv [Israel] with my parents," Ludomirsky said. "Since all of my family lives there,

I'll spend most of my time visiting them."

Because she is traveling mainly to visit family members, Ludomirsky's trip contains many unique cultural aspects.

"I go to Israel twice a year with my family, every summer and winter," Ludomirsky said. "Seeing my family is definitely a tradition, but this year's trip will be especially exciting because we're going towards the end of winter break, just in time for my cousin's bar mitzvah, for which my family and I are extremely excited."

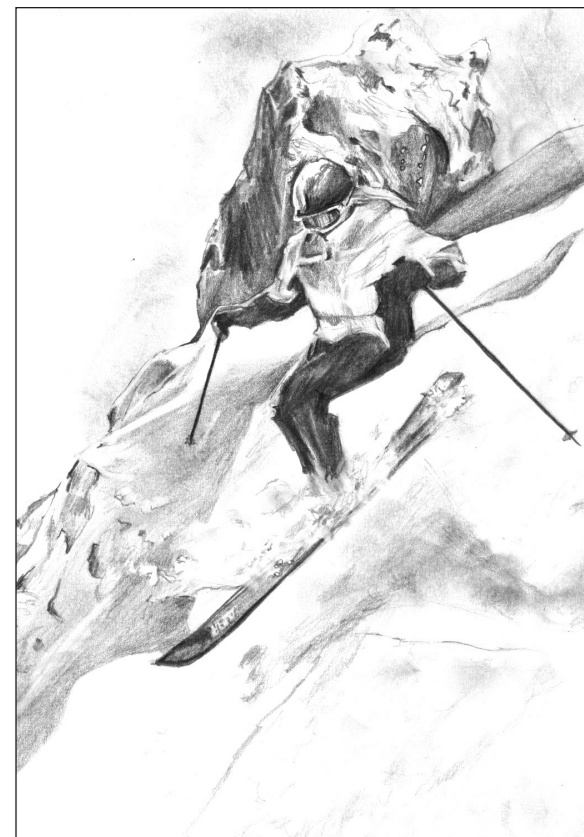
Although Ludomirsky has gone to Israel many times before, she still recognizes some of the less enjoyable aspects of traveling to this destination.

"The only part that I don't enjoy about going to Israel is the flight," Ludomirsky said. "It takes about 14 or 16 hours all together, which is always pretty tiring."

Despite setbacks regarding unfavorable weather conditions and flight lengths, it is clear that many CHS students will have an interesting winter break. ☺

"I've never been to Europe before, so I'm anticipating experiencing a new environment and culture."

Allyson Golden
Senior



Calla Dobmeyer

FCA offers students fun, fellowship

Siobhan Jones
Staff Reporter

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is an informal discussion group based on uniting finding connections and unity between sport and religion. It meets in the evening on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and is open to any open-minded student who wishes to participate.

"FCA is a group that allows for discussion as well as a place to get together with other Christians in your school," senior Stacey Lawrence said. "It's also a place where you can find common ground with other students and also play some fun games."

FCA has gotten some very positive response. Many suspect that the distinction club members attracts others looking to hang out with a friendly crowd of people.

"It's a fun group of people that I wouldn't necessarily hang out with or know otherwise," junior Erin O'Neal said. "I would definitely recommend it to anyone."

The word "Christian" in a club name may raise eyebrows, but members of FCA stress that anyone is welcome.

"Most members are Christian, but then not everyone is an athlete," sophomore Katie Poplawski said. "Neither of those things are what FCA is about, though."

Club membership is informal, but it has nothing to do with religious denomination.

"Actually, we've had four Jewish people come to meetings," Lawrence said. "The discussions we have are very open-ended, so whether or not you have a particular belief is fine. On the other hand, we are there to talk about God and to pray."

FCA meetings start casually, usually with an opening game or something.

"We start out with an ice breaker activity," sophomore Hannah Slo-

dounik said. "It's important that everyone be very comfortable and relaxed."

After the game, the club holds a discussion for the remainder of the time.

"Usually there is a theme of the day," Poplawski said. "Like teamwork or something. You get to hear about other people's experiences, usually having to do with sports."

Discussions are liberal and open-minded. They are intended to give everyone a chance to state their opinion or share their point of view.

"The point of the discussion is to hear everyone's point of view," Lawrence said. "We all want to see what we have in common with each other."

Slodounik said that the discussion was sometimes related to Bible study as well as sports.

"It's good to hear other people's interpretations or opinions on the Bible," Slodounik said. "Personally, it helps me clear my mind, and it gets me thinking."

Although it sounds different from other clubs, members encour-



Seniors **Melanie Holland** and Taylor Griggs read at a recent meeting of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting. "FCA reinforced the values of being a good leader, and reminds you how to be a good sport," junior Erin O'Neal said. The group is made up of students from different classes, social circles, interest groups and backgrounds, and even religion, although most members are Christian.

age others to join before making up their minds about it.

"If you haven't been to a meeting, then you don't quite know what it's like," Slodounik said.

Lawrence agrees that people should try it out.

"We always want people to come," Lawrence said. "We won't send you out the door if you have a different opinion. We want to hear it and are very welcoming."

Full-time attendance is not required either.

"It isn't a binding club," O'Neal said.

People are encouraged to come as often as they like or as often as they can.

"I would like to go more often, but I can't always make it," junior Laura Bliss said. "But when you can go, it's easy to slide back into the flow of things."

FCA is not all discussion and debate; there is also room for fun and eating.

"Lots of people cook or bring good food," Poplawski said. "That's one of the best parts!"

Although Fellowship of Christian Athletes doesn't require members to play a sport, many discussions involve experience in sports and the connection between sports and the Bible.

"We incorporate sports in conversation in relation to the Bible,"

the right attitude. We talk about how you can enjoy the sport and be a good person at the same time."

Values learned through sports are also focused on.

"FCA reinforces the values of being a good leader, and reminds you how to be a good sport," O'Neal said.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes is made up of enthusiastic students from different classes, social circles, interest groups and backgrounds, yet at meetings they are able to set aside their differences and enjoy intellectual discussion together.

"It's been really cool getting to know people and getting to see

them outside of school," Lawrence said. "We've had over 50 people come through at some point or another."

Underclassmen attendance has been up this year as well.

"We have a really strong underclassman group this year," Lawrence said. "There are a lot of freshmen."

Although some were nervous before attending their first meeting, the adjustment was smooth and easy.

"I was hesitant before I went the first time," Slodounik said. "I thought it would be all gung-ho Christian or something like that, but it was a very relaxed environment."

Other people enjoy the freedom to speak their mind.

"It's just fun to hang out with cool people," Bliss said. "No one's going to judge you, it's a good time."

FCA members have the highest praise for their little society. And for good reason: members are open-minded and liberal, tolerant of thoughtful debate and quick to embrace people of different backgrounds, athlete or not, Christian or not.

"We are interested in hearing people think through ideas and pursue them," Lawrence said, "Whether you go to Church every week or you've never been in your life. No one is getting up there with a prepared sermon."

Members have described a good feeling after FCA meetings as well.

"FCA makes me feel better about my religion," Poplawski said.

Outside of meetings, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes gets together for special events, or for casual fun. They enjoy going to sporting events together.

"We go to Cardinals' games; we have a Christmas party," Lawrence said. "We have parties and hang out a lot." ☺

Club encourages service work among CHS students

Phillip Levine
Staff Reporter

Many students throughout the years have joined in on the various projects intended to benefit the less advantageous citizens of the community as well as help out in the community itself. Community Service Club is one of the organizations run through the school that was created for this very purpose.

"It is very important to have Community Service Club," said senior co-president Andrew Davidson. "There are many students who have youth groups and can help out through those organizations, but I do not have a youth group. For many other people like me, this is a great club in order to help out for the greater good. It is nice to have an organization run through the school in which we can participate amongst our peers. I have been involved in Community Service Club since freshman year and it has been a great experience."

Although many of the officers give a large time commitment to planning events, making posters and discussing new options in meeting, for others, they can simply show up to the events that they choose with little to no time commitment.

"There are about 10 to 12 officers who are mainly juniors and seniors," said senior co-president Molly Dubro. "We meet as officers every other Sunday in addition to after school meeting for anyone interested every other Tuesday. For anyone who isn't an officer, you can simply sign up for the activities that you want to participate in. There is a board outside of the English office with all of the sign up sheets."

Junior Leigh Katz has gone to various events and feels it is a great club where she can choose when she wants to help out although there is not a huge obligation.

"I found out while I was passing through the hallways and saw the Community Service Board," said Katz. "I did one activity during the Saint Louis Art Fair in downtown Clayton where we ran the kids section tent building Legos. It was pretty easy and I had a blast working with little kids. I have been able

to choose the events that have worked out with my schedule."

There are a few types of projects that the club does. Some are on a regular basis that are done weekly or monthly while others are one time projects.

"We have repeated projects such as helping out at animal shelters, the Hosea House and doing peer tutoring," said Davidson. "In addition, we do various one time things such as having a booth at the vehicle fair and helping out other organizations."

Many projects are currently being worked on that anybody in the school can help out with.

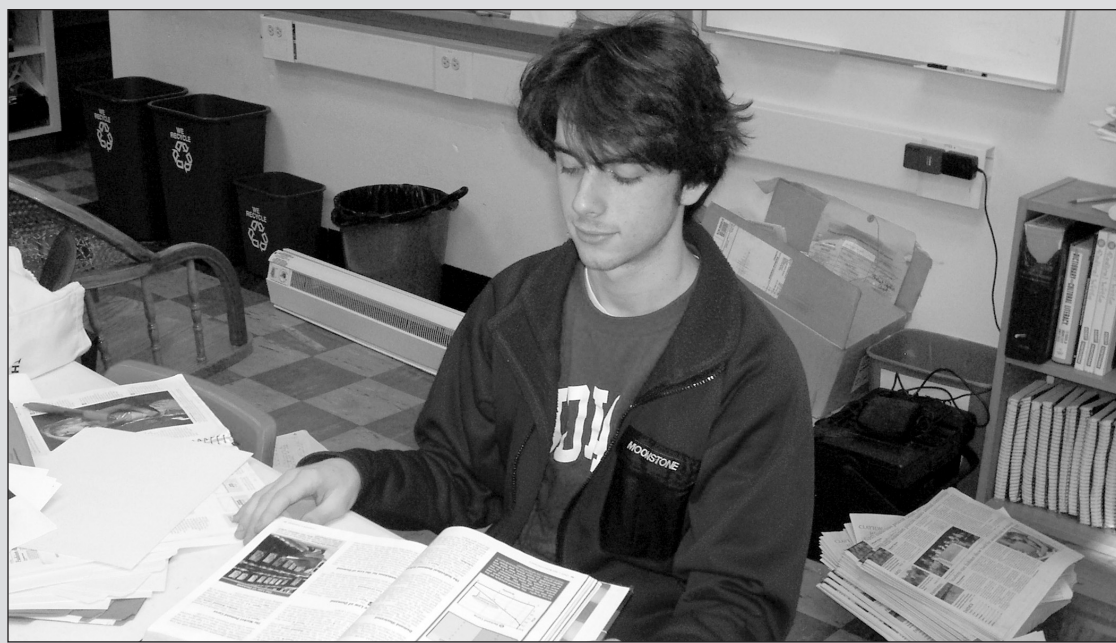
"We are busy doing a lot of stuff," said Dubro. "We are adopting a family this year where we buy the family Christmas gifts, food and clothes. We also have an all year program to tutor Spanish speaking children in English on every Thursday. We also do recycling every Thursday after school and work with the children at the Family Center, playing with different messy materials during 'messy time.'"

For the first time this year, Community Service Club and the National Honor Society have come together to do joint projects. National Honor Society recently implemented a mandatory community service hour requirement. Instead of having separate projects for each organization, they have joined together so that NHS students are able to participate in Community Service Club projects and vice versa.

As both NHS president and Community Service Club president, Molly Dubro has a logical explanation for the action.

"We felt that we could get much more accomplished if we created a joint effort of both organizations to have larger projects instead of smaller individual projects," said Dubro. "I think that it will be much easier for everyone involved."

In addition to simply feeling good after helping the community, community service is also a great activity that is beneficial in the college process. Colleges love well-rounded students that enjoy helping out others and not simply concentrating on academics. The board next to the English office is always filled with sign-up sheets. Find a chunk of free time in your schedule and help out whenever you can. ☺



Senior and Econ Club member Bob McGibbon studies his Economics book during a free period. McGibbon is enrolled in Economics this semester. Recently, CHS has revived the Economics club, because of the interest in Econ by students like McGibbon

New economics club a hit

Matt Muslin
Staff Reporter

Lodged between the School Spirit Club and the Esperanto Enthusiasts Club, the Economics Club plays a significant role at Clayton High School. Economics Club members don't just spend time after school counting money, they also have fun. History teacher Mark Bayles currently leads the Club.

The Economics Club lay dormant for a long period of time after its previous mentor, Larry Baker, left Clayton High. However, the Club recently underwent a revival and its popularity continues to surge. Why are students so enthusiastic about this activity?

"Economics is a very popular major in colleges and universities," Bayles commented. "There seems to be a very considerable amount of student interest."

Economics is the social science that analyzes the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services. There are two major areas of economics: macroeconomics and microeconomics.

In macroeconomics, one studies an entire nation or the world economy as a whole, and data about inflation, industrial production, and unemployment are used to explain the past and predict future events. In microeconomics, one studies the behavior of much smaller aspects of a nation's

economy, such as households, companies, or industries.

The activities in Economics Club are divided into two sections.

First, there are after-school activities like watching economics-themed films and participating in economics games.

Second, there are competitive activities like the Fed Challenge; a macroeconomics forecast activity sponsored by the Saint Louis Federal Reserve Bank. And then there is the National Economics Challenge, sponsored by Goldman Sachs, a New York investment-banking firm.

These activities and others have led to dramatically increased interest in the Economics Club. "We've added enrollment to the Econ Club," Bayles said. "I gave an economics forecast this year at Marketcast 2006 and we're hoping to take another team to the Fed Challenge."

"I've only attended one meeting so far, but I'm happy that [Mr. Bayles] is the sponsor for the club," Senior economics club member John Acker said. "I'm also hoping to peruse a career in economics."

"Economics is a very complex field of study that looks at how the world works in reaction to the basic principal that we all have to live with scarcity," Bayles said. "Economics Club help us study and work out how civilizations [can] allocate scarce resources." ☺

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Center of Clayton rule change alters face of CHS workouts

Ken Zheng
Staff Reporter

Up until this November, the Clayton Center was open to all students with just a flash of an identification card. Recently, however, an important rule change took effect.

After 3 p.m., students may not enter the Clayton Center with just their ID anymore. The only students who can enter now are those who are either part of independent study fitness class, are on a sports team or those who have a membership.

Don Rugraff, Director of Student Services and Assistant Principal at CHS, played a role in implementing the change. According to Rugraff, the main cause of the change is because of the lack of space.

Rugraff affirmed that Stuber Gym is being renovated and that with a new floor being put in, no space is available for any students after school. The Center is already crowded with after-school sports, so non-winter sports students are restricted. However, Rugraff added that if a student has a membership, the school cannot prevent them from going in, since they are checking in as a member of the Clayton Center, not as a CHS student.

"It's about athletic teams in the facility," Rugraff said, referring to the amount of space allocated to CHS winter sports in the Center.

With so little space available, the school had to stagger basketball practices to accommodate all the teams, with about eight basketball teams and only three available courts.

Even though the new floor was completed on Dec. 7 and Stuber is again available for use, the school team is still trying to decide what to do about access to the Center.

"There was a discussion at the Operations Meeting at the Center regarding the implementation of guidelines for the use of Stuber Gym" Rugraff said. "The committee believes these guidelines are needed to preserve the facility and ensure the safety of those who use Stuber Gym. The guidelines for usage will be created by the Center Operations Committee in January."

Still, Rugraff does not foresee any major changes.

"The facility usage guidelines will be the same. It is mandatory that students present their ID for entry into the Center," he added. "Court availability to students in Stuber at this time does not exist due to the multiple winter season basketball teams."

Rugraff said that students will regain some of their former privileges.

"At the start of second semester students that are not on a winter season team but want to use the Center facilities can do so," said Rugraff. "It is expected that students entering the Center engage in the activities that the Center is intended for. Students that want to



Senior Alex Hutchinson, right, shows a Clayton employee his identification card to gain admittance into the building. A new rule brought about by Assistant Principal Don Rugraff and Center administrators has cut down the number of people that enter the Center without proper membership or identification. Now, CHS students are not allowed to enter the Center after 3 p.m. with just their school identification.

Chelsea Fischer

socialize need to use the Commons of CHS."

Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Operations Toni Siering said it was intended to be a policy all along when the Center opened and that students would show an ID to get in.

"Somehow, we had fallen away from that and we wanted to get back on track for the safety of the students and the security of the people coming into the building," Siering said. "They wanted to make sure that all the people that were in the Center were people that were supposed to be there or had paid for a membership. People were using the 'I'm a former CHS student' or just the generic 'I'm a student' line to get in."

The Center staff has been pleased with the results of the new policy. Although it is still a new rule and open to controversy, benefits can be seen in that staff members are recognizing students by name, monitoring who is coming into their facility, and are making sure that people who should not be in the facility do not enter.

"It has also helped us to make more accurate accounts to see how many people are coming into the

Center," Siering said.

Siering thinks that this year's freshmen will easily get used to the newly implemented rule, but contends that the upperclassmen might be more hard put to adapt. In any case, the staff believes that it is for the protection of the students.

"The vast majority of the students have been very polite and understanding about it," Siering said. "Overall, it's working very well and there have been great benefits to all users of the facilities."

Before the new rule, students coming in from other schools also used the Clayton Center, further forcing this change.

"There have been students from other schools using the Center in the past that did not have memberships nor did they pay for the use of the Center," Rugraff said. "These individuals gained access to the Center by walking through the link doors with or behind Clayton students."

Junior Drew Lefkowitz comes to the Clayton Center about three to four days per week.

"I use one of the fitness machines, like [a] treadmill

or bike, and sometimes I do weights," Lefkowitz said.

Lefkowitz is part of an independent study class and gets into the Center regardless of membership or school identification. All she needs is her workout book that acts as a free pass in.

Senior Josh Carlie goes to the Clayton Center often as well.

"I either do cardio for half an hour, or use the weight machines for about an hour," Carlie said.

Carlie also takes part in an independent study class. Therefore the policy change did not affect him at all either.

Freshman Nina Oberman goes to the Clayton Center every day for a gym class and occasionally goes there after school.

"I use the machines, run on the track and the treadmills, and ellipticals during gym," Oberman said.

So far, the new rule has changed the way in which CHS students workout, but it remains to be seen whether it will have a significant impact on the number of total visitors that come to the Center. The future may show that student usage will stay the same. ☺

Cappies provide fresh look at St. Louis high school performances

Hannah Novack
Staff Reporter

The lights go down, and the curtain goes up. Parents, students, and staff look across the stage at the intricate backgrounds and costumes, waiting anxiously for the first lines to be spoken.

Also in the audience is a small group of students scribbling down notes. As if the pressure to perform in front of hundreds of people was not enough, the actors are performing for student critics, members of the Cappies, as well.

Nine students at Clayton High School are members of the Cappies organization for student critics. Members of the Cappies attend high school plays and musicals and review the performances. The

Cappies originated in Washington D.C. eight years ago. Since then, the organization has spread across the nation. This is the second year Clayton has participated in the Cappies.

"At the beginning of the Cappies season, our school's Cappies team meets and chooses certain shows everyone has an interest in seeing and reviewing," said sophomore Mariah Smith.

Cappies members dedicate some of their time usually every three or four weekends in order to attend said shows of interest. The night of the play, all members arrive at the theater 45 minutes early, and go to a designated room where an explanation of the play is given. The students then take notes while

watching the play, and discuss the

performances during intermission. Critics stay 45 minutes after the conclusion of the play and fill out review a sheet. Members then have a few hours to write a review and submit it for publication. "The best review of a show is published in the St. Louis

Post Dispatch," senior Kate Roth-

man said. "The second and third best are published in the newspaper of the school that held the performance."

Sophomore Susie Wirthlin has had one of her reviews published in the Nerinx High newspaper for the musical "Thoroughly Modern Millie."

"It heightens the stakes," Kelley Ryan, theater director at CHS, said. "Students

aren't writing for a grade, but a real audience and the chance to be published in a major newspaper."

At the end of the year, all the Cappies members convene and nominees are selected and voted upon for an award gala, which is held at a later date. Last year, Clayton was almost unable to be nominated.

"All teams have to attend at least five plays in order to be eligible," Ryan said. "We almost didn't make it."

Luckily, the Cappies members managed to attend five plays, and ended up winning Best Musical for "Into the Woods" at the Cappies awards, as well as several other awards.

The Cappies program provides

many benefits for its members and performers. It teaches critics to make judgments, determine what is good, quality drama, and the aesthetics of theatre. In addition, the program offers actors the opportunity to receive solid feedback on their performance.

"[The Cappies] gives student actors recognition and puts more of a spotlight on student productions," Wirthlin said.

The Cappies organization is a great opportunity for students to improve their reviewing skills, and the plays and musicals certainly never cease to entertain.

"The best part for me is to see some interesting high school performances," Smith said. "It just gives you a good laugh." ☺

“**Students aren't writing for a grade, but a real audience and the chance to be published.**”

Kelley Ryan
CHS Theater Director

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Tag banned at Captain Elementary, recess at risk nationwide

Jeremy Bleeke
Staff Reporter

In Massachusetts, a school has banned tag, touch football, and other unsupervised "chase games." In Portland, Oregon, public schools got rid of swings, merry-go-rounds, and teeter-totters. At a school in Charleston, South Carolina, soccer was kicked out of the playground. In Florida, a school banned running.

Now, this nationwide trend has come to the Clayton School District.

At Captain Elementary School, kids are no longer allowed to play football, wall ball, basketball, or chase games during recess, according to fourth grader Zach Bayly, and fifth graders Yossi Katz, Ida Campbell-Jones, and Sydney Walsh.

The changes at Captain are somewhat recent. As late as 2002, soccer, wall ball, tag, basketball, and football were still played. According to Susie Pleimann, who teaches fifth grade at Captain, the majority of the changes in playground policy were adopted around the time of the installation of the Captain Garden, which is a space with flower beds, trees, rocks, and bushes. This is known as the Walk Zone, which means that students cannot move at a pace any faster than a walk while inside its boundaries.

Katz, Walsh, Campbell-Jones, and Bayly also mentioned Captain's before school playground policy—called "Walk and Talk"—numerous times.

"Walk and Talk is where we can only walk and talk, and we can't run," Walsh said. "It isn't fun."

Bayly believes that being able to have physical activity before school is important, since it helps him focus better. "That's why it's good to have [recess] in the morning," Bayly said. "Because that gets all your energy out before you get into school."

In other schools around the country, the movement away from traditional recess has been attributed to the increase in liability law suits, and the harsher consequences



Cheryl Diaz Meyer / Dallas Morning News / MCT

Banned recess activities at Captain Elementary:

- ✗ tag
- ✗ soccer
- ✗ football
- ✗ basketball
- ✗ wallball

Safe recess activities:

- ✓ four-square
- ✓ tetherball
- ✓ jumprope

Pros and cons of physical activity during recess:

- ◆ Builds social skills
- ◆ Develops problem solving techniques
- ◆ Kids get to meet new kids
- ◆ Alleviates child obesity
- ◆ Increased risk of physical injury during play
- ◆ Leaves less preparation time for standardized tests

that can befall a school if a student gets hurt.

In some schools, recess is actually in jeopardy of being cut entirely from the school day in order to make more time for standardized testing preparation. With the No Child Left Behind act, high performance on standardized tests has become more important than ever. With more to get through during the school day, play time is being sacrificed.

With the already existing childhood obesity problems in America, one must wonder what the repercussions of such policies could be. One out of every five children in America is obese, according to the

Cleveland Clinic, one of the nation's highest regarded medical centers.

But a majority of administrators still believe that recess, and a time for unorganized free play, is vital for children's development and academic performance.

At Glenridge Elementary School, contact in games is two-finger, and chase games are played on a grassy area to prevent students from getting hurt.

"Our kids really respect being able to play games at recess," Glenridge Principal Laura DuPont said.

"We very clearly state the difference between this and organized play—it's not organized in the sense that there are no referees—you're not

wearing all the proper equipment, so everything we do is just toned down and mild."

DuPont, who has been principal of Glenridge School for 10 years, believes that movement goes hand in hand with learning.

"From what we know about brain development... movement is good for the brain. So if there's movement within the classroom, and every 15 minutes kids are allowed to get up, move about, do this, do that, we know that the blood will flow to the brain. So whether you're five years old or 50 years old, you need to be moving."

Luke Auffenberg, who is a fifth grader at Captain, also strongly

supports the merits of exercise. Auffenberg is the founder of the Independent School Government, which is a student organization with the goal of uniting the collective voice of the student body at Captain Elementary. Auffenberg has recently written a petition for the ISG, requesting a longer time for recess and lunch. Currently at both Captain and Glenridge, the time allotted for both recess and lunch is about 35 minutes.

In the petition, Auffenberg cites The National Association of Sport and Physical Education and CNN senior medical correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta, saying that children need 60 minutes of unstructured moderate to heavy exercise a day.

Auffenberg recognizes that having 60 minutes of recess is impossible, but he hopes that recess and lunch time can be increased some.

To quote from the petition: "In addition to creating chances for physical exercise, recess helps us exercise our minds. Doctors, teachers, scientists... all say that kids who get recess pay better attention and are much better behaved. Time to play is a big chance to learn how to get along better and develop problem solving skills."

DuPont also believes that recess is a time when students can improve social skills. She gave the top three benefits of recess, in her opinion, as being a good time for socialization, unstructured play time and

physical activity. "That unstructured time again gives them the opportunity to mix it up with other kids that are not regularly in their classes," DuPont said.

Auffenberg and the ISG also stress the correlation between the playground and the classroom, and that while increasing recess may take time away from learning, it would make the time more effective.

"What Dr. Sanjay Gupta thinks is that even though we might not get as much time in the classroom learning things," Auffenberg said, "when we are in the classroom we're absorbing it better, and we learn it better, and we can focus better."

Beth McDonald, who teaches first and second graders at Captain, and Susie Pleimann both believe that to stay focused kids need breaks, and they need to be able to move around instead of sitting still for long periods

of time. For DuPont, recess boils down to being a time for unstructured period for kids to just relax and take a break from the normal school day.

"Everything is with the philosophy basically that this is for exercise and fun," DuPont said. "Good throwing, catching, running, everything is two-finger play, there's no blocking, no really hard physical contact. There's no referees... it really is with the whole sense of fun." ☺

"In addition to creating chances for physical exercise, recess helps us exercise our minds... kids who get recess pay better attention and are much better behaved."

Petition from students at Captain Elementary School

District gets shiny new computer hardware

Nicholas Andriole
Staff Reporter

It takes a lot of know-how to run all the computers at CHS.

As teachers increasingly rely on technology homework assignments, many students rely on the technology provided by our school district. Headaches are common for a corrupted file and the inability to find a machine in the eMac lab is also very common. However, the technology staff has been working hard to resolve these issues and provide reliable technology to students, faculty and staff.

While CHS currently operates Mac OS X Tiger on many of the machines, a few Macintosh models still run Mac OS X Panther. Most machines at CHS offer Microsoft Office X for Macintosh, which dates back to 2000. However, some machines are in the process of being upgraded to Microsoft Office 2004.

"We are continually upgrading the district's technology," Devin Davis, Clayton School District Chief Information Officer, said. "Over the summer, we replaced

all of the network equipment and replaced the aging building based file servers with central SAN (storage area network). Other upcoming plans include replacing the teacher laptops (48 month replacement cycle)

and putting the student desktops on a 60 month replacement cycle."

Other recent upgrades include the new fiber optic system based at the Administration Center.

"We recently upgraded the district's internet bandwidth from 4.6 mb to 10.5 mb with a new fiber run to the admin building," Davis said.

Upgrading the bandwidth allows users to take advantage of a faster download speed.

Visitors to web sites throughout the school district will enjoy a new web design.

"We are also implementing a new application to host the district's web site," Davis said. "The new web site, School Wires, will enable each teacher in the district to easily create and maintain their own web page."

While the technology supplied by the school doesn't suit the needs of some students, others are satisfied and feel CHS has superb technology.

"CHS technology suits our needs; it's better than my old school even though there is some times problems with the server" said senior Henry Brown.

Some of the newest additions to CHS technology include the upgrades to iMac G5s in the journalism lab, the e-music lab, and in the photography lab.

Although new machines have been ordered and a

replacement cycle is in place, many aspects of student computing will probably remain unchanged.

Initially CHS did not allow students to change their password from the default setting given to all students.

"I don't like the restrictions like not being able to change my password," Brown said.

In addition to complaints about internet speeds and the aging computers, many students dislike having their activity monitored and access to certain web sites restricted.

"We do not actively monitor students in the School District of Clayton," David said. "Our goal is to block access to sites that have been identified as inappropriate by the Assistant Superintendent. We are working with teachers to help determine which sites should be blocked or unblocked." ☺

New iMac G5s replaced some older eMacs, which were transferred to Wydown Middle School.



San Jose Mercury News / MCT

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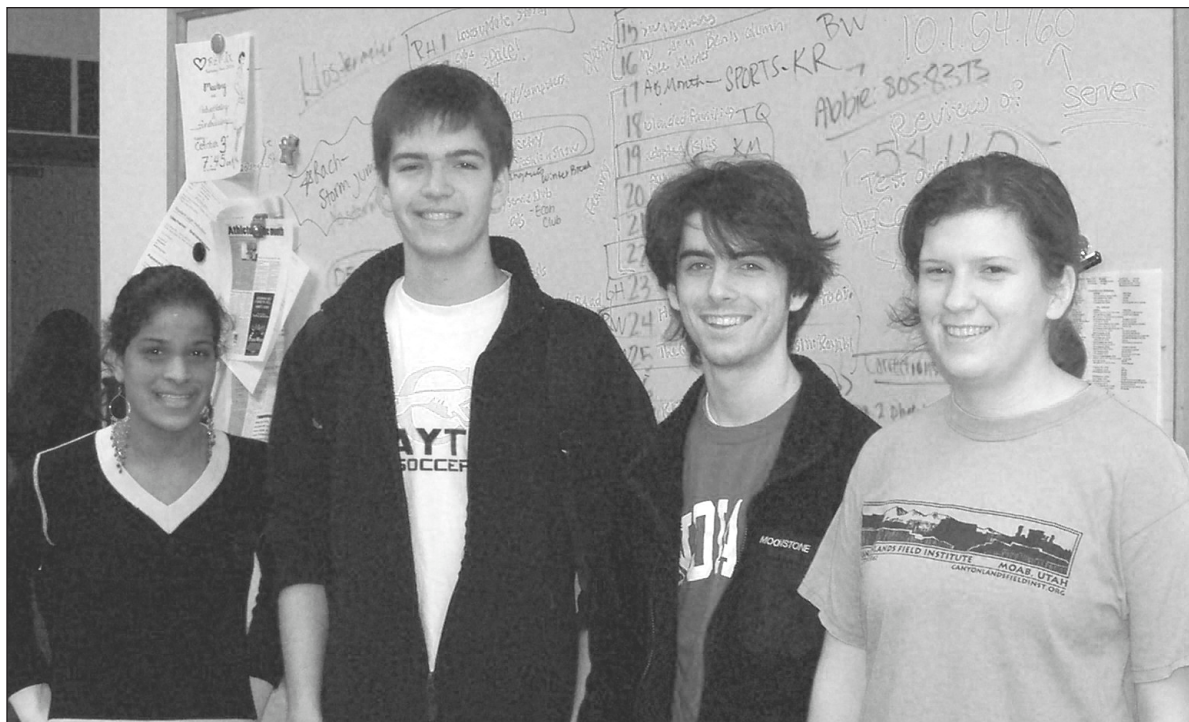


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Staff Photo

The CHS World Quest team this year is especially successful. From left to right: junior Sara Rangwala seniors Roland Reimers, Bob McGibbon and Rebecca Wall will advance to the national level competition in Washington D.C. to take place over spring break.

CHS wins World Quest

Feng Shuang Stamme
Section Editor

Clayton has been participating in the World Quest for five years. Teams have done fairly well at the competitions in the past, but this year is by far the best that they have ever done.

On November 15, four students participated in the World Quest, an intellectual competition between high school students that was held at the Millennium Student Center in the University of Missouri in St. Louis. The team competed in the regional level and took home the first place award.

Seniors Bob McGibbon, Roland Reimers, Rebecca Wall and junior Sara Rangwala all participated in the four hour long competition.

By winning first place, the team can advance to the national level, and will receive an all expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. during the spring break.

"It's the first time that any CHS students has won this prestigious honor," Wall said.

History teacher Sam Harned, who helped put the team together, described World Quest as a program that: "Promotes global understanding, and more awareness of cultures and peoples throughout the world," Harned said.

Unlike Quiz Bowl, World Quest is not a formal club.

"We just put a group of kids together for this competition," Harned said. "It's fairly informal. Before the competition, the students looked at lots of flags, and read up on their current affairs, magazines and journals."

Not many people are aware of the World Quest. "It is a relatively new competition, but it is nationally recognized and respectable," Reimers said.

According to the World Affairs Councils of Ameri-

ca's website, World Quest is "a team game testing competitors' knowledge of international affairs, geography, history, and culture, with questions and multiple choice questions" www.wacmaine.org.

Participants of this academic program are high school students from all over the country that connected by through the World Affairs Council sponsor at their local areas.

In this local competition, "there were probably 20 to 30 other high schools that participated," Wall said.

The World Quest game is played between different four member teams, each representing their high school.

The questions are projected on a screen using PowerPoint. They are from many different categories, including current events, United States and World History, famous world leaders, geography, religion, culture and the flags of different countries.

A typical sample of the types of questions that appeared are: "What state is the first Muslim congress from?" and they would give a picture of a place on the map, and have you to identify what it is," Wall said.

Reimers was awed by the large participation and the professionalism of the competition.

"I was very impressed by the number of schools and students," Reimers said. "And the formality in the competition. There were university speakers, including the UMSL President."

Rangwala received the same experience as Reimers, who was surprised by the team's win, she came with the idea of having a good time and build her experience. For Rangwala, the competition also gave her a chance to reunite with old acquaintances.

"There was a guy who I worked hung out with while working at the Science Center last year," Rangwala said. "We didn't keep in contact, but I met him at World Quest. I was surprised to see him there." ☺

AP Chemistry test eliminates choice, keeps original content

Michael Root
Staff Reporter

The rigor of AP classes has always challenged students as they battle the tough curriculum and assignments, but Clayton has, year-in and year-out, risen to the challenge and exceeded national average test scores on the annual AP Exams.

This year, however, AP Chemistry students will face another challenge outside the curriculum. The College Board decided to change the format of the AP Chemistry exam administered in May, basically removing all choice from the test. The upside is that only the format is being modified, leaving content unchanged.

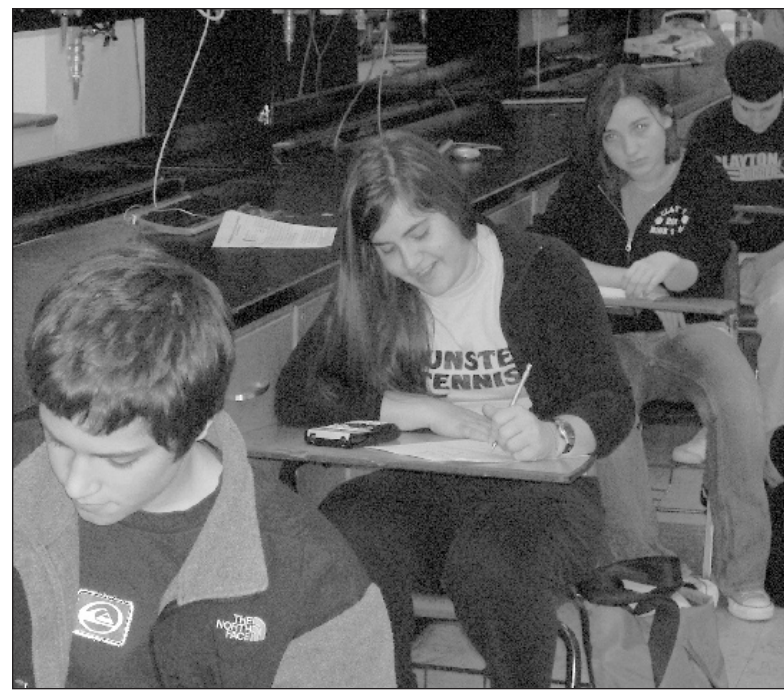
"Since the content will remain the same, I don't think the test will be much harder, especially because everyone is at the same disadvantage across the country," junior Patrick Rafferty said.

Some changes that are currently known are that the weighting will be 50-50 between free response and multiple-choice sections compared to the 45-55 weighting that had been in place previously.

The free response section will contain three required problems that students will be able to do with a calculator, one of which will probably be a lab-related question. The test will also have three non-calculator essay questions, which are composed of two short answer questions and the equations section. The equations section is made up of three equations and a corresponding question about each reaction, compared to previous years where students could choose five out of eight equations and were not required to answer any questions about the reactions.

Overall, the College Board has removed all choice from the exam, forcing every single student across the nation enrolled in the class to answer the same exact questions. In previous years, if you didn't know one of the essay questions you could choose the other and receive full credit, but now, students must know every unit throughout the year to a tee in order to answer any question that may be on the exam.

"Without a choice in the free re-



Amy Brooks

AP Chemistry students take a test. From left to right: juniors Mark Heil and Gila Hoffman, senior Abby Lawlor and junior Phillip Levine.

the students. "Sometimes the questions can let you know a part of the reaction like oxidation changes for example, and may help you realize the reaction type," Rafferty said.

Aside from the reaction types, balancing the reactions, probably the biggest change, creates whole new problems for most students. "The balancing is probably the worst change especially with harder reaction types like redox reactions, but considering we haven't taken the AP before and we have no reference, it may not be that big of a deal in the end," junior Liza Schmidt said.

As of now, however, there is little information on exactly how the College Board is changing all parts of the exam, why they are changing it, and how they will be grading it.

This makes it more difficult on the teachers and students preparing for the exam in May, but Peck is confident that Clayton will maintain its high rates of success as seen in previous years.

"The impact of the changes on us will be minimal, and as more information becomes available I will be able to modify my teaching and assessments in class to better prepare my students to succeed," Peck said. ☺

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fields for the future



Special appreciation to all the parents, alumni and friends who contributed so much to bring the new Centene Stadium at Gay Field to life. What an amazing sight it was turn on the lights and enjoy Friday night football. It was exciting to play in all kinds of weather, never worrying about the rain cancelling a game.

The soccer, field hockey and football teams enjoyed a brand new, safer, more thrilling athletic experience this fall. Next spring, another group of student athletes will take part in a new season under the lights and on our new turf and track. We can't wait to cheer on the teams.

On behalf of our amazing students, the Friends of Clayton Athletes send a sincere thank you to everyone who made this possible: donors, volunteers and administrators. And a special thank you to those listed below for participating in our buy a brick program. You made this happen for the kids!!

Joan Abrams
Michael & Nancy Alderson
Gordon Anderson
Kathy Bader
Mark & Scott Bates
John and Melissa Behrend
David and Jill Belsky
Alex and Cindy Berger III
Inta Berzins
Rachel Borson
Bob & Betsy Bruce
Paul & Susan & Family Buse
David & Nancy Butler
Kevin & Tommie Carlie
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Frank & Susan Hackmann
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Nancy & Carry Munson
Jeff Neil
Sam & Rhoda Nussbaum
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Nathan & Rebecca Peck
William Phelan
Omri & Julie Praiss
Christine Rawdon
Ned & Debbie Reilly
Deborah Zimmerman & Jon Root
Scott & Georgeanne Rosenblum
Wendell & Carol Sapp
Don Senti
Mark & Patty Shapiro
Ann & Mark Shapiro
Kathy & James Sherby
Stephen & Miriam Singer
William A. Sippy
Liz Smith
Carol & Michael Staenberg

Bonnie Kopolow Stansen
Kim & Scott Szybala
Rick Tibbles
James & Anne von der Heydt
Scott & Rita Waldman
Jack & Carolyn Waterbury
Richard K. Weil
Dean & Cheryl Wolfe
Steven Wolken, D.D.S., P.C.
Bill Eastman & Cynthia Garnholz
Brown Shoe Company, Inc.
Carol Stewart & Paul Goodfellow
C-Club
Centene Management Company LLC
CHS Club
CHS PTO
Clayton Football Boosters
Clayton Girls in Sports
Clayton School District (StuGo)
Clayton Soccer Boosters
Enterprise Rent-A-Car Company

Gannett Corporation (James Whiteley/Karen Foss)
Hastings & Chivetta Architects, Inc.
Health Technologies
James Whitely and Karen Foss
Jaye Shyken & Stan Vriezelaar
May Company - Dean Wolfe
May Company - Jay Levitt
Peter Dolan & Anne Adderton
Rolmar Charitable Foundation
Ronna M. Pohlman
CHS Class of 2005
Susan Dutcher & Gary Stormo
The Becker Family
The Business Bank of St. Louis
The Glik Family
The Horrell Family (Joe)
The Lipstein Family
The Maylack Family
The Merrick Family

Too close for comfort

While students and teachers interact on a regular basis, the supposed fine line that exists in the relationship may not be so fine after all. This grey area can cause problems for all involved.

Rachel Harris
Co-Editor in Chief

Students and teachers interact closely at CHS on a daily basis. Whether editing an English paper or meeting after school for help on math homework, students and teachers work closely to create an academically fostering environment at CHS. Good relationships make students feel as if the school is looking out for them, but when the connection between a student and a teacher changes from a purely academic relationship to a relationship where deeply personal issues are discussed is when a problems may arise for both a student and teacher.

"One of the strengths of CHS is the open campus," history teacher Dave Aiello said. "Students and teachers have unscheduled time allowing one-on-one help. A lot of other places require their students to be in class and their teachers to either be in class or monitoring a class."

Students at CHS are able to go to their teachers for help before school, during mutual free periods, or after school, but there is always the danger that the relationship could evolve into an atypical student-teacher relationship where more personal issues are discussed.

Some students have no interest in that kinds of student-teacher bond.

"I normally don't discuss my personal life with teachers," Sophomore Olivia Hayes said. "I try to keep that separate from my school work as much as possible."

Other students find such relationships appealing. "I have a close relationship with [English teacher] Matt Balossi," Senior Robert Reed said. "We have talked about personal interests of mine, like climbing, and ethical dilemmas of mine. I've asked his opinion on certain aspects of my life and he has helped me decide certain things. We just have normal chats too."

English teacher Susan Teson is cautious about relationships with students.

"There is definitely a catch-22 with teachers in relationships with students," Teson said. "You want to be close, but there is a fine line and you cannot get attached. As an English teacher, I have an advantage because of the conferenced English program. I am able to meet one-on-one with my students 10 times per year and get to know them better."

Yearbook and Broadcast News teacher Christine Strahan is in a similar situation as Teson. Since her classes are set not in the typical classroom setup, she feels as if she is able to get to students better in the one-on-one settings.

"The way my job is set up is I work with kids on a one-on-one basis," Strahan said. "I have a relationship with my students where we can joke and get to know each other better than in a regular classroom setting. It works for me how I run the classroom."

Director of the Learning Center Dee Blassie says that she takes her job very seriously and that the issue regarding the relationship between a student and a teacher is cut and dry.

"Teachers know the line they can and cannot cross as an educator," Blassie said. "You know what your responsibility is and what you need to do."

Senior China Thomas talks to various teachers and administrators at CHS about some of her personal issues.

"With Mrs. Blassie, I discuss more personal issues," Thomas said. "She can talk to me because she knows my dad and we are also neighbors in Florida."

There are certain subjects that teachers as well as students avoid altogether.

"I don't care too much about talking about racism because it never really works out," Thomas said. "Racism is a tough situation. Someone always ends up offended. It's okay sometimes, but a lot of times it is highly unnecessary."

While Thomas prefers not to talk about racism, Reed tries not to talk to teachers about drugs. Some topics students avoid, teachers try to avoid as well.

"Alcohol is hard for me," Teson said. "I am not a drinker. It makes me uncomfortable because I can't understand the need to drink, but I can deal with other personal issues."

While having a close relationship with a teacher can be rewarding, Aiello sees the potential downside in having inappropriate contact in these one-on-one situations.

"Through the years I have had different relationships with students in class and outside activities," Aiello said. "It is easy to become more casual, but there is always that fine line that isn't necessarily clear."

Aiello never meets with students with the door closed so others do not think they were trying to hide the meeting. His method of keeping the relationship with the student purely academic ensures that neither he nor the student will cross a line in their relationship.

"There is a common sense aspect to this," Principal Louise Losos said. "Students are given to us by parents to protect and educate them. When a teacher steps over a line and in some way harms a student that

shouldn't happen. No matter how mature a student is they are still a child and the relationship should never go beyond friendship."

Teachers are often seen as role models by students. As a role model, teachers have the responsibility to be more mature than the students. In this position, it is sometimes difficult not to let the relationship develop into an inappropriate relationship.

"I have a good sense when kids are bothered by something but might not know what," Teson said. "I find that a lot of times they just need to hear themselves talk through things. A lot of times I find myself saying 'Yeah, I see where you're coming from.' Part of the job is to reach out during hard times. Part of the reason I became a teacher is because it is so much more than teaching. We are role models whether we welcome that or not."

Aiello says that he sees his role as a teacher to listen to students when they need to talk. Teson emphasized that her door is always open if her students need to talk about anything.

"I have zero tolerance for teachers trying to become students' friends," Senior China Thomas said. "I think that that is the quickest way to make me shy away from the teacher or administrator. I feel like if you're going to be your student's teacher, then teach them. If you're going to be their friend, then be their friend."

Aiello doesn't want people to think that the students he has a special relationship with get an unfair grading advantage and parents to then complain about their children's grades.

The job often causes teachers to reach out to students when they are having a hard time not only academically but emotionally as well. Sometimes, establishing a more personal connection can lead to trouble.

"In today's society teachers must be aware because a career can be ruined by a true or false allegation," Losos said. "Unfortunately the reality is that male teachers are more susceptible to difficult situations."

Teson found herself in a sticky situation several years ago when she was teaching in the Hazelwood school district. Although she was not at fault for the events occurred, they were very difficult and dealt with the personal issues of a student of hers.

"I deeply cared for an extremely smart student at my old school," Teson said. "I knew her sister and her family. They were very wealthy because both parents were successful in the business world. No one knew the father was doing coke and one day he was murdered outside their house on a drug deal. The mother was deeply affected and didn't show much affection."

towards her kids. The student came to me for help."

One day the student didn't come to class. Teson received a note in the middle of class telling her to call the student's cell phone. She ignored the message because she was in the middle of teaching a class. A few minutes later, Teson received another note. She excused herself from class to call the student.

"I called her and she told me that she had taken 300 aspirin," Teson said. "I told her to stay where she was and ran to the nurse and the principal. The principal told me to go to her because she had called me."

Teson called an ambulance and went to the student's home. When she arrived, Teson found the student on the floor extremely sick due to her overdose on aspirin.

"I held her while she was throwing up and waited for the ambulance," Teson said. "Her mom came home before the ambulance arrived, but she didn't want her mother in the ambulance with her, so, I had to ride with her. I try to maintain the fine line, but I felt too responsible in that situation"

Blassie found herself in an equally sticky situation. "I was teaching a third grader who was being abused in the home," Blassie said. "I reported it and the child was taken from the home. It was so hard for me to do, but the bruises, oh gosh, that was difficult. The parents were so angry with me. Thankfully, I have only had to deal with a situation like that once in my 30 years of teaching."

Teachers are mandated reporters. They are required by law to report any cases or suspicions of sexual or physical abuse, neglect, or if a student is drunk or high in class.

"We have clear guidelines on what should occur," Losos said. "[When a case is reported] we contact the Human Resources Director Sharmon Wilkinson and the Assistant Superintendent Mary Jo Liberstein. We interview the student with Liberstein and the teacher with Wilkinson to protect both parties. If enough evidence is presented, then we contact social services and the police to do an investigation, but the police and the Department of Family Services have different requirements than us when it comes to evidence."

Reporting an issue to the administration could help students deal with their problems, but may be unwanted.

"I wouldn't like if a teacher talked to someone else about giving me help," sophomore

Olivia Hayes said. "I would want the teacher to talk directly to me before getting other people involved."

Senior Robert Reed agrees with Hayes.

"I don't know that I would particularly want them to [report me] if we were simply having a conversation and something struck them as more serious than otherwise thought," Reed said. "If I had a problem and was just talking to them about a problem, I might feel betrayed simply because you might look at that person as a friend."

After a teacher reports the student, the student may feel betrayed by the teacher's actions, causing them not to confide in them as much.

"If they talked to someone else about me, I would feel as though I couldn't trust them or confide in them again," Hayes said.

"I would prefer them to come to me personally," Thomas said. "I would probably not trust them as much, but in the long run, I would always look for them to talk to. At least I would know that they were concerned about me."

While Teson welcomes any student who may need to simply talk, she sometimes finds it difficult to separate her school life from her home life.

"It is challenging to keep the personal stuff out the door," Teson said. "You can't let what is going on in school effect you. You need to keep a good poker face. My husband gets upset when I meet students outside of school. When I am spending more time with my kids at school than my kids at home is when I know I'm getting too involved. It is a hard thing to do but after a while you master the ability to do it."

Losos has no intention of ruining any teacher's career because of some allegation that they have crossed the line with a student, but realizes exactly that her job entails.

"As adults we are supposed to know where the line is," Losos said. "We are supposed to be more mature. We are supposed to be there for them, but in an appropriate way." ☺



Kerri Blumer

“The best thing about being adopted is having two sets of parents. My birth mother gave me the best gift I have ever been or ever will be given and that is a chance for a better life. My adoptive parents gave me the opportunity to live that life.”

-- Senior Alex Ormsby, page 19

NEWS BRIEFS: NHS INDUCTEES

The following students were inducted into the National Honors Society on Tuesday, Nov. 7:

Juniors: Laura Bliss, Cameron Davis, Sonya Gierada, Steven Glynias, Melanie Goldstein, Mary Goodman, Mark Heil, Gila Hoffman, Michal Hyrc, Erik Jones, Nava Kantor, Leigh Katz, Drew Lefkowitz, Phillip Levine, John McAfee, Abbie Minton, Kelly Moffitt, Erin O'Neal, Paul Orland, Sarah Rangwala, Michael Root, Elizabeth Schmidt, Laura Shoemaker, Hyrum Shumway, Dakin Sloss, Adrienne Stormo, Ka-Chuan Suen, Marta Toczykowski, Anya Veremakis, Herbert Virgin-Downey, Jacqueline Wilcher, Claire Wong and Sarah Zimmerman.

Seniors: John Acker, Andrew Bassett, Joshua Charlie, Allyson Golden, Rebecca Gutmann, Jessica Jia and Shannon Keane.

STUDENTS HONORED

Senior Matt Schlessman was invited to present his macroeconomics predictions for next year to the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank at CEO Next Generation last month. Schlessman was the only student out of five to discuss all six topics, including GDP growth, 10-year bond rates, crude oil prices, the Dow Jones stock index, unemployment levels and inflation.

Senior Jorge Patrocinio won first place and \$500 in a local contest called "Influence," which was sponsored by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Patrocinio performed his original composition at Sheldon Concert Hall during the awards ceremony on Oct. 31.

Sophomore Dylan Cockson was also honored with a \$250 savings bond in the "Influence" contest for his original poem on the dangers of alcohol and drug use.

Sophomore Nicholas Andriole was named an official member of the NetAid Global Citizens Corps and participated in the Sightright project where glasses are collected and sent to developing nations.

Sophomore Susie Wirthlin and juniors Jacob Blumenfeld and Vanessa Moore were nominated to the Missouri Fine Arts Academy. They will get to participate in three weeks of intensive study and work with a gifted master faculty during the summer.

Basketball teams hope to recreate last year's successes, reach towards promising season

By **Rebecca Wall**
Senior Managing Editor

The CHS Varsity Girls' basketball team is looking forward to a promising season, despite some early obstacles. All five starters from last year's 20-6 squad are returning, and hopes run high amongst the players and coaches.

The Hounds hope to capture the district championship this year. Last year, they fell in the district final to Visitation.

Along with the boys' team, the Lady Hounds had to cope with a lack of a home court for the pre-season and beginning of play. This was an obstacle, although not an insurmountable one.

"We have had an unusual start to our season," Assistant Coach Beth Blackwell said.

Things the team normally could take for granted, like being able to play the "home" tournament at CHS, were turned upside down.

Additionally, the team's practices had to be different than in years past.

"We were unable to practice in Stuber or use our locker room," Blackwell said.

Fortunately, the team has bonded into a cohesive unit, which has enabled the Hounds to succeed without a legitimate home court.



Blair Klostermeier

Sophomore and two-year Varsity team member Diane Martin believes the team gets along well, perhaps because of the comfortable size of eleven team members.

"We are not a huge team," Martin said.

As of press time, the Hounds are 4-1 with wins over Cleveland NJROTC, Principia, Ladue and Gateway Tech, the sole loss suffered at the hands of MICDS.

Another obstacle has been Senior captain Barissa Ford's inaction in the early days of the season due to a thigh injury during the first week of practice.

Ford, the leading scorer with an average of 17.6 points per game recently received a full scholarship to Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

"Although she can still practice without going full speed, she has had to miss several games," Blackwell said.

Ford's injury, while certainly a blow to the team, has provided some positive results as well. On a team very aware of Ford's dominance and talent, playing without her on the court has raised awareness of the talent of other players. It has also allowed other team members to play valuable minutes.

Blackwell describes some of the positive aspects of Ford's injury on the team.

"It has shown the girls that if they play as a team they can overcome the loss of Barissa and win games," Blackwell said.

Despite this early success, the Hounds' schedule will continue to significantly increase in difficulty, so the team must perform at a high level to maintain their level of success.

Martin thinks the Hounds' season is going well. She feels that focused effort is necessary to the team's success.

"The season will get harder," Martin

said. "We will have to keep working hard to have success over some teams."

The starting five provide a solid backbone for the hounds. The hounds are anchored by the height of seniors Ashley Crawford (6'1") and Linda Morris (6'0") and assisted by the technical skill and speed of seniors Stacey Lawrence and Ford. Senior Adira Weixlmann's sharp shooting will be integral to success as well.

However, players coming off the bench often bring a needed boost. One of these players is Junior Erin O'Neal.

"Erin comes off the bench at key times," Martin said.

The coaching staff of Head Coach Barry Ford and Assistant Coach Beth Blackwell have also assisted in creating a good team.

"The coaches help point out our mistakes," Martin said. "They also help us practice and run our plays."

Both experienced and talented, the Lady Hounds have high hopes for their season. Every game is viewed as preparation for the larger goal of winning districts.

"We want to make sure we are in shape for the district championship," Martin said.



Teddy Monson

Above: sophomore guard Syd Warner shoots in a game against JFK. Clayton went on to beat JFK 56-47. Right: senior Adira Weixlmann prepares to pass in a game against Ladue. Clayton went on to win 44-19 against the Rams.

Boys

The CHS Varsity Boys' basketball team has their own catchphrase this year. They have a motto. One might even call it a mantra.

The phrase of the season is "Success is a Choice." Last year's team, led by star seniors such as Cameron Hicks, Max Leabman and Andrew O'Neal was immensely successful, winning districts. They fell later to Jennings in a controversial last minute shot. This year's team hopes to recreate last year's success, perhaps advancing even further.

Senior Joe O'Fallon thinks the team will be able to find success without those players.

"Players like Cameron were great but we've been able to replace them," O'Fallon said. "Our play has become more team based."

The coaching staff has had an overhaul from last year. Ryan Lunning took over as head coach, backed by assistant coach Mike Nelke.

Members of the basketball team think this coaching change was for the best.

"I like the new coaches a whole lot more" Sophomore Syd Warner said. "Coach Lunning is more into the team."

Warner thinks one of the im-

provements brought by the new coaching staff are better game strategies.

"The plays work better," Warner said.

This year's team is lead by a core of four senior captains, Zack Warner, Dan Stamborski, Bo Lanter and Jared Neely.

Warner thinks his brother Zack's improvement in the off-season will be important, filling some gaps left by last year's seniors.

"Zack is 6'7" which does not hurt," Warner said. "He developed a lot over the summer and his shot is better this year."

All of these players will contribute largely to the team.

However, like most successful teams, the Hounds must have depth beyond the starting five in order to have a successful season.

"We need big minutes from the

bench," Warner said.

Veteran varsity players such as Seniors Ben Weixlmann and Joe O'Fallon will certainly be important in that regard.

So far this season the Hounds' record is 2-2, both losses sustained during a season opening tournament.

As far as the extremely important Ladue game goes, which the Hounds lost in overtime last year, many plays are optimistic.

"We will beat Ladue," O'Fallon said. "They lost a lot of key players and we are better."

With the motto "Success is a Choice" and immense talent, the team is poised for a great season.

Warner offers a hint as to how the Hounds might capitalize on their potential.

"We need to go out there with intensity," Warner said. 🐾

Swimming stays afloat despite season switch

By **Qing Zhang**
Section Editor

In one lap, two laps, three laps, ten laps, they trained arduously.

With variations in breast-stroke, butterfly and freestyle, they prepared eagerly.

As the girls of the Clayton 2006-2007 swimming and diving team stroke against the chlorine waters two hours a day and five days a week, they are looking forward to a fine season regardless of a bumpy start.

"I am so excited this year," said swimmer Katelyn Eustis said. "What really helped us this season is that the school decided to switch swimming from a spring sport to a winter sport; so we are able to get a lot of girls who would otherwise choose to do soccer or sports other than swimming. It is a nice change in options."

However, despite the excitement of welcoming additional members, the expanding size of the team presents difficulties yet to be

conquered.

"This year's team is about twice as large as last year's so improvement takes a while," sophomore Julia Hartel said. "Hopefully we will have as much spirit with this year's girls and without Paige Romer, last year's captain."

Hartel is not the only one worried about the effects of the unexpected growth in team size; senior and one of the current team captains, Marie-Sophie Ritter, agreed on the constraints placed on this year's team.

"So far, we began roughly because of the size of the swim team." Ritter said. "It started out a little bit hard to bond with each other and to create a friendly and cohesive atmosphere. And it's harder to build a team that is as strong competition-wise because we need to take time to review the strategies and practice."

The swimmers and divers, however, more than compensated for their inexperience with non-stop

“What really helped us this season is that the school decided to switch swimming from a spring sport to a winter sport.”

Katelyn Eustis
Swimming Coach



Abbie Minton

Several students swim laps in the pool during a meet on Thursday, Dec. 14. Because of the swimming season's switch to winter, more girls have chosen to participate. The influx of new swimmers resulted in a slow start to the season, but the team remains optimistic for a strong finish.

and carefully designed trainings.

"Sure we will have to work hard, but the girls are always ready for practice and there is not too much complaining as one would expect," Eustis said. "That spirit really helped us get better in previous weeks before the competitions."

Junior Yu-Jin Oh, who joined the team this year, hopes to improve through the trainings and participate in the coming competitions.

"It was so hard at first because I didn't know what to do," Oh said. "But after a few weeks into train-

ing, I think I am getting a lot better with help from both the coaches and girls who have been on the team last year. I am just loving it."

As for the divers, the same commitment and enthusiasm holds true.

"The three divers that we have are all fun and dedicated girls," diving coach Annie Etling said. "Two of them are actually very experienced and participate in diving events year-round. So I am definitely thrilled to come back and coach this year since we are very likely to

have a strong diving season."

"It is still early in the season," Ritter said. "We won our first meet and the second was a narrow loss. It may not be our best season and it may take the next season or the next year for the team to mature. But it is my favorite team yet because we are starting to have so much fun together."

"I like the girls and I love the team because everyone is really nice," Eustis said. "It is going to be good season in spite of the bumps and blocks." 🐾



From the Corner
Ben Weixmann

This month's feature will be a rundown of hoops for the early months of the season.

After the NBA instituted its mandatory college rule, prohibiting high schoolers from jumping straight to the pros, the NCAA saw its playing field greatly increase in talent. With the likes of Greg Oden, Kevin Durant, and Wayne Ellington, this freshman class is one of the most highly talented in several decades.

With a new level of ability spread across the country in college basketball, it begs the question, "Is this good for the sport?" The answer is undoubtedly yes. Not only does it allow for more parody in the game, but it also brings more hype to the game throughout the nation.

In addition, although it sounds cliché, players are able to develop as young men, as well as developing their game.

A majority of the kids that have declared for the NBA in recent years are overmatched both physically and mentally when they get into the league.

It is the few and far between players, Kobe Bryant and Kevin Garnett, for example, that have made the jump look glamorous.

What makes the college game interesting are the small schools that succeed. In one of the most anticipated seasons ever, the nation has already seen Butler come out of nowhere, (see Gonzaga five years ago), only to lose to interstate foe Indiana State. Wichita State, a Sweet 16 member last year, has repeated its storied run of last year, compiling early-season victories over powerhouses Syracuse and LSU.

A number of intriguing matchups christened the first month of the 2006-2007 college basketball season. Ohio State, with star Greg Oden watching from the sidelines, fell to perennial powerhouse North Carolina, with Ellington scoring 18 points. Other games included Gonzaga/North Carolina, Texas A&M/UCLA, and Florida/Kansas.

And so far, through a month of games, no team has wowed the nation as being superior. Many believe that early season favorites for the Final Four have deep roots in Chapel Hill, Gainesville, Columbus and The Wizard of Westwood's home.

With Oden getting back soon then expected, the Buckeyes have thrived. Several experts cite the Buckeyes as the most talented team in the nation behind Oden, freshman Mike Conley, and emerging stars Jamar Butler and Ron Lewis.

I think that Florida, although suffers two early season losses, is still the best team in the land. Injuries to Corey Brewer (mono), and Al Horford (sprained ankle), have limited the cohesiveness of the defending national champion.

I thought that even though the season is already somewhat underway, I would make my own predictions.

So far, several players have caught my eye. Freshman Chase Budinger from Arizona has put up a dominant performance in his first eight games. Durant and Oden have played as expected, and Ellington has surpassed expectations.

The five players with the best shot of garnering first-team All-American honors are senior Jared Dudley from Boston College, super sophomore Tyler Hansbrough from North Carolina, junior Joakim Noah, Arron Affalo from UCLA, and Josh McRoberts from Duke. Oden has an outside chance to find a spot on the team, as does Marquette's Dominic James.

This wave of freshmen has helped build hype surrounding March Madness, even though it is merely December.

Let's take a look at local teams: Mizzou, SLU, Illinois, and SIUC.

Mizzou had a great opening to its season, starting out 8-0, JUCO transfer Steffon Hannah and Matt Lawrence have both averaged in double figures to lead the way. Lafayette product Lawrence has come on as an unlikely surprise after walking onto the program just one year ago. If Mizzou can find success and stability in conference play, look forward to seeing Mizzou in a bracket slot come March.

SLU has its core back from a successful season last year, and wishes to ride its big three all the way to the NAAs. Sophomores Kevin Lisch and Tommie Liddell serve as the best backcourt in the Atlantic 10, and senior Ian Vouyoukas returns after being selected as the Billikens lone first-team All-Atlantic 10 last season. If these three players provide consistent offense, look for the Billikens to push for a NCAA spot.

Illinois has a solid core of players, but no real star. Warren Carter has stepped up early to lead the team in scoring, but there are four Illini players that join Carter in double figures. The Illini are in one of the nation's powerhouse conferences, the Big Ten, and have a fairly easy road schedule. If the Illini can maintain balance and stay unselfish, it would be no surprise to see them playing as a medium seed in the NCAA Tournament.

SIUC has a great shot to lead the MVC to a strong showing of four to five teams in the NAAs. Jamaal Tatum, a preseason candidate for MVC player of the year leads the Salukis into a tough MVC schedule. The Salukis must travel to tenth-ranked Wichita State and up-and-coming Missouri State. Matt Shaw and other role players must step up and help out Tatum in order to survive the treacherous MVC schedule come March.

The validity of this rundown will be seen come March, but until January, have a great winter break and keep your eyes out for those Fantastic Freshmen. ☺



Ben Weixmann

Trainer Carrie Sickmann explains the situation to junior Whitt Downey about his hip injury. Sickmann believes that the key to recovering quickly is to work hard in therapy and continue a strong rehab program.

Sports injuries cause discomfort for many, put season on hold for others

Hyrum Shumway
Section Editor

Historically, sports injuries could ruin an athletic career for player. New surgeries and new treatments have made a great impact, and now most athletes with injuries will play again.

"This time of the year with basketball and wrestling lots of ankles get sprained and fingers are often jammed," Athletic Trainer Carrie Sickmann said. "More aggressive injuries include broken wrists, broken or torn ligaments, as well as knee and shoulder issues."

A common injury is knee problems. Women's knees are five times more likely to be injured compared to men's knees.

"Genetically women have much more knee problems than men. Patellofemoral syndrome means that girls are born with wider hips so they can have children. Later as women's hips get wider the knees get pointed in and the angle of which the knees should be at is disrupted. Female knees therefore have more issues."

Within the United States thirty thousand high school and college age females will injure their knee. Unfortunately, CHS girls add to the statistic.

"I was injured while I was playing indoor soccer for the Clayton soccer indoor league," junior Maggie Minton said. "I was defending against the Burroughs' star Maggie Kissner, she was up against the wall and I tried to kick it out from her and she kicked me in the shin. I feel over my and my other foot slipped and my weight fell on my bended left knee. I heard a tearing sound and then it hurt a lot. I got up with my right foot, but when I stepped with my left leg I collapsed because of the pain. I hobbled on one foot over to the bench, and then my team asked me how I was. . . I told them really bad."

Maggie's injury was an acute injury because it during the sport in a sudden way, which creates intense pain and another sign that it was acute, was that she couldn't place any weight on the injury.

"The next morning we went to the pediatrician and the doctor told us that it was a simple bruised bone and to wait for a week," Minton said. "It turned out that my meniscus had torn in my knee. I had a surgery where they tried to fix the cartilage, but my body didn't take the surgery well. Over winter break they will take out the torn cartilage."

The impact of the injury affects many areas of ones life.

"My life has been impacted by my sports injury for many reasons," Minton said. "While I had my brace on I had very limited mobility. Now I am a lot more careful when I exercise and I do stretching before I exercise. The end result is that my knee will have less cartilage and will be weaker than my right knee. I can play sports but I am a little worried that it will deter me from playing my best."

Over 9 percent of all women sports injuries occur in soccer.

"I fractured both my shins and that was by me playing soccer all the time," sophomore Kate Wheelock said. "My shins started hurting in eighth grade maybe. They never really had a chance to heal because I used to play soccer year round, then I started field hockey in high school. My left knee also has tendonitis for reasons I am unsure of, I guess I just don't take as good care of myself as I could. When injuries develop they are hard to take care of. Whenever I take a long break from exercise my shins and my left knee start to recover, but they start to ache again when I expose my body to exercise again."

Unlike Minton, Wheelock's wounds are chronic injuries, meaning that they occur after years of playing a sport.

Symptoms of a chronic sports injury are pain when you play, pain while you exercise, swelling and a dull ache when resting."

Often athletes' injuries never heal because the athlete loves the sport too much to stop.

"It might be bad but I think more about the outcome of the injury on my life, such as how my soccer season goes instead of the thinking how my injury has hurt my body," Wheelock said. "I don't get better because I continue to play because I love the sport so much. Even in the winter my injury doesn't get a chance to heal because I have to stay in shape."

Parents, although concerned with their children's health, often leave up sports decision to their child, but still give advice when needed.

"Because of my shin splints my dad always tells me that I should wearing tennis shoes all the time because it is supposed to help them," Wheelock said. "I don't like wearing tennis shoes all the time however because they are not as comfortable or fashionable as other shoes. My mom wants me to get better but both my parents leave it to me to know my body, and know how to get it better."

Although women's knees are much more easily injured, men's knees can be injured as well.

"I tore my lateral meniscus which is cartilage in my knee," sophomore David Goldstein said. "This happened freshman year during basketball, I was running and I twisted it wrong. It might have been a buildup of many things. I don't remember one event but I remember the day it started to hurt."

The two menisci are easily injured by the force of rotating the knee while bearing weight.

A partial or compete tear of a meniscus often occurs when a person quickly twists or rotates the upper leg while the foot stays still.

"I don't think my injury could have been prevented unless I didn't do any sports

at all," Goldstein said. "I think it had to do with all the wear and tear it goes through with my activities. Basketball is pretty hard on your knees with all the jumping and sharp turns."

Goldstein then underwent surgery to stabilize the problem.

"The surgery was 45 minutes," Goldstein said. "I had to have an anesthesiologist and it was arthroscopic surgery. The surgeons cut off the torn part of my meniscus and also eliminated another useless tissue that was part of the problem. It is important to cut the torn cartilage off, so it doesn't tear more. The recovery was not too bad - a couple weeks of physical therapy. After the surgery they told me I had lost 30 percent of the muscle in my knee. It didn't take too long to gain the muscle back especially with the therapy."

Although Goldstein underwent therapy many do not and major consequences can ensue.

"People underestimate the importance of physical therapy," Varsity volleyball Coach Christine Strahan said. "If an athlete does not complete the physical therapy given from the therapist, they risk further injury."

Like most, Goldstein was able to fully recover from his injury.

"The surgeon told me I would be able to go back to all my previous activities," Goldstein said. "My parents were not at all concerned about me going back to play sports."

Some CHS students have been less fortunate and had to undergo multiple surgeries for their injury.

"I have broken my collarbone four times," Nick Shatz said. "My first time I broke my collarbone I was snowboarding in Utah and I fell on my shoulder. The second time I was rollerblading down a ramp and I landed on my shoulder again it snapped. The third time was my last lacrosse game of freshman year, I was up against a much bigger kid and got checked across the shoulder and it broke again. The last time it broke was midseason of lacrosse my sophomore year. I was attempting to take a ground ball when I dropped my shoulder weird and it broke. The last time I broke it the doctors told me. I could either have a titanium metal plate screwed into the bone to keep it from ever breaking again or I could quit lacrosse. I chose the surgery."

Due to the extent of the surgery the recuperation took awhile.

"After my surgery I had a long recovery time," Shatz said. "I had surgery during finals so it was hard to study. After the surgery I couldn't move my whole upper body because it hurt so much to move. It has taken awhile to get used to the plate in my shoulder, and I am more careful about contact to my shoulder. For the first six months or so I had to be careful, but now I am fully recovered and all ready for contact sports."

After so many times breaking it Shatz grew accustomed to the injury.

"Collar-bone injuries are easy to fix, and not really a major problem," Shatz said. "I love lacrosse so I continue to play."

Junior Max Arpadi also broke his collarbone this year. In his case he went shoulder to shoulder with a fellow player during a soccer drill.

The injury posed some grave consequences to Arpadi's athletic and personal life.

"Because of my injury my soccer season was stopped half-way through," Arpadi said. "I was disappointed that it had to happen that way. I had to wear a sling for a week, and then a figure-eight collar for two weeks. Sleeping was tough for awhile, and I couldn't lift weights or play sports. Actually, I am still recovering and my bone should be fine by March. Until then I drink milk and do rehab."

In order to get better Max must rebuild strength in his shoulder, and also remember that although he is a veteran football player, in soccer one doesn't have the same protective equipment.

"The first thing to do is to build up muscle around the shoulder to be able to take impact," Arpadi said. "My mentality because of my football playing my first two years made me feel as if I can go shoulder to shoulder with people - except in soccer you do not have the pads you do in football."

Sickmann stresses what Arpadi is diligently working on.

"In order to prevent sports injuries one can strengthen muscles. This is especially important in knees; the quad muscles must be strong in order to support the knee for sports. If the muscle strength is not there the joints are not stable and one tends to get hurt."

There are many strategies to prevent injury besides staying strong.

"Some people are just more prone to sports injuries," Strahan said. "A lot though can be prevented, don't take a month off, and do full body workouts. . .small things can prevent major injuries. Stretching is really important to not get hurt. Some kids think they don't need to. The more flexible you are the faster you are able to heal. Also one must have the right equipment for the sport. Athletes need to stay in shape, for volleyball girls it is hard because they have the whole summer off then a volleyball season. One needs to stay in shape, because you are more likely to get hurt while getting your body into shape."

Coaches in addition must be wary or injury and play their athletes carefully to make sure injuries do not progress to further problems. At CHS coaches seem to be very well acquainted with injury and how to handle it in every situation.

"Last season, when the tendonitis developed, Coach Hoelscher was really good about letting me have breaks whenever I needed to," Wheelock said. ☺

Athletes of the month

Senior Zack Warner is a force to be reckoned with on the basketball court

Ben Weixmann
Section Editor

Zack Warner has always had basketball in the family, "My dad played in high school and my brother was a walk-on at Louisiana State University," Warner said. "It was the sport I grew up around."

Warner began playing basketball competitively in fourth grade, but he didn't always experience success.

"I didn't get much playing time as a freshman," Warner said. "When I moved to Clayton for my sophomore year, I practiced a lot that summer before and realized I was getting a lot better."

Practice isn't the only reason Warner has dominated since setting foot on the Clayton campus just two years ago. An already-tall Warner showed up sophomore year at 6'1". Two years later, he stands almost 6'8".

"It is nice being taller," Warner said. "More shots are available for me, and if someone is guarding me, it's pretty easy to shoot over them."

Warner attributes his practice on footwork and his shot as significant reasons why his game has elevated in recent years.

This season Warner has filled up the stat sheet, averaging nearly 20 points per game, and corralling seven rebounds per contest. His consistency has proved effective for the team in the early-going.

"We had a rough start to our season with two losses, but we played some quality opponents," Warner said. "We got our first win against Burroughs and we are back on track to have a great season."



Teddy Monson

Senior Zack Warner fights an opponent for the ball. Warner has been a dominating force on the CHS Basketball team.

Warner had a career game against Burroughs, scoring 22 points on 9-12 from the floor, to go along with eight blocks and seven assists.

"It was definitely the best game I've ever played," Warner said.

His performances this season have been noted by many spectators, but more importantly by his teammates.

"Zack has improved his game so much since last season," senior guard Jacob Fish said. "We need someone to step-up this year to be our go-to guy and Zack has occupied that role so far very well."

As a versatile player, with the ability to score both inside and outside, Warner poses many problems for opposing defenses.

"Zack is a matchup problem for almost any team we play," Fish said. "It's pretty hard to stop a guy who can shoot threes or post you up and score."

Warner has high expectations for the team, with so much talent

returning from last year's team. "Whitfield is a tough team, and anytime we play in the MICDS tournament there is stiff competition. Our biggest rivals, Ladue and Westminster, are my most anticipated games," Warner said.

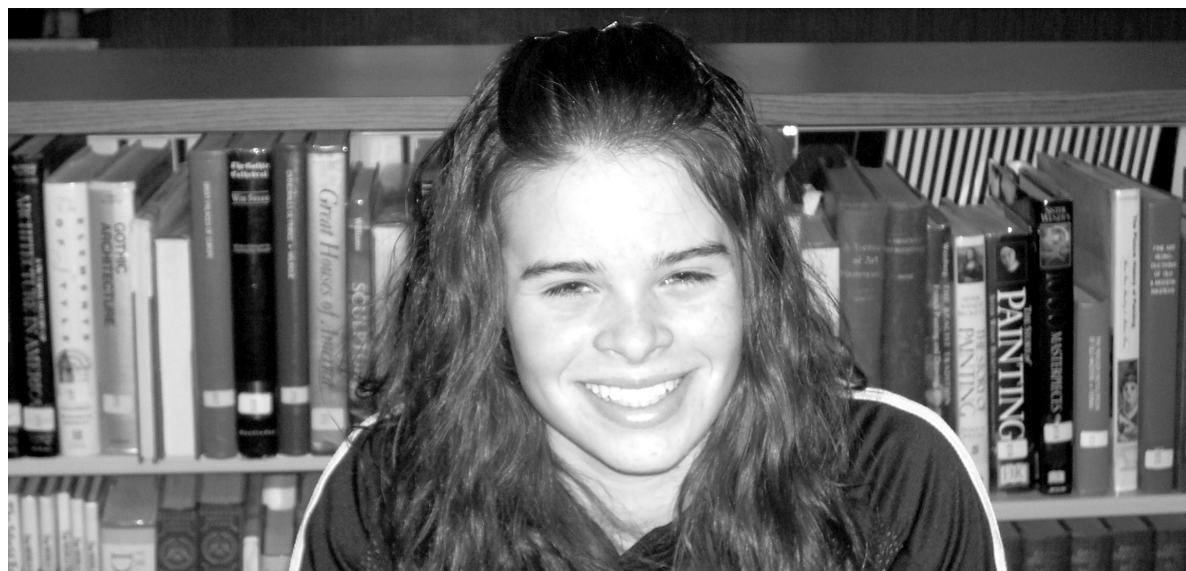
Warner was also named one of the team's four captains, a honor that he greatly appreciates.

"It's nice to know that your teammates see you as a leader," Warner said.

Warner has gotten looks from several Division III and NAIA schools requesting his basketball services, but Warner also has other possible aspirations.

"I have always dreamed of playing at LSU and following in the footsteps of my brother, Jack."

Whichever path Warner takes after high school, the Clayton community will certainly remember his senior season. ☺



Rebecca Singer

Junior Lisa Ast contributes her talent and enthusiasm to girls' swimming

Ben Weixmann
Section Editor

For many girls on the swimming team, winning does not really matter. Junior Lisa Ast agrees. For her, there are more important things.

Ast has been swimming since she was a freshman, but has become a driving force for the Hounds in the pool.

Ast specializes in the 100 butterfly, with times the range of 1 minute, 18 seconds to 1 minute, 19 seconds.

"I would really like to improve my fly," Ast said. "It would be an impressive accomplishment to make state."

The Hounds have a large team this year, represented by over 30 girls.

"It is awesome to have a big team because we have more swimmers in each event, and we have a strong bond," Ast said.

Ast's teammates notice her dedication and hard-work.

"Lisa has a really good attitude, and she loves to motivate the team," Senior Laura Goldsticker said. "She is also very friendly and outgoing outside the pool. Lisa brings excitement to every practice, and has a great butterfly."

The girls pulled off a big one-point victory over Parkway North on Dec. 14, and looked poised to continue their success after the break.

"I would like to stress that its not about getting

the wins, it's about having fun," Ast said. "I wish we would get more exposure throughout the community. It's awfully difficult to get a large following with basketball having its success, but it would be nice to see some of the student body at our meets."

The Hounds have a tough schedule, with Saint Joseph's and Lafayette, but Ladue is considered to be a winnable meet.

"We should put up a good fight against Ladue," Ast said. "We have the potential to beat a lot of teams, but I think we'd rather have fun."

Ast wishes she had pushed herself harder after her freshman year.

"Over the summer between my sophomore and junior years I worked really hard to correct my fly form," Ast said. "I need to continue to work on my breast-stroke, because right now my kick is illegal."

"For me it's about getting the exercise and meeting new people," Ast said. "Of course it's nice to win, but you have to be realistic. I just work to improve my times and make the team successful."

"Lisa does a great job of working hard to get personal bests," Goldsticker said. "Each and every day she comes to practice ready to work and get better."

"My role when I am not swimming is being loud and crazy," Ast said. "I like to be the cheerleader, root on my squad."

With Ast on the deck, the Hounds will be pressing for success and will certainly have talent to accompany the cheering. ☺

Winter running club underway

Abby Eisenberg
Staff Reporter

It is cold outside. Ice is all over the sidewalks. You have just finished a long hard day full of teachers, homework, and tests. The last thing that most people would want to do is lace up their running shoes, and run six miles. But what seems crazy to some, is a thrill for others.

For many cross country runners, winter running club is a relaxed atmosphere where they put in the necessary off-season running time in order to be competitive in their next season of running.

Though Chuck Collis has been in charge of the club in the past, the administration, and leadership of the club has changed this year.

"This year we don't really have a sponsor, so basically at the end of the season we just said we are run-

ning on Tuesdays and Thursdays," sophomore Katie Poplawski said. "You can come if you want."

"Last year Coach Collis had decided to make a club for the cross country runners to train in the off season," senior Rebecca Gutmann said. "I didn't join it last year, but when Katie started it up again, I thought it would be a fun way to keep in shape."

Though the club has a new leader, the activities remain pretty much the same.

The club congregates twice a week to run the practiced cross country courses that many members are used to running from during the fall sports season.

What seems like simply a support system for the cross country runners, who wish to stay in shape between cross country in the fall and track in the spring, actually has

many other side benefits alongside, even for students who don't run cross country and track.

"It is mostly cross country runners, but don't be intimidated by that, Poplawski said. "It's great exercise. We have run everywhere from 3-6 miles so far, and are planning on increasing that as the season goes on."

"I love it when I can make it," Gutmann said. "It is a nice blend of working out and socializing with friends. I also think it will help me to be fit for lacrosse because of all the running we are doing."

This fun club also has a fun, unique goal to reach before the club ends at the beginning of the spring track season.

"At the end of the winter, we are panning on running to a restaurant that is 6-10 miles away for a club dinner," Poplawski said. ☺

Rams season looks dreary

They're our hometown football team. They're the Rams, and they are performing similarly to last year: a year in which they didn't make the playoffs. They are 5-8 and have played very poorly in their latest games. Will the Rams even make the playoffs? Most likely, if the games continue going as they have been, the Rams will not make the playoffs. Scott Linehan, the new team coach, has done well as a coach. He has substituted lines well and can't be held completely responsible for the poor field on the play. The defense has played terribly after the first five games. The offense has had some trouble scoring touchdowns, but doesn't turn the ball over much.

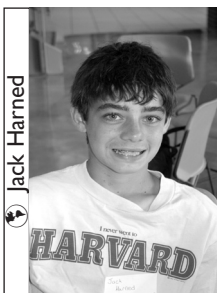
Scott Linehan, the new Rams' head coach, started turning this team from an easy win on opponents' schedules to a force in the NFC West. However, the Rams have just one win in their last eight games, a complete turn from the beginning of the season. The comparison that the Rams were good at the beginning in the season and have played poorly now is not a strong comparison. In the first five games, the teams we played all have losing records. I think that the Rams may have been better with Mike Martz, the former Rams head coach. Martz was known for his risky play calls that could make or break a game. Although he was not too popular in Saint Louis, he got the job of winning done and was a joy to watch.

The Rams offense has been very impressive. In the first two games, the offense played poorly, scoring only one touchdown. All of their red zone possessions became Jeff Wilkins field goals. Wilkins has been a great kicker, missing only one field goal in those games, but he could not be relied upon to score all of the Rams

points. Then the offense stepped up. Marc Bulger's passer rating is very high, mostly because of only throwing seven interceptions. He has Pro Bowl receivers Tory Holt and Isaac Bruce to throw to, although Bulger's primary receiver is Steven Jackson. Stephen Jackson has been a strong running back. Having one of the highest all-purpose yard totals in the NFL, Jackson is a tough running back to tackle because of his finesse moves and his large, strong build. He is currently on pace for over 2,000 all purpose yards. But, with injuries on the offensive line to Orlando Pace, a left tackle and Andy McCollum, the starting center, Marc Bulger is in trouble. He has problems with his ribs after being sacked so many times. He is on pace to set a Rams record for most times being sacked, a record he does not want to hold.

The Rams defense has played awfully. In the first games, the defense saved the Rams from defeat by forcing five turnovers from the Denver Broncos, a strong AFC team. The defense played well in the second game too, allowing not too many yards. The defense, after those games, has done awfully. The rushing defense is the lowest in the county, allowing 153.3 yards per game rushing. Also, there is question as to Marc Bulger's recent comments that said that some of his teammates didn't care if they won or if they lost. He never mentioned whom he was talking about, but the comment has caused controversy.

Overall, this season looks dreadful for the Rams. Unless the other teams in the NL Wild Card lose most of their other games and the Rams win all of theirs, their playoff hopes are low. One thing to look forward to is a high draft choice in the 2007 NFL Draft. ☺



Jack Harner

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Coping with divorce

Although more than one million children in the U.S. are from divorced families, dealing with the aftermath of their parents' divorce has never been easy.



Calla Dobmyer

Tian Qiu
Section Editor

In a chaotic segment of her childhood, sophomore Emmy Hermann would always find somewhat of a refuge in the coat racks in her father's office, hiding, while listening to the screams from her parents' fights. It was not surprising that Hermann's family would soon become one of the (according to the National Center for Health Statistics for 2005) 3.6 divorced families per 1000 total population.

EMMY

Being 10 years old at the time, Hermann was confused when her mother took her and her little sister Andrea and moved to another house.

"I didn't get it," Hermann said. "She just told me one day, 'get anything you need Em., we are leaving.' I had to leave my dad behind for a long while during the separation until they had a schedule. Andrea and I went back and forth (between houses). It was odd for me because I had never been without my dad for that long."

Hermann was confused and afraid because for her, these experiences were simply unusual at the time. After her parents filed for divorce, Hermann not only worried about not being able to see each parent everyday, she was also apprehensive about all the changes that would follow. Among all of her concerns, Hermann constantly wondered when her life would go back to normal again.

"I hated saying that my parents were divorced," Hermann said. "I thought I would never have to say that. My parents made a promise years before the divorce that they would never divorce. But they did. And that really hurt. They don't remember the promise. As someone to whom the promise was broken, I felt really horrible."

Right after her parents' divorce, Hermann and her sister did not get along with their parents well. Instead, the sisters turned to each other and coped together as they played games, talked about the situation, and spent much time bonding with each other. While trying to accept the fact of the divorce, Hermann still harbored some hope that her parents would change their minds and be together again.

However, when her mother started a new relationship about six months after the divorce, Hermann knew that her mom and dad's relationship was over.

"It took awhile for me to grasp the fact that the man at my dinner table every night wasn't my father," Hermann said.

David Lazarus, who eventually became Hermann's stepfather, wasn't the person Hermann wanted to see with her mother. Hermann knew that Lazarus was nice, but for a long time, his kindness meant nothing to her. To Hermann, Lazarus was someone in the way of her parents getting back together.

"Sometimes I would say mean things to him," Hermann said. "And he would try to be nice, but I would just shrug it off and say something rude. I also hate it when David tells me what to do. It's like he's acting like a parent. They always say, 'He's just looking out for you, Emmy!' Whatever! He is not the parent, and he has no right."

ANNE

Considering the rough experiences in her marriage, Hermann's mother Anne Lazarus finally decided that she and her ex-husband were not a good match for each other. After working through the details of her divorce for several months while still living in the same house as her ex-husband, Anne Lazarus felt that it was time for her and her kids to move away.

"[I want my kids to know] that [my divorce] is not their fault," Anne Lazarus said. "And no matter what, they still have a mother and a father, and nothing is going to happen to us even though we're not living under the same roof. My biggest concerns were that they feel like they were safe, know that the world wasn't going to end, and that their lives were going to be fine."

After the divorce, Anne Lazarus tried to make the whole process as peaceful and as seamless for her children, and her biggest objective was to make as little change as she can in their lives.

In order for her to add as little burden on her children as she could while they were still adapting to the sudden transition, Anne Lazarus was careful when she started her new relationship and her relationship moved very slowly. Furthermore, she made sure that her relationship is probably something that will last a while before she brought David Lazarus into her children's lives well into the relationship. She was not going to bring someone into their lives who wasn't going to be around for a long, long time.

"I think that [my kids] had hoped that [me and my ex-husband] would reconcile for the first few years," Anne Lazarus said. "But they were with us a lot of the times when David and I were together, and I think they began to realize that that probably wasn't going to happen. I know that it's definitely difficult for them at times, but I also feel that kids are very resilient and if they can be in a home where the adults are loving and respectful towards each other and not grow up in a house where there's a lot of fighting and unhappiness, they're going to be in a better situation."

To show her children that peace, respect, and love is achievable in a home, Anne Lazarus made sure that her children and David Lazarus knew each other very well during her long relationship before her engagement.

"I made sure that they were fine with [our engage-

ment]," Anne Lazarus said. "Because if they hadn't been fine with it, if we all weren't okay with each other, I wouldn't have done it."

To ensure that her marriage wasn't something sudden for her children, Anne Lazarus was engaged for a year and half before the wedding ceremony in May 2006 so that her kids had a nice, long time to become more comfortable with the idea.

"I want [my kids] to grow up knowing what a healthy relationship is like," Anne Lazarus said. "I think they realized that it was a nice thing in our environment where two grown ups have a respectful and healthy relationship where they don't fight and don't scream. I also make sure that they have a very strong support system, be it from me or anyone else to help them through any difficulties and just life in general."

DAVID

Though David Lazarus is very fond of all of his wife's relatives when he first emerged as a new figure in Anne Lazarus' family, his separate meetings with Emmy, Andrea Hermann, and their father were, inevitably, not as smooth as he would like them to have been.

"They were cordial," David Lazarus said. "But I think there was a certain awkwardness for all of us at the time."

As David Lazarus and the Hermann sisters got to know each other better over the years and after the marriage, the awkwardness between them gradually waned. However, David Lazarus admits being a stepfather is no walk in the park.

"I'm not the father," David Lazarus said. "I'm the step dad, and there's a certain boundary I have to maintain so I don't cross over to that fatherly figure line. But for the most part, we have a very open and honest relationship. The girls and I. We talk about many things, I don't think there's anything that's been held back. It's sort of my responsibility whether it's to ensure their safety at home, or to make sure they can come to me on anything they have. Whatever they need, their mother and I are always available with an open door policy. They know I love them, they love me, and I try the best I can to keep them safe and happy."

While keeping the children's best interests and feelings first, David Lazarus does criticize Emmy Hermann occasionally when he feels that it's needed.

"Sometimes the criticisms are okay and sometimes not depending on what the circumstances are," David Lazarus said. "At the beginning, [her response was] 'you're not my dad.' You have to be very careful on how you word criticism so it doesn't appear to be criticism, just be constructive. Overall, Emmy is very open to that."

A NEW FAMILY

Originally a joyous celebration, Hermann's 12th birthday turned into a disaster due to a certain unhappiness depending on her parents related to the aftermath of their divorce. At her birthday party, Hermann cannot forget how her father ran her up to her room, kissed her goodbye, hastily left in anger, and leaving Hermann memories of the worst birthday ever.

"There are a lot of other factors that make [the divorce] so bad," Hermann said. "I can't lie, sometimes I pretend to be okay. I just don't want my friends to worry about me. I don't like people giving me sympathy. It makes me feel like I'm helpless. I prefer empathy. I'll go to school after a long night of fighting and then I will be all smiles and happy-go-lucky and no

one knows."

Anne Lazarus understands her daughter's hardships.

"Sure there were moments when it was difficult," Anne Lazarus said. "But for the most part, I think [Emmy and Andrea] did pretty well. Sometimes, I do think they're toughing it out. It was hard to move between houses. But we have a pretty close relationship, and they're honest about how they feel. There were times when we had some very honest conversations about how hard it was, and I understand that."

Being a new member in Emmy and Andrea Hermann's lives, David Lazarus believes that as time goes on, his relationship with the children is only going to get better.

"These are great kids," David Lazarus said. "We're close now, but I think they know me and they know my affection and love for their mother, for them, so I think it's only going to get closer."

While David Lazarus is optimistic about the future of the newly established family, Emmy Hermann is also making gradual and positive adaptations.

"Eventually," Emmy Hermann said. "I got used to being with my step dad, and he made sure I knew he wasn't trying to take my dad's place. Now, he's someone I can talk to."

Besides keeping the Hermann sisters' best interests in mind, David Lazarus has his own reasons for not wanting to cross over to the fatherly figure line.

"Quite honestly," David Lazarus said. "I would rather it not be that way. Because they have a father, I'll have a unique relationship with them that's not their dad, and I'm still their step dad."

Despite all the hardships they faced throughout the divorce, Anne Lazarus believes that the process did make her children stronger because they have now been through many things other kids haven't, and that Emmy and Andrea Hermann have learned coping skills that will help them later on in their lives.

"I tell myself I will make it through," Emmy Hermann said. "If I stay strong, then everything will become better. I have so many friends to lean on when I'm down, I couldn't ask for more."

In spite of all the tides from her parents' divorce, Emmy Hermann has learned some valuable lessons as she is becoming stronger by day.

"I would never leave a friend," Emmy Hermann said. "I learned that I have to appreciate the people who stick around with me, and don't just walk away with times get rough. In a situation where I wouldn't want to be around someone that just happens to pop up somewhere, I would've in the past left wherever I was at, even if it was an important thing. But now, I realize that you need to just tough it out for the people you love and be with them."

While Anne Lazarus gratefully watches her daughters' gradual progresses as they grow, she will always put her children's best interest first and always be protective of them.

"We became closer because we were together a lot of the time [after the divorce]," Anne Lazarus said. "I spend a lot more time at home, when I used to work all the time. I try to just be the best mom I can possibly to them so they would not feel at all like their lives were turned upside down. I work very hard and it became my number one priority to make sure that they were fine, and it's my number one priority today to make sure that they are always okay." ☺

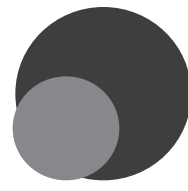


photos courtesy of Emmy Hermann

Although it has been years since her parents' divorce, Emmy Hermann still has her tough moments occasionally as she continues to adapt to her parents' divorce and her new family. Even though she doesn't see her father often, Hermann takes comfort in having a younger sister to share her feelings with, supportive friends who are able to cheer her up, and a mother who makes her children her number one priority.

Kelly Moffitt
Section Editor

STRONGER THAN BLOOD



Senior Alex Ormsby was adopted from Guatemala when she was two and a half years old by Cindy and Mike Ormsby. After many years of confusion over where she belonged, she has finally found her path and how to be a part of a family that, though they may not share blood, are tied by heart.



Courtesy of Alex Ormsby

Alex Ormsby is happily munching on her "second real meal," in the hotel lobby where her adoptive parents stayed before taking her back to the United States. Her first real meal was at the Guatemalan Chuck E.. Cheese, of which Ormsby said, "I guess they Americanized me pretty fast."

the time, except for school. Our relationship became better once we had a little more space to be ourselves. Now, I can ask him for help about anything. I can talk to him, and he can talk to me, and what is really cool is that he asks me for advice genuinely, like I am his equal in age. I don't think many brothers are like he is with me."

Ormsby also has had to deal with feeling pressure to live up to her brother's standards, something that many teens deal with everyday.

"I feel like I have to prove myself in school because my brother is such a genius," Ormsby said. "He was third in his class, he's smart, and he's really good at school and I feel I have to do just as well as he did."

The connection between Ormsby and her brother was even harder to ignore in her old school, where everyone knew them both, including teachers.

"That feeling was more predominant in my elementary school years because I always got the same teachers he'd had and they *always* compared me to him," Ormsby said. "In seventh and eighth grade I got fed up with trying to be like him. I finally realized that I will never be him and I don't wish to be. It was a real eye opener. I understood that I shouldn't be pushing myself to be exactly like him, all I needed to be doing was pushing myself for me."

Like most teens, Ormsby had to learn to find herself on her own terms.

Sometimes, however living with such a loving family makes Ormsby think about the difference between her life today and what her life could have been.

"I don't think about what would have happened to me if I was still living in Guatemala with my birth mom because it is a pointless direction to think," Ormsby said. "I do think about if I would have had the same good relationship I have with my mom because of the extreme conditions I would have lived in. She wouldn't tell the adoption agency about who my dad was, so I don't think about him. I do think about my mom a lot though. I really wonder what she is like."

When Ormsby was a small child, she tried to directly compare her two families and the dealings did not end positively.

"One time when I was younger, my [adoptive] mom got mad at me and told me to go to my room until I apologized," Ormsby said. "I went up there and wouldn't come out. Finally, my dad came in and suggested I go talk to my mom. All I could tell him was that I wanted my mom. He didn't understand I wanted my *birth* mom. In my fantasy world, I thought my real mom would be happy with me all the time. I see now how unrealistic that thought was. When my [adoptive] mom found out what I said, she was really upset because she thought I didn't want her to be my mom anymore. I was only like four, but since then I have al-

ways regretted saying that because I really didn't mean that. I wasn't trying to reject them, I love them."

COMING TO TERMS ON HER OWN TERMS

Though Ormsby may be secure with her feelings about her adoptive family and birth family now, she has not always been this way. Ormsby had to go through many years of struggling to understand herself before she could come to a concrete conclusion on how she felt.

"I think I'm willing to talk to people about my adoption because I've been through the different stages of how I feel about my adoption already," Ormsby said. "When I was younger, I was really proud of it because it set me apart from everyone else. As I got older, I got really curious about my birth parents and I wasn't really sure if I liked being adopted. There was a period of my life where I would try to change the subject any time it came up because I was still unsure of my opinion about it all. But I'm past that now."

This confusion was not helped by the fact that she knew of no one else around her who was in the same situation as she.

"I didn't know anyone who was adopted so I had no one to relate to or ask if they were feeling the same things," Ormsby said. "I didn't ask questions because I knew I couldn't find the answers from the people around me. I sort of pushed my adoption aside and didn't think about it."

Like most times when issues are pushed away in life, Ormsby had to come to a catharsis of her feelings about her adoption. For her, this happened in her sophomore year of high school and she came out of it understanding her feelings.

"I remember during my whole process of coming to terms with my adoption, I really questioned whether my birth mother loved me," Ormsby said. "As I got

into high school, I took a child development class and we got to survey kids in the development center. I got to see the interaction between parent and child and it finally hit me that my mom did love me. Similar to those parents, my mom wanted what was best for me when I was a child. The best option for those parents was to drop their kids off at day care while they went to work. The best option for me was for me to be adopted so I could be taken care of. That choice my mom made has to be the hardest decision. I can't imagine giving up my own child, I can't imagine the love and the courage that went into making that decision."

REACTIONS

Some people have looked at Ormsby with her family and been confused. Some have said cruel things. Others have accepted her. Everywhere Ormsby goes she is greeted with a different reaction regarding her adoption. These reactions have helped Ormsby learn who to trust and who not to when she meets new people as she did her junior year when she transferred schools.

"Because I transferred here last year, most people don't know my parents at CHS," Ormsby said. "I suppose that is why they don't know I am adopted. My parents were really involved at McCluer North, my old school, and most of my friends there knew I was adopted because I didn't look like my parents. The great thing about it was that once my friends found out, they didn't really treat me any differently."

When Alex was younger she had minimal problems with rudeness about her ethnicity. However, one girl's reaction to her adoption stands out in her mind.

"My first problem I ever had from people about being adopted was when I was in the fourth grade," Ormsby said. "I must have done something to annoy this girl in my class and she called me a Guatemalan freak and told me to go back where I came from."

One time, when Ormsby was in a gym class at her old school she was treated differently from her other classmates by the P.E. teacher. She couldn't understand why, at first, but after talking to her parents and her peers she realized that he may have been discriminating against her.

"I was always taught to tell the truth, especially to adults, so I told my teacher what thought and my other classmates thought, about his discrimination against me because of my ethnicity," Ormsby said. "Unfortunately, telling the truth didn't work that time he graded me down."

However, these adverse reactions to Ormsby's background have not deterred her from sharing her story with people who want to know more about it.

"I'm not trying to keep my adoption a secret or anything," Ormsby said. "It just doesn't come up in everyday conversations with people. And it doesn't really bother me if people know and ask about it. Just don't treat me differently."

HER MISSION

Though dealing with her adoption has been hard at times, Ormsby has overcome most of her questions about her family and herself. And now, she is on a mission to help others do the same.

"Being adopted has really affected my view of the world," Ormsby said. "So much so, that I want to double major in psychology and sociology in college and I want to become a counselor in youth service."

Ormsby realizes that there are many children out there, like she was, without parents, whose orphanages are closing everyday. In fact, the orphanage she was adopted from will be shutting down as soon as the last children are adopted there. Though she cannot help that cause directly, she wants to help kids in similar situations.

"My passion is that I want to help kids in foster homes," Ormsby said. "Not everyone has the positive experience that I had with their adoptive families. It's especially hard for foster kids because they are living in an environment where they have to learn to survive. I can't completely understand their situation because I never was in foster care, but I see where they are coming from - they don't 'act out' because of personality disorders, they 'act out' because it's their defense mechanism."

The lessons that came to her after a long, hard road make Ormsby want to help kids realize what she realized sooner.

"If there is anything anyone could possibly learn from me, or from anyone who is adopted it is that you have to appreciate what you have," Ormsby said. "I have learned so much from being adopted. There are others out there so much worse than me, that don't have any parents. I can't imagine that. I have learned to appreciate every second of what I have been given by my adoptive family."

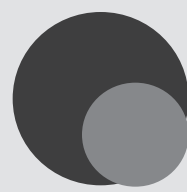
ALL AROUND LOVE

No matter the true blood relation, Ormsby has realized that anyone she considers family is her true family. She just wants everyone else to realize this too.

"I've overheard kids talking about adoption and how if they were adopted they would get out of trouble by saying those people weren't their real parents," Ormsby said. "That really aggravates me. No one realizes that just because your parents don't share the same blood as you that they aren't your parents and that you don't love them like they are. I can't imagine telling my [adoptive] parents that they're not my real parents."

This tension between birth parents and adoptive parents may seem to be confusing and at times, a lot of trouble, but Ormsby now realizes that the reward of having two families is worth every ounce of trouble she has ever had in coming to terms with her adoption.

"The best thing about being adopted is having two sets of parents," Ormsby said. "My birth mother gave me the best gift I have ever been or ever will be given and that is a chance for a better life. My adoptive parents gave me the opportunity to live that life." 🌟



GUATEMALAN ADOPTION STATISTICS

- Estimates indicate that 8,481 children were adopted by Americans in 1991
- In 2005, 3,783 children were adopted from Guatemala, up from nearly 2,500 children in 2003 by United States citizens
- In 2005, the third highest amount of children adopted were from Guatemala

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CREATING INDIVIDUAL STYLE

Using vintage and simple outfits to express personal fashion style

Maddie Harned
Staff Reporter

During the three-minute break between classes, the halls of CHS become engulfed with students and teachers, some busily walking towards their next class, others leisurely strolling. Many students use this brief break to catch up with friends, and the chatter from the swarming mass of people condenses into a collective buzz. Oftentimes, compliments are doled out to people on what they are wearing. Creative and interesting styles are commonly appreciated at CHS, and some students have become used to the hallway flattery.

"I don't really get negative comments on my outfits because I never wear anything too out there,"

Sophomore Morgan Johnson said. "I don't really think I could pull it off but what I usually hear is people telling me my shoes match my outfit really well."

While Johnson usually chooses a comfortable pair of jeans or sweatpants with a jacket, Freshman Alex Butler opts for a more distinctive style.

"I'd describe my style as being old, kind of historic," Butler said. Butler's personal style is fantastically individual and consists of long patterned dresses, bonnets, berets and unique pieces that make a statement.

Freshman Hannah Klein enjoys clothes from the past as well.

"I have a lot of vintage clothing

and even more vintage jewelry," Klein said. "My personal style I guess is trendy but laid back. Usually I wear jeans, flats and a t-shirt."

Many CHS students agree that trying to have an individual style, unique to themselves, is important.

Sophomore Mariah Smith concurs, and when she selects an outfit, she wants it to be a reasonable display of her original personality.

"I have gotten positive feedback from people on occasion, because a lot of people this year have told me how much my style has changed," Smith said. "I really love oversized bags and belts, so that's always

“I really love oversized bags and belts, so that's always a big part of how I dress. I also like to take plain items and dress them up.”

Mariah Smith
Sophomore

said. "I buy what I have based on looks and brands and not by stores."

Fellow Sophomore Patrick Cunningham's eclectic style has left some impressed, while baffling others.

"My style is preppy and gangster," Cunningham said. "I get some people saying my shirt's too small or something like that, or that it's a hella cool shirt."

Cunningham's favorite piece

from him wardrobe is slightly unexpected.

"My favorite thing is my brown hat," Cunningham said.

"My friends call it the grandpa hat."

As for Finn, his preferred article of clothing has proven to be considered questionable by some fellow classmates.

"My favorite thing could be my skinny jeans because they make me look skinny," Finn said. "People sometimes don't like my skinny jeans, but oh well, I picked them up in Australia, and they're hip so what can I say?"

Saint Louis, Missouri alone has well over 1,500 clothing stores, and with so much selection CHS students shop for clothes at many different places.

However, most have the same goal: find something unique that conveys who they are.

"I've been getting a lot of stuff from Forever 21 and Urban Outfitters recently," Senior Rachel Dickens said. "Otherwise, I really like Anthropologie, Gap, Nordstrom and lots of random boutiques. I don't spend hours selecting each outfit I'm planning to wear in a given week or anything like that, but honestly, who can deny the enjoyment in being noticed every so often?"

"I usually buy my clothes, really wherever I find something I like, but lately I'm buying more things from Nordstrom, and I shop a lot in the loop - stores like Tantrum, Zeizo, and Rag-o-Rama," Smith said.

CHS fashion enthusiasts agree that individuality is key to having a personal style, and overall, CHS has an array of interesting and unique styles, ranging from historically influenced looks to trendy and casual. Whatever the time of day, during those three active and chaotic minutes between classes, one is bound to see some piece of clothing that catches their eye. ☺



Chelsea Fisher

Senior Mary Von Der Heydt who mixes a variety of styles to complete her casual look. Most students borrow ideas from the past vintage look, the current trend of big bags, skinny jeans and other personal favorites to display their personality.

Students find their unique hair style

Carol Iskiwitch
Staff Reporter



Carol Iskiwitch

Everyone has something that makes them unique. Some have a trademark catchphrase; others have a signature sense of style. For some students at CHS, one of their distinguishing characteristics is their hair.

Many hairstyles can be seen on the heads of CHS students. From fashion-forward cuts to brightly colored locks, students show a wide range of style.

Sophomore Katie Poplawski has fun experimenting with her hair.

"I got my hair cut very short over the summer," Poplawski said. "I have been letting it grow out since then, but it is fun to look a little different."

While Poplawski had a specific look in mind for her haircut, some students with cool hair have it partially by good luck, or even by accident.

"I don't really go after a specific look," sophomore Ben Peipert said. "It kind of just ends up the way it does. I was really pissed with my last hair cut, so I just decided to let it grow to mask the bad cut, and it grew out like this."

Nevertheless, Peipert does enjoy allowing his hair to express his personality.

"I like being individual about my hair," Peipert said. "If it wasn't different, it wouldn't be me."

Sophomore Liz Hutchinson feels similarly about her hair.

"I enjoy having a unique hairstyle because it gives me something to surprise people with," Hutchinson said. "When I get a style that's different it helps people see who I am."

Senior Kyle Mulle also feels that his hair allows him to express himself, since he is the only person with hair quite like his. He likes to wear his hair French braided or put back in a headband.

Hair that is as different as the individual is what is popular right now. As opposed to some past seasons, there is not one ultra-popular look, for either girls or guys. But the students with truly unique style, such as Hutchinson, never strictly followed the trends in the first place.

"While it may be good sometimes to follow along with the current trends, it is fun to add your own twist," Hutchinson said.

Mulle finds style inspiration from movies.

"I've modeled my hair off of Colin Farrell in the movie 'Miami Vice' a few times," Mulle said. "Also, the movie 'The Interpreter' is where I got the idea to do French braids."

In addition to looking trendy, haircuts can offer other benefits.

Peipert likes the length of his hair because of the look, because it "ticks off my parents, and also it is warm."

Do not be afraid of trying a new hair look. Flip through a fashion magazine, or find a more obscure source of inspiration, such as old movies. Once you find a hairstyle that works for your hair, face shape (ask your hair stylist if you are confused about this,) personal style, and the amount of time you are willing to take to maintain it, go for it! ☺

CHOICES

Jewish College Fair 2007

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CHOICES is coordinated by the Central Agency for Jewish Education.



Above: senior Kyle Mulle and sophomore Liz Hutchinson are two of many CHS students with unique hairstyles. Many CHS students look to magazines and movies for new ways to style their hair. "I've modeled my hair off of Colin Farrell in the movie 'Miami Vice' a few times," Mulle said. "Also, the movie 'The Interpreter' is where I got the idea to do French braids."

Families' incorporate personal traditions into holiday celebrations

Kate Rothman
Senior Managing Editor

On the night before December 6, senior Christine Ford always remembers to lay out a pair of shoes. The next morning, when she wakes up, she can be assured that they will overflow with sweets and other small gifts.

Since she was young, Ford and her mother have celebrated St. Nicks day, an old German holiday.

"My family is part German," Ford said. "We have celebrated St. Nicks day for as long as I can remember."

St. Nick is the German version of Santa Claus, and he visits the houses of Children during the night to fill their shoes with candy.

"As a kid, my mom and I celebrated Christmas too, and gave each other gifts," Ford said. "But, as I got older, we decided that it was silly for us to exchange gifts when neither of us really wants anything."

For Ford and her mother, St. Nicks day has become a special day that is unique to them.

"I still leave my shoes out for St. Nicks day, but I don't just get candy," Ford said. "I got a DVD that I really wanted this year, and a silly night light for my dorm room next year. I gave my mom comfortable headphones, because she loves to carry around a portable radio, and I thought that they would be nice. We give each other small, inexpensive gifts that we both really want."



by Calla Dobemeyer

And they haven't forgotten the traditional sweets.

"I got a ton of candy too," Ford said.

As she got older, Ford has grown to appreciate St. Nicks day more and more.

"[Celebrating St. Nicks day instead of Christmas] makes our exchange a bit more special," Ford said. "Because it's our special day."

Junior Tatiana Birgisson and her

family have their own holiday traditions.

"My family celebrates Christmas on the 24th, Christmas Eve," Birgisson said. "We have a big, nice dinner, and then we open all of our presents. Santa comes overnight, and there is usually one big present under the tree the morning of the 25th. My parents are Icelandic and Venezuelan, and this is how they celebrate the holiday."

Another special tradition comes on New Years Eve for Birgisson's family.

"At midnight, everybody gets a wine glass—adults have red wine, and kids just have an empty glass. There are 12 grapes in the glass, representing the months of the year. It's supposed to bring you good luck."

Similar to Ford and Birgisson, Senior Babe Liberman has grown

up with unique holiday traditions.

Liberman's family is Jewish, so they celebrate Hannukah, the Jewish "festival of lights."

Each year before the start of Hannukah, Liberman's family goes to a friend's house to make hand-made Hannukah candles.

"Every year since I was little, we've gone to a family friend's house to make old-fashioned candles for the two families," Liber-

man said.

Candle-making is a big time commitment as they make 88 candles for both families, enough to last the eight nights of Hannukah.

"[The candle-making] is a long process," Liberman said. "It takes a while to get all of the wax mixed and hot, and all of the colors ready. After that, we have to dip all of the candles."

The ordeal is worth it in the end though, when the candles are laid out on the table to cool and be admired.

"At the end of the night, we put all of the candles on the table," Liberman said. "It's really fun to look at them—especially since you made some of them yourself, and just look at all the colors and how pretty they are."

After admiring the vibrant wax, another tradition takes place at the house.

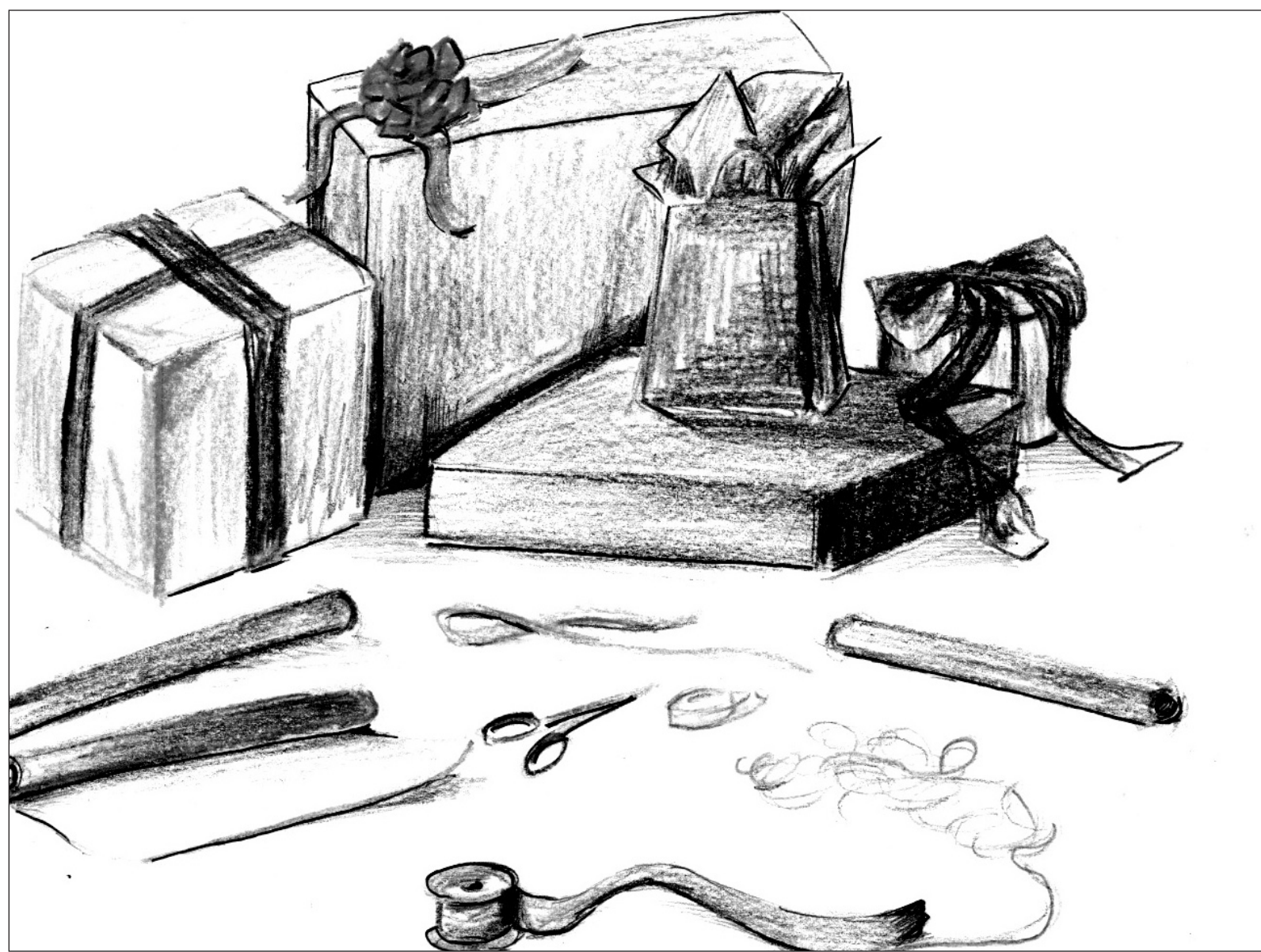
"Once we look at all of the candles, we pick which ones we want, family by family, Liberman said. "We go back and forth choosing candles until they are all taken. It's funny, because at the beginning, we pick the really bright colored, pretty candles, and by the last few picks, we're down to the leftovers—the sort of ugly, brownish ones."

For both Liberman and Ford, their family's holiday traditions are something to look forward to, year after year.

"Having unique family traditions makes the holidays more special," Ford said. "Plus, it makes for amazing memories." ☺

CHS students offer fun and practical gift ideas for everyone

Anxious about what holiday gifts to buy for family, friends and colleagues? Clayton high's students recommend a variety of gifts from inexpensive to expensive, from humorous to classy and from practical to elegant that will suit everyone's budget.



Calla Dobemeyer

Meredith Redick
Reporter

Buying holiday gifts is no picnic, for family and friends can be decidedly choosy about the items they receive. In addition, the minimum-wage jobs occupied by most high-school students can't supply enough dough to buy the perfect presents for everyone.

"I usually buy about 15 gifts for my friends and family," freshman Kristen Shaw said. "And I spend about \$10 on each one."

Fortunately, there are many easy, cheap ways to satisfy family, friends and other loved ones.

One popular choice is jewelry. Although boys don't traditionally receive jewelry, many women enjoy trinkets. Sterling silver is easy to find, cheap and elegant.

An array of attractive silver sets can be found at Amazon.com, eLuxury and Overstock.com, as well as retail stores like J.C. Penney.

Special items like personalized jewelry are available through www.thingsremembered.com. And of course the classic, though expensive jeweler Tiffany and Co. is sure to win the heart of any girl. Jewelry expert "Just Ask Leslie" from online jeweler Ice also suggests a ster-

ling silver drop pendant (\$25) for a chic offering.

Moreover, electronics are a great option for boys as well as girls.

"Electronics are good because they're useful," sophomore Jessica Lefton said.

Although it may be out of your budget, gifts like the iPod Nano (The Apple Store, \$149) are versatile and fun.

Cell phones are practical and fun gifts, too: companies like Virgin Mobile offer economical plans for penny-pinchers. The miFlower MP3 Companion, at \$24.95 at Discovery Channel Store, is another cute present for a girl who is reasonably priced.

Spa gifts can also be fun, especially for girls. Sets like Sephora's Gingerbread Man Suitcase come in pre-decorated boxes, and at \$38, they are much cheaper than

a night at the spa. Bath and Body Works' Sensual Shower Duo is an economic idea at \$10, but the silky body wash and loofah make a great present.

"I shop at Bath and Body Works a lot for other people," Lefton said.

Another fun option is accessories. Choosing accessories is simpler than clothes, and accessories

can be the perfect gift for anyone in your family. An idea for a girl is Bath and Body Works' 'Ski and Be Seen' scarf at \$10. Any guy would enjoy aviator sunglasses from Neiman Marcus at \$260.

Food can always be the perfect gift. Whether it's Harry and David's chocolate caramel apples (\$34.95, Harry and David) or milk-chocolate-covered pretzels from Godiva (\$22.50), food is a sure pleaser. Many companies offer sugar-free or kosher options (Harry and David's Eight Nights of

Hanukkah kosher gift box, 49.95) to keep everyone happy.

Sometimes, the best gifts are the smallest, most inexpensive ones. The Vintage Mirror Compact Case at Urban Outfitters (\$8) is a perfect stocking stuffer as well as J.C. Penney's crystal iPod case (\$14.99). Presents like these are fun for exchanges. Lefton, for example, does a gift exchange each year with friends, but prices for gifts usually run less than \$20.

For novelty, people will appreciate items like the Grow a Santa Claus for \$4 at Urban Outfitters. As a slightly more expensive gag gift, myDaVinci offers "your photo seamlessly transformed onto Adam and Eve" for \$29.95. Frame it and hang it in your living room!

These ideas are enjoyable ways to show that you care, but the best holiday gifts don't come in packages.

Although it may be easy to dole out goodies wrapped with ribbon and lace, the best gift you can give is time.

Try to spend some time with grandparents, cousins, parents, or pets. A smile and a hug can be worth just as much as any material object. So go spread some holiday cheer! ☺

“Although it may be easy to dole out goodies wrapped with ribbon and lace, the best gift you can give is time.”

Top Gifts for Teens at MSN Shopping

1. Microsoft Zune digital player by Microsoft
2. Motorola RAZR V3 Magenta - cellular phone with digital camera - GSM by Motorola
3. PlayStation PSP System by Sony
4. Burt's Bees Tips n' Toes Hand & Feet Kit by Burt's Bees
5. Anti-monopoly (8+ years) by RedEnvelope
6. Marshmallow Fun Company Marshmallow Shooter by Marshmallow Fun Company
7. i-Lit Diamond LED CD or iPod Stereo Speakers
8. leather i.d. bracelets by RedEnvelope
9. Table Topics Game
10. Discovery Animated LED Message Clock by Discovery Channel

New program instituted to raise funds in support of AIDS/HIV victims

Companies are bringing out new product lines where a percentage of the profits are donated to the AIDS cause.



Chelsea Fischer

For every red iPod Nano sold, ten dollars will be donated to help the struggle against the deadly virus.

Gila Hoffman
Section Editor

Motorola, American Express, Gap, Armani, Converse and Apple have all gone red for a good cause. Bono, the U2 singer, and Bobby Shriver, Chairman of DATA (Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa) created (PRODUCT) RED to raise money for The Global Fund to help women and children affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa. A percentage of each RED product sold will be given to the fund.

DATA was founded by Bono and Shriver in 2002 to put pressure on governments around the world to help solve the issues of debt, AIDS and trade in Africa. Their involvement in DATA pushed them to create (PRODUCT) RED. This engages big businesses to raise awareness about AIDS in Africa. The companies that accepted this challenge created products specific to (PRODUCT) RED. The Gap, for example, created red t-shirts that say INSPI(RED) or BO(RED). These companies made commitments to contribute a portion of sales of these products to the Global Fund.

"GAP designed a line of t-shirts, sweatshirts and accessories, such as candles and duffles for the cause," assistant manager at the Gap Men store in the Galleria Kevin Casteel said. "Half of all the proceeds of these sales go to the global fund for AIDS in Africa."

The demand for these products has been so high that it has been difficult to keep everything in stock. The items do not cost more than they usually would.

"We try to make all the products with African cottons and materials and make them in African factories so that we can help in as many ways as we can," Casteel said.

Africa's population of AIDS infected people is growing every year. Three million are diagnosed every year and 60 percent of these people live in Africa. AIDS is the number one cause of death in Africa. Around 13 million children in Africa have been orphaned because of HIV/AIDS and almost 2,000 children are infected each day with HIV.

The money that is raised through this campaign will be sent to The Global Fund. The Global Fund is the number one organization that funds programs to fight AIDS. Since 2002, it has donated over \$5.2 billion to life-saving programs in 131 countries and accounts for a quarter of the world's funding for AIDS.

Dec. 1 is World AIDS Day and this year there was an outburst of RED products everywhere. Armani transformed 124 stores in 33 different countries RED for World AIDS Day to celebrate the new (PRODUCT) RED collection.

The money generated from the first six weeks of (PRODUCT) RED sales was enough to provide 40,000 people with treatment for a year or to provide a year's worth of school materials and hot meals for 86,000 children orphaned by AIDS or to administer one million Rapid Tests which detect HIV instantly.

There has been an overall positive response from leaders and companies worldwide to the cam-

paign. "It's a great cause," Casteel said. "Anything that is going to affect this many people in such a positive way is a great thing to do and it is something we are very proud of as a company."

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan sent a powerful message in his 2006 World AIDS Day message.

"Accountability -- the theme of this World AIDS Day -- requires every president and prime minister, every parliamentarian and politician, to decide and declare that 'AIDS stops with me'... But accountability applies not only to those who hold positions of power. It also applies to all of us... And it requires every one of us help bring AIDS out of the shadows, and spread the message that silence is death," Annan said.

For some students (PRODUCT)RED is a new program, one that has not been seen publicized very much.

"I went into Gap the other day and I saw all of these products with the RED tag on them," junior Erik Jones said. "I didn't know what it meant, but I looked it up and I think it's a great idea and I hope that it will be very beneficial to the fight against AIDS."

Senior Hannah Longmore agrees that raising awareness of HIV/AIDS is the key to helping those who need it.

"It's about time that major corporations have begun to involve themselves in the HIV/AIDS fight," Longmore said. "The more public the HIV/AIDS fight becomes, the more the public will become aware and want to do something. Something small, like buying a Gap t-shirt and knowing you can contribute to help stop the spread of this disease, as well as help those who already have it, is really nice. RED with luck will raise money and awareness."

Overworked, overwhelmed

Students are increasingly anxious due to the various classes, activities, clubs and family obligations they are committed to. Although, accumulated stress can cause distress and anxiety, often stress can be beneficial.

Aaron Praiss
Staff Reporter

Teenagers today are busy. Just take a quick glimpse into the average day of a student in high school. Imagine having three or four AP or honors classes, playing an instrument, playing a sport, participating in a wide variety of clubs and doing extracurricular activities outside of school. Days like this contribute to stress.

"There is always going to be stress in life," social studies teacher Maggie Sullivan said.

Authorities agree with Sullivan - stress is inevitable, and it may have some positive aspects. "Some healthy stress is important for learning," Li-Clinical Social Worker Wetmore said. "We learn new things when stress."

Home work tends to be late, work-and studying, School weeks can become stressful," senior Jaci Rifkin said.

Many juniors and seniors take AP or honors courses. These challenging courses require a lot of time management and hard work. "They all assign a lot of work; AP Physics especially," Rifkin said.

At CHS, AP Physics is known to be the toughest class to take. But even for the students that don't take AP courses, honors courses also involve a mighty workload.

"Honors Chemistry or Honors English are much harder than the other classes because essay writing and lab reports take so much time to do," sophomore Becky Poplawski said.

The juniors also experience a lot of stress as they go through what is known as one of the most stressful years in their education.

"I am stressed out mostly because of the combination of the homework and musical activities I participate in," junior John McAfee said.

McAfee not only has three AP courses, but he also participates in the very prestigious Saint Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra. All together, nightly practicing and homework keeps McAfee up for many hours.

A majority of students also participate in sports, clubs and other activities, spreading themselves even thinner. Some students participate in almost everything.

"They want to have it all," Sullivan said. "Students are thinned out across too many activities so they can't be good at one thing."

According to Wetmore, the thought of spreading out is actually healthy, yet when a student continues to spread out to many activities it becomes unhealthy.

Students usually join clubs or activities because they are interested in them. This pressure to be the best, and do the best is what creates tremendous amounts of stress.

"There are internal expectations and external expectations," Wetmore said. "The internal expectations consist of getting into a good college and having that typical successful life, while the external expectations are being pushed to get good grades." In other words, the internal expectations are personal goals, while the external expectations are what everyone else expects.

This shows how a student might be pulled in two directions, both internally and externally. While this stress might seem to be extremely unhealthy for

teenagers, some believe it can be useful in moderate amounts.

"A little stress is good because it keeps you working," Poplawski said. McAfee agrees, "I think it is important to be under some pressure for motivation."

According to some students, small amounts of stress help motivate themselves to keep working and reaching deadlines.

"While on vacation there is a reduced level of motivation," Wetmore said.

This responsibility is very essential when entering the real world or when going to college.

"I think it is important for kids to have responsibilities, but I wouldn't advocate stress," Rifkin said.

However, what happens when students do become too stressed out, and how can students find out?

"I find out through conversation or through the students schedule," said Wetmore. "Maybe the demands are unrealistic and they are over scheduled."

While most students believe stress in moderate amounts is useful to keep on going, other students believe stress is harmful.

"Stress is bad because you can't concentrate while working and it makes people weird," freshman Ben Goldman said.

Stress or anxiety for some students simply worsens the situation, rather than aiding it. At times, students may feel so stressed out, that working simply can not be done.

"Stress differs for each person, there is no set rule," Wetmore said. "A person may have trouble sleeping or unexpectedly back out of commitments such as clubs, sports or after school activities, as a means to release stress."

It is at this point that the amount of stress has obviously become too much to handle.

"Some people break down and cry, while others get angry or agitated," Sullivan said.

Students at CHS all deal with stress, some better than others. And they all have their different ways to relax.

"When you're feeling stressed out, eat some ice cream," Goldman said.

No matter the method of calming down, it is important for busy kids to get some down-time. Sometimes it is necessary to step back from your commitments to see if your over booked. For most students, doing something they enjoy helps them calm down and clear their mind.

"Nothing really helps my stress, given that I don't have enough time to relieve any," McAfee said. "However, reading a book for pleasure is nice."

"Going to the gym and baking helps my stress," Poplawski said.

For most students a good break and even a snack may relax them for a while. Like Poplawski, stress can be eased simply by doing the things one enjoys best.

After school students might rest and do the things they enjoy best. Students can do what they enjoy most practically stress free.

It will be very beneficial to the fight against AIDS

Erik Jones
Junior

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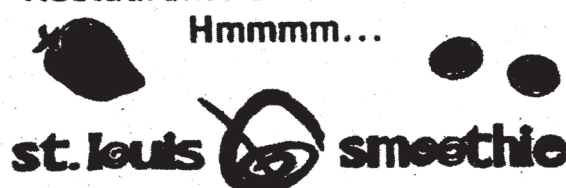
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NBC lineup back on top with hilarious new comedy '30 Rock'

Jon Igielnik
Staff Reporter

Lately, the future has been looking much brighter for the former number-one network, NBC. Thanks to fresh new comedies, such as "The Office," "My Name Is Earl" and "30 Rock" (airs Thursdays at 8:30 PM), NBC may have just found a way to dig themselves out of fourth place and get back on top.

"30 Rock" (which is the nickname for NBC's New York headquarters at 30 Rockefeller Center) is a new show created by, written by and starring former "SNL" head writer Tina Fey. The show, produced by the famous "SNL" producer Lorne Michaels, focuses around Liz Lemon (Fey), the head writer and show runner

for a weekly sketch comedy show called "The Girlie Show."

The first episode begins with a bad episode of the show. Liz, along with her friend and producer Pete (Scott Adsit), are summoned to meet with the recently promoted president of the network Jack Donaghy, played by the hilarious and perfectly cast Alec Baldwin. After a great entrance by Jack and some hilarious interactions with Liz and Pete (who Jack initially fires until Liz convinces him otherwise) Jack suggests that to bring "The Girlie Show" back to the top, Liz hire Tracy Jordan. The very funny Tracy Morgan, a crazy, funny and unpredictable actor to come on the show as a cast member, plays Tracy Jordan.

At first Liz is not enthusiastic, but Jack eventually

forces her to do it. Tracy comes on and they rename the show "TGS with Tracy Jordan," to the discontent of the previous star of the show Jenna Maroney (Jane Krakowski.) However, the show does improve and everyone accepts Tracy (although in every episode of "30 Rock" he manages to goof off and break the rules of the "TGS," upsetting Liz and everyone, but making for some funny scenes).

Aside from a laugh-out-loud funny cast of main characters, including Tina Fey, Alec Baldwin and Tracy Morgan, the show also features a great supporting cast. Hilarious additions such as "SNL" veteran Rachael Dratch, (a personal friend of Tina, she plays various roles,) Jack McBrayer (from Talladega Nights) and Judah Friedlander make the show even better.

The writing from Tina Fey is clever and satirical. It's

like the best of "Mean Girls" and "SNL" combined to make one great show.

My personal favorite part of the show is the character Jack, who has a great dynamic with Liz, and gives hilarious speeches and one-liners with that amazing wit and sarcasm we've come to know from Alec Baldwin.

"30 Rock" is a welcome addition to the NBC lineup with a hilarious cast and outrageous, over-the-top, witty and intelligent writing all coming together to make one tremendously funny show. So far, I haven't gotten through an episode without laughing out loud, and with a great time slot next to "Scrubs," "The Office," and "My Name is Earl" on Thursday night, "30 Rock" has a promising future and is definitely worth watching. ☺

'Death cab for cutie' gives stunning performance at Pageant

Anya Veremakis
Staff Reporter

It was a chilly Monday evening at 7 pm, fit for a nice cup of hot chocolate to accompany the ever-present loads of homework. Instead, I, along with many other high school students and people of all ages, stood in what seemed to be an endless line chilled by the bitter, late November wind. However, once inside the Pageant Theater on Delmar, we were warmed by the divine music of "Death Cab for Cutie."

On November 27, St. Louis audiences had the opportunity to experience a brilliant performance.

The concert was excellent from the beginning cover band to the even better encore.

"Ok Go" was the cover band, a less famous Imo-Rock group known more widely for their 2005 hit song "Here It Goes Again". Although less widely known, the band gave an equally amazing performance. The band had catchy and upbeat tunes bound to stick in your mind.

The members of "Ok Go" are extremely talented and their performance was not inhibited by the fact that it was live. In addition to the amazing sound, the lead guitarist/singer's witty sense of humor and personality won over many new fans. The band even did a humorous dance at the end as their closing performance, bound to put a smile on the face of everyone in the theater.

Then, after what seemed like much longer than only 20 minutes of waiting, the highly anticipated band that sold out the Pageant Theater came on stage. "Death Cab for Cutie" is an Imo-Rocker group that was started in Bellingham, Washington in 1997.

Right away it became apparent that these men are a very talented group. The band gave a great live performance. The vocals sounded very similar to those of their recorded tracks. It was seldom noticeable that it was a live performance.

Also, the sound quality at the concert was excellent. The lead singer's voice was not washed out by the very strong drumming and guitars, as does happen at many rock concerts.



Hahn/Khayat/Abaca Press/KRT

The rock group Death Cab for Cutie arrives at the 48th Annual Grammy Awards at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California, Wednesday, February 8, 2006.

The backdrops and lights, although not a necessity for the concert, added a nice touch. The lights changed constantly from bright blue, to pink, to yellow, to orange, to red. In addition, the backdrop seemed plain until it was lit by light bulbs that were constantly changing color along with the overhead lights.

However, no technology was even needed to make this performance a good one. The musicians' knowledge of their music and captivating songs was enough.

Each member of the band seemed to know how to

play almost every instrument. It was amazing how often they switched instruments depending on the song, displaying their true versatility.

The band played a variety of songs, mostly from their newer albums "Transatlanticism" (2003) and "Plans" (2005). They also performed many newer songs not on these albums.

This was the one slightly bothersome aspect of the concert; many of the songs were very new. This was only a problem when they played the new lesser known songs, replacing old favorites.

However, all this was solved in the encore. The encore included old favorites like "I'll Follow You into the Dark" and "The Sound of Settling".

The audience was truly content with such a marvelous performance, fitting that it should have ended with "The Sound of Settling".

After such an exquisite performance, there is no doubt that "Death Cab for Cutie" is a band giving hope to the idea that good music and good musicians still exist. ☺

'Heroes' uses cheesy, serious moments for crafty impact

The mixture of corny father-son dialogues with serious sniper shootings makes for an impressive combination.

Percy Olsen
Staff Reporter

Flashback to 2003. I'd just graduated eighth grade; the world was my oyster. Returning home from my daily "Save the Hobos" retreat, I plopped down in my Mickey Mouse Bean Bag Chair™, and turned on my television. Unfortunately, the forthcoming events were not nearly as satisfying as the look on Homeless Joe's face as I replaced his bundle with a briefcase. There was absolutely nothing on the air worth watching. From "Joe Millionaire" to "The Pitts," television seemed to be disintegrating in the demise of "Friends" and "Frasier."

Flash-forward to 2006. Yes, I still save the occasional hobo, but the television landscape has made a huge change for the better. The major stations (NBC, CBS, ABC, FOX, and to some extent, the CW) are all trying to create quality shows. And for the most part, they're succeeding.

NBC seems to be embracing the innovation the most of all networks. Much like the fictitious NBS from NBC's newest hit, "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip," NBC has taken a liking to quality television. Comedies without laugh tracks. Dramas with real violence.

Exhibit A: "Heroes," the X-Men for the new generation. You've got your corruption, your time benders, your healers, your "Rogue-rip-offs." Everything seems so used, so stable and worn-out. But that's the charm; it's nostalgic, it's timeless. It's about time someone took the incentive to produce a show that taps into the very youth of most modern viewers.

The plots wind from crazy to mellow. These aren't your daddy's superheroes. Characters die, beaten, crumpled on their knees. Corrupted by money and lust, heroes do whatever they can to pull ahead of their powerful peers. Take this exchange between a father and his son, as they run away from the vengeful mother.

Father: "It's gonna be just you and me from here on out. We're partners."

Son: "Like Batman and Robin?"

Father: "(Laughs) Yeah, like Batman and Robin. Only, I ain't wearing no tights."

This wink-wink moment is broken up by a bullet, more specifically one from a sniper rifle, shot by the mother,



Handout/MCT

Leonard Roberts as D.L. Hawkins and **Ali Larter** as Niki Sanders in NBC's "Heroes."

lodged in the father's skull. "Heroes" messes with you, being cheesy one moment and deadly serious the next. It's not the fall that kills you; it's the impact.

There are at least a dozen main characters in "Heroes" cast, but the one that stands out has got to be the aptly named Hiro. Hiro can jump from time period to time period, but only sporadically, and many times he will simply end up in places he has no business being. He is the heart of the show. He just wants to save the people as best he can. He also illustrates "Heroes" extreme mix of cheesy moments and realistic situations to a tee. Hiro's overly expressive face and ridiculously archetypal Japanese accent only strengthen the extreme remorse you feel for him as you watch him correctly warp back in time in order to save the girl of his dreams, only to watch her die from a lingering brain tumor.

It's sad, it's brutal and it's honest. It's fresh. "Heroes," along with "LOST," have tried on the "Supernatural Drama" moniker, and by gum if it doesn't fit like a tailored suit.

Competition leads to Innovation. And by now, NBC is basically competing with itself for the best shows, and as long as more quality shows continue to be produced, there's nothing wrong with that. "Heroes" is not the most original concept out there, I'm sure NBC's lawyers hold their collective breaths after each episode airs, but its familiarity allows the plot twists to really shock the audience. Just don't forget to grate some "cheese-factor" on top. I prefer Montero Pepper-Jack. ☺

Pujols 5 restaurant falls short of homerun

Albert Pujols recently opened a restaurant in Westport Plaza. Although the service is poor, the food quality is exceptionally good and the restaurant features personal plasma screens displaying current sports games.

Sarah Horn
Staff Reporter

The newest addition to Westport's restaurant row, Pujols Five Westport Grill, started out with a good idea but lacks effective execution.

Located in Westport Plaza, among many other bars, grills, and restaurants, Pujols Five was easily the busiest spot of all. While the Trainwreck may have had about five customers on a Tuesday night, Pujols Five was packed. The restaurant consists of two a bar area and a dining area.

The bar area is typical; full of sports memorabilia, with a special focus on Albert Pujols. The bar space is decorated with numerous plasma televisions tuned into current and previously taped sporting events.

The dining room incorporates the idea of a classic sports bar, but with a sophisticated touch. In all sections of the restaurant there are huge posters and murals of various moments in sports history, with a gigantic board dedicated to Pujols, his family and his wife's charity. According to the back of the menu, the pictures are changed regularly, keeping the sports feel updated.

The one cool part about Pujols Five is the personal plasmas. If you manage to grab a table with one, you end up with a personal small plasma screen at your table that is showing the most important game of the day. While on a Tuesday

night it was fairly easy to secure a booth with a personal plasma screen, it may not be quite as easy on a packed Saturday night when an important game is playing.

At a first glance, Pujols Five seems to be a great place to dine and enjoy a good sports game. However, there are setbacks. The service, for example, was friendly but amateurish. While the appetizers came quickly, the drinks took much longer. Then after the speedy arrival of the appetizers, the main course came around 25 minutes later. After finishing our meal, it took our waiter another 20 minutes or so to come by, bus the table and offer dessert. After we finally managed to get a hold of him and order dessert, the desserts came pretty quickly. But again, it took him a long time to clean off the dessert plates and give us the bill. Altogether he was inconsistent, at times he was prompt and helpful. Toward the end of the night he seemed to lose focus and forget that he was still serving us. In the end, we were glad to have finally paid the bill and gone home.

However, while the service was poor, the food was very good. The menu hosted a variety of meals, including both bar classics, such as burgers and fires, but also slightly more sophisticated meals, such as tilapia and grilled chicken risotto. The appetizers varied from wings to calamari, which was greasy, but still delectable. The salads included both dinner sized options and meal options, such as the tasty chopped chicken salad.

The chopped chicken salad was huge, but worth every bite with its exceptional dressing and delicious chicken.

The Caesar salad was a good dinner size option. The salad had a very traditional feel, with a classic dressing, real Parmesan cheese and while there were supposed to be homemade croutons on the salad, they were somehow left out.

The Pujols Burger, which was the most normal, standard burger on the menu, was thick and juicy, but lacking in any extraordinary aspect, but it was acceptable. The fries were also hot and very good.

If you are looking for a more urbane choice, think about the grilled chicken risotto, which was surprisingly delicious. The risotto was a nice normal size and hosted very good chicken; the rice was scrumptious.

The crème brulee was also very good. It included whipped cream and the pudding was just the right temperature. They also offered banana pudding and carrot cake.

Overall, I found the food to be exceptional, especially for a bar and grill and the pricing was moderate to expensive, based mostly on what you ordered. It ranged mostly from \$12 entrees to \$25 or more for the steaks and some seafood meals.

Altogether, Pujols Five strives to set new standards for classic bar and grills. The restaurant doesn't seem to match the expectations St. Louis has of their baseball hero. You can't always hit home runs until you master the singles. ☺

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'The Queen' offers thought provoking and insightful ideas

Rebecca Katz
Managing Editor

When the average age of the crowd is 65, you go into a movie with some preconceived ideas of what it's going to be like. The words "dull" and "dreary" come to mind. But although "The Queen" was slow-moving at times, overall it was funny, enjoyable to watch, and ultimately insightful.

"The Queen" follows England's Queen Elizabeth II in the aftermath of the death of Princess Diana. Elizabeth and most of the rest of the royal family had disliked Diana intensely, and so are not particularly devastated by the news.

At the same time, they are devoted to what they see as traditional English ideals of dignity and personal reserve, along with royal precedent.

As a result, following Diana's death they make no public statements and refuse to come down to London to join in the general grief.

The apparent indifference of the royal family infuriates the British public. As a mountain of flowers grows at the gates of Buckingham Palace in memory of Diana, the people angrily turn against Elizabeth. Tensions are growing, and the queen refuses to back down.

Into the mess rides Tony Blair to save the day. Young and charming, with an enticing boyish grin, Blair is the newly elected Labor Prime Minister.

He is coasting a wave of popularity only enhanced by his speech dubbing Diana "the people's princess."

In many ways, Blair is the opposite of Elizabeth.

He is a liberal, advocating "modernization," while the queen is the ultimate traditionalist.

Nevertheless, Blair does his best to "save the royals from themselves," encouraging them to fly a flag at half mast, make a public statement, and come down to London in order to sway public opinion back in their favor.

Elizabeth holds out for a long time, but ultimately she is convinced. Unwillingly, she does all that Blair suggests.

As the movie brilliantly sets up, Elizabeth is a woman caught between two worlds.

On the one hand she is royalty, emblematic of tradition and quiet dignity. But on the other hand she is the figurehead of the British people with a duty to sympathize with them, to be a part of their joys and their pain.

Elizabeth's problem is that she does not initially comprehend that in this day and age the latter responsibility often conflicts with the former, and that the latter nevertheless takes precedence.

The queen's ultimate willingness to confront reality takes tremendous personal strength, as Blair affirms.



By finally showing public signs of grief over Diana's death, she goes against the way she was brought up and lived most of her life - "not wearing one's heart upon one's sleeve." She has to not only step outside her bounds, but go against her core identity to meet the new face of the world.

The acting by Helen Mirren, who portrayed Elizabeth, and by Michael Sheen, who portrayed Blair, was excellent.

Sheen in particular also very much resembled Blair himself.

If there was any real failing in the movie, it was in that Blair was depicted as altogether too perfect.

The people loved him, he always knew what to do, and though he had great respect for her, he had the guts to stand up to the queen when necessary.

Additionally, he had a flawless relationship with his wife, was friendly to everyone, and was the only person with sufficient empathy to really grasp the difficulty of Elizabeth's position.

In other words, he was little short of a god. Unfortunately, supernatural beings are often difficult to relate to, even if one likes them quite a bit.

Thus the movie did a disservice to Blair by not allowing him any human flaws.

However, "The Queen" was otherwise made very well.

Sweeping vistas gave a taste of the beauty of the English countryside and the many reconstructed news clips simulated the tension of events as they actually unfolded.

All in all, despite the demographic leanings of the



used with permission of mctcampus and "The Queen" official website

LEFT: The real Queen waves to her subjects as she walks about. She has offered little clue as to whether she likes her portrayal in the film. She also refuses to confirm whether she likes Prince William or Prince Harry more.

RIGHT: Actress Helen Mirren portrays Queen Elizabeth in a scene from "The Queen." She has received much critical acclaim for her acting in the film. Adjectives describing her performance include "riveting" and "accurate." movie's audience, because of its great acting and intriguing premise "The Queen" would in fact be found enjoyable by a younger crowd as well.

Seeing "The Queen" is a treat fit for royalty, without a doubt. I recommend it. ☺

Starry cast falls short in film

Ellie Bullard
Staff Reporter

June 4, 1968, the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles. The nation watches breathlessly, as Robert F. Kennedy, or 'Bobby', wins the California primary. After expressing words of thanks, RFK turns to exit the hotel through the kitchen.

A gunshot rings out. Bobby has been shot.

Most who witnessed that day, the day of Robert F. Kennedy's assassination, will remember it. The story of Bobby's assassination is imprinted in most American's minds, and will stay there forever.

The movie "Bobby", however, is not really about the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy. Directed and written by Emilio Estevez, "Bobby" is about twenty-two other Americans at the Ambassador Hotel, and about their day leading up to the assassination. Robert F. Kennedy is only shown in brief news clips and in aged footage of his speeches.



courtesy of www.mctcampus.com

"Bobby's" cast is practically the epitome of star-studded. Just to name a few, the film includes Anthony Hopkins, Demi Moore, Sharon Stone, Elijah Wood, Nick Cannon, Emilio Estevez, Lindsey Lohan, Ashton Kutcher, Helen Hunt...the list goes on and on. But a star-studded cast did not make a great movie in this instance. None of the stars got to really show their stuff. Instead, I found myself confused

and wanting to know more about one character when another was being shown. There were too many characters, which made the plot vaguely confusing, and made many of the characters seem one-dimensional. "Bobby" attempts to show the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy through 'regular' Americans' eyes, but many of the scenes were boring and drawn out because I did not really know who the characters in it were.

On the other hand, "Bobby" did a good job of showing the atmosphere of 1968—rising tensions about the war, racism against Hispanics and African Americans, the problem of illegal immigrants—even communist skepticism. It was also nice to see so many stars together in one movie.

And, no matter how confusing, having many characters had its advantages. Each character provided some insight into the culture and mood of America at this point. The multiple characters gave the film a light, casual feeling, which was offset by the tragedy of Bobby Kennedy's assassination. The film did a good job of providing a glimpse of each character's life, and though their lives, showing the mood of 1968, and what happened to that mood as a result of Kennedy's assassination.

All in all, "Bobby" was mildly entertaining, although confusing at times. It was a film that made a valiant effort to help us to understand the atmosphere of 1968, and the devastation of the everyday American as a result of Bobby's assassination. ☺

Classical music surprisingly cool

Rebecca Wall
Senior Managing Editor

Over the last month or so, I've really begun to gain an appreciation for classical music. The vast majority of people I know (and the vast majority of comments I myself have made, as well) denote classical music as dull, dry, and academic. Teens think of wizened old men and virginal eighty year-old women who study botany in musty greenhouses as typical classical music fans. Erroneous as this stereotype might be, it has the net effect of stunting the popularity of classical music among young people.

However, I have begun to sing a different tune (punning, I know!). The stimulus for this transformation was a result of boredom induced rummaging through my parents' music collection. I stumbled upon a recording of the Czech composer Dvorak's American inspired "New World Symphony" recorded by the Houston symphony. This masterpiece has quickly become my sound track of choice when working on my AP English Author Project on Dvorak's fellow Czech, Franz Kafka.

If one listens carefully, he or she will be able to hear allusions to spirituals such as "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" in the symphony's opening movement, "Largo."

Additionally, the incredibly intense ending sec-

tion, "Allegro Con Fuoco" sounds eerily similar to the "Jaws" theme at times.

I have had with Dvorak made me more open the Classical music as a whole. I wanted to find out more about this powerful and expressive style, one which dominated much of Western music for centuries and enjoys unparalleled longevity.

I next turned to a longtime fascination of mine: Johann Sebastian Bach. I remembered the reverent hymn "Jesu: Joy of Man's Desire" from my brief piano lesson days.

This is an organ piece, and let me tell you that the organ's ridiculous size definitely translates into musical power. The organ is the largest and most complex wind instrument there is, and Bach uses it with extremely effectively. After listening to "Jesu: Joy of Man's Desire" I almost felt like converting.

One thing I found out through a little research is that many scholars consider Bach an early master of improvisation.

While I am somewhat skeptical, realizing that improvisation has a much more storied history in African music, I am nevertheless stunned by Bach's technical ability and virtuosity.

All in all a powerful musical ride, I would suggest Dvorak and Bach to any and all interested in trying classical music ☺

JAMES BOND IN CASINO ROYALE

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Does the latest installment in the Bond series live up to the hype? Or, does it fail like a flat tire on a fancy car?

Sam Blumenfeld
Staff Reporter

When I walked into Casino Royale, I had my popcorn, my drink, and my note pad. I was in for more than what I paid for.

James Bond, being played by Daniel Craig, is not yet a Double-0 agent. He is going on a mission to kill some British agent who has sold some British secrets. Bond needs to make two kills to qualify for being Double O: first, the British agent's associate, in a brutal fist fight in a men's room, and then wittingly killing the evil agent. The killing of the British agent's associate leads into the opening sequence.

It had some of what I expected. There was a cool chase scene in the beginning, in which Bond travels to Madagascar and chases an international bomb maker up and down a construction site and around the area. The chase was really fake, but still entertaining and awesome. It ended at the embassy of Nambutu, where Bond kills the bomb maker and blows up a big chunk of the embassy. Casino Royale has the action. It also has women. One scene showed a hot woman in a bikini on a horse on the beach. It was a little bit obvious.

It also had its shockers. There wasn't that much cool gadgetry. Bond crashes his car really quick, trying to save his girlfriend. He gets knocked out and taken captive. Another one is how gruesome the whole movie including drugs, suicide, blood, and sex. In most of the Bond movies, James kills people in witty ways. But in this movie, there is a lot more blood and guts.

The biggest shocker is Daniel Craig. He is the best James Bond since Sean Connery.

He definitely knows what he is doing.

I like how this film starts James Bond back in the beginning. The movies were starting to be very similar. I liked how Martin Campbell mixed it up a little, and modernized some of the themes. He brought terrorism into the movie, which is curious, because the movie turns into a big poker fight over money.

That's another thing. In this movie, James Bond is not directly trying to save the world, like it



courtesy of www.mctcampus.com

The latest movie in the Bond series, which included films such as "From Russia With Love" and "Goldeneye," has on the whole received mixed responses from viewers.

predecessors did. It runs at 144 minutes. I guess all the action drained my energy.


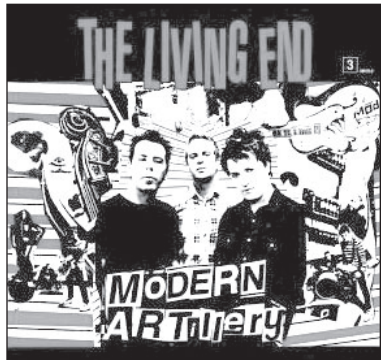
It was directed by Martin Campbell. Overall he did a good job. The plot isn't very straightforward, and it seems every character but Bond changes sides.

There was also too much brutality. The torture scene could be too much for some parents. This movie easily could have been rated R.

This movie left me shaken but not stirred. I'm looking forward for the next movie.

It is still unclear what the name of it will be. ☺

No end in sight for playing of The Living End

 <p>1 "Hellbound/It's For Your Own Good:" This album includes all the songs from two of their earlier EPs. Their sound is the same, just a little bit less polished, but every bit as good.</p> <p>1998</p>	<p>2 "The Living End:" This album was their first big success. It went platinum five times and hit #1 on the charts in Australia. This is my favorite TLE album.</p>  <p>1998</p>	 <p>3 "Roll On:" Although this album wasn't as successful as "The Living End," some critics said it was more creative in its varied musical styles representing the band's many influences.</p> <p>2000</p>	<p>4 "Modern Artillery:" The band returned to its roots for some of the tracks on this album, released in 2003, while branching out into quasi-country, retro, and pop on others.</p>  <p>2003</p>	 <p>5 "State of Emergency:" Most of the tracks on this album are simple and raw, returning to the band's roots even more than "Modern Artillery." The songs off this release sound better live.</p> <p>2006</p>
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Amy Brooks
Co-Editor In Chief

I have a recurring problem with new music. Usually, I listen to a particular new artist or album practically non-stop for a week or two until I've heard it so much that I can't stand to listen to it for about two months, and then I find some new music or go back to an old favorite. It's a predictable cycle that I can't seem to help.

But with The Living End, (TLE) I've been listening almost constantly for about three weeks now and show no signs of stopping. There's just one simple reason: The Living End nearly perfectly meets the simple requirements of my favorite music: catchy guitar that is best listened to very loudly.

I may just be ignorant, but give me a nice guitar riff over a supposedly meaningful muddle of lyrics with no tune any day. TLE's lyrics are usually simple, but I don't listen for philosophic blathering, I listen for that rush, that head-bopping-toe-tapping sound that makes it impossible not to turn up the volume and take

a small vacation from the world.

For example, one of my favorite TLE songs, "Second Solution," talks about the death penalty, as you would clearly be able to see from the lyrics: "And what I wanna know/ Is will I get death row/ Or is there a second solution?" Even though the lyrics are simple, at least they are comprehensible and accompany a catchy guitar tune.

The alternative puts me to sleep: "I saw the future once/ I was drunk in a phone booth/ My eyes were wet and red but I could not tell what was said / And through the screams of the traffic voices carried saying/ I am sorry / On a day so gray it's black inside/ Watching churches on TV." For me, the choice is clear (sorry Bright Eyes fans): I listen to music because of how it makes me feel, not because it's trying to be intellectual (or something).

Believe it or not, TLE is actually very popular in their native Australia, with several platinum albums and chart-topping hits. I saw them recently on a snowy Friday in a tiny room in the basement of the Edison theater at Washington University, with an audience of

no more than 100 people. Clearly this was a departure from the sold-out stadiums they play in Australia, but I was extremely excited to be less than 10 feet away from one of my favorite bands.

The show was amazing despite constantly being jostled by sweaty Wash U nerds (some with earplugs) who felt the desire to mosh and scream "I'm drunk!" to show off their inebriation. The intimate setting gave the band unique opportunities to take requests and veer from their set list, which was risky on their part - the lead singer even humorously forgot some of his own lyrics.

Let me just take a minute to talk about the best part of the show and one of my favorite parts of the band in general: bass player and backup vocalist Scott Owen.

What makes Owen different is that he plays the double (a.k.a. upright) bass, just like yours truly. Owen is my hope that there is some hardcore rocker that lies within all double bass players.

His bass is painted glossy black and white checkered with a skull and crossbones on the back, and he has a pair of f-holes (the holes in the body of the bass)

tattooed on his arm. During the show, he did several impressive tricks with his instrument, including playing it while standing on it and playing it over his head and on his back. I think I'm going to need some practice before I can pull those off, but Owen gives me hope that double bass players can rock too.

Guitarist and lead vocalist Chris Cheney is another amazing aspect of the band: he has a good voice, plays exciting guitar solos and makes amusing, quick-witted comments to the audience in his cute Australian accent.

I also appreciate the fact that Cheney plays guitar by himself and sings mostly by himself as well - there's no backup guitarist doing the solos for him. Cheney and Owen have fun on stage; you can tell they've been friends since college. Relatively new drummer Andy Strachan keeps a strong beat and rounds out the trio that is TLE.

The show also fulfilled my other requirement of great music: it was very loud, especially standing close to the speakers. My ears are still ringing and the songs are still stuck in my head. Perfect. ☺

Fergie's new solo album catchy, some songs "clumsy"

Maddie Harned
Staff Reporter

The Black Eyed Peas was a funk-infused hip-hop band whose album sales are well past the 5 million mark.

Arguably, the most famous member of the quartet is Stacy Ferguson, known as Fergie to most. Since joining the Peas in 2003, her vocals and stripper-esque style were widely credited with helping transform the group into a multi-platinum mainstream pop music force.

Though she contributions brought more fame to the Peas, her individual music identity never showed, and her occasional line and chorus seemed to blend in with the rest of the group.

When the announcement came in 2005 that Fergie would release a solo album in 2006, most Black Eyed Peas fans were ecstatic. Finally, 'that girl from the Black Eyed Peas' was going to step into the spotlight as a solo act.

The result of Fergie's solo efforts is the album titled "The Dutchess."

Musically, it is all over the place.

From wanna-be reggae to 1980s power ballads to R&B whiners, clearly Fergie was trying to please everyone.

Sometimes her efforts are successful, such as with the terribly catchy first single "London Bridge."

Other times, her songs seem downright uninspired and silly, for example "Clumsy."

"Clumsy" has lyrics like, "every time a boyfriend and I break up / My world is crushed and I'm all alone / The love bug crawls right back up and bites me and I'm back" that come off sounding like a kindergarten's love poem. Fergie's 'romantic' side makes another appearance in the flavorless bonus track "Close to You".

Though the song feels more personal than the atrocious "Clumsy," Fergie singing about a tender, loving relationship seems implausible because for the majority of the album's songs are either about how hot she is, how hot the guys are who like her or why you, the

listener, should think she is hot.

They're all much simpler to dance to and sing about than love.

Fergie truly shines in raunchy, in-your-face hip hop songs, where she professes her introspective feelings about the contrasts in her personality, "I'm such a lady, but I'm dancing like a ho."

She can ponder of why men find her beauty so engaging, "They want my treasure so they get their pleasures from my photo."

She insightfully proclaims her ability to keep it real, "I'm no queen, I'm no machine / I still go to Taco Bell / Drive-through, raw as Hell / I don't care, I'm still real."

Needless to say, Fergie's lyrics are neither decent nor convincing.

Though most of her lyrics are cringe-worthy, Fergie's songs supply club-friendly beats, and shine much brighter than her vocals.

A mini-controversy occurred when the single "London Bridge" was released.

Parent groups and conservative radio stations alleged "London Bridge" was an explicit sexual reference.

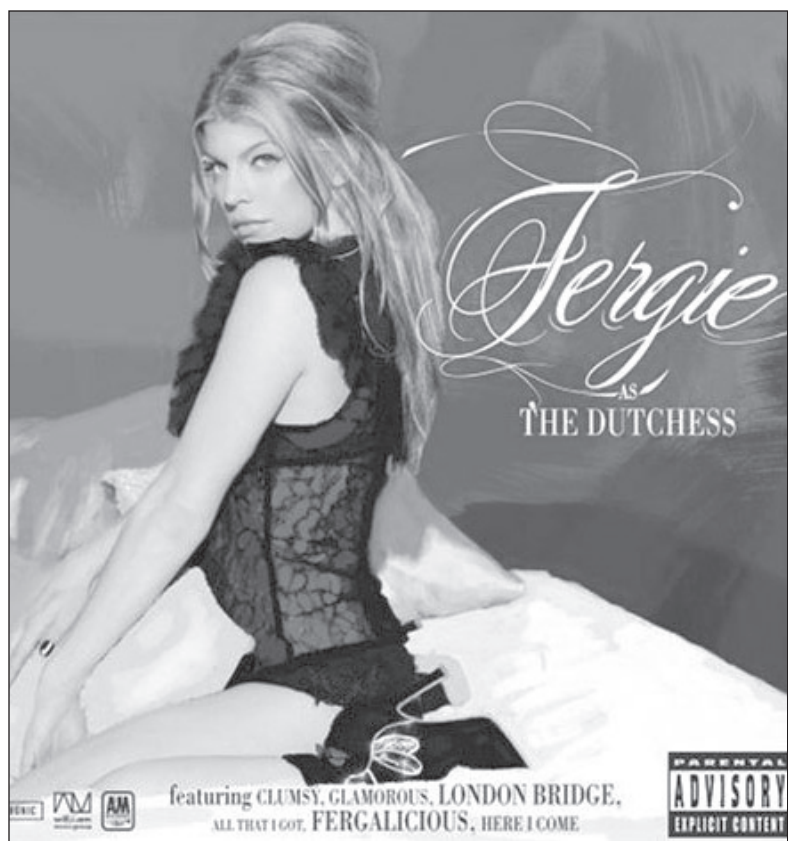
Though no definitive answers ever surfaced, a representative for Fergie responded that her music was more about the beats than the lyrics.

No statement could be more correct about the tracks on "The Dutchess."

Fergie had her pick from the top producers in the industry, and she chose well by selecting fellow Peas member Will I. Am, and A-list producer Polow the Don.

Almost every beat on the album is extraordinarily catchy.

A beat that stands out is in the Will I. Am produced song "Fergalicious," which is a blend of spotless synth-



Former Black Eyed Peas member, Stacy Ferguson released her first solo album entitled "The Dutchess." Some songs that are featured on the album, though catchy, are cliché. She uses a variety of music styles ranging from reggae to power ballads to R&B.

beats and a heavy bass.

"Clumsy," which features a sample of Little Richard's "Girl Can't Help It" during the chorus, stands out as well because of its unique mismatched instrument arrangements.

Overall, most of the beats featured on "The Dutchess" are ready-made hits that are catchy yet lack a personal touch.

While listening to "The Dutchess," it is clear that Fergie has a hit record on her hands, even though it lacks integrity and individuality.

One year from now, *The Dutchess* will be collecting dust in the back of teenagers' shelves, while a new top-40 pop princess emerges.

Not like Fergie cares though; and in her own words, "Fergie Ferg give you love long time." ☺

Eminem's "Re-Up" is mixed-up

Joe Evers
Staff Reporter

The new Mix Tape "Re-up" from Eminem, 50 Cent and the rest of Shady Records is an album with very high highs and very low lows. While it has a lot of great songs it isn't what you would expect from the once great Eminem.

The album has extremely catchy songs and remixes by Eminem and 50 Cent. Furthermore, it showcases some goods songs by new rappers Stat Quo and Bobby Creekwater, however the overly hyped up Cashis fails to bring anything special.

An interesting highlight is "Trapped" by the now deceased rapper Proof. It is a catchy song with smooth verses and a great hook. It also features supporting vocals and a beat by Eminem. It is a great tribute to the rapper and is an extremely important song on the album.

Another highlight is the album's first single "You Don't Know" by Eminem, 50 Cent, Lloyd Banks, and Cashis. The only real weak spot on the song is the short verse from Cashis, where he often rhymes a word with itself. The rest of the song is great and will be on the radio for weeks to come. It also features an intense, mesmerizing video that is getting ample air time on MTV.

The negative sides of the album are mostly on the part of the new face, Cashis. Who with, "Everything is Shady," and "Talkin' All That," bring the album as a whole down significantly. He is loud, has terrible rhymes, and sounds way to much like every other rapper out there today.

The remixes are another low of the album. They offer bland extensions of songs that were good as they were, often adding verses by people such as Bobby Creekwater and Stat Quo. Not to say that they aren't good remixes, it's just that the songs were better before they were tampered with.

I would not recommend this album as a whole, but there are definitely some tracks that are worth listening to. All the Eminem and 50 Cent songs are worth checking out. Definitely give Bobby Creekwater and Stat Quo a chance, as well as "Trapped."

The album is mediocre. Hopefully it won't be Eminem's last. ☺

STYX by Alex Ferguson



Greyhound hockey sets the ice ablaze



Evan Green
Staff Reporter

The Clayton High School hockey team is looking to improve on last season's run to the postseason. The Hounds have young talent in freshmen winger Zach Cavallini and defenseman Sam Jacus. The Hounds also have returning stars in Max Barron, Patrick Rafferty, Richie Kopitsky, Brent Cohen and Patrick Farris. The Hounds are looking to improve their record from here on out as they look to avenge a slow start.

"Our goal as a team is to have a winning record on the season," freshman Zach Cavallini said.

The season for the Hounds has started off on a high note as the team has a record of 4-5. The team had its biggest upset on December 2 against perennial powerhouse SLUH. The team won the game 3-2 on goals by Kevin Smith, Tim Smith and Zach Cavallini. Brent Cohen received the victory in goal for the Hounds. The Hounds hope to build on the victory.

"The win over SLUH was definitely the biggest upset for us so far this season," Cavallini said.

Freshmen have been a key part for the Hounds as Cavallini is on the first line for the team and is the team leader in points after nine games with eleven points.

"My goal entering the season was to help the team succeed, and so far I think that I have done just that," Cavallini said.

The Hounds will have an easier schedule the rest

of the way, as they have already played tough teams like SLUH, Eureka and Parkway North but do still have hard opponents left such as Parkway Central and Parkway West.

"The two Parkway Schools will probably be tough," freshman Sam Jacus said.

Senior goalie Brent Cohen has been in goal for the Hounds for every game but one (vs. Westminster) and has been very successful.

Overall, the main players will need to give their regular contribution in order for the team to be victorious.


Sophomore Grant G'Sell seems to think that the Hounds have changed from the start of the campaign.

"We have improved from the beginning of the season, and we just have to continue to gel," G'Sell said.

The Hounds also seemed to struggle at the beginning of the season to find the back of the net.

"I think that as the season progresses, we will definitely start to score more goals than we did at the start of the season," Jacus said.

One can only hope to agree with Jacus and G'Sell, as do the rest of Clayton's hockey players, parents and, as always, our hockey crazed student body.

In the end, one can easily tell that the Hounds will be in a position to make a long playoff run, especially with the talent they have. 



All photos by Abbie Minton

Clockwise from top left: junior Max Barron takes a shot. Freshman Sam Jacus fights with a Eureka player on the ice. Senior goalie Brent Cohen defends the Clayton goal against two Eureka players. Freshman Sam Jacus advances the puck along the ice. Senior Patrick Farris and junior Patrick Rafferty participate in a face-off with two Eureka players. The greyhounds went on to lose the game 2-5, but has had several key victories early on in their season.